4th Grade

Snow Elephants

by Donna Latham

"Yay, Nick's home from college!" Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother. Nick waved to her from inside his car. "My first wish came true! Nick's home! Now, if only it would snow..." Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, "Who's that guy with Nick?"

"Ella!" Nick cried as he walked through the front door. He picked her up and tossed her into the air. "Mom, Ella, meet my friend, Narong. He's from Thailand. He's visiting us for the weekend."

"Welcome," Mom said.

Narong asked, "Where is your snow, please? I have never seen snow."

Mom shrugged and smiled. "So far, we've had nothing."

"That doesn't stop us from wishing for snow, right, Ella?" Nick winked.

"Blah," Ella muttered. "Winter's not much fun without snow."

"Would you like a snack?" Mom asked. "Ella and I baked yummy cookies this morning."

Ella twirled her hair glumly. She thought to herself, "Narong spoiled everything. Nick was supposed to come home to spend time with me. Why should I share him with Narong?"

Narong sat shyly at the kitchen table. He pointed to a plate of cookies. "Are those elephant cookies?"

Ella quietly grumbled, "Elephants are my favorite animal."

"Miss Ella, the Thai people cherish elephants." Narong's eyes danced. "White elephants are a symbol of royalty."

Ella's eyes widened. "Royalty? Well, I'm going to be a princess when I grow up." Narong nodded in agreement. For the first time, Ella smiled. "I whipped up the snow white frosting on these cookies. See? 'Cause I'm wishing for snow. Like you."

"Snow elephants taste yummy," Nick said as he crunched a cookie at the kitchen table.

Mom peeked out the window and saw swirling snowflakes tumbling softly from the sky. "Ella, look out the window! Your second wish finally—" Mom looked back towards the kitchen table. "Where did everyone go?"

Outside, Ella padded powdery snow into a ball. She placed it in Narong's hand. Her wishes had come true, and she realized that she had made a new friend.



Name:	

Snow Elephants

Choose the correct definition of each underlined vocabulary word.



- 1. Ella rapped on the window when she saw her brother.
 - a. leaned

- **b.** tapped
- c. covered with paper
- **d**. waved
- 2. Ella twirled her hair glumly.
 - a. shyly

b. slowly

c. excitedly

- d. sadly
- 3. Miss Ella, the Thai people cherish elephants.
 - a. love and appreciate
- **b.** use for work

c. hunt for

- d. take good care of
- 4. White elephants are a symbol of royalty.
 - a. hard work

b. religion

c. strength

- d. having to do with kings and queens
- 5. Suddenly, Ella scowled and wondered, "Who's that guy with Nick?"
 - a. looked confused
- b. smiled
- c. made an angry face d. laughed out loud
- 6. I whipped up the snow white frosting on these cookies.
 - a. hit hard

b. made

c. added color

d. ate

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Date:

Multiplication Worksheets

4th Grade

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Bear and Hare Warm Up

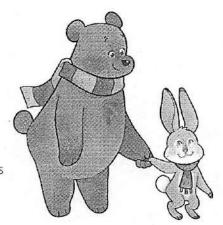
by Neal Levin

One cold frosty morning, Bear woke up from the middle of his long winter sleep. He wandered outside his den and noticed that the lake had frozen over.

"Good thing I'm not made of water," he said, "or I'd turn to ice."

"But you are made of water," said Hare, who was tumbling around in a snow bank beside him. "Over half your body is water."

"You must be fooling," said Bear. He looked at his body. His arms didn't look like water. His legs didn't look like water. His paws didn't look like water.



"Think of all your blood," said Hare. "Your blood's made of water. In fact, all your parts are made of cells, and cells are made of water."

Bear rubbed his paws together and blew on them to keep them warm. "I don't want to freeze like the lake," he said.

"Don't worry," Hare giggled. "We're warm-blooded animals. That means our body temperature stays the same, even when it's cold outside. Besides, our body water isn't pure water. It contains organic molecules like sodium and potassium that make its freezing point lower than regular water. We can only freeze in very extreme conditions."

"Brrmrr." Bear shivered.

"See, when you shake like that, your body's using energy to make more heat and warm you up."

"I know a better way to warm up," said Bear. "Let's go inside."

They stomped into Hare's house. Bear relaxed by the fireplace. A few minutes later, the snow on his fur melted and dripped into puddles on the floor.

A teapot whistled on the stove. Bear looked at the teapot and saw a thick stream of steam shooting into the air.

"How are you feeling now?" Hare asked as he brought Bear a cup of chamomile tea.

"I'm still afraid," Bear said as he cuddled the steaming teacup in his paws.

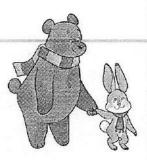
"Don't be silly," Hare told him. "Even though you're made of water, you know you aren't going to turn to ice."

"I know," Bear said. "But now I'm afraid I'll evaporate."

Bear and Hare Warm Up

by Neal Levin

The words below are scrambled words from "Bear and Hare Warm Up," by Neal Levin. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. e n e a d d w r

Clue: walked or moved casually or leisurely

2. n o g c a i r

Clue: relating to living matter

3. o c e a m i l h m

Clue: a type of plant used to make herbal tea

4. s e r d v i h e

Clue: shook because of cold or fear

5. petaervao

Clue: turn from liquid to gas

6. b n i m

Clue: toppling over

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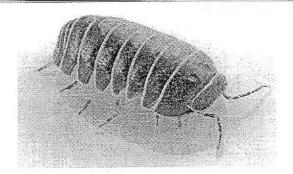
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Multiplication Worksheets

4th Grade

Roly-Poly Pill Bugs

by Cynthia Sherwood



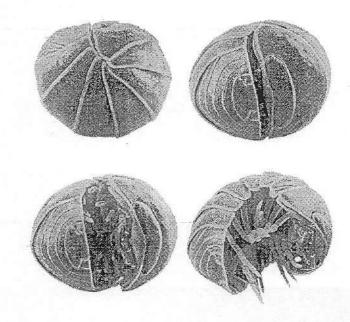
Some people are afraid of bugs such as spiders or beetles. But there is one bug that just about everybody likes—pill bugs. If you ever pick one up, you know why its nickname is "roly-poly." A pill bug rolls up into a tight little ball to protect itself. This bug is scared of you, not the other way around!

These little gray or brown bugs can be found almost everywhere in the United States except the desert. That is because they need to stay moist. But they can live in dry places like California thanks to lawn sprinklers. One of their favorite hang-outs is under damp flower pots.

Did you know that pill bugs have something in common with kangaroos? After her eggs hatch, the mother pill bug carries her young in a pouch under her belly. The little pill bugs stay there until they are big enough to be on their own.

Pill bugs also have something in common with snakes. Just as snakes shed their skin when it gets too small, pill bugs do too.
This is called "molting." A pill bug molts about five times until it is full-grown.

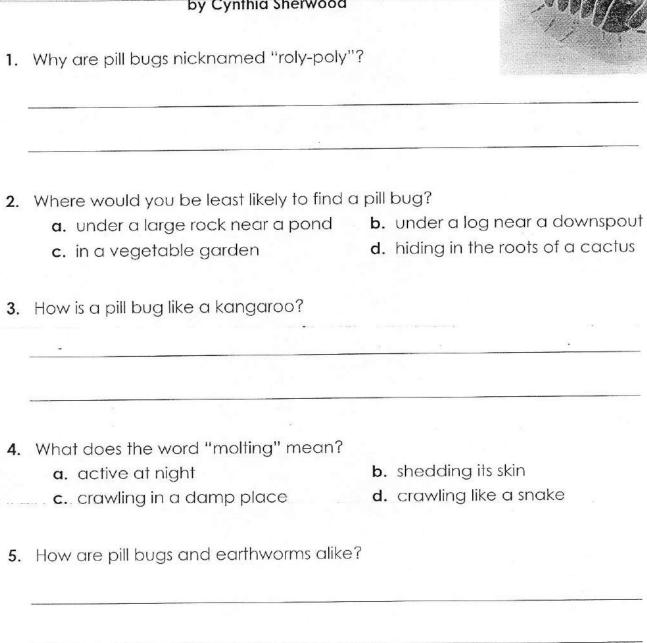
Pill bugs are a little like owls, too. Pill bugs are nocturnal, meaning they are most active at night. That is when they most like to wander around and look for food. And just like earthworms, pill bugs help break down plants in the soil. Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs. They are also interesting ones!



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Roly-Poly Pill Bugs

by Cynthia Sherwood



- 6. Which statement from the article is an opinion?
 - a. This bug is scared of you, not the other way around.
 - b. A pill bug molts about five times until it is full-grown.
 - c. Pill bugs aren't just nice bugs; they are interesting ones.
 - d. One of their favorite hang-outs is under damp flower pots.

Multiplication

4th Grade

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Stink Blob to the Rescue

by Sandie Lee

Mom senses danger. It's a villainous wasp hovering just overhead. She quickly gathers her 24 nymphs under her triangular body.



The wasp approaches.

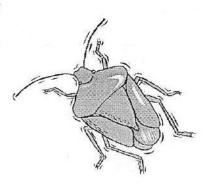
Mom frantically waves her antennae. Not fazed, the wasp flies even closer. Mom turns her tough, shield-like back and quickly buzzes her wings. The wasp ignores her threat and lands just out of reach. Mom kicks out her middle and back legs in another attempt to scare it off.

It works. But the determined wasp only takes to the air and darts back and forth.

One of the nymphs edges out to see what all the commotion is about. The wasp speeds towards it.

Mom's ready and silently drops her most powerful secret weapon...the stink blob. The wasp catches a whiff of this noxious smell and zips away in the opposite direction. Lunch will have to wait.

Stink bugs range from 6 to 12 mm in size and come in various colors. Most are brown, grey and green. Some, like the harlequin stink bug, are black with bright yellow or orange markings. All stink bugs have a large triangular structure on their backs. This raised covering points towards their hind end and is called the scutellum. As their name suggests, stink bugs also produce a chemical so noxious and foul that most insects and animals are repelled by it immediately. However, the stench-gob is used only as a last resort since it saps the bug of most of its energy.



Not all insects are as protective of their young as the 'parent bug.' She will still protect her young even when they're old enough to be on their own. When the young wander off they secrete a scent trail. If in trouble they send out a powerful alarm scent. It's Mom to the rescue as she follows this scent path right to her nymph.

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Stink Blob to the Rescue

Vocabulary Activity

Part 1	: Reread "Stink Blob to the R words in the passage: <u>nym</u>	escue." As you read, find and highlight these vocabulary ph, villainous, saps, commotion, noxious, secrete, triangular
Part 2	2: Match each word with its c	efinition. Use a dictionary if you need help.
	1. nymph	a. shaped like a triangle
	2. villainous	b. weakens
	3. saps	c. wicked or evil
	4. commotion	d. young insect that has not yet reached the adult stage
-	5. noxious	e: unpleasant and harmful, usually refers to a smell
-	6. secrete	g. wild excitement
	7. triangular	h. to release a chemical substance from the body
Part 3	: Use a vocabulary word from	above to correctly complete each sentence.
8.	When the machine in the fac	tory broke, it released a odor
	into the air.	
9.	When the children were yellir	g and screaming, their mother walked in the room and
	asked, "What is all of this	about?"
10.	Only a superhero can stop Dr	. Dare's plan to take over
	the world.	
	Super Teacher W	orksheets - www.sunerteacherworksheets.com

Multiplication

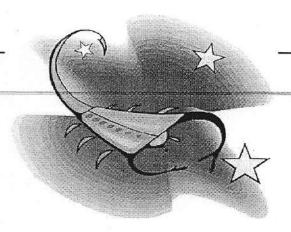
4th Grade

Name:				

Pictures in the Stars

by Kelly Hashway

Have you ever stared at the clouds and tried to see pictures in them? Well, this is very similar to how ancient astronomers named the constellations.



Constellations are groups of stars, and today there are 88 officially recognized constellations. Each is named for a figure or object that astronomers saw when they viewed the star group. Most of the constellations are named after characters in mythology. Hercules, Draco, Orion, and The Great Bear are just a few. Others are named after the signs of the zodiac, like Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Scorpius. But the way they were named is very similar. Just like we look at clouds today and see figures and other objects, the astronomers looked at the stars and saw things.

But if you've ever played this cloud gazing game with your friends, you've probably noticed that different people see different things in the clouds. You may see a bear, while your best friend sees a lion in the very same cloud. This was also the case with naming the constellations. And as a result, the same constellation can be known by different names across the globe.

One of the best-known constellations is the Big Dipper. If you've ever seen it in the sky, then you know it looks like a scooper or a dipper. But the ancient Greeks called the Big Dipper "Ursa Major" or "Big Bear". The ancient Irish and French called the Big Dipper the "Chariot," and the British referred to it as the "Plough". So you can see how star gazing and studying the constellations to find shapes in the patterns can cause a single constellation to have multiple names.



Another thing that contributes to these differing names is the expansion of the universe. The stars are moving and changing positions in the sky, which can make them look less like what they were originally named and more like something completely different. The constellation Cassiopeia originally looked like a W, but today it appears to be a squiggly line. Astronomers believe that the Big Dipper will look like a number five in 50,000 years.

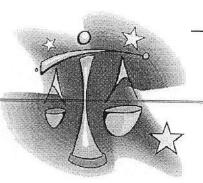
Imagine what you will see the next time you look at the stars.

Pictures in the Stars

Vocabulary Activity

The words below are scrambled words from the article.

Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Look back in the article to be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1.

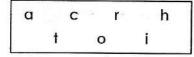
С	а	n	n
	t e	3	i

Clue: from long ago

2.

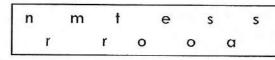
Clue: to form a picture in the mind

3.



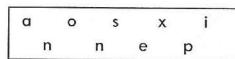
Clue: two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse

4.



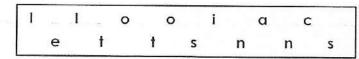
Clue: people who study stars and outer space

5.



Clue: growth; getting bigger

6.



Clue: the 88 group of stars that makes an officially recognized shape

Name: _____

Multiplication

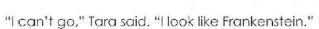
4th Grade

Name:	

Frankenstein Face

by Kelly Hashway

Tara stared at her reflection in the side mirror of her mother's car. Black stitches lined her right cheek. It had been days since she'd fallen off her bike and had to get stitches, but Tara still wasn't used to how she looked.



"Honey, you look fine," her mother said. "Those stitches will be out in no time."

"Then why can't I start soccer camp after the stitches are out?" Tara asked.

"No one is going to see your stitches. The doctor said you need to cover them up with a bandage to keep dirt from getting in them. You're lucky the doctor is even letting you go to soccer camp."

"I wish he wasn't. Everyone is going to laugh at me."

Tara's mother sighed and put a bandage over the stitches. "There, that's better."

Tara looked in the mirror again. Somehow the bandage made it worse. She tugged her baseball cap lower on her forehead, hoping to keep her cheek in shadow. "Bye," she mumbled, opening the car door and stepping onto the soccer field.

The other kids were already warming up. Tara thought about telling Coach Mason she had a stomachache and sitting out. Maybe no one would pay attention to her if she wasn't actually practicing.

"New arrival!" Coach Mason yelled. "You must be Tara. Your mom told me about your bike accident. Why don't you take a spot over there and let me know if there are any skills you're not feeling up to."

Tara turned and saw all eyes were on her.

"You had a bike accident?" one girl asked.

"Did you have to get stitches?" a boy asked.

Tara didn't know what to say. They weren't making fun of her. At least not yet. "Um, yeah."

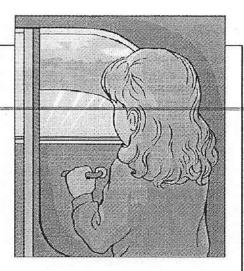
"Can we see?" the boy asked, sounding really excited.

"I'm not supposed to take the bandage off because I might get dirt in the stitches," Tara said.

"Maybe some other time," the boy said.

"Here, I'll show you what we're working on," the girl said.

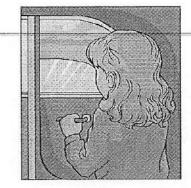
"Okay," Tara said, unable to keep from smiling.



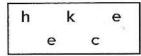
Frankenstein Face

Vocabulary

The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write in on the line. Look back at the story to be sure you spell each word correctly.

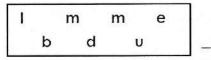


1.



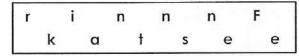
Clue: part of the face

2.



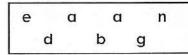
Clue: spoke softly and not clearly

3.



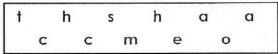
Clue: fictional monster with a scar on his head

4.



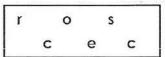
Clue: covering for a cut

5.



Clue: type of sickness

6.



Clue: sport where most players do not use their hands

Multiplication

4th Grade

Name: _____

The Big-Eared, Bushy-Tailed Fennec Fox

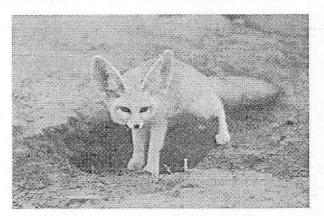
by Guy Belleranti

In the deserts of North Africa and Saudi Arabia lives the smallest of all foxes with the largest of ears. This animal is the fennec fox.

Fennec foxes have ears that are 5 to 6 inches long. That's big for an animal that weighs less than four pounds. Their ears help shed body heat. And, as you may have guessed, they also provide great hearing.

It's interesting to compare the big ears of fennec foxes to the small ears of arctic foxes. Arctic foxes live in cold climates, so they don't need to shed heat. Instead, they need to save heat. Big ears would not save heat and would probably even cause an arctic fox to get frostbitten!

It's also interesting to think about the hair of fennec foxes. Why would a fox that lives in the desert need a thick, fur coat? Actually, the desert isn't always warm. During the nighttime, a desert can be downright cold! A fennec fox's fur keeps them warm during those chilly desert nights. They also have long bushy tails that they use as a blanket. And the hair on their feet protects them from the hot sand in the daytime.





Fennec foxes live in small communities of burrows or dens. They spend most of the day sleeping in their dens, out of the hot sun. Then, when night comes, out they come in search of food. In addition to their great hearing, fennecs also use their great sense of smell and big eyes to track down dinner. Animals that are active at night are called nocturnal.

Like other foxes, fennecs are omnivores. This means they eat both meat and plants. Some of their favorite foods include rodents, birds, eggs, insects, lizards, snails, fruit and leaves.

Fennec fox mothers give birth to a litter of one to five babies (called kits). The average life span of a Fennec fox is 10 to 12 years.

The cream coloration of fennec foxes help them blend into their desert habitat. Still, they have to watch out for predators. These include caracals (a type of wild cat), jackals, eagle owls, hyenas and humans. Humans catch them for their fur and to sell as exotic pets.

About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with animals and teaching others.

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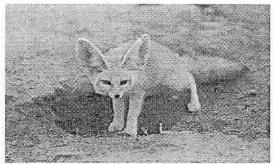
or dens.

The Big-Eared, Bushy-Tailed Fennec Fox

by Guy Belleranti

Some of the sentences below are true. Others are false.

Read each sentence. If the sentence is true, write the word <u>true</u> on the line. If the sentence is false, cross out the underlined word(s) and write a new word on the line to make the sentence true.



1. A baby fennec fox is called a <u>cub</u>. 2. Fennec foxes are nocturnal. Fennec foxes are carnivores. 4. The hair on a fennec fox's ears protects it from the hot desert sand 5. Fennec foxes have ears that are about 6 inches long. 6. A caracal is a type of wild cat. 7. Fennec foxes search for food in the afternoon. 8. Fennec foxes live about 20 years. 9. Fennec foxes spend a lot of time sleeping during the daylight hours. Fennec foxes live in communities of burrows 10.

Name: _____

Multiplication

4th Grade

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Legend of the Mermaid

by Kelly Hashway



We've all heard of mermaids. They are the beautiful half-human, half-fish creatures that live in the sea. They have the head and torso of a human and the tail of a fish. We also know that mermaids only exist in fairy tales. But where did all the stories about these creatures come from? If you have ever seen a manatee, then you might have an idea.

Manatees, which are also called sea cows, are mammals that live in the ocean. Since they are mammals, they have to swim up to the surface to breathe air. Many people believe that the legend of the mermaid began with sailors who witnessed the manatees popping their heads out of the water to breathe. Because manatees are upright when they do this, it can look like they are standing. If a sailor saw a manatee doing this from far away across the ocean, it is possible that the sailor would mistake the manatee for a creature that is half-human, half-fish.

Mermaids are described as having long flowing hair. This is probably because manatees like to swim up to the surface of the water in areas where there is seaweed. Manatees eat all kinds of vegetation, including sea grass. The seaweed surrounding the manatee's head when they eat could give the impression of long hair.

Manatees also have powerful tails that are very similar to the fish-like tail of a mermaid. Sailors probably watched manatees come up for air and then swim back below the surface, using their paddle-shaped tails. This would explain why sailors thought mermaids had fish-like tails.

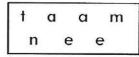


Another similarity between the manatee and the mermaid is how they hold their young. Manatees cradle their babies in their flippers just like people hold their children in their arms. So it is easy to see human traits in manatees and how they just might have led to the legend of the mermaid.

Legend of the Mermaid

The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the passage. Unscramble each word and write it on the line.





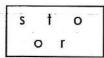
Clue: a large, gray sea animal that breathes air



2.

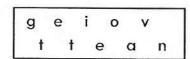
Clue: unproven story told through time

3.



Clue: part of the human body that does not include arms, legs, or head

4.



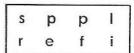
Clue: plant life

5.



Clue: hold gently

6.



Clue: flat limbs on sea animals used for swimming

Multiplication