

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Crocs and Gators

Crocodylians

All types of crocodiles and alligators are known as crocodylians. Crocs and gators have many common characteristics which are rather easy to recognize. Both crocs and gators have scaly skin. They also have similar eating habits: they both eat whatever they can catch in the water. When they are along the shoreline, crocodylians may grab a bite by eating birds or small land animals. An interesting fact about crocodylians is that some of them can eat up to half their body weight. They sure have big appetites.

Another common characteristic of the crocodile and alligator is how they take care of their young. Unlike most reptiles, mother crocodylians protect their young until they are old enough to take care of themselves. Once their eggs hatch on land, they carefully carry their babies to the water in their mouths. Mother crocodylians will attack any predator in order to protect their babies. Without a doubt, alligators and crocodiles are amazing animals!

Crocs versus Gators

The most common question about crocodylians is, "What is the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?" Although they share many similarities, there are quite a few differences as well. Although both creatures are called crocodylians, they come from two completely different families. Alligators come from the *Alligatoridae* family, and the crocodile comes from the *Crocodylidae* family.

Some of the differences between the two are fairly easy to tell. Crocodiles have working salt glands in their mouths. Therefore crocodiles are more able to stand salt and usually can be found in salt water. Unlike the crocs, the gators' glands do not function in the same way. Consequently, alligators are less tolerant to salt and usually live in fresh water. The shape of their snout is another key factor in telling which one is which. Gators have more of a "U"-shaped snout, whereas a crocodile's snout is "V"-shaped. Another way to tell the difference is by looking at their teeth. The teeth of the crocodile are even and do not overlap each other, but the alligator's top teeth overlap their bottom teeth.

Even though some differences are easy to see, their difference in behavior is not as obvious. Many people believe that crocs are more aggressive than gators. Alligators tend to run away when they are alarmed, unlike the ferocious crocodile.

Caution!!!

It is important to know that these two creatures are quite dangerous. Crocodylians are very territorial and can harm humans if they feel threatened. So if you are ever observing these animals, ALWAYS take caution while around them.

Now you Know!

Although the two are often confused, knowing the facts can help people tell them apart. Some features are easier to detect than others. Crocodiles and alligators have many similarities and differences. Even though they are of the same species and look a lot alike, they are unique animals with many different characteristics that set them apart.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Crocs and Gators".

1 Which sentence *best* tells the main idea of the passage?

- A. Alligators and crocodiles have little in common.
- B. With a little knowledge about crocodiles and alligators, they are not that hard to tell apart.
- C. Crocodiles and alligators are animals that must be studied up close.
- D. Only an expert can tell the difference between a crocodile and an alligator.

Master ID:	450727	Revision:	1
Correct:	B		
Standards:	CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2		

2 **TEACHER READS:**

Read and complete the task that follows.

What is the main idea of the section "Crocs versus Gators"? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Write your answer on the lines below.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Crocs and Gators".

Master ID: 450088 Revision: 1
 Rubric: 2 Point(s)

2 A response:

- Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to justify the inference made
- Includes specific examples that make clear reference to the text
- Adequately supports examples with clearly relevant information from the text

The main idea of the section "Crocs versus Gators" is that crocodiles and alligators have many differences to help tell them apart. The passage says that alligators and crocodiles are from different families with different names. Also, crocodiles can swim in salt water, while alligators usually do not. This is because crocodiles have working salt glands in their "V"-shaped snouts. The passage also tells us that crocodiles are much more violent than alligators.

1 A response:

- Gives limited evidence to justify the inference made
- Includes some examples that make clear reference to the text
- Supports examples with limited information from the text

The main idea of the section "Crocs versus Gators" is that crocodiles and alligators have differences. They are from different families and live in different places. Alligators are also more afraid than crocodiles.

0 A response does not receive any credit if it does not provide evidence to support the inference made. There may be no relevant information from the text, or the response may be vague.

The main idea of the section "Crocs versus Gators" is that crocodiles and alligators look a lot alike, but may not be that much alike.

Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2

- 3 How do the bold subtitles help the reader to better follow the text?**
- A. They identify important vocabulary words that will help the reader learn more about crocs and gators.
 - B. They help the reader easily identify the most important differences between crocs and gators.
 - C. They help the reader easily identify the topics that they will learn about crocs and gators in each section.
 - D. They identify where crocs and gators are typically found.

Master ID: 449514 Revision: 1
 Correct: C
 Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.7

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Crocs and Gators".

4 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read these sentences from "Crocs and Gators."

Crocodiles have working salt glands in their mouths. Therefore crocodiles are more able to stand salt and usually can be found in salt water. Unlike the crocs, the gators' glands do not function in the same way.

As used in this passage, the word stand means

- A. to be in an upright position.
- B. to be set or fixed.
- C. a piece of furniture.
- D. to put up with or tolerate.

Master ID: 27701 Revision: 1

Correct: D

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have thought this was the best meaning for the word "stand" because it is the main definition; however, student(s) may not have checked to see if it fit the context of the sentence.
- B. Student(s) may not have realized that this may not be the best meaning for the word "stand" since it does not fit the context of the sentence.
- C. Student(s) may have thought this was a good meaning for the word but may not have checked to see if it fit the context of the sentence.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.L.4.4.a

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Anika's First Day

Read the following passage and answer the question(s).

A streak of sunlight danced in the room as the alarm clock snarled for the fourth time.

"Anika," cried the nervous voice of Anika's father from downstairs. "It is 7:30 and if you don't get out of bed immediately, you'll be late."

Anika groaned as she awoke from a wonderful dream where summer continued forever and the first day of school never arrived. "Too bad that was all in my imagination," Anika whispered as she leaped out of bed, disappointed that summer vacation was over.

While the first day of school rarely made Anika nervous, her stomach was definitely rumbling with worry. This year, Anika was attending a new school and almost everything would be different. Sure, most of her fifth grade classmates had moved on with her from their final year at Jefferson Elementary School. However, Sharad, Anika's older brother, had spoken all about the "middle school experience." According to Sharad, she had to switch classes, make sure she got to class on time, and get used to a whole new school, which had two floors, unlike her old one-story school.

"You better hurry up," Sharad called up the stairs. "You never want to be late for school or you might have to stay after."

"Great," Anika said with dismay as she dashed to the kitchen table. "Just another thing to worry about."

Sharad glanced up from his bowl of cereal. "What are you so nervous about?" Sharad asked, trying to coax his sister into talking.

Anika hesitated a moment and frowned. "Well, last year, I knew everything about our school and I didn't have a million things to figure out. This year, middle school is entirely new. What if I get in trouble, or confused, or get lost?"

"Get lost?" Sharad said with a laugh. "The only way you are going to get lost is if you don't pay attention."

Anika's eyebrows jumped at Sharad's laughter. "Seriously, what if something goes wrong?"

"Think about kindergarten. You were new to school then and felt worried, right?"

"Right," Anika replied trying to recall those distant days of kindergarten.

"What made you feel better?" her brother asked.

Anika's brown eyes widened and she felt her worries start to swoop away. "I knew my best friend was there. I also knew, that if I had a problem, you were in the classroom down the hall."

Sharad nodded, hoping to convince Anika he was there to protect her if needed. "And the same thing is going to happen this year. You have other sixth grade friends at school, and I am going to be upstairs, where the seventh graders are. So, if you have a problem, just find me and I will help you."

"Are you sure?" Anika asked, as her faced beamed with hopefulness. She dug into her oatmeal, aware that if she did not finish quickly, they would both be late for school.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

"Of course," Sharad continued, "as the year goes along, don't be surprised if I pretend to ignore you. That's what good brothers do."

"Thanks," Anika replied with a laugh. She and Sharad had their differences, but this time she knew she could count on her brother. With that, Anika realized that the first day of school might not be dreadful after all. "Who knew you could be so helpful?"

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Anika's First Day".

5 The sentence below was a third person narration. Rewrite this sentence as a first person narration.

"Too bad that was all in my imagination," Anika whispered as she leaped out of bed, disappointed that summer vacation was over.

Write your answer on the lines below.

Master ID: 490720 Revision: 2
 Rubric: 3 Point(s)

3 Student's response should be:
 "Too bad that was all in my imagination," I whispered **to myself** as I leaped out of bed, disappointed that summer vacation was over
 Students need to have all 3 corrections.

2 Student's response should be:
 "Too bad that was all in my imagination," I **and/ or** whispered **and/or to myself** as **and/or I** leaped out of bed, disappointed that summer vacation was over.
 Students need to have 2 of the corrections.

1 Student's response should be:
 "Too bad that was all in my imagination," I whispered **or to myself** as **or I** leaped out of bed, disappointed that summer vacation was over.
 Students need only 1 of the corrections.

0 Students did not respond or did not make any corrections.

Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RL
 CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.6

6 **TEACHER READS:**

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which detail from the passage best shows that Anika is feeling uneasy and unsure about middle school?

- A. "Anika," cried the nervous voice of Anika's father from downstairs.
- B. Sure, most of her fifth grade classmates had moved on with her from their final year at Jefferson Elementary School.
- C. "Great," Anika said with dismay as she dashed to the kitchen table. "Just another thing to worry about."
- D. "Thanks," Anika replied with a laugh. She and Sharad had their differences, but this time she knew she could count on her brother.

Master ID: 465098 Revision: 1
 Correct: C
 Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have misunderstood this detail from the passage because it shows that Anika's father is nervous, not Anika.
- B. Student(s) may have thought that Anika was worried about being in school again with the same students as the previous year; however, this idea is not implied in the passage.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have confused a part of the story where Anika feels better about going to middle school with a part of the story where she feels nervous about going to middle school.

Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RL
 CCSS.LA.4.RL.CCR.1
 CCSS.LA.4.RL.4.1

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

A Berry Healthy Drink

Four a Day

Over the past few decades, we have learned about the food pyramid. The second row of the pyramid shows us that we need to eat four servings of fruit and vegetables every day. How many people can honestly say that they eat that much fruit? Even though it may seem difficult to munch on four pieces of fruit every day, it is possible. How, you ask? You can bring together many healthy fruits into a tasty smoothie drink. It is really easy to make and really delicious to drink!



Smooth and Easy Steps

This easy recipe will capture your taste buds! It is unbelievably healthy because it is filled with fruits that have many vitamins. Even if you have never tried some of these ingredients, they are guaranteed scrumptious winners. Be sure to look at the nutrition information at the bottom of the page.

First, you need to gather all the ingredients. This smoothie is easy to make because it is a "one cup" drink. You need one cup of frozen blueberries, one cup of frozen raspberries, one cup of pomegranate juice, one ripe banana, one cup of yogurt, and one cup of berry-flavored sherbet. You can also add two tablespoons of honey for extra sweetness. All of the berries in this recipe are full of "antioxidants" that slow down damage done to your body.

Next, place all the ingredients into a blender. Blend on medium until the ingredients mix together. Then, blend on high for thirty seconds or until smooth. Finally, your smoothie is done and ready to drink. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

Smoothie Nutrition Information

Fruit	Nutrients	Benefits
Blueberries	Vitamin C and Vitamin K	Protect body from sicknesses, Allows blood to clot normally
Raspberries	Manganese and Vitamin C	Make strong bones, Protect body from sicknesses
Pomegranate	Vitamin C and Phosphorous	Protect body from sicknesses, Necessary for cell growth
Banana	Potassium	Helps muscles contract
Yogurt	Acidophilus	Helps with digestion

Start Today

As you can see, this smoothie recipe is very healthy. There are many other easy recipes you can find to make a healthy drink. Check out other flavorful fruits you can put in your smoothie: strawberries, peaches, blackberries, pears, oranges, pineapples, and coconuts. It's easy, it's healthy, and it's yummy!

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "A Berry Healthy Drink".

7 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

The main idea of the last paragraph of "A Berry Healthy Drink" is to explain

- A. the health benefits of the different ingredients in a smoothie.
- B. the steps used to make the berry smoothie.
- C. that there are other ingredients that may be used to make healthy smoothies.
- D. that it is healthy to find ways to add fruit to one's diet.

Master ID: 182700 Revision: 1
 Correct: C
 Rationale:
 A. Student(s) may have misunderstood the main idea of the final paragraph.
 B. Student(s) may have thought that the paragraph before the chart was the last paragraph, but it is not.
 C. Correct answer
 D. Student(s) may have confused the main idea of the first paragraph, which introduced the idea of adding fruit to one's diet, with the main idea of the last paragraph.
 Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2

8 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

What is the main idea of "A Berry Healthy Drink"?

- A. to describe the different ways to make various smoothies
- B. to describe the health benefits of berry smoothies
- C. to describe how berries can be used to make different foods
- D. to describe the ways the major food groups help the body

Master ID: 182699 Revision: 1
 Correct: B
 Rationale:
 A. Student(s) may have known this passage describes how to make one type of smoothie; however, the passage does not describe how to make other smoothies.
 B. Correct answer
 C. Student(s) may have realized that the passage tells how to use berries to make a smoothie, but it does not tell how to use berries to make other types of food.
 D. Student(s) may have noticed that the passage explains some ways fruits and dairy (in yogurt) help the body, but the passage does not focus on other food groups.
 Standards:
 CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "A Berry Healthy Drink".

9 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

How does the use of a table help the reader better understand the section "Smooth and Easy Steps"?

- A. It points out unusual words that the reader may not understand.
- B. It helps the reader visualize what the smoothie looks like.
- C. It demonstrates how to make a smoothie.
- D. It shows that the fruits in the smoothie are healthy and full of vitamins.

Master ID: 32293 Revision: 1

Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have known how the table particularly helped with this passage. Student(s) may have recalled that there were unusual words in the table.
- B. Student(s) may have known that graphics can aid in the visualization of a text but may not have checked to see how the table helped with the understanding of the text.
- C. Student(s) may have recalled that the text included a paragraph that explained how to make a smoothie. Student(s) may not have realized that the table supported the idea that the fruits in the smoothie included many healthy vitamins.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.7

10 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Why is the word "antioxidant" surrounded by quotation marks in the third paragraph?

- A. to show that the word has more than one meaning
- B. to show that the word may be unfamiliar to the reader
- C. to show that it is a foreign word
- D. to quote the words of a speaker

Master ID: 32294 Revision: 1

Correct: **B**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have known that quotes could be used in this way but may not have realized that it was used to introduce vocabulary.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may have thought that quotation marks were used to reveal foreign words or phrases. Student(s) may not have realized how the quotes were used in the text.
- D. Student(s) may have known that quotation marks could be used to quote the words of a speaker.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.7