

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

The King of the Arctic



Did you know that a polar bear cub weighs 1 1/2 pounds at birth? Adult male polar bears can weigh up to 2000 pounds! They grow to be much bigger than humans.

Polar bears are beautiful, intelligent creatures and cunning hunters. Slyly, they approach a seal's breathing hole in the ice. Some experts say they cover their black noses with their paws. That way, the seals will not see them coming. They pounce when the seal comes up for air.

Although polar bears may face real danger in the future, the polar bear population is not yet declining. Polar bears can live up to 30 years. The main menace to the polar bear is global warming. In the Arctic, this is clear. The ice cap is getting thinner and smaller all the time. It thaws earlier every year. Polar bears have less time to hunt during winter.

During summer, polar bears do not hibernate; however, they rest 87% of the time. Winter is when they fatten up. Their black skin soaks up heat and their hair is hollow. Each hair has air in it that insulates them. Their feet are thickly padded. The pads on their feet give off heat, which melts the ice as they walk. This keeps them from skidding. The polar bear has all the equipment it needs to live and travel on ice. However, it is uncomfortable in any temperature above freezing. The polar bear is king of the Arctic, the way a lion is the king of the jungle.

1 According to the text, the main reason that polar bears rely on their dark skin is to

- A. keep warm in a cold environment.
- B. blend in with their surroundings.
- C. attract suitable mates.
- D. travel across the cold ice.

2 What is the MAIN focus of this passage?

- A. global warming
- B. It compares polar bears to lions.
- C. It explains how polar bears stay warm.
- D. It gives the reader information on polar bears.

3 Which of the following would be the BEST supporting detail for this passage?

- A. Animals of the Arctic are able to adapt to ice cold weather.
- B. Global warming is threatening our earth.
- C. Black bears hibernate in the winter.
- D. Their dark skin and thick hair help to keep them warm.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "The King of the Arctic".

4 The fact that the polar ice cap is getting thinner and thinner is used in this passage to support the idea that

- A. the polar bear population is declining.
- B. the main threat to polar bears is global warming.
- C. polar bears must learn to become more efficient swimmers.
- D. polar bears rely on their white fur to survive.

5 Question
CR

In your own words write a summary about the passage The King of the Arctic. Include in your summary the main idea and key details from the text.

Write your answer on the lines below.

6 How is the passage King of the Arctic text organized?

- A. cause and effect
- B. chronological
- C. compare and contrast
- D. problem and solution

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

Born for Soccer

The Young Boy

Edson Arantes Do Nascimento was the greatest soccer player of all time. Edson, also known as Pelé, was born in Brazil in 1940. He grew up in a very poor family. Pelé's father played soccer for a professional team and taught him how to play. As a boy, all he did was play soccer. He played for his first soccer team when he was a teenager. Eventually, this 5'8" boy became the best on his team.

Years as a Pro

When Pelé turned fifteen, he joined the Santos Club and earned sixty dollars a month. He played his first professional soccer game for the club in 1956. Many people noticed his special talent as a goal scorer. He often thrilled the crowds.

In 1958, Pelé joined Brazil's soccer team. He played in the "World Cup," a championship game that brings all the soccer playing nations together. Pelé scored two out of the four goals against Sweden. The deafening roar of the crowds proclaimed that he was a star. He was such a remarkable player. Even the Swedish fans at the game chanted his name. Everyone thought he was the greatest player they had ever seen. He led his team to their first victory at the Cup. Pelé came back to his hometown as a superstar.

After the championship game, Pelé continued to play for his team in Santos. Then in 1962, he returned to the World Cup. Although he had to sit out of the game because of an injury, his team won again.

Once Pelé regained his strength, he played again. Then, in 1969, Pelé scored his 1000th goal. No other player had come close to Pelé, the greatest player. This was quite an accomplishment because soccer is such a low scoring game.

After playing in Brazil, Pelé made his way over to America. Playing for the New York Cosmos, he continued to bring excitement to the game. He brought much success to the team and helped them win a championship game in 1977. Pelé's magic on the field changed many Americans. They began to really love the sport.

A Job Well Done

Eventually, Pelé retired after that game. His skill with the soccer ball was like no other. Not only did he know how to score goals, he really knew how to handle the ball. Pelé once said, "I was born for soccer, just as Beethoven was born for music."¹ Throughout his career, Pelé helped popularize the sport. His name became well-known all throughout the world. Many argue, for good reason, that he is the greatest soccer player of all time.

Timeline

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Born for Soccer".

Edson Arantes Do Nascimento is born	Pelé plays for Santos Club	Pelé plays for Brazil at World Cup	Pelé returns to World Cup	1000 th goal	Pelé plays for New York Cosmos	Pelé retires
1940	1956	1958	1962	1969	1975	1977

¹<http://www.shvoong.com/humanities/1617682-pele-black-pearl/> 3 Feb. 2009. New York.

7 What is the main idea of "Born for Soccer"?

- A. Pelé scored 1000 goals, an amazing accomplishment.
- B. Pelé is known as the greatest soccer player of all time.
- C. Pelé played for many different soccer teams.
- D. Pelé brought more fans to soccer than there were before.

8 Use the timeline in the passage to answer the question below.

When did Pelé first play in the World Cup?

- A. 1956
- B. 1958
- C. 1962
- D. 1975

9 Explain why Pelé is famous among soccer fans. Support your answer using details from the passage.

Write your answer on the lines below.
