

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.

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

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which sentence from the passage *best* supports the idea that polar bears can survive in a cold environment?

- A. Polar bears can live up to 30 years.
- B. Winter is when they fatten up.
- C. Each hair has air in it that insulates them.
- D. The polar bear is king of the Arctic, the way a lion is the king of the jungle.

Master ID: 447270 Revision: 1

Correct: **C**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have thought that this sentence best suggests that polar bears live long lives and therefore survive cold environments; however, this is not the best support.
- B. Student(s) may have associated winter with being cold and assumed that getting fatter in the winter is what makes them survive.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may have thought that because they are king of the arctic they could survive in the cold; however, this is not a detail that supports why they can survive.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.1

2 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Thomas read "The King of the Arctic" and concluded that the fourth paragraph of the article mostly contains

- A. an explanation of the hunting habits of polar bears.
- B. a list of the many dangers that exist for polar bears in the Arctic.
- C. a variety of reasons that polar bears might become extinct.
- D. a description of several ways a polar bear has adapted to its habitat.

Master ID: 182504 Revision: 1

Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have confused the content of the second paragraph with the content of the fourth paragraph.
- B. Student(s) may have noticed that the article highlights at least one threat to the polar bears in the Arctic, but this is contained in the third paragraph, not the fourth paragraph.
- C. Student(s) may have realized that the article mentions at least one danger to polar bears; however, none of the paragraphs within this passage state that polar bears will become extinct.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2
CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.10

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

3 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

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.

Master ID: 18580 Revision: 1

Correct: **D**

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have realized that this is a only a SUPPORTING detail to one of the supporting paragraphs.
- B. Student(s) may not have realized that although this is mentioned, it is not the MAIN focus of the story.
- C. Student(s) may not have realized that this is the main focus of one of the supporting paragraphs, but not the main focus of the entire passage.
- D. Correct answer

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.2
CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.10

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".

4 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.

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
CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.10

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

5 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

6 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

The author claims that alligators and crocodiles are "amazing animals." What evidence from paragraph 2 does the author specifically use when supporting this claim?

- A. These animals are quite similar to each other.
- B. These animals show remarkable care for their young.
- C. They eat up to half of their body weight.
- D. They can be dangerous to humans.

Master ID: 179471 Revision: 1

Correct: B

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may have inferred the author was amazed by the similarities between the animals, but this is not suggested in the text.
- B. Correct answer
- C. Student(s) may have confused a fact the author describes as an "interesting" fact with facts used to support the idea that crocodilians are amazing animals.
- D. Student(s) may have remembered that crocodilians can be dangerous to humans, but the author does not suggest that this is the reason they are amazing.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.8

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.10

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

7 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which detail is *not* used to support the idea that it is easy to identify differences between crocodiles and alligators?

- A. These animals exhibit different types of behavior.
- B. Crocodiles can spend time in salt water, but alligators cannot.
- C. Crocodile teeth are even and alligator teeth overlap.
- D. These animals have different types of snouts.

Master ID: 179470 Revision: 1

Correct: **A**

Rationale:

- A. Correct answer
- B. Student(s) may not have realized that the author used this detail to help show that crocodiles and alligators are easy to tell apart.
- C. Student(s) may have thought that teeth cannot be used to tell the difference between alligators and crocodiles, but the article suggests that crocodilian teeth actually can be used for this purpose.
- D. Student(s) may have thought that it is hard to tell the snouts of crocodiles and alligators apart, but the author identifies ways to distinguish the two types of snouts.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.8

CCSS.LA.4.RI.4.10

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

8 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Read the sentences below carefully.

Greg walked his dog. He gave it a bath.

What is the **best way to join the two sentences using a coordinating conjunction?**

- A. Greg walked his dog and he gave it a bath.
- B. Greg walked his dog; and he gave it a bath.
- C. Greg walked his dog, and he gave it a bath.
- D. Greg walked his dog and, he gave it a bath.

Master ID: 170386 Revision: 1

Correct: C

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have noticed that a comma is missing before the coordinating conjunction "and."
- B. Student(s) may not have noticed that the punctuation linking the two independent clauses is a colon and should be a comma.
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may not have understood that a comma must come before the coordinating conjunction "and" when joining independent clauses.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.L.4.2.c

9 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which of the following sentences uses the correct punctuation?

- A. Always look both ways before crossing the street, or you could get run over by a car.
- B. Always look both ways before crossing the street or you could get run over by a car.
- C. Always look both ways before crossing the street. Or you could get run over by a car.
- D. Always look both ways before crossing the street; or you could get run over by a car.

Master ID: 170385 Revision: 1

Correct: A

Rationale:

- A. Correct answer
- B. Student(s) may not have noticed that a comma is missing before the coordinating conjunction "or."
- C. Student(s) may not have understood that the two clauses should be combined into a compound sentence using a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction.
- D. Student(s) may not have noticed that the punctuation linking the two independent clauses is a semicolon and should be a comma.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.L.4.2.c

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

10 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which of the following sentences uses the correct punctuation?

- A. Matt studied hard all week and, he was proud of his perfect score on the math test.
- B. Matt studied hard all week and he was proud of his perfect score on the math test.
- C. Matt studied hard all week, and he was proud of his perfect score on the math test.
- D. Matt studied hard all week. And he was proud of his perfect score on the math test.

Master ID: 170384 Revision: 1

Correct: C

Rationale:

- A. Student(s) may not have noticed the comma is after the coordinating conjunction, and should be before the coordinating conjunction.
- B. Student(s) may not have noticed that a comma is missing before the coordinating conjunction "and."
- C. Correct answer
- D. Student(s) may not have understood that the two clauses should be combined into a compound sentence using a comma followed by a coordinating conjunction.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.4.L.4.2.c