



# GREAT-HORNED OWLS

Have you ever heard a hoot as the sun goes down? This may be the cry of a greathorned owl. She is looking for her dinner.

Great-horned owls have sharp eyes and ears. They see and hear small animals. Then, they swoop down and grab their prey.

Great-horned owls eat mice, frogs, snakes, and small birds. They also eat insects. They can fly without making a sound.

Great-horned owls hoot to other owls in the forest. Their brown and black feathers make them hard to see in the daytime. You may see one flying at dawn or dusk. Be very quiet. Then, you may hear owls calling out to each other through the trees.



## STORY QUESTIONS

- 1. In this passage, the word swoop means ...
  - a. run.
  - b. fly. d. skate.
- 2. Which statement is false?
  - a. Great-horned owls don't see well.
  - b. Great-horned owls fly in silence.
  - c. Great-horned owls eat snakes.
  - d. Great-horned owls have feathers.
- 3. What colors are the great-horned owl's feathers?
  - a. black and white c. brown and orange
  - b. blue and red d. brown and black
- 4. Which animal does the great-horned owl not eat?
  - a. frogc. small birdb. snaked. bear

c. skip.



CATS

Do you have a cat at home? If so, you know what amazing creatures they are.

Cats learn about the weather from their whiskers. They can tell if it is hot or cold, wet or dry. Their whiskers also help them to find their way in the dark.

Indoor cats like to play with balls. They also love to play with string. You can toss a catnip mouse and train your cat to bring it back to you.

One of the best things about cats is their fur. They keep themselves very clean. They are soft and warm. Most cats like to be brushed and petted. They also like to sit on your lap.

Many cats do not have a home. They are cold and hungry. You can adopt one from your local <u>shelter</u>. Then, you will have an amazing creature of your own.





#### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Cats learn about the weather from their . . .

a. tails.	c. whiskers
b. fur.	d. teeth.

- 2. You can train your cat to . . .
  - a. cook dinner.

- c. brush your hair.d. play football.
- 3. How do you think a cat cleans its fur?
  - a. by taking a shower c. by soaking in the bathtub
  - b. by swimming in the ocean

b. bring back a catnip mouse.

- d. by licking itself
- **4.** In this story, the word shelter means . . .
  - a. a place that holds stray cats. c. a dophouse.
  - b. a teepee.

- c. a dognous
- d. a tent.



THE OCEAN

The ocean is made up of salt water. There are four main oceans. They are the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, and the Arctic Ocean.

The top of the earth is made up mostly of ocean. Many fish and plants live in the ocean. Sharks swim through the water. Whales and seals live in the ocean, too.

The ocean gives us fish for food. It lets us sail boats from one place to another place. We can even surf on ocean waves.

We need the ocean in order to live. You can help to keep the beach clean when you visit. Then, we can all enjoy the ocean.





## STORY QUESTIONS

**1.** What is the ocean made up of? a. sharks c. boats b. salt water d. plants 2. What does not live in the ocean? c. tigers a. sharks b. whales d. fish 3. Why do we need the ocean? a. It gives us food. c. It is cold. d. It is big. b. It is pretty. 4. How can you help the ocean? a. You can surf. b. You can sail. c. You can fish. d. You can keep the beach clean.





MOUNTAINS

A mountain is a very tall hill. It climbs high into the sky. There are mountains all over the world.

The tallest mountain in the world is Mount Everest. It is in Nepal. People climb to its top. It is very cold.

The highest mountain in the U.S. is in Alaska. People call it Denali. It is lovely.

Mountains are fun to explore. Bears and birds live there. So do trees and plants. Have you ever walked up a mountain?



# STORY QUESTIONS

1. A mountain is a very tall . . .

a. bear.	c. hill.
b. tree.	d. plant.

- 2. If you walk up Mount Everest, you need a ....
  - a. swim suit.b. bear.c. pair of sandals.d. snow suit.
- 3. The highest mountain in the U.S. is in . . .
  - a. Nepal. c. New York.
  - b. Alaska. d. California.
- 4. What does not live on a mountain?
  - a. whales
  - b. birds
  - c. trees
  - d. bears



# SUN, EARTH, AND MOON

The sun comes up in the morning. The sun goes down at night. This is because Earth spins on its axis.

It takes Earth one day—twenty-four hours—to spin once on its axis. When we see sunlight, our part of Earth faces the sun. When it is dark, we are facing away from the sun.

The moon revolves around our Earth. The sun is bright, so we don't always see the moon in the day. But sometimes, we can see the moon and the sun in the same sky.

Earth follows a big circle around the sun. It takes Earth a year to go all the way around the sun. It is a long trip of 365 days!



- 1. Earth revolves around the . . .a. moon.c. Earth.b. sun.d. morning.
- 2. There are twenty-four hours in a ....
  - a. month.c. day.b. year.d. week.
- 3. The moon is hidden in the day because . . .
  - a. Earth is bright. c. it is too cold.
  - b. it is shy. d. the sun is bright.
- 4. Earth circles the sun in . . .
  - a. a day.
  - b. 2 years.
  - c. 365 days.
  - d. 24 hours.



FOSSILS

What is a fossil? A fossil is what is left from a very old animal or plant. The word *fossil* means "dug up."

Fossils can be bones. They can also be shapes of bones or plants left in a rock. People dig up rocks. They hope to find clues to our past.

We learn about dinosaurs from fossils. These animals are gone. But they left their bones and shapes behind.

An animal or plant dies. It is buried. Over the years, it breaks down. What is left behind is stone. This is called a fossil.

We can learn a lot from fossils. We learn about our land. We learn about animals. Do you want a fossil? Go digging!





#### STORY QUESTIONS

- 1. The word fossil means . . .
  - a. dig it.
  - b. dinosaur.

- c. dug up.
- d. land.

c. sand

d. plants

- 2. Why do people dig up rocks?
  - a. to find clues to our past
  - b. to hit each other

- c. to hit dinosaursd. to find gold
- 3. What did dinosaurs leave behind?
  - a. babies
  - b. bones
- 4. What should you do if you want a fossil?
  - a. dig it up
  - b. steal one
  - c. make one
  - d. bury a plant



# AMERICAN COLONIES

In 1620, people from England took a boat to America. They decided to live here. They made towns called <u>colonies</u>.

People built homes out of logs from trees. They covered the roof with tree bark. These homes were small. They had a fireplace. They also had a pot for cooking.

The towns were made up of houses. The men hunted for deer and turkey. The women made soap and candles. The children picked berries.

It was hard to live here at first. People were cold and hungry. But they worked hard to make a good home.



- 1. In this story, colonies mean . . .
  - a. boats.
  - b. people.
- 2. People cooked over a . . .
  - a. stove.
  - b. fireplace.
- 3. Children in colonies . . .
  - a. hunted deer.
  - b. made soap.
- 4. People in colonies were . . .
  - a. lazy and slow.
  - b. very boring.
  - c. always sleeping.
  - d. hard-working.

- c. towns.
- d. England.
- c. roof.
- d. boat.
- c. picked turkeys.
- d. picked berries.

Nonfiction: American History

 Date\_\_\_\_\_

 Warm-Up 2

**BETSY ROSS** 

In 1776, Americans did not have a flag. They needed one. Some people think a woman named Betsy Ross made it. She could sew. She had a shop where she stitched cloth onto chairs.

George Washington gave Betsy a picture of a flag. It had seven red stripes. These stripes meant bravery. The flag had six white stripes. They meant truth. The flag had a blue square. Blue meant fairness.

Betsy Ross had never made a flag. But she tried hard. Finally, she made a flag to honor our country. She put in a circle of thirteen stars—one for each colony.

Now our flag has many stars. But it is a lot like the one that Betsy Ross made a long time ago.



## STORY QUESTIONS

1. Betsy Ross made a	
a. chair.	c. star.
b. country.	d. flag.

2. The red stripes on the flag mean . . .

a. truth.	c. bravery
b. fairness.	d. blood.

- 3. The thirteen stars on Betsy's flag stood for . . .
  - a. stripes. c. truth.
  - b. colonies. d. flags.
- 4. Our flag today has . . .
  - a. more than thirteen stars.
  - b. fewer than thirteen stars.
  - c. thirteen stars.
  - d. Betsy Ross.



GERMS

What little living things can make you cough and sneeze and stay in bed for days? Germs!

Germs are so small that you need a microscope to see them. They are found all over the world. They spread when someone sneezes or coughs. Then, they enter our body and make us sick.

Germs produce a <u>toxin</u>. This is like a poison. Some germs cause a fever. Others cause us to be tired. Some cause a rash.

You can protect yourself from germs by washing your hands a lot. Cover your mouth when you cough. Sneeze into the crook of your arm or use a tissue. Then, wash your hands again!





- 1. Which sentence is true?
  - a. You can see germs on your arm.
  - b. Germs are found only in America.
  - c. You need a microscope to see germs.
  - d. All germs keep us healthy.
- 2. Some germs are spread by ...
  - a. words. c. microscopes.
  - b. coughs. d. washing your hands.
- 3. In this story, the word *toxin* means . . .
  - a. coughing. c. tissue.
  - b. sneezing. d. poison.
- 4. What should you do after you sneeze?
  - a. Wash your hands. c. Get a microscope.
  - b. Go to sleep. d. Look for germs.



EXERCISE

Exercise is any action that gets you moving. You can run, bike, swim, jump rope, or row a boat. It's all good for you!

There are three kinds of exercise. One is stretching. You may do this in dance, yoga, or at the gym. When you stretch, you keep your muscles bendable.

Aerobic exercise makes your heart beat fast. You get this kind of exercise when you walk or run. Your heart beats fast when you swim, too.

The last kind of exercise makes your muscles strong. You build strong muscles when you lift weights.

When you sprint, or run fast, you make your muscles strong, too. You get exercise when you play tag and hide and seek. Leapfrog and ball games are also good to do. So go outside and have fun!



#### STORY QUESTIONS

- 1. Exercise is any action that . . .
  - a. makes you play tag.
  - b. is bad for you.
  - c. gets you moving.
  - d. is done outside.

#### 2. What happens to your muscles when you stretch?

- a. They beat faster. c. They break.
- b. They stay bendable. d. They cry.
- 3. When you walk or run, your heart . . .
  - a. beats faster.b. swims.c. stretches.d. plays tag.
- **4.** You can build strong muscles by . . .
  - a. stretching. c. sitting on the couch.
  - b. eating spinach. d.
- d. lifting weights.



# THE FARMER'S CORN

Farmer Fran liked to share the corn that she grew on her farm. She gave her neighbors corn on the cob. She also gave them <u>kernels</u> so that they could plant their own corn.

"You grow the best corn in the whole world," Farmer Fred said to her. "Why do you give away kernels? You should keep them all for yourself."

Farmer Fran laughed. Then she said, "Corn has a powder called pollen. It needs pollen from other corn stalks in order to grow well. Pollen travels on the wind."

"So?" Farmer Fred said.

"So," Farmer Fran continued. "If my neighbors grow good corn, their pollen will travel on the wind to my corn. It will make my corn better. Then we can all grow the best corn in the world!"



- 1. In this story, kernels mean . . .a. wind.c. farmers.
  - b. seeds. d. cakes.
- 2. What powder helps corn to grow well?
  - a. kernels c. pollen b. stalks d. wind
- **3.** How does pollen travel?
  - a. in the wind c. in the dirt
  - b. in a boat d. on a shovel
- 4. Why does Farmer Fran give away corn kernels?
  - a. because she is mean
  - b. because she is silly
  - c. because they are bad
  - d. because they make her corn better



# THE FISHERWOMAN

There was once a fisherwoman named Laura. She fished better than anyone in her town. Every day, she took her boat out onto the sea. Every night, she brought home fish for the people in her town to eat. "She is such a kind woman!" they cried.

One day, Laura took her boat out to sea. It had been sunny, but now the fog blew in. Rain hit Laura's boat. The waves grew rough. Laura tried to steer her boat, but the wind was too strong. Her boat tipped over. Laura fell into the cold dark water.

The ocean spirit smiled. He would help this woman who was so good to her friends. He raised Laura up on his waves and carried her to shore. When the people in town saw Laura safe on the sand, they cheered. Then, they wrapped her in their own coats and fed her bowls of soup. "We are glad that now we can give something to you," they said.





- 1. Why do people love Laura?
  - a. because she is a good fisherwoman
  - b. because she has a boat
  - c. because she is so kind
  - d. because she needs help
- 2. In this story, rough means ....
  - a. mean.
  - b. choppy.
- c. sandpaper.
- d. bully.
- 3. Why does the ocean spirit help Laura?
  - a. because she likes fish c. because she needs soup b. because she has a boat
    - d. because she is good to her friends
- 4. What do the people give Laura?
  - a. a new boat c. soup
  - d. a fish b. her coat



QUENTIN'S PONY

Archie Roosevelt felt ill. "My head hurts, and I'm tired," he told his mother.

"Go to bed and rest," she said.

Archie had many brothers and sisters. They lived in the White House with many pets. His brothers and sisters took their pets upstairs to cheer up Archie. Soon, his room was full of animals.

He counted two dogs, three cats, a snake, four mice, a rat, and a parrot. "Do you feel better now?" asked Quentin.

Archie frowned. "I still feel sick."

Then Quentin had an idea. He ran downstairs and got another animal. His pet was so big that it had to make a special trip upstairs in the White House elevator.

Archie looked so surprised when Quentin opened his bedroom door. There stood a Shetland pony!

"Now I feel better!" cried Archie.

- 1. Where do Archie and his brothers and sisters live?
  - a. in a zoo

- c. in an elevator
- b. on a farm d. in the White House
- 2. Why do the kids take their pets upstairs?
  - a. to make their mother mad c. to ride horses
  - b. to cheer up their sick brother d. to be naughty
- 3. How does the pony get upstairs?
  - a. He takes the escalator.
  - b. He climbs the stairs.
- c. He rides the elevator.
- d. He comes in through the window.
- 4. What can you say about the Roosevelt kids?
  - a. They don't like each other.
  - b. They are afraid of animals.
  - c. They don't like Archie.
  - d. They love their pets.



# THE LADY WITH A LAMP

Florence Nightingale wanted to be a nurse. Friends laughed at her. "It's a dirty job," they said. "You'll hate it."

Florence didn't care what they said. She read books, and she went to visit hospitals. She became a nurse. But her friends were right about one thing. It was a dirty job.

One day, she walked into a building to find soldiers on bare beds. Even though they were hurt, they didn't have a pillow or blanket. Rats ran around them. Bugs bit them. Dirt was everywhere.

"I will help these men," Florence said. She cleaned each room. She chased away the bugs and rats. She worked twenty hours a day to nurse the men back to health. At night, she held up a lantern to make sure each man's room was clean. That is why they loved her. They called her "The Lady with a Lamp."





## STORY QUESTIONS

- 1. Florence is called "The Lady with a Lamp," because
  - a. she has nice furniture.
  - b. she is a nurse.
  - c. she holds up a lantern to check each man's room.
  - d. she has a dirty job.
- 2. What do Florence's friends say about being a nurse?
  - a. Men will love you. c. There are rats and bugs.
  - b. It is a dirty job. d. You will love this job.
- 3. What does Florence do when she sees the soldiers?
  - a. She runs away. c. She finds a lamp.
  - d. She cleans their rooms. b. She yells at them.

#### **4.** What can you say about Florence?

- a. She is kind and loving.
- b. She is dirty and mean.
- c. She is lazy.
- d. She is afraid of dirt.





THE SMALL GIRL

Sarah Small was the smallest girl in second grade. She could not reach the water fountain. She felt very sad.

"Wait and see," said Mother. "It's good to be small."

One day, Sarah and her friends were playing soccer. Sarah was good at soccer. She was so small that she could run through tall people's legs. She had just kicked the ball when she saw something green and white.

There was a five-dollar bill on the other side of the fence, beside a small hole. Sarah's friends were too big to fit through the hole to reach it. But Sarah got down on her hands and knees and slipped through. She picked up the bill from off the ground. Then she told her friends she would buy them all ice cream. "Sometimes, it's good to be small!" she said.



- **1.** Why is Sarah sad?
  - a. because she finds five dollars
  - b. because she buys ice cream
- c. because she plays soccer
- d. because she is small
- 2. Why is Sarah good at soccer?
  - a. because she can run through legs
  - b. because she finds five dollars
  - c. because she is tough
  - d. because she can crawl through holes
- 3. What does Sarah find on the ground?
  - a. a soccer ball c. ice cream
  - b. a five-dollar bill d. a worm
- 4. What does Sarah do with the money?
  - a. She shares it. c. She leaves it there.
  - b. She hides it. d. She buys ice cream for herself.



TAMALES

Mondo's mother made tamales at Christmas. They were made with chicken or beef. "Tamales remind me of Christmas," Mondo said.

His friends laughed. "Tamales aren't Christmas food," they said. "We eat gingerbread men and candy canes."

Mondo felt sad. He went to his mother. "Why don't we bake gingerbread men for Christmas?" he asked.

She smiled. "Our tamales are special," she said. "My mother made them for me when I was a child. Her mother made them for her. Ask your friends over to try them."

Mondo asked his friends to come over. They began to eat the tamales. Then, something amazing happened. They ate and they ate. They even asked for more! "We wish our mothers would make tamales for Christmas," they said to Mondo. He just smiled and ate another tamale.



## STORY QUESTIONS

- 1. What reminds Mondo of Christmas?
  - a. chicken c. tamales
  - b. gingerbread men d. candy canes
- 2. Mondo's friends think Christmas food is ....
  - a. tamales. c. chicken.
  - b. beef. d. gingerbread.
- 3. What happens when Mondo's friends try the tamales?
  - a. They ask for more. c. They laugh at him.
  - b. They spit them out. d. They don't like the tamales.
- 4. Why does Mondo's mother make tamales for Christmas?
  - a. because they are easy
  - b. because her mother made them for her
  - c. because they have chicken
  - d. because they make her sad
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# GOING CAMPING

Jenny was afraid to go camping. "Come on, Jenny," said her brother, Mike. "It will be fun. We can take our dog."

They pitched a tent beside a lake. Then, something splashed. "What was that noise?" Jenny cried.

"Only a fish," said Mike.

They roasted corn and bread over the fire. Their dog got a piece of bread, too. Then, something hooted.

"What was that noise?" Jenny cried.

"Only an owl," said Mike.

They crawled into their sleeping bags and zipped up the tent. Then, something whined and scratched on the door.

"What was that noise?" Jenny cried.

Now, Mike was scared, too. He turned on his flashlight. Then

he began to laugh. "It's our dog!" he said. "We forgot to put him in the tent with us!"



- 1. Why doesn't Jenny like to camp?
  - a. She doesn't like corn.
  - b. She is afraid.
- 2. What makes the hooting noise?
  - a. a dog c. Mike
  - b. a fish d. an owl
- **3.** What scratches on the tent door?
  - a. the owl c. a bear
  - b. the fish d. a dog
- 4. Why does the dog whine?
  - a. because he is sick
  - b. because he wants to sleep in the tent
  - c. because he wants to sleep in the lake
  - d. because he is roasting bread
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- c. She doesn't like the lake.
- d. She doesn't have a tent.



THE NEST

Mother could not find her thread. "I had a whole spool of it," she told the family. "Now it is gone."

Aunt Jean could not find her left black glove. "I can't wear only one glove!" she cried.

Stan hopped up and down in one green sock and one blue sock. "Who would take one green sock?"

Someone had taken Jill's pink hair ribbon. "It's a <u>mystery</u>," she said. "Who is taking our things?"

Stan decided to find out who the thief was. He looked high.

He looked low. He opened cabinet doors. Finally, he found the thief.

"It's a mouse!" he said. There in a cabinet was a nest. It was made of shredded newspaper, white thread, a black glove, a green sock, and a pink ribbon. Inside the nest were five mouse babies!



## STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who takes Aunt Jean's glove?

a. Mother c. the cat	
b. Stan d. a mouse	
2. What is Stan missing?	
a. a glove c. a green s	sock
b. a blue sock d. a ribbon	
3. In this story, mystery means	
a. a novel. c. a movie.	
b. puzzle. d. mouse.	
<ol> <li>What does Stan find in the cabinet?</li> <li>a. a blue sock</li> </ol>	

- b. three mouse babies
- c. a bird's nest
- d. a pink ribbon



SAMMY SEAL

Sammy Seal was afraid to swim. He sat on the rocks beside the ocean and watched the other seals swimming. They had a good time doing back flips and racing through the waves. "Come in, Sammy!" they cried. "The water is wonderful!"

Sammy shook his head sadly. "I'm fine here," he said. "I'd rather stay on dry land." Sammy didn't tell anyone the truth. He didn't know how to swim.

But one day, his friend Sue swam up to him. "I'm going to teach you how to swim," she said. "Then, you can have fun with us." Sue showed Sammy how to put one flipper into the water. "Now, put your head in the water," she said.

Sammy put his flippers in the water. Then he put his head in the water. Suddenly, he fell in! For a moment, he was scared. And then he realized something wonderful. "Yeah, Sammy!" cried Sue. "You're swimming!"



- 1. Why is Sammy afraid to swim?
  - a. because he is a seal
  - b. because he has flippers
- 2. How does Sue help Sammy?
  - a. She dumps him in the water.
  - b. She teaches him how to swim.
- c. because the water is dirtyd. because he doesn't know how
- c. She makes fun of him.
- d. She stays with him on dry land.
- 3. What happens after Sammy puts his head in the water?
  - a. He gets sick.
  - b. He falls in.

- c. He cries.
- d. He sits on dry land.
- 4. The message in this story is ....
  - a. "A good friend is a helpful friend."
  - b. "It is scary to swim."
  - c. "You should stay on dry land."
  - d. "A good friend does not teach you anything."



**BIG MOUTH** 

Once there lived a frog named Big Mouth. Big Mouth lived in a pond with many other frogs. He got his name because he loved to gossip about his friends.

Gossip happens when you talk about someone behind his or her back. Big Mouth told everyone that Freddy Frog couldn't hop very high. All the frogs laughed and laughed at Freddy Frog when they saw him. This made Freddy feel sad. But Big Mouth laughed and laughed.

One day Phil Frog got fed up with Big Mouth's big mouth. He said, "Don't gossip, Big Mouth. How would you like it if I told everyone your secret—that you don't like the taste of flies?"

Then, Big Mouth's eyes got big. His big mouth opened into a round "O." "I wouldn't like that at all," he told Phil. Big Mouth never gossiped again.





- 1. Gossip is . . .
  - a. a nice thing to do.
  - b. a mean thing to do.
- Freddy Frog is sad because . . .
   a. Big Mouth makes fun of him.
  - b. he doesn't like flies.
- 3. What is Big Mouth's secret?
  - a. He can't jump high.
  - b. He doesn't like the pond.
- 4. Why does Big Mouth stop gossiping?
  - a. He begins to eat flies.
  - b. He moves away from the pond.
  - c. He learns that gossip is mean.
  - d. Phil told everyone about him.

- c. only done with frogs.
- d. fun for everyone.
- c. he lives in a pond.
- d. he and Phil Frog have a fight.
- c. He never gossips.
- d. He doesn't like the taste of flies.

Answer Key

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