

Inferring from Text

We are going to read some short stories.

You will read five and I will read five. Each time, there will be words for you to fill in the blank.

For example, if I read:

“It’s my mom’s birthday.
She hopes she gets lots of _____s”

You might guess: presents.

Let’s begin!



I will show you some stories on your screen.

Please read each story aloud without guessing the missing word in each sentence.

Then I'll ask you to read it again and give your guesses.



Story 1



Pie Town's name hints at its history. It was once a rest stop for cowboys moving cattle further east. In the 1920s, a businessman started _____ing supplies and food—including pies—to the cowboys. His pies were so _____ that the spot became known as Pie Town! Pie Town isn't the only place in the U.S. with an unusual name. Many other towns have unique names. Some are named after local natural features, like Mexican Hat, Utah. It's home to a rock formation that looks like a hat called a sombrero, turned upside-down. Other place names honor people. In fact, Snowflake, Arizona, isn't named after snow, but after its two founders, Mr. Snow and Mr. Flake. Why do places need names at all? We use maps to show us the exact locations of places. You would have a hard time finding a city or _____ on a map if it had no name. The post office would have a tough time delivering people's mail too!

Story 1

In the 1920s, a businessman started _____ing supplies and food—including pies— to the cowboys.

Story 1

His pies were so _____ that the spot became known as Pie Town.

Story 1

You would have a hard time finding a city or _____ on a map if it had no name.

Story 2



What if you could see in the dark? For some animals, abilities like this are part of life. Animals use sight to hunt _____ and to avoid predators. Animal eyes work in the same basic way as human eyes do. Special cells in the eye collect light from the environment. Then these cells send signals to the brain to create the images we see. The structure of an animal's eyes affects how it views the world. The eyes of owls are _____. They are much larger compared with their body size than those of many other animals. When it's dark out, holes called pupils _____ to cover the front of the owls' eyes. The extra-large openings let in a lot of light so that the owl can see in the dark. Where a human sees a dark forest, an owl sees a scene that's nearly three times as bright because of its large pupils.

Story 2

Animals use sight to hunt _____ and to avoid predators.

Story 2

The eyes of owls are _____.

Story 2

When it's dark out, holes called pupils _____ to cover the front of the owls' eyes.

Story 3



Firefighters keep people safe and stop fires from burning homes. It is a hard job, but if you like to help people, it could be the job for you! Firefighters have to pass tests to make sure they are strong enough to do hard work. They have to be able to carry heavy things, go up many flights of stairs, and work for a long time. Firefighters must learn the _____ ways to fight fires and stay safe. One of the most important parts of being a firefighter is working as a team. Firefighters have to work together to stop fires. They must even hold the hose together! Some firefighters _____ at the fire station all day and night. When there is not a fire going on, they make sure their _____ is clean and in working order. After dinner, they can rest. But firefighters never know when a fire is going to happen, so they have to be ready at all times.

Story 3

Firefighters must learn the _____ ways to fight fires and stay safe.

Story 3

Some firefighters _____ at the fire station all day and night.

Story 3

When there is not a fire going on, they make sure their _____ is clean and in working order.

Story 4



Plants and animals have the hard job of surviving in a very wild world. How do they do it? There are many ways plants and animals have adapted in order to survive. Camouflage is one way animals adapt to survive. For some animals, this means that their fur, scales, or skin are the same color as their surroundings. Deer, for example, have brown fur that blends in with the _____s, so it's harder for predators to see them. This _____s them from becoming prey to a larger animal. Some animals can change colors to match their environment. Rabbits are a great example as well. Some rabbits' fur will change colors depending on the season. Their fur might be brown in the spring, summer, and fall. But the brown fur will fall out and white fur will grow in the winter to blend in with the snow. This way the rabbit is _____ from predators year-round.

Story 4

Deer, for example, have brown fur that blends in with the _____s, so it's harder for predators to see them.

Story 4

This _____s them from becoming prey to a larger animal.

Story 4

This way the rabbit is _____ from predators year-round.

Story 5



A farmer was working on his land when his _____ hit something hard. What a surprise! It wasn't a vegetable. It was a mummy! It had hair, teeth, even fingerprints. It looked like the person died recently. But the body was over two thousand years old. When something dies, it decays, but a mummy does not decay. Scientists study mummies. Mummies can be so well kept that scientists could tell one ancient man used hair gel! One mummy still had bits of his last meal, vegetable soup, in his stomach. People _____ mummies in hot deserts and wet areas. Because many people think that mummies are _____, you can often see them in museums.

Story 5

A farmer was working on his land when his _____ hit something hard.

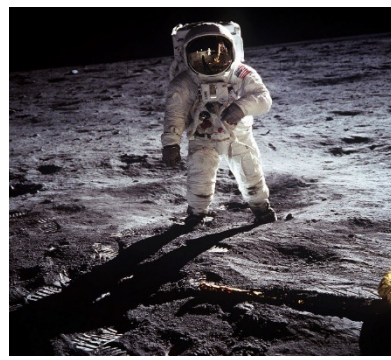
Story 5

People _____ mummies in hot deserts and wet areas.

Story 5

Because many people think that mummies are _____, you can often see them in museums.

Story 1



Astronauts go on spacewalks for many reasons. They do science experiments, fix the spacecraft, or _____ new equipment. When they go on spacewalks, they wear spacesuits to stay safe. Inside spacesuits, astronauts have the oxygen they need to breathe. They have the water they need to drink. Astronauts put on their spacesuits several hours before a spacewalk. The suits are filled with oxygen. Once in their suits, astronauts breathe pure oxygen for a few hours so that they will not get gas bubbles in their _____s. Gas bubbles can cause astronauts to feel pain. Astronauts are now ready to get out of their spacecraft. They leave the spacecraft through a _____ door called an airlock. The airlock has two doors. When astronauts are inside the spacecraft, the airlock is sealed so no air can get out. When astronauts get ready to go outside, they go through the first door and lock it tight behind them. They can then open the second door without any air getting out of the spacecraft.

Story 1

Astronauts go on spacewalks for many reasons. They do science experiments, fix the spacecraft, or _____ new equipment.

Story 1

Once in their suits, astronauts breathe pure oxygen for a few hours so that they will not get gas bubbles in their _____s.

Story 1

They leave the spacecraft through a _____ door called an airlock.

Story 2



A zebra munches on grass in a field in Africa. Nearby, a fly is buzzing around looking for food too. The fly is tiny, but it can be a big problem because it can pass on deadly diseases as it _____s. Luckily for the zebra, the _____ fly doesn't land on it. Why? Frank, a scientist, thought it had to do with the zebra's stripes. He designed a _____ to find out. Frank visited a farm where zebras, horses, and flies all lived. His team used video cameras to record flies near the horses and zebras. The scientists found that far fewer flies landed on zebras than on horses. And horses dressed up as zebras attracted fewer flies than horses wearing no coat or all white and all black coats. So, as Frank had guessed, evidence showed that the stripes discourage flies from landing.

Story 2

The fly is tiny, but it can be a big problem because it can pass on deadly diseases as it _____s.

Story 2

Luckily for the zebra, the _____ fly doesn't land on it.

Story 2

He designed a _____ to find out.

Story 3



Animals called sloths are found in South and Central America. They live in the forest canopy where they spend most of their time hanging upside down. Sloths eat, give birth, and even sleep in this position! Sloths are known for being extremely slow. Because they have _____ claws that help them grip onto branches, they can creep through the trees. There are two main types of sloths. The two-toed sloth has two claws and the three-toed sloth has three. The forest where they live is full of _____s like jaguars and hawks. Scientists think being super-slow helps sloths _____. Sloths stay still and safe high in the treetops because they are camouflaged. Because tiny plant-like algae grow on sloths' fur, they have a green tint that helps them blend in.

Story 3

Because they have _____ claws that help them grip onto branches, they can creep through the trees.

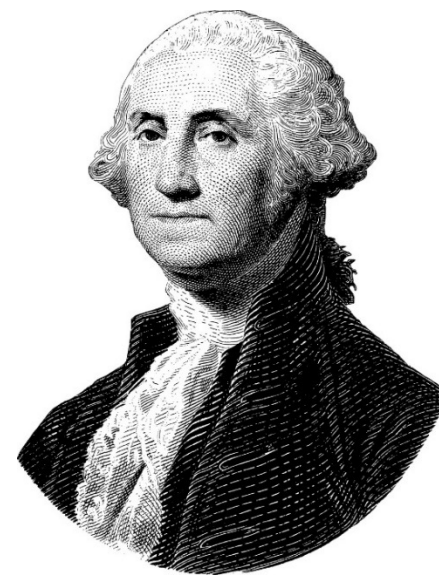
Story 3

The forest where they live is full of _____s like jaguars and hawks.

Story 3

Scientists think being super-slow helps sloths _____.

Story 4



In 1787, George Washington helped create our nation's government. Everyone hoped that he would be our first president because he was very _____. But he did not really want the job. He wanted to go home to his _____ in Virginia. He only agreed to do it when people from all over the country asked him to. After becoming the president, he helped choose the place to _____ our capital city. That's the area that is now called Washington, D.C. But he never was able to live there! The White House was not ready until 1800. That's a year after he died. The city was named in his honor. Many schools are named in his honor too. His face is now on the one-dollar bill.

Story 4

Everyone hoped that he would be our first president because he was very
_____.

Story 4

He wanted to go home to his _____ in Virginia.

Story 4

After becoming the president, he helped choose the place to _____ our capital city.

Story 5



Southern sea otters live along California's coast where they swim in kelp forests. Otters gather invertebrates like sea urchins, clams, and mussels from the _____. Then they float at the surface and _____ shells on their bellies. Hungry otters use rocks to smash open the shells and get to their meals. Otters play a big role in the kelp forest ecosystem. They help kelp grow. That's because they eat the urchins that graze on it. "Sometimes we call otters 'ocean gardeners,'" says veterinarian Ann Johnson. As many as 20,000 sea otters swam along California's coast 300 years ago. In the 1700s, people began hunting them for their _____ coats. So few otters were left by the 1900s that scientists thought the animals had become extinct. Then local people discovered a small group of otters. They were still alive after all.

Story 5

Otters gather invertebrates like sea urchins, clams, and mussels from the _____.

Story 5

Then they float at the surface and _____ shells on their bellies.

Story 5

In the 1700s, people began hunting them for their _____ coats.



Good Job!

The image features the words "Good Job!" in a playful, bubbly font. Each letter is a different color: 'G' is purple, the first 'o' is pink, the second 'o' is green, 'd' is orange, 'J' is blue, 'o' is purple, 'b' is yellow, and the exclamation point is red. The text is surrounded by various decorative elements: a blue flower with a white center, a large multi-layered flower in shades of red, orange, and yellow, a pink heart, a pink flower, a green sunburst, a yellow dot, a blue heart, a green flower with a pink center, a blue flower with a green center, a pink star, a multi-layered flower in shades of red, orange, and yellow, a yellow dot, a green dot, and a large blue flower with a green center and a white dotted pattern.