4th grade nonfiction reading worksheet

4th grade reading · Informational Text · RI.4.2

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 10 questions from our 4th grade nonfiction reading practice, easier ones first. Read a question aloud if your child wants that, then check together with the answer key on page 3. Read the passage before the questions that go with it. Circle the letter of the best answer, or the right word where there are no letters. Number the steps 1, 2, 3 in the order they happen.

The Arctic Tern: Champion Traveler

No animal on Earth travels farther in a year than the Arctic tern. This slim seabird, with its white body and black cap, weighs less than a baseball. Yet every year it flies from the Arctic, near the North Pole, all the way to Antarctica, near the South Pole, and back again.

That round trip is about 44,000 miles. Over its lifetime of around 30 years, a single tern may fly more than a million miles. That is like flying to the Moon and back more than twice.

Why does the tern make this incredible journey? The answer is sunlight. The tern spends summer in the Arctic, where the sun shines almost all day. When winter comes to the north, the bird heads south, arriving just in time for the Antarctic summer. In this way, the Arctic tern sees more daylight than any other creature.

The trip is not a straight line. Terns follow curving paths over the ocean to catch helpful winds. They rest on the water and snack on small fish and krill along the way. Scientists tracked these routes by attaching tiny devices, lighter than a paper clip, to the birds' legs.

1. **About how far is the tern's yearly round trip?**

   A. 1 million miles **B.** 44,000 miles **C.** 4,400 miles **D.** 30 miles

2. **Why does the Arctic tern travel so far?**

   A. To get closer to the Moon
   B. To escape predators in the Arctic
   C. To stay in sunlight by following summer
   D. To find a mate on the ice

3. **How did scientists learn the terns' routes?**

   A. By following them in planes
   B. By attaching tiny tracking devices to their legs
   C. By watching from boats
   D. By counting them at the poles

4. **What is the main idea of this passage?**

   A. The Arctic tern makes the longest migration of any animal
   B. The Moon is very far away from the Earth
   C. Terns eat small fish and krill along the way
   D. Scientists like to put devices on birds

4th grade nonfiction reading worksheet

4th grade reading · questions, continued

5. **True or false: According to the text, glass can only be recycled a few times.**

> Unlike paper, which gets weaker each time it is recycled, glass can be melted down and reshaped over and over without losing quality. A glass jar can be recycled endlessly.

○ **True** ○ **False**

6. **Put the steps of how a tree becomes a paper cup in order.**

- [ ] The paper is coated with a thin waterproof layer
- [ ] Trees are cut and ground into pulp
- [ ] The pulp is pressed and dried into paper
- [ ] The paper is cut and rolled into cup shapes

7. **Which detail best supports the idea that Mars is a cold planet?**

> Mars is often called the Red Planet because of the rusty iron in its soil. It is about half the size of Earth. Its average temperature is about minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit, far below freezing.

A. Its average temperature is about minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit
B. Mars has rusty iron in its red soil
C. Mars is about half the size of Earth
D. Mars is often called the Red Planet

8. **What does "durable" mean in this text?**

> Early bicycle tires were made of solid rubber, which was **durable** but gave a bumpy ride. In 1888, John Dunlop made an air-filled tire that was much more comfortable.

A. Expensive
B. Filled with air
C. Soft and bouncy
D. Long-lasting and tough

9. **Why did the author include the comparison in the last sentence?**

> The blue whale is the largest animal that has ever lived. Its heart weighs more than a grown man, and its tongue alone can weigh as much as an elephant.

A. To explain what whales eat
B. To show that elephants are small
C. To describe cars
D. To help readers picture the whale's huge size

10. **What can you conclude from this text?**

> Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly. A single little brown bat can eat hundreds of mosquito-sized insects in an hour. Farmers in some areas put up bat houses near their fields.

A. Mosquitoes eat bats
B. Bats cannot fly well
C. Bats are dangerous to farms
D. Farmers want bats nearby to eat insect pests

Answer key: 4th grade nonfiction reading

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1. **B. 44,000 miles**
   The passage says the round trip is about 44,000 miles.
2. **C. To stay in sunlight by following summer**
   The tern follows summer from pole to pole, so it sees more daylight than any other animal.
3. **B. By attaching tiny tracking devices to their legs**
   They attached devices lighter than a paper clip to the birds' legs.
4. **A. The Arctic tern makes the longest migration of any animal**
   The whole passage explains the tern's amazing pole-to-pole journey.
5. **False**
   The text says glass can be recycled endlessly without losing quality.
6. **Top to bottom: 3, 1, 2, 4**
   Pulp comes first, then paper, then the waterproof coating, and finally the cup shape.
7. **A. Its average temperature is about minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit**
   An average of minus 80 degrees directly supports the idea that Mars is cold.
8. **D. Long-lasting and tough**
   Durable means tough and long-lasting. Solid rubber lasted long but was bumpy.
9. **D. To help readers picture the whale's huge size**
   Comparing body parts to a grown man and an elephant helps readers imagine just how enormous the whale is.
10. **D. Farmers want bats nearby to eat insect pests**
    Since bats eat huge numbers of insects, farmers put up bat houses to help control pests.