# 5th grade nonfiction reading worksheet

5th grade reading · Informational Text · RI.5.2

Name _____ Date _____

For grown-ups: 8 questions from our 5th 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 Deepest Place on Earth

If you dropped Mount Everest into the deepest part of the ocean, its peak would still be more than a mile underwater. That place is the Challenger Deep, at the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean. It is nearly 36,000 feet down, almost seven miles.

The conditions there are extreme. No sunlight reaches that depth, so it is completely dark. The water is just above freezing. Most striking of all is the pressure. At the bottom of the trench, the weight of the water above presses down with a force of about eight tons per square inch. That is like having fifty jumbo jets stacked on top of you.

For a long time, scientists assumed nothing could live in such a place. They were wrong. Expeditions have found strange creatures thriving in the darkness: pale shrimp-like animals called amphipods, sea cucumbers, and snailfish with soft, jelly-like bodies that do not crush under pressure. Tiny microbes live in the mud itself.

Only a handful of people have ever been to the bottom. The first were two explorers in 1960, who stayed for just twenty minutes. Since then, special submarines built to withstand the pressure have carried a few more. Robots have made many additional trips, bringing back photos, mud, and samples of the strange life below.

We have better maps of the surface of the Moon than of the deep ocean floor. The Challenger Deep is a reminder of how much is still waiting to be discovered on our own planet.

1. **Why does the author mention Mount Everest in the first sentence?**
   - **A.** To help readers understand how deep the trench is
   - **B.** To explain where Everest is
   - **C.** To describe climbing
   - **D.** To compare mountains and oceans

2. **What is the most extreme condition in the trench, according to the author?**

   **A.** The pressure **B.** The darkness **C.** The cold **D.** The distance

3. **How do snailfish survive the pressure?**
   - **A.** They swim up to the surface to rest
   - **B.** They hide inside the submarines that visit
   - **C.** They have soft, jelly-like bodies that do not crush
   - **D.** They have hard shells like crabs and clams

# 5th grade nonfiction reading worksheet

5th grade reading · questions, continued

Questions about “The Deepest Place on Earth”, continued

4. **Which sentence best states the main idea of the last paragraph?**

   **A.** Scientists would rather study the Moon than the sea
   **B.** The trench is too dangerous for anyone to ever reach
   **C.** The Moon is much farther away than the ocean floor
   **D.** Much of our own planet, especially the deep ocean, remains unexplored

5. **True or false: The text says tornadoes are most common in the evening because the air is coolest then.**

   > Tornadoes most often form in the late afternoon and early evening. By then, the sun has heated the ground all day, and the warm, rising air feeds the powerful thunderstorms that spawn them.

   ○ **True** ○ **False**

6. **Put the steps of how an earthquake creates a tsunami in order.**

   ☐ The waves slow and grow taller as they reach shallow water near shore
   ☐ The sudden shift pushes a huge amount of water upward
   ☐ A section of the ocean floor suddenly moves during an earthquake
   ☐ Waves spread out across the ocean at the speed of a jet plane

7. **Why does the author include the comparison to a highway?**

   > Blood vessels are the body's highway system. Arteries are the wide, fast lanes carrying blood away from the heart. Capillaries are the tiny side streets where oxygen is delivered to each cell. Veins are the return roads bringing blood back.

   **A.** To explain how to drive safely on a highway
   **B.** To show that blood moves slowly, like a traffic jam
   **C.** To make a complex system easier to understand with something familiar
   **D.** To describe how cities plan their roads and streets

8. **Which sentence from the text is an opinion rather than a fact?**

   > The Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937. It is about 1.7 miles long. Its color, called International Orange, is the most beautiful color ever chosen for a bridge. The color was picked to stand out in fog.

   **A.** Its color is the most beautiful ever chosen for a bridge.
   **B.** The color was picked to stand out in fog.
   **C.** It is about 1.7 miles long.
   **D.** The bridge opened in 1937.

# Answer key: 5th grade nonfiction reading

5th grade reading · More practice and a guide for parents at tutorsaurus.com/learn/5th-grade/comprehension-nonfiction

1. **A. To help readers understand how deep the trench is**
   Comparing the trench to the tallest mountain shows its incredible depth.
2. **A. The pressure**
   The author calls the pressure "most striking of all."
3. **C. They have soft, jelly-like bodies that do not crush**
   Their soft, jelly-like bodies are not crushed by the pressure.
4. **D. Much of our own planet, especially the deep ocean, remains unexplored**
   The last paragraph says there is still much to discover on Earth.
5. **False**
   Tornadoes are common then because the air is warmest after a day of sun, not coolest.
6. **Top to bottom: 4, 2, 1, 3**
   The floor moves, water is pushed up, waves race across the ocean, and then they rise up near shore.
7. **C. To make a complex system easier to understand with something familiar**
   Comparing vessels to roads uses something familiar to explain how blood travels.
8. **A. Its color is the most beautiful ever chosen for a bridge.**
   "Most beautiful" is a judgment, not something that can be proven, so it is an opinion.