

Test Name : MAIN IDEA

ReviewScan™ Test Code : 6067555

Date : _____

Your Name : _____

Teacher : _____

Class Name : _____

Directions

A hike through marshlands can be enjoyed with a guide that helps you recognize the animals. Read the Veriwett Marsh Trail Guide. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Veriwett Marsh Trail Guide

Welcome to the Veriwett Marsh. The marsh is a thriving ecosystem of 32,000 acres of open land. It is a habitat for many species of birds and animals. As you follow the trail through the marsh, we encourage you to stop often to listen and to look for signs of wildlife. Use this guide to identify the animals that you are likely to see.

Canada Goose

In the fall, there are more Canada Geese in the marsh than any other kind of bird.

- has brownish body with black head and long black neck
- can be as tall as 45 inches
- spends the daytime in the surrounding fields eating corn, grass, and other vegetation
- returns to the marsh at sunset, flying in a V-shaped group

Blue Heron

Although this tall bird is called a blue heron, its color is really more gray than blue.

- long thin legs
- about 4 feet tall
- has a nearly 6-foot wingspread in flight
- wades in shallow water at the edge of a pond

- uses long pointed yellow bill to catch fish and frogs
- makes a squawking noise
- builds a platform nest of sticks in trees or on the ground

Muskrat

Look for signs of muskrats as you cross the bridge. Cattail stems floating on the water may mean that a muskrat is nearby.

- brown furry mammal
- about 1 foot long
- round thin tail also about 1 foot long
- eats cattail stems, reeds, and pond weeds
- builds a house 3 feet high that is made of reeds and cattails

Red-winged Blackbird

Listen as you near the marsh grassland. You might hear the call of the red-winged blackbird. O-ka-LEEEE!

- adult birds—about 9 inches long
- male—black with bright red patches on shoulders
- female and young birds—dusky brown
- clings to shrubs in the grassy field
- builds cup-shaped nest in a bush

White-tailed Deer

At the edge of the woodlands, where the marsh grassland meets the trees, you might catch a glimpse of this large mammal standing very still.

- reddish-brown coat in spring; gray coat in winter

- wide tail, with solid white below
- weighs up to 400 pounds
- eats plants, grass, nuts, leaves, and twigs
- begins eating late in the day and continues eating through the night

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A There are many birds in the marsh.
- B Animals of the marsh can be identified by their appearance and by their behavior.
- C You are welcome at the 32,000 acres of the Veriwett Marsh.
- D Animals live in the marsh.

Directions

Whether walking or driving, you must know what the colors on the traffic light mean. Read to find out who gave us the first traffic signal.

Garrett Morgan: Inventor of the Traffic Signal

Red means stop. Green means go. You probably learned that before you even started school. The traffic signal of red, yellow, and green lights is used all over the world. It is used to control the flow of traffic, and it also prevents accidents. The first person to get a U.S. patent for an electric traffic signal was Garrett A. Morgan.

Garrett Morgan was an African-American businessman who lived in Cleveland, Ohio. Morgan was born in 1877 in Paris, Kentucky. As a young man he moved to Ohio. There, he repaired sewing machines. Soon he had his own business. He became known in his community for seeing a problem and finding a way to solve it. Many of these solutions came in the form of inventions.

One day Morgan saw an accident between an automobile and a horse and carriage. The two vehicles had collided at a street intersection. Two people were thrown from the carriage. The driver of the car was knocked out. It was the early 1900s. The first automobile factory had opened in 1903. There were more and more automobiles on the road. Morgan thought something needed to be done to prevent accidents.

Morgan's idea was to put traffic signals on a pole. The different colored lights would tell drivers whether to stop or to go. His traffic signal was a T-shaped pole. It used red to indicate stop and green to indicate go. The bars moved into three positions: stop, go, and an all-directional stop. This third position was used to stop all traffic while pedestrians crossed the street. The crossbars on the T-shaped pole pivoted. This pivotal movement was operated from a remote booth. When a driver saw the bars in a T-shape and the red light, they knew they had to stop. When drivers saw the green light,

they knew they could go. When the crossbars were folded straight up and all the drivers saw the red light, then pedestrians could cross safely. Morgan patented this signal in November of 1923. It was used throughout North America. Later he sold the rights to an electric company. Today, his traffic signal has been replaced by the red, yellow, and green traffic lights that you see everywhere.

In 1963, Morgan was recognized by the U.S. Government as the inventor of the traffic signal. Among his many inventions was another life-saving unit. It was the gas mask. He called it the Safety Hood. He himself used the mask to rescue men during an underground explosion. After that, fire departments around the country wanted to see how it worked. Later, the Safety Hood was refined and used in World War I. It was called a gas mask then. It saved the lives of thousands of soldiers.

Morgan died in 1963. His creative solutions to problems still help us today.

2. What is the main idea of this selection?

- A** Garrett Morgan was a businessman.
- B** Garrett Morgan's invention of the traffic signal still helps us today.
- C** Garrett Morgan lived in Cleveland, Ohio, when he invented the traffic signal.
- D** The first automobile factory opened in 1903.

Directions:

Many clouds have unusual shapes. Read this poem to discover one person's view of clouds. Then answer the questions that follow.

Cloud Parade

Lying in the grass, gazing at the sky,
I see a cloud parade just passing by.
Look, here comes a herd of wild, woolly sheep!
Let's start counting before it's time to sleep.

Marching next in line are the farmer's jolly dogs,
Followed shortly by his roly-poly hogs.
What's that now? I see an upside-down cow,
An ugly duck, a crooked horse, and a fat cat—
MEOW!

Look at the cat's astounding, mile-long tail.
It seems to have lassoed a white and blue whale.
Just behind the heavenly whale swims a school of
tiny fish,
And a very leggy octopus who's sitting on a dish.

At long last, I hear my mother and I have a hunch.
I'm so very hungry that it must be time for lunch!

3. This poem is mostly about—

- A what types of work animals do on a farm
- B what someone sees during a visit to a zoo
- C what clouds look like to someone
- D how someone spends a rainy day

Directions

Each year, for the last four hundred years, an animal on the earth has disappeared. Read the passage below to find out more about wild cats and the problems they face trying to survive. Then answer the questions that follow.

Wild Cats in Danger

Every year an animal or bird becomes extinct. Many more animals are endangered. This means that there are so few left they will soon disappear from the Earth. Several species of wild cats are extinct. Many more are endangered. Unless we act to save these beautiful creatures, they will become extinct, too.

All tigers are endangered. Already, three types of tigers are extinct. Biologists are studying the remaining groups. They have decided that only about 10,000 tigers are left in the wild. The rarest are Siberian tigers. They live in eastern Russia. Scientists believe there are less than 500 of these powerful cats left in the wild.

Bengal tigers are the least endangered. They live in India. Project Tiger began there in 1972. It has helped save the Bengal tiger. Project Tiger set up fifteen nature preserves in India. Since then, the tigers have increased their numbers from 1,800 to almost 5,000.

Leopards continue to be hunted and killed for their beautiful spotted fur. Amur leopards live in Korea, China, and Russia. They are almost extinct. Scientists have counted only thirty in Russia. There they are protected in a nature preserve. Snow leopards live high in the mountains of central Asia. They are hunted for their thick, spotted fur. Today, they are so rare that no one knows how many there are in the wild.

Clouded leopards are the smallest cats in the leopard family. They are excellent climbers. They spend much of their time in the trees of the rainforest. However, people are destroying the clouded leopard's habitat. Trees are being cut for

timber. Forests are being cleared for farming. The tigers are also hunted by poachers, who can get up to \$2000 for one skin. If the clouded leopard is to survive in the wild, more parks and reserves must be set aside for them.

Jaguars are the only big cats found in the United States. At one time, they were living in the states of California, Texas, and Arizona. Back then ranchers feared that jaguars would kill their cattle and sheep. Ranchers hunted the jaguar to extinction. In 1996, two jaguars were spotted in southern Arizona. The jaguars had traveled from Mexico into the United States. They were not protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. In July of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finally listed the jaguar as an endangered species. Now any poacher caught killing one could be fined as much as \$50,000 and spend up to a year in jail.

The Florida panther is another wild cat found in the United States. It looks like its cousin, the mountain lion. It is Florida's state mammal. Today less than fifty are found in the wild. They are all located in protected parks and private land where they can live safely.

Each year, an official book lists all the animals in danger of extinction. As long as people destroy the wild cats' habitats and hunt them for fur, these magnificent animals will continue to be in danger. If wild cats are to survive, we need to find ways to preserve their natural environments. Their future is in our hands.

4. What is the main point of this passage?

- A** Wild cats have many enemies.
- B** Wild cats have been hunted for their fur.
- C** Humans and wild cats cannot live together on the earth.
- D** Wild cats will become extinct unless people help.

Directions

Did you ever dream of faraway places? Read the story and learn about one person's unusual plan for travel.

Teddy Dumbeller and the Wind Pillows

(A Numskull Tale)

Teddy Dumbeller lived in a tiny village on the eastern shore of Lake Noplaze. Teddy had never been any place in all of his years. He dreamed of traveling someplace other than Lake Noplaze—and so he told his cousins. Of course, his Dumbeller cousins had many suggestions about how he could get to someplace.

"You could walk there," Beddy Dumbeller, said. "I'd walk with you to someplace."

"Don't you remember? We tried that before and got lost," Teddy told Beddy.

"You could ride your old horse to someplace," Freddy Dumbeller suggested.

"No," Teddy told Freddy, "I also tried that before too. Don't you remember? The old nag stopped in Eddy Dumbeller's field and ate grass the livelong day. It was sundown before I got her out of there!"

"Well, I've seen giant flying pillows," said Leddy Dumbeller. "So why don't you fill an old pillowcase with air and fly someplace in a basket under the pillow."

Teddy's eyes brightened and a huge grin filled his face. "That's a brilliant idea, Leddy," said Teddy Dumbeller, smiling. "I'll leave Lake Noplaze and go someplace in a giant flying pillow."

Leddy Dumbeller had seen those giant flying

pillows from a distance—at least she thought they were pillows. In fact, they were not flying pillows at all, but hot-air balloons. However, Leddy didn't know better—and neither did Teddy.

The Dumbeller cousins could tell how much Teddy wanted to go someplace, so they offered many suggestions. For example, Leddy suggested that Teddy fill up grandmother Dumbeller's dress with air from the gas station. But none of their ideas suited Teddy. (In fact, they were all terrible ideas.) Meanwhile, Teddy thought of a scheme. "I know just what to do," he said.

When the cousins heard Teddy's idea, they thought he was a genius. Teddy found some old blankets, and he sewed the bottoms and two sides together, leaving the tops open. They looked like giant pillowcases. "I'll hang them on the clothesline," he said. "During the windstorm tonight, they'll fill with air. Tomorrow, I'll sew the tops together, and the air pillows will carry me off someplace."

That night, there was indeed a huge windstorm. It blew the blankets back and forth on the clothesline.

The next morning, Teddy ran to check the air pillows. Of course, he was greatly disappointed, for the blankets were as flat as cookie sheets. Teddy began to cry. "Don't worry," one neighbor said. "Your air pillows have wonderful promise. Though they will never help you fly away, you could sell them as sleeping bags. As a matter of fact, I'll buy one now."

So Teddy sold all of his air pillows as sleeping bags. He used his money to buy himself a ticket to someplace. Of course, Teddy Dumbeller discovered that no place was nearly as nice as Lake Noplaze, so he soon returned home.

5. This story is mostly about—
- A Teddy and his cousins
 - B Teddy's efforts to get to someplace
 - C The sleeping bags Teddy learned to make
 - D Teddy's air pillows