

Comprehension Collection

GRADE 4

REM 171D

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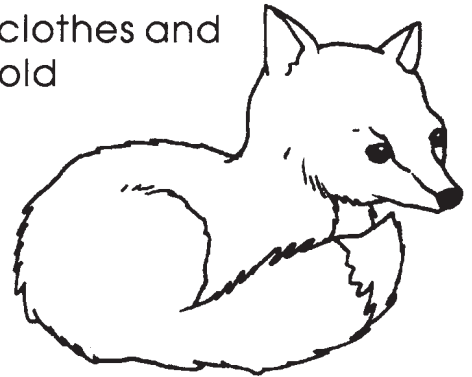
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Name _____

ANIMALS IN WINTER

When winter comes, people wear warmer clothes and turn on their heaters. Animals must prepare for cold weather, too.

Some hibernate. This means they spend the winter in protected places. Chipmunks build warm nests in which they stay out of the cold. Frogs cover themselves with mud at the bottom of ponds. Bears and bats sleep in warm, dark caves until spring.



Many animals stay awake and active. They have ways to protect themselves from the cold. The fox grows a thick fur coat, and the polar bear also has a warm coat to keep it warm. The owl can fluff up its feathers to keep in the heat of its body. One kind of bird, the ptarmigan, grows feathers on its feet during winter. This makes it easier to walk on snow and ice.

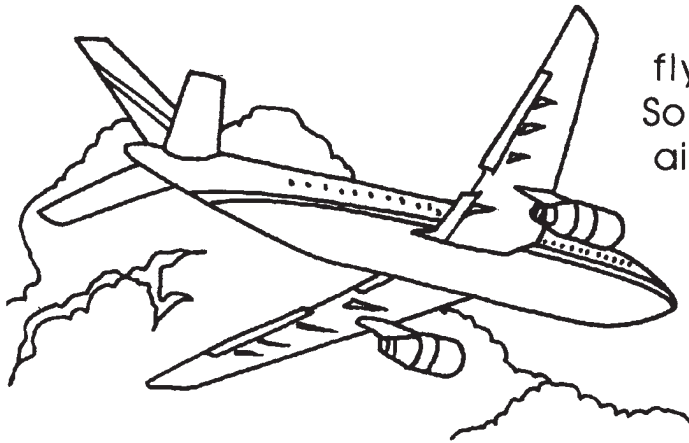
Complete the outline by adding details from the story.

ANIMALS IN WINTER

- I. Some hibernate in winter
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
- II. Some do not hibernate in winter
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Find *ptarmigan* in a dictionary. Write the pronunciation of this bird's name.

DIRECTING TRAFFIC



Every hour, hundreds of planes fly across the crowded skies. Someone has to watch where all these aircraft are going and make sure they don't fly into each other. The people who do this job are called air traffic controllers.

Jeff is an air traffic controller at a big airport. His job is tough on the eyes because he must always watch a screen in front of him.

Every plane near the airport shows up as a dot on this screen.

Jeff talks with the pilots in many of these planes. He wears a radio headset, like a walkie-talkie. It allows him to hear the pilots and lets them hear him, too.

The pilots cannot take off without getting an O.K. from Jeff. First, he tells each pilot that it is all right to leave the gate. The gate is where the plane picks up its passengers. Then he tells the pilot which runway to use. Runways are roads on the ground for planes to use when they take off and land. Finally, Jeff gives each pilot the green light for take-off. Jeff also tells the pilots in the sky when it is safe to land and which runway they should use.

The safety of thousands of people in the air and on the ground depends on people like Jeff.

1. Circle the words that tell what Jeff is.
2. Draw a line through the sentence that tells what Jeff wears.
3. Put parentheses around the sentence that tells what runways are.
4. Underline the sentence that tells what planes look like on Jeff's screen.
5. Put an "X" over the word in paragraph five that means "the health or well-being."

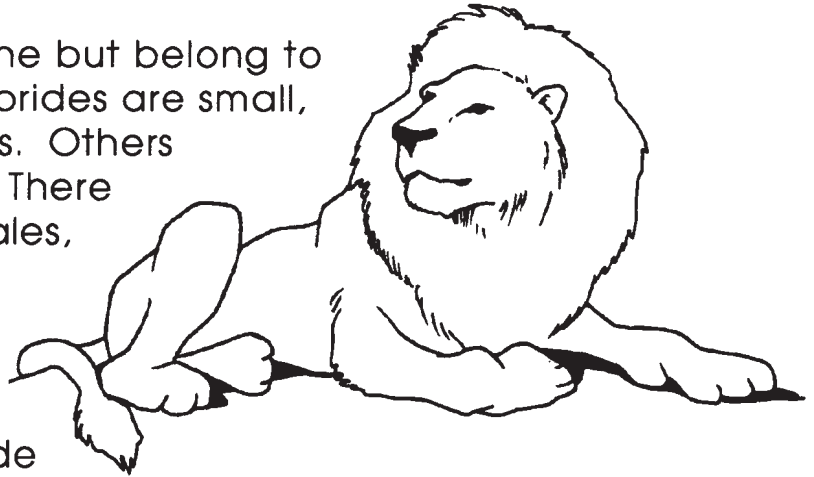
EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Write a short paragraph telling why you would or would not like to be an air traffic controller.

Name _____

LAZY LIONS

Most lions do not live alone but belong to groups called prides. Some prides are small, with only four or five members. Others may have up to thirty lions. There might be one to three adult males, several lionesses, and cubs.

The pride usually stays together for years. However, by age three, the young males are driven from the pride by their fathers. They must then form prides of their own.



Lions often kill to live, and it is mostly the female lion who does the hunting. Since most animals can outrun a lion, she must depend on the element of surprise. The lion moves very slowly and quietly towards a grazing animal. At just the right time, it attacks.

Although they look powerful, lions are very lazy animals. They will spend up to twenty hours a day sleeping. Rather than doing their own hunting, lions will often seize the prey killed by another animal.

1. Lions live in groups called what? _____
2. A female lion is called what? _____
3. What happens to young males at age three? _____

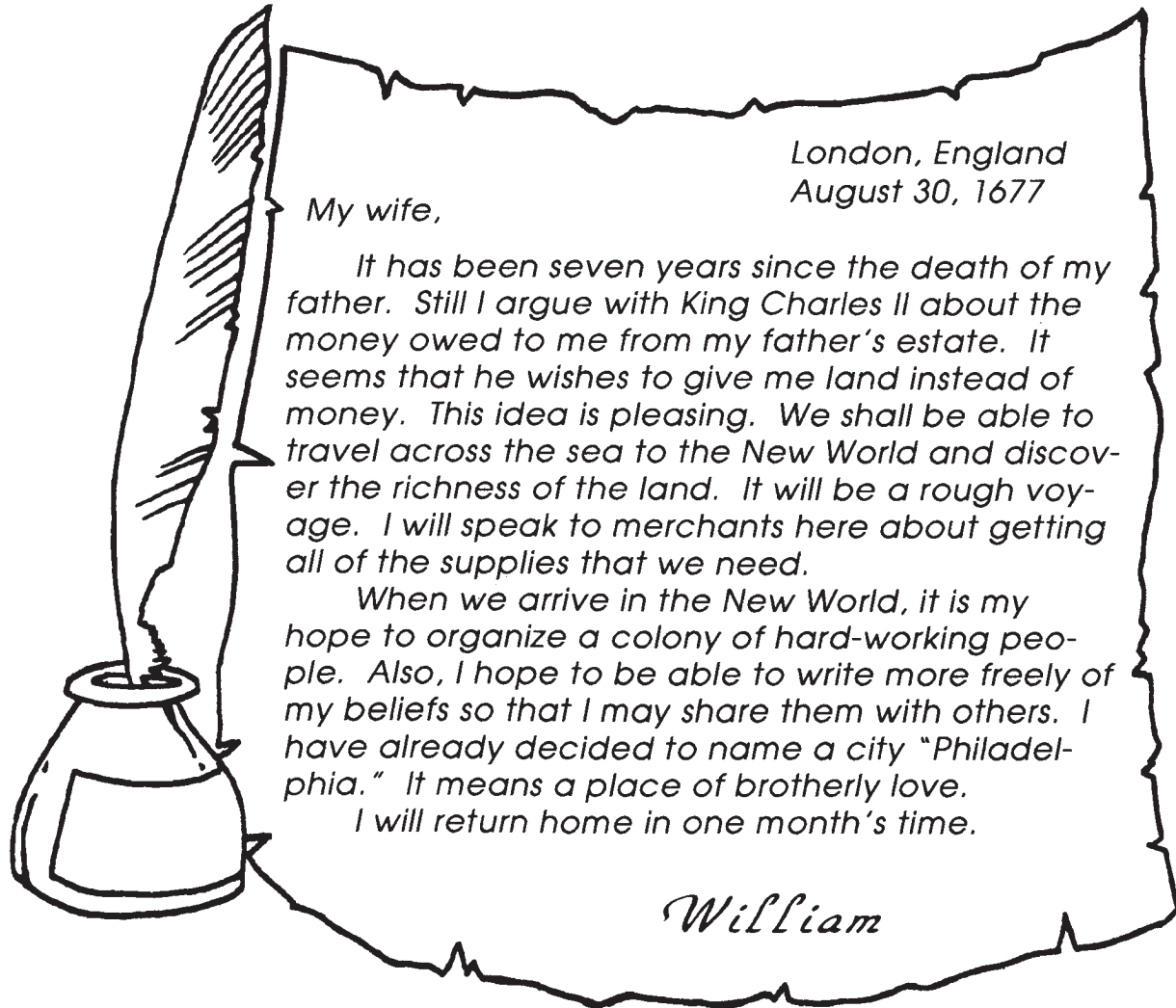
4. Who mostly does the hunting? _____
5. Why does the lion depend on surprise while hunting? _____

6. Lions look powerful but are very what? _____
7. How many hours a day might a lion sleep? _____
8. Instead of hunting themselves, lions often do what? _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Read about lions in an encyclopedia or dictionary. Where is their natural home?

Name _____

William Penn gave his name to the state of Pennsylvania, of which he was a founder. In this letter, he writes to his wife, Hannah, about their upcoming trip to the New World.



1. Who owes money to William Penn? _____
2. What does William Penn receive instead of money? _____
3. Where will he get all the supplies he needs? _____
4. When he arrives in the New World, about what will he write?

5. What does the name "Philadelphia" mean?

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Draw a map of the state named after William Penn. Label three or more cities and two or more rivers.

Name _____

TELLTALE NAMES

People today have two names, a first name and a last name. This was not always true. At one time, about 800 years ago, people had only one name, a "given" name. It was a name given to a child at birth.

Then the kings and queens and lords and ladies, the people known as "nobles," decided to have "family names." They invented last names for themselves. Soon, the rest of the people, called "common people," began to do the same thing.

Many common people chose names that told what they were. Their last names became Baker, Carpenter, Miller, Farmer, Cook, or other occupation-type names. Many other people chose names that told where they lived, such as Hill, Brook, Lake, Forest, or Woods.



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The main idea of the story is (a) that people have a "given" name, (b) about the choosing of a second name, (c) that nobles were the first to have family names.
2. A last name for a common person might be (a) King, (b) Knight, (c) Butler.

Answer the questions.

3. What name in the last paragraph means a stream? _____
4. A word in paragraph two that means "made up" is what?

5. What word is used in the first paragraph that means people "of this time"? _____
6. The opposite of king is what? _____
7. Another word for "job" in paragraph three is what?

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: Find "cooper" and "wainwright" in a dictionary. Write what things were made by people who chose these names.

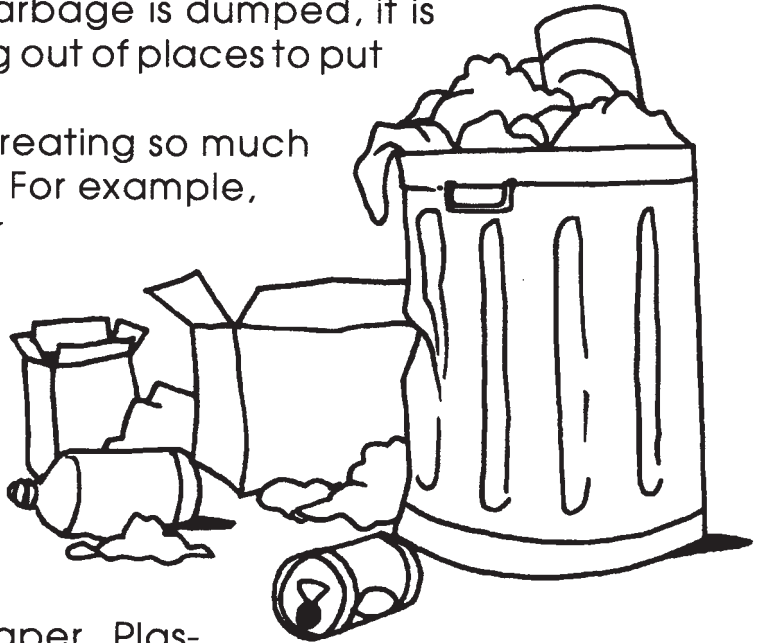
Name _____

GARBAGE

People are creating too much garbage. Every day, garbage trucks pick up tons and tons of garbage. It is taken to a dump, also known as a landfill. After the garbage is dumped, it is covered with dirt. We are running out of places to put all this garbage.

Each of us must try to stop creating so much garbage. We can reuse things. For example, use a glass instead of a paper cup. A glass can be used thousands of times instead of using and throwing away thousands of paper cups.

Another way to help is to recycle. Separate things from the garbage that can be used again to make new things. Old paper can be made into new paper. Plastic bottles can be used to make building materials. Glass can be recycled. These are just a few ways to make less garbage and help the earth.



1. What is a landfill? _____
2. Why should we try to create less garbage? _____

3. Why is using a glass better than using a paper cup? _____

4. What does it mean to "recycle" something? _____

5. Do you think there will ever be a time when there is no garbage?
Why or why not? _____

EXTENDED ACTIVITY: On the back of this paper, list five things you could do to create less garbage.