

How Bees Help

Bees are small, but they do a big job. When a bee visits a flower, it drinks a sweet liquid called nectar. While it drinks, yellow dust called pollen sticks to its fuzzy body. Then the bee flies to another flower, and some of the pollen falls off there. This helps the flower make seeds, and seeds grow into new plants. Many fruits and vegetables we eat, like apples and pumpkins, need bees to carry pollen. Bees also turn nectar into honey, which they store in their hive to eat during the winter. Next time you see a bee, remember how much it helps, and give it space to work.

1. What is nectar?

- a) a sweet liquid in flowers b) yellow dust c) a kind of seed

2. What sticks to a bee's fuzzy body?

- a) pollen b) honey c) water

3. What does pollen help a flower make?

4. Why do bees store honey in their hive?

5. What might happen to apple trees if there were no bees?

The Snow Fort

After the big storm, the whole street was covered in snow. Priya and her brother Dev wanted to build a fort. First they rolled giant snowballs for the walls. Dev patted snow into the cracks so the walls would be strong. Priya used a bucket to make snow bricks for a window. It took all morning. When they finished, the fort was big enough for both of them and their dog, Pepper. They sat inside and drank hot cocoa. "Let's build a tunnel tomorrow," said Dev. Priya grinned. She was already planning where it would go.

1. What did Priya and Dev want to build?

- a) a fort b) a snowman c) a sled

2. Why did Dev pat snow into the cracks?

3. What did Priya use the bucket for?

- a) to make snow bricks b) to carry cocoa c) to dig a hole

4. Who else fit inside the fort?

5. Does Priya like Dev's idea about a tunnel? How do you know?

From Tadpole to Frog

A frog does not start its life looking like a frog. First, a mother frog lays eggs in a pond. The eggs are soft and look like little balls of jelly. After a few days, tiny tadpoles hatch. A tadpole has a long tail and breathes under water, like a fish. As the weeks go by, the tadpole grows back legs, then front legs. Its tail gets shorter and shorter. Soon it can breathe air and hop onto land. Now it is a young frog. This big change is called metamorphosis. When the frog grows up, it may lay eggs of its own, and the cycle starts again.

-
1. Where does a mother frog lay her eggs?
a) in a pond b) in a tree c) under a rock
 2. What hatches from the eggs?
a) tadpoles b) fish c) frogs
 3. Which legs does a tadpole grow first?
a) back legs b) front legs
 4. What is the big change from tadpole to frog called?

-
-
5. Why must a tadpole stay in the water?
-
-

Library Day

Every Thursday, Mr. Park's class walks to the library. Ella always heads straight to the shelf of books about space. This week, the book she wanted was already checked out. Ella felt disappointed. The librarian, Ms. Gray, asked what she liked about space. "Planets and rockets," said Ella. Ms. Gray handed her a story about a girl who dreams of being an astronaut. Ella was not sure, but she took it home. That night she read three chapters before bed. On Thursday, she asked Ms. Gray if there was a second book in the series.

1. On which day does the class go to the library?

- a) Thursday b) Monday c) Friday

2. What kind of books does Ella like?

- a) books about space b) books about horses c) joke books

3. Why was Ella disappointed?

4. What book did Ms. Gray give her?

5. Did Ella like the new book? How do you know?

The Kite Contest

The town held a kite contest at the beach. Carlos made his kite out of paper, sticks and string. He painted it to look like a dragon with a long red tail. When the wind blew, kites rose high into the sky. Carlos ran as fast as he could, but his kite crashed into the sand. He looked it over and saw that the tail was too heavy. He cut the tail shorter and tried again. This time the dragon flew up and danced over the waves. Carlos did not win first prize, but the judges gave him a ribbon for the most creative kite.

1. Where was the kite contest?

- a) at the beach b) at the park c) at school

2. What did Carlos make his kite from?

3. What did the kite look like?

- a) a dragon b) a bird c) a fish

4. Why did the kite crash at first?

5. What lesson does this story teach?

Why We Need Sleep

Your body stays busy even while you sleep. Your brain sorts out the things you learned during the day, so you can remember them later. Your muscles rest and repair, and your body grows. Children your age need about ten to twelve hours of sleep each night. Without enough sleep, it is hard to pay attention, and you may feel grumpy. To sleep well, try to go to bed at the same time every night. Turn off screens a while before bed, and keep your room dark and quiet. A good night's sleep helps you feel ready to learn and play.

1. What does your brain do while you sleep?

2. How much sleep do children your age need?

- a) about 10 to 12 hours b) about 5 hours c) about 20 hours

3. How might you feel without enough sleep?

- a) grumpy b) taller c) hungry

4. Write one tip from the text for sleeping well.

5. Why might a child who stayed up very late do poorly on a spelling test?

The Mystery Sound

One windy night, Hana heard a strange sound outside her window. Scritch, scratch. She pulled the blanket up to her chin. "Maybe it's a monster," she whispered. She called for her dad. Dad came in with a flashlight and opened the curtain. A branch from the old maple tree was brushing against the glass every time the wind blew. Dad laughed. "Tomorrow we'll trim that branch," he said. Hana laughed too. The next morning they cut the branch, and that night Hana slept without hearing a single scratch.

1. What sound did Hana hear?

- a) scritch, scratch b) knock, knock c) drip, drop

2. What did Hana think made the sound?

- a) a monster b) a cat c) her brother

3. What did Dad bring?

4. What really made the sound?

5. How did Hana feel before Dad opened the curtain? What clue tells you?

Recycling at School

Pine Hill School had a problem. The trash cans in the lunchroom were full every day, and much of the trash was paper, cans and plastic bottles. The second graders decided to help. They painted three bins: blue for paper, green for cans and yellow for bottles. They made posters showing what goes in each bin. At lunch, student helpers stood by the bins to remind everyone. After one month, there was only half as much lunchroom trash as before. The principal was so proud that she gave the second grade an extra recess.

1. What was the problem at Pine Hill School?

2. What color was the bin for paper?

a) blue b) green c) yellow

3. What did the student helpers do?

a) reminded everyone which bin to use b) emptied the trash c) served lunch

4. What happened after one month?

5. Why did the principal give the second grade an extra recess?

2nd grade reading comprehension — answer key

How Bees Help

1. a) a sweet liquid in flowers
2. a) pollen
3. Seeds.
4. To eat during the winter.
5. They would make fewer apples (or none), because no one would carry pollen between the flowers. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

The Snow Fort

1. a) a fort
2. So the walls would be strong.
3. a) to make snow bricks
4. Their dog, Pepper.
5. Yes. She grinned and was already planning where it would go. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

From Tadpole to Frog

1. a) in a pond
2. a) tadpoles
3. a) back legs
4. Metamorphosis.
5. It breathes under water like a fish and has no legs yet, so it cannot live on land. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

Library Day

1. a) Thursday
2. a) books about space
3. The book she wanted was already checked out.
4. A story about a girl who dreams of being an astronaut.
5. Yes. She read three chapters in one night and asked for the second book. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

The Kite Contest

1. a) at the beach
2. Paper, sticks and string.
3. a) a dragon
4. The tail was too heavy.
5. Do not give up: find the problem, fix it and try again. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

2nd grade reading comprehension — answer key

Why We Need Sleep

1. It sorts out what you learned so you can remember it later.
2. a) about 10 to 12 hours
3. a) grumpy
4. Any one of: go to bed at the same time; turn off screens before bed; keep the room dark and quiet.
5. Without enough sleep it is hard to pay attention and remember what you learned. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

The Mystery Sound

1. a) scritch, scratch
2. a) a monster
3. A flashlight.
4. A branch of the maple tree brushing against the window.
5. Scared. She pulled the blanket up to her chin and thought it was a monster. (inference; accept reasonable answers)

Recycling at School

1. The lunchroom trash cans were full every day.
2. a) blue
3. a) reminded everyone which bin to use
4. There was only half as much trash as before.
5. To reward them for solving the trash problem and helping the school. (inference; accept reasonable answers)