When Animals Outsmart Humans (B1)

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1.What's the smartest animal behavior you've seen?
2.Is it okay to feed wild animals? Why or why not?
3.Are zoos useful for studying animal minds?
4.Which animal would probably outsmart you-and how?
5.What should cities change because of clever animals?

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. (Definitions are shuffled.)

___	1. puzzle	**a.**	a member of the group that includes monkeys and humans
___	2. tool	**b.**	to follow the movements of something
___	3. mimic	**c.**	to watch carefully
___	4. distract	**d.**	food or an object used to attract animals
___	5. escape	**e.**	to take attention away from something
___	6. track	**f.**	a large black bird known for its intelligence
___	7. bait	**g.**	a group of similar animals that can reproduce together
___	8. observe	**h.**	smart and quick to learn
___	9. clever	**i.**	to copy sounds or actions
___	10. species	**j.**	to get away from a place or situation
___	11. primate	**k.**	an object used to do a task
___	12. crow	**l.**	a problem that needs careful thinking to solve

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Reading

Tricks and Tools

How animals solve problems

1. An octopus in an aquarium unscrewed a jar from the “Intelligence appears inside and escaped through a small hole. Keepers later wherever problems observed that it also learned to distract them by demand it.” spraying water at a light. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky. Practice and imitation spread skills like tiny technologies. We underestimate what patient observation can reveal. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky. Practice and imitation spread skills like tiny technologies.

2. Crows drop nuts onto crosswalks so cars crack them open; then they wait for the red light to pick up lunch. In labs, they solve puzzles that need several tools in sequence. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky. Practice and imitation spread skills like tiny technologies. We underestimate what patient observation can reveal. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky. Practice and imitation spread skills like tiny technologies.

3. Dolphins carry sponges on their noses to protect themselves while looking for food on sharp rocks. They teach the skill to their young, which looks a lot like culture. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky. Practice and imitation spread skills like tiny technologies. We underestimate what patient observation can reveal. Animal intelligence shows up wherever life gets tricky.

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COMPREHENSION

1. How did the octopus trick the keepers?
2. What do crows do at crosswalks?
3. Why do dolphins carry sponges?
4. What does the passage suggest about animal culture?
5. Which example surprised you most, and why?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

1. Scientists ____ animals in the wild to learn their habits.
2. The raccoon solved the ____ and opened the latch.
3. She used a stick as a ____ to reach the fruit.
4. Magpies can ____ simple human actions.
5. Fishermen set ____ to bring the fish closer.
6. The fox managed to ____ from the trap.
7. Wolves ____ a herd for hours before attacking.
8. That was a very ____ move for a small bird.
9. Humans are ____; so are chimpanzees.
10. A ____ figured out how to drop stones to raise water levels.

GRAMMAR REVIEW – PAST SIMPLE & PAST CONTINUOUS

1. The octopus ____ (unscrew) the lid while the keeper ____ (turn) away.
2. Crows ____ (wait) for the light as cars ____ (stop).
3. The team ____ (record) video when the dolphin ____ (use) the sponge.
4. We ____ (study) ravens as they ____ (solve) the puzzle.
5. She ____ (try) one tool while the other birds ____ (watch).
6. They ____ (not/notice) that the animal ____ (escape).
7. The monkey ____ (test) the lock, and then it ____ (open) the door.
8. Researchers ____ (collect) data while the storm ____ (start).
9. I ____ (walk) by the tank when the octopus ____ (splash) the light.
10. The crow ____ (hide) the nut while the people ____ (cross).

DISCUSSION

1. What rights should highly intelligent animals have?
2. Is teaching animals new skills a good idea?
3. How can cities design around smart animal behavior?
4. Which animal would you like to study up close?

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CRITICAL THINKING

Choose one example of animal intelligence. Explain the problem, the tactic used, and what it tells us about learning.