



COYOTE: the SURVIVOR OF NORTH AMERICA

The coyote is a relative of the dog, wolf and jackal. Like its relatives, it is a predator and mostly eats other mammals. It will, however, eat a wide variety of foods, including insects, fruits and vegetables.

Coyotes are found throughout most of North America, from Mexico and Central America to Canada and Alaska. The color of its coat depends on where it lives. Mountain coyotes are darker than those living in the desert.

Like the wolf, coyotes live in groups, or packs. The pack is usually smaller in number than a wolf pack. All members of the pack are usually related. The pack will often divide into pairs to hunt.

Female coyotes have a litter of pups once a year. A litter has an average of six pups. Over half of the pups will die before they reach adulthood. Male pups usually leave the pack to find their own territory. Female pups stay with the parent's pack.

Wolves and coyotes compete for the same prey animals. Since the coyote is smaller than the wolf, wolves will usually drive the coyote out of any shared territory.

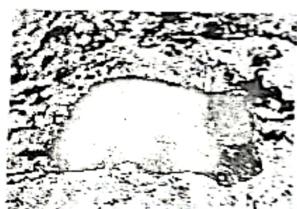
The coyote adapts easily to new areas. Unlike the buffalo or wolf, the coyote's range increased after human populations expanded across the continent. For example, the coyote was not native to New England. Once the New England settlers eliminated wolves, however, the coyote moved in. Scientists who have studied the coyote believe it is better than the wolf at living in human areas.

Coyotes are now found in most large urban areas. They find an abundant supply of food in these areas, since coyotes are willing to eat garbage, rodents and even small pets, such as cats. Scientists estimate that as many as 2,000 coyotes may be living in the Chicago area.

Because of its adaptability, the coyote is not an endangered species, or even a threatened species. It has been classified as "least concern," which means it has the lowest risk of extinction.



The coyote communicates with other coyotes by howling or yipping.



A very young coyote pup

Cite the Source

Find two examples from the text that support the idea that the coyote adapts to survive.

1. _____

2. _____

The Grand Canyon

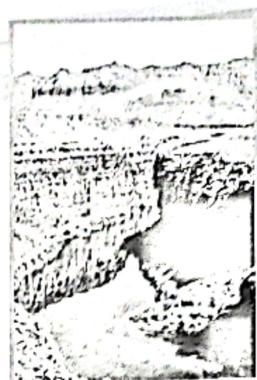
The Grand Canyon is a large river canyon in Arizona. It is over 220 miles long and over a mile deep in some places. Its widest point is 18 miles wide. The canyon is considered one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

Over millions of years, the Colorado River wore away rocks as it passed through the area. Slowly, the river made the path deeper and deeper. Now, the canyon is surrounded by steep walls on either side, while the river continues to flow at the bottom of the canyon.

Besides its large size, the Grand Canyon is also known for its magnificent colors. The canyon is made of layers of rock, and each layer of rock has a different depth and color. Geologists have identified almost 40 different layers of rock exposed by the river's erosion.



Aerial view of the Grand Canyon



The Colorado River formed the Grand Canyon.

The climate in canyon area is primarily desert, with both high and low temperatures. The upper rims of the canyon often receive snowfall. The air quality is usually very high, although dust storms and smoke from fires can change the air.

The Grand Canyon is home to a variety of plants and animals. Plants range from various species of cactus to pine forests. Many types of animals live in the area, including the bald eagle, bobcats, bats and gila monsters. Six different kinds of rattlesnakes have been identified in the area.

Native Americans have inhabited the area for around 3,000 years. Spanish conquistadors first explored the area in

1540. Later, Spanish priests and explorers returned in 1776. However, they did not stay, as they found the canyon impassable.

Arizona became part of the United States in 1848, and the first geological studies were completed on the Grand Canyon in 1856. Today, the canyon is part of the Grand Canyon National Park. About five million tourists visit the park each year.

What Does It Mean?

Circle the correct meaning for each of the following words from the passage.

1. geologists

- a. scientists who study the physical properties of the earth
- b. scientists who study plants and animals in Arizona
- c. scientists who study numbers

2. various

- a. desert
- b. different kinds
- c. rare; unusual

3. impassable

- a. unable to cross
- b. far from civilization
- c. haunted

4. erosion

- a. the act of drying up or evaporating
- b. change of direction
- c. the act of wearing away or grinding down

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Biography of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 in northern Kentucky. At the time of his birth, Kentucky was part of the western frontier of the U.S. His father was a farmer and at one point was relatively wealthy. However, when young Abraham was only 7 years old, his father lost his land. The family moved to Indiana, where his mother died when he was 9. When he was a young man, Abraham's family moved to Illinois.

Abraham had little formal education growing up. He loved to read, so he educated himself. In Illinois he studied law by reading law books. He became a lawyer in 1837 in Springfield, Illinois.

Lincoln's political career began early, and he served in the state legislature and in the U.S. House of Representatives. Lincoln was a gifted speaker. He won national attention for his speeches against slavery during several debates. This led to his nomination for the presidency, which he won in 1860.

President Lincoln's election angered the Southern states and seven of them announced they would leave the U.S. and form their own government. In 1861, South Carolina troops fired artillery at Fort Sumter, a U.S. military fort. This began the Civil War. The war would be the central feature of Lincoln's presidency.

Lincoln's goal through the war was to reunite the North, known as the Union, with the South, known as the Confederacy. As commander in chief, he selected the Union generals to lead the Army. He issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, which signaled freedom for the slaves.

Lincoln was reelected in 1864. After four long years, the Union won the Civil War in April 1865. Lincoln's goal to reunite the country had come true, but he would not live to see it. Just six days after the end of the war, on April 15, 1865, President Lincoln was killed by John Wilkes Booth. He was the first American president to be assassinated.

A 1864 photograph of President Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the greatest American presidents. He calmly lead the country through the most difficult time in its history, the Civil War. He is remembered today for his wisdom, his compassion and his patriotism.



Painting of Abraham Lincoln



Summarize It

Briefly summarize President Lincoln's life.



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

Cause and effect are about how one thing can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.

Read about how light causes us to see colors, and think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

Light: How We See Colors

Light is a form of energy that we can see. Some light comes from the sun. Other light is man-made. Man-made light uses science to turn another kind of energy, such as electricity, into energy in the form of light.

Light moves in a wavy beam from a source to whatever object it meets. The beam is made up of smaller wavy beams—one for each color. When a light beam is moving through the air, with all the colors together, it appears to be clear.

When a light beam hits an object, such as tree leaves, or an apple, the color of the object affects the smaller color beams inside the entire light beam. The green leaves absorb all of the color beams except green. Only the green beam is reflected back, so our eyes see the leaves as green. The apple absorbs all of the color beams except red. Only the red beam is reflected back, so our eyes see the apple as red. This is called “reflection”.

Another kind of reflection happens when a light beam hits a smooth, shiny object. When this happens, the entire beam of light bounces back. None of the small color beams are absorbed. The light beam bounces back like a ball thrown against a wall. If we look at the shiny object that is reflecting light, we can see images of the things the reflected light hits as it bounces off the shiny surface, such as our own face!

What is the **effect** of each **cause**?

1. A light beam travels away from a source, such as the sun.
 - A. The light beam spreads out in separate beams.
 - B. The light beam makes a sound.
 - C. The light beam hits an object.
2. A light beam hits a red apple.
 - A. All of the color beams except red are absorbed by the apple.
 - B. None of the color beams are absorbed by the apple.
 - C. Only the red beams are absorbed by the apple.
3. A red apple reflects back some of the color in a light beam.
 - A. We see the apple as red.
 - B. We are able to see through the apple.
 - C. The apple begins to glow.
4. A light beam hits a smooth, shiny object.
 - A. Only one color beam bounces back off the object.
 - B. Only some color beams bounce back off the object.
 - C. All of the color beams bounce back off the object.

-
-
5. Here is a **cause**: A beam of light hits a green leaf.

What is the **effect**?

6. Here is a **cause**: You look straight at a bright, shiny object when a beam of light bounces off of it.

What is the **effect**?

Answer Key

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. All of the color beams except green are absorbed by the leaf. (And we see the leaf as green.)
6. You see an image of yourself in the shiny object.



Context clues

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

Context clues are *hints to the meaning* of a difficult word. These hints can be in the same sentence or in the sentences before or after the sentence that uses the difficult word.

As you read about sound, pay attention to the underlined words, and any *hints to the meaning* of these words.

What is Sound?

The world around us is filled with sound. There are loud sounds and soft sounds. There are pleasant sounds and unpleasant sounds. At this very moment, you are surrounded by sound. Where does sound come from? How does it get to your ears? Why are there different kinds of sound? The study of these questions about sound is called acoustics.

Imagine a cymbal hit with a drumstick. The cymbal shakes rapidly, and this vibration causes the tiny particles in the air around it to vibrate. These vibrating air particles, called molecules, bump into the air particles next to them and make them vibrate. This spreading vibration moves outward in every direction from the cymbal in waves.

When a small object is made to vibrate, the sound waves move up and down very quickly. This produces a high-pitched sound, like a high note in a song. When a large object is made to vibrate, the sound waves move up and down more slowly. This produces a low-pitched sound, like a low note in a song. Hitting a small cymbal makes a more high-pitched sound than hitting a large cymbal.

The volume of a sound depends upon the amount of energy, or force, applied to the object that is caused to vibrate. If the cymbal is hit very hard with the drumstick, the volume of the sound is louder than if it is hit lightly. The sound wave created by a hard hit carries the energy of the hit along with it. When a sound wave hits an object, the force that the sound wave carries causes movement in the object it hits. An extremely loud sound wave, such as the sound of thunder, can actually make the ground shake.

Select which context clues give a hint to the meaning of each of these words.

1. acoustics

- A. ...filled with sounds...
- B. ...surrounded by sound...
- C. ...study of...

2. vibration

- A. ...hit with a drumstick...
- B. ...shakes rapidly...
- C. ...bump into...

3. high-pitched

- A. ...move up and down...
- B. ...made to vibrate...
- C. ...high note in a song...

4. low-pitched

- A. ...move up and down...
- B. ...made to vibrate...
- C. ...low note in a song...

5. volume

- A. ...sound is louder...
- B. ...hit very hard...
- C. ...hit lightly...

6. energy

- A. ...or force...
- B. ...depends upon...
- C. ...caused to vibrate...

7. In the third paragraph, what word tells you that there is a context clue for the meaning of the terms "high-pitched" and "low-pitched"?

Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. A
7. The word "like," as used in this paragraph, tells you that an example is being given to explain the meaning of a word or phrase.



Fact and opinion

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

If something is *true, or it really happened*, it is a **fact**.

If something is *what someone thinks or believes*, it is an **opinion**.

As you read Marco's letter from Uncle Ben, think about what parts are **fact** and what parts are **opinion**.

Marco got a letter from his Uncle Ben, the airplane pilot. Uncle Ben has traveled all over the world.

Dear Marco,

London is a great city, but it usually takes me a day or two to get used to the cars driving on the "wrong" side of the road! In most places, cars drive on the right side of the road (not the left side), but in London, cars drive on the left side. Even the cars are made differently there, with the steering wheel on the right side, instead of the left side.

The first place I always visit is the huge park outside Buckingham Palace. This Palace is one of the Queen of England's two homes. At the front entrance of the Palace, there is a long row of Royal Guards. The Guards stand at attention in their bright red jackets and tall black helmets. The Guards don't look at anyone or talk to anyone. You can see that they take their job very seriously.

The "Changing of the Guard" is a world famous sight. At 11:30, the Guards who are coming *on* duty take the place of those who are going *off* duty. The exchange takes about 45 minutes. It is exciting to watch the Guards march in perfect step to the music of a military band.

On this trip, I visited one of the newest attractions in England's capital city. It is called the London Eye. It opened in the year 2000, and it is the fourth largest Ferris wheel in the world. Instead of the usual kind of Ferris wheel cart, you ride in a large glass pod, so that you can see out in all directions. It is a good idea to buy tickets ahead of time. I did, and the line I was in was a lot shorter than the line for people who still needed to buy tickets. The ride might be a little scary at first, because the Eye is so huge, and goes up so high. It goes very slowly, though. The views of the city from the London Eye are worth the wait, even if there is a long line.

Yours truly,
Uncle Ben

Here are some things Uncle Ben said in his letter. Which ones are **facts** and which are Uncle Ben's **opinions**? Circle the word "fact" or the word "opinion."

- | | | |
|---|------|---------|
| 1. London is a great city. | fact | opinion |
| 2. In London, cars travel on the wrong side of the road. | fact | opinion |
| 3. In London, cars travel on the left side of the road. | fact | opinion |
| 4. You would never get tired of visiting the park outside Buckingham Palace. | fact | opinion |
| 5. Buckingham Palace is one of the Queen of England's two homes. | fact | opinion |
| 6. The Royal Guards stand outside the front entrance of Buckingham Palace. | fact | opinion |
| 7. You can see that the Royal Guards take their job very seriously. | fact | opinion |
| 8. The Royal Guards wear bright red jackets and tall black helmets. | fact | opinion |
| 9. The "Changing of the Guard" takes about 45 minutes. | fact | opinion |
| 10. During the Changing of the Guard, the Guards march in perfect step to the music of a military band. | fact | opinion |
| 11. It is exciting to watch the Changing of the Guard. | fact | opinion |
| 12. London Eye is one of London's newest attractions. | fact | opinion |
| 13. The London Eye is the fourth largest Ferris wheel in the world | fact | opinion |
| 14. You ride the London Eye in a large glass pod, and can see out in all directions. | fact | opinion |
| 15. The views of the city from the Eye are worth the wait. | fact | opinion |
| <hr/> | | |
| 16. What is one other fact from Uncle Ben's letter about London? | | |

Answer Key

1. opinion
2. opinion
3. fact
4. opinion
5. fact
6. fact
7. opinion
8. fact
9. fact
10. fact
11. opinion
12. fact
13. fact
14. fact
15. opinion
16. Accept any reasonable response.