



A Visit with Sue

"When do you think we'll get there?"

"How much longer?"

"I can't wait to see Sue!" The kids on the bus were talking at the same time. Everyone was ready for their first visit to meet Sue.

The bus made its way through the crowded streets of Chicago and soon the class could see the water of Lake Michigan. The teacher reminded everyone that Lake Michigan is one of the five Great Lakes. By the time she finished the bus was parked at the Field Museum of Natural History. In a few minutes everyone would meet Sue for the first time.

Even though everyone wanted to run and meet Sue, they walked in a group like they were supposed to inside the museum. Quickly they spied Sue standing there right in the open space on the first floor. The class surrounded her but no one said hello.

Instead, kids began to chatter. "Wow, is Sue big!" "She's so tall!" "How much does she weigh?" These questions didn't hurt Sue's feelings at all. You see, Sue is the name of the famous dinosaur skeleton at the Field Museum.

The class learned that Sue is the skeleton of a T-rex dinosaur, a *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The museum docent explained that Sue is 40 feet long from her nose to her tail and she is twelve feet tall at her hips. Scientists believe Sue was 28 years old when she died.

Sue was discovered in 1990 in South Dakota on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. Her skeleton was about 80% complete when it was found. She went on display at the museum in 2000.

After they learned about Sue, the class went to see the fossil remains of other dinosaurs displayed at the museum.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The class was visiting the
 - a. City
 - b. Lake
 - c. Museum
2. The class was there to see
 - a. Fossils
 - b. Fish
 - c. Skyscrapers
3. Sue was
 - a. 40 feet long
 - b. 20 feet wide
 - c. 15 feet tall
4. Sue was the skeleton of a
 - a. Dinosaur
 - b. Woolly mammoth
 - c. Whale
5. Sue was discovered in what state?
 - a. North Dakota
 - b. South Dakota
 - c. Utah

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Juggler in Training



One night at supper Jennifer announced, "I want to learn how to juggle. I brought home a book from the library that shows me how to start juggling.

I need to make some balls out of rolled up socks to practice with. Is that okay, Mom?"

"Sure." Mom replied. "But don't practice in the apartment. You might damage something. Practice in the hallway but don't bother anybody."

The next day Jennifer turned some of her big brother's white cotton socks inside themselves to make fluffy soft balls. Once out in the hallway, she tried the first lesson in the how to juggle book. It said to put the ball on her head, nod her head gently forward and catch the ball in her hands. She did that a few times, then tilted her head backwards and tried to catch the ball with her hands behind her back the way the book said.

"That was easy enough," she said to herself. "I'll try the next lesson."

The next lesson seemed pretty simple too. Jennifer placed the soft sock in her right hand. She tossed it straight up higher than her head like the lesson said, clapped her hands once, but missed catching the ball with her left hand. She tried several times but only could catch the ball once in while. Discouraged, she went inside her apartment.

"Did you have fun?" her Mom asked.

"It was okay." replied Jennifer. "But I didn't do very well on the second lesson so I quit."

"Well, it's way too early to quit, Jennifer. Today was your first day. If you practice more tomorrow, I'll bet you'll figure it out. It takes time to learn something new."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

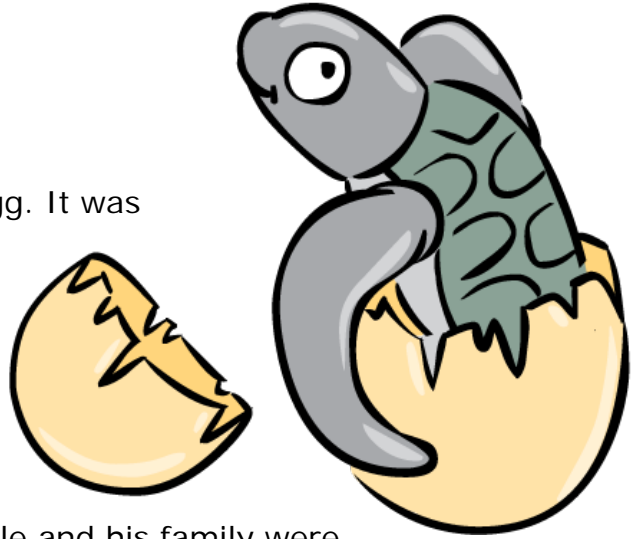
1. Jennifer was learning to juggle from a book she
 - a. Bought at a store
 - b. Borrowed from a friend
 - c. Borrowed from the library
2. Jennifer was juggling
 - a. Plastic balls
 - b. Socks rolled up into balls
 - c. Rubber balls
3. Mom said Jennifer could practice juggling
 - a. In the hallway
 - b. In the kitchen
 - c. In her room
4. In the first juggling lesson how many balls did Jennifer put on her head at one time?
 - a. One
 - b. Two
 - c. Three
5. In the second lesson how high did Jennifer toss the ball?
 - a. Up to her shoulders
 - b. Above her head
 - c. To the ceiling

Activities

1. Try Jennifer's juggling lessons for yourself or with your classmates.
2. Why is good to learn how to juggle?
3. How old do you think Jennifer and her older brother are?
4. Why did Jennifer quit learning how to juggle?
5. Do you think Jennifer will listen to her Mom and try learning to juggle again?
6. Have you ever quit an activity because you thought you weren't good at it? Did you try again later and succeed?
7. Bobby May was a famous juggler. Do some research on the Internet and find out about him.

Tuttle the Turtle

Tuttle was snug inside his leathery egg. It was completely dark but he didn't care because he was warm and safe in a nest in the sand. His mother had left Tuttle and his brothers and sisters hidden inside the nest. When she knew her eggs were safe she returned to her place in the ocean. Tuttle and his family were sea turtles.



One day something inside Tuttle told him he was getting too big for his egg. It was time for Tuttle to hatch. It was time for all the baby turtles in the nest to hatch. It is safer to hatch and leave the nest at night. Many predators find baby turtles to be a tasty meal. Birds and mammals will eat baby turtles.

Meanwhile Tuttle worked hard to break open his egg shell. Birds have a brittle egg shell but turtles have a soft shell that is hard to open. It took some time for Tuttle to open his egg using his egg tooth but he worked hard and finally left his shell behind.

But remember, Tuttle's mother had left her eggs buried about twenty inches deep in the sand. Tuttle and the other baby turtles had to dig their way out of the nest but one by one they emerged from the sand.

Tuttle didn't have time to look around at the beach. Tuttle didn't care about the sky or the stars. Instinct told him that his home was in the ocean. Tiny Tuttle wasn't afraid of the big ocean waves that landed on the beach. He ran to the ocean as fast as he could along with dozens of his brothers and sisters who had just hatched too.

Tuttle already knew how to swim and how to hold his breath under water. He knew how to breathe while he was under the water too. Tuttle used his small flippers to swim out into the vast unknown ocean. Tuttle would never come back to land again but his sisters will some day lay their eggs on a sandy beach.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Where was Tuttle's nest?
 - a. In a tree
 - b. On a beach
 - c. In the grass
2. After Tuttle's mother laid her eggs she
 - a. Stayed and kept the eggs warm
 - b. Flew away
 - c. Returned to the ocean
3. The safest time for baby turtles to hatch is
 - a. In the morning
 - b. In the afternoon
 - c. At night
4. Right after hatching Tuttle had to next
 - a. Dig out of the sandy nest
 - b. Run to the water
 - c. Swim in the ocean
5. When Tuttle grows up he will
 - a. Return to the beach every year
 - b. Sometimes return to the beach
 - c. Always stay in the ocean

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. Green sea turtles swim at 0.9 to 1.4 miles per hour. If a green sea turtle is swimming at 1.2 miles per hour, how far will it swim in 3 hours?

2. Draw your own picture of a sea turtle.

3. Create a Venn diagram that compares a chicken egg with a sea turtle egg.

4. A green sea turtle can stay submerged under the water for up to five hours. If a green sea turtle gets air at 11 a.m. at what is the latest time will it need to get air again?

5. Do some research and find pictures of different kinds of sea turtles. Create a poster with your pictures. Be sure to label each kind of turtle.

6. Tuttle used his egg tooth in order to open his shell and hatch. Do some research and find out what happens to a baby turtle's egg tooth.

7. What does the word terrapin mean?



Seconds Count

"I'm just so excited about the 4-H show on Saturday!" Christy was on the phone with her best friend. "Trixie and I are all set for our very first competition barrel race."

Trixie was Christy's trained barrel racing horse, one of the best around Johnson County, Wyoming. Christy's parents acquired Trixie from another local family whose daughter had gone off to college and was no longer eligible for 4-H events.

Friday night Christy started to get her outfit ready for the next day's event. She pressed her long-sleeve Western shirt and jeans. She checked the snaps on the sleeves of her shirt. She didn't want to be disqualified because her sleeves weren't snapped. She got out her cowboy hat and boots and made sure they were clean and proper.

Saturday morning Christy got up early and scampered out to the barn. She wanted to groom Trixie so the horse would look her best too.

"Good morning Trixie," Christy greeted her special horse. "Are you ready for our big race today?" Trixie nuzzled her as if to answer, yes indeed, she too was ready for the day's race.

At the arena Christy found out that she and Trixie were the next to the last of the racing teams of horse and rider. The only contestant after them was last year's 4-H champion.

When it was their turn Christy said, "Come on Trixie – let's show everyone what we can do!" Off they raced at full speed around the complicated barrel course. Everyone cheered when Christy and Trixie galloped out of the arena. The master clock said their time was the fastest so far by just three seconds.

Next, last year's champion rider and her horse came shooting into the arena at a full gallop. Christy held her breath and waited to see who would be that day's champion.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. What kind of competition were Christy and Trixie in?

- a. Barrel race
- b. Jumping
- c. Dressage

2. In which state does the story take place?

- a. Wyoming
- b. Colorado
- c. Idaho

3. What did Christy wear for the competition?

- a. Western skirt
- b. Western shirt
- c. Ball cap

4. When was it Christy's turn to race?

- a. First
- b. Next to the last
- c. Last

5. Who won the race?

- a. Christy and Trixie
- b. Last year's champion
- c. We don't know

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activities

1. Write your own ending for this story.
2. What is 4-H? If you don't know, look it up in an encyclopedia or online.
3. Look up the nickname for the State of Wyoming. Explain why this name is appropriate.
4. Use the Internet to look up how the 4-H barrel racing course is set up. What kind of geometric figure is the course? Make a scale map of the course on graph paper.
5. Last year's champion enters the arena at a gallop. What are the different gaits of a horse?
6. Do some research and find out about the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) Youth World Championships for teens (thirteen and older) and youths (twelve and under).
7. Do some research and write a short report about the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of fame.