

## Guided Reading

Read this selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Wolf Communication

- 1 The Big Bad Wolf who threatened the three little pigs . . . the wolf who disguised himself as a grandmother and ate Little Red Riding Hood . . . the story of the little shepherd boy who cried "Wolf!" . . . a lone wolf howling in the moonlight—all these familiar images of the wolf have one thing in common: they give a false picture. Contrary to stereotypes born out of human fear, the wolf is not a cold-blooded killer of humans, nor is it a solitary hunter. In fact, wolves are very family- and pack-oriented and have a rich social life, which they maintain by communicating with each other in a variety of interesting ways. These wolf communication behaviors include facial contact, howling, and scent marking.
- 2 Facial contact behaviors, the most intimate type of wolf communication, closely resemble what humans do when they nuzzle their babies or hug and kiss one another as a greeting. Wolves use nose pushing, cheek rubbing, facial licking, and jaw wrestling to greet one another, to give a friendly welcome, or sometimes to show dominance. For example, jaw wrestling—a behavior in which two wolves mouth one another's jaws—can be a greeting or it can be a way of intimidating a lower-ranking wolf. If one wolf puts its mouth over another's muzzle, it is giving a sign of friendship. But if the first wolf has its teeth bared, the greeting is not so friendly—it is the wolf's way of establishing itself as the more dominant, or more important, member of the wolf pack.
- 3 Howling is another important way that wolves communicate. You may think that wolves howl because they are lonely, but in fact they usually howl for social purposes. Barry Lopez, author of the book *Of Wolves and Men*, says that wolves probably don't howl during a chase but often do howl after a hunt, "perhaps to celebrate a successful hunt (the presence of food), their

#### ELEMENTS OF EXPOSITORY TEXT

In paragraph 1, the writer presents a proposition, or main idea, about wolves. As you read further, look for details that support this idea.

TEKS 10C, 10D

#### CONTEXT CLUES

If the word *intimate* in paragraph 2 is unfamiliar to you, the types of behaviors it describes will give you a clue to its meaning. Nose pushing, cheek rubbing, and licking help you figure out that *intimate* means "personal, or involving close contact."

TEKS 2B

#### AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

A writer's purpose is revealed by the details that he or she chooses to include. Think about why the writer included this explanation of wolves' howling in paragraph 3.

TEKS 9

prowess, or the fact that they are all together again, that no one has been injured." Wolves howl often during breeding and courtship times (in the winter), and more often in the evening or early morning. However, contrary to popular belief, they don't howl at the moon, and they don't howl any more often when there is a full moon.

- 4 Wolves also communicate by scent marking. Wolves leave scent marks to define their territory, as if to erect an invisible fence that only other wolves with their keen sense of smell can detect. They mark their territory partly for the same reasons that we put our names and initials on our books, mailboxes, sweaters, bracelets—to say, "This is mine." Scent marks help a wolf to know if it is in its own territory. They may even keep a pack together. To leave scent marks, wolves scratch the ground every few minutes as they are traveling. And wolves on the move stop every few minutes to inspect scent marks left by other wolves.

- 5 The more we learn about these and other forms of wolf communication, the better we understand the complex social structure of wolf packs. Perhaps by gaining insight into these magnificent animals—who form enduring relationships, just as humans do—we can learn more about ourselves and our place in the world of nature.

**SUPPORTING DETAILS**

Details in paragraph 4 help to support and elaborate on the writer's proposition in paragraph 1.

**TEKS 10C, 10D**

**MAKING INFERENCES**

When you infer, you combine evidence from the text with your prior knowledge. From the ideas and language in the conclusion (paragraph 5), you can infer what the writer feels, and wants others to think, about wolves.

**Fig. 19D**

1. Which statement is the best summary of this selection?

- A Wolves are magnificent animals that are routinely misunderstood and mistreated by humans.
- B Nose pushing, cheek rubbing, and jaw wrestling are important ways in which wolves communicate.
- C Wolves are social creatures who communicate through facial contact, howling, and scent marking.
- D Many folk tales and other stories portray wolves as bloodthirsty and scary creatures.

2. Which detail supports the idea that wolves may have human-like emotions?

- F They jaw wrestle to establish dominance.
- G They use scent marks to define the pack's territory.
- H They have a complex social structure.
- J Their howling after a hunt may be a form of celebration.

3. Which of the following best describes the overall organization of the selection?

- A The writer explains the causes and effects of wolf behaviors.
- B The writer describes human social behaviors and compares them to similar behaviors of wolves.
- C The writer states a proposition about wolves and provides details to support that view.
- D The writer examines popular stories about wolves and explains why each one is untrue.

4. Another word for enduring in paragraph 5 is —

- F lasting
- G difficult
- H temporary
- J happy

5. What is the author's primary purpose in this selection?

- A To make readers appreciate the important qualities of wolves
- B To compare wolves with other pack animals
- C To explain why wolves howl
- D To encourage policies that offer protection for wolves and other wild animals

6. Read the chart below.

Humans	Wolves
Greet each other by hugging or kissing	Greet each other by nose pushing or cheek rubbing
Put their names on their possessions	Leave scent markers
Form and maintain relationships	Are family- and pack-oriented
Conclusion: _____	

Which statement belongs on the blank line?

- F Wolves are among the most advanced of wild animals.
- G Humans and wolves have more in common than people might think.
- H All wild animals have good reasons for what they do.
- J Humans and wolves are the most alike of all species of mammals.

## Reading Practice

Read this selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

*from* **Lies (People Believe)  
about Animals**

*by Susan Sussman and Robert James*

My notes about  
what I am reading

**SPIDERS**

**Lie:** THE BITE OF A TARANTULA WILL KILL YOU.

**Truth:** NO TARANTULA IS KNOWN TO BE  
DANGEROUS TO HUMANS.

- 1 Years ago, the tarantula's bite was believed to be deadly. That was before scientists began to study this huge spider. So far, none of the many species discovered and studied has proven to be dangerous. What we call a spider's "poison" is really its *catabolic enzyme*, the same sort of digestive fluid our bodies use to digest food. Like that of most spiders, the tarantula's digestive fluid can kill insects but will leave nothing more serious than an itchy swelling on a human, if that.
- 2 It is not possible for a tarantula to walk up and bite you. Like other spiders, it has no teeth. A spider's so-called bite is really a pinch made with its two claw-like legs. The claws poke a couple of holes into which the spider drips some of that catabolic enzyme. A tarantula's claws are rarely used in defense, but even when they are, the tiny pinch is not painful to humans. The real purpose of the claws is to help the tarantula catch, hold, and shovel bugs into its mouth.

Excerpt from *Lies (People Believe) about Animals* by Susan Sussman and Robert James. Text copyright © 1987 by Robert James and Susan Sussman. Reprinted by permission of Browne & Miller Literary Associates LLC on behalf of the author.

**ALLIGATORS**My notes about  
what I am reading**Lie:** ALLIGATORS OFTEN ATTACK PEOPLE.**Truth:** ALLIGATORS RARELY ATTACK PEOPLE.

- 3 Alligators know the difference between their natural prey and humans. In Florida, home to nearly a million alligators, records show just five definite and two suspected alligator-caused deaths over the last *thirty* years. If you swim in Florida's fresh waters, there is ninety-five percent probability an alligator is nearby. Obviously, if a million alligators liked the taste of people, there would be many more deaths. "Accidents," the word alligator experts use to describe biting incidents, average five a year. They are called accidents because these bites are provoked attacks caused by people trying to tease or catch alligators or people who feed alligators and hold onto the food too long. Although alligators don't normally attack humans, they *will* defend themselves—either by biting or by lashing out with their mighty tails—when they feel threatened.

**OPOSSUM****Lie:** THE OPOSSUM SLEEPS HANGING UPSIDE DOWN BY ITS TAIL.**Truth:** THE OPOSSUM SLEEPS LYING DOWN.

- 4 No opossum can sleep hanging by its tail. The tail would relax and unwind. The opossum's tail is *prehensile*, which means it can be used like a fifth hand to grasp items. Although babies are able to hang from their tails, adult opossums are too heavy and would fall. Opossums sleep lying down in earthen dens, under porches, and in other safe havens.

**ELEPHANT****Lie:** ELEPHANTS DRINK THROUGH THEIR TRUNKS.**Truth:** ELEPHANTS DRINK THROUGH THEIR MOUTHS, LIKE ALL ANIMALS.

- 5 Elephants *seem* to drink through their trunks but are really using them like giant straws to suck up gallons of water. They either squirt the water into their mouths

for a drink or spray it over their bodies. The amazing trunk is a six-foot-long nose that the elephant uses for much more than breathing and smelling. It is controlled by forty thousand muscles, and the elephant uses it to pick up the tiniest peanut from the ground or haul huge timbers in the teak forests of Thailand. It can be used as a hand to strip leaves and bark from trees and to pick brush and grass from fields and feed them into the elephant's mouth. The trunk is delicate enough to pat a baby elephant and powerful enough to smash a lion.

My notes about  
what I am reading

- 6 Elephants are the largest living land mammals in the world. Like all of the large land mammals, they are *herbivores*, or plant-eating animals. They sleep only four to six hours a day since most of their lives must be spent looking for and eating food. It takes a lot of leaves and grass to fill up animals weighing ten to twelve thousand pounds! Each day, an adult elephant eats four to six hundred pounds of vegetation and drinks sixty gallons of water.

## BATS

**Lie:** BATS ARE BLIND. THIS IS WHERE WE GET THE EXPRESSION "BLIND AS A BAT."

**Truth:** BATS AREN'T BLIND. BATS CAN SEE ABOUT AS WELL AS PEOPLE.

- 7 It was once thought bats were blind because of the jumpy way some of them swoop up, down, and around in the night sky. We now know bats can see in daylight but not at night. The problem is that bats are *nocturnal*, resting during the day and feeding at night. Finding food in the dark can be tricky. Luckily, bats have a special way of using their mouths and ears to "see" in the dark.
- 8 With mouths open wide, bats shout a special sound as they fly, a sound too high for us humans to hear. (The bat sounds we *can* hear are not food-finding cries, but the much lower-pitched squawks of bats complaining or calling to one another.) When the sound hits something—a moth, a tree, a firefly—it bounces an echo back to the bat. This is called *echolocation*. The bat can tell one echo from another, which is why it will gobble up the moth and firefly but not the tree. If a bat swoops towards you, as bats will do, it's because its

sound waves are bouncing off your buttons, barrettes, etc. As soon as the bat realizes those small objects are not bugs, it will swerve away.

My notes about  
what I am reading

## **BEARS**

**Lie:** BEARS HIBERNATE ALL WINTER.

**Truth:** SOME BEARS SLEEP MORE IN WINTER, BUT NONE ARE TRUE HIBERNATORS.

- 9 True hibernators (like the groundhog) enter a deathlike sleep in which their body temperatures drop, they barely breathe, and their hearts hardly beat. Body functions of most bears slow only slightly in winter. They still get up occasionally and move around, leaving their dens to forage for food. And some bears, like the male polar bear, grizzly bear, and bears in warm climates, may not enter a winter sleep at all.
- 10 . . . A male bear does not stay with his family. Soon after the male mates with the female, he wanders off. The female bear gives birth in her den around January or February. The inch-and-a-half-long babies are born blind and bald. One of the fastest-growing animal babies in the world, baby bears will weigh ten to fifteen pounds by the time they leave the den in spring. The female must protect her cubs from males, who have been known to eat baby bears.

Use the excerpt from *Lies (People Believe) about Animals* (pp. 69–72) to answer questions 1–6.

1 What purpose do the “Lie” and “Truth” statements serve in the article?

- A They signal the article’s cause-and-effect structure.
- B They intentionally present misinformation.
- C They introduce each section of the article.
- D They summarize the ideas that come before them.

2 Which statement from the selection proves wrong the common belief that the bite of a tarantula is deadly to humans?

- F *Years ago, the tarantula’s bite was believed to be deadly.*
- G *[T]he tarantula’s digestive fluid can kill insects but will leave nothing more serious than an itchy swelling on a human. . . .*
- H *It is not possible for a tarantula to walk up and bite you.*
- J *The real purpose of the claws is to help the tarantula catch, hold, and shovel bugs into its mouth.*

3 In paragraph 3, the word prey means —

- A the animals that a meat-eating animal usually hunts and eats
- B an aggressive or frightening animal that hunts other animals
- C a part of an animal’s natural habitat, including its hunting grounds
- D to plead for help

4 Which of the following best summarizes the selection?

- F People hold many beliefs about animals that are incorrect, including whether they pose danger to humans, how they behave, and what they are able to do.
- G Spiders don’t actually bite, opossums don’t actually sleep hanging by their tails, and bears don’t really hibernate, even though people think all of these things are true.
- H People have learned many surprising things about animals over the years.
- J Everyone misunderstands spiders, alligators, opossums, elephants, bats, and bears.



**5** With which of the following statements would the authors most likely agree?

- A** People don't know much about animals.
- B** Animals do not purposely harm humans.
- C** We continue to learn more about animals.
- D** It is impossible to understand why animals behave as they do.

**6** The authors most likely wrote this article to —

- F** persuade readers to stop believing everything they hear
- G** provide information to help readers better understand animals
- H** entertain readers by making fun of the ridiculous ideas some people have
- J** reflect on how they gave up mistaken beliefs based on incorrect information about animals

