

Directions: Read the poem "The Hummingbird's Flight" and answer questions 12 -14.

The Hummingbird's Flight

by
Deborah Fleck

How come they, so early in the spring
Chill drops upon closed bud do cling
Cold winds still blow, and rains fall down
Like the cloaking of ice covered gown.

Dart through the rain like arrow true
Strangely different petal they pursue
Free spirits they be 'til end of time
Winging their way through temperate clime.

The wind and rain now finally ceased
With shining rainbow found their peace
Water mist hangs low in air
Pearlescent nymphs without a care.

So come and seek in early spring
Mark giddy flight on hovering wing
On sunlit wings they float through air
Adorned with stained-glass plume so fair.



DIRECTIONS: Based on the poem, "The Hummingbird's Flight", answer questions 12 - 14.

12. According to the poem, what is the main reason hummingbirds take to the air in unsettling weather?
- (A) to search for food
 - (B) to free themselves
 - (C) to warm themselves
 - (D) to search for a rainbow
13. Which phrase best characterizes the poet's attitude towards hummingbirds?
- (A) "Mark giddy flight on hovering wing"
 - (B) "Dart through the rain like arrow true"
 - (C) "Water mist hangs low in air, Pearlescent nymphs without a care"
 - (D) "How come they, so early in the spring, Chill drops upon close bud do cling"
14. Based on the article "Florida's Hummingbirds" and the poem "The Hummingbird's Flight" the author and the poet share the idea that
- (A) hummingbirds are amusing to watch.
 - (B) hummingbirds are cautious creatures.
 - (C) hummingbirds are intriguing creatures.
 - (D) hummingbirds are critical to the environment.



Name: _____

Foggy Figure

by Kelly Hashway

Justin and Mary woke up early, even though they were vacationing at their uncle's lake house. The night before, Uncle Thomas told them about the Foggy Figure that haunts the lake. Justin and Mary were determined to see the ghostly creature before their vacation was over.

"Is it foggy outside?" Mary asked, as Justin peered out the window.

"Yup! Let's go!" Justin let go of the curtain and rushed to the door with Mary on his heels.

It was only 5:00AM, so everyone else in the house was still asleep. As they crept through the kitchen to the back door, Mary sniffed the air. It had the faint scent of coffee and something sweet. She shrugged it off and followed Justin out the door, down the back steps, and out onto the boat dock. The fog had settled over the lake, making it impossible to see anything.

"Do you see anything?" Mary asked, leaning forward for a closer look.

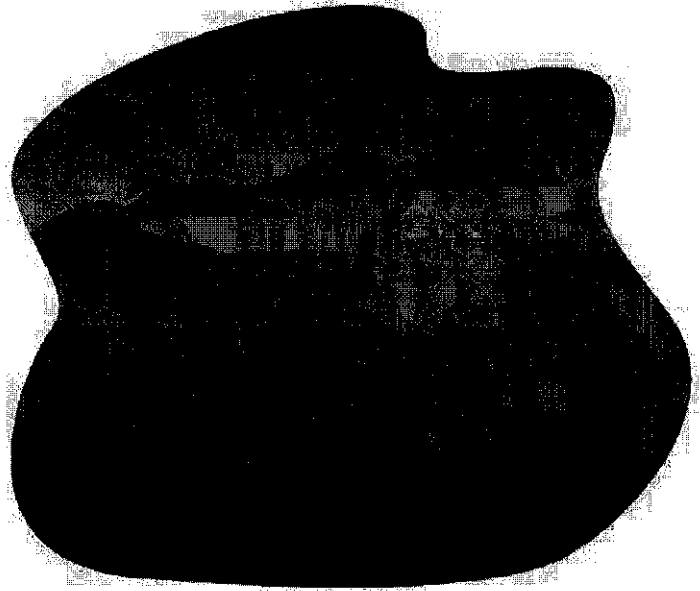
"Nothing. Do you think Uncle Thomas was just trying to scare us with that story?"

Uncle Thomas did have a good imagination. He'd been telling Justin and Mary stories for years, but this was the first scary story. Mary had a feeling it wasn't made up.

Mary shook her head. "Remember what Uncle Thomas said? The Foggy Figure haunts the lake. We're on the dock. Maybe that's why we can't see him. The people in the story were in boats."

"You want to go out on the water?" Justin asked.

Mary looked around, trying to find Uncle Thomas's boat, but the fog was too thick.



"Mom and Dad will be really angry if we go out on the lake alone in this fog," Justin said.

Mary shrugged. "Maybe we don't have to go anywhere. We could sit in the boat while it's docked. That wouldn't be dangerous."

"Okay." Justin crept toward the end of the dock. He could barely see the outline of the boat. "I'll go first." He carefully lowered himself into the boat and then reached for Mary's hand.

Mary climbed into the boat and sat beside him. She was getting nervous now that they were on the water. "See anything?"

They looked around, and gradually, the fog began to lift. Mary turned around and screamed. "The Foggy Figure!" It was in the boat with them!

Justin and Mary hugged each other in fear, but then they heard a laugh. Justin leaned toward the Foggy Figure. "Uncle Thomas?"

"I knew that story would get you two out of bed early enough to take a boat ride with me."

Mary sighed, happy there was no Foggy Figure after all. Justin looked relieved, too.

Uncle Thomas laughed. "What do you say? I packed a breakfast for us."

Mary smiled. She *had* smelled coffee. And Uncle Thomas had packed pastries for them, too.

"Let's do it," Mary and Justin said.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

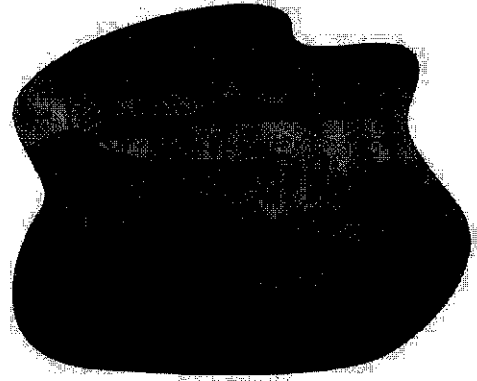
Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

Name: _____

Foggy Figure

by Kelly Hashway



1. When does this story take place?
 - a. shortly before or after dawn
 - b. shortly before or after dusk
 - c. in the middle of the night
 - d. after their vacation is over

2. Uncle Thomas told Justin and Mary stories about...
 - a. a haunted figure that scared campers in tents
 - b. a haunted figure that can be seen from the shore every night
 - c. a haunted figure on the lake that many boaters have seen
 - d. real creatures that lived deep below the lake's surface

3. Based on the information in the story, which word best describes Uncle Thomas? (Circle one)

scared

hard-working

lonely

creative

Tell why you chose the word above.

4. Why didn't Justin and Mary take the boat out on the lake alone?
 - a. They were too scared.
 - b. The boat engine wouldn't start.
 - c. They did not have any paddles.
 - d. They thought their parents would be mad.

Name: _____

Foggy Figure

Questions, Page 2



5. In a mystery story, the author will sometimes add *clues* in the story that readers can use to help readers figure out the ending. This is called *foreshadowing*.

How did Kelly Hashway use foreshadowing in the fourth paragraph of this story? Tell what clue was written into the story and how readers could have used this clue to predict the ending of the story.

6. Do you think it was dangerous for Justin and Mary to venture out onto the boat dock? Explain your answer.

Name: _____

Foggy Figure

by Kelly Hashway



The words below are scrambled words from the story. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.

1.

g	o	f
y	g	

Clue: having low clouds near the surface of the land or water

2.

o	d
k	c

Clue: wooden pathway on water for fishing or keeping boats

3.

r	a	n
y	g	

Clue: upset

4.

d	u	l	y	r
a	g	a	l	

Clue: slowly; not all at once

5.

a	t	p	r
s	s	e	i

Clue: doughnuts, danishes, and other sweet breakfast foods

6.

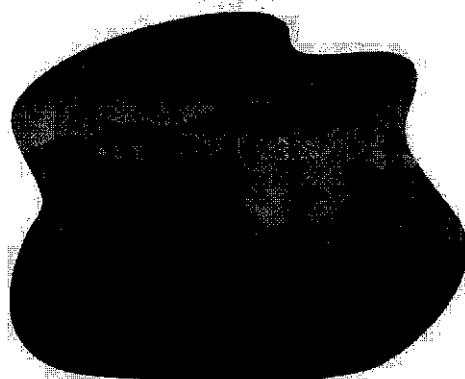
n	v	r	u
s	e	o	

Clue: feeling worried

ANSWER KEY

Foggy Figure

by Kelly Hashway



1. When does this story take place? **a**
 - a. shortly before or after dawn
 - b. shortly before or after dusk
 - c. in the middle of the night
 - d. after their vacation is over
2. Uncle Thomas told Justin and Mary stories about... **c**
 - a. a haunted figure that scared campers in tents
 - b. a haunted figure that can be seen from the shore every night
 - c. a haunted figure on the lake that many boaters have seen
 - d. real creatures that lived deep below the lake's surface

3. Based on the information in the story, which word best describes Uncle Thomas? (Circle one)

scared

hard-working

lonely

creative

Tell why you chose the word above.

He is creative because he made up imaginative ghost stories the night before.

4. Why didn't Justin and Mary take the boat out on the lake alone? **d**
 - a. They were too scared.
 - b. The boat engine wouldn't start.
 - c. They did not have any paddles.
 - d. They thought their parents would be mad.

ANSWER KEY

Foggy Figure

Questions, Page 2



5. In a mystery story, the author will sometimes add *clues* in the story that readers can use to help readers figure out the ending. This is called *foreshadowing*.

How did Kelly Hashway use foreshadowing in the fourth paragraph of this story? Tell what clue was written into the story and how readers could have used this clue to predict the ending of the story.

Kelly Hashway mentions the smell of coffee and sweet foods in the 4th paragraph of the story. Later on, we find out that it was Uncle Thomas making breakfast.

6. Do you think it was dangerous for Justin and Mary to venture out onto the boat dock? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

Some students might say it was safe because they did not choose to go out on the boat. They may also say it was safe because the Foggy Figure is not real.

Other students may say that it was dangerous to go near the water without adult supervision.

ANSWER KEY

Foggy Figure

by Kelly Hashway



The words below are scrambled words from the story.

Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Check back in the story to make sure each word is spelled correctly.

1.

g	o	f
y	g	

foggy

Clue: having low clouds near the surface of the land or water

2.

o	d
k	c

dock

Clue: wooden pathway on water for fishing or keeping boats

3.

r	a	n
y	g	

angry

Clue: upset

4.

d	u	l	y	r
a	g	a	l	

gradually

Clue: slowly; not all at once

5.

a	t	p	r
s	s	e	i

pastries

Clue: doughnuts, danishes, and other sweet breakfast foods

6.

n	v	r	u
s	e	o	

nervous

Clue: feeling worried

Name: _____

Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

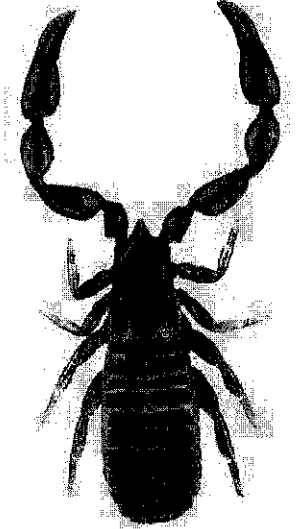
by Liana Mahoney

Imagine this. You step up to the sink, wet your toothbrush, and begin cleaning your pearly whites. Out of the corner of your eye, you see something moving on the wall. Suddenly, you realize you're not alone in the bathroom. Your heart pounding, you turn toward the tiny intruder to get a better look.

You're horrified to see that it has eight legs, and a pair of oversized pincers on its front end. Is it some kind of miniature octopus, or a bizarre crab? Is it going to sting you?

Actually, it's a bug, and it's no more harmful to you than a housefly. This tiny bathroom bug is called a pseudoscorpion (SOO-doh-SCOR-pee-uhn). But don't be fooled by its name. It's not really a scorpion; it's just a relative. The pseudoscorpion is a kind of arachnid (uh-RAK-nid), which means it is closely related to spiders, scorpions, and mites. Like scorpions, pseudoscorpions have a segmented body and two enormous pincers. But pseudoscorpions lack the curved stinger that all true scorpions have.

Pseudoscorpions usually live outside in mulch, under tree bark, and in leaf litter. So how do they end up in the bathroom? They use those pincer-like claws to hitch a ride on other bugs, such as flies and beetles. When these insects come in, so do the pseudoscorpions - attached to their legs!



These tiny arachnids prefer moist places. Since the bathroom tends to be humid after bathing and showering, it's a likely place to find them. But they are easily overlooked. Most pseudoscorpions are only about two to eight millimeters long.

Pseudoscorpions don't bite or sting humans, and they can even be helpful. These bugs feed on common household pests, such as carpet beetle larvae, ants, mites, and small flies. Welcoming this hitchhiker into your home may mean there are fewer household pests to "bug" you!

Name: _____

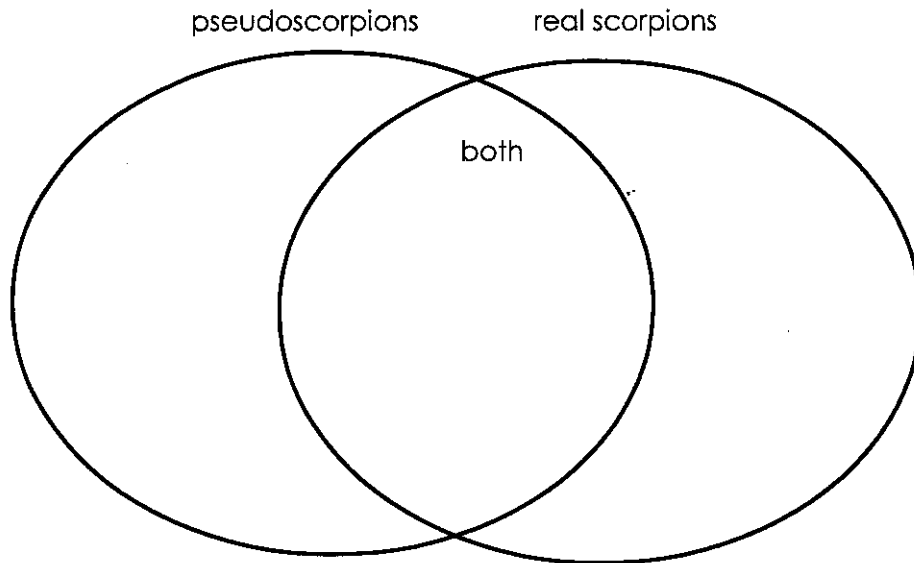
Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

by Liana Mahoney



1. If you wanted to find a pseudoscorpion outdoors, where would you look?

2. Use the Venn diagram to show how pseudoscorpions and real scorpions are alike and how they're different.



3. How can pseudoscorpions be helpful to humans?

Name: _____

Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

by Liana Mahoney



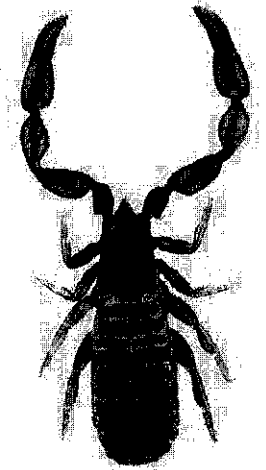
Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. bizarre | a. the immature forms of an insect |
| _____ 2. moist | b. having a very small size |
| _____ 3. enormous | c. strange, unusual |
| _____ 4. miniature | d. extremely scared or shocked |
| _____ 5. larvae | e. somewhat wet or damp |
| _____ 6. intruder | f. divided into sections |
| _____ 7. segmented | g. very large in size; huge |
| _____ 8. horrified | h. invader |

ANSWER KEY

Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

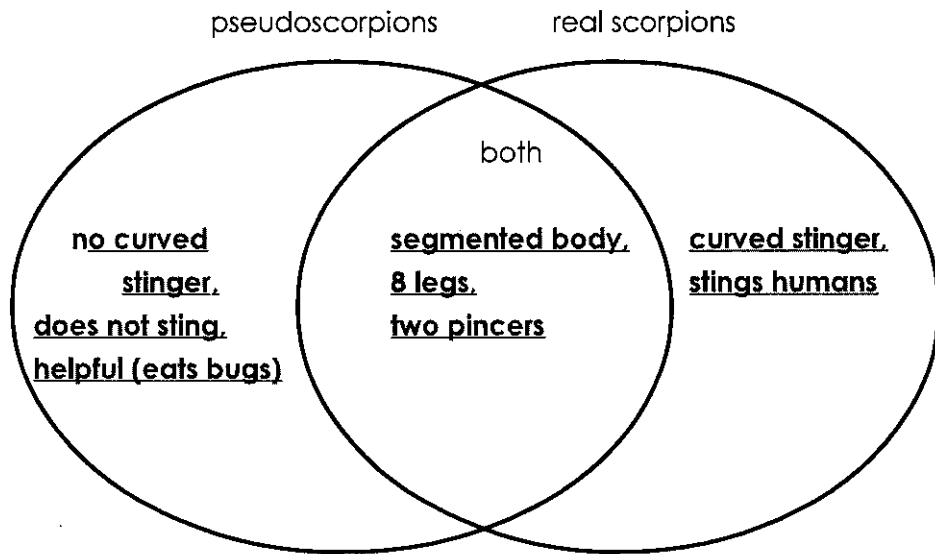
by Liana Mahoney



1. If you wanted to find a pseudoscorpion outdoors, where would you look?

Pseudoscorpions usually live outside in mulch, under tree bark, and in leaf litter.

2. Use the Venn diagram to show how pseudoscorpions and real scorpions are alike and how they're different.



3. How can pseudoscorpions be helpful to humans?

Pseudoscorpions feed on common household pests, such as carpet beetle larvae, mites, and small flies.

ANSWER KEY

Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

by Liana Mahoney



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| c. | 1. bizarre | a. | the immature forms of an insect |
| e. | 2. moist | b. | having a very small size |
| g. | 3. enormous | c. | strange, unusual |
| b. | 4. miniature | d. | extremely scared or shocked |
| a. | 5. larvae | e. | somewhat wet or damp |
| h. | 6. intruder | f. | divided into sections |
| f. | 7. segmented | g. | very large in size; huge |
| d. | 8. horrified | h. | invader |

The Race for President

ELA 8 Wagner
Day 4

How does the Electoral College work?

1 Have you ever heard about the controversy that surrounded the presidential election of 2000? In one of the closest political races in United States history, more people voted for Vice-President Al Gore than Texas governor George W. Bush. How did Bush become President then? It is because he received a larger number of electoral votes.

2 The person with the most votes in the race for President of the United States is not necessarily the winner. Instead, the United States has a system called the *Electoral College* in which candidates are awarded a set number of votes for each state they win. For example, the candidate who receives the most votes in Florida earns 25 electoral votes and in Nebraska earns 5. This is partly because more people live in Florida than in Nebraska.

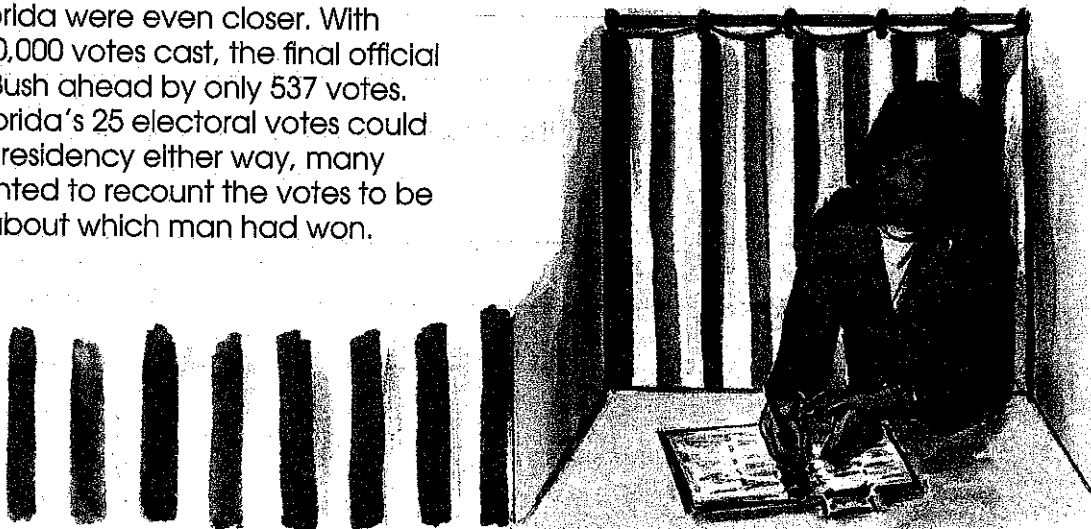
3 There are a total of 538 electoral votes available from all of the states, including three votes from the District of Columbia. To become President, the candidate must receive at least half of the electoral votes, or a minimum of 270 votes.

4 In the 2000 election, Al Gore actually received 500,000 more votes than George W. Bush. However, Bush received 271 electoral votes compared to Gore's 266. It was a very close race, but the election results in Florida were even closer. With nearly 6,000,000 votes cast, the final official count put Bush ahead by only 537 votes. Because Florida's 25 electoral votes could swing the presidency either way, many people wanted to recount the votes to be confident about which man had won.

5 For more than a month, people recounted votes, and the candidates and their supporters waited anxiously for the results. Finally, on December 12, 2000, the Supreme Court of the United States decided that enough recounting had been done. The accepted totals meant that George W. Bush would be President. Even though Al Gore was not happy about this decision, he conceded the election. He said that his supporters should put all of their energy into respecting the new President.

6 Some people believe that the Electoral College system is not a fair way to elect our Presidents. They feel that when a candidate wins the election in a state, the votes for the other candidate do not count. The winner receives all of the electoral votes, no matter how close the race might have been.

7 Supporters of the Electoral College system believe that it helps smaller, less populated states have a voice in the election. They feel that if the winner was simply the person with the most votes, candidates would campaign only in big cities and in states like California, Texas, and Florida. The Electoral College ensures that every part of the United States has a voice in an election. As the 2000 presidential election proved, even the three electoral votes available in Wyoming would have changed the final result.



Write the words from the passage that have the meanings below.

1. a public event or issue about which two sides have different views

_____ Par. 1

2. the least _____ Par. 3

3. feeling nervous and uncertain _____ Par. 5

4. gave up or gave in _____ Par. 5

5. lived in; occupied by _____ Par. 7

6. makes sure _____ Par. 7

7. Check the line beside the word that best describes what type of selection this is.

_____ informational _____ persuasive _____ fiction

8. What is the smallest number of electoral votes a candidate must receive to win the presidency?

9. Why do some states have more electoral votes than others?

10. Why do some people feel that the Electoral College is not a fair way to elect the president?

11. Why do some people believe that the Electoral College is a good system to elect the president?

12. Why did people want the votes in Florida to be recounted?

Nonfiction Reading Test

Wintertime

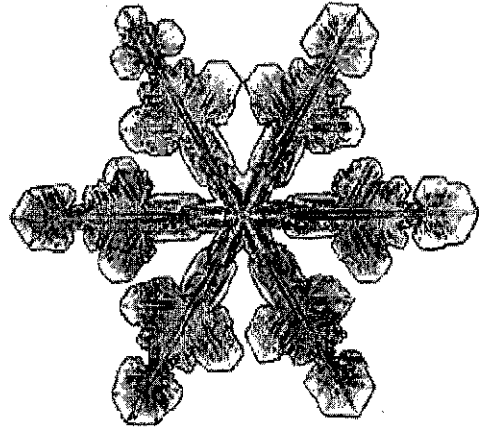
Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Brrrr. Winter is cold in some places. Many plants do not grow during winter. Some plants die. Snow and ice may cover the ground. It can be hard for animals to find food during winter. Animals get through this time in many ways.

Birds and butterflies can fly. Many of them do not stick around for the winter. They leave. They go to a place with nice weather. Then they come home in the spring. We call this migration. Migrating is a good way to avoid the cold.

Another good way to avoid the cold is to sleep through it. Many animals hide during the winter. Their bodies slow down. They save their energy. They do not eat. They live off of their fat. They do this until food returns. We call this hibernation. Snakes, frogs, and bears hibernate.

Some animals store food in their homes. They do not sleep all winter, but they do much less. They live on what they saved in the summer and fall. This is what squirrels, beavers, and raccoons do. Skunks do this too.



Other animals tough it out. They do not leave. They do not hide. They must survive. Sometimes nature helps them out. Some animals grow thicker coats in the winter. Other animals change color. The arctic fox is brown in the summer. His coat turns white in the winter.

Winter may be pretty. It is nice to see snow on the trees. But it is dangerous too. People are also at risk. You can get frost bitten or worse. How do you beat the winter? Do you wear a thick coat? Do you stay inside? Or do you live somewhere warm?

1. Which of these animals migrates during the winter?
 - a. foxes
 - b. snakes
 - c. bears
 - d. butterflies

2. Which of these animals survives winter by eating stored food?

- a. bears
- b. raccoons
- c. frogs
- d. birds

3. Why does the arctic fox's coat change white during winter?

- a. The white coat is prettier and attracts mates.
- b. White absorbs the sun and is warmer.
- c. The white coat helps him blend with the snow.
- d. His body saves energy by reducing hair color.

4. Which does not hibernate?

- a. skunks
- b. frogs
- c. snakes
- d. bears

5. Why is winter a difficult season in some places?

- a. There is less food.
- b. It is colder.
- c. Snow and ice cover the ground.
- d. All of these

6. What does it mean to migrate?

- a. To grow a thicker coat
- b. To move somewhere warmer for a season
- c. To enter a long sleep and survive off of body fat
- d. To change colors

7. What is the main idea of this text?

- a. Animals do funny and interesting things.
- b. Most flowers do not grow during the wintertime.
- c. Animals survive the winter in many ways.
- d. We must prepare for the dangers of winter.

8. How does a hibernating animal survive?

- a. A hibernating animal lives off of stored food.
- b. A hibernating animal lives off of body fat.
- c. A hibernating animal lives somewhere warm.
- d. A hibernating animal lives off of the land.

9. How would a thicker coat help an animal survive winter?

- a. A thicker coat would help an animal hide better.
- b. A thicker coat would protect an animal against attacks.
- c. A thicker coat would help an animal stay warm.
- d. A thicker coat would help an animal migrate.

10. Which title would best describe this text?

- a. *Winter: A Time to Migrate*
- b. *Hibernation: Sleeping it off*
- c. *Survive: How Animals Beat the Winter*
- d. *Birds and Butterflies: Nature's Movers and Shakers*

Describe how a skunk survives the winter. List the steps that the skunk must take to survive in chronological order.

Why is migrating a good way to get through the winter? Refer to the text in your answer.

How is the way that frogs and snakes get through the winter different from how squirrels and beavers survive?
