

Included are literary and informational selections in a variety of genres

Read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

### How Bears Got Stumpy Tails

*Based on a folktale from Norway*

Many years ago, bears did not have short tails. Bears' tails were long and furry. Their tails dragged behind them on the ground. When two bears walked together, one bear would step on the other bear's tail. Their tails would fill with mud when they walked through the forest after a rain.

One day, a little bear with an extra-long, bushy tail had an idea. "If I could just think of a way to keep my tail off the ground," he said to himself, "no one would step on it again. It wouldn't get muddy." He thought and thought. "I know what to do!" he shouted. "I'll tie balloons to my tail. The balloons will float and hold my tail high in the air."

The little bear hurried to the store. He bought six brightly colored balloons. The bear tied long strings to the balloons. Then, he tied the balloons to the end of his tail. As he walked into the woods, his tail no longer dragged behind him. Instead, it floated in the air.



His bear friends saw the sight of the balloons attached to his tail. The little bear, with his clean tail,"

The trees poked into the balloons. Pop, pop, pop! Pop, one by one. With each pop, the bear's tail sank lower and lower behind him on the ground. All four friends

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- Why does the little bear tie balloons to the end of his tail?
  - He does not like his short tail.
  - He does not like living in the forest.
  - He wants to be noticed by the other bears.
  - He wants to keep his tail from dragging on the ground.

- From whose point of view is the story told?
  - the point of view of the narrator
  - the point of view of the little bear
  - the point of view of the little bear's friend
  - the point of view of the bear who yanked the rope

- How are the illustrations important to the story?
  - They show the little bear's tail.
  - They show the characters of the story.
  - They show important events in the story.
  - They show why the bear does not like his tail.

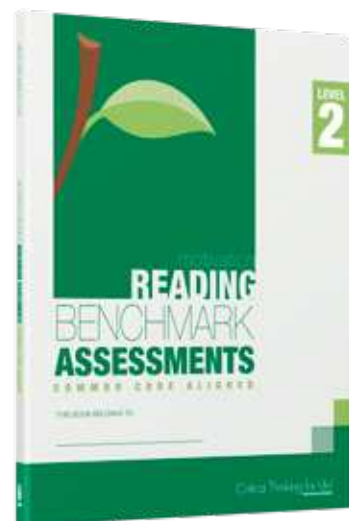
- What might happen the next time little bear's friends need a problem solved?
  - They will tie ropes to their tails.
  - They will laugh at the little bear.
  - They will not listen to the little bear.
  - They will ask the little bear for advice.

- Read the chart of events from the story.

- The little bear ties balloons to his tail.
- The little bear's friends laugh at him.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- The other bears want stumpy tails.

What event belongs on the blank line?

- The little bear's friends break his tail.
- The friends step on the little bear's tail.
- The balloons pop because of tree branches.
- The little bear drags his long, furry tail behind him.



11. Rewrite the last paragraph by adding a new ending to the story.

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12. Write a paragraph to explain how the little bear

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Read the article and then answer the questions.

### Animal Notes

A Monthly Journal of Interesting Animals

June

#### The Long-legged Bird by Robert Anderson

The flamingo is not an ordinary bird. It stands on just one of its stick-like legs. The flamingo even sleeps standing on one leg. This behavior adds to the mystery of this long-legged bird. Its habits are as interesting as its color. The name of this bird means flame. The bird's bright feathers are shades of pink and red which make it easy to identify.



A female flamingo lays a single egg in a nest. The nest is twelve inches in height. It is built of mud and small sticks with feathers. The mother and father share the task of building the nest. When the chick hatches from the egg, both parents take care of it. The flamingo is not born with flame-colored feathers. The flamingo is born with gray or white. It has a red bill which becomes black. The color of the chick's feathers changes as it eats. The color of the chick's feathers changes as it eats. The color of the chick's feathers changes as it eats.

The flamingo is a social animal. It lives in large groups. This bird feels safe when it is with other birds of its kind. This bird is known to defend the nest of another flamingo. This bird is noisy. It grunts, growls, and honks to gain attention and to protect itself.

13. Robert Anderson **most likely** wrote this article to
- Ⓐ describe features of flamingos.
  - Ⓑ explain how to care for flamingos.
  - Ⓒ convince zookeepers to keep flamingos.
  - Ⓓ answer questions about why flamingos are disappearing.

14. Who cares for the eggs laid by flamingos?
- Ⓐ other young flamingos
  - Ⓑ the mother flamingo
  - Ⓒ the father flamingo
  - Ⓓ both parents

15. The **main** topic of paragraph 3 is
- Ⓐ the food flamingos eat.
  - Ⓑ the places where flamingos live.
  - Ⓒ the reason flamingos live in groups.
  - Ⓓ the rituals performed by flamingos.

16. Which sentence does not match one of the photographs in the article?

- Ⓐ *The flamingo even sleeps standing on one leg.*
- Ⓑ *A female flamingo lays a single egg in a nest.*
- Ⓒ *The flamingo then scoops the food with its thick bill.*
- Ⓓ *These birds also perform wing salutes by stretching their wings to show their colors.*

17. Read this sentence from the article.

*The flamingo performs strange rituals.*

What is the meaning of the word rituals as it is used in this sentence?

- Ⓐ eating habits
- Ⓑ game-like activities
- Ⓒ repeated behaviors
- Ⓓ sleeping patterns

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Each unit provides selected-response, constructed-response, and performance task formats

Read the next two selections and then answer the questions that follow.

### One Cool Cartoon Cat

Jim Davis was born in Marion, Indiana. He grew up on a cow farm. He lived with his mother, father, and younger brother, Davey. Many stray cats wandered into the Davis's barnyard. At one time, twenty-five cats lived on their farm.

Jim's family worked as farmers. He might have been a farmer also, but Jim caused him to stay indoors. Instead of caring pictures of cows. Jim labeled his pictures and his artwork. He practiced and his drawings words to his pictures. He thought the words

art in college. Later, he worked for a man sons for newspapers. Jim created pictures e tried to sell as told that no ng. He decided to cartoon.



pers to look for there were many t cats. He used and his art skills to mbered farm cats ned Garfield to old is a fat and lazy lasagna. Jim named this cartoon cat after his s.

41 newspapers. Today, it is enjoyed by millions of readers. most widely read cartoons in the ated one cool cat!

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### Drawing a Cartoon Dog

Cartoonists use pictures and words to express themselves. The cartoons they create are usually funny. The words added to the funny drawings make the cartoons more interesting. Cartoon artists observe the world around them to gather ideas. They use these ideas to create one-of-a-kind drawings.

Animals are often used in cartoons. A popular animal in cartoons is a dog. Follow the directions in the chart to create a cartoon dog.

#### How to Draw a Cartoon Dog

- Step 1:** Draw a shape like a large banana.
- Step 2:** On the left end of the banana shape, draw an oval for a nose.
- Step 3:** Draw dots near the nose for whiskers.
- Step 4:** Draw a thin line for the mouth.
- Step 5:** Draw an oval shape below the mouth for the tongue.
- Step 6:** Draw two circles for the eyes. Overlap them on the upper part of the banana shape.
- Step 7:** Draw two small circles inside the eyes for the pupils.
- Step 8:** Draw two small circles for the ears.
- Step 9:** Draw several lines for the fur.
- Step 10:** Draw two small circles for the eyes to make the eyes look like they are looking at you.
- Step 11:** Draw an oval shape for the bottom of the dog's head.
- Step 12:** Draw a rectangle for the dog's neck.

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Use "One Cool Cartoon Cat" to answer questions 25 – 28.

25. What is the **main** topic of paragraph 2 in "One Cool Cartoon Cat"?
- A Jim creates Garfield the cat.
  - B Jim learns how to draw cartoons.
  - C Jim Davis grows up on a cow farm.
  - D Jim draws pictures because he must stay indoors.
26. Why does Jim label his first drawings?
- A to name what is in the pictures
  - B to practice his writing skills
  - C to make his pictures funny
  - D to learn to write stories
27. Which sentence from the passage explains why Jim creates Garfield?
- A Jim created pictures with funny stories about a gnat.
  - B Jim was told that no one would enjoy reading about a bug.
  - C Jim studied cartoons in newspapers to look for ideas for illustrations.
  - D Garfield is a fat and lazy orange ball of fur who loves to eat lasagna.
28. Read this sentence from the passage.
- Cartoonist Jim Davis has definitely created one cool cat!*
- The *-ist* in the word **Cartoonist** has the same meaning as the *-ist* in the word
- A blister.
  - B colonist.
  - C list.
  - D misty.

