

## What is a snow eater?

- 1 A snow eater is a special wind. It blows only at certain places and times. One of these places is in the Rocky Mountains. The special time is most often late winter or early spring. The mountains are still covered with snow then.
- 2 One day a wind comes from the west. The wind blows up the west side of the mountain. It drops rain there. So it gets drier and drier as it climbs. Soon the wind reaches the top of the mountain. Cold air there keeps it from going higher.
- 3 Then the dry wind starts down the other side of the mountain. As it travels down, a strange thing happens. The wind becomes warmer and warmer. Its temperature can climb 30°F to 40°F in just a short time. The warm wind melts the snow at the foot of the mountain. As if by magic, animals can feed on grass that had been covered with snow only a few hours before.
- 4 This wind is called the snow eater or *chinook* (shuh•NOOK). The warm, dry wind may last only a few hours. Sometimes it lasts a few days. No one can tell when the snow eater will come again.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

- The snow eater happens in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Rocky Mountains
  - White Mountains
  - Appalachian Mountains
  - Sierra Nevada Mountains
- Which word in paragraph 3 means “how hot or cold something is”?
  - climb
  - temperature
  - dry
  - warm
- Which paragraph tells another name for the snow eater?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
- The snow eater gets drier as it climbs because it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - gets cold
  - drops rain
  - melts snow
  - blows hard
- Foot* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.
  - motion of walking or running
  - part of a person’s leg
  - the lowest part
  - 12 inches

 6. Do you think *snow eater* is a good name for this wind? Tell why or why not.

## Why did Native Americans make totem poles?

- 1 Many Native Americans used to think that animals watched over them. They called these animals totems (TOH•tumz). The word *totem* means “brother.”
- 2 Old stories tell how each family got its own totem. In one Native American tale, an eagle brought fish to a hungry boy. The boy’s family thought that the eagle was guarding him. They took the eagle as their totem. It became their special sign. When people saw a picture of an eagle, they knew which family it stood for.
- 3 Some Native Americans used to make hats or masks with their totems on them. Those near the Pacific Ocean did something else. These people were great wood carvers. They lived near tall forests. So they carved their totems into logs. The carvings are called totem poles. Each one told a story. These “story books” were then used in different ways. Some poles held up the roofs of houses. Others stood in front of homes to show who lived inside. Some totem poles even told about friends who had died.
- 4 Rain and time have destroyed many of these totem poles. But a few can still be found today. They tell a lot about the Native Americans who made them.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A where the wood carvers lived  
B old Native American tales  
C canoes carved from logs  
D what totem poles told
  
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “tree trunks that have been cut”?  
A logs  
B poles  
C forests  
D carvers
  
3. Which paragraph tells why one family took an eagle for its totem?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. Native Americans near the Pacific Ocean carved totems into logs mostly because they \_\_\_\_\_.  
A ran out of masks  
B liked carrying wood  
C lived near tall forests  
D needed to hold up their roofs
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that Native Americans \_\_\_\_\_ animals.  
A sold  
B feared  
C mocked  
D respected

 6. Think about the animal you would want for your totem. Explain why you would choose this animal.

## How are ladybugs useful?

- 1 The brightly colored ladybug has always been a farmer's friend. In the western United States, thousands of ladybugs fly to the fields each spring. After eating other insects, ladybugs lay their eggs and die.
- 2 In only five days, young ladybugs hatch and eat hungrily. They feed on insects called aphids (AY•fidz) that eat the farmers' plants. They eat most of the aphids in two or three weeks. Then the young ladybugs rest for a week. They change into the red-and-black bugs that people know.
- 3 The grown ladybugs are even hungrier than the young ladybugs were. But by now, there are very few aphids left to eat. The hungry ladybugs fly high into the air.
- 4 Warm winds carry them to the hills where they will find more food. The ladybugs stay there until the next spring.
- 5 The aphids come back as soon as the ladybugs leave. Again the aphids start eating plants. So some farmers buy sacks of ladybugs. Some of the ladybugs stay to eat the aphids. But others fly off to the hills. Farmers are looking for ways to keep the useful ladybug on the farm.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ladybug.  
A eggs  
B food  
C color  
D wings
  
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “become different”?  
A rest  
B feed  
C hatch  
D change
  
3. Which paragraph tells when ladybugs change colors?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. What happens first after ladybugs are born?  
A They change colors.  
B They feed on aphids.  
C They rest for a week.  
D They fly off to the hills.
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that ladybugs \_\_\_\_\_.  
A live only in the East  
B are afraid of people  
C hurt farmers  
D have wings



6. What do you think farmers could do to keep ladybugs on their farms?

## What is a barn raising?

- 1 The Amish (AH•mish) people of Pennsylvania still live as they did many years ago. They plow their fields with horses. They have no cars or electricity. They wear plain clothes.
- 2 The Amish believe in caring for their neighbors. When fire burns down a friend's barn, they all get together and build a new one. This is called a barn raising.
- 3 On the day of a barn raising, the Amish get up earlier than usual. First they do their own farm chores. Then whole families climb into their wagons. The horses take them to their neighbor's farm. More than 200 people may get there before 7 A.M.
- 4 Everyone pitches in to build the new barn. The men cut wood and hammer it into place. Some children carry nails and tools to workers. Others help their mothers cook delicious food. In the middle of the morning, everyone stops for a snack. At noon, they sit down to great dishes like chicken-corn soup and shoofly pie. By 4 P.M., the new barn is finished. Then the Amish go home. They helped a neighbor. And they had a chance to work, eat, and laugh together.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell \_\_\_\_\_.  
A what the Amish grow  
B what the Amish wear  
C where the Amish live  
D how the Amish plow
  
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “things that have to be done”?  
A farm  
B chores  
C raising  
D wagons
  
3. Which paragraph tells what happens at a barn raising?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. On the day of a barn raising, the Amish get up earlier than usual so they can \_\_\_\_\_.  
A bake pies  
B eat a snack  
C do their own chores  
D walk to a neighbor’s farm
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that most Amish \_\_\_\_\_.  
A don’t have television  
B don’t have fun  
C drive trucks  
D sleep late



6. Would you like to live on an Amish farm? Tell why or why not.

## Does a giant redwood tree have giant roots?

- 1 Most trees have deep, wide roots. These roots feed the trees and hold them in the ground.
- 2 The redwood is the giant of trees. It can be as tall as a 25-story building. You might think that a redwood would have giant roots. But these huge trees grow on rocky ground. A redwood tree may have roots that are only eight feet deep.
- 3 Why doesn't the tree fall over? First, redwood roots really spread out. Just one redwood tree may have roots that cover a space the size of a football field. Redwood trees also grow very close together. The roots of one tree are tangled with the roots of many others. Each set of roots helps to hold all the trees in the ground.
- 4 What happens when many redwood trees are cut down all at once? The roots of other redwood trees around them are hurt. After a while, these trees die. The redwood forest thins out. There is more space between the trees. The wind can now blow down a tree. The redwood forest dies, tree by tree. It takes careful cutting and planting of new trees to keep redwood forests alive.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. Redwood trees \_\_\_\_\_.  
A have deep roots  
B have short trunks  
C grow in sandy soil  
D grow close together
  
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “wrapped around each other”?  
A together  
B tangled  
C spread  
D cover
  
3. Which paragraph tells how a redwood forest can die?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. The redwood forest thins out when \_\_\_\_\_.  
A roots spread out  
B roots tangle together  
C trees grow on rocky ground  
D trees are cut down all at once
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that redwood forests are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A easy to cut down  
B easy to walk through  
C killed by careless people  
D all over the United States

6. What do you think should be done about redwood forests? Should people keep cutting them down, cut less, or stop cutting? Tell why you think that.