

How does a dragonfly use its legs?

- 1 A dragonfly has six long legs. They are not made for walking. The dragonfly has another use for its legs.
- 2 The dragonfly is one of the fastest flying insects in the world. It goes 50 to 60 miles an hour. Its four large wings are always open. It is easy for it to catch up with other insects.
- 3 As the dragonfly flies, it bends its legs under its body. Each leg is covered with stiff hairs, or spines. These legs and their spines form a kind of basket. The dragonfly flies above an insect. As it passes over, it catches the insect in the basket formed by its legs. The dragonfly picks the insect out of the basket and eats it.
- 4 The dragonfly mostly eats while it flies. Sometimes it may stop to eat a large insect. Then its legs cling to a leaf or twig. It can even take a few steps. But with such strong wings, a dragonfly doesn't need legs to get around.
- 5 A dragonfly spends every daylight minute looking for food. It seems to know it doesn't have much time. The dragonfly lives only a few weeks.

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 dragonfly.
A legs
B color
C wings
D speed
2. Which word in paragraph 4 means “hold on tightly”?
A stop
B take
C cling
D strong
3. Which paragraph tells how many wings the dragonfly has?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
4. Before the dragonfly can catch an insect in its basket, it must _____.
A take a few steps
B fly above the insect
C fly beside the insect
D cling to a leaf or twig
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that dragonflies _____.
A don't eat at night
B don't use their legs
C never eat small insects
D like to eat standing still



6. What would it be like if you could fly? Tell about what you would do.

What is a love apple?

- 1 Indians in South America once grew many plants that no one else had seen. One of these plants had green leaves with bright fruit. The Indians called it the *tomatl* (toh•MAH•tuhl). In the 1500s, Spaniards came to the New World. They saw the strange new plant and gathered its seeds to send to Spain.
- 2 The plant was pretty. People in Spain began to grow the *tomate*, as they called it, in their flower gardens. Soon it was being grown in other countries, too. Each time the plant found a new home, it also found a new name. In Italy, the fruit was called the “apple of gold.” In France, it became known as the “apple of love.” For the next 300 years, people called tomatoes “love apples.”
- 3 People grew love apples with their roses. They put the pretty plants in vases and set them on their tables. But no one ate the fruit. People thought that love apples were dangerous to eat. In fact, love apples were sometimes tossed to wolves to kill them. This gave love apples still another name—“wolf peaches.”
- 4 Very slowly, people learned that love apples were safe to eat. Today, tomatoes are a favorite food of people all over the world.

Does it ever snow in the desert?

- 1 A place is called a desert because it is very dry. Many people think that deserts must be hot as well as dry. They are only half right. It is true that the world's deserts are always dry. It is not true that all of them are always hot.
- 2 In hot parts of the world, the deserts are hot all year round. But even these hot deserts cool down at night.
- 3 In cooler parts of the world, the deserts are cold at night. They are also cold in winter. Many frozen places in the world are also deserts. The ice cap of Greenland, for example, is an ice desert.
- 4 All deserts, hot or cold, get some rain. It may last only a few minutes. And it may come only once a year. But sometimes this rain falls on a cold desert in winter. When that happens, cold air changes the rain to snow. In fact, cold deserts high in the mountains often get snowstorms. So the answer is yes, it does snow in the desert.

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 _____ in the desert.
A rain
B snow
C plants
D winter

2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “turned into ice”?
A cooler
B frozen
C winter
D night

3. Which paragraph tells about the ice cap in Greenland?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. The article does not say, but you can decide that cold deserts _____.
A do not get many days of snow
B are always on flat land
C are only cold at night
D get heavy rain

5. *Cap* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.
A fitting for the end of a tube
B natural cover or top
C limit
D hat

 6. Which would you rather visit, a hot desert or a cold one? Why?

Who was Laika?

- 1 People first heard about Laika in 1957. That year on November 3, the Soviet Union sent a satellite (SA•tuh•lyt) into space. It was called Sputnik 2. The world's first space traveler was onboard. She was a dog named Laika, which means "barker."
- 2 Laika was placed in the satellite three days before the start of the mission. The temperature was very cold that time of year. So a hose connected to a heater was used to keep her container warm. Just before liftoff, sensors were placed on Laika so scientists could monitor her body.
- 3 For years, many people thought that Laika traveled in space for at least four days before she died. But later a scientist who worked on the mission told a different story. He explained that Laika had died just a few hours after launch because of heat and stress.
- 4 Until Sputnik 2 went up, no one knew what would happen to living things in space. Since Laika's short mission, scientists have learned a lot about safe space travel. But people should not forget Laika. She will always be the first living creature from Earth to enter space.

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

1. People now know that Laika _____.
A was smarter than a horse
B didn't live long in space
C didn't bark in space
D liked to travel

2. Which word in paragraph 3 means "taught"?
A live
B showed
C trained
D circled

3. Which paragraph tells when Sputnik 2 went into space?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. Laika died in space because of _____.
A cold and hunger
B heat and stress
C heat and hunger
D stress and disease

5. The article does not say, but you can decide that _____.
A the Russians never sent another satellite into space
B the Russians had a way to watch Laika in space
C scientists didn't learn much from Laika's trip
D another animal has never gone into space

 6. Laika was the world's first space traveler. What would you like to be first to do? Why?