

What are musk oxen?

- 1 Musk oxen are often called the "Bearded Ones." The animals have long, brown hair hanging down to their feet. They are about the size of cows. But musk oxen don't belong to the ox family. They belong to the goat family. They live in Alaska, Greenland, and Canada.
- 2 When frightened, musk oxen make a circle. They stand shoulder to shoulder. Then they put their heads down to face the enemy. Their white horns curve down, out, and up. They end in sharp points. The animals look very fierce.
- 3 For years, people killed many musk oxen for food and wool. Then steps were taken to save the wild animals. Some people even began to raise a few musk oxen. They wanted to use the animals' long silky undercoat. One pound of this silky hair makes six miles of fine wool yarn. The wool can be dyed and made into warm clothes.
- 4 Musk oxen raised on farms are friendly and like to play. If someone comes to take their picture, they may walk over and put a wet nose on the camera. The hairy animals seem to like their life 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 musk oxen.
A size
B wool
C color
D babies
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means "given a different color"?
A dyed
B killed
C raise
D pound
3. Which paragraph tells about where musk oxen can be found?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
4. What do musk oxen not do when they are frightened by another animal?
A make a circle
B put their heads down
C stand on their hind legs
D stand shoulder to shoulder
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that steps were taken to save musk oxen mostly because _____.
A they were popular in zoos
B too many were being killed
C more were needed for farming
D people in other countries wanted them


6. When might be the best time to clip a musk ox's undercoat? Why?

Has anyone ever gone to the North Pole alone?

- 1 The first person to reach the North Pole was Robert E. Peary. Peary made the trip by sled in 1909. But he didn't go alone. An African American named Matthew Henson and four Inuit guides went with him.
- 2 In 1978, Naomi Uemura of Japan went to the North Pole, too. But Uemura went alone. He had only his sled dogs for company.
- 3 Uemura's trip was exciting. It was also dangerous. Soon after Uemura started, he was attacked by a huge polar bear. The bear tore apart Uemura's tent and ate all the dog food. Finally, the explorer was able to shoot and kill it. Uemura and the dogs ate fresh bear meat for the next few days.
- 4 The trip was lonely. Snow stretched as far as the eye could see. There was no one to talk to. It was also very cold, about 50° below zero. Uemura kept a diary. He planned to write a book about the trip when he got back.
- 5 At last the long trip ended. After 500 miles and many days, Naomi Uemura reached the North Pole. He became the first and only person to do it alone.

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

1. The first person to reach the North Pole was _____.
A Naomi Uemura
B Robert E. Peary
C Matthew Henson
D Christopher Columbus
2. Which word in paragraph 4 means “a book you write in every day”?
A trip
B zero
C snow
D diary
3. Which paragraph tells how Naomi Uemura fought a bear?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
4. Naomi Uemura’s dogs ate fresh bear meat instead of dog food because _____.
A they liked that food better than dog food
B Uemura killed many bears along the trip
C a polar bear ate their dog food and was killed
D Uemura ate their dog food and then shot a bear
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that _____.
A sled dogs can’t run in cold weather
B a polar bear provides lots of meat
C Naomi Uemura lived in an igloo
D a polar bear only eats meat

 6. Would you want to take a trip to the North Pole the same way that Naomi Uemura did? Why or why not?

Why is the baobab tree special?

- 1 The baobab (BOW•bab) tree looks as if it is growing upside down. Its trunk is bare. Near its top, crooked branches spread out like roots. An old story says that angry gods turned the tree upside down. But it is hard to guess why anyone would be angry at this useful tree.
- 2 Baobab trees grow in Africa on the edges of the desert. Some grow as tall as a six-story building. They can live as long as 1,000 years. A fruit called monkey bread hangs from the branches of the baobabs. It is about a foot long. Monkey bread is good to eat. It can also be made into a drink. Baobab leaves are used for medicine. The bark can be made into paper, cloth, or rope.
- 3 All these uses should be enough for any tree. But the baobab has another secret. In a dry land, the baobab can pull in and hold 1,000 gallons of water. It stores the water in its branches. Thirsty people tap the branches to drink. No wonder the baobab is also called the bottle tree. Whatever its name, the baobab is a real friend to people.

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 baobab tree.

A bark	C seeds
B fruit	D leaves
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means "sides, or borders"?

A years	C leaves
B edges	D branches
3. The baobab is called the bottle tree because _____.

A it stores water in its branches
B it leaks water from its trunk
C its branches are crooked
D it is shaped like a bottle
4. The article does not say, but you can decide that the baobab tree _____.

A looks like any other tree	C cannot live in harsh conditions
B is most useful in the desert	D is most useful in the mountains
5. *Tap* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.

A to select
B to strike lightly
C to walk with light steps
D to cause to flow by piercing


6. Many folktales tell why something happened or how something came to be. Write a short tale that tells how the baobab came to look the way it does.

What is Space Camp?

- 1 Have you ever wanted to be an astronaut? You can find out what it's like right now. Just go to the United States Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. There you can explore the fun and hard work of space travel.
- 2 Each summer, girls and boys ages 9 to 11 from across the United States and around the world go to Space Camp. They spend six days learning and doing the jobs of real astronauts in space. Each day begins at 6 A.M. During the day, campers see films and hear scientists talk about space. They also watch rockets being built and they examine real spacecraft.
- 3 Space Campers wear suits just like the astronauts'—only smaller. They eat astronaut food. And they learn how to walk and move around in space. The camp day ends at 9:30 P.M. By that time, campers are ready for sleep.
- 4 At the end of six days, Space Campers take a pretend space shuttle flight. They use machines like those in the shuttle. They face the same problems and feel the same way as real astronauts. When Space Camp ends, boys and girls are proud to have learned and done so much. They are one step closer to reaching the stars!

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 floating in space
B the food campers eat
C what campers do each day
D the season Space Camp is open
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “look at carefully, or check”?
A doing
B hear
C spend
D examine
3. Which paragraph tells what happens at the end of Space Camp?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4
4. The article does not say, but you can decide that campers _____.
A don’t like astronaut food
B put in a long day at Space Camp
C spend all their time in a spacecraft
D help astronauts solve problems on the shuttle
5. *Face* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 4.
A deal with
B outer surface
C meet in competition
D front part of the head

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6. Would you like to be an astronaut and travel and work in space? Why or why not?