

Grammar

1. Which one needs a question mark?

- (a) *What other animal has hair*
- (b) *A sheep has wool*
- (c) *A crocodile has scales*

2. Which one needs a full stop?

- (a) *What other animal has feathers*
- (b) *A crab has a shell*
- (c) *What covering do you have*

3. The two nouns naming things in this sentence are:

The turtle has a very big green shell.

- (a) *turtle, shell*
- (b) *The, very*
- (c) *big, green*

4. Which words are adjectives telling more about the penguins?

Those cute little penguins have feathers.

- (a) *cute, little*
- (b) *penguins, have*
- (c) *those, feathers*

5. Which word is a verb (doing word), like *protect*?
(Some coverings *protect* animals.)

Coverings keep some animals cool.

- (a) *coverings*
- (b) *keep*
- (c) *cool*

Something extra

- ◆ Find and read an animal book that tells a story.
- ◆ Draw pictures of all the animals. Write a caption for each.

What covers you?

1. We all have a covering. There are lots of different ones. Coverings can keep some animals warm. Coverings can keep some animals cool. Coverings can protect animals. Some coverings can help animals move. Some coverings can even help them find a mate.

2. A monkey has hair. A horse has hair. What other animal has hair?

3. A sheep has wool. A goat has wool. What other animal has wool?

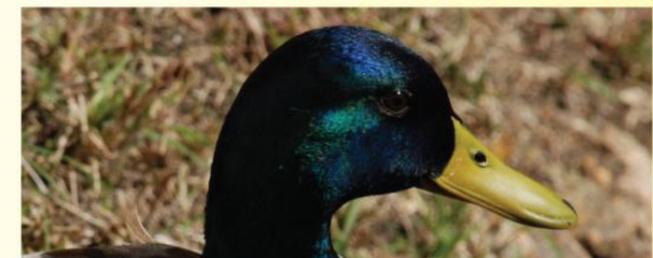
4. A penguin has feathers. A duck has feathers. What other animal has feathers?

5. A bear has fur. A fox has fur. What other animal has fur?

6. A snake has scales. A crocodile has scales. What other animal has scales?

7. A turtle has a shell. A crab has a shell. What other animal has a shell?

8. What covering do you have? What other animal has a covering like you?



Comprehension

1. Which two animals have hair?

- (a) a monkey and a horse
- (b) a penguin and a fox
- (c) a sheep and a goat

2. Which two animals have a different covering?

- (a) a snake and a crocodile
- (b) a duck and a crab
- (c) a bear and a fox

3. Which two animals have the same covering?

- (a) turtles and snakes
- (b) monkeys and sheep
- (c) bears and foxes

4. Paragraph 1 is mainly about:

- (a) what coverings are used for.
- (b) the names of different coverings.
- (c) what coverings look like.

5. The word *them* in Paragraph 1 means:

- (a) animals
- (b) coverings
- (c) mates

6. This writer wanted to:

- (a) tell a story.
- (b) get people to like animals.
- (c) tell about animal coverings.

All about words

1. The word *protect* means:

- (a) to look after
- (b) nice to look at
- (c) to throw away

2. Which word rhymes with *sheep*?

- (a) same
- (b) keep
- (c) crab

3. Which word begins with the same two letters as *crab*?

- (a) crocodile
- (b) shell
- (c) covering

4. Which word has a long *a* sound in the middle like *same*?

- (a) mate
- (b) has
- (c) fur

5. The only word you can add *s* to when there is more than one is:
e.g. snake - snakes

- (a) wool
- (b) penguin
- (c) sheep

6. Which word is spelt correctly?

- (a) other
- (b) uther
- (c) utha

Grammar

1. Adjectives describe nouns; e.g. a *flattish* shell. Which adjectives describe a tortoise's legs and feet?

A turtle has long legs and webbed feet.

- (a) *long, webbed* (b) *long, legs* (c) *and, feet*

2. Sometimes, two adjectives before a noun need joining by a hyphen; e.g. *cold-blooded* reptile. Which two adjectives need a hyphen?

- (a) *dome shaped shell* (b) *hard flattish shell* (c) *large heavy shell*

3. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- (a) *Do tiny tortoises, called hatchlings, look after themselves?*
 (b) *Do tiny tortoises called hatchlings look after themselves.*
 (c) *Do tiny tortoises called hatchlings look after themselves?*

4. In the *Facts about its young* section, the pronoun *them* is used instead of:

- (a) *hatchlings.* (b) *turtles.* (c) *eggs.*

5. An adverb can tell more about a verb. The adverb *generally* in this sentence tells something happened.

Turtles generally live between 20 and 40 years.

- (a) *how (manner)* (b) *when (time)* (c) *where (place)*

6. Which word connects two ideas in this sentence?

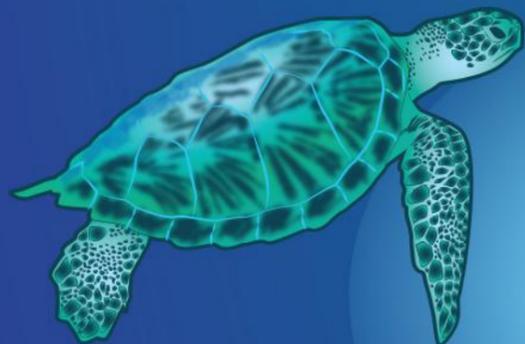
A tortoise doesn't have teeth but sticks its tongue out to grab food.

- (a) *doesn't* (b) *but* (c) *have*

7. The verb in this sentence is in the tense.

A turtle *spends* most of its life in water.

- (a) *past* (b) *present* (c) *future*



Something extra

- ✦ Draw a turtle and a tortoise and label the body parts.
- ✦ Turtles and tortoises are examples of reptiles. Read the text to write bullet points about some of the characteristics of reptiles. Make a list of other reptiles you know.

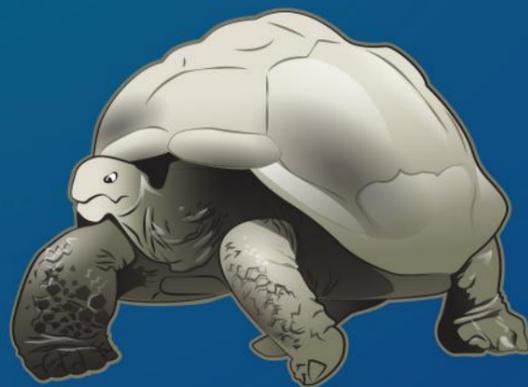
Turtle or tortoise?

1. If you came across a turtle or a tortoise, would you be able to tell the difference? They both have a shell on their back and look very similar. So how would you know?

	TURTLE	TORTOISE
Illustration		
What type of animal is it?	A turtle is a reptile. It has scales, breathes air and lays eggs. It is also cold-blooded which means its body is the same temperature as the air around it.	A tortoise is a reptile. It has scales, breathes air and lays eggs. It is also cold-blooded which means its body is the same temperature as the air around it.
Habitat	A turtle lives mostly in warm to hot areas of the world. It spends most of its life in the water—some live in the ocean and others live in water on land; e.g. lake, pond.	A tortoise lives mostly in warm to hot areas of the world. It spends all its life on land.
Characteristics	A turtle has a flattish shell. Many turtles can pull their head, legs and tail inside their shell to protect themselves from enemies. A turtle has long legs and webbed feet to help it swim quickly and smoothly. A turtle that lives in the ocean can also have flippers.	A tortoise usually has a large, heavy dome-shaped shell. Many tortoises can pull their head, legs and tail inside their shell to protect themselves from enemies. A tortoise has short, stumpy, bent legs with toed feet that help it move steadily across the land.
What and how does it eat?	Most adult turtles eat both plants and meat. A turtle does not have teeth, but has a kind of beak it uses for biting.	Most adult tortoises eat only plants. A tortoise does not have teeth, but sticks its tongue out to grab food.
Facts about its young	A female turtle lays eggs on land and buries them in soil or sand. When the female has laid her eggs, she doesn't look after them. After the eggs hatch, the tiny turtles, called hatchlings, must look after themselves.	A female tortoise lays eggs on land and buries them in soil or sand. When the female has laid her eggs, she doesn't look after them. After the eggs hatch, the tiny tortoises, called hatchlings, must look after themselves.
Life span	Generally live between 20 and 40 years	Generally live between 70 and 150 years

Comprehension

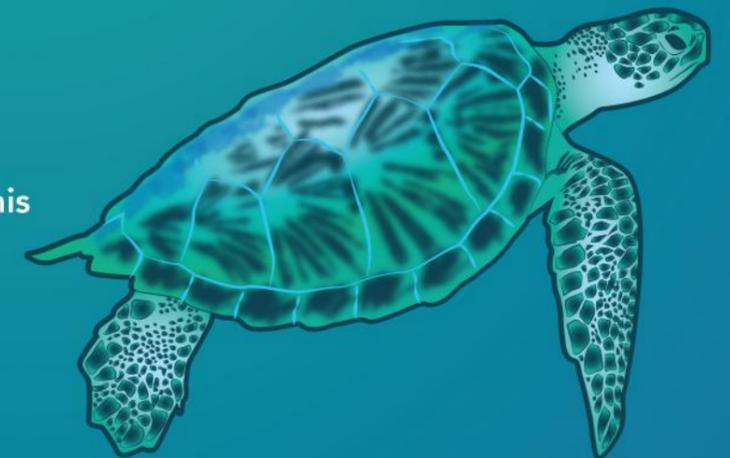
1. The word **steadily** under *Tortoise* in the **Characteristics** section of the table means:
(a) slowly and carefully
(b) quickly and loudly
(c) swiftly and lightly
2. This text was written to give:
(a) instructions
(b) information
(c) an opinion
3. The main idea of the **Characteristics** section is to explain:
(a) how turtles and tortoises move.
(b) some features of turtles and tortoises.
(c) the differences between their shells.
4. One way turtles and tortoises are the same is because they:
(a) have stumpy legs
(b) don't have teeth
(c) live in the ocean
5. Which body feature would tell you an animal was a turtle and not a tortoise?
(a) flippers
(b) toed feet
(c) dome-shaped shell
6. You can conclude that a tortoise moves slower than a turtle because it:
(a) has a heavy shell.
(b) lives on land.
(c) has short, stumpy legs and moves steadily.



7. Which sentence best summarises what this text is about?
(a) Turtles and tortoises are reptiles that have shells.
(b) There are similarities and differences between turtles and tortoises.
(c) Turtles live in water and tortoises live on land.
8. If you had a turtle and a tortoise as pets, you would most probably find that:
(a) they would both live the same amount of time.
(b) the turtle would live longer.
(c) the tortoise would live longer.
9. The effect of having flippers means a turtle can more easily ...
(a) swim
(b) eat
(c) breathe
10. What happens first?
Female turtles and tortoises:
(a) leave their hatchlings to look after themselves
(b) bury their eggs in sand or soil
(c) lay their eggs

All about words

1. The word **Characteristics** in bold print in the table means:
(a) features
(b) changes
(c) facts
2. Which word has two syllables?
(a) enemies
(b) usually
(c) smoothly
3. The word **webbed** follows the spelling rule: **double the consonant to keep the vowel sound short.** Which word also follows this rule?
(a) look
(b) flippers
(c) smoothly
4. Which homophone will make this sentence correct?
A shell helps protect turtles and tortoises from enemies.
(a) there
(b) they're
(c) their
5. Which word is an antonym (opposite) for **straight**?
(a) bent
(b) flattish
(c) smoothly
6. Which word does not belong in this group of words?
legs flippers head tail beak
(a) eggs
(b) teeth
(c) feet
7. Which sentence is spelt correctly?
(a) A reptile has scales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breathes air.
(b) A reptile has skales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breaths air.
(c) A reptile has scales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breaths air.
8. Say all these words to work out which one does not belong in the group.
mostly ocean toed
(a) dome
(b) know
(c) body
9. Which letter has been missed out in the contraction **doesn't**?
(a) o
(b) i
(c) e
10. The word **stumpy** means:
(a) long and bent
(b) thick and short
(c) short and smooth



Grammar

1. Colons (:) are used in Paragraphs 1 and 8 to introduce:

(a) an explanation
(b) a list of items
(c) an offset list

2. Which sentence uses quote marks for direct speech correctly?

(a) 'The crops on Earth have died. We beg you to send rain!' pleaded the dragons.
(b) 'The crops on Earth have died'. 'We beg you to send rain!' pleaded the dragons.
(c) 'The crops on Earth have died. We beg you to send rain!' pleaded the dragons.

3. A preposition phrase begins with a preposition; e.g. *among the clouds*. Which group of words is not a preposition phrase?

Leaping into the clouds, the dragons flew towards the Heavenly Palace.

(a) *into the clouds*
(b) *the dragons flew*
(c) *towards the Heavenly Palace*

4. Adverbials are words or groups of words that can give more information about a verb; e.g. *The mountains were laid upon the dragons* (adverbial of place). The adverbial of place in this sentence is:

The rain fell onto the people, who rejoiced at the miracle.

(a) *onto the people*
(b) *who rejoiced*
(c) *at the miracle*



✦ Draw an illustration of the four dragons.

✦ Come up with three reasons why the Jade Emperor would refuse to assist the people.

5. A noun group is a noun with its adjectives and often a determiner; e.g. *Crops had died under the scorching sun*. The noun group in this sentence is:

He used his magic powers to create mountains to be laid over the dragons.

(a) *his magic powers*
(b) *to create mountains*
(c) *over the dragons*

6. Which word is a modal verb that helps another verb? Example: *The dragons would play in the sea*.

We must visit the Jade Emperor and ask for rain, they thought.

(a) *must*
(b) *visit*
(c) *and*

7. A possessive determiner is placed before a noun to say who the noun belongs to; e.g. *his pleasure*, *our suffering*. Which word is a possessive determiner in this sentence?

There had been a long drought and their crops had withered and died.

(a) *there*
(b) *their*
(c) *had*

8. An abstract noun names something that cannot be detected using any of our five senses; e.g. *fury*.

How many abstract nouns are in this sentence?

The Jade Emperor cared only for his own pleasure and not for the health and happiness of his people.

(a) 2
(b) 3
(c) 4

The four dragons

- It was thought there were no rivers and lakes on Earth in the beginning, only the Eastern Sea, where four dragons lived: the Yellow Dragon, the Black Dragon, the Long Dragon and the Pearl Dragon. The four dragons would often play in the sea and sky and hide among the clouds.
- One day, the Pearl Dragon spotted some commotion on Earth and called the other dragons over to take a look. They observed numerous people putting out food and burning incense sticks. Many were kneeling and murmuring towards the sky and the dragons quickly realised they were praying for rain. There had been a long drought and their crops had withered and died under the hot scorching sun.
- We must visit the Jade Emperor and ask for rain, the dragons thought in unison.
- Leaping into the clouds, the dragons flew towards the Heavenly Palace. The Jade Emperor was a powerful and busy person who oversaw all the affairs in heaven, on Earth and in the sea. As dragons had a reputation for being mischievous, the Jade Emperor was not overly impressed to see them flying through his palace at blinding speed. He immediately questioned why they were not in the Eastern Sea where they belonged.
- 'The crops on Earth have died from the blistering sun, Your Majesty. We beg you to send rain immediately or the people will continue to suffer!' the Long Dragon pleaded. The Jade Emperor, knowing full well he would never honour the agreement, agreed to this request, saying he would only bring on the rain after the dragons had departed.
- Ten long, dry days passed without a single drop of rain from the sky. The people suffered and were forced to eat bark, grass roots and eventually white clay in a desperate effort to survive. The four dragons saw this suffering and felt sympathy for those left to die by the Jade Emperor. They knew he cared only for his own pleasure and not the health and happiness of the people on Earth. Together, they formulated a plan to save the crops. Even though they knew the danger in defying the Jade Emperor, they went ahead and scooped up water from the Eastern Sea and sprayed it towards the sky where it fell like raindrops onto the people, who rejoiced at this miracle.
- Soon, plants were standing taller and growing new leaves and shoots. Unfortunately, the god of the sea discovered what the four dragons had done and immediately informed the Jade Emperor. His fury was such that he ordered four mountains to be laid upon the dragons so they could never escape. The mountain god, who lived in an enormous mountain, used his magic powers to create these mountains and pressed them onto the four dragons, so they would be trapped there forever.
- Although imprisoned, the dragons never regretted their decision. Knowing they could never escape as dragons and wanting to serve the people, they transformed themselves into four rivers which would flow through the mountain valleys to the sea. This is the legend of how China's four great rivers were formed: the Zhujiang (Pearl River) in the very far south, the Heilongjian (Black River) in the north, the Huanghe (Yellow River) in central China and the Changjiang or Yangtze (Long River) in the south.



Comprehension

- 1. It is a fact, not an opinion, that:**
 - (a) the dragons were mischievous.
 - (b) people were suffering due to the lack of rain.
 - (c) the Jade Emperor was mean and had no intention of honouring the agreement.
- 2. In Paragraph 7, them refers to:**
 - (a) the mountains
 - (b) the dragons
 - (c) his magic powers
- 3. The paragraph that is mainly about how the dragons became aware of the problem on earth is:**
 - (a) Paragraph 1
 - (b) Paragraph 2
 - (c) Paragraph 3
- 4. The four dragons helped the people because they:**
 - (a) wanted to anger the Jade Emperor.
 - (b) enjoyed playing mischievous pranks on others.
 - (c) felt sorry for the people's suffering.
- 5. You can conclude from the text that the Jade Emperor was a:**
 - (a) fickle and cruel master.
 - (b) fair and considerate ruler.
 - (c) good friend to the people.
- 6. The four dragons understood that:**
 - (a) they should have brought their request to the emperor again.
 - (b) they would later regret their decision.
 - (c) helping the people would be dangerous.
- 7. When the Jade Emperor heard what the dragons had done he felt:**
 - (a) furious
 - (b) joyous
 - (c) disappointed
- 8. What happened after the people rejoiced?**
 - (a) The people prayed for rain.
 - (b) The dragons collected sea water.
 - (c) The dragons were punished.
- 9. Which is the best summary of Paragraphs 2 and 3?**
 - (a) The dragons observed that people were praying for rain and decided to ask the Jade Emperor for help.
 - (b) The long drought had caused the crops to die and people were desperate for water.
 - (c) Numerous people burned incense sticks and prayed for rain, but the drought continued.
- 10. The mountain god and the Jade Emperor are similar because they:**
 - (a) have magic powers that can create mountains.
 - (b) both live in palaces.
 - (c) participated in the punishment of the four dragons.
- 11. The story of the four dragons was created to explain:**
 - (a) that living during a drought was very difficult for the people.
 - (b) how China's four great rivers were formed.
 - (c) that the Jade Emperor did not care about the people's suffering.
- 12. The effect of the Jade Emperor's refusal to help the people was:**
 - (a) China was given four great rivers as a result of the dragons' sacrifice.
 - (b) The mountain god felt he had unjustly punished the dragons.
 - (c) The dragons were forever trapped under four mountains.

All about words

- 1. Which word pair could be synonyms for commotion in Paragraph 2?**
 - (a) communication, discussion
 - (b) clamour, uproar
 - (c) silence, peace
- 2. The word mischievous in Paragraph 4 means to be:**
 - (a) playfully annoying
 - (b) deadly
 - (c) serious and stern
- 3. Which words are not in alphabetical order?**
 - (a) regretted, reputation, request
 - (b) overly, oversaw, own
 - (c) towards, together, through
- 4. Say each word pair and listen to the last vowel sound. Which words both have the same last vowel sound as request?**
 - (a) escape, legend
 - (b) incense, happiness
 - (c) often, emperor
- 5. Which pair of words has the most combined number of syllables?**
 - (a) incense, mountain
 - (b) blistering, pleasure
 - (c) enormous, miracle
- 6. Which word belongs in this group of words?**

sea mischievous flying

 - (a) dragon
 - (b) emperor
 - (c) palace
- 7. In which word pair are both words spelt correctly?**
 - (a) transformed, knealing
 - (b) meracle, withered
 - (c) forever, enormous
- 8. Which word pair could be antonyms for sympathy in Paragraph 6?**
 - (a) compassion, empathy
 - (b) disdain, indifference
 - (c) sadness, sorrow
- 9. Which compound word has a similar meaning to the words that make it?**
 - (a) without
 - (b) informed
 - (c) forever
- 10. Which word shares the same soft c sound as in incense?**
 - (a) clouds
 - (b) forced
 - (c) scooped
- 11. The expression flying through his palace at blinding speed in Paragraph 4 means flying:**
 - (a) so quickly it is difficult to see.
 - (b) very slowly.
 - (c) from side to side to confuse the watcher.
- 12. Homographs are words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Which sentence uses the word crop in a different way from the text?**
 - (a) She rode her horse swiftly and never had to use the crop.
 - (b) The crop was planted in the spring, but did not do well.
 - (c) It's best to give any new crop plenty of water.

