

Ocean Animals

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

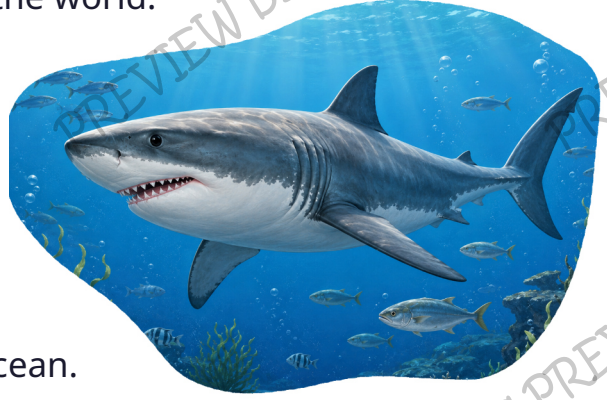
Informational Text Activities
for 4th Grade Students

Passage 1: Sharks

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Sharks are large fish that live in oceans around the world.

There are many different kinds of sharks, and they come in many sizes. Some sharks are small enough to fit in a person's hand, while others can grow longer than a school bus. Sharks have strong bodies, sharp teeth, and excellent senses that help them survive in the ocean.



Most sharks are predators, which means they hunt other animals for food.

Different sharks eat different things, including fish, squid, seals, and smaller sea animals. Sharks use their strong sense of smell to detect food from far away. Some sharks can also sense movement and vibrations in the water.

Sharks play an important role in ocean ecosystems by helping keep animal populations balanced. Without sharks, some sea animal populations could grow too large and affect other parts of the food chain. Scientists study sharks to learn more about ocean health and marine life.

Although sharks are often shown as dangerous in movies, most sharks do not attack humans. Many sharks avoid people and spend their time searching for food in deeper waters. Some shark species are now endangered because of overfishing and pollution in the oceans.

Learning about sharks can help people better understand the importance of protecting ocean animals and their habitats.

Questions | Passage 1: Sharks

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Sharks are dangerous animals that attack people
 - B. Sharks are important ocean animals with special adaptations
 - C. Most sharks only live near beaches
 - D. Sharks spend most of their time hiding from predators
2. What helps sharks find food in the ocean?
 - A. Their strong sense of smell
 - B. Their ability to fly above water
 - C. Their bright body colors
 - D. Their large ocean nests
3. Why are sharks important to ocean ecosystems?
 - A. They build homes for smaller fish
 - B. They help keep animal populations balanced
 - C. They create oxygen for the ocean
 - D. They protect coral reefs from storms
4. Why are some shark species endangered?
 - A. Ocean temperatures are always freezing
 - B. Sharks cannot find enough sunlight
 - C. Overfishing and pollution affect shark populations
 - D. Most sharks cannot swim long distances

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why do sharks need strong senses to survive in the ocean?

6. Describe one way sharks help ocean ecosystems.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how sharks survive in the ocean.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect sharks and ocean habitats?

Answer Key - Passage 1: Sharks

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Passage 1 Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Sharks use strong senses to find food and detect movement in the water.

6. Sample Answer:

Sharks help keep ocean animal populations balanced by hunting other sea animals.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says sharks use their strong sense of smell and can sense vibrations in the water.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Sharks

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about shark adaptations, ocean ecosystems, and why sharks are important to marine environments.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how shark senses help them survive in the ocean.
- Ask students to explain why predators are important in ecosystems.
- Encourage students to identify facts that correct common myths about sharks.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

Passage 2: Octopuses

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Octopuses are amazing ocean animals known for their intelligence and unusual bodies. They have eight flexible arms covered with suction cups that help them grab food and move across rocks and coral reefs. Unlike many sea animals, octopuses do not have bones, so they can squeeze through very small spaces underwater.



Octopuses are skilled hunters that eat crabs, fish, and other small sea animals. They often hide in rocky areas or underwater caves while searching for food. An octopus can quickly shoot ink into the water to confuse predators and escape danger. Some octopuses can also change color and texture to blend into their surroundings.

Scientists study octopuses because they are considered some of the smartest animals in the ocean. They can solve simple problems, open containers, and remember places where they found food. Many octopuses live alone and spend much of their time hiding from predators.

Although octopuses are excellent at protecting themselves, pollution and changes in ocean habitats can still affect them. Learning about octopuses helps people understand why healthy oceans are important for marine life.

Questions | Passage 2: Octopuses

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Octopuses only live in deep underwater caves
 - B. Most ocean animals have suction cups on their arms
 - C. Octopuses spend all their time hiding from predators
 - D. Octopuses are intelligent animals with special survival abilities
2. What helps octopuses grab food and move underwater?
 - A. Sharp fins and long tails
 - B. Thick shells covering their bodies
 - C. Powerful ocean currents
 - D. Flexible arms with suction cups
3. Why do octopuses release ink into the water?
 - A. To attract smaller fish
 - B. To confuse predators and escape
 - C. To clean the ocean floor
 - D. To create underwater homes
4. Why do scientists study octopuses?
 - A. They are very intelligent animals
 - B. They can survive outside the ocean
 - C. They are the largest sea animals
 - D. They build nests near beaches

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why is it useful for octopuses to change color underwater?

6. Describe one way octopuses protect themselves from predators.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why octopuses are considered intelligent.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important to protect ocean habitats for animals like octopuses?

Answer Key - Passage 2: Octopuses

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. D
3. B
4. A

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Changing color helps octopuses blend into their surroundings and avoid predators.

6. Sample Answer:

Octopuses can release ink or hide in small spaces to escape predators.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says octopuses can solve problems, open containers, and remember places where they found food.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Octopuses

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about octopus adaptations, intelligence, and survival skills in ocean environments.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how octopuses use camouflage to survive.
- Ask students to identify examples of octopus intelligence in the passage.
- Encourage students to explain why healthy ocean habitats are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Passage 3: Dolphins

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Dolphins are intelligent marine mammals that live in oceans around the world. Unlike fish, dolphins breathe air through a blowhole on top of their heads and must come to the surface regularly for oxygen. Dolphins are known for their playful behavior, strong social groups, and excellent communication skills.



Most dolphins live in groups called pods. They work together to find food, protect one another, and care for young dolphins. Dolphins eat fish, squid, and other small sea animals. They use clicking sounds and echolocation to locate food and objects underwater. Echolocation allows dolphins to understand their surroundings by listening to echoes in the water.

Scientists study dolphins because of their intelligence and communication abilities. Dolphins can learn simple tasks, recognize patterns, and respond to signals from other dolphins. Some dolphins have even been observed helping injured members of their pods stay near the surface to breathe.

Although dolphins are strong swimmers, pollution and ocean trash can still harm them. Fishing nets and plastic waste sometimes injure dolphins or damage their habitats. Learning about dolphins helps people understand why protecting oceans and marine life is important.

Questions | Passage 3: Dolphins

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Dolphins are intelligent ocean animals with strong social behaviors
 - B. Dolphins spend most of their time hiding near reefs
 - C. Dolphins only communicate while searching for food
 - D. Dolphins live alone in deep parts of the ocean

2. What helps dolphins locate food underwater?
 - A. Sharp fins and powerful tails
 - B. Thick skin covering their bodies
 - C. Echolocation and clicking sounds
 - D. Bright lights under the water

3. Why do dolphins live in pods?
 - A. To avoid swimming in deep water
 - B. To build shelters near coral reefs
 - C. To search for warmer ocean areas
 - D. To help protect and support one another

4. Why do scientists study dolphins?
 - A. Dolphins can survive on land for short periods
 - B. Dolphins build underwater homes together
 - C. Dolphins are the largest animals in the ocean
 - D. Dolphins show intelligence and communication skills

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why is echolocation useful for dolphins underwater?

6. Describe one way dolphins help members of their pods.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why dolphins are considered intelligent animals.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect dolphins and ocean habitats?

Answer Key - Passage 3: Dolphins

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Echolocation helps dolphins find food and understand their surroundings underwater.

6. Sample Answer:

Dolphins may help injured members of their pods stay near the surface to breathe.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says dolphins can learn tasks, recognize patterns, and communicate with signals.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Dolphins

Grade Level:
4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about dolphin communication, social behavior, and ocean survival adaptations.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how dolphins use echolocation underwater.
- Ask students to explain why dolphins live in pods.
- Encourage students to identify ways pollution affects marine animals.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

Passage 4: Sea Turtles

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Sea turtles are large marine reptiles that live in warm and tropical oceans around the world. They spend most of their lives in the ocean but must come onto land to lay eggs. Female sea turtles crawl onto sandy beaches at night and dig nests where they carefully bury their eggs in the sand.



Sea turtles eat different kinds of food depending on the species. Some sea turtles eat jellyfish, while others eat sea grass, crabs, or small ocean animals. Their strong flippers help them swim long distances across oceans during migration. Sea turtles can travel thousands of miles between feeding areas and nesting beaches.

Young sea turtles face many dangers after hatching from their eggs. Birds, fish, and other predators may hunt them before they reach the ocean. Pollution, plastic waste, and fishing nets also create serious problems for sea turtles. Some turtles accidentally eat plastic because it looks like food in the water.

Scientists and conservation groups work to protect sea turtles and their nesting areas. Many beaches now have protected zones where people help keep nests safe from danger. Learning about sea turtles helps people understand why protecting oceans and beaches is important for marine life.

Questions | Passage 4: Sea Turtles

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Sea turtles spend all their time on beaches
 - B. Sea turtles are important ocean animals that face many dangers
 - C. Most sea turtles only eat plants underwater
 - D. Sea turtles cannot travel long distances in the ocean
2. Why do female sea turtles come onto beaches?
 - A. To search for larger fish
 - B. To avoid ocean predators
 - C. To rest during storms
 - D. To lay eggs in nests
3. What helps sea turtles swim long distances?
 - A. Their strong flippers
 - B. Their sharp teeth
 - C. Their colorful shells
 - D. Their powerful tails
4. Why can plastic waste be dangerous for sea turtles?
 - A. Plastic blocks sunlight in the ocean
 - B. Plastic damages coral reefs quickly
 - C. Turtles may mistake plastic for food
 - D. Turtles cannot swim near beaches

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why do young sea turtles face danger after hatching?

6. Describe one way people help protect sea turtles.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why sea turtles need protection.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect sea turtles and ocean habitats?

Answer Key - Passage 4: Sea Turtles

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Young sea turtles face predators and other dangers before reaching the ocean.

6. Sample Answer:

People help protect sea turtles by creating protected nesting areas on beaches.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says pollution, plastic waste, and fishing nets can harm sea turtles.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Sea Turtles

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about sea turtle life cycles, migration, and challenges facing marine animals.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss why sea turtles return to beaches to lay eggs.
- Ask students to identify dangers sea turtles face in oceans.
- Encourage students to explain why conservation is important for marine life.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Passage 5: Coral Reefs

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Coral reefs are colorful underwater ecosystems found in warm ocean waters around the world. Reefs are made by tiny animals called coral polyps that build hard structures over many years. These structures grow together to form large reefs that provide homes for many kinds of marine life.



Thousands of ocean animals live near coral reefs, including fish, sea turtles, octopuses, and crabs. Coral reefs provide food, shelter, and protection for many sea creatures. Some fish hide among the coral to avoid predators, while others search for food near the reef.

Coral reefs are important because they help support healthy ocean ecosystems. Reefs can also protect coastlines by reducing the force of strong ocean waves during storms. Scientists study coral reefs to learn more about ocean health and marine biodiversity.

Although coral reefs are beautiful and important, they face serious dangers from pollution, climate change, and warming ocean temperatures. Some reefs become damaged or lose color when ocean conditions change too much. People around the world are working to protect coral reefs and reduce harm to ocean environments.

Learning about coral reefs helps people understand why protecting marine ecosystems is important for the future of ocean life.

Questions | Passage 5: Coral Reefs

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Coral reefs only grow near beaches
 - B. Coral reefs are important ocean ecosystems that support marine life
 - C. Most ocean animals can survive without reefs
 - D. Coral reefs are made from underwater plants

2. What creates coral reefs over time?
 - A. Tiny animals called coral polyps
 - B. Strong ocean storms and waves
 - C. Large groups of swimming fish
 - D. Deep underwater caves

3. Why do some fish hide among coral reefs?
 - A. To search for warmer water
 - B. To build underwater nests
 - C. To collect ocean plants
 - D. To avoid predators

4. Why are coral reefs important for coastlines?
 - A. Reefs help create drinking water
 - B. Reefs increase ocean temperatures
 - C. Reefs attract storms near beaches
 - D. Reefs reduce the force of ocean waves

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why do many ocean animals live near coral reefs?

6. Describe one danger that can harm coral reefs.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains why coral reefs are important.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect coral reefs and ocean ecosystems?

Answer Key - Passage 5: Coral Reefs

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. D
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Many ocean animals live near reefs because reefs provide food, shelter, and protection.

6. Sample Answer:

Pollution, climate change, and warming oceans can damage coral reefs.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says coral reefs provide homes and protection for many marine animals.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Coral Reefs

Grade Level:

4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about coral reef ecosystems, marine biodiversity, and threats facing ocean environments.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how coral polyps build reefs over time.
- Ask students to explain why coral reefs are important for marine animals.
- Encourage students to identify environmental dangers that affect reefs.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Passage 6: Deep Sea Animals

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Deep sea animals live in the darkest and deepest parts of the ocean. Far below the ocean surface, sunlight cannot reach the water, and temperatures are very cold. The deep sea is a difficult environment, but many unusual animals have special adaptations that help them survive there.



Some deep sea animals have large eyes to help them see in darkness, while others produce their own light through a process called bioluminescence. Animals such as anglerfish, giant squid, and deep sea jellyfish use these special features to find food or protect themselves from predators. Many deep sea creatures also have soft bodies that can handle the strong pressure underwater.

Food can be difficult to find in the deep ocean. Some animals eat small fish or shrimp, while others feed on tiny pieces of dead plants and animals that sink from higher parts of the ocean. Scientists use submarines and underwater robots to explore the deep sea and study the animals living there.

Although deep sea animals live far from humans, pollution and climate change can still affect ocean environments. Learning about deep sea creatures helps scientists better understand Earth's oceans and marine ecosystems.

Questions | Passage 6: Deep Sea Animals

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Most ocean animals live near beaches
 - B. Deep sea animals only eat plants underwater
 - C. Sunlight reaches the deepest parts of the ocean
 - D. Deep sea animals have special adaptations for survival
2. What helps some deep sea animals see in darkness?
 - A. Thick shells around their bodies
 - B. Large eyes and bioluminescence
 - C. Powerful tails for swimming
 - D. Bright coral reefs underwater
3. Why do some deep sea animals produce light?
 - A. To warm the cold ocean water
 - B. To find food or protect themselves
 - C. To create oxygen underwater
 - D. To build nests in deep caves
4. Why do scientists explore the deep sea?
 - A. To build underwater cities
 - B. To collect coral from the ocean floor
 - C. To stop ocean waves during storms
 - D. To study unusual ocean animals and ecosystems

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why is the deep ocean a difficult place for animals to survive?

6. Describe one adaptation that helps deep sea animals survive.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how deep sea animals survive in darkness.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for scientists to study deep sea animals and ocean ecosystems?

Answer Key - Passage 6: Deep Sea Animals

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

The deep ocean is dark, cold, and has very strong water pressure.

6. Sample Answer:

Some deep sea animals produce light or have large eyes to survive in darkness.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says some deep sea animals use bioluminescence to help find food or protect themselves.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Deep Sea Animals

Grade Level:
4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about deep ocean environments and the special adaptations of deep sea animals.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss why sunlight cannot reach deep ocean areas.
- Ask students to identify adaptations that help animals survive underwater.
- Encourage students to explain why scientists study deep sea ecosystems.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Passage 7: Jellyfish

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Jellyfish are soft-bodied ocean animals that have lived in Earth's oceans for millions of years. They are found in oceans around the world and can live near the surface or deep underwater. Jellyfish do not have bones, brains, or hearts, but they can still survive successfully in many ocean environments.



Most jellyfish move by gently pulsing their bell-shaped bodies through the water. Their long tentacles contain tiny stinging cells that help them catch food and protect themselves from predators. Jellyfish often eat small fish, plankton, and other tiny sea animals drifting in the ocean.

Some jellyfish glow in dark water, while others are nearly transparent and difficult to see. Scientists study jellyfish to learn more about ocean ecosystems and marine life. In some places, large groups of jellyfish can affect fishing and ocean tourism.

Although jellyfish are important parts of ocean food chains, pollution and warming oceans can change jellyfish populations. Learning about jellyfish helps people better understand ocean ecosystems and marine environments.

Questions | Passage 7: Jellyfish

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Jellyfish are unusual ocean animals with special survival features
 - B. Jellyfish only live near beaches and coastlines
 - C. Most jellyfish spend their lives hiding in coral reefs
 - D. Jellyfish cannot survive in deep ocean water

2. What helps jellyfish catch food and protect themselves?
 - A. Strong shells around their bodies
 - B. Large fins for fast swimming
 - C. Tentacles with stinging cells
 - D. Bright colors under the water

3. Why are some jellyfish difficult to see underwater?
 - A. Some jellyfish are nearly transparent
 - B. Jellyfish only swim at night
 - C. Jellyfish hide beneath rocks
 - D. Most jellyfish are very small

4. Why do scientists study jellyfish?
 - A. Jellyfish can survive outside the ocean
 - B. Jellyfish build underwater homes
 - C. Jellyfish create oxygen in oceans
 - D. Jellyfish help scientists understand marine ecosystems

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why are jellyfish important in ocean food chains?

6. Describe one feature that helps jellyfish survive in the ocean.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how jellyfish survive in ocean environments.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to learn about jellyfish and ocean ecosystems?

Answer Key - Passage 7: Jellyfish

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. D

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Jellyfish are important because they are part of ocean food chains and provide food for other animals.

6. Sample Answer:

Tentacles with stinging cells help jellyfish catch food and protect themselves.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says jellyfish use stinging tentacles and body movements to survive in the ocean.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Jellyfish

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about jellyfish adaptations, ocean food chains, and marine ecosystems.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how jellyfish move and catch food underwater.
- Ask students to identify survival adaptations mentioned in the passage.
- Encourage students to explain why jellyfish are important in ecosystems.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Passage 8: Whales

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Whales are the largest animals living in Earth's oceans.

These marine mammals live in oceans around the world and come in many different species. Some whales, such as blue whales, can grow longer than a school bus and weigh more than many elephants combined.



Whales breathe air through blowholes on top of their heads and must come to the ocean surface regularly.

Some whales eat tiny animals called krill, while others hunt fish or squid. Baleen whales use special plates in their mouths to filter food from the water, while toothed whales use sharp teeth to catch prey.

Many whales communicate using deep sounds and songs that can travel long distances underwater. Scientists study whale sounds to learn more about whale behavior and ocean environments. Some whales migrate thousands of miles each year between feeding and breeding areas.

Although whales are powerful swimmers, they still face dangers from pollution, ship traffic, fishing nets, and climate change. Conservation groups work to protect whales and ocean habitats around the world. Learning about whales helps people understand why healthy oceans are important for marine life.

Questions | Passage 8: Whales

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Most whales spend their lives near beaches
 - B. Whales only eat large ocean animals
 - C. Whales cannot communicate underwater
 - D. Whales are large mammals with ocean adaptations

2. How do whales breathe?
 - A. Through gills under the water
 - B. Through blowholes at the ocean surface
 - C. Through special fins on their backs
 - D. Through their mouths while swimming

3. What do baleen whales use to filter food?
 - A. Special plates in their mouths
 - B. Sharp claws near their fins
 - C. Powerful tails for hunting
 - D. Strong shells around their bodies

4. Why do scientists study whale sounds?
 - A. To measure ocean temperatures
 - B. To predict strong ocean storms
 - C. To learn about whale behavior and environments
 - D. To discover new coral reefs underwater

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why do whales need to come to the ocean surface regularly?

6. Describe one danger whales face in the ocean.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how whales survive in ocean environments.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect whales and ocean habitats?

Answer Key - Passage 8: Whales

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Whales must come to the surface because they breathe air through blowholes.

6. Sample Answer:

Pollution, fishing nets, and ship traffic can harm whales.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says whales use blowholes to breathe and some use baleen plates to filter food.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:
Whales

Grade Level:
4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:
Students learn about whale adaptations, communication, migration, and ocean conservation.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss differences between baleen whales and toothed whales.
- Ask students why whale sounds are important for communication.
- Encourage students to explain dangers whales face in oceans today.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1
RI.4.2
RI.4.3
W.4.2
W.4.8

Passage 9: Penguins

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Penguins are flightless birds that live mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. Many penguins are found in Antarctica and other cold coastal areas, although some species live in warmer places. Penguins cannot fly through the air, but they are excellent swimmers underwater.



Penguins use their strong flippers and streamlined bodies to move quickly through the ocean while hunting for food. Most penguins eat fish, squid, and krill. Their thick feathers and layers of fat help keep them warm in freezing temperatures. Penguins often gather in large groups to stay warm during cold weather.

Parent penguins work together to care for their eggs and chicks. In some penguin species, the father keeps the egg warm while the mother searches for food in the ocean. After the chick hatches, both parents help feed and protect it.

Although penguins are strong swimmers, climate change, pollution, and changes in ocean food supplies can affect penguin populations. Scientists study penguins to learn more about ocean ecosystems and changing environments. Learning about penguins helps people understand why protecting oceans and wildlife is important.

Questions | Passage 9: Penguins

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Penguins spend most of their lives flying
 - B. Penguins only live in warm ocean areas
 - C. Penguins build nests in deep forests
 - D. Penguins are ocean birds with special survival adaptations

2. What helps penguins swim quickly underwater?
 - A. Sharp claws and strong wings
 - B. Strong flippers and streamlined bodies
 - C. Thick shells protecting their bodies
 - D. Large tails for balancing on ice

3. Why do penguins gather in large groups?
 - A. To search for warmer ocean water
 - B. To stay warm during cold weather
 - C. To hide from sunlight near beaches
 - D. To build homes under the ice

4. How do penguin parents care for their eggs and chicks?
 - A. Both parents help protect and feed them
 - B. Penguins leave eggs alone in nests
 - C. Only baby penguins protect themselves
 - D. Penguins hide eggs underwater

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why are penguins considered excellent swimmers?

6. Describe one danger that can affect penguin populations.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how penguins survive in cold environments.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect penguins and ocean ecosystems?

Answer Key - Passage 9: Penguins

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. A

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Penguins use strong flippers and streamlined bodies to swim quickly underwater.

6. Sample Answer:

Climate change, pollution, and changing food supplies can affect penguins.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says penguins have thick feathers and layers of fat to stay warm.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Penguins

Grade Level:

4th-5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about penguin adaptations, family behavior, and ocean environments.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how penguins survive in freezing temperatures.
- Ask students to identify teamwork between penguin parents.
- Encourage students to explain dangers affecting penguin populations.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8

Passage 10: Seahorses

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions.

Seahorses are small ocean animals known for their unusual appearance and gentle swimming movements. Unlike most fish, seahorses swim upright and use tiny fins on their backs to move through the water. They are often found living in coral reefs, sea grass beds, and shallow coastal waters.



Seahorses use their curled tails to hold onto sea plants and coral so ocean currents do not carry them away. They eat tiny shrimp and plankton by quickly sucking food into their long snouts. Because seahorses are not strong swimmers, they often hide among plants and coral for protection.

One interesting fact about seahorses is that the male carries the eggs in a pouch until the babies are ready to hatch. Scientists study seahorses to learn more about marine ecosystems and animal adaptations. Seahorses are important parts of ocean food chains and coastal habitats.

Although seahorses are small, they face dangers from pollution, habitat loss, and ocean changes. Some seahorse populations are decreasing because coral reefs and sea grass habitats are being damaged. Learning about seahorses helps people understand why protecting ocean environments is important.

Questions | Passage 10: Seahorses

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Seahorses hide in deep caves
- B. Seahorses have unique features
- C. Seahorses swim across oceans
- D. Seahorses live near beaches

2. How do seahorses avoid drifting in ocean currents?

- A. They hold plants with tails
- B. They swim below coral reefs
- C. They hide inside sea caves
- D. They rest beneath ocean rocks

3. What makes male seahorses unusual?

- A. They protect babies in nests
- B. They carry eggs in pouches
- C. They hide babies in coral
- D. They feed babies underwater

4. Why do seahorses hide among plants and coral?

- A. To search for warmer water
- B. To escape strong ocean waves
- C. To stay safe from predators
- D. To rest during ocean storms

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Why are seahorses not considered strong swimmers?

6. Describe one danger that can affect seahorse populations.

Name:

Date:

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Write one detail from the passage that explains how seahorses survive in ocean environments.

Part 4: Writing

8. Why is it important for people to protect seahorses and ocean habitats?

Answer Key - Passage 10: Seahorses

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. B
2. A
3. B
4. C

Part 2: Short Answer

5. Sample Answer:

Seahorses move slowly with tiny fins and often hold onto plants instead of swimming strongly.

6. Sample Answer:

Pollution, habitat loss, and ocean changes can affect seahorse populations.

Part 3: Text Evidence

7. Sample Answer:

The passage says seahorses use curled tails to hold onto plants and coral for protection.

Part 4: Writing

8. Answers will vary.

Ocean Animals Reading Comprehension Worksheets | Teacher Notes

Passage Title:

Seahorses

Grade Level:

4th–5th Grade

Reading Focus:

Students learn about seahorse adaptations, ocean habitats, and marine survival features.

Skills Covered:

- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Evidence
- Informational Reading

Teaching Tips:

- Discuss how seahorses use tails to stay safe in ocean currents.
- Ask students to identify adaptations that help seahorses survive.
- Encourage students to explain why ocean habitats are important.

Suggested Uses:

- Whole Group Reading
- Independent Practice
- Literacy Centers
- Homework
- Test Prep Practice

CCSS Alignment:

RI.4.1

RI.4.2

RI.4.3

W.4.2

W.4.8