

"The Eagle"

The eagle is a huge bird. One type of eagle is the bald eagle. This bird of prey has has a yellow beak shaped like a hook and a pure white head. Its body is brown with a white tail. Female bald eagles are much bigger than males.



Bald eagles live all over North and South America. They make their nests near rivers, ponds, and lakes. There they can find many fish. Bald eagles build the biggest nests of any bird in America. Mostly, the birds stay away from people. Some birds move their nests frequently.

Bald eagles eat whatever they can find. But, mostly they eat fish. Some of their favorite meals are trout and salmon. To catch fish, bald eagles swoop down over the water and grab the fish with their feet, called talons. If the fish is too heavy for the eagle to carry, it might have to swim in the water. Many eagles aren't able to swim very well. Sometimes, bald eagles will steal their food from other birds that are smaller.

At about five years old, bald eagles find mates. They pick partners as their mates for life. Sometimes, if the pair cannot have a baby, they will find new partners. Babies are hatched from eggs in their nests, which are made out of twigs and branches. Nests are usually in trees near open water. Mother and father eagles will take turns watching the eggs while the mate finds food or adds on to the nest.

The bald eagle is also an important symbol of the United States of America. It is known as the national bird of the United States. In 1782, the Continental Congress named the bald eagle as the national bird. Ben Franklin once wrote that he thought that it was a bad choice. He said the bald eagle was too cowardly to symbolize the nation. Instead, he suggested the turkey. Today, the bald eagle appears on official seals of the United States on the backs of several coins. It was on the back of the quarter until 1999, with its head turned towards an olive branch.

The bald eagle used to be a common sight in the United States. But, over the nation's history, this eagle's population has slowly decreased. This decrease is due to hunting and the use of pest spray by farmers. Many farmers used to spray DDT to reduce pests on their crops. This spray, when breathed by eagles, made them unable to have babies. Fortunately, the bald eagle population has begun to increase since DDT was banned as a pest spray. The bald eagle was officially removed from the list of endangered species in 1995.

Total Number of Words Read	Total Number of Words Read	
- Total Number of Mistakes	- Total Number of Mistakes	
= Total Number of Words Read	= Total Number of Words Read	

TRS Animal Fluency Passage Timings

Name		
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Pencil = Cold Timing Pen = Hot Timing	Recording Example	"Ape"	"Eagle"	"Ibex"	"Okapi"	"Mule"	"Rooster"	"Woodpecker"	"Cow"	"Koi"	"Hawk"	"Ermine"	"Armadillo"	"Orca"	"Anteater"	"Elephant"	"Iguana"	"Otter"	"Umbrella Bird"	"Bear"	"Camel"	"Dog"
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260																						
280 270																						
290																						
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of Words Read in Two-Minute Timing

Animal Fluency Passage

TRS "The Eagle" Comprehension Worksheet #2

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Interpret	(1) Why might bald eagles move their nests so often?
Re-think	(2) Why might eagles be poor swimmers?
·	(3) Why would the location near water be important?
Connect	(4) Summarize the selection of the bald eagle as the national bird.
Summarize	(5) Why might the future of the bald eagle be safer than that of other endangered species?

Predict

The SCRIP Comprehension Worksheets Answers

"The Ape" Comprehension Worksheet #1

- (1) Deforestation of the rain forest.
- (2) They swing from trees; they eat the plants and leaves of the trees.
- (3) They live as single adults; females raise the babies; males fight for the females.
- (4) Student answers will vary.
- (5) Protecting the rain forest; banning ownership of orangutans as pets; reducing palm farming.

"The Eagle" Comprehension Worksheet #2

- (1) To protect their nests from predators; to adjust to changing weather conditions.
- (2) Their wings and feet are not designed for swimming.
- (3) Prey is located in water or near water areas.
- (4) Despite opposition from Ben Franklin, the Continental Congress selected the eagle in 1782.
- (5) Student answers will vary. Perhaps because it is the national bird of the United States.

"The Ibex" Comprehension Worksheet #3

- (1) Darker fur in the non-snowy seasons would provide more camouflage.
- (2) Hard feet would be more comfortable, produce less injuries, and provide better support.
- (3) Fruit is less likely to grow in the mountains.
- (4) Males stay separate to fight for the females.
- (5) The male heads were prized by hunters; ibexes were also hunted for their medicinal value.

"The Okapi" Comprehension Worksheet #4

- (1) No. Their body shapes and short horns make them unlikely predators.
- (2) Okapi prefer mountain and forest areas and need open land to graze.
- (3) Okapi live only in one country in mountain and forest areas.
- (4) Student answers will vary.
- (5) Loggers, miners, farmers are moving into their territory; also, poachers want their skins.

"The Mule" Comprehension Worksheet #5

- (1) The mix produces the useful abilities of both the horse and the donkey.
- (2) These areas are generally poor and mules are needed for farming and transportation there.
- (3) They need to plan whether they want a more horse-like or donkey-like foal.
- (4) They are smart and proud animals with good memories.
- (5) There is no threat of extinction; the mule population is in balance.

TRS How to Use Context Clues

FP'S BAG SALE

When you come to an unknown word, apply the steps of the FP'S BAG SALE strategy in the following order until you get a good clue about the meaning of an unknown word.

Finish the sentence.

See how the word fits into the whole sentence.

Pronounce the word out loud.

Sometimes hearing the word will give you a clue to meaning.

Syllables–Examine each word part.

Word parts can be helpful clues to meaning.

Before–Read the sentence before the unknown word.

The sentence before can hint at what the word means.

After–Read the sentence after the unknown word.

The sentence after can define, explain, or provide an example of the word.

Grammar–Determine the part of speech.

Pay attention to where the word is placed in the sentence, the ending of the word, and its grammatical relationship to other known words for clues to meaning.

Synonym–Sometimes an unknown word is defined by the use of a synonym.

Synonyms appear in apposition, in which case commas, dashes, or parentheses are used. The wardrobe, or closet, opened the door to a brand new world.

Antonym–Sometimes an unknown word is defined by the use of an antonym.

Antonym clues will often use Signal Words e.g., however, not, but, in contrast Example: He signaled a looey, not a right turn.

Logic—Your own knowledge about the content and text structure may provide clues to meaning.

Logic clues can lead to a logical guess as to the meaning of an unknown word.

Example: He petted the canine, and then made her sit up and beg for a bone.

Example—When part of a list of examples or if the unknown word itself provides an example, either provides good clues to meaning.

Example clues will often use Signal Words e.g., for example, like, such as Example: Adventurous, rowdy, and crazy pioneers all found their way out West.



Teacher Notes

The fluency assessment is the only assessment in the *Teaching Reading Strategies* that needs to be administered individually. As a critical component of reading diagnosis, teachers need to hear their students read. This assessment allows the teacher to assess reading ability and provides a baseline fluency rate. Additionally, the results will help the teacher narrow down the reading level of students to inform selection of books for independent reading practice.

The "Pets" fluency passage is leveled in a unique pyramid design: the first paragraph is at the first grade (*Fleish-Kincaid*) reading level; the second paragraph is at the second grade level; the third paragraph is at the third grade level; the fourth paragraph is at the fourth grade level; the fifth paragraph is at the firth grade level; the sixth paragraph is at the sixth grade level; and the seventh paragraph is at the seventh grade level. Thus, the reader begins practice at an easier level that builds confidence and then moves to more difficult academic language through successive approximation. As the student reads the fluency passage, the teacher will be able to note the reading levels at which the student has a high degree of accuracy and automaticity. Automaticity refers to the ability of the reader to read effortlessly without stumbling or sounding-out words.

- The reading level in which the student has 95–100% accuracy with a high degree of automaticity indicates an independent level of reading. In other words, this reading level is appropriate for students to read on their own. Help students to choose books at this level for independent reading practice.
- The reading level in which the student has 85–94% accuracy with a medium degree of automaticity indicates an instructional level of reading. In other words, this reading level is appropriate for students to read with teacher or parent assistance. Help students to choose books at this level for instructional reading practice.
- The reading level in which the student has less than 85% accuracy with a low degree of automaticity indicates a frustrational level of reading. In other words, this reading level is inappropriate for effective reading practice.

Materials/Instructional Setting/Organization

Laminate one copy of the "Pets" fluency assessment for students. Run off enough copies of the same assessment for each student. Use a stopwatch to ensure that the two-minute timings will be accurate. Set aside a table or two desks in a corner of the room or just outside the door, if practical. Have desks or chairs facing each other.

Announce to the class that you will have students quietly read to you for two-minute reading
fluency timings. Say, "Please don't interrupt the fluency timings, unless there is an emergency
We want to complete these timings quickly, so this is how we will organize things: I will pick
one student to read. The first to read will be Please sit here. When
has finished, she will use the stopwatch to time the next reader, who will be
From now on, the student who does the timing will quietly go get the next
reader. Any questions?"

Fluency Assessment Directions/Grading/Recording

- 1. Say—"I'm going to have you read out loud for two minutes. Read quickly, but say the words correctly. The title of this article is "Pets." Point to the first word of the article on the student's copy and say "Ready, begin."
- 2. As the student reads, mark a slash on the teacher's copy for mispronounced words, omitted words, added words, and words not correctly pronounced within three seconds. Say the word for the student after three seconds of silence or attempted pronunciation and then say "Next," if the student does not continue to read. Be consistent in test administration regarding marking (or not marking) dialect differences, word repetitions, pre-practice of difficult words, reversals, and self-corrections.

3. Mark a bracket after the last word the student reads correctly when two minutes have elapsed.
Say, "Stop." Record the total number of words read, less errors at the bottom left of the page and
the name of the student. Say, "Thank you. Now, you will be the timer. When I say "begin," push
this button. After two minutes, say "stop," and push the button again. After the timing has been
completed, say "Please go tell that he or she is "on deck."

Once the assessments have been completed, the = Total Number of Words should be recorded in the Fluency Words Pre-test column on the **Phonemic Awareness**, **Phonics**, **Sight Words**, **and Fluency Mastery Matrix** for each student as a diagnostic baseline.

Subsequent Fluency Assessments

Once per quarter, re-assess individual student fluency, using the same article and procedures. Mark the error slashes, ending bracket, total words and errors in another color. Analyze not only net reading rate, but percentage of errors, and miscue patterns.

Find these multiple choice reading assessments and many others on two CDs, blending and syllabication activities, phonemic awareness and phonics workshops, comprehension worksheets, multi-level fluency passages on eight CDs, 390 flashcards, posters, games, and more to differentiate reading instruction in the comprehensive *Teaching Reading Strategies* at www.penningtonpublishiing.com.



"Pets"

Pets are nice. Pets live with us. They can be good friends. Pets make people happy. They can be very fun.

Some pets are very smart. Many can be trained to do what people say. Pets may come to us when we call. Some can do special tricks. Some even seem to talk to us with a "bark," a "meow," or a "chirp."

Many people enjoy life more with pets. Pets can be good company. Pets can help people feel less lonely. Some pets help us feel better. Pets can even help us get more exercise.

Not all animals make good pets. Most wild animals are afraid of people. Others could be dangerous, like large cats or bears. It would be too hard to care for some animals. They might need a special place to live or special food to eat.

Pets and owners must make a good match. People need to think carefully about some things before getting a pet. A pet owner needs to have a good place for a pet to live. A small apartment may be perfect for a fish or hamster, but not for a large dog or cat. Also, some pets cost more to keep than others. Large pets eat more than small ones, and their cost of medical care can be expensive. People need to consider how much time they will be able to spend with their pets. Pets need plenty of human attention to stay happy.

The most popular pets worldwide are dogs and cats. There are slightly more cats than dogs. Birds, hamsters, turtles, snakes, lizards, and fish are also the pets of choice for many people. In the last few years, more "exotic" pets have become. Many people are now keeping ferrets and monkeys as pets. Most local governments have laws restricting which pets are acceptable in their communities.

Pet owners need to be responsible with their pets. Adult pets need to be spayed or neutered to prevent unplanned litters. According to the Humane Society, over three million unwanted pets are put to sleep each year. Also, mixed breed cats and dogs can make wonderful pets. In fact, some of the best pets can be adopted from local animal shelters at little cost. Pets are valuable friends and need our very best care.

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