

READING FLUENCY & COMPREHENSION TOOLKIT

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**ASSESSMENT
AND PRACTICE**



**FLUENCIES
COMPREHENSION
WORKSHEETS**



"Pets" Fluency Assessment

Name _____

11	Pets are nice. Pets live with us. They can be good friends. Pets make people happy. They can be very fun.		
21	Some pets are very smart. Many can be trained to do		
32	what people say. Pets may come to us when we call. Some		
44	can do special tricks. Some even seem to talk to us with a		
57	"bark," a "meow," or a "chirp."		
63	Many people enjoy life more with pets. Pets can be good		
74	company. Pets can help people feel less lonely. Some pets help us		
86	feel better. Pets can even help us get more exercise.		
96	Not all animals make good pets. Most wild animals are afraid of people.		
109	Others could be dangerous, like large cats or bears. It would be too hard to care		
125	for some animals. They might need a special place to live or special food to eat.		
141	Pets and owners must make a good match. People need to think carefully		
154	about some things before getting a pet. A pet owner needs to have a good place		
170	for a pet to live. A small apartment may be perfect for a fish or hamster, but not		
188	for a large dog or cat. Also, some pets cost more to keep than others. Large pets		
205	eat more than small ones, and their cost of medical care can be expensive.		
219	People need to consider how much time they will be able to spend with their		
234	pets. Pets need plenty of human attention to stay happy.		
244	The most popular pets worldwide are dogs and cats. There are slightly more cats than		
259	dogs. Birds, hamsters, turtles, snakes, lizards, and fish are also the pets of choice for many		
275	people. In the last few years pets have become more "exotic." Many people are now keeping		
290	ferrets and monkeys as pets. Most local governments have laws restricting which pets are		
303	acceptable in their communities.		
309	Pet owners need to be responsible with their pets. Adult pets need to be spayed or		
325	neutered to prevent unplanned litters. According to the Humane Society, over three million		
338	unwanted pets are put to sleep each year. Also, mixed breed cats and dogs can make		
354	wonderful pets. In fact, some of the best pets can be adopted from local animal shelters at		
371	little cost. Pets are valuable friends and need our very best care.		
383			
	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	



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”

of Words Read in Two-Minute Timing

Animal Fluency Passage

8	The ape is a very interesting animal. One		
16	type of ape is the orangutan. Male orangutans	orangutan	
25	can weigh as much as two normal size humans.	Sumatra	
32	Females weigh about half as much. Orangutans	Borneo	
41	have long, strong arms and their hands and feet	omnivore	
50	are shaped like hooks. They are shaggy and have	endangered	
52	red hair.	species	
59	Orangutans used to live all over Southeast		
73	Asia. Now they only live in a few rain forests on the islands of		
83	Sumatra and Borneo. Orangutans swing from tall trees to move		
96	around. It is warm where these animals live, but not too warm. There		
111	is a lot of rain there, so trees and plants grow very tall and big.		
121	Orangutans are <i>omnivores</i> , since they eat some birds and small		
133	mammals. However, they mostly eat plants, like fruit and leaves, instead of		
148	meat. Their diet consists of mostly fruit. The fruits they tend to prefer have a		
164	lot of sugar in them. One fruit that they like in particular are figs. Figs come		
179	from trees and they are easy for orangutans to pick and eat. Orangutans also		
189	eat lots of young leaves from many trees in their habitat.		
200	Unlike many other animals, orangutans are single adults, so they have		
213	no family structure. Mother orangutans raise their children one at a time. The		
230	baby rides on its mother’s back for three years at the start of its life. There, it		
242	learns how to pick food and protect itself from danger. Female orangutans		
255	usually have one baby every six years. Older male orangutans may fight each		
264	other for the attention of the available female orangutans.		
282	The territory of an adult orangutan is not clearly established, as is the case with many animals. Often,		
298	orangutan territories will overlap. However, this does not mean that orangutans are social animals. They limit		
316	their social interaction to feeding, mating, and calling each other. Only rarely will orangutans get in fights with		
333	each other over food or territory. In these fights, the apes will demonstrate their strength by destroying		
346	branches, charging at each other, and biting each other until one gives up.		
362	Due to deforestation of the rain forest (cutting down trees for grazing or farmland), orangutans are		
381	becoming more and more endangered with each day. Palm oil farmers have cut down much of the forest on		
399	Sumatra and Borneo. Some people even capture orangutans to use them as pets in their homes. Orangutans are		
413	already on international endangered species lists, and their habitat has been increasingly threatened by		
422	humans, mainly through the deforestation of the rain forest.		
	Total Number of Words Read	Total Number of Words Read	
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	= Total Number of Words Read	= Total Number of Words Read	

7	Bears are some of the most powerful	
13	wild animals. Different bears have different	mammals
21	colors of fur. Brown bears can have brown,	organized
29	blonde, and black fur. Their tails are about	occasionally
38	as long as their heads. Bears are very strong.	reintroduced
46	Some bears are big, and some are small.	
52	Male bears are bigger than females.	
64	There are few brown bears left in the world. They mainly live	
78	in Russia and in the United States. Brown bears used to live all over,	
90	but they were killed where humans settled. Brown bears like to live	
103	in the open country where there are mountains. Others like to live in	
116	forests. Bears build <i>dens</i> in which to sleep. Dens are large holes that	
127	bears dig under trees or sometimes on the sides of hills.	
139	Brown bears are omnivores. They eat a variety of different plants and	
152	meats. They mainly like to eat leaves, berries, roots, fungi, and sprouts. But	
165	they also eat fish, insects, and small mammals like raccoons. Brown bears in	
178	Yellowstone have been known to eat up to 40,000 moths in one day!	
191	Occasionally, these bears will eat deer or moose. They have been known to	
201	break into cars and homes to get food as well.	
213	Over the summer months, brown bears look for other brown bears for	
227	mates. They remain with the same mates from several days to a few weeks.	
239	Males compete with other males for their partners. Each year, females have	
253	about one to four babies, called <i>cubs</i> . Cubs are born blind, without teeth, and	
267	without hair. They remain with their mothers for two to four years and learn	
274	how to hunt, fish, and defend themselves.	
291	The California State Flag features a large type of brown bear called a <i>grizzly</i> . Although, since the	
307	early 1900s, grizzly bears have been extinct in California. Grizzly bears were wiped out by organized	
325	hunting, sponsored and paid for by the California state government, because these bears were such a threat to	
339	humans and livestock. The grizzly habitat did not mix well with the human habitat.	
357	While the brown bear is not a main concern on the endangered species list, some sub-species of the	
372	brown bear are threatened. Specifically, the grizzly bear is facing endangerment. Some organizations want to	
389	reintroduce the bears to their previous habitats in the Western United States. One of the largest grizzly reserves	
399	in the world is Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.	
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Context Clues Vocabulary Strategies and Practice

Using context clues to figure out the meaning of unknown words as you read will help build your vocabulary and increase your reading comprehension. The **FP'S BAG SALE STRATEGIES** will improve your ability to use context clues.

When you come to an unknown word, first apply these steps: **FP'S BAG**.

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.

Next search for surrounding word clues which identify one of the **SALE** (Synonym, Antonym, Logic, Example) context clues categories. Knowing the category the unknown word belongs to will help you define the unknown word.

Synonym—Sometimes an unknown word is defined by the use of a word that is similar in meaning. *Synonyms may appear in apposition, in which case commas, dashes, or parentheses are used.*

Example: The **wardrobe**, or closet, was filled with clothes.

Often a sentence will have two clauses with one clause listing the word and the other clause defining it.

Example: Spaghetti is a **carbohydrate**, a rich source to provide energy.

Antonym—Sometimes an unknown word is defined by the use of word that is different or opposite in meaning. *Antonym clues will often use Transition Words e.g. however, not, but, in contrast, etc.*

Example: He signaled a **looey**, not a right turn.

Logic—Sometimes an unknown word is explained by the use of other words. *Your own knowledge about the content and text structure may provide clues to meaning.*

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

Example—Sometimes an unknown word is defined by example words or is used as part of list of similar examples. *Example clues will often use Transition Words e.g. for example.*

Example: Adventurous, **rowdy**, and crazy pioneers all found their way out West.

Put together the **FP'S BAG SALE** clues to guess the meaning of the unknown word.

TRS “The Eagle” Comprehension Worksheet #2

The eagle is a huge bird. One type of eagle is the bald eagle. This bird of prey has a large 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.

Interpret



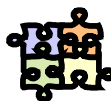
(1) Why might bald eagles move their nests so often?

Re-think



(2) Why might eagles be poor swimmers?

Connect



(3) Why would the location near water be important?

Summarize



(4) Summarize the selection of the bald eagle as the national bird.

Predict



(5) Why might the future of the bald eagle be safer than that of other endangered species?



“The Ibex” Comprehension Worksheet #3

An ibex is a wild goat. Ibexes have big, long horns that turn behind their heads. The horns have spiky bumps on them. Their fur is very short, and not shaggy like a dog’s fur. As the weather warms, the fur gets darker. Ibexes are about five feet long and three feet high. They weigh about as much as two people put together.

Ibexes live in the mountains. They are found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Their homes are made in the rocks. Ibexes have very hard feet, so they can walk on rocks all day long. Some even live in snowy mountains, where it’s very cold. Mostly, they like to stay in the shade of trees in the daytime.

Ibexes are **herbivores**, so they eat only plants. In the daytime, when it is warm, they search for food. They usually eat leaves from trees that grow in their natural habitat. Many ibexes also search for fruit to eat. However, fruit is less common in some of their grazing areas. Although ibexes are plant eaters, this does not mean that they are less dangerous to humans. Ibexes dislike being near humans and will sometimes attack. The main animal that hunts for ibexes is the leopard.

Ibexes live in two different groups. Groups are made up of about ten to twenty ibexes. Males make up one group, and females and babies make up the other. Males fight each other to establish power in their groups and to win females as their mates. The most powerful male ibexes avoid each other and do not fight. This helps them avoid serious injury.

Ibexes are known for their charging abilities when they attack predators. Ibexes put down their heads and butt into their predators. Although younger ibexes often fight, they avoid hurting each other. In fact, much of their fighting involves circling and pretend charges, which are called **mock** charges.

Ibexes used to be the subjects of many game hunts. The handsome male heads were prized by hunters, and many of these heads were stuffed by **taxidermists** and then displayed in the homes of big game hunters. They were also hunted because of the medicinal properties of various parts of their bodies. However, the advancement of modern medicine has stopped most of the hunting of ibexes for their medicinal value. About ten thousand ibexes still live today in the world.

Interpret



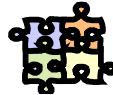
(1) Why might the fur get darker as the weather warms?

Re-think



(2) How would hard feet be helpful for walking on rocks?

Connect



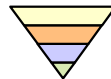
(3) Why might fruit be hard to find in the ibex habitat?

Predict



(4) Why do ibexes separate into two groups?

Summarize



(5) Summarize why ibexes were hunted so often.
