## CONTEXT CLUES and

## COMPREHENSION

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## TEI's Connect!

## @thetherapycrate

I'm Saundra, an ASHA certified and Georgia licensed SLP since 1992. I've worked in the medical, private and school settings. Middle school has been my favorite. Call me crazy, but I love their mood swings and quirky personalities at this age! And I love that they are old enough to say what they need from me to be successful. Such a blessing to work with these students.

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## Product Description

Vocabulary. It's the cornerstone of middle school standards. Whether the words are content-specific or Tier 2 vocabulary, middle school students are bombarded with them.

Context clues create shortcuts to understanding and learning unknown words. Without using context clues, the reader has to either interrupt the flow of the story to look up the definition or continue reading without fully understanding the passage.

Context Clues and Comprehension for Middle School Mixed Groups is the perfect tool to teach this powerful skill. Inside, you'll find five separate but related passages, each containing:

- Six target words with corresponding context clues
- Multiple choice questions page for vocabulary and stating context clues
- Comprehension questions and Logic questions page
- Word search with matching component for target vocabulary
- Articulation list for words used in the passage (r, r blends, z, s, s blends, I, and I blends)
- Answer keys for each activity

Plus

- Culminating activity for comprehension and following directions related to passages.
- Context clues chart

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## Define/Explain

The author gives the definition or other explanation of the word after it is used.
Example:
She acquired, or got, the ring from her grandmother.

## Synonym/Reword

The unknown word is paired with a synonym. The statement may also be reworded so that the word is easier to understand.
Example:
She acquired her grandmother's ring when her grandmother died. She would rather have received the ring while her grandmother was still alive.

## Sample Lesson Plan

Lesson: Scorpions
Lesson Objectives: Learn how to use context clues, informational paragraph comprehension, use reasoning skills to answer questions, acquire new vocabulary.

CCSS: RL 5.1, 5.4 RI 5.4, L 5.4, 5.6 RL 6.1, 6.4 RI 6.4, L 6.4, 6.6 RL 7.1, 7.4 RI 7.1, L 7.4, 7.6 RL 8.1, 8.4 RI 8.1, L 8.4, 8.6
Materials: Context Clues and Comprehension for Middle School Mixed Groups, either in print or projected on white board.

## Presentation: Context Clues

1. Introduce types of context clues and why they are important, using graphic organizer.
2. Key vocabulary is underlined in the passage. Students are to consider how the word is used and determine its meaning based on the context described in the graphic organizer. Read Scorpions informational passage as a group or individually.
3. Use printed or projected version of the Scorpions Vocabulary Context Clues page and complete individually or as a group. Discuss answers and types of context clues used.
4. Students can check their answers using the answer key if appropriate.

## Comprehension

1. After reading passage, students will answer questions for comprehension and recall. Encourage students to discuss the passage and their answers.
2. Students may check their answers using the answer key.

## Logic and Reasoning

1. Students will answer logic questions and discuss, in a group, their answers and how they derived them.
2. An answer key is provided and may promote discussion.

## Vocabulary

1. The included word search provides students another context to learn and use target terms.
2. Students should match the definition with the vocabulary term provided.
3. Complete the word search. An answer key follows to check accuracy.

## Articulation

1. Articulation words used in the informational passage are listed by target and position.
2. Depending on student needs and abilities, these words can be used in conversation to discuss the passage, to form spontaneous sentences, or for word level practice.

## Scorpions

Scorpions appear to be threatening creatures. Their eight legs, pincers or 'claws', and venomous stinger make them look very scary. Even though scorpions are arachnids, you wouldn't mistake one for a spider. They look more like small lobsters ranging from $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches to a little more than 8 inches long.
All 2,000 species of scorpions eat other animals, mostly insects. They use their venomous stinger to kill their food. While these carnivores look like they would enjoy eating one of us, in reality, only 20 to 30 species possess poison strong enough to kill humans.

Scorpion habitats are on every continent. They live in woodland areas, the desert, the rain forests, in British Columbia, North Carolina, and even high in the Himalaya mountains. No matter where they are, scorpions must have soil so they can burrow, or dig. The holes they dig are also called burrows and this is where they live and hide. Some even create tunnels to travel between burrows. If you were a scorpion, where would you want to live?

## Scorpions Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Threatening means:
a. scary
b. silly
c. eight-legged
d. friendly

What was the context clue?
2. Arachnid means:
a. frightening
b. animal group with eight legs
c. animal group that is scary
d. dangerous

What was the context clue?
3. Carnivore means:
a. animal from the dinosaur age
b. insect
c. animal that eats other animals
d. vegetarian
4. Possess means:
a. open
b. hide
c. have
d. feed

What was the context clue?
5. Habitat means:
a. family
b. home
c. skeleton
d. stinger

What was the context clue?
6. Burrow means:
a. dig
b. animal home in a hole in the ground
c. sniff
d. both $a$ and $b$

What was the context clue?

## Answer Key Scorpions Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Threatening means:
a. seary
b. silly
c. eight-legged
d. friendly

What was the context clue?
Their eight legs, pincers or 'claws', and venomous stinger make them look very scary.
2. Arachnid means:
a. frightening
b.anima_group-with_oightlogs_-
c. animal group that is scary
d. dangerous

What was the context clue?
Even though scorpions are arachnids, you wouldn't mistake one for a spider.
3. Carnivore means:
a. animal from the dinosaur age
b. insect
e. animal that eatsother animats-
d. vegetarian

What was the context clue?
While these carnivores look like they would enjoy eating one of US,
4. Possess means:
a. open
b. hide
c.have-
d. feed

What was the context clue?
...only 20 to 30 species possess poison strong enough to kill humans.
5. Habitat means:
a. family
b.home-
c. skeleton
d. stinger

What was the context clue?
They live in...
6. Burrow means:
a. dig
b. animal home in a hole in the ground
c. sniff
d.bothacatb-

What was the context clue?
so they can burrow, or dig. AND The holes they dig are also called burrows

## Scorpions

## Comprehension Questions

1. What animal looks similar to a scorpion?
2. If your friend says she found a scorpion the size of your hand, could she be telling the truth?
3. How many species of scorpions are there?
4. If you had a pet scorpion, what would you feed it?
5. Why do scorpions have poison in their stingers?
6. Why do scorpions dig tunnels?
7. Why do scorpions need burrows?
8. What size are scorpions?
9. Why would someone be scared of a scorpion?
10. Other than food and water, what would a pet scorpion need in its terrarium?

## Logic Questions

1. Could you be stung by a scorpion while swimming in the ocean? Why or why not?
2. What do scorpions do with their claws?
3. Why would an animal create tunnels between burrows instead of traveling above ground?
4. Why would a scorpion be a good animal to put in a horror movie?
5. Is a scorpion a good pet for a young child? Why or why not?

## Answer Key <br> Scorpions <br> Comprehension Questions

1. What animal looks similar to a scorpion? Lobster
2. If your friend says she found a scorpion the size of your hand, could she be telling the truth? Yes
3. How many species of scorpions are there? 2,000
4. If you had a pet scorpion, what would you feed it? Insects
5. Why do scorpions have venom in their stingers? To kill their food before they eat it.
6. Why do scorpions dig tunnels? So they can travel safely and quickly between burrows.
7. Why do scorpions need burrows? They live and hide in burrows.
8. What size are scorpions? $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches to 8 inches
9. Why would someone be scared of a scorpion? They look scary and are venomous.
10. Other than food and water, what would a pet scorpion need in its terrarium? Soil

## Logic Questions

1. Could you be stung by a scorpion while swimming in the ocean? Why or why not? No. Scorpions are not water creatures. They are found on land.
2. What do scorpions do with their claws? Probably to grab and hold things such as food.
3. Why would an animal create tunnels between burrows instead of traveling above ground? It may be safer underground away from other predators. It may also be a straighter, shorter path.
4. Why would a scorpion be a good animal to put in a horror movie? They look scary and dangerous.
5. Is a scorpion a good pet for a young child? Why or why not? No. A young child could be easily stung when they feed a scorpion.

## Scorpions Word Search

| Definitions | L | P | 0 | C | S | H | B | A | 1 | T | C | Word Bank |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Scary. | U | C | H | E | F | J | U | M | N | D | A | Arachnid |
| 2. Animal group that eats meat and has | Z | B | A | G | U | 1 | R | N | 1 | A | R | Burrow |
| eight legs and two body sections. | U | D | B | $J$ | W | A | R | M | D | 0 | $N$ | Carnivore |
|  | W | X | 1 | Y | 0 | Y | 0 | F | 1 | H | 1 | Habitat |
| 3. Any animal that eats meat. | A | S | T | N | E | A | W | E | N | U | V | Possess |
| 4. Where something lives. | L | S | A | V | H | E | P | A | H | S | 0 | Threatening |
|  | P | E | T | R | 0 | C | K | V | C | A | R |  |
| 5. To have or to belong to someone. | P | 0 | S | S | E | S | S | T | A | $N$ | E |  |
| 6. A. To dig. | G | N | 1 | $N$ | E | T | A | E | R | H | T |  |
| B. Animal home in a hole in the ground. | $x$ | N | E | T | $N$ | 1 | T | 1 | A | R | G |  |

## Answer Key Scorpions Word Search

## Definitions

1. Scary.
2. Animal group that eats meat and has eight legs and two body sections.
3. Any animal that eats meat.
4. Where something lives.
5. To have or to belong to someone.
6. A. To dig.
B. Animal home in a hole in the ground.


## Scorpions Articulation Word Lists

| R Words | R Words | S Words | Z Words | $\underline{\text { L Words }}$ | L Blend |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scorpions | Rain | Pincers | Creatures | Legs | Words |
| Appear | Forests | Poisonous | Legs | Look | Claws |
| Creatures | North | Insects | Claws | Like | Animals |
| Their | Carolina | Us | Poisonous | Small | Mostly |
| Pincers | Matter | Possess | Arachnids | Lobsters | Holes |
| Stinger | Where | Soil | Lobsters | Little | Tunnels |
| Very | Burrow | So | Inches | Long |  |
| Scary | Or | Also | Animals | All |  |
| Arachnids | Were | This | Use | Kill |  |
| Are |  | Some | These | While |  |
| For | R Blend | S Blend | Possess | Reality |  |
| Spider | Words | Words | Poison | Woodland |  |
| More | Words | Words | Humans | Columbia |  |
| Lobsters | Threatening | Scorpions | Areas | Carolina |  |
| Ranging | Creatures | Stinger | Desert | Himalaya |  |
| Other | Strong | Scary | Mountains | Soil |  |
| Carnivores | British | Mistake | Holes | Called |  |
| Reality | Create | Spider | Is | Travel |  |
| Thirty | Travel | Small | Tunnels |  |  |
| Every |  | Lobster | Burrows |  |  |
| Desert |  | Species |  |  |  |
|  |  | Mostly |  |  |  |
|  |  | Strong |  |  |  |
|  |  | Habitats |  |  |  |
|  |  | Forests |  |  | (c) |

## Frogs

Ponds, lakes, and wet ditches are good environments to find frogs. These amphibians need to live near water to keep their smooth skin moist. Frogs are resilient animals and can survive some really tough environmental conditions, but they protect themselves by burrowing under leaves or deep in moist soil.

Some unusual things have been said about frogs. Fairytales tell of witches brewing potions with frogs, turning people into frogs and princesses kissing frogs and hoping that one will turn into a handsome prince! Many believe that touching a frog will give you warts, but all of these ideas are just stories and myths.

One thing that sounds fictitious but is actually true, is stories of frozen frogs coming back to life. Since frogs live near water, it makes sense that, in cold weather, the water they live near may freeze. Sometimes the frogs freeze too. But nature created a solution to this problem. Frogs have a high amount of glucose in their organs that acts like anti-freeze. This substance is essential. Without it, their organs would freeze completely and the frogs would perish. Glucose keeps frogs from dying from cold temperatures. So, as the weather warms and the frogs begin to thaw, their hearts begin to beat and their lungs breathe again. Nature is amazing!

## Frogs Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Environment means:
a. place
b. idea
c. wet
d. far away

What was the context clue?
2. Resilient means:
a. jumpy
b. able to recover from something difficult
c. slimy
d. able to leap long distances

What was the context clue?
3. Fictitious means:
a. true
b. rude
c. encouraging
d. false or made-up
4. Solution means:
a. similar
b. fever
c. answer
d. problem

What was the context clue?
5. Essential means:
a. describes something that you must have
b. useful but not always needed
c. poisonous
d. hard to get

What was the context clue?
6. Perish means:
a. die
b. starve
c. lose the ability to jump
d. survive

What was the context clue?

## Answer Key Frogs Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Environment means:
e.plee
b. idea
c. wet
d. far away

What was the context clue?
These amphibians need to live near water to keep their smooth skin moist.
2. Resilient means:
a. jumpy
b_heretorecover from something_difficult
c. slimy
d. able to leap long distances

What was the context clue?
...can survive some really tough environmental conditions,
3. Fictitious means:
a. true
b. rude
c. encouraging
d.false-or modomp

What was the context clue?
...but is actually true
4. Solution means:
a. similar
b. fever
c. Onswef
d. problem

What was the context clue?
...created a solution to this problem.
5. Essential means:
a. describes-something that you must have
b. useful but not always needed
c. poisonous
d. hard to get

What was the context clue?
Without it, their organs would freeze completely...
6. Perish means:
a.die-
b. starve
c. lose the ability to jump
d. survive

What was the context clue?
Glucose keeps frogs from dying...

## Frogs

## Comprehension Questions

1. If you want to find a frog, where is a good place to look?
2. How do frogs protect themselves?
3. What are two unusual ways that fairytales use frogs?
4. Does touching a frog give you warts?
5. What can happen to frogs when the temperature is very cold?
6. Other than soil, where do frogs burrow?
7. How do frogs keep from dying when their bodies freeze?
8. What part of the frog's body contains the 'anti-freeze' substance?
9. Why do frogs live near water?
10. What happens as a frozen frog begins to thaw?

## Logic Questions

1. Is the desert a good home for a frog? Why or why not?
2. Why would a witch costume possibly include a frog?
3. Is it likely that a frog would live in salt water? How do you know?
4. Why do you think frogs jump in backyard pools?
5. If you saw a frozen frog on the ground, would you think it was dead? Why or why not?

## Answer Key Frogs

Comprehension Questions

1. If you want to find a frog, where is a good place to look? Near water.
2. How do frogs protect themselves? They stay in burrows.
3. What are two unusual ways that fairytales use frogs? Witches use them in magic potions. Kissing a frog may turn it into a handsome prince.
4. Does touching a frog give you warts? No.
5. What can happen to frogs when the temperature is very cold? They freeze partly but don't die.
6. Other than soil, where do frogs burrow? Under leaves.
7. How do frogs keep from dying when their bodies freeze? Glucose in their bodies.
8. What part of the frog's body contains the 'anti-freeze' substance? Organs like the heart and lungs.
9. Why do frogs live near water? They need water to keep their skin moist.
10. What happens as a frozen frog begins to thaw? The heart begins to beat and lungs begin to breathe again.

## Logic Questions

1. Is the desert a good home for a frog? Why or why not? No because the desert doesn't have consistent water source to keep frogs moist.
2. Why would a witch costume possibly include a frog? Because fairytales use frogs in witches' brews and magic spells.
3. Is it likely that a frog would live in salt water? How do you know? No. Frogs live in fresh water. Salt would dry frogs' skin.
4. Why do you think frogs jump in swimming pools? They want to be in water and don't know that pools have chemicals.
5. If you saw a frozen frog on the ground, would you think it was dead? Why or why not? Yes, because it would not be breathing and would not have a heartbeat.

## Frogs Word Search

| $\quad$ Definitions | E | S | U | O | I | T | I | T | C | I | F | Word Bank |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 1. Place or area. | S | N | H | E | F | O | U | M | N | D | A | Resilient |
| 2. Must have or can not <br> do without. | S | F | V | G | U | L | R | N | I | P | K | Essential |
| 3. Not true. | E | I | Q | I | W | U | Y | M | D | E | E | Environment |
| 4. Die. | N | C | I | Y | R | T | O | F | I | R | T | Perish |
| 5. Able to withstand a <br> lot without being <br> hurt. | I | T | K | N | E | O | W | E | N | I | V | Solution |
| 6. Answer to a problem <br> or a way to fix a <br> problem. | L | T | N | E | I | L | I | S | E | R | A | N |
| I | G | N | O | I | T | U | L | O | S | N | Q | Fictitious |

## Answer Key <br> Frogs Word Search

Definitions

1. Place or area.
2. Must have or can not do without.
3. Not true.
4. Die.
5. Able to withstand a lot without being hurt.
6. Answer to a problem or a way to fix a problem.


Word Bank
Resilient

Essential
Environment

Perish

Solution

Fictitious

## Frogs Articulation Word Lists

| R Words | R Blend Words | S Blend Words | Z Words | $\underline{L}$ Words | $\underline{\text { L Blend Words }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Are | Frogs | Lakes | Frogs | Lakes | Animals |
| Environments | Protect | Environments | Ponds | Live | Cold |
| Near | Brewing | Amphibians | Ditches | Resilient | Problem |
| Water | Princesses | Prince | These | Really | Glucose |
| Their | Prince | Warts | Amphibians | Environmental | Completely |
| Resilient | True | Just | Resilient | Themselves |  |
| Survive | Frozen | Stories | Animals | Leaves |  |
| Really | Freeze | Myths | Conditions | Soil |  |
| Environmental | Created | Since | Themselves | Unusual |  |
| Burrowing | Problem | Makes | Leaves | Fairytales |  |
| Under | Breathe | Sense | Fairytales | Tell |  |
| Fairytales | S Words | Substance | Witches | People |  |
| Turning | SWords | Hearts | Potions | Will |  |
| Turn | Survive |  | Princesses | Believe |  |
| Warts | Some |  | Ideas | All |  |
| Stories | Said |  | Stories | Actually |  |
| Weather | Princesses |  | Sounds | Life |  |
| Nature | Kissing |  | Is | Solution |  |
| Organs | Handsome |  | Frozen | Essential |  |
| Perish | Fictitious |  | Freeze | Lungs |  |
| Warms | Since |  | Sometimes |  |  |
| Hearts | Solution |  | Organs |  |  |
|  | This |  | As |  |  |
|  | Glucose |  | Warms |  |  |
|  | Essential |  | Lungs |  |  |
|  | So |  | Amazing |  |  |

## Mice

Mice burrow. Like other animals, mice use burrows for protection from predators such as cats, foxes, dogs and birds. In the wild, mice only live about a year. In spite of their short life span, the common house mouse is not in any danger of extinction. A mama mouse can have six babies at a time and can keep having that many every three weeks! If mice weren't a main source of food for other wild animals, we could assume their population would grow out of control.
When mice live indoors, there are no wild predators to keep their numbers down. It's likely that you have seen a mouse in your house at least once. Mice live where food is available. They are omnivores, so a human home is the perfect place for them to find both meat and vegetables as well as other foods mice enjoy. They eat a lot, up to 20 times a day! That means they also leave a big mess. Just one mouse will leave 100 droppings every day and they leave them everywhere they go.
Mouse poop is more than just messy, it also creates a health hazard. Mouse feces carries many diseases. Sometimes food is stored where there are mice. Where there are mice there are mouse droppings. When a person consumes food that has been in contact with mouse droppings, they can get very sick. Salmonella is a disease caused by bacterium in rodent feces. It most commonly causes severe stomach issues, but it sometimes results in death. So when mom tells you


## Mice Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Source means:
a. place where something is
b. number
c. section
d. supply

What was the context clue?
2. Assume means:
a. to completely forget
b. to believe something is true
c. create something
d. deliver

What was the context clue?
3. Available means:
a. easy to reach
b. rotten
c. thrown away
d. yummy
4. Omnivore means:
a. lazy animal
b. animal that eats meat and plants
c. sleepy creatures
d. hungry

What was the context clue?
5. Create means:
a. make
b. destroy
c. prevent
d. save

What was the context clue?
6. Issue means:
a. problem
b. recurring article
c. bleeding
d. worms

What was the context clue?

## Answer Key Mice Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Source means:
a. place where somethingis on-begins
b. number
c. section
d. supply

What was the context clue?
...food for other wild animals
2. Assume means:
a. to completely forget
b._م_believe_somethingistrun
c. create something
d. deliver

What was the context clue?
A mama mouse can have six babies at a time ...every three weeks! ...We could assume their population would grow out of control.
3. Available means:
aneasy toreach
b. rotten
c. thrown away
d. yummy

What was the context clue?
...a human home is the perfect place for them to find...food...
4. Omnivore means:
a. lazy animal
b_nimalthateats_meatand_pants
c. sleepy creatures
d. hungry

What was the context clue?
...perfect place for them to find both meat and vegetables as well as other foods mice enjoy.
5. Create means:
a_mone
b. destroy
c. prevent
d. save

What was the context clue?
...more than just messy, it also creates a health hazard.
6. Issue means:
a.problem
b. recurring article
c. bleeding
d. worms

What was the context clue?
...can get very sick.

## Mice <br> Comprehension Questions

1. What animals are predators to mice?
2. How many babies can a mother mouse have at one time?
3. How long do mice live in the wild?
4. What keeps the mouse population under control?
5. Why is mouse feces (poop) considered a health hazard?
6. Why do mice poop so much?
7. What makes a human home an enjoyable place for mice to live?
8. Name a disease spread by mice.
9. How do mice spread diseases?
10. What are some symptoms that may indicate you've been infected with salmonella?

Logic Questions

1. Do you think it is difficult to keep mice and other pests off of food in warehouses and stores?
2. Pet mice live longer than mice living in the wild. Why?
3. What would happen if mice didn't have natural predators?
4. Why do you think some people are afraid of mice?
5. Why should you always wash fresh food before you eat it?

## Answer Key Mice

## Comprehension Questions

1. What animals are predators to mice? cats, foxes, dogs and birds
2. How many babies can a mother mouse have at one time? Six at a time.
3. How long do mice live in the wild? About a year.
4. What keeps the mouse population under control? Predators and a short life span in the wild.
5. Why is mouse feces (poop) considered a health hazard? Their feces carries diseases.
6. Why do mice poop so much? They eat a lot.
7. What makes a human home an enjoyable place for mice to live? There is a large food source.
8. Name a disease spread by mice. Salmonella
9. How do mice spread diseases? Through their droppings.
10. What are some symptoms that may indicate you've been infected with salmonella? Severe stomach issues.

## Logic Questions

1. Do you think it is difficult to keep mice and other pests off of food in warehouses and stores? Yes. (Accept any reasonable answer for why.)
2. Pet mice live longer than mice living in the wild. Why? They are cared for and protected from predators.
3. What would happen if mice didn't have natural predators? There would be too many mice and more disease would spread.
4. Why do you think some people are afraid of mice? They are afraid of disease (accept any logical answer.)
5. Why should you always wash fresh food before you eat it? To wash away germs and bacteria-causing diseases.

## Mice Word Search

| $\quad$ Definitions | X | Q | U | O | I | J | A | T | C | I | F | Word Bank |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1. Easy to reach or get. | W | N | H | M | F | O | U | M | N | D | A | Source |
| 2. Animal that eats <br> meat and plants. | S | F | V | N | U | L | R | N | I | B | K | Assume |
| 3. To believe something <br> is true. | A | V | A | I | L | A | B | L | E | Y | E | Available |
| 4. Place where <br> something is. | S | C | I | V | R | T | O | C | I | R | T | Omnivores |
| 5. Problems. | S | T | K | O | E | O | R | E | N | I | V | Create |
| 6. Make. | U | I | A | R | H | U | N | N | I | S | O | Issues |
|  | M | E | T | E | O | C | K | M | C | S | Y |  |
|  | E | T | N | S | I | L | I | S | E | U | A |  |

## Answer Key <br> Mice Word Search

$\quad$ Definitions

1. Easy to reach or get. $\quad$ X

Mice Articulation Word Lists

| R Words | R Blend Words | S Words | S Blend Words | Z Words | $\underline{L}$ Words |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Burrow | Protection | Mice | Cats | Animals | Like |
| Other | From | Such | Spite | Use | Only |
| Birds | Predators | House | Span | Burrows | Live |
| Year | Every | Mouse | Extinction | As | Life |
| Their | Three | Six | Six | Foxes | Population |
| Short | Grow | Source | Weeks | Dogs | Control |
| Danger | Control | Assume | Least | Birds | Likely |
| Weren't | 100 (one hundred) | Seen | Once | Is | Available |
| Source | Droppings | So | Just | Babies | Vegetables |
| Indoors | Creates | Mess | Creates | Foods | Well |
| There |  | Messy | Stored | Means | Lot |
| Are |  | Feces | Most | Droppings | Also |
| Numbers |  | Sometimes | Stomach | Hazard | Leave |
| Your |  | Person | Results | Feces | Will |
| Where |  | Consumes |  | Carries | Salmonella |
| Omnivores |  | Sick |  | Diseases | Commonly |
| Perfect |  | Salmonella |  | Sometimes | Apple |
| For |  | Severe |  | Consumes |  |
| Everywhere |  |  |  | Has | $\underline{\text { L Blend Words }}$ |
| Carries |  |  |  | Caused | Wild |
| Person |  |  |  | Issues | Wild |
| Bacterium |  |  |  | Results | Place |
| Rodent |  |  |  | Tells | Health |
| Severe |  |  |  |  | Results |
| Results |  |  |  |  | Tells |
| Before |  |  |  |  |  |

## Wolf Spiders

Wolf spiders look like something from your worst nightmare. These hairy beasts have eight legs and eight eyes. Wolf spiders have great eyesight. Their eyes don't move, but they are arranged in a way that makes everything visible in four directions at once. Creepy, but useful.

These things aren't just creepy looking, they can also run up to two feet per second. That may not sound fast, but when you're only two inches long, moving two feet in just one second is pretty speedy, especially if you're the slow poke on the wolf spider's menu. Don't worry though, they predominately eat insects and are relatively harmless to humans. A wolf spider's bite is venomous, but they rarely bite humans unless you poke, chase, or pester them.

If you are bitten, you'll probably experience swelling, mild pain, and maybe itching at the site of the bite. Wash the bite with soap and water. A cold cloth and a mild pain reliever will give you some relief.

Finding a wolf spider shouldn't be difficult. They live on every continent except Antarctica. You may encounter them in shallow burrows, around doors and windows, gardens, shrubs and near running water. They are camouflaged, so look carefully since they will blend in with their surroundings.

If you're brave enough, get a close look when you find one. You may be lucky enough to see a mama spider carrying her babies. This is odd, or very unusual, for arachnids. Mamas carry the spherical egg sac on their abdomen until the eggs hatch from the ball-shaped bag. Then they carry the babies, as many as 100 at a time, until the young spiders are mature enough to leave mom.

That is a sight to see, even if you don't have eight eyes!


## Wolf Spider Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Visible means:
a. able to be heard
b. eyesight
c. able to be seen
d. light

What was the context clue?
2. Predominately means:
a. mostly
b. never
c. not usually
d. sometimes

What was the context clue?
3. Encounter means:
a. bother
b. to meet face to face
c. smell
d. kill

What was the context clue?
4. Odd means:
a. few
b. the opposite of even
c. short
d. unusual

What was the context clue?
5. Spherical means:
a. round like a ball
b. musical
c. babies
d. lost

What was the context clue?
6. Mature means:
a. ugly
b. history
c. developed
d. gray

What was the context clue?

## Answer Key Wolf Spider Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Visible means:
a. able to be heard
b. eyesight
G.ableto-berep
d. light

What was the context clue? Their eyes... are arranged in a way that makes everything visible ...
2. Predominately means:
a. mostly
b. never
c. not usually
d. sometimes

What was the context clue?
...especially if you're the slow poke on the wolf spider's menu. Don't worry though, they predominately eat insects and are relatively harmless to humans.
3. Encounter means:
a. bother
b. to meet face to face
c. smell
d. kill

What was the context clue?
Finding a wolf spider shouldn't be difficult.
4. Odd means:
a. few
b. the opposite of even
c. short
d. inusuat

What was the context clue?
...or very unusual
5. Spherical means:
a. round like abolt
b. musical
c. babies
d. lost

What was the context clue?
...eggs hatch from the ball-shaped bag.
6. Mature means:
a. ugly
b. history

d. gray

What was the context clue?
...until the young spiders are mature enough to leave mom.

## Wolf Spider

## Comprehension Questions

1. How many eyes does a wolf spider have?
2. In how many different directions can the wolf spider see?
3. What does a wolf spider usually eat?
4. Do wolf spiders usually bite people?
5. What are the symptoms of a wolf spider bite?
6. How do you treat a wolf spider bite?
7. Where are you likely to find a wolf spider?
8. How many babies can a wolf spider have at one time?
9. How are wolf spider parents different from other spider parents?
10. How fast can wolf spiders move?

## Logic Questions

1. Why should you wash a spider bite with soap and water?
2. Why are some people scared of spiders?
3. Are wolf spiders good hunters? Why or why not?
4. Why does a wolf spider bite kill an insect but not a person?
5. How does being camouflaged help the wolf spider hunt for food?

## Wolf Spider

## Comprehension Questions

1. How many eyes does a wolf spider have? Eight.
2. In how many different directions can the wolf spider see? Four.
3. What does a wolf spider usually eat? Insects.
4. Do wolf spiders usually bite people? No.
5. What are the symptoms of a wolf spider bite? Swelling, pain, itching.
6. How do you treat a wolf spider bite? Wash with soap and water, use a cold cloth and pain reliever.
7. Where are you likely to find a wolf spider? Shallow burrows, around doors and windows, gardens, shrubs and near running water.
8. How many babies can a wolf spider have at one time? 100
9. How are wolf spider parents different from other spider parents? They take care of their young until the young can care for themselves.
10. How fast can wolf spiders move? Two feet per second.

## Logic Questions

1. Why should you wash a spider bite with soap and water? To clean the wound and keep it from becoming infected.
2. Why are some people scared of spiders? They are scary looking (accept any logical answer).
3. Are wolf spiders good hunters? Why or why not? Yes. They run fast and have good eyesight (accept any logical answer.)
4. Why does a wolf spider bite kill an insect but not a person? The amount of venom the bite delivers in not enough to kill a person.
5. How does being camouflaged help the wolf spider hunt for food? Their prey can not see the spider as well if it is camouflaged.

## Wolf Spider Word Search

| Definitions | Y | A | K | A | L | A | K | T | R | O | W | S | F | Word Bank |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 1. Mostly. | E | L | P | O | F | S | E | Y | E | C | A | L | G | Visible |
| 2. Unusual. | N | K | E | Z | G | I | G | F | J | T | W | A | L | Predominately |
| 3. Ball-shaped. | C | L | W | T | H | M | S | O | U | M | N | C | A | Encounter |
| 4. Able to be seen. | O | A | Q | F | A | B | U | D | R | N | I | I | D | Odd |
| 5. Developed. | U | E | Z | V | U | N | N | D | A | L | E | R | E | Spherical |
| 6. To come face to face. | N | I | E | J | I | V | I | S | I | B | L | E | V | Mature |
|  | T | C | B | U | K | O | E | M | R | E | N | H | T |  |
|  | E | D | R | I | A | R | H | U | O | N | I | P | O |  |
|  | R | G | M | E | T | E | O | R | K | D | C | S | Y |  |
|  | M | H | E | T | N | S | D | L | V | S | E | U | A |  |
|  | O J | G | N | O | E | N | A | E | R | C | R | Q |  |  |

## Answer Key Wolf Spider Word Search

Definitions

1. Mostly.
2. Unusual.
3. Ball-shaped.
4. Able to be seen.
5. Developed.
6. To come face to face.


Wolf Spider Articulation Word Lists

| R Words | R Words | S Words | S Blend Words | LWords | Z Words |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Spiders | Doors | Something | Spiders | Look | Spiders |
| Your | Gardens | Eyesight | Worst | Like | These |
| Worst | Near | Makes | Beasts | Legs | Legs |
| Nightmare | Running | Once | Just | Useful | Eyes |
| Hairy | Water | Useful | Fast | Looking | As |
| Are | Carefully | Also | Speedy | Also | Visible |
| Arranged | Their | Second | Slow | Long | Directions |
| Four | Surrounding | Sound | Pester | Especially | Things |
| Directions | Carrying | Especially | Swelling | Slow | Inches |
| Aren't | Her | Insects |  | Relatively | Humans |
| You're | Very | Harmless | LBlend Words | Harmless | Is |
| Worry | For | Venomous | Wolf | Rarely | Observe |
| Relatively | Arachnids | Unless | Predominately | Unless | Doors |
| Harmless | Mature | Chase | Probably | You'll | Windows |
| Rarely | Blend Words | Some | Mild | Swelling | Gardens |
| Pester | Blend Words | Experience | Cold | Reliever | Surroundings |
| Experience | From | Site | Cloth | Will | Babies |
| Water | Great | Except | Difficult | Relief | Arachnids |
| Reliever | Creepy | So | Camouflaged | Shallow | Mamas |
| Relief | Pretty | Surroundings | Blend | Carefully |  |
| Observe | Predominately | Close | Close | Lucky |  |
| Every | Probably | See |  | Unusual |  |
| Antarctica | Shrubs | This |  | Until |  |
| Encounter | Brave | Sight |  | Leave |  |
| Burrows | 100 (one hundred) |  |  |  |  |

## Eastern Indigo Snake

Have you ever considered having a snake for a pet? Indigo snakes are such popular pets that they are now on the threatened species list. Snake hunters have collected so many for the pet trade that the Indigo snake population is now greatly diminished. These blue-black snakes require a large area of uninterrupted land. Land developers have expanded, or increased, the number of highways and commercial developments. This has contributed to the loss of animal habitat and the decrease in Indigo snake population. Eastern Indigos are still found in the Eastern United States, mainly Florida and Georgia, but they are no longer found in Alabama.

These reptiles are passive. They are not known to attack people and rarely bite humans even if they are picked up. Eastern Indigos are slower moving and non-venomous. All of these qualities add to their popularity as pets, but because they are a threatened species, you must have a permit to own one.

Fish, frogs, other snakes, even small alligators are included in the Eastern Indigo snake's diet. They are able to consume Eastern Rattlesnakes because they are immune to rattlesnake venom. Indigo snakes do not have venom, so their typical method of eating is to beat their prey on a hard object until it stops struggling. The snake will eat the animal whole, head first. Pet owners feed their snakes dead animals
 to prohibit injury from their violent natural method of eating.

Keep in mind that Eastern Indigos are the largest snakes in North America. They easily grow to be seven feet long, so provide a large area and a snug burrow just as they would have in their natural setting.

## Eastern Indigo Snake Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Diminished means:
a. poor
b. hated
c. decrease or to be less than before
d. more than usual

What was the context clue?
2. Expanded means:
a. built
b. tall
c. busy
d. increased

What was the context clue?
3. Passive means:
a. not likely to attack
b. harmful
c. aggressive
d. long

What was the context clue?
4. Consume means:
a. set fire to
b. beat
c. eat
d. leave

What was the context clue?
5. Method means:
a. a piece of something
b. a way of doing something
c. grow
d. food

What was the context clue?
6. Prohibit means:
a. try
b. encourage
c. look for
d. stop or prevent

What was the context clue?

## Answer Key Eastern Indigo Snake Vocabulary Context Clues

1. Diminished means:
a. poor
b. hated
c. decrease or to beless thanbefore
d. more than usual

What was the context clue?
This has contributed to the loss of animal habitat and the decrease in Indigo snake population.
2. Expanded means:
a. built
b. tall
c. busy
d.inereas

What was the context clue?
... or increased
3. Passive means:
a. not likely to attack
b. harmful
c. aggressive
d. long

What was the context clue?
They are not known to attack people...
4. Consume means:
a. set fire to
b. beat

Ger
d. leave

What was the context clue?
...are included in the Eastern Indigo snake's diet.
5. Method means:
a. a piece of something
b.a way-of doing-something
c. grow
d. food

What was the context clue?
...is to beat their prey on a hard object until it stops struggling. The snake will eat the animal whole, head first.
6. Prohibit means:
a. try
b. encourage
c. look for
d.ctop-or provent

What was the context clue?
...violent natural method of eating.

## Eastern Indigo Snake

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is the largest snake in North America?
2. Why do Eastern Indigo snakes make good pets?
3. How have Eastern Indigo snakes become a threatened species?
4. What do these snakes eat?
5. How do Eastern Indigo snakes eat their food?
6. Why do pet owners sometimes give their snakes dead animals to eat?
7. What do some states require you to buy in order to own an Eastern Indigo snake?
8. To what length can an Eastern Indigo snake grow?
9. Why is an Eastern Indigo snake able to eat an Eastern Rattlesnake?
10. Where can you find an Eastern Indigo snake?

Logic Questions

1. Why do you think some snakes stay in burrows?
2. How do you think the Eastern Indigo snake got it's name?
3. What can be done to increase the Eastern Indigo snake population?
4. What would cause Eastern Indigo snakes to leave Alabama, but remain in Florida and Georgia?
5. These animals are not likely to bite humans. If you see one in the wild, would it be okay to take it home with you? Why or why not?

## Answer Key Eastern Indigo Snake

## Comprehension Questions

1. What is the largest snake in North America? Eastern Indigo Snake
2. Why do Eastern Indigo snakes make good pets? They are passive, non-venomous and don't attack unless they are bothered.
3. How have Eastern Indigo snakes become a threatened species? They have lost their homes to the building of highways and businesses, as well as snake hunters taking them to sell as pets.
4. What do these snakes eat? Fish, frogs, snakes, small alligators.
5. How do Eastern Indigo snakes eat their food? They beat the animal's head against a hard surface until it stops fighting, then they eat it head first.
6. Why do pet owners sometimes give their snakes dead animals to eat? So the snake won't hurt itself while beating its food.
7. What do some states require you to buy in order to own an Eastern Indigo snake? A permit.
8. To what length can an Eastern Indigo snake grow? Seven feet long.
9. Why is an Eastern Indigo snake able to eat an Eastern Rattlesnake? The Eastern Indigo snake is immune to rattlesnake venom.
10. Where can you find an Eastern Indigo snake? Georgia, Florida.

## Logic Questions

1. Why do you think some snakes stay in burrows? Cooler temperatures when it's hot outside, protection, comfort.
2. How do you think the Eastern Indigo snake got it's name? Because of where they live and their color.
3. What can be done to increase the Eastern Indigo snake population? Stop taking them for pets, decrease building in their habitat so they have more land in which to live.
4. What would cause Eastern Indigo snakes to leave Alabama, but remain in Florida and Georgia? (Accept any reasonable answer.) More building may be occurring in that area, more snake hunting in that state.
5. These animals are not likely to bite humans. If you see one in the wild, would it be okay to take it home with you? Why or why not? No. There are not as many of them as there used to be. They could become extinct if we are not careful. (Accept other logical answers).

## Eastern Indigo Snake Word Search

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline Definitions \& L \& P \& 0 \& C \& 0 \& N \& S \& U \& M \& E \& P \& Word Bank <br>
\hline 1. Not likely to attack. \& U \& D \& V \& E \& T \& L \& P \& R \& N \& D \& A \& Consume <br>
\hline 2. A way of doing something. \& Z \& P \& 1 \& G \& U \& 1 \& R \& $N$ \& Y \& A \& S \& Passive <br>
\hline 3. Eat. \& U \& A \& B \& M \& E \& T \& H \& 0 \& D \& 0 \& $N$ \& Diminished <br>
\hline \& W \& S \& 1 \& Y \& 1 \& Y \& H \& F \& 1 \& H \& 1 \& Expanded <br>
\hline 4. Increased. \& A \& S \& T \& N \& E \& $N$ \& W \& E \& N \& U \& K \& Prohibit <br>
\hline 5. Stop or prevent something from happening. \& L
$P$ \& 1
V \& A
T \& V
W \& H

0 \& E
C \& K \& A
S \& H
C \& S
A \& 0
$Z$ \& Method <br>
\hline 6. To decrease or be less than before. \& P \& E \& E \& E \& N \& S \& Q \& T \& H \& N \& E \& <br>
\hline \& G \& E \& X \& P \& A \& N \& D \& E \& D \& E \& T \& <br>
\hline \& X \& T \& 1 \& B \& 1 \& H \& 0 \& R \& P \& R \& D \& <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

## Answer Key <br> Eastern Indigo Snake Word Search

$\quad$ Definitions

1. Not likely to attack. $\quad$ L

## Eastern Indigo Snake Articulation Word Lists

| R Words | R Words | S Words |  | S Blend Words |  | LWords |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ever | Rather | Considered |  | Snake |  | Popular |

## Owners

THE BURROW


## THE BURROW Cumulative Comprehension

1. Circle the animal that looks similar to a lobster but does not live in the ocean.
2. Draw a triangle around the animal that eats its prey head first.
3. Put your first initial on the animal that can survive being frozen.
4. Underline an animal that is not a snake, but is a danger to mice.
5. Write an $X$ beside the animal that carries its babies on its back until they are older.
6. Place a dot under the animal that can no longer be found in Alabama.
7. Draw a star over the animal that is immune to Rattlesnake venom.
8. Circle the legs of the animal that has excellent eyesight and eats mostly insects.
9. Draw a square around the animal who must live near water to keep its skin moist.
10. Write the number 3 beside the animal that digs tunnels between burrows for easier travel.
11. Draw a wavy line across the animal that needs a lot of land area to live in.
12. Place two lines above the animal that carries many diseases that can make humans very sick.
13. Write the letter $C$ on the animal that can have six babies every three weeks.
14. Draw a smile on the animal that is found on every continent except Antarctica.
15. Put a $V$ on the animal that is said to be used in witch spells.

## Answer Key THE BURROW



## WHERE CREDIT IS DUE



I国 StoryboardThat

WWW.animals.mom.me/identify-snake-holes-ground-7886.html
https://WWw.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/easternidigosnake.htm
www.factzoo.com/reptiles/snakes/indigo-snake.htm/
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