

Skill: Summarize Nonfiction and Fiction

Animal Studies

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3rd Grade Nonfiction

Animals are wonderful. If you look closely at how they live you will find many surprises. It is hard to look closely at insects. They are very small. Many of them fly away when you come near. But if you have a chance to watch them you will find how they live. Watching animals is a job that scientists do. It is called making observations. They have learned a lot about animals.

Scientists learned about tiny animals. They have studied insects. They found that insects have tools. They use those tools to live. They learned about the sawfly. This is just one animal they have studied.

Imagine what the sawfly is like. It is a fly but not like many others. They call it the sawfly because it has a kind of saw. It's not a real saw. But it looks like one. And it works like one. It is part of the sawfly. The sawfly uses the saw to make places where the eggs will be safe. It saws at plants. So it makes a place where the eggs can go. Then the sawfly does something very special. It makes a sort of homemade glue that fastens them where they are laid. We are not sure how it does that. But if you can watch the sawfly you will see this happen.

Some insects have cutting instruments that work just like scissors. The poppy-bee is one of them. It is a bee that makes its home in wood. This bee has a boring tool, too. It uses the tool to bore into old wood. It looks like a tool that a carpenter uses. Carpenters make things out of wood. The poppy-bee makes its nest out of wood.

Scientists observe birds, too. They have seen birds use their bills to get what they need. Some birds use their bills to cut into wood. They have sharp bills. They can cut a hole in a tree. They drill the hole to get inside the tree where insects live. Then they eat them.

Every animal is amazing. Even dogs and cats can surprise you. The more you look at animals the more you will learn. Nature is full of surprises. Every part of every animal has a purpose. Scientists learn more about them every day. Nature is a wonderful part of our world. Scientists have studied nature and written books. They help us know more.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What does a summary tell?
- a. everything
 - b. what is important
 - c. all the facts
 - d. the title

2. Which of these is the best summary of the first paragraph?
- a. Insects fly.
 - b. Scientists have jobs.
 - c. Scientists study insects.
 - d. Insects are special.

3. Which of these is the best summary of paragraph 3?
- a. The sawfly looks like a saw.
 - b. The sawfly flies fast.
 - c. The sawfly is a special insect.
 - d. The sawfly lays eggs.

4. Which of these is the best summary of the passage?
- a. Dogs and cats are special.
 - b. There are many animals.
 - c. Scientists have learned a lot about animals.
 - d. People read books to learn.

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*
What is a good summary of the last paragraph?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	c	c	c

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Students should explain that the last paragraph is about how special nature is.

Skill: Summarize Nonfiction and Fiction

Community Meeting

3rd Grade Fiction

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At the meeting, one neighbor was shouting. “I’ve had enough,” he said. “This neighborhood has too many potholes.” Other people clapped. They agreed with the neighbor. There were potholes.

“We can’t fill in all the potholes until we know where they are,” said the Alderman. “Please tell me when you see one. Then I promise I will get it fixed. I need you to help me to help your community.”

“What about the snow plowing,” a woman asked. “No one came to plow our street. We had to do it ourselves. We voted for you. You need to help us.” The Alderman answered. He said, “There was so much snow, that we could not get to the side streets quickly. But they are going to try to do a better job next time. We know this is important. We will fix it.”

“Let’s talk about progress,” the local librarian said. “Are we going to get the new library building?”

“I think we need a new park, first,” said a parent.

“A library is more important than a park,” she answered.

“No, it’s not. You’re wrong. You’re thinking about yourself.”

“Wait, now,” said the Alderman. This ward belongs to everyone. And both will help. We need the park. We need the library. And we need more. I’m trying to get it all. But we’re starting with the library. We don’t have space for the books in the old one. We need a computer area, too.”

“I’m angry,” the parent said. “I wanted the park first. I’m going to vote for someone else to be alderman next time.”

“Let’s all work together,” a teacher said. “This is about what we all need and want. We have a great community. Let’s work together.” Everyone agreed. They clapped loudly. “That is what we need to do,” said the alderman.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

6. Which is the best summary of the first paragraph?

- a. Everyone was happy.
- b. There was a problem.
- c. People were fighting.
- d. They had a meeting.

7. What is the best summary of the paragraph about the snow?

- a. It snows a lot.
- b. They were busy.
- c. They had to solve a problem.
- d. They voted for the alderman.

8. What is the best summary of the passage?

- a. People need help.
- b. People need libraries.
- c. People argue.
- d. People should work together.

9. Which of these is NOT a good summary of the passage?

- a. The alderman is sad.
- b. The librarian is sad.
- c. The community gets a library.
- d. All of them.

10. *Write your own answer to this question. Write a summary of the last paragraph.*

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Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	b	c	d	d

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. Students should state that the meaning is that people should work together.