How a Text Is Organized

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle the answer to each Why question.

READ THIS FIRST

Sloths and Hummingbirds

A sloth and a hummingbird both live in the warm forests of Central and South America. Both animals need energy from food to stay alive. However, they use that energy in very different ways.

A sloth is one of the slowest animals on Earth. It hangs upside down from branches and moves only a few feet in a minute. It eats leaves, which give it very little energy. To save energy, a sloth sleeps or rests for most of the day. Its body even stays cooler than the bodies of most other mammals.

A hummingbird, on the other hand, is one of the busiest animals on Earth. Its wings can beat about fifty times every second. Its heart can beat over one thousand times a minute while it flies. It drinks sweet nectar from flowers, which gives it quick energy. Because it burns energy so fast, a hummingbird must visit hundreds of flowers each day.

Still, the two animals have something else in common. Each one has a way to save energy when it needs to. The sloth saves energy every day by moving slowly. The hummingbird saves energy at night. It falls into a deep sleep called torpor, and its heart slows down a great deal.

So one animal is slow, and the other is fast. Yet both have bodies that fit the food they eat.

1. Why does the author describe each animal in its own paragraph?
   so the reader can compare one animal with the other
   to explain how to care for a pet sloth
   to show which animal has lived on Earth the longest

2. Why does a sloth sleep or rest for most of the day?
   to wait for nectar flowers to open each morning
   to save the little energy it gets from leaves
   to keep its body warm through the cold nights

3. Why must a hummingbird visit hundreds of flowers each day?
   Its heart beats very slowly.
   It needs a place to sleep.
   It burns energy so fast.

4. Why does the author begin the fourth paragraph with the word Still?
   to turn from their differences to what they share
   to begin a list of steps for saving energy
   to show that the sloth is really the faster animal

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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