Combine Information From Sources

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Two Texts About Octopuses

Text 1: The Clever Octopus

An octopus has a large brain for an animal without a backbone. About two-thirds of its nerve cells are in its eight arms. Each arm is lined with suckers that can grip and feel. Each arm can touch, taste and even make some choices on its own.

Scientists have watched octopuses solve problems in many ways. In tests, octopuses have found their way through simple mazes and remembered the path days later. In aquariums, octopuses have learned to unscrew jar lids to reach a treat inside. Some have even squeezed out of their tanks at night and wandered across the floor. In the wild, veined octopuses have been seen carrying halves of coconut shells. When danger comes near, they put the halves together and hide inside. Few animals besides humans carry objects to use later in this way. Octopuses also seem to recognize individual people. One aquarium worker said an octopus squirted water at her every time she walked by, but never at anyone else.

Text 2: Masters of Disguise

An octopus has no shell to protect it. Instead, it relies on hiding. Its skin holds thousands of tiny color sacs. By squeezing or relaxing the muscles around them, an octopus can change color in less than a second. It can even change just part of its body, making stripes or spots appear and disappear.

It can also change the texture of its skin. Small bumps rise or flatten so the octopus looks like rough rock, smooth sand or waving seaweed. The mimic octopus goes even further. It can change its shape and the way it swims to look like other sea animals, such as a flatfish or a sea snake. Another kind wraps six arms around itself to look like a clump of seaweed. Then it slowly walks away on its other two arms.

When hiding does not work, an octopus can squirt a cloud of dark ink. The ink blocks the view of an animal chasing it. That gives the octopus time to jet away. Because its body has no bones, it can then squeeze into a tiny crack in the rocks.

1. What is the main idea of Text 1?
   - Octopuses live only in aquariums.
   - Octopuses are skilled problem solvers.
   - Octopuses change color to hide.
   - Octopuses squirt ink to escape.

2. What is the main idea of Text 2?
   - Octopuses have many ways to stay hidden.
   - Octopuses unscrew jars for treats.
   - Octopuses carry coconut shells.
   - Octopuses have nerve cells in their arms.

3. Which detail appears only in Text 1?
   - The mimic octopus copies other animals.
   - An octopus can squirt dark ink.
   - Each arm can make some choices on its own.
   - An octopus can change color in under a second.

4. Which detail appears only in Text 2?
   An octopus has a large brain.
   Octopuses have learned to open jars.
   Some octopuses squeezed out of tanks.
   Bumps on the skin rise or flatten.

5. Which topic do both texts include?
   how octopuses raise their young
   how octopuses are measured
   ways an octopus keeps itself safe
   how octopuses regrow lost arms

6. Text 2 says an octopus has no shell to protect it. Which detail from Text 1 shows one way some octopuses solve this?
   An octopus has a large brain.
   Veined octopuses hide inside coconut shells.
   Each arm can touch and taste.
   Octopuses unscrew jar lids for treats.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

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