

READ NATURALLY Level 5.8/6.0

Comparison Questions

Stories 1 & 3

The Aardvark & The Armadillo

1. How are the aardvark and the armadillo similar in appearance?
2. Compare the eating habits of the aardvark to those of the armadillo.
3. Which animal do you think is more helpful to people. Why? Now think of the animal you didn't pick. Is there a way in which this animal might also be helpful to people?

Stories 2 & 13

An Ancient Calculator & The Lost Dutchman Mine

1. How is the story of the ancient calculator different from the story of the Dutchman mine?
2. What would you rather discover: an amazing machine like the ancient calculator or a hidden mine like the Dutchman mine? Why?
3. Which discovery do you think would be more important to the world: the Dutchman mine or the ancient calculator? Why?

Stories 4, 8, & 15

Big Bird of Texas, Flathead Lake Monster & Monster in Lake Champlain

1. What do all three of these monsters have in common?
2. Which monster do you think you would be most afraid of if you saw it? Why?
3. Do you think these monsters are real, or do you think people have imagined them? Explain your answer.

Stories 5 & 9

The Disappearing Ship & A Ghost Ship

1. What did the *Carroll A. Deering* have in common with the prize ship found by the *Ellen Austin*?
2. Can you think of a possible explanation for the mysteries surrounding these two ships?
3. Which story do you find more intriguing: the story of the *Ellen Austin* and the prize ship or the story of the *Carroll A. Deering*. Why?

Stories 6 & 10

The Dolphin & Humpback Whale

1. How are dolphins and humpback whales similar?
2. Which animal would you rather encounter out in the ocean? Why?
3. Both animals are helpful to humans, but in different ways. How are dolphins helpful to humans? How are humpback whales helpful to humans? Which animal do you think is more helpful?

Stories 7 & 11

The Duckbill Dinosaur & The Iguanodon

1. How were the discoveries of the duckbill dinosaur and the iguanodon similar?
2. How were the duckbill dinosaur and the iguanodon similar? How were they different?
3. Which dinosaur would you find more frightening if you encountered it? Why?

Comparison Questions, Continued

Stories 12, 16, & 22

The Kiwi, The Polar Bear, & The Stingray

1. Which of these three animals do you find the most interesting? Why?
2. List one strange thing about each of these animals.
3. How are these animals different from one another?

Stories 14, 17, & 21

The Mongoose, The Puff Adder, & The Skink

1. What is similar about the behaviors of the skink and the puff adder?
2. Which of these three animals do you find most interesting? Why?
3. What would make you the most frightened: meeting a mongoose, meeting a puff adder, or seeing a skink's tail without the skink? Why?

Stories 18 & 24

Raining Cats and Dogs & The World's Biggest Explosion

1. Which do you think is a greater mystery: the world's biggest explosion or the phenomenon of animals falling from the sky?
2. Which would you be more afraid to observe: frogs falling from the sky, or a huge explosion like the one in Siberia?
3. In your opinion, which event would be more amazing to witness?

Stories 19, 20, & 23

The Brown Recluse Spider, The Sea Lamprey, & The Stonefish

1. Which of these three animals would you be most afraid to encounter? Why?
2. What do these three animals have in common? How are they different?
3. What is similar about the lifestyles of the brown recluse spider and the stonefish?
4. The brown recluse spider and the stonefish can seriously injure people. Many people dislike the sea lamprey for a different reason. Why do you think people dislike the sea lamprey?

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Answer Key for Comparison Questions

Note: The list of answers for some of the questions may not include all the possibilities.

Stories 1 & 3

The Aardvark & The Armadillo

1. Both animals look like a mixture of other animals put together. They both have snouts, big ears, and long tails.
2. They both eat insects. The armadillo eats a variety of other things too. The aardvark licks up its food or sucks them up with its vacuum-like snout; the armadillo chews its food with its teeth.
3. Answers will vary but may include that the armadillo helps with scientific research on leprosy so is very important in that it could save lives. The aardvark is also helpful because it eats termites, and termites can destroy buildings.

Stories 2 & 13

An Ancient Calculator & The Lost Dutchman Mine

1. The ancient calculator was found whereas the lost mine was never discovered.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

Stories 4, 8, & 15

Big Bird of Texas, Flathead Lake Monster & Monster in Lake Champlain

1. None of them have been captured and nobody knows exactly what they are or where they came from.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary but may include that sightings by multiple people indicate they might be real, or that they are imaginary and people are seeing things based on stories they've heard.

Stories 5 & 9

The Disappearing Ship & A Ghost Ship

1. Both had been abandoned by their crews for reasons that remain a mystery. No one knows the exact story of what happened with these ships.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

Stories 6 & 10

The Dolphin & Humpback Whale

1. They are both large sea mammals that are playful and friendly.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Dolphins are helpful in that they are the Good Samaritans of the sea and often rescue people. They also entertain people when they perform in shows. Humpback whales are helpful in that people use them for meat and oil. Answers will vary about which animal is more helpful.

Stories 7 & 11

The Duckbill Dinosaur & The Iguanodon

1. The discoveries were similar in that both were discovered through fossils and both were exciting.
2. They were similar in that they were both large dinosaurs who had big, strong back legs. They were different in that the duckbill dinosaur spent a lot of time in water and was peaceful. The iguanodon was probably not as peaceful because of the sharp horns on its thumbs.
3. Answers will vary.

Answer Key for Comparison Questions, Continued

Stories 12, 16, & 22

The Kiwi, The Polar Bear, & The Stingray

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary but may include that the stingray's stinger, flat body, and tail are strange, the kiwi's appearance and habits are strange, and the polar bear's hollow fur is strange.
3. Answers will vary but may include that the stingray is a sea animal, the kiwi is nocturnal and lives in New Zealand, and the polar bear lives in the Arctic.

Stories 14, 17, & 21

The Mongoose, The Puff Adder, & The Skink

1. They are both good actors that could fool their enemies.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

Stories 18 & 24

Raining Cats and Dogs & The World's Biggest Explosion

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary.

Stories 19, 20, & 23

The Brown Recluse Spider, The Sea Lamprey, & The Stonefish

1. Answers will vary.
2. They are all dangerous hunters. They are all creepy animals. They are different in that the sea lamprey does not hide like the stonefish and the brown recluse spider. The stonefish and the sea lamprey are dangerous to fish, whereas the brown recluse spider is mostly dangerous to cockroaches and sometimes people.
3. They both stay hidden for much of the time.
4. The sea lamprey destroys many valuable fish.