Reading Comprehension
Beginning Level, Volume 2 - Animals

Teachtechnology Publishing Company
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Alligators

Alligators are scaly creatures with a large number of teeth. They live thirty-five to fifty years in the wild.

Alligators usually eat at night. Small alligators will eat snails, frogs, insects, and small fish. Larger gators will eat fish, turtles, snakes, waterfowl, small mammals, and even smaller alligators.

The alligator is found only in the southeastern United States and in China. The Chinese alligator is about 6 feet in length. The American alligator is much bigger; it is as large as 19 feet in length.

1. Alligators have many ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ ________ 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2. When do Alligators eat?

☐ night  ☐ afternoons
☐ mornings  ☐ dawn

3. What two countries are home to the alligator?

______________________________  ________________________________

______________________________  ________________________________

Japan, China, Turkey  USA, France, Spain

4. Name four foods that alligators eat.

______________________________  ________________________________

______________________________  ________________________________

______________________________  ________________________________
Bats

Bats come in all shapes and sizes. Big bats can have a wingspan of up to six feet long. The smallest known bat weighs less than a penny.

Bats let out high-pitched pulsing sounds from their mouth or nose. The sound bounces off of obstacles and food and echoes back to the bat giving them information about the size, shape, identity, location, and movement of the object.

Bats eat a variety of things including insects, fish, frogs, fruit, and nectar. Some bats can eat up to three thousand insects in a night. Bats are very helpful creatures; they eat a number of destructive insects including mosquitoes, beetles, moths, grasshoppers, locusts.

1. The smallest known bat weighs less than a

   ___________________________  
   penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half-dollar, dollar

2. Circle three things that bats eat.

   candy  insects  chocolate  peanuts  fish  fruit  rice

3. Bats sense food by letting out high-pitched pulsing __________.

   smells, sounds

4. On the back of this sheet, draw two bats flying in the air.
Bears

Bears are large and furry animals. A bear can weigh as much as one thousand pounds. Most bears hibernate, which means that they sleep through the entire winter months. Bears like to eat grasses, fruits, insects, and fish.

1. Circle the words "Bear" and "Bears" every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times does it appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Bears are extremely ____________ animals.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What do bears like to eat?

snow, grass, ice cream, popcorn, fruit, chocolate, insects, paper, fish, fries

4. Unscramble the word.

What do bears like to do in the winter?

ehtbrneai

Answer: ____________________
Beavers

Beavers are small creatures with flat tails and bushy brown fur. While swimming, their flat broad tail acts like a propeller to move them through the water at a fast pace.

Beavers are very large; they can weigh up to forty pounds. They have thick fur and a great deal of body fat to help keep them warm in the cold waters where they live.

Beavers eat the bark, buds, stems and twigs of aspen, maple, willow, birch, black alder, and black cherry trees. Grasses, mushrooms, leaves, ferns, and roots of water plants are some favorites as well.

Beavers often build dams on streams and creeks; they can often be seen in lakes and ponds too.

1. What body part helps beavers swim fast?
   
   teeth nose eyes tail ears toes

2. Circle three things that beavers eat.
   
   turkey leaves popcorn grass chicken rocks twigs

3. Beavers are often in cold water. Their ________ keeps them warm.
   
   fur, hands

4. On the back of this sheet, draw two beavers making a dam.
Camels

Camels are large, furry creatures with humps on their back. The humps on a camel’s back can weigh as much as 80 pounds. These humps help camels survive for weeks without food and water.

Camels have long eyelashes and bushy eyebrows protect their eyes from sun and sand. Their ears have fur on both inside and outside to protect them from blowing sand. Their hair is thicker on their back for protection against the sun, and thinner on their belly for coolness.

Camels eat a wide variety of plant life. At certain times they can drink up to thirty gallons of water. They can survive up to 10 months without water.

1. Circle the words “Camels” and “Camel’s” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Camels can survive long periods of time without __________.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What body part(s) do camels have thick fur to protect them from where they live?

- eyelids
- teeth
- feet
- back
- eyelashes
- tail

4. (Unscramble) Camels are funny ________________.
Cheetahs

Cheetahs are the fastest land animal. These spotted cats can reach speeds of up to sixty miles per hour. While running, the cheetah’s spine acts like a giant spring to help make the cheetah faster.

The word "cheetah" means, "spotted one" in the Hindi language. An adult cheetah can have over one hundred spots.

Cheetahs are an endangered species. There are fewer than two thousand five hundred in the wild.

Cheetahs are meat eaters. They eat animals that have hooves like gazelles, impalas, wildebeest, and zebras.

1. Circle the words “cheetah”, “cheetahs, and cheetah’s” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

   Cheetahs are extremely _____________ animals.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

   What do cheetahs like to eat?
   - cake
   - wildebeest
   - fruit
   - zebras
   - chocolate
   - gazelles
   - cream
   - impalas

4. On the back of the sheet, draw a picture of a cheetah running.
Cows

1. Cows are very ____________________.

   large, small

2. How many gallons of water might a cow drink in a day?
   - □ 1
   - □ 40
   - □ 100
   - □ 500

3. What two things are similar?

   cow spots tails water
   milk human fingerprints

4. (Unscramble) The type of diet that enables a cow to make 100 glasses of milk a day.

   dablecan
Dolphins

Dolphins live in both fresh and salt water. They can be found in the waters from the Arctic Ocean, through the tropics, and all the way to the Antarctic.

Dolphins eat mostly fish including mullet, mackerel, herring, cod and squid. What type of fish they eat largely depends on where they are located.

Dolphins normally live forty to fifty years. They can reach speeds of fifteen miles per hour. Dolphins can dive as far as one thousand feet below the surface of the water.

1. Dolphins are very good ____________________________ .
   ________________
skiers, swimmers

2. How long can dolphins live?
   [ ] 50 years  [ ] 250 years
   [ ] 150 years  [ ] 500 years

3. Name two foods a dolphin may eat?
   ____________________________
   trees mullet grass squid sunflowers
   ____________________________

4. (Unscramble) Dolphins can reach a speed of ____________________________ miles per hour.
   ntefeif
Ducks

1. What do ducks use to find food and keep clean?

- paddles
- oil
- insects
- water
- antennae

2. Circle three things that ducks eat.

- M & Ms
- insects
- popcorn
- grass
- cookies
- fruit
- rice

3. Ducks waddle instead of walking because of their ____________________.

- webbed feet, feathers

4. On the back of this sheet, draw three ducks swimming in a pond.
Elephants

Elephants are very large animals with large snouts and two large tusks. Male elephants can weigh as much as fifteen thousand pounds. They are extremely strong and are trained in many countries to carry heavy items. Since the beginning of time, there have been over six hundred different types of elephants. Today, only Asian and African Elephants survive.

Elephants are vegetarians; they mostly eat leaves, twigs, bark, shoots, fruit, flowers, roots, tubers, and bulbs. Elephants migrate often. Over the course of a year, they are known to travel up to 3000 miles in search of new food sources.

1. Elephants are extremely
   _________________________
   _________________________.
   weak strong small tiny fast light

2. Circle three things that elephants eat.
   squirrels bark snakes fruit fish bats flowers

3. Since the beginning of time, ______________ different types of elephants have lived on Earth.
   2, 100, 200, 600

4. On the back of this sheet, draw an elephant taking a bath.
Foxes have large ears, long thin bodies, long legs, and long bushy tails. They are part of the dog family.

Foxes are found throughout Americas, Eurasia, and Africa. They live mostly in forests, chaparrals, and desert regions.

Most foxes feed on mice, voles, rabbits, bird eggs, fruit, large insects, and carrion.

Foxes hunt in groups called “packs.” Packs usually claim two to three miles of terrain and protect this area from other foxes. Most foxes live for all of their twelve years lives with a partner.

1. Circle the words “Fox” and “Foxes” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.
   by themselves in groups

Foxes like to live --------------.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What do foxes like to eat?

rabbits fruit tigers mice
voles fries large insects

4. (Unscramble) Foxes hunt in group called
   ________________.

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Frogs

Frogs do not have to drink water; instead they absorb it through their body.

Frogs have large back legs that can be up to five times greater in length than their front legs. Due to the great length of these back legs, frogs can jump very far.

Frogs can be found almost anywhere on the Earth except for Antarctica. They live most of their life on land and only go to water when they mate. Some frogs live in trees. Tree frogs have little sticky pads on all of their feet to help them climb trees. All frogs have webbed feet to help them swim.

The frog's diet consist mainly of insects, small animals like earthworms, minnows, and spiders.

1. Circle the words “Frogs” and “Frog’s” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Frogs have very large ___________ legs.

3. Circle the correct answer.
You can find frogs everywhere expect where?

New York  Australia  Antarctica  Iowa  Russia  Germany  Asia  China

4. (Unscramble) ___________ feet help frogs swim?

bedbWe
Giraffes

Giraffes have very long necks. Some giraffes can grow to up to twenty feet tall. The word "giraffe" comes from the Arabic word "zirafah" that means "the tallest of all".

The spots that appear on the giraffe act as camouflage. The spots blend in with the plants and wildlife and help hide them from their enemies.

Their tongues can be as long as 16 inches. It has a sticky and thick covering that allows them to eat thorny foods. They also have a long upper lip that helps them grab mouthfuls of leaves from the tops of trees.

1. Giraffes are very _________________.
   - small
   - tall

2. These help giraffes hide from their enemies.
   - hair
   - ears
   - spots
   - tails

3. What two mouth parts do giraffes have that help them eat?
   - spots
   - tongues
   - lips
   - feet
   - ears
   - tails
   - feet

4. (Unscramble) The Arabic word that means “the tallest of all” is
   - fziarha
Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs appear to be very similar to the porcupine, but they are more closely related to the mole. Hedgehogs live in the wild in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

They have sharp pine needle-like spikes on their back and a soft light colored fur belly. They have short legs, small eyes, and a curly tail.

When the hedgehog feels threatened, including anything ranging from a loud noise to an enemy, they roll themselves tightly into a ball to surround their body with their spikes.

1. The hedgehog’s back has sharp
   ______________
   ______________.
   ______________
   feathers  spikes

2. Where would you not find a hedgehog in the wild?
   □ Antarctica  □ Asia
   □ Africa     □ Europe

3. What two body characteristics do Hedgehogs have?
   __________________
   __________________
   short legs  small eyes
   big lips    large feet

4. (Unscramble) This word means uncertain and scared.
   __________________
   ahtetedren

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Hippopotamuses love water. They feel very uncomfortable when they are not near water. Because of the way their body is shaped, they can completely sink their body to the bottom of a river and walk on the bottom.

When the hippopotamus is out of water, they like to eat grasses and other crops. They mainly eat at night because of the cooler temperatures at night.

In the past, you could find thousands of hippopotamuses living free in African rivers and streams. Today, they can rarely be found in the wild.

An adult male hippopotamus can weigh as much as five thousand pounds. They are the third largest land animal. Baby hippopotamuses, called calves, weigh about one hundred pounds.

2. Circle **two** things that hippopotamuses eat.

   - snakes
   - grass
   - lizards
   - crops
   - rocks
   - fish

3. An adult male Hippopotamus can weigh up to _____________ pounds.

   - 100
   - 500
   - 1000
   - 5000

4. On the back of this sheet, draw a hippopotamus walking on the bottom of a river.
Horses

1. Circle the words “Horse” and “Horses” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Horses are extremely ___________ animals.

3. Circle the correct answer below.

In two minutes, how far can a horse run?

- one mile
- two miles
- five miles
- ten miles

4. (Unscramble) Horses have very large _________ that help them breath.

Horseshoes

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Kangaroos

Kangaroos are found only in Australia and New Guinea. These long tailed hopping creatures live well in just about every terrain imaginable. They have the ability to jump as far as sixteen feet in length on a single jump.

There are fifty different types of kangaroos. The largest kangaroo is six feet tall, and the smallest is only one foot in height.

Kangaroos are plant eaters. They like to eat leaves, fungus, and twigs. Some Kangaroos eat small animals as well.

1. Kangaroos are very good ______________.  
   ______________  
   jumpers  swimmers

2. Where could you find a Kangaroo in the wild?  
   [  ] Australia  [  ] Mexico  
   [  ] Canada  [  ] Germany

3. What **two** foods do Kangaroos often eat?  
   ______________________  ______________________  
   ______________________  ______________________  
   fungus  fish  chicken  rice  leaves  snakes

4. (Unscramble) How tall, in height, is the largest Kangaroo? (In feet)  
   ______________ xsi
Lions

For a number of years the lion has been seen as an animal of great strength. Because of this, lions are nicknamed "The King of Beasts".

Male lions are much larger in size than females. Male lions can reach a weight of five hundred and fifty pounds. Females can reach a weight of four hundred pounds.

Lions have thirty very large and very sharp teeth. They use these powerful teeth to help them eat. They are meat eaters and hunt for their food. In one feeding they can eat as much as eighty pounds of meat.

1. Lions' teeth are very
   ____________________________.
   ____________________________.

   small  dull
   weak  sharp

2. How much heavier is a male lion over a female lion?
   10 Pounds, 25 Pounds, 50 Pounds, 100 Pounds, 150 Pounds

3. Because of their great strength, lions are nicknamed ____________________________.
   "The king of beasts", "The weak lions"

4. In the space below, draw two lions playing.
Mice

Mice are small rodents with long tails and whiskers. There are many different types of mice. They are found all over the world.

Mice usually live in fields and human residences.

Depending on where they live and what they eat, mice can grow from two inches to one foot in size.

Mice often eat small insects, small plants, and a number of human products. They often can eat more than their own weight in one feeding.

1. Circle the word “Mice” every time it appears in the reading passage. How many times does it appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Mice have long ___________. feet tails

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What do mice like to eat?

- snow
- snakes
- insects
- paper
- plants
- cheese

4. Unscramble the word.

What are the places where humans live? desenriesc

Answer: ____________________
Monkeys

Monkeys are strong climbers. They spend most of their lives in trees. Their long, curly tails and soft, flexible hands help them climb. To ensure easy climbing, monkeys have hairless palms.

Monkeys live in South and Central America, Africa, and the southern parts of Asia. Monkeys like to live in warm weather regions where food is available year round.

Monkeys often live in large groups. As many as one hundred may live their entire lives together.

Monkeys feed largely on leaves, but most eat a mixture of foods, including leaves, flowers, bird eggs, and small animals.

1. Monkeys are very good ____________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   climbers swimmers

2. Where would **not** find monkeys living in the wild?
   □ Africa        □ Canada
   □ Asia         □ Central America

3. What **two** body parts help monkeys climb trees?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   tails tongues lips back hands

4. (Unscramble) Monkeys mostly eat what?
   ________________________________
   sevael
1. What color are Penguins bellies? ________________

   red   black   yellow
   green   white   purple

2. Circle three things that allow Penguins to live in cold temperatures.

   small size     large teeth     small feet     wings     yellow beak

3. Penguins use their wings to help them ________.

   fly, swim

4. On the back of this sheet, draw a penguin swimming.
Platypus

The platypus is shy and hard to spot animal. It has a bill much like a duck. They are only active during the late night and early morning.

The platypus is an excellent swimmer and can dive to deep depths under the water. They have webbed feet and thick fur that acts to waterproof the animal.

Platypus males have spurs on the back of their feet that deliver poisonous venom when they kick something. A platypus’s sting is powerful enough to make people sick and kill most small animals.

1. Circle the words “Platypus” and “Platypus’s” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

The male platypus has poisonous ______________________ on the back of their feet.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What characteristics are true of the platypus?

- popcorn
- shy
- active during daylight
- fast
- strong teeth
- good swimmers

4. Unscramble the word.

What type of venom is released by the male platypus?

Answer: ___________________
Raccoons

Raccoons are very intelligent and curious animals. Raccoons can be found in many environments from wooded forests to urban and suburban areas of Southern Canada, the United States, and Central America.

Raccoons rest during the day and are most active between sunrise and sunset when they look for food and explore. In the spring, raccoons eat mostly small animals. In the summer, they eat mostly fruit. In the fall and winter, they live off of their fat storage and various nuts they collect.

1. Raccoons are very _____________________.

   large, smart

2. Where can you find raccoons in the wild.

   [ ] China  [ ] Germany
   [ ] France  [ ] United States

3. What two things do raccoons mostly eat?

   ____________________  ____________________
   small animals    shells
   nuts    potatoes    trees

4. (Unscramble) You can find Raccoons in many different types of these.

   ____________________
   ionmentrenvs
Sheep

1. What type of material comes from sheep?
   ____________________________
   ____________________________
   ____________________________

   Cotton  Polyester
   Wool    Nylon

2. Circle the correct number. How many sheep are there on Earth?
   one hundred    one thousand    one hundred-thousand    one million

3. A female sheep is called a ________________.
   ewe, ram

4. On the back of this sheet, a flock of sheep eating.
Skunks

The black and white striped skunk is best known for spraying its defensive odor. The odor can be shot up to ten feet when skunks are frightened.

They are nocturnal animals; this means they are more active at night. Skunks will eat just about anything they can get their paws on. However, they have a preference for grubs and some kinds of berries.

They have sharp teeth and claws to help them dig. They are outstanding diggers.

1. Circle the words “skunk” and “skunks” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Skunks are best known for releasing an ________________.

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What colors can be found in skunks?

- yellow
- orange
- white
- purple
- red
- blue
- black
- green

4. Unscramble the word.

This word is the name for animals that are more active at night.

Answer: _____________________
Tigers

1. A tiger’s jaws are _____________.
   strong    weak

2. On tigers, stripes are as unique as _________________.
   coats  ears
   fingerprints  tails

3. How does the passage describe the Tiger’s thirty teeth?

4. (Unscramble) This means you are very protective of where you live.
   itrrliarote
Turtles

1. Turtles don’t live in Antarctica because it’s too _______________.
   
   rainy cold hot dry

2. Circle **three** places that a tortoise may live.
   
   pond forest river grassland sand dune stream

3. When turtles tuck their body parts inside their shell they look like ____________.
   
   rocks, cans

4. On the back of this sheet, draw a turtle on a rock and draw a turtle swimming.

Turtles are reptiles with a tough leathery shell. Turtles can protect themselves from their enemies by tucking their head, arms, and feet inside their shell. When they tuck their body parts into their shell, they look like rocks.

They have sharp jaws for biting and handling food. Turtles that live their life entirely on land are called tortoises.

Turtles can be found everywhere on the Earth except Antarctica. The greatest majority of turtles are found in warm tropical places.

Turtles eat both plants and animals. Their favorite foods include insects, snails, worms, minnows, and tadpoles, as well as aquatic plants.

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Wolves

Wolves are large creatures with powerful teeth, bushy tails, and big round eyes. They look similar to dogs. There are two types of wolves: gray wolves and the red wolves. Gray wolves can be found in Canada, Alaska, and northern Europe and Russia. Red wolves can be found only in Texas and the southeastern United States.

Wolves mostly eat small animals and birds, but occasion they hunt and eat reindeer, caribou, sheep, and other large animals.

1. Circle the word “Wolves” every time they appear in the reading passage. How many times do they appear in the passage?

2. Complete the sentence by writing the correct word in the space provided.

Wolves look a lot like ____________.

cats   dogs

3. Circle all that are correct below.

What do wolves like to eat?

sheep   maple trees   fish
reindeer   peanuts   caribou

4. Unscramble the word.

You can find red wolves in this part of the United States?

Answer: ___________________
Zebras

Zebras have a very unique black and white stripe pattern on their bodies. The color pattern helps the zebra blend in with their surroundings and hide from their natural enemies.

Zebras are found only in Africa, where they graze on grass for food. Unlike many other native animals, zebras enjoy grazing on tall grass.

The male zebra, called a stallion, is the protector of the zebra family. A zebra family usually consists of a stallion, several females, and their offspring.

1. Zebras live in ________________.
   - Asia  - Africa

2. These help Zebras hide from their enemies.
   - ears
   - stripe pattern
   - spots
   - tails

3. Which two animals are not likely to eat tall grass in Africa?
   - tiger  - zebra  - lion

4. (Unscramble) A male zebra is called a _____________.
   - ntialsol
A Place for Me to Draw!
Answers

Page 1
1. teeth
2. night
3. China, USA
4. Any four of the following: fish, frogs, insects, small alligators, small fish, small mammals, snails, snakes, turtles, waterfowl

Page 2
1. penny
2. insects, fish, fruit
3. sounds

Page 3
1. 4 times
2. large
3. grass, fruit, fish, insects
4. hibernate

Page 4
1. tail
2. leaves, grass, twigs
3. fur

Page 5
1. 5 times
2. water
3. eyelids, back, eyelashes
4. creatures

Page 6
1. 7 times
2. fast
3. wildebeest, zebras, gazelles, impalas

Page 7
1. large
2. 40
3. cow spots, fingerprints
4. balanced

Page 8
1. swimmers
2. 50 years
3. mullet, squid
4. fifteen

Page 9
1. water
2. insects, grass, fruit
3. webbed feet

Page 10
1. strong
2. bark, fruit, flowers
3. 600

Page 11
1. 6 times
2. in groups
3. rabbits, fruit, mice, voles, large insects
4. packs

Page 12
1. 8 times
2. back
3. Antarctica
4. Webbed

Page 13
1. tall
2. spots
3. tongues, lips
4. zirafah

Page 14
1. spikes
2. Antarctica
3. short legs, small eyes
4. threatened

Page 15
1. water
2. grass, crops
3. 5000

Page 16
1. 5 times
2. strong
3. one mile
4. nostrils

Page 17
1. jumpers
2. Australia
3. fungus, leaves
4. six

Page 18
1. sharp
2. 150 Pounds
3. “The King of Beasts”

Page 19
1. 5 times
2. tails
3. insects, plants, cheese
4. residences

Page 20
1. climbers
2. Canada
3. tails, hands
4. leaves

Page 21
1. white
2. small size, small feet, wings
3. swim

Page 22
1. 4 times
2. spurs
3. shy, good swimmers
4. poisonous

Page 23
1. smart
2. United States
3. small animals, nuts
4. environments

Page 24
1. wool
2. one million
3. ewe

Page 25
1. 3 times
2. odor
3. white, black
4. nocturnal
Page 26
1. strong
2. fingerprints
3. The passage describes the Tiger's thirty teeth as scissor-sharp.
4. territorial

Page 27
1. cold
2. forest, grassland, sand dune
3. rocks

Page 28
1. 7 times
2. dogs
3. sheep, reindeer, caribou
4. southeastern

Page 29
1. Africa
2. stripe patterns
3. tiger, lion
4. stallion