Reading 3

Informational Text Science

Set a purpose for reading Can animals really cooperate and form friendships? As you read, think about the friendships animals develop. Why do you think animals help each other?

Friendship and Cooperation in the Animal Kingdom

You know that people help other people, but do animals help other animals? It's a "**dog-eat-dog**" world out there, isn't it? Not always! It's true that animals often fight. However, at other times, they help each other out.

Life in the wild can be very difficult for animals. It is not easy for them to find food and water and stay safe. Animals struggle every day to survive.

That's why animals of the same species, or group, such as lions or blue jays, sometimes <mark>cooperate</mark>. By helping one another, they help their group survive.

Some animals become partners with other kinds of animals. The two types of animals depend on each other for survival.

"dog-eat-dog." very competitive

This is called symbiosis, and animals who depend on each other are said to be in a symbiotic relationship. Sometimes the two animals would die without each other. Other times, they might be able to live, but they would not be as healthy.

One example of symbiosis is the relationship between the plover and the crocodile. The plover is a small wading bird. It helps pick clean the Nile crocodile's body and even its teeth. The crocodile will open its jaws and let the bird enter its mouth safely. Amazingly, the crocodile will not snap its jaws shut. Instead, it patiently allows the plover to eat the small, harmful animals on the crocodile's teeth. The crocodile gets its teeth cleaned, and the plover gets an easy meal!

◄ A Nile crocodile keeps its jaws open while a plover is in its mouth.

Practice

81

Choose a highlighted word from the box above to complete each sentence. Then take turns reading the sentences aloud with a partner.

1. A hippo is a _____ animal. Even a baby hippo weighs 272 kilograms (or 600 lb.).

2. A _____ looks like a huge wall of water. It is often caused by an earthquake.

3. Sometimes my three cats _____. They work together to chase mice.

4. I made an _____ with my best friend to take care of my pets while I'm away.

5. The storm caused a lot of _____. The town was destroyed.

6. To keep the animals safe and guard against any kind of _____ getting in, there are barricades and tight security at the nature preserve.

ANSWERS

1. gigantic	2. tsunami
3. cooperate	4. arrangement
5. damage	6. intruder

Practice 82

Choose a purple word from the box above to complete each sentence. Then take turns reading the sentences aloud with a partner.

1. The boy began to understand the _____ of two animals working together. He listened as the scientist talked about how it happens.

2. The cub will _____ his mother for care. The cub needs her to help find food.

3. The girl's _____ toward crocodiles changed when she saw the movie about them.

4. The vet made an important _____ about pets and their need for attention. The pet owner listened to his opinion.
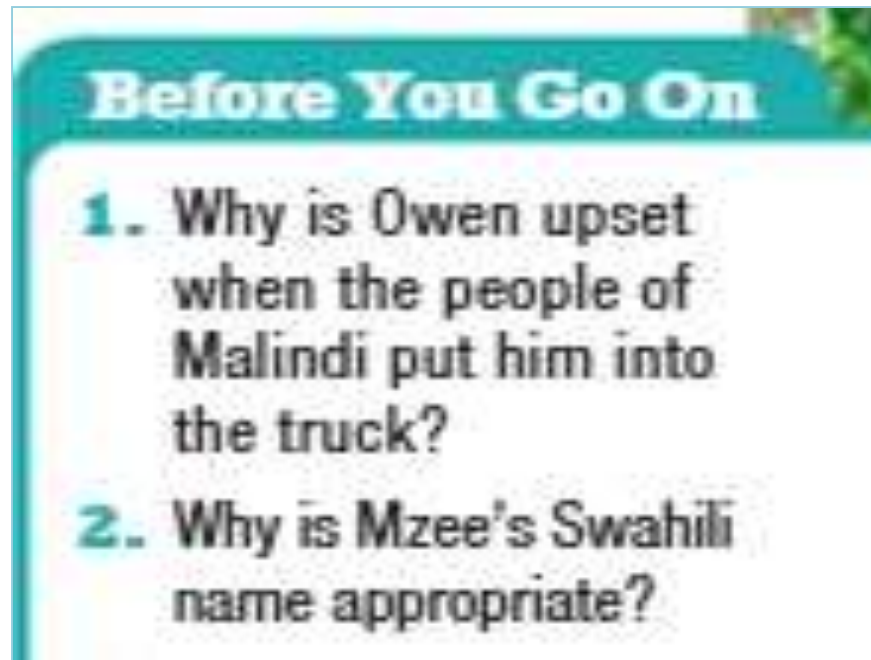
ANSWERS

1. concept   2. rely on
3. attitude   4. comment

Before You Go On

1. What is symbiosis? Give an example of two types of animals that have a symbiotic relationship.

2. How did a tsunami in Asia affect a hippo on another continent in east Africa? Explain.

ANSWERS

1. Symbiosis is when two animals rely on one another. The rhino and the tickbird have a symbiotic relationship.

2. The tsunami reached the east coast of Africa and caused flooding and widespread damage. Owen, the young hippo, had been swimming in the river with his mother, but the waves swept him out to sea away from his mother.

Before You Go On

1. Why is Owen upset when the people of Malindi put him into the truck?

2. Why is Mzee's Swahili name appropriate?

1. Owen is upset when he is put into the truck because he is alone and he doesn't know what's happening.
2. Mzee was wise enough to know to be there for Owen when he needed him.

Comprehension

Recall
1. Where was Owen born?
2. Why can't Owen be returned to the wild?

Comprehend
3. How does Mzee's attitude toward Owen change?
4. How is symbiosis similar to friendship? How is it different?

Analyze
5. What helps you infer that Mzee and Owen have become great friends?
6. What main idea, or overall concept, does "Friendship and Cooperation in the Animal Kingdom" present?

Connect
7. How do you think the author feels about animals? Explain.
8. Would you recommend this article to others to read? Explain.

▲ Some dogs and

ANSWERS

1. Owen was born in Kenya.
2. Owen can't be returned to the wild because he can't take care of himself and other hippos would reject him.
3. At first Mzee prefers to be left alone. Soon Owen and Mzee spend all their time together.
4. Symbiosis and friendship are both working relationships, but friendship is based on companionship instead of a specific benefit received.
5. Possible response: I can infer that they are friends because they play together and won't be separated.
6. Possible response: The main idea is that animals can have friendly and cooperative relationships.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.

Practice A

Work with a partner. Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. My friend _____lives_____ (lives, live) in Seattle.
2. Our father never _____ (works, work) on weekends.
3. The bag of groceries _____ (was, were) on the table.
4. The dishes in the kitchen _____ (is, are) dirty.
5. _____ (Don't, Doesn't) they live in the mountains?

Practice B

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb.

1. My mother and I _____want_____ a cat.
2. She _____ speak English. (do not)
3. The cows in the barn _____ noisy. (be)
4. _____ they go to school here, too? (do not)
5. That gray house on our street _____ big windows. (have)

Practice A

ANSWERS

2. works   3. was   4. are   5. Don't

Practice B

ANSWERS

2. doesn't   3. are   4. Don't   5. has