2nd grade reading worksheets

15 sheets, each passage with its questions, with the answer keys together from page 17.

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A Rainy Saturday

Read the story. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Omar and his sister Priya had planned to ride their bikes to the park on Saturday. When they woke up, rain was drumming on the roof, and the street was full of puddles.

“Now what do we do?” asked Omar.

Priya had an idea. She found a big cardboard box in the garage. Omar got markers, tape and scissors. Together they cut out a door and two round windows. They drew bricks on the sides and a flower box under each window.

By lunchtime the box was a little house. Priya made a sign that said “Open” for the door. Omar brought in his toy animals and set them out as if they were shopping.

In the afternoon, the rain stopped and the sun came out. Omar looked out at the wet street, then back at the box house. “Can we ride our bikes tomorrow?” he asked. “I want to finish the roof first.”

1. **Why could Omar and Priya not go to the park?**

2. **What did they use to make the house?**

3. **What happened in the afternoon?**

4. **Why did Omar want to ride bikes tomorrow instead of today?**

Maya's Library Card

Read the story. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

On Maya's seventh birthday, her dad took her to the library to get her very own card. The librarian, Mr. Ortiz, typed her name into the computer and handed her a blue card with a barcode on the back.

"You can borrow five books at a time," he said. "Bring them back in three weeks, and you can take five more."

Maya walked up and down the shelves. She chose a book about sharks, a book of jokes, two stories about a girl who solves mysteries, and a book that showed how to fold paper boats.

At home, she read the joke book first and told every joke to her little brother at dinner. He laughed so hard at one of them that he spilled his milk.

Maya wrote the return date on a sticky note and put it on the fridge, so she would not forget.

1. **How many books could Maya borrow at a time?**

2. **Name two of the books Maya chose.**

3. **What did Maya do so she would not forget to return the books?**

4. **Why do you think the library asks people to bring books back?**

Our Moon

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The Moon travels around Earth. One full trip takes about 27 days. The Moon also spins as it goes, and one spin takes the same 27 days. Because the trip and the spin take the same time, the same side of the Moon always faces Earth. From here, we only ever see that one side.

The Moon is much smaller than Earth. It is less than a third as wide. If Earth were the size of a nickel, the Moon would be about as big as a coffee bean.

The Moon has almost no air. What little it has is so thin that no one could breathe it.

The ground on the Moon is solid rock, covered in holes called craters. Asteroids, meteorites and comets made them when they crashed into the Moon.

1. **How long does the Moon take to go once around Earth?**

2. **What made the craters on the Moon?**

3. **Why do we only ever see one side of the Moon?**

4. **If Earth were a nickel, the Moon would be a coffee bean. What does that tell you about the Moon?**

Wild Turkeys

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The wild turkey is a big bird from North America. It likes places with both woods and open fields, and it finds food by scratching in the fallen leaves.

A male turkey is called a tom. He is very large and dark, with a bare red and blue head and shiny bronze feathers. A female is called a hen. She is smaller and less shiny. In spring, the toms gobble to call the hens. They puff out their feathers and spread their tails like a fan.

The hen makes a shallow nest on the ground. She lays about 10 to 14 eggs over several days. Then she sits on them for about a month, and she raises her young alone.

Baby turkeys are called poults. They hatch covered in soft down, and within a day they can leave the nest. For their first month, poults eat mostly insects. Later they eat seeds and berries too, and in fall, grain and acorns. In winter, turkeys stay together in flocks.

1. **What is a male turkey called?**

2. **Where does the hen make her nest?**

3. **What do poults eat in their first month, and what do they eat later?**

4. **A chicken egg hatches in 21 days. Which hatches later, a chicken egg or a turkey egg? How do you know?**

From Egg to Chick



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A chicken egg holds everything a chick needs to grow. If there is a rooster in the flock, a tiny embryo is already inside when the hen lays the egg. But it does not grow yet. It waits until the egg is kept warm, by a hen sitting on it or in an incubator.

Once the egg is warm, the embryo grows fast, and the yolk feeds it the whole time. Its heart starts to beat on day 2. By day 7 it has a hard tip on its beak, called an egg tooth. By day 12 soft down covers its body.

By day 14 the embryo has turned so its head points toward the air space inside the shell. On day 20 it breaks into the air space and starts to breathe with its lungs. Then it uses its egg tooth to break through the shell and cut around it.

On day 21 the chick pushes itself out. Hatching is hard work, so the first thing it does is rest. Soon its down dries, and it can get up and move about.

1. **On what day does the embryo's heart start to beat?**

2. **What does the chick use to break through the shell?**

3. **Why does the embryo not start to grow as soon as the egg is laid?**

4. **A hen lays one egg a day for a week, then sits on all of them. Why do you think the chicks can all hatch on the same day?**

Our Star, the Sun



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The Sun is a star. A star is a hot, glowing ball of gas. At night we can see many stars, but the light of day comes from the closest star of all: the Sun.

The Sun is about 93 million miles from Earth. That is 400 times farther away than the Moon. The Sun is about 100 times wider than Earth, but it is only an average-sized star. Some stars are 100 times bigger than the Sun, and others are 10 times smaller.

The middle of the Sun, called its core, is the hottest part. It is about 27 million degrees Fahrenheit.

We could not live without the Sun. Its heat keeps Earth warm enough to live on. Without its light there would be no plants or animals, and so no food. Never look straight at the Sun without special eye protection.

1. **How far is the Sun from Earth?**

2. **What is the hottest part of the Sun?**

3. **Why would there be no food without the Sun?**

4. **The Sun is 100 times wider than Earth. Why is it still called an average-sized star?**

How a Pumpkin Grows



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A pumpkin starts as a flat seed. Pumpkin seeds will not sprout in cold soil, so they are planted in late spring or early summer, once there is no more frost. After 7 to 10 days, a shoot pushes up out of the soil.

The plant grows into a long vine with big leaves. Then flowers open on the vine. The first flowers are almost always male. Each one blooms for just one day and then drops off. A week or two later, female flowers open. A female flower has a tiny pumpkin at its base.

Bees visit the flowers and carry pollen from the male flowers to the female ones. Then the tiny pumpkin starts to grow. It is green at first and turns orange as it ripens.

Most pumpkins need more than 100 days to ripen. That is why people who want pumpkins for Halloween plant them from late May to early July. Inside each pumpkin are the seeds for new plants.

1. **How many days does it take for a pumpkin shoot to push up out of the soil?**

2. **What does a female flower have at its base?**

3. **Why does a pumpkin plant need bees?**

4. **If you wanted your own pumpkin for Halloween, when would you plant the seed? Why?**

The Northern Leopard Frog

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The northern leopard frog is named for its spots. Its smooth skin is green or brown, with large dark spots, and each spot has a light ring around it. A white stripe runs along its upper jaw.

To lay their eggs, leopard frogs look for shallow, still water where the sun shines in. A female lays her eggs in a tight clump, held on plants just under the water. One clump can hold several hundred to several thousand eggs.

The eggs hatch into small tadpoles in 2 to 17 days. How long they take depends on how warm the water is. The tadpoles eat algae. From egg to frog takes three to six months.

A grown frog eats insects, spiders and leeches, and sometimes even small birds and snakes. In winter it rests underwater in a pond or lake, where the water does not freeze all the way to the bottom. In the wild, a leopard frog lives two to four years.

1. **What color is a northern leopard frog's skin?**

2. **How many eggs can one clump hold?**

3. **What decides how long the eggs take to hatch?**

4. **Why do you think a leopard frog needs water that does not freeze all the way to the bottom in winter?**

How a Seed Starts to Grow



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A seed may look like a tiny pebble, but there is a plant inside it, waiting. The seed will not start to grow until it has three things: water, warmth and a good place, such as soil. Starting to grow is called germinating.

A root pushes down into the soil. The root holds the new plant in place and takes in water and minerals. A stem with new leaves pushes up toward the light.

At first the little plant cannot make its own food. It lives on food stored inside the seed. When it is big enough, its leaves begin to make food using sunlight. This is called photosynthesis.

Once the shoot comes up out of the soil, the seed has germinated. But the plant has only just started. To keep growing, it needs water, warmth, nutrients from the soil and light.

1. **What three things does a seed need before it starts to grow?**

2. **What does the root do for the new plant?**

3. **Where does a young plant get its food before its leaves can make it?**

4. **A seed is planted in a pot of soil, watered and kept warm in a dark cupboard. Do you think it would start to grow? Would it keep growing? Why?**

Garden Spiders

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The black-and-yellow garden spider lives in gardens, in tall grass and near houses. A grown female is easy to spot. Her body is patterned in yellow and black, and her legs are black with yellow-orange stripes.

She spins a round web that can be about 2 feet across. Down the middle of the web is a zigzag band of silk. The spider rests head-down in the center and waits. When a grasshopper or another insect gets stuck in the sticky strands, she wraps it in silk.

All summer, the female makes egg sacs. Each one is papery and tan, a little smaller than a ping-pong ball, and can hold over 1,000 eggs. She fixes them to plants near her web. When the weather turns cold in fall, she dies.

The egg sacs wait through the winter. In spring, tiny spiderlings come out. Each one lets out a strand of silk that catches the breeze, and the wind carries it away to a new home.

1. **How big can a garden spider's web be?**

2. **Where does the female fix her egg sacs?**

3. **What happens to the egg sacs after the female dies in fall?**

4. **Why do you think the spider's web is sticky?**

How Apples Grow



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

Apples grow on trees. A young apple tree takes years to grow its first apples. A full-size tree can take up to 8 years. A small, or dwarf, tree can start in 2 or 3 years.

In spring, the tree is covered in flowers called blossoms. Bees and flies visit them and carry pollen from the flowers of one apple tree to another. An apple tree needs pollen from a different kind of apple tree, or from a crabapple, to make apples. That tree has to be close by, within about 100 feet.

After the blossoms get pollen, apples begin to grow. They ripen in late summer and fall. On a red apple, look at the skin around the red. When it turns from green to greenish-yellow, the apple is starting to ripen.

Each apple has seeds in its core. But a seed will not grow the same apple again, because every apple seed is different.

1. **How long can a full-size apple tree take to grow its first apples?**

2. **Which animals carry pollen from one apple tree to another?**

3. **Why does an apple tree need another apple tree nearby?**

4. **If you planted a seed from your apple, would you get the same apples? Why?**

Honey Bees



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A honey bee hive has one queen. She lays all the eggs, up to 1,500 in a day. She puts each egg in its own six-sided cell made of wax.

After 3 days, the egg hatches into a larva, a white grub curled at the bottom of its cell. Young worker bees take care of it. After about 6 days, the workers cover the cell with a wax cap.

Under the cap, the larva becomes a pupa, and its body slowly changes into the body of a bee. About 21 days after the egg was laid, a new worker bee chews her way out of the cell.

A worker bee has many jobs. The youngest workers care for the eggs and larvae. Older ones build wax comb. The oldest workers fly out to flowers to collect nectar and pollen, and they carry the pollen home in baskets on their back legs.

1. **How many queens does a hive have?**

2. **What does a honey bee larva look like?**

3. **What happens after the workers cover the cell with a wax cap?**

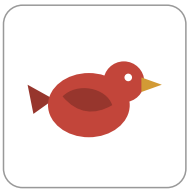
4. **Why do you think the bees you see on flowers are the oldest workers?**

Word building

Say the name of each picture. Use the letters beside it to build the word, one letter in each box.

Name _____ Date _____

1.  r s a t →

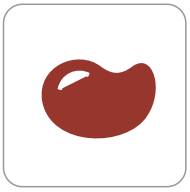
2.  i d r b →

3.  n o o m →

4.  t b o o →

5.  a s e p →

6.  a r c →

7.  a n b e →

8.  n y r a →

Phonics word sort



Read each word. Write it under the spelling of its long vowel sound.

Name _____ Date _____

plate	five	cake	feet	tape
tube	pine	time	sleep	gate
cute	dune	rope	mule	tree
globe	hole	seed	home	ride

a_e	ee	i_e	o_e	u_e

Story map

Fill in each part of the story as you read, or to plan a story of your own.

Name _____ Date _____

Characters

Who is in the story?

Setting

Where and when does it happen?

Problem

What goes wrong, or what does the main character want?

Events

What happens? Write the main events in order.

Solution

How is the problem solved? How does the story end?

Free to print and copy for your class or family · everyprintable.com/school/graphic-organizers/story-map/

Answer key

A Rainy Saturday

1. Why could Omar and Priya not go to the park?
   It was raining, and the street was full of puddles.

2. What did they use to make the house?
   A big cardboard box, markers, tape and scissors.

3. What happened in the afternoon?
   The rain stopped and the sun came out.

4. Why did Omar want to ride bikes tomorrow instead of today?
   Sample answer: he was having fun and wanted to finish the roof of the box house first.

Answer key

Maya's Library Card

1. How many books could Maya borrow at a time?
   Five.

2. Name two of the books Maya chose.
   Any two of: a book about sharks, a book of jokes, a mystery story, a book about folding paper boats.

3. What did Maya do so she would not forget to return the books?
   She wrote the return date on a sticky note and put it on the fridge.

4. Why do you think the library asks people to bring books back?
   Sample answer: so that other people can borrow them too.

Answer key

Our Moon

1. How long does the Moon take to go once around Earth?
   About 27 days.

2. What made the craters on the Moon?
   Asteroids, meteorites and comets crashing into it.

3. Why do we only ever see one side of the Moon?
   Because the Moon spins once in the same time it takes to go around Earth, so the same side always faces us.

4. If Earth were a nickel, the Moon would be a coffee bean. What does that tell you about the Moon?
   Sample answer: that the Moon is much smaller than Earth, less than a third as wide.

Answer key

Wild Turkeys

1. What is a male turkey called?
   A tom.

2. Where does the hen make her nest?
   On the ground, in a shallow nest.

3. What do poults eat in their first month, and what do they eat later?
   Mostly insects at first; later seeds and berries too, and in fall, grain and acorns.

4. A chicken egg hatches in 21 days. Which hatches later, a chicken egg or a turkey egg? How do you know?
   Sample answer: a turkey egg, because the hen sits on her eggs for about a month, and a month is longer than 21 days.

Answer key

From Egg to Chick

1. On what day does the embryo's heart start to beat?
   Day 2.

2. What does the chick use to break through the shell?
   Its egg tooth, a hard tip on its beak.

3. Why does the embryo not start to grow as soon as the egg is laid?
   It waits until the egg is kept warm, by a sitting hen or in an incubator.

4. A hen lays one egg a day for a week, then sits on all of them. Why do you think the chicks can all hatch on the same day?
   Sample answer: the embryos wait without growing until the hen starts to sit, so they all start growing together and all take the same 21 days.

Answer key

Our Star, the Sun

1. How far is the Sun from Earth?
   About 93 million miles.

2. What is the hottest part of the Sun?
   Its core, the middle of the Sun.

3. Why would there be no food without the Sun?
   Because without the Sun's light there would be no plants or animals.

4. The Sun is 100 times wider than Earth. Why is it still called an average-sized star?
   Sample answer: because some stars are 100 times bigger than the Sun and others are 10 times smaller, so the Sun is in the middle.

Answer key

How a Pumpkin Grows

1. How many days does it take for a pumpkin shoot to push up out of the soil?
   7 to 10 days.

2. What does a female flower have at its base?
   A tiny pumpkin.

3. Why does a pumpkin plant need bees?
   The bees carry pollen from the male flowers to the female flowers, and then the tiny pumpkins can grow.

4. If you wanted your own pumpkin for Halloween, when would you plant the seed? Why?
   Sample answer: in late May or June, because most pumpkins need more than 100 days to ripen, and the seed needs warm soil with no more frost.

Answer key

The Northern Leopard Frog

1. What color is a northern leopard frog's skin?
   Green or brown, with large dark spots.

2. How many eggs can one clump hold?
   Several hundred to several thousand.

3. What decides how long the eggs take to hatch?
   How warm the water is.

4. Why do you think a leopard frog needs water that does not freeze all the way to the bottom in winter?
   Sample answer: it stays underwater all winter, so it needs water that does not turn to ice around it, or the frog would freeze too.

Answer key

How a Seed Starts to Grow

1. What three things does a seed need before it starts to grow?
   Water, warmth and a good place, such as soil.

2. What does the root do for the new plant?
   It holds the plant in place and takes in water and minerals from the soil.

3. Where does a young plant get its food before its leaves can make it?
   From the food stored inside the seed.

4. A seed is planted in a pot of soil, watered and kept warm in a dark cupboard. Do you think it would start to grow? Would it keep growing? Why?
   Sample answer: it could start to grow, because it has water, warmth and soil, but it would not keep growing well, because a plant needs light to make its own food once the food in the seed is used up.

Answer key

Garden Spiders

1. How big can a garden spider's web be?
   About 2 feet across.

2. Where does the female fix her egg sacs?
   To plants near her web.

3. What happens to the egg sacs after the female dies in fall?
   They wait through the winter, and in spring the spiderlings come out and float away on strands of silk.

4. Why do you think the spider's web is sticky?
   Sample answer: so that grasshoppers and other insects that land in it get stuck, and the spider can catch them to eat.

Answer key

How Apples Grow

1. How long can a full-size apple tree take to grow its first apples?
   Up to 8 years.

2. Which animals carry pollen from one apple tree to another?
   Bees and flies.

3. Why does an apple tree need another apple tree nearby?
   It needs pollen from a different kind of apple tree to make apples, and the bees and flies have to carry it there.

4. If you planted a seed from your apple, would you get the same apples? Why?
   Sample answer: no, because every apple seed is different, so the new tree would grow a different kind of apple.

Answer key

Honey Bees

1. How many queens does a hive have?
   One.

2. What does a honey bee larva look like?
   A white grub curled at the bottom of its cell.

3. What happens after the workers cover the cell with a wax cap?
   The larva becomes a pupa, its body changes into a bee's, and about 21 days after the egg was laid, a new worker bee chews her way out.

4. Why do you think the bees you see on flowers are the oldest workers?
   Sample answer: the younger workers stay inside the hive to care for the eggs and larvae and to build comb, so only the oldest ones fly out to collect nectar and pollen.

Answer key

Word building

1. **star**
2. **bird**
3. **moon**
4. **boot**
5. **peas**
6. **car**
7. **bean**
8. **yarn**

Answer key

Phonics word sort

a_e	ee	i_e	o_e	u_e
gate	feet	time	rope	cute
tape	tree	five	hole	dune
cake	seed	pine	globe	tube
plate	sleep	ride	home	mule