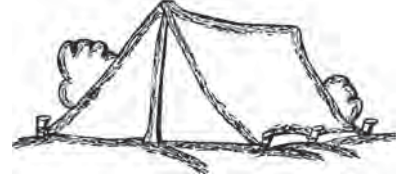


Room For All

Jason was excited to be on his first camping trip with his dad. He could not wait to eat the dinner they were cooking over a campfire and to sleep in their new tent. But there was one thing that worried him—bats. Jason had heard that bats fly at night, and he was afraid a bat might try to bite him! Jason often looked up over his head. He wanted to be sure there were no bats nearby.



“Jason, why are you looking around like that?” Jason’s dad asked.

“I don’t want a bat to think I’m its dinner,” he replied.

“You?” Jason’s dad said, laughing. “A bat won’t think *you’re* its dinner. Sure, you have to stay away from them, but bats don’t eat people. Bats around here eat mostly insects, such as mosquitoes.”

“Mosquitoes? I *really* don’t like mosquitoes. If bats eat them, then maybe bats aren’t so bad. There’s room out here for us all, Dad!”

QUESTION

Helpful Neighbors

Bats around the world eat many different things. They eat insects, fruit, spiders, fish, nectar from flowers, and even other bats. Most of the bats in the United States eat insects or fruit.



The little brown bat is found in the United States. It is two inches long and weighs about one-half ounce. That is about the length of your small finger and the weight of half of a marble. Little brown bats like to eat mosquitoes. One little brown bat can eat over 500 mosquitoes in one hour!

Besides saving people from mosquito bites, bats also help farmers. The Mexican free-tailed bats in Texas eat up to 15 tons of insects in one night. Many of these insects are pests that destroy crops. Hungry bats in this country have proven to be helpful neighbors!

A Surprise Call

Jenny's friend Rose had just gotten a telephone in her house. Jenny had never seen one before. Rose promised her that she could use it.

Jenny's father hitched up the horses and took her to Rose's house. "I'll be back before sunset. Have fun with that telephone!" he said. On his way out he winked at Rose.

"We're supposed to get a call later," Rose said. "You can talk on the telephone then." Jenny was excited. She wished the call would come soon.

She and Rose went off to play. Jenny soon forgot about the telephone. Suddenly there was a loud ring. Rose handed the telephone to Jenny. "It's for you!" she said with a smile.

Jenny held the telephone to her ear. She heard a familiar voice say, "Hi Jenny! I'm in the next town buying supplies. I used a telephone here to call you." Jenny broke out in a big grin. It was her dad!



Connecting Cities

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call. On that day his assistant was in the next room. Bell spoke into his telephone invention, "Mr. Watson. Come here. I want to see you." Mr. Watson heard him!

Alexander Graham Bell used cups, needles, wire, and even water to make the first telephone. His idea was simple. Different sounds could be sent from one place to another using a wire. Electricity would help move sound along.

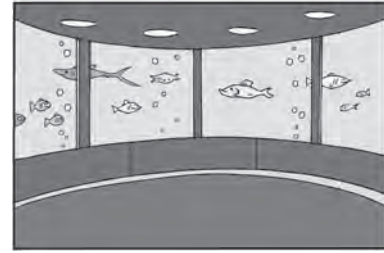
Soon, telephones were in most homes. People in faraway places could talk without leaving their homes. News spread faster from city to city.

Telephones today look very different from the first telephone. But telephones continue to be a part of our lives every day.



Brave Little Sharks

Lani's class walked toward a shark tank at the aquarium. He wanted to see some big sharks. As he got closer, Lani frowned. He saw a small, brown shark darting through the water. It looked like it was wearing a dark band around its neck. The shark was only a bit longer than his ruler.



"This shark is so small," he said.

"Being small doesn't mean it's not brave," his teacher said, pointing to a sign.

Lani looked up at the black and white sign with the title "Cookiecutter Shark." He looked at the picture next to it. He saw a submarine with a round piece of rubber missing from it.

"A cookiecutter shark bit that submarine. It probably thought it was a whale. They like to bite chunks of bigger fish. Look at the round shape of the bite. What does it remind you of?" Lani's teacher asked.

"A cookie! So that's how these sharks got their name!" Lani smiled.

Cookiecutter Sharks

A cookiecutter shark lives deep in the ocean. These brown sharks grow to be about two feet long. But their small size doesn't keep them from getting good meals.



The bottom side of a cookiecutter shark glows, except for a dark band around the neck. Fish are tricked when they swim below it. They think they see a small fish swimming in light that comes from above the water. As the fish below swims closer, the cookiecutter shark gets ready to attack.

The size of an animal does not stop the cookiecutter shark. It will bite larger sea animals, such as seals and whales. The shark can attach itself to an animal because its mouth acts like a suction cup. Once it is stuck to the animal, the shark spins around to take a clean, round bite with its sharp teeth. This is how cookiecutter sharks got their name.

Stuck Indoors

Eva's cousin Lydia was visiting for a week. Lydia's family visited every summer. The girls always had fun playing outdoors. This visit was different. Eva and Lydia had been stuck indoors for two days because of a bad storm.



Eva and Lydia were in the kitchen. They were getting a salad ready for dinner. Their parents were in the living room. Everyone watched the news on television. They listened for updates on the storm.

"I wonder what's happening at my house," Lydia said.

"It's probably a sunny day without any clouds," Eva said, smiling.

Just then, Lydia's mother walked into the kitchen. "This storm is strong. No one is going outside for a while," she said.

Eva and Lydia smiled at each other. They weren't happy about the storm. But they were excited to spend time together.

The Great Hurricane of 1938

The great hurricane of 1938 hit fast. A hurricane is a storm with strong winds and a lot of rain. There is often a lot of flooding, too.

In 1938, a hurricane hit New England with little warning. There was not enough time to prepare for the big storm. The states of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island were all flooded.

Strong winds caused giant waves. Many buildings near the ocean were swept away. Beaches were damaged. The large waves traveled inland. Buildings that were miles away from the ocean were hit by the waves.

The rain fell hard and fast. Rivers and streams flooded. Houses far away from the ocean flooded, too.

It took a lot of money to fix the damage caused by the hurricane. Today, scientists can predict when hurricanes will hit. This gives people more time to prepare and stay safe.



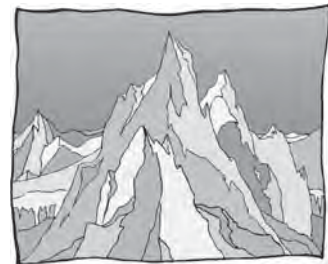
The Strength of Two Brothers

Hiro was studying Mount Everest in school. The top of Mount Everest is the highest spot in the world. Hiro wanted to know why.

“The ancient people who lived near Mount Everest had an explanation,” Hiro’s teacher said.

“They told a myth about how and why Mount Everest is the highest spot in the world.” Hiro listened to the myth.

“Two strong brothers were fighting near Mount Everest. Each lived on one side of the mountain. One brother wanted more land so he pushed Mount Everest onto his brother’s land. This made his brother mad. So his brother threw some dirt and ice onto the top of Mount Everest and pushed it back at him. This made Mount Everest taller. The brothers pushed the mountain back and forth, throwing dirt and ice onto the top. And since then each year Mount Everest has been getting a little taller.”



The Highest Point in the World

The highest point in the world is the top of a mountain called Mount Everest. The top of Mount Everest is as high as airplanes fly.

Mount Everest is in Nepal and China. It is millions of years old. Mount Everest is still growing. Every year it grows about two inches taller. This is because the ground beneath the mountain moves around very slowly. When it moves, it pushes the mountain up.

Mount Everest is very cold. There is much snow and ice. The mountain is so high that the air is always cold. There are many snowstorms on Mount Everest. The cold weather and ice make climbing the mountain very difficult, but some brave people have climbed it.

Mount Everest is an amazing mountain. People who have climbed it say the view from the top is the most beautiful they have ever seen.



An Adventure in Nature

Derrick's mom promised to take him on an adventure. "We need to pack hiking boots, sleeping bags, a tent, bathing suits, and fishing poles," she said.

Derrick couldn't wait to find out where they were going. At what place could he hike, camp, swim, and fish?

They packed the car and started driving. After a few hours, Derrick saw a sign welcoming them to Yosemite National Park in California. He remembered learning about Yosemite in school.

"Look at those giant trees!" said Derrick, pointing.

"Derrick's mom nodded and said. "Yosemite is home to many different animals, too. Maybe you'll see an eagle or a falcon."

"This is going to be a great adventure!" Derrick said with a smile.



Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park is in California. In a national park, the land, animals, plants, and trees found there will always be protected. No one can harm them or build on the land.

The park is home to different kinds of birds, fish, and other animals. Visitors may see black bears or bighorn sheep. There are also many different kinds of flowers and trees. Some trees in the park can grow to be over 300 feet tall! Yosemite is also home to some of the tallest waterfalls in the world.

People can visit Yosemite National Park every day of the year. Visitors can enjoy the nature at the park by camping, hiking, fishing, skiing, swimming, and rock climbing. Because this land is protected, it will always be around for people to enjoy.



The Mile Run

Mia and Tyler just finished running around the track three times. They were practicing for the mile run at school.

“Wow!” Mia said, trying to catch her breath. “My heart is beating so fast! It feels like it’s going to pop out of my body.”

“Mine, too,” Tyler said breathlessly.

They both slowed down and walked. “We’re getting better,” Mia said as she took a deep breath. “Last week we made it around the track only two times.”

“That’s true,” Tyler agreed, “Last week I couldn’t catch my breath after just two laps. Today we did three. We must be getting stronger.”

“You know, four laps around the track is a mile. Do you think you’ll be ready for that next week?” Mia asked.

Tyler took a deep breath. “No problem!” Tyler said, laughing.



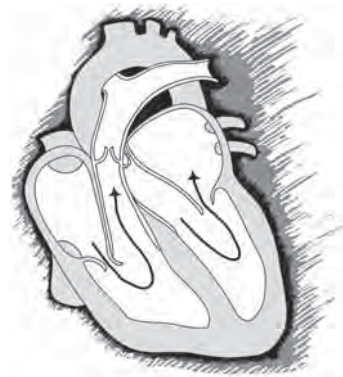
Your Heart at Work

Did you know your heart is a muscle? Your heart beats all the time. Sometimes it beats fast, like when you are running. Sometimes it beats slower, like when you are sleeping. Your heart is a muscle that is always working.

The heart pumps blood around the body. Blood carries oxygen and nutrients that feed the body. Blood also carries away waste that the body doesn’t need.

Each side of the heart has a different job. The left side of the heart pumps blood with oxygen and nutrients into the body. The right side pumps blood into the lungs. This helps the body get rid of waste.

Each time the heart beats, it pumps more blood around the body. Your heart is always hard at work. That makes it a strong muscle.



Meeting Sue

Brian's teacher just announced to the class that they would be taking a trip to the Field Museum in Chicago. "We are going there so you can meet Sue," Mrs. Rodriguez said, grinning. "You'll enjoy meeting her."



"Who is Sue?" asked Brian, wanting to know more.

"I'll give you some clues. Sue is 67 million years old. She was found in South Dakota. She is 13 feet tall. She has 58 teeth, and some of her teeth are a foot long!"

"She is really old and big. She sounds scary, too," said Brian.

"Is she a dinosaur?" Lisa asked.

"That's right. Sue is a dinosaur named after the woman who discovered her," Mrs. Rodriguez said.

"I have never met anyone that old. I can't wait to meet her!" Brian told Lisa as they walked to the lunchroom.

Sue the Dinosaur

The Field Museum in Chicago is home to one of the world's most famous and largest dinosaurs ever found. Sue is a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. Her whole skeleton can be seen at the museum.



How did she get her name? On August 12, 1990, Sue Hendrickson was in South Dakota with other people looking for dinosaur bones. The truck that they were in got a flat tire. Most of the people took a break, but Sue kept working. She took a short walk away from the truck and found large bones sticking out of the ground. Those bones turned out to be from a dinosaur that had died 67 million years ago! The dinosaur was named Sue after the woman who found her.

Sue is an important find. Her bones are in great shape. Scientists have learned a lot about dinosaurs by studying Sue.

A Penguin's Work

The clock read 1:30. That meant it was time for science class. Mr. Soto asked everyone to put on their jackets. They would be going outside.

"It's cold out," said Damion.

"Cold weather is perfect for today's lesson," said Mr. Soto, smiling.

The class made their way to the playground. Mr. Soto gave everyone a baseball. "Now, I want you to place the ball on your feet. Then I want everyone to slowly join in a circle. But," he warned, "do not drop the ball. If you drop it, pick up the ball and move out of the circle."

Everyone moved slowly, trying very hard not to drop their baseball. In the end, half of the class was left standing in the circle.

"Good try, everyone!" said Mr. Soto. "You have done something like the male emperor penguin does each year. It's his job to keep an egg safe so it can hatch into a chick. Let's go back inside now and learn more about emperor penguins."



Emperor Penguins

It takes a lot of work to hatch an emperor penguin egg! Emperor penguins live at the South Pole. During the winter, it gets very cold. Most animals cannot survive the cold weather so they leave. Emperor penguins stay. Just as winter begins, they lay their eggs.

The female penguin lays one egg and carefully passes it to the male penguin. Then the female leaves to find food in the sea. She doesn't come back for two months!

The male penguin balances the egg at his feet. He covers and keeps it warm with his feathers and skin. The male stays in the same place for two months. He does not go to get food. He keeps the egg safe.

The egg will have hatched when the female returns. She brings food for the new chick. The male leaves, so he can finally eat. The female keeps the chick warm until it is big enough to find its own food.

