

## What was the riddle of the sphinx?

- 1 The sphinx (SFINKS) was a make-believe animal of long ago. It had the head of a person, the body of a lion, and the wings of a bird. The sphinx lived near the city of Thebes (THEEBZ). When people entered Thebes, they had to pass by the sphinx. But the animal killed them unless they gave the right answer to a riddle.
- 2 The sphinx asked this question: "What has four legs in the morning, two legs at noon, and three legs at night?" No one could think of the answer.
- 3 At last, a man came to Thebes and solved the riddle. "I know what has four legs, then two, and then three," he said. "A person does. The time of day is like the times of a person's life. Morning is the beginning of the day. In the morning of life, people are babies. They crawl on all fours. Noon is the middle of the day. In the middle of life, people walk on two legs. Night is the end of the day. At the end of life, people are old. They use canes. That gives them three legs."
- 4 The sphinx was so angry that it jumped off the mountain and died. The people of Thebes were happy that the sphinx was gone. They made this wise man their king.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell \_\_\_\_\_.  
A the wise man's name  
B what the sphinx did  
C the name of the city  
D what the riddle was
  
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means "figured out"?  
A said  
B came  
C gives  
D solved
  
3. Which paragraph tells the answer to the riddle?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. The article does not say, but you can decide that the sphinx \_\_\_\_\_.  
A was friendly  
B could not speak  
C was king of Thebes  
D killed many people
  
5. *Right* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 1.  
A promise given by a law  
B opposite of left  
C straight  
D correct

6. Write your own riddle. See if a friend can answer it.

## What are ant colonies?

- 1 Ants are very social insects. They live under the ground in nests called colonies. Some colonies have just a few ants. Other colonies have many more. A colony can have more than 100 million ants! Each colony is highly organized.
- 2 Each ant in a colony has a clear role. The queen ant's main role is to lay eggs. Other female ants are the workers. They find food, build the nest, care for baby ants, and feed the queen. The role of male ants is to mate with the queen.
- 3 The ants' colony has a number of chambers under the ground. Tunnels connect the chambers and lead to the exit. Some chambers are for storing food. Other chambers hold the baby ants. To make new tunnels, the worker ants carry tiny pieces of dirt to the surface. This forms an anthill.
- 4 The ants work together for the good of the colony. They use chemicals called pheromones (FAIR•o•mones) to give each other messages. For example, an ant will leave a trail of pheromones to lead other ants to a food source. Some ants even make chains by holding onto each other. The ants use these chains as bridges.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The main role of the queen ant is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A lay eggs  
B make tunnels  
C care for baby ants  
D give directions to workers
  
2. Which word in paragraph 1 means “living in a group”?  
A organized  
B social  
C under  
D nests
  
3. Which paragraph tells about the jobs that different ants perform?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. An ant will leave a trail of pheromones in order to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A make a chain  
B hold onto each other  
C show the way to a food source  
D help other ants cross something
  
5. *Good* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 4.  
A kind  
B benefit  
C skillful  
D pleasant

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6. Do you think ant colonies and human society are similar in any way? Tell why or why not.

## Who was Frederick Douglass?

- 1 Frederick Douglass was born as a slave in 1817. He grew up to be a great leader in the fight against slavery.
- 2 As a child, Frederick learned to read and write a little. But the slave owner beat him and would not allow him to learn more. When he was 21, he made a daring escape. He dressed as a sailor. Using a forged permit, he rode the train north to freedom. He made his home in New York State.
- 3 Later he published a newspaper to speak out against slavery. He named it *North Star* because escaping slaves followed the North Star at night. People asked him to speak about his life. At first, he felt shy. But he became a famous public speaker. He also wrote a book about his life. During the Civil War, he talked with President Lincoln. He helped convince the president to end slavery.
- 4 After the Civil War, Frederick Douglass worked to gain civil rights for black citizens. He helped them win the right to vote. For the rest of his life, he inspired black men and women. He once told a group of black students, "What was possible for me is possible for you."

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. When Frederick Douglass was 21, he \_\_\_\_\_.  
A escaped from slavery  
B published a newspaper  
C learned to read and write  
D became a famous speaker
  
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “false and illegal”?  
A forged  
B daring  
C permit  
D escape
  
3. Which paragraph tells about ways that Frederick Douglass worked to end slavery?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. After the Civil War, Frederick Douglass \_\_\_\_\_.  
A forged a permit  
B fought to end slavery  
C advised President Lincoln  
D helped blacks win the right to vote
  
5. *Civil* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 4.  
A polite  
B social  
C relating to citizens  
D relating to a court case

 6. Think of another African American who was important in the history of the United States. What did he or she do?

## How do animals know the way home?

1 A cat named Bobby lived in England. His owner took him to America on an airplane. When the owner returned to England, Bobby was left behind. Yet 13 days later, Bobby arrived at his owner's home. He had crossed an ocean!

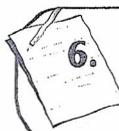
2 Animals have a strong sense of where home is and how to get there. Scientists have studied this but still don't really know how it works. Birds travel thousands of miles when the seasons change. Some leave on the exact same day every year. If winter comes too early, the birds may die of the cold. Salmon hatch in fresh water. Then they swim to the ocean. There, they spend most of their lives. When it's time to lay their eggs, though, they always return to the water where they were born.

3 Many animals use the sun or the stars to find their way. Bees' eyes see the tiniest changes in light and dark. So even on a cloudy day, bees follow the sun back to their hive. Some birds use the position of the stars to fly at night.

4 Of course, none of this explains how Bobby found his way home. He didn't fly or swim. He didn't use the sun or the stars. It's clear that animals have senses that people just don't understand.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. On cloudy days, bees follow \_\_\_\_\_ to reach their hive.  
A the sun  
B the moon  
C a trail of ants  
D the smell of honey
  
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “come out from an egg”?  
A die  
B lay  
C swim  
D hatch
  
3. Which paragraph tells what salmon do?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. If winter comes early, birds may die of cold because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A the seasons change  
B they lose their feathers  
C they are tired from traveling  
D they leave on the exact same day every year
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A bees have bad eyesight  
B salmon are a kind of fish  
C birds don't fly in the winter  
D animals are afraid of the dark



6. How do you think Bobby found his way home? Write a short story to explain what happened to him.

## What is a mannequin?

- 1 Who tries on clothes in a store but never buys any? The answer is a mannequin (MA•nih•kuhn). You've seen mannequins before. They look almost like people. Store workers dress them in the latest clothes. Then they put them in their store windows.
- 2 You may not know it, but mannequins have been around for a very long time. The oldest one is over 3,500 years old. This wooden mannequin was found in the tomb of an Egyptian king.
- 3 Since then, mannequins have been made of other things. One hundred years ago, many were made of wax. They had false teeth and glass eyes. But a funny thing happened to these wax "dolls." They melted standing in sunny windows!
- 4 Later, around 1930, mannequins were made of a special kind of paper. They were lighter and easier to lift and move around than the wooden or wax ones. But these mannequins didn't last long. They would wear out quickly and fall apart.
- 5 Today, mannequins are made of plastic. They are light and last a long time. So when you go shopping, look at the mannequins, not just their clothes.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell about \_\_\_\_\_ mannequins.  
A old  
B wax  
C future  
D today's
  
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “place where the dead are put”?  
A tomb  
B years  
C time  
D king
  
3. Which paragraph tells what happened to wax mannequins?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
  
4. After they were made of paper, mannequins were made of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A wax  
B steel  
C wood  
D plastic
  
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that mannequins \_\_\_\_\_.  
A are only for women's clothes  
B have changed over time  
C frighten shoppers  
D don't last long

 6. The oldest mannequin known about is 3,500 years old. What do you think mannequins will look like 3,500 years from now? What makes you think so?