



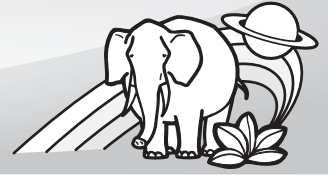
Teacher Created Resources®

READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

FOR SCIENCE



GRADES 2-3



The Loudest Sound

These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* sound

* pluck

* erupting

* picture

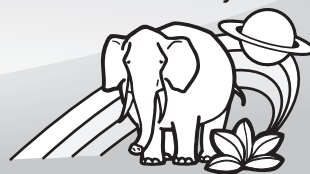
* noise

* ripples

* vibrating

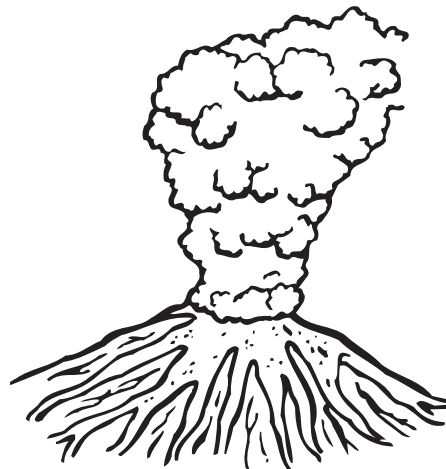
* eardrum

Choose one new word to write.



The Loudest Sound

A sound was heard in 1883. The sound was loud. It was a volcano erupting. The volcano was on Krakatoa. Krakatoa was a tiny island. The island was in Southeast Asia. The noise was so loud that it was heard far away. The sound was heard 1,863 miles (3,000 kilometers) away! Some people think this was the loudest sound ever heard on Earth.



How did boys and girls far away hear the noise? How did they hear the volcano erupting? Every sound we hear is made by something vibrating. When something vibrates, it moves back and forth very fast. Pluck a rubber band. Pluck a guitar string. The rubber band will move. It will vibrate. The guitar string will move. The string is vibrating. When something vibrates, it makes the air around it vibrate, too. The vibrations move through the air. They move through the air in waves.

You cannot see sound waves. But you can picture in your head how they move. Picture in your head a pond. The water in the pond is still. The water is smooth. Throw a rock in the pond. The water ripples. The ripples are tiny waves. The ripples form rings in the water. The rings move out from where you threw the rock in the water.

Sound moves fast. It moves fast through the air. In just three seconds, sound can travel half a mile (one kilometer). When the volcano erupted, the air began to vibrate. The vibrations made the sound. The sound moved fast. It moved in waves. The waves moved away from the volcano.

Far away, boys and girls' eardrums began to vibrate. An eardrum is a piece of skin. The piece of skin is very thin. It is in the ear. It is stretched like a drum. The skin vibrates when sound waves hit it. The boys and girls heard the volcano when their eardrums vibrated.



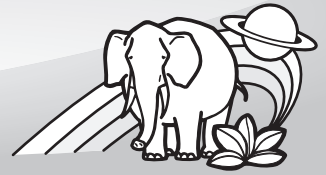
The Loudest Sound

After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. You hear sounds when
 - (a) a volcano erupts.
 - (b) your eardrums vibrate.
 - (c) you pluck a guitar string.
 - (d) you throw a rock in the water.
2. This story is mainly about
 - (a) sound.
 - (b) eardrums.
 - (c) a volcano.
 - (d) vibrations.
3. When did the volcano erupt?
 - (a) 1585
 - (b) 1682
 - (c) 1784
 - (d) 1883
4. You are told to pluck a rubber band and a guitar string. What does the word “pluck” mean in the story?
 - (a) to vibrate
 - (b) to make noise
 - (c) to pull at and let go quickly
 - (d) to move back and forth very fast
5. Think about how the word **ear** relates to **hear**. Which words relate in the same way?

ear : hear

 - (a) eye : see
 - (b) cat : purr
 - (c) feet : toes
 - (d) hair : brush



The Question Man

These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

* questions

* conducted

* biologist

* experiment

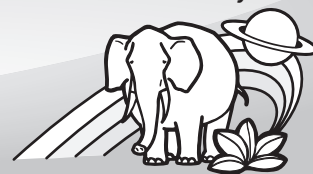
* watched

* bottle

* observed

* remember

Choose one new word to write.



The Question Man

Dr. Turner asked many questions. The questions were about animals. Dr. Turner was a biologist. Biology is the study of living things and the way they live and grow. Dr. Turner studied living things. He studied the way they live and grow. He watched animals. He observed their behavior. He asked questions. He conducted experiments to answer his questions. He was a good biologist.

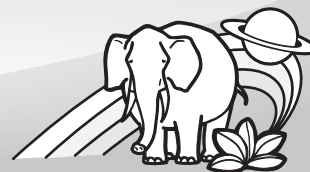


Once Dr. Turner asked if bees could tell time. He conducted an experiment. Three times a day he put out jam. Every day the jam was set out at the same time. Bees came to eat the jam. They came at all three times. Then, Dr. Turner stopped putting the jam out three times a day. He put the jam out only in the morning.

Dr. Turner watched. He observed the bees. At first the bees still came at all three times. But soon they stopped coming. They only came in the morning. His experiment showed that bees have some idea of time!

Dr. Turner was born in 1867. He was an African-American. He was born in Cincinnati. This city is in Ohio. Over his life, he answered many of his own questions about animals. His answers were printed in important papers.

Once Dr. Turner saw a bee. The bee went into a hole. Next to the hole was a bottle cap. The bee flew away. Dr. Turner made a new hole. He put the bottle cap next to the new hole. The bee flew into the new hole! It came out fast. Soon, it found its hole. It flew away. Dr. Turner made new holes. He put bottle caps by each hole. The bee came back. It went into the wrong hole. It found its hole only after going in and out of many holes. This experiment showed that bees could remember. Bees could remember what it looked like around their homes.



The Question Man

After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. This story is mainly about

- (a) bees.
- (b) biology.
- (c) Dr. Turner.
- (d) experiments.

2. What did the bee in the hole remember was by its home?

- (a) jam
- (b) Dr. Turner
- (c) a bottle cap
- (d) more bee hole homes

3. If you were a biologist, you might study

- (a) the age of the Sun.
- (b) how to make a plane.
- (c) what rocks are made of.
- (d) how a shark takes care of its babies.

4. Think about how the word **observe** relates to **watch**. Which words relate in the same way?

observe : watch

- (a) eat : food
- (b) look : see
- (c) tree : root
- (d) bottle : drink

5. When Dr. Turner conducted his experiment about bees telling time, what did he do first?

- (a) put out jam only in the morning
- (b) put out jam three times every day
- (c) made a new hole and put the bottle cap next to it
- (d) watched the bee to be sure that its home was by the bottle cap

Answer Key



Polar Bears

1. b 2. d 3. b 4. a 5. c

Chest Sounds

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. d

Underwater Logging

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. c

The Floating Rock

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. a

Why Did Kim Vomit?

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. d

Frozen Frogs

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. d

The Man Who Could Move the World

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. c

Where in the World?

1. d 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. a

The La Brea Tar Pits

1. d 2. d 3. b 4. c 5. c

What Ben Stood In

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. c

Bat News

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. d

The Investigation that Bit!

1. a 2. c 3. d 4. c 5. b

The Fastest Faller: Feather or Rock?

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. d

How Slow is Slow?

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. d

Traveling Rocks

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. d

A Fair Amount

1. a 2. d 3. d 4. a 5. b

Can One Worm Make Two?

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. a

Shark Lady

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. d 5. b

The Loudest Sound

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. a

Surviving with Little Water

1. a 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. d

Road Rocks

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. d

The Cold Shivers

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d 5. a

The Hippopotamus

1. a 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. b

The Question Man

1. c 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. b

Gold

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. d

The Floating Train

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b

An Island of Animals

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b

Why the Rain Didn't Soak In

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. d

The White Elephant

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. c 5. a

Ghosts, Apples, and Gravity

1. d 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. b

The Sailors and the Compass

1. d 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b

Hungry for Dino Meat

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. d 5. c

How Can Ty See Fish Underwater?

1. d 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. c

The Biggest Flower

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. d

The Camel

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. a 5. b

Experiments Out of This World

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. d 5. c

Can You Hear?

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. a 5. b

A New Land

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b

Where Do These Words Come From Anyway?

1. d 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. b

Thousands of Butterflies

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. d 5. c

The Man Who First Recorded Sound

1. c 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b

The Great Pebble

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. d 5. a

How Tall is Tall?

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. d 5. a

On the Move

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. b