

PAIRED PASSAGES

GRADE

2



Nonfiction

Fiction

Nonfiction

Some insects are colorful.

They use their colors to protect themselves. Ladybugs are bright red and black.

Monarch butterflies are bright orange and black.

These colors warn others not to eat them.

Insects have many interesting traits.

Nonfiction

Fiction

Fiction

On summer days,

I watch the sky,

I know that a ladybug will soon fly by.

Her red and black wings flap by my hand.

And she looks for a leaf,

Where she can land.

- Presents high-interest passages across content areas
- Offers comprehension questions for close reading practice
- Reinforces higher-order thinking
- Includes extension activities for critical thinking



Waiting on the Nest

The female snowy owl shivers against the wind. She peeks into the nest beneath her. She does not look for long because she knows the eggs need to stay warm. She hears a sound and looks up. The male owl is flying back to the nest.

"Look what I've caught for you," he says. The male owl drops a shining, silver fish on the ground near the nest.

"Oh, thank you," she says happily. "I am very hungry." The female owl begins to eat the fish. Suddenly, she stops.

"Oh my," she says, "the eggs are hatching!"

She moves over. The owls watch as the eggs slowly hatch. Three owlets are in the nest, each covered with soft white down.

The new parents know they have work to do. They must teach the babies to care for themselves. They will also teach them to fly. For now, the parents enjoy being proud of their new babies.



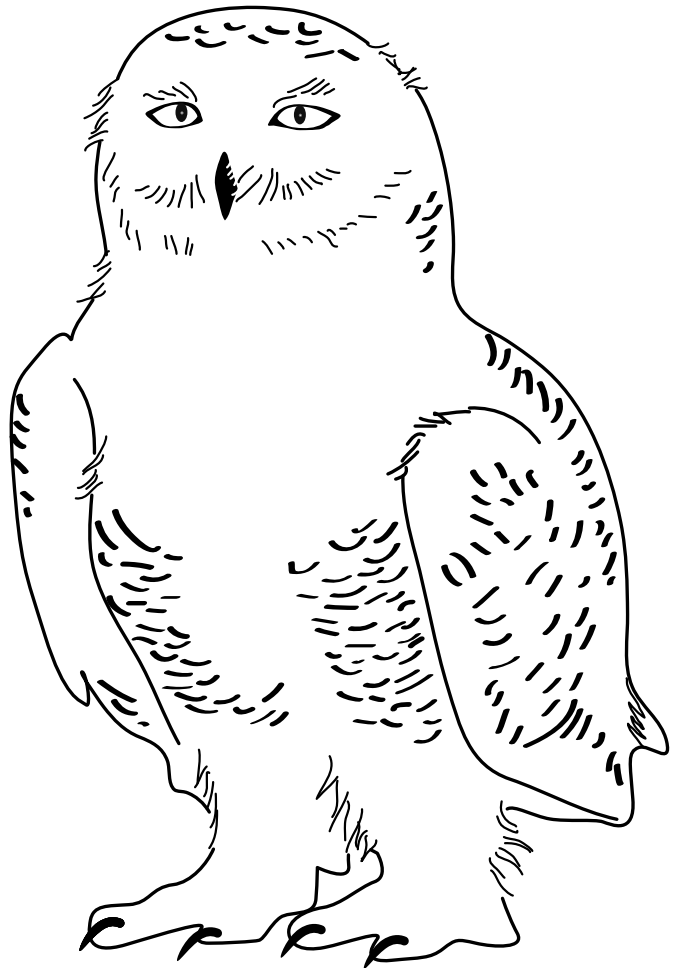
Snowy Owl Babies

A female snowy owl lays three to 11 eggs. She is more likely to lay eggs when there is a good food supply. Snowy owls eat lemmings. They also eat rabbits, birds, and fish. A female will not lay eggs if there is no food. She lays the eggs in a nest. The nest is on the ground.

The female owl sits on the nest. She will sit on the nest until the eggs hatch. She keeps the eggs safe and warm. The male owl brings food to the female. The female sits on the nest for about a month. Then, the eggs hatch.

The baby owls are soft and white. They are covered in down instead of feathers. Soon, the babies grow feathers. Then, they are light brown.

The babies leave the nest in about a month. They can fly well when they are six weeks old. The parents care for the babies until they are 10 weeks old.



Name _____

Write *true* or *false*.

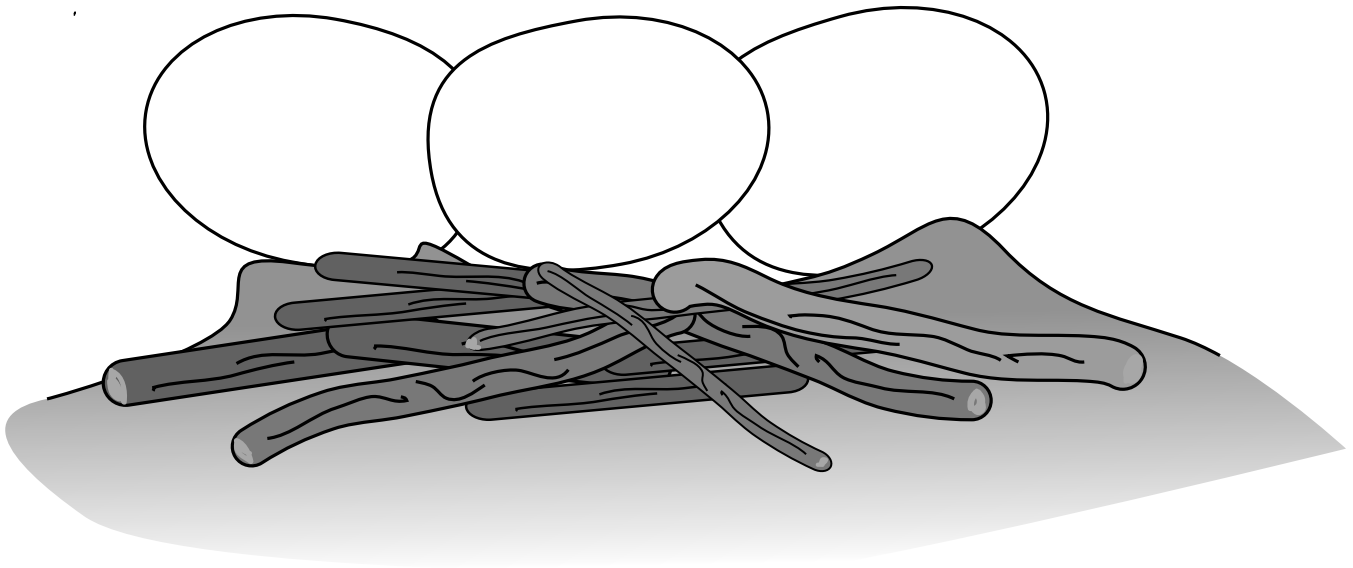
1. _____ Snowy owls usually have one baby at a time.
2. _____ Snowy owls eat rabbits, fish, and lemmings.
3. _____ The mother snowy owl sits on the nest until the babies are born.
4. _____ The new baby owls have light brown feathers.

Answer each question.

5. Look back at "Snowy Owl Babies." Why would a mother owl wait to have babies?
 - A. She would wait to find a good nest.
 - B. She would wait until there was a good food supply.
 - C. She would wait until the father owl brought her a fish.
 - D. She would wait to find another mother owl that would help her.
6. Look back at "Waiting on the Nest." How does the mother owl get food when she is sitting on the nest?
 - A. The father owl brings a fish to her.
 - B. She eats some of the grass around the nest.
 - C. She eats a lemming.
 - D. Other owls bring food to the nest.
7. Look back at both passages. Who takes care of the eggs until they hatch?
 - A. both parents
 - B. the father snowy owl
 - C. the mother snowy owl
 - D. neither of the parents

Name _____

- 8.** Look back at both passages. In each egg, write one fact that you learned about snowy owl babies.



- 9.** Write about snowy owl babies. Use the information you learned in both passages to help you.

My Colorful Friend

On summer days,
I watch the sky,
I know that a ladybug
will soon fly by.

Her red and black wings
flap by my hand.
And she looks for a leaf,
where she can land.

She crawls onto
a leaf in a tree.
I watch her as far
as my eye can see.

As she moves,
I count her spots.
This ladybug
has got a lot!

When I draw ladybugs
at home or school,
they're never like these,
but they're always cool!

The bugs I draw
are green and blue.
Some have big spots,
and some have stripes too!

I love the bugs
I paint and draw,
but I have to admit,
they have one flaw.

As pretty as my
ladybugs are,
they stay on my pad,
and they can never fly far.

So, when the summer sun
warms the sky
I sit on the grass
and wait for my —
lovely flying friend.

Guarding a Bug's Life

An insect's life can be hard. Some animals try to eat insects. Birds and bats are some of their hunters. People may stomp on insects. Some people spray them with bug spray.



Insects have ways of guarding themselves. Some can give off a bad smell. Stinkbugs can give off a foul odor. This odor may keep their hunters from eating the bugs.

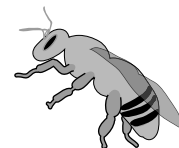
Termites and roaches have other ways to protect themselves. These insects can produce a spray. The spray bothers their hunters. Stick insects and beetles can produce this spray too.

Some insects are colorful. They use their colors to protect themselves. Ladybugs are bright red and black. Monarch butterflies are bright orange and black. These colors warn others not to eat them. These insects are poisonous to their hunters.

Other insects can cause pain. Bees and wasps can sting. Some ants can sting too. Their venom can burn or itch. Sometimes, their venom can trigger reactions in their victims.



Many creatures try to eat or harm insects. Insects must have ways to guard themselves.



Name _____

Answer each question.

- 1.** Why do you think the author wrote "My Colorful Friend"?
 - A.** to entertain the reader with a fun poem about ladybugs
 - B.** to inform the reader about a ladybug's life cycle
 - C.** to explain a ladybug's colors to the reader
 - D.** to inform the reader about summer insects

- 2.** Why do you think the author wrote "Guarding a Bug's Life"?
 - A.** to entertain the reader with stories about different types of bugs
 - B.** to inform the reader about different bugs and the way they protect themselves
 - C.** to explain to the reader that ladybugs and monarch butterflies are not the same color
 - D.** to entertain readers who like bugs

- 3.** What is the main idea of "Guarding a Bug's Life"?
 - A.** Some insects give off a foul odor.
 - B.** Ladybugs and monarch butterflies are poisonous.
 - C.** Insects have different ways of guarding against predators.
 - D.** Some insects are red and orange.

- 4.** Copy the main idea from question 3. Then, write two details that support the main idea.

Main idea: _____

Detail: _____

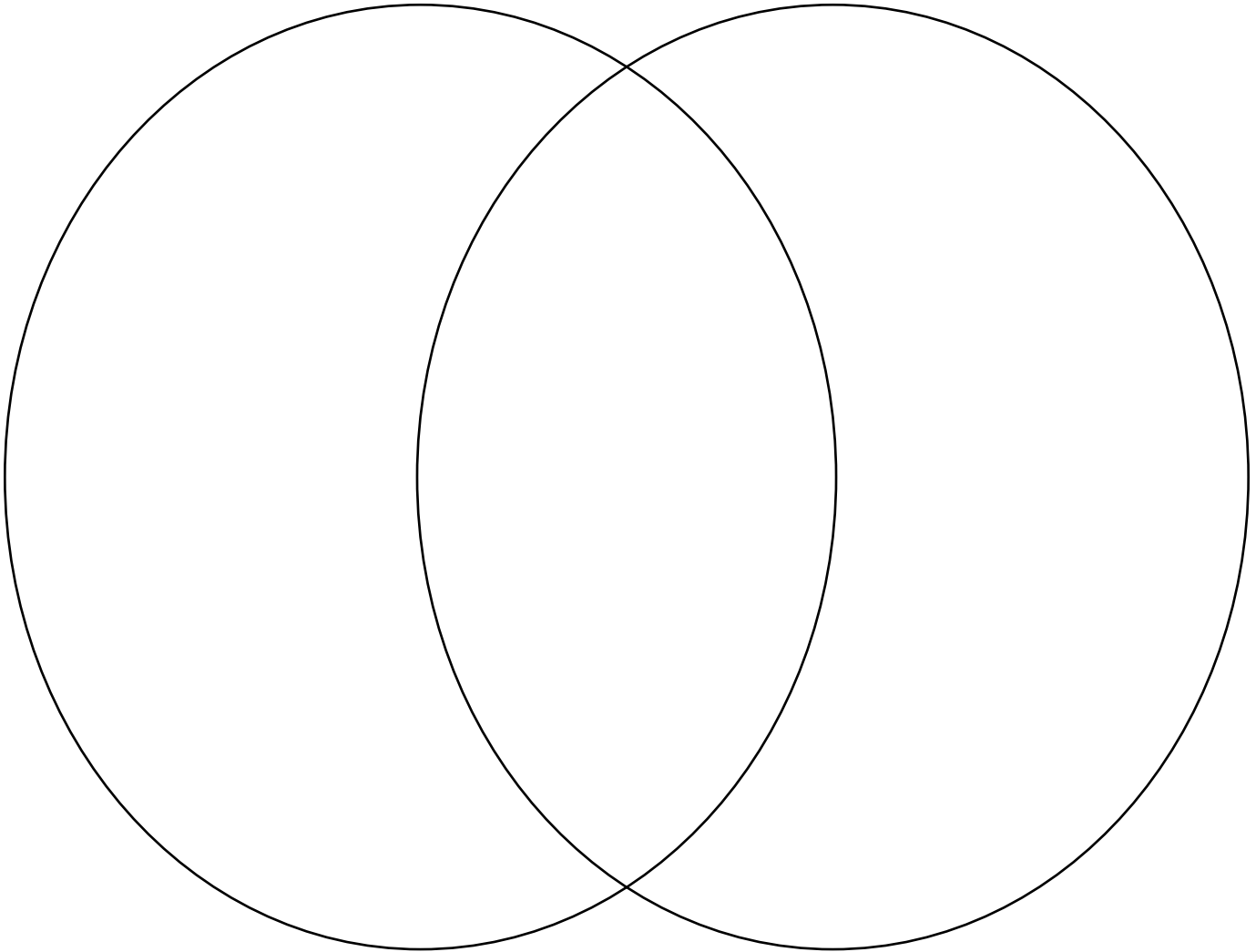
Detail: _____

Name _____

- 5.** Look back at both passages. How are they alike? How are they different? Complete the graphic organizer.

My Colorful Friend

Guarding a Bug's Life



- 6.** Which passage would you tell your friend to read? Write a note to tell your friend why you liked one passage more than the other.

Boom!

Boom!

James jumped out of bed and peered out the window. The rain pelted the glass, and a flash of lightning lit up the sky.

James turned around when his door opened. His little sister stood in the doorway. "James," she said, "I hear thunder."

"It's OK," he said. "Come on." James took his sister's hand and led her back to her room. Then, he tucked her into bed.

James sat on the edge of his sister's bed. Suddenly, a loud clap of thunder shook the house. Grace jumped, and her eyes widened. She grabbed James's hand.

"Remember, thunder is a vibration," James said. "It is air that's moving. Tell me some storm safety rules."

Grace recited, "Stay away from water. Stay in a sturdy building or in a car that has closed windows. Stay away from metal. Don't use a phone that has a cord."

"That's good," James said. "Listen, the rain stopped. We can go to sleep now."

James stood up to walk back to his room. He smiled when he realized that Grace was already snoring.

Raining and Pouring

Thunderstorms can happen any time. Storms are more likely to happen in the spring or summer. They are also more likely to happen later in the day.

Three things make a storm. First, the air needs to be moist. Moist air helps clouds and rain form. Then, the air needs to be warm. Warm, unstable air rises quickly. The last part is lift. Lift is what makes an airplane move upward. Lift happens when two different air masses meet. Lift can also be made by sea breezes or mountains.

Thunderstorms make lightning. Lightning is a giant spark of electricity. It looks like a fiery bolt in the sky. It starts in a storm cloud. The charge from the cloud reaches down. A charge from the ground reaches up. The charges meet. Lightning strikes.

Lightning causes thunder. The electricity heats the air and makes it suddenly grow bigger. This makes the sound known as thunder.

About 2,000 thunderstorms happen somewhere on Earth each minute. That is a lot of thunderstorms! One in 10 storms are severe storms. The storms bring lightning and thunder.

