

PAIRED PASSAGES

GRADE

3



Nonfiction

Fiction

Nonfiction

Tide pools are like tiny aquariums. Many ocean animals and plants can be found in these unique places. Tide pools are small pools of seawater left behind when the tide goes out. They can be found along sandy beaches or rocky shores.

Both animals and plants live in tide pools.

Nonfiction

Fiction

Fiction

After the tide went out, we saw puddles of water around rocks. My mom said they were tide pools. We put on sneakers and climbed slowly and carefully on the rocks. The closer you look, the more sea animals you find!

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



Ant Farmers

It's easy to spot leaf-cutter ants. Just look for long lines of hundreds or even thousands of ants carrying small pieces of leaves over their heads. Ants often clear paths from their nests to their leafy food sources. This helps them march back and forth quickly and easily.

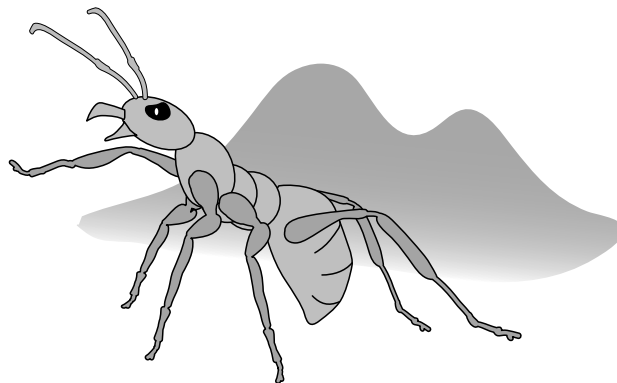
Leaf-cutter ants climb plants and trees and saw off bits of leaves with their powerful jaws. The leaf bits are often bigger than the ants are. These ants can carry up to 10 times their own weight. That's like a third grader carrying an adult zebra over his head!

Leaf-cutter ants trek back in long lines to their underground nest. The nest may have over 1,000 rooms connected by tunnels. Millions of ants live together there. The ants are different sizes, and each size has a different job. They are workers, soldiers, queens, or guards. No single ant is in charge. Each ant has its job and does it.

Leaf-cutter ants are the farmers of the insect world. Deep down in this huge nest are fungus "gardens." The ants bring their leaf clippings here. New leaves are chewed by worker ants, mixed with saliva, and fertilized. The newest leaf bits are placed on top of the garden. Underneath, older bits grow into nutritious food.

The smallest ants have the job of "farming" the fungus gardens. Sometimes, a part of the garden may start to go bad. The ant farmers squirt acid from their bodies on that section of the garden to keep poisons from growing there.

The fungus gardens are important. They provide extra food for the entire colony. All of the ants work together to ensure that the colony has plenty of food.



The Ants and the Grasshopper

by Aesop (adapted)

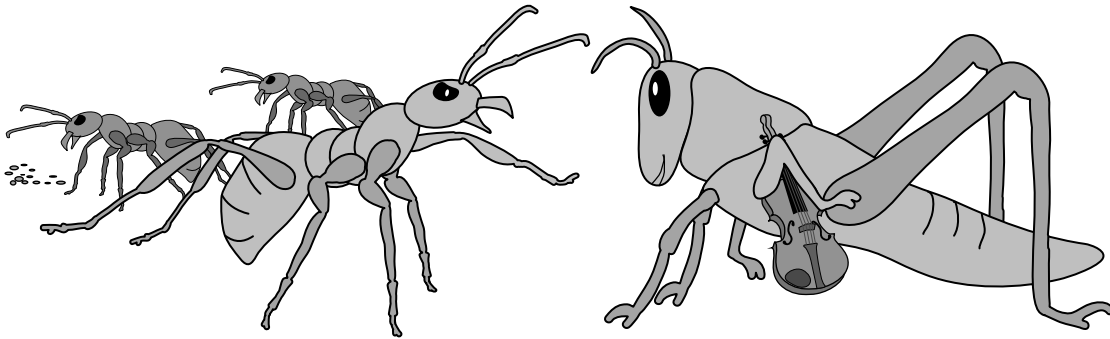
One bright day in late autumn, a family of ants was bustling about in the cool sunshine, drying out the grain they had stored up during the summer. A hungry grasshopper, his fiddle under his arm, came up and humbly begged them for a bite to eat.

"What!" the ants cried in surprise. "Haven't you stored anything away for the winter? What in the world were you doing all last summer?"

"I didn't have time to store up any food," the grasshopper whined. "I was so busy making music that before I knew it, the summer was gone."

The ants shrugged their shoulders in disgust.

"Making music, were you?" they cried. "Very well. Now, dance!" And they turned their backs on the grasshopper and went on with their work.



Name _____

Answer the questions.

- 1.** What was the author's purpose in writing "The Ants and the Grasshopper"?
 - A.** to teach readers about insects
 - B.** to describe the problems grasshoppers have in winter
 - C.** to teach a lesson
 - D.** to show how ants prepare for winter

- 2.** According to "The Ants and the Grasshopper," why did the ants have plenty to eat in late autumn?
 - A.** The ants stored up grain during the summer months.
 - B.** Food was plentiful for the ants all year long.
 - C.** The ants never worried about meals.
 - D.** The grasshopper brought food for the ants.

- 3.** What is the main idea of "Ant Farmers"?
 - A.** Ants can lift more than 10 times their own weight.
 - B.** Ants work together to feed their colony.
 - C.** Leaf-cutter ants live in large nests.
 - D.** Ants are amazing creatures.

- 4.** According to "Ant Farmers," how do ants work together to feed themselves?
 - A.** Large leaf-cutter ants climb plants and trees to find leaves.
 - B.** Small ants take care of an underground garden.
 - C.** Ant farmers squirt acid on the bad parts of the garden.
 - D.** all of the above

- 5.** What is the moral, or lesson, of "The Ants and the Grasshopper"?
 - A.** Work hard in the summertime.
 - B.** Don't make music or you will starve.
 - C.** There is a time for work and a time for play.
 - D.** Ants and grasshoppers do not get along.

Name _____

6. Gathering and storing food is very important to many species of animals. Complete the chart with details about the physical and community features that help ants feed themselves. Read the passages again if you need help.

	The Ants and the Grasshopper	Ant Farmers
Physical Features		
Community Features		

7. Based on the chart in question 6, write a summary comparing the two passages about ants.

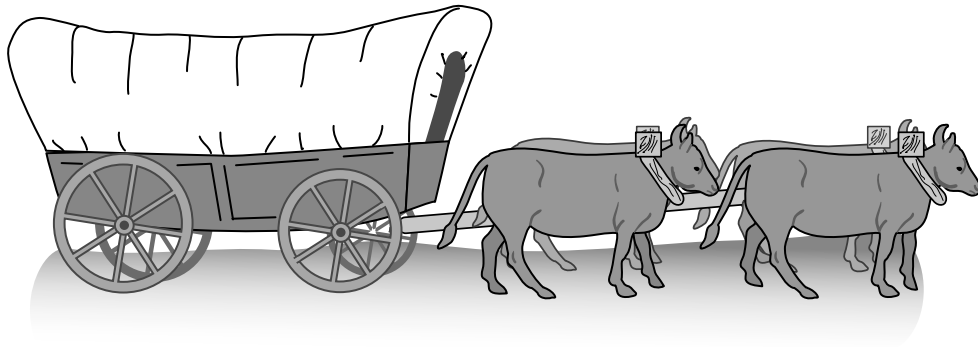
The Oregon Trail

The Oregon Trail was a path pioneers followed to get to the West. Pioneers wanted to start farms in new places. Many people traveled along the trail in large covered wagons.

Pioneers had to leave most of their things behind. Food, tools, and clothing were packed into the wagons. People brought bacon, beans, coffee, and flour to eat. Many packed tents to sleep in. They brought tools like shovels and axes for building things. Oxen were used to pull the wagons over the trail. People would often walk beside their wagons as they moved along.

The trail began in Missouri and stretched all of the way to Oregon. It was many miles long and went through five different states. The trail was rough. Pioneers had to cross the Rocky Mountains. That was the most dangerous part of the journey. It took most pioneers about five months to make the trip.

Many people used the trail until a railroad was built. The railroad was a faster and safer way to travel to the West. Today, much of the trail has been built over, but some of it remains. Visitors can still see the tracks made by the wagon wheels.



Tales from the Oregon Trail

July 20, 1848

We have been traveling for many weeks now. It seems like it was so long ago that we left our farm. My little brother is still excited about the trip, but I want to go home. I miss my friends. I miss my old life on the farm.

My family has spent most of our money buying food and tools for the trip. Our wagon is so full. I fear it will tip over each time the oxen turn. Other families have much more food than we have. We plan to hunt along the way. Each day we see herds of elk and buffalo. It will be a nice change to eat something other than beans and bacon.

Yesterday, we found an abandoned wagon. I wondered what happened to the people who were traveling in it, but we needed the extra supplies. We found two wagon wheels and some used cooking pots.

I have begun to make friends with other families on the trail. We explore together and help gather food. Ma needs me to look after my little brother and help cook meals for us. Traveling on the trail is so much more work than living on the farm. I long for the day when we finally have a home.

by Abigail Edwards, age 15

Name _____

Answer the questions.

1. What was the author's purpose in writing "The Oregon Trail"?
 - A. to teach readers about pioneers
 - B. to teach readers about covered wagons
 - C. to teach a lesson
 - D. to show how pioneers caught food

2. According to "The Oregon Trail," why did pioneers want to travel to the West?
 - A. to begin life in a new place
 - B. to hunt buffalo and elk
 - C. to see different places
 - D. to go on vacation

3. What is the main idea of "Tales from the Oregon Trail"?

4. Write **true** or **false**.

_____ Pioneers were people who traveled to the West.

5. According to "Tales from the Oregon Trail," what was one chore the author had?
 - A. feeding the animals
 - B. looking after a younger brother
 - C. mending clothing
 - D. getting water from rivers and streams

Name _____

6. The Oregon Trail was a long and difficult journey. Complete the chart with details about pioneers and people today. Read the passages again if you need help.

	Pioneer Times	Today
Travel		
Getting Food		
Chores		

7. Why was life for pioneers so difficult? Use the information in the chart above to help you write your answer.

Trail of Tears

The Cherokee people had lived on their land for a long time. They farmed and hunted deer, bear, and elk for food. When pioneers and settlers began to arrive, they wanted the land that the Cherokee people used. The American government made a law saying that the Cherokee had to leave. They were told to move to a place now known as Oklahoma.

But, the Cherokee did not want to leave. They wanted to live like they always had. The US army was ordered to capture the people and force them to move. Their journey is known as the Trail of Tears.

The Trail of Tears is a group of trails and rivers that the Cherokee walked or boated on to get to Oklahoma. Most of the people were forced to walk the entire way. They walked through the cold, rain, snow, and heat. There was not enough water or food. Most did not have the proper clothing or shoes for such a long trip.

The Cherokee people were treated harshly by the soldiers who led them on the trail. Many became very ill and suffered badly. Families were not allowed to stop to help the sick. They were forced to leave them behind. More than 4,000 people died on the long journey. The Trail of Tears marks a very sad time in American history.

A Sad Day

One morning last summer, I awoke to find soldiers at my family's home. They told us we needed to leave right away. They were taking us to our new land in Oklahoma. Our family has lived on this land for a very long time. My father begged for them to let us stay. But, we were told to leave quickly. We grabbed whatever food and small things we could carry and fled.

It is now winter, and we have been walking for many months. It is very cold, and my shoes are wearing out. We walk through the pouring rain and falling snow. Sometimes, we come to a river or stream where we can get water. When we are given food, I try to share it with the younger children or elders. The trip has been hardest for them. At night, we sleep on the ground until the sun rises. Then, we start our journey again. It seems like it will never end.

The cold and wet weather has made so many people sick. There are no doctors to take care of us. We do what we can to help each other, but there is no rest on this journey. Most will suffer terribly from being hungry, cold, or sick.

I miss my home and our land. I am afraid that more of my family will suffer before we reach Oklahoma. My only hope is that the worst times are finally behind us.