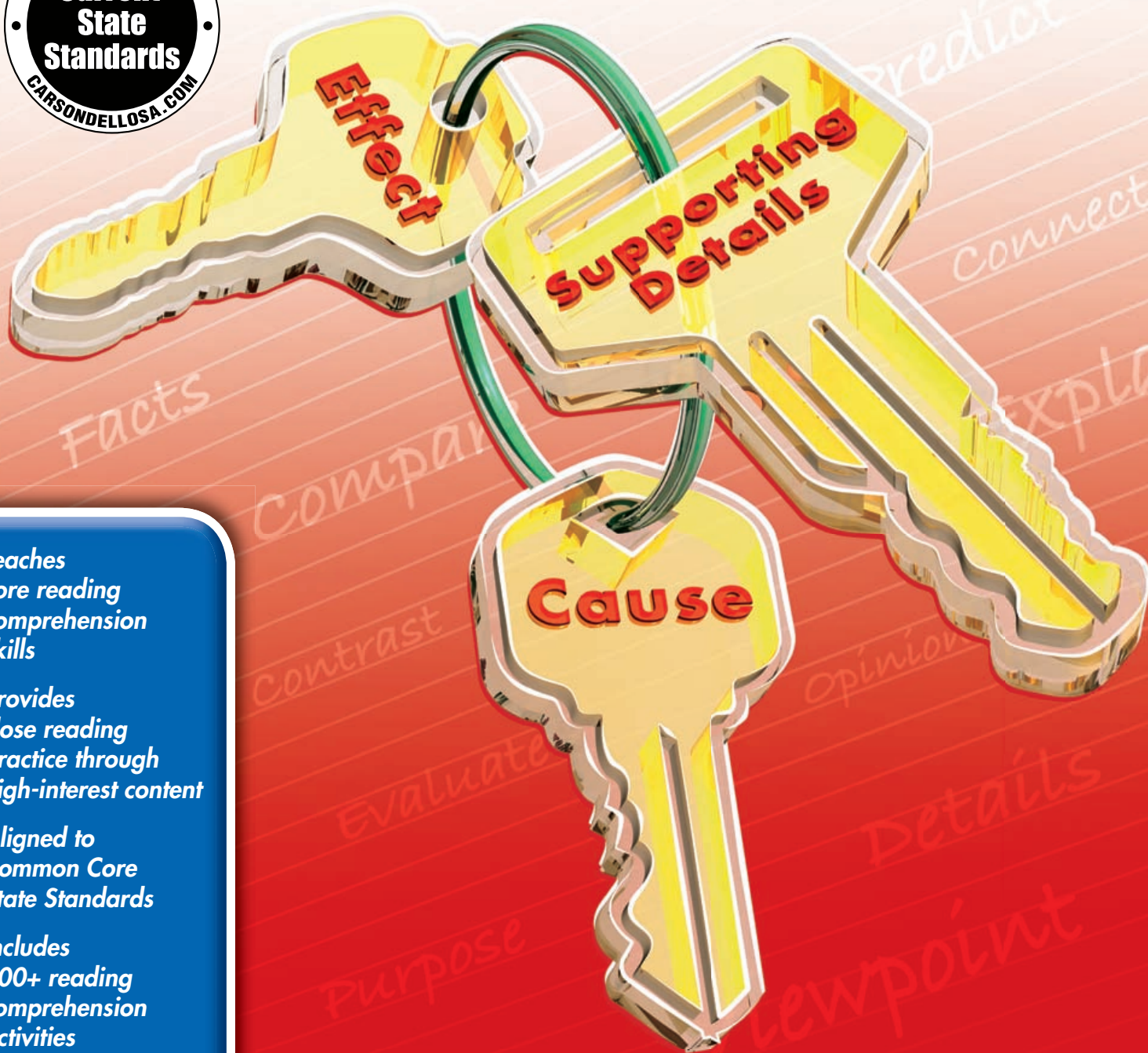


THE 100+ SERIES™

READING COMPREHENSION

Essential Practice for Key Reading Comprehension Topics



- Teaches core reading comprehension skills
- Provides close reading practice through high-interest content
- Aligned to Common Core State Standards
- Includes 100+ reading comprehension activities

Common Core Alignment Chart

Common Core State Standards*		Practice Page(s)
Reading Standards for Literature		
Key Ideas and Details	4.RL.1–4.RL.3	14, 15, 20–23, 33, 42, 50, 51, 56, 60, 61, 69–76, 78–81, 85, 89, 100, 102–110, 112–114, 117, 119
Craft and Structure	4.RL.4–4.RL.6	69, 70, 74, 75, 85, 92, 103
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	4.RL.7–4.RL.9	42, 71, 114, 119
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	4.RL.10	14, 15, 20–23, 33, 42, 50, 51, 56, 60, 61, 69–76, 78–81, 102–110, 112, 113, 117
Reading Standards for Informational Text		
Key Ideas and Details	4.RI.1–4.RI.3	5–13, 16–19, 24–32, 34–41, 43–49, 52–55, 57–59, 62–68, 77, 82–84, 86, 87, 94, 96, 97, 99, 101, 111, 115, 116, 118
Craft and Structure	4.RI.4–4.RI.6	17, 18, 24–27, 34–35, 40, 44–49, 52, 53, 59, 64, 65, 82, 83, 86, 87, 94, 111
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	4.RI.7–4.RI.9	24, 25, 28, 29, 62–65, 68, 115–118
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	4.RI.10	5–13, 16–19, 24–27, 30–41, 43–49, 52–55, 57, 59, 62–63, 66–68, 77, 82–84, 86, 87, 96, 97, 99–101, 115, 116, 118
Writing Standards		
Text Types and Purposes	4.W.1–4.W.3	28, 29
Range of Writing	4.W.10	28, 29
Language Standards		
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	4.L.4–4.L.6	86–93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 101, 102, 104, 105

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Read the passage. Then, complete the activity.

Insects in Winter

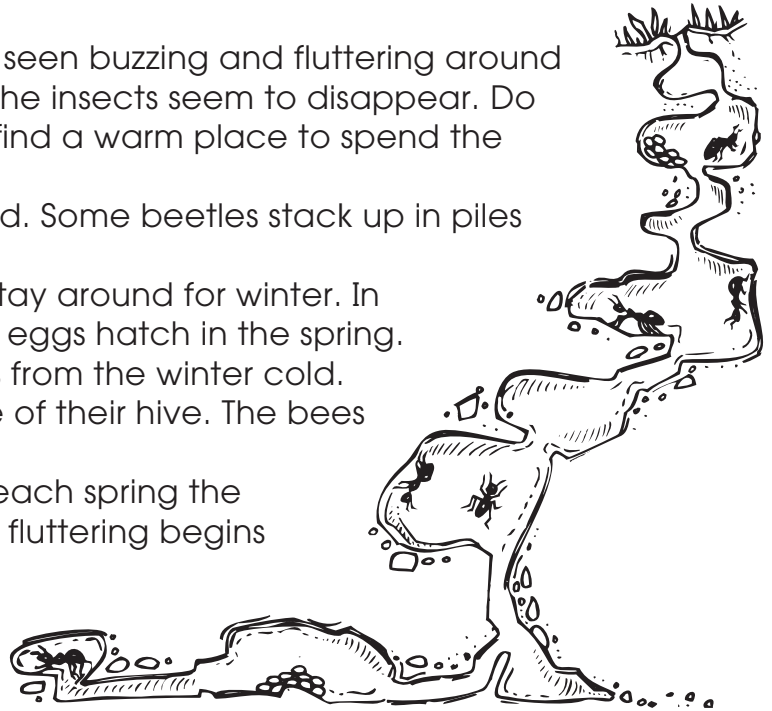
In the summertime, insects can be seen buzzing and fluttering around us. But as winter's cold weather begins, the insects seem to disappear. Do you know where they go? Many insects find a warm place to spend the winter.

Ants try to dig deep into the ground. Some beetles stack up in piles under rocks or dead leaves.

Female grasshoppers don't even stay around for winter. In autumn, they lay their eggs and die. The eggs hatch in the spring.

Bees also try to protect themselves from the winter cold. Honeybees gather in a ball in the middle of their hive. The bees stay in this tight ball trying to stay warm.

Winter is very hard for insects, but each spring the survivors come out, and the buzzing and fluttering begins again.



1. Use the passage to complete the topic sentence below. Fill in the rest of the ovals with supporting details.

Many insects find a _____ place to spend the _____.

Four empty ovals are provided below the topic sentence, each connected by an arrow pointing from the topic sentence to the first oval, and then from the first oval to the second, and so on.

Read the passage. Then, complete the activity.

Pompeii

Almost 2,000 years ago, Pompeii was a rich and beautiful city in the Bay of Naples. The city lay close to a great volcano, Mount Vesuvius.

One day, Vesuvius began to rumble and erupt. Lava, steam, and ash burst from the volcano. Soon, the sky was black with ash. The ash rained down on Pompeii. The people tried to hide in buildings or escape to the sea in boats. But, the ash fell so quickly that people were buried wherever they were. The city was covered with over 12 feet (3.5m) of ash.

In recent years, scientists have found Pompeii. Much of its contents were just as they were the day Mount Vesuvius erupted. This discovery has helped us learn more about ancient Roman times.



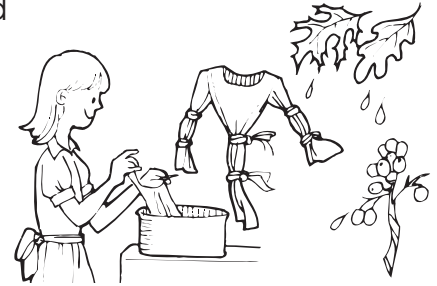
1. Using the details from the passage, fill in each column on the chart. Summarize information about Pompeii before, during, and after the eruption.

Pompeii before the Eruption	Pompeii during the Eruption	Pompeii after the Eruption

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Dyes

Can you imagine how dull everything around you would seem without color? Dye is a substance that gives color to many things. For over 5,000 years, people have used dyes. Until the mid-1800s, only natural dyes were used. These dyes came from different parts of plants, such as the bark, roots, berries, or flowers. Certain plants produce certain colors. The indigo plant produces a blue dye. The madder plant produces bright red and brown dyes. The bark and leaves of oak, maple, and walnut trees were used to make yellow, orange, and black dyes.



In 1856, an 18-year-old boy in England discovered how to make dyes from chemicals. Chemical dyes are **synthetic**. This means that they are manufactured, not natural. Today, almost all dyes are synthetic. Synthetic dyes are made in thousands of beautiful shades.

1. The two major types of dyes that have been used are _____.
 - A. indigo and liquid
 - B. chemical and synthetic
 - C. natural and synthetic
 - D. roots and berries
2. Dyes made with chemicals were discovered in the year _____.
 - A. 1856
 - B. 1800
 - C. 1922
 - D. 500
3. Which of the following is the best topic sentence for the first paragraph?
 - A. Without color, everything would seem dull.
 - B. For thousands of years, people used natural dyes.
 - C. The madder plant makes red and brown dyes.
 - D. The indigo plant produces a blue dye.
4. Dyes that are made from chemicals are _____.
 - A. natural
 - B. shades
 - C. liquid
 - D. synthetic

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions on page 9.

Marco Polo

It is difficult to imagine what the world was like in 1254. Europe was living in an age that we call the Medieval Period. It was a time of castles, knights and nobles, swords and lances, and many wars.

During that time, Marco Polo was born in Venice, Italy. Life in Venice was different from life in most of Europe. Venice was a city of beautiful buildings and water canals. Many merchants brought riches from other countries to trade in Venice. Marco Polo's father and uncle were merchants. They had traveled to a far-off country called Cathay. (Cathay is now called China.) There, they had become friends with the great ruler, Kublai Khan. He invited them to return.

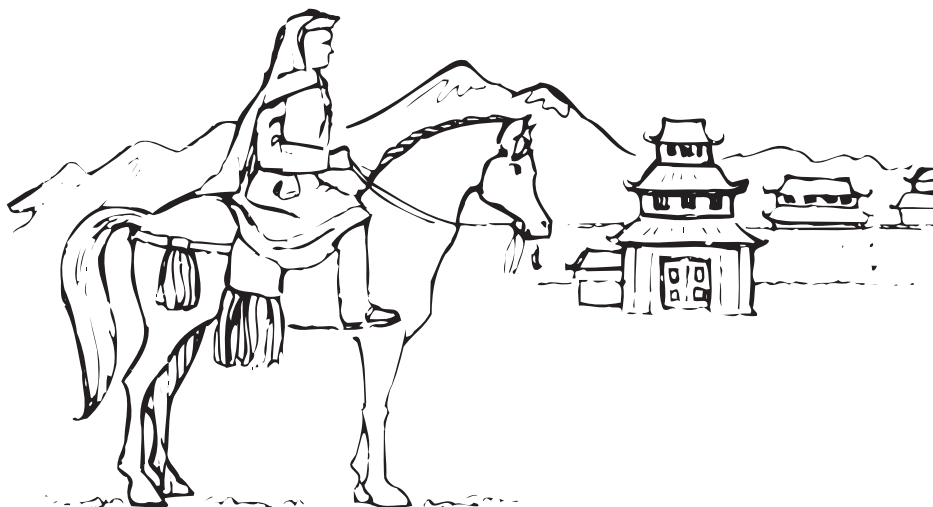
When Marco Polo was 17 years old, he began a journey to China with his father and uncle. They sailed the Indian Ocean and crossed the deserts and mountains of Asia on camels. The journey to China took three years.

Kublai Khan greeted the Polos and showered them with gifts. He was especially impressed with Marco, who could speak four languages.

Khan sent Marco on many trips through China. On these trips, Marco saw many amazing things that he had never seen in Europe, such as coal used as fuel, paper money instead of coins, and papermaking and printing processes. Marco made many notes about life in China.

After almost 20 years in China, the Polos began their journey home to Italy. Kublai Khan gave them many gifts of ivory, silk, jewels, and jade.

When they returned to Venice, they found their city at war. Marco Polo was put in prison. He spent his time writing a book about his years in China. The book is called *Description of the World*. It became the most popular book in Europe. Because of the book, many people in Europe learned about life in China.



Use the passage on page 8 to answer the questions.

1. Which of the following best describes Venice during Marco Polo's time?
 - A. It was just like the rest of Europe.
 - B. It was a unique city with beautiful buildings and water canals.
 - C. Very few merchants came to trade in Venice.
 - D. Kublai Khan ruled Venice and all of Italy.
2. Which sentence best states the main idea of this passage?
 - A. Travel to China took a long time in 1254.
 - B. Kublai Khan welcomed the Polos when they arrived.
 - C. Marco Polo could speak four languages.
 - D. Marco Polo became famous for writing about his travels in China.
3. Which of the following is not true? When Marco Polo returned to Venice,
_____.
 - A. he became a rich merchant
 - B. the city was at war
 - C. he was put in prison
 - D. he wrote a book
4. Using the details in the passage, fill in the blanks to summarize Marco Polo's trip to China.

Marco Polo traveled with his _____ and _____
when he was _____ years old. It took _____ years to get to China. They were
greeted by _____. On his trips through China, Marco saw
amazing things such as _____, _____,
and _____. The Polos stayed in China nearly _____ years.

Read the passage. Then, complete the activities on page 11.

Deep in the Earth

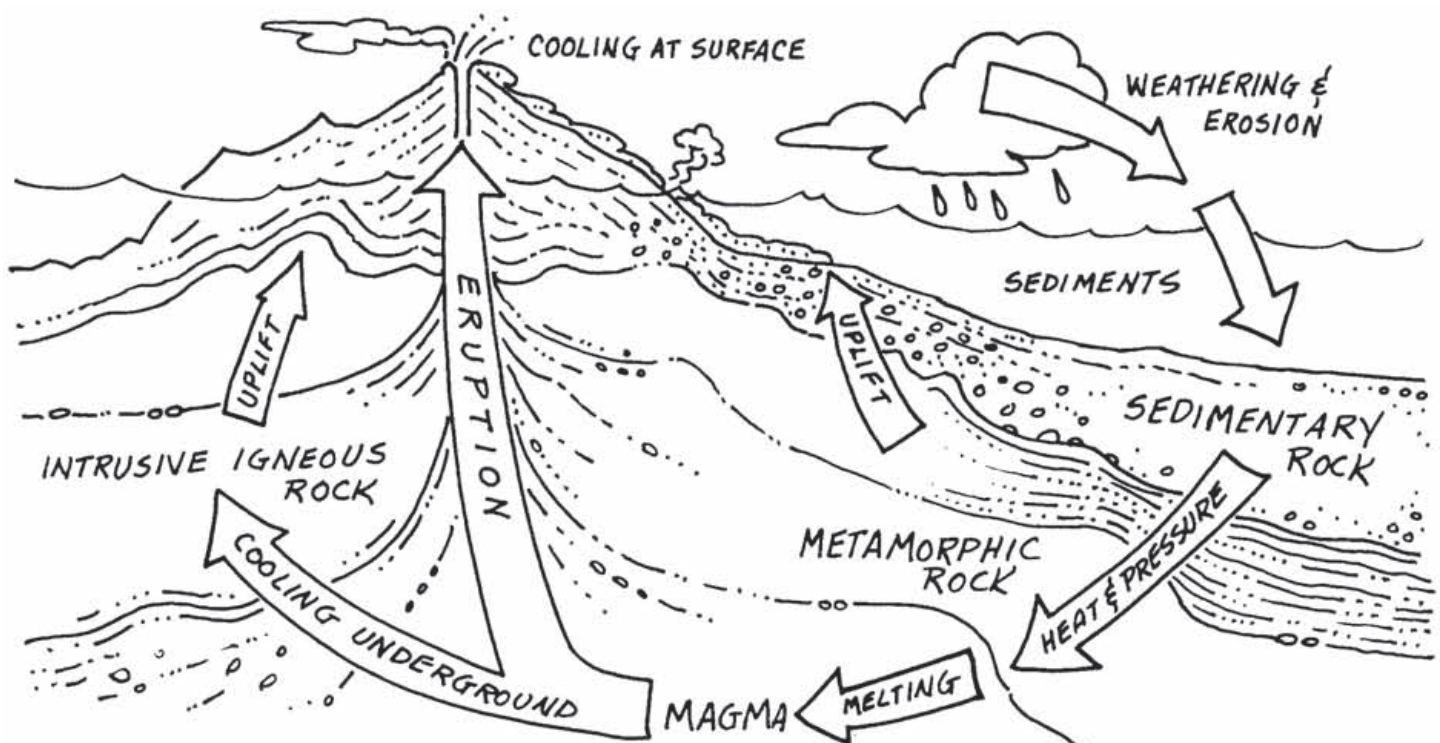
The earth is covered with rocks of various sizes, colors, and shapes. Rocks may be formed in different ways. Three kinds of rocks are igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks, and metamorphic rocks.

Igneous rocks are formed from extremely high temperatures. Deep inside the earth's core is hot, liquid rock called magma. Magma may be forced through cracks in the earth. As it moves away from the hot core, it cools and forms igneous rock. Sometimes liquid rock is forced to the surface of the earth through volcanoes. When lava from a volcano cools, it forms igneous rock.

Sedimentary rock is formed when loose materials are pressed together over time. These loose materials may be small stones, sand, and decomposed plants and animals. Often the materials accumulate on the bottom of the ocean. The water may dissolve or get pressed out. The loose materials get cemented together as they harden into rock.

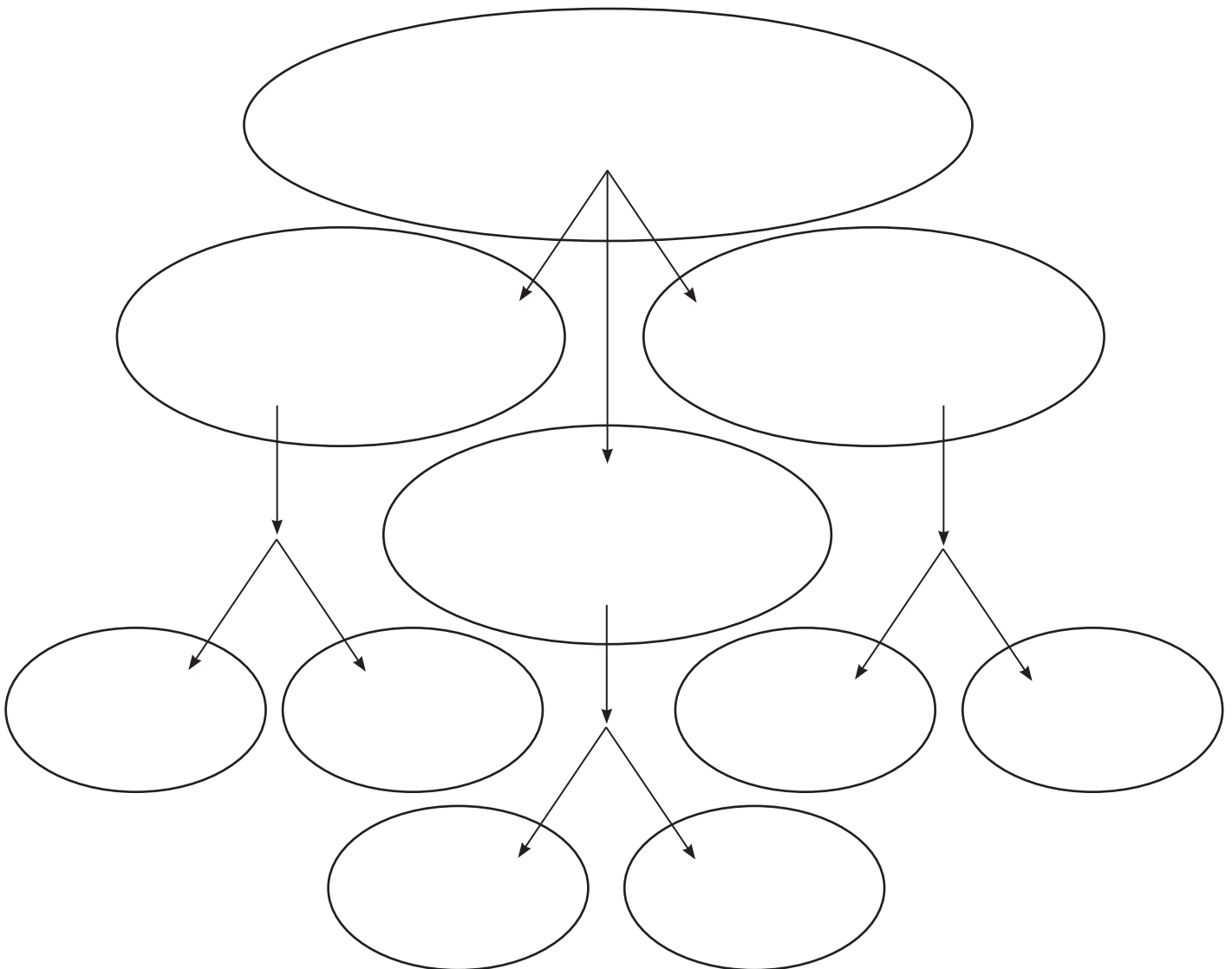
Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have been formed by some major change. Pressure and heat can change igneous and sedimentary rocks into metamorphic rocks. Through heat and pressure, the metamorphic rock may change the way it looks or even its mineral makeup.

Each of these rocks can be found on Earth's crust. You can study a rock's properties to help identify whether it is igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic.



Use the passage on page 10 to complete the activities.

1. Use one word to name the topic of this passage. _____
2. The main idea of the passage is _____.
 - A. Fossils are trapped in rocks
 - B. Igneous rocks are formed from magma
 - C. Rocks are formed three ways
3. Fill in the web. Write the topic sentence in the first oval. Write the three subtopics in the next three ovals. Fill in the rest of the ovals with the supporting details.



Each paragraph is missing its topic sentence. Read the rest of the paragraph and decide what it is about. Complete the guide below each paragraph to help you write the topic sentence on the last line.

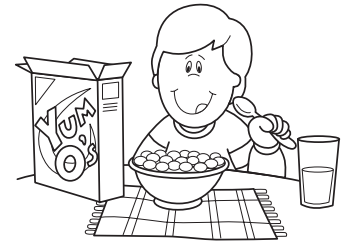
What's The Point?

1. It keeps your brain working. It helps you concentrate and not feel tired. Breakfast also gives you the energy to do your best.

Word referent (pronoun): _____

Word it refers to (topic): _____

The point of the paragraph is _____

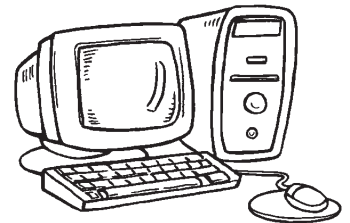


2. It can make writing a story or a paper much easier. You can add an idea in the middle of a sentence without rewriting the whole sentence. The computer can also check the spelling for you.

Word referent (pronoun): _____

Word it refers to (topic): _____

The point of the paragraph is _____



3. They eat grass. They also eat other small plants. In the winter, if green plants are hard to find, deer also eat bark from trees.

Word referent (pronoun): _____

Word it refers to (topic): _____

The point of the paragraph is _____



Read each paragraph. Then, answer the questions.

Sharp Pencils and Sharp Minds

1. You need a sharp pencil in order to do quality work. What should you do if your pencil tip breaks while someone is giving instructions? It can be distracting to sharpen your pencil during instruction time. It is important to know when to sharpen your pencil so that learning continues for everyone in the class. Some good times to sharpen a pencil are before or after school and at recess. Another possible time is when people are working, not listening to directions. When students are trying to listen to another student, the teacher, or a video presentation, the pencil sharpener can be distracting or loud enough to make hearing difficult. Keep an extra sharp pencil in your desk so you have a pencil at a time when you may not be able to get to the sharpener.

Topic: _____

Main idea of the paragraph: _____

Two supporting details: _____

2. Most nine- and ten-year-olds need from nine to 12 hours of sleep each night. Getting enough rest can improve your attitude. It helps your brain stay in the thinking mode rather than falling into the emotional mode. It helps you stay focused on learning and allows you to think clearly. Most rested people get along better with others than their sleepy friends do. They have more energy not only for learning but also for playing.

Topic: _____

Main idea of the paragraph: _____

Two supporting details: _____

