

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Clarify Word Meanings

Read the short story and answer each question.



What Is a Shell?

Many animals have shells. A shell is a hard covering on the outside of the body.

Turtles have strong shells. Their shells help protect them from danger.

Crabs have shells too. A crab's shell is called an exoskeleton. It keeps the crab safe and helps it move.

Snails have soft bodies, but their shells are hard. A snail can pull its body inside the shell to hide.

Shells help animals stay safe in the wild. They are important body parts.



Name: _____

What Is a Shell?

1. What is a "shell" as used in the passage?

- A. A kind of toy
- B. A snack
- C. A hard cover on an animal's body
- D. A soft blanket

2. What does the word "exoskeleton" mean in the sentence: "A crab's shell is called an exoskeleton"?

- A. A strong soft tail
- B. A part that helps the crab see
- C. A hard outer shell that protects an animal
- D. A crab's big claw

3. Fill in the blank:

A snail can hide by pulling its body inside its _____.

4. What clues helped you figure out what the word **exoskeleton** means?

5. Why are shells important for animals?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: F

Lexile Level: 85L-225L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational Text (Life Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we're going to read about animals with shells. As we read, we'll find new words and use clues from the text to help us understand what they mean. This helps us figure out tricky words when we read nonfiction."

Vocabulary: shell, exoskeleton, protect, wild, body

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about animals with shells?
 2. Why do you think some animals need hard coverings?
 3. What should we do when we read a word we don't know?
-

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What animals in the text have shells?
 2. What is an exoskeleton?
 3. How do the clues in the sentence help you understand new words?
-

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the word "shell" mean in this passage?
 2. How is a crab's exoskeleton like a turtle's shell?
 3. Why is it important to use text clues when we read?
-

Activity Idea

Give students 3 animal pictures (turtle, crab, snail) and have them match each one to a word from the passage (shell, exoskeleton, hide). Then they write or dictate one sentence using a vocabulary word in context.

