



"The Geckos"

Reading Comprehension Assessment

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Name _____
 Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

The Geckos

My grandparents live in Florida. We spend most holidays at their house. And, while there, my favorite activity is to sit by the pool. I say “sit” because I rarely swim. Instead, I watch my favorite animal run around the patio. That would be the gecko.



Geckos

Geckos live in most warm climates in North America. They are small lizards that live in nature and also near people. When I say they are small, I really mean they are tiny. The biggest one I have ever seen was about ten inches long. However, the book I read on geckos claims they can get to be 60 centimeters long. That would be over twice the size of the largest one I saw. Most, though, are just a few inches long.

The lizards are usually green, but some geckos appear blue. I’ve seen a few that have patterns on their backs, but not all do. While their appearance is interesting, geckos really drew me in by the way they move.

Why I Love Geckos

See, geckos are incredibly fast. It seems geckos are either standing perfectly still or **sprinting** across the patio!

More interesting still is their climbing ability. They are some of the best climbers in the world. And they can stick to most surfaces. I’ve even seen geckos walk on ceilings before!

Most people welcome geckos because they eat mosquitoes. My grandparents certainly feel this way. Their patio is covered in geckos, and they do not do anything to change that fact. And that is just fine with me!

My Only Complaint

The only thing I really dislike about geckos is that they do not live by me. However, my grandpa told me that it is not such a bad thing. He suggests that I would likely get sick of the geckos if I saw them every day as he does. I find that very hard to believe!

Sources:
 Velthaus, Sally. *Geckos*. North Mankato, Minnesota: Capstone Press, 2005. Book.

- 1) According to the passage, geckos range in size from
- 10 inches to 60 centimeters
 - a few inches to 10 inches
 - a few inches to 60 centimeters
 - 10 inches to a foot

2) According to the passage, the narrator is most interested in what aspect of the geckos?

- A. what they eat
- B. how they move
- C. how they appear
- D. what their lengths are

3) As used in paragraph 4, **sprinting** is best defined as

- A. standing still
- B. climbing quickly
- C. standing closely
- D. running very quickly

4) From paragraph 6, it can be assumed that the narrator's grandparents

- A. do not like mosquitoes
- B. are interested in learning about mosquitoes
- C. are very interested in geckos
- D. do not understand the narrator's interest in geckos

5) According to the passage, the narrator learned about geckos by

- I. reading about them in a book
- II. seeing them at her grandparents' house
- III. studying them in her backyard

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

6) Would you like to sit by the pool at the narrator's grandparents house? Why or why not?

7) What kind of animals are there where you live? Are they like Geckos? Are they different? How so?

1) **C**

Question Type: Detail

To answer this detail question, look for the part of the passage that describes the lengths of geckos. This occurs in the section labeled "Geckos." There, the narrator states that "the book I read on geckos claims they can get to be 60 centimeters long," but that "most... are just a few inches long." This suggests that geckos range in size from a few inches to 60 centimeters. Because of this, choice **(C)** is correct. The passage states that "the biggest" gecko the narrator has "ever seen was about ten inches long." It does not suggest that the smallest geckos are ten inches long, then. Because of this, choice **(A)** is not correct. The narrator makes it clear that most geckos he has seen have been "a few inches long." He also states the "biggest one" he has "ever seen was about ten inches long." This means that the range of geckos the narrator has seen range from a few inches to 10 inches long. However, the narrator also states that a book on geckos "claims they can get to be 60 centimeters long." Because of this, geckos range in size from a few inches to 60 centimeters, not ten inches. It also means choice **(B)** is not correct. The passage states that "the biggest" gecko the narrator has "ever seen was about ten inches long." It does not suggest that the smallest geckos are ten inches long, then. Because of this, choice **(D)** is not correct.

2) **B**

Question Type: Global

The narrator describes what made her most interested in geckos at the end of paragraph 3. There, he states, that "while their appearance is interesting, geckos really drew me in by the way they move." In the next section of the passage, "Why I Love Geckos," the narrator elaborates on this idea. He or she talks about how they sprint, stand, and climb. This makes choice **(B)** correct. Though the passage does describe what geckos eat (mosquitoes), it does not imply that the narrator was most interested in what geckos eat. Because of this, choice **(A)** is not correct. Though the passage does describe how geckos appear, it does not imply that the narrator was most interested in their appearance. Because of this, choice **(C)** is not correct. Though the passage does describe the length of geckos, it does not imply that the narrator was most interested in their size. Because of this, choice **(D)** is not correct.

3) **D**

Question Type: Vocabulary

sprint (*verb*): to run very quickly for a short length of time.

The passage states that "geckos are incredibly fast" and that they "are either standing perfectly still or sprinting across the patio." This means that standing still is the opposite of sprinting. Since geckos are very fast, and since sprinting is the opposite of standing still, it seems that sprinting must be running very quickly. This makes choice **(D)** correct. The passage states that geckos "are either standing perfectly still or sprinting." This suggests that sprinting is not the same as standing still, since the two verbs are joined by an "or." Because of this, choice **(A)** is not correct. Though the passage does describe geckos' ability to climb, it does so in paragraph 5. But it uses sprinting in paragraph 4. This means that sprinting and climbing are not the same things. Because of this, choice **(B)** is not correct. Though the passage does describe geckos' ability to stick to surfaces, it does so in paragraph 5. But it uses sprinting in paragraph 4. This means that sprinting and sticking are not the same things. Because of this, choice **(C)** is not correct.

4) **A**

Question Type: Inference

The sixth paragraph states that "most people welcome geckos because they eat mosquitoes" and that the narrator's "grandparents certainly feel this way." This suggests that the grandparents are fine with geckos because they do not like mosquitoes. Because of this, choice **(A)** is correct. The sixth paragraph states that geckos "eat mosquitoes" and that "most people welcome geckos" because of this fact. It also states that the narrator's grandparents "certainly feel this way." This suggests the narrators like geckos and do not like mosquitoes. It does not suggest that the grandparents are interested in learning about mosquitoes. Because of this, choice **(B)** is not correct. The passage makes it clear the narrator is interested in geckos. Additionally, the sixth paragraph makes it clear the narrator's grandparents welcome geckos on their patio. However, the passage does not suggest that the grandparents are interested in geckos. Instead, it only states they do not dislike them. Welcoming geckos is not the same as being interested in them. Because of this, choice **(C)** is not correct. The seventh paragraph might suggest that the narrator's grandparents do not understand her interest in geckos. It states that he "would likely get sick of the geckos" if she "saw them every day." However, this does not matter anyway. The question asks about paragraph 6, not paragraph 7. Because of this, choice **(D)** is not correct.

5) **B**

Question Type: Detail

In the second paragraph, the narrator references a book she "read on geckos." This makes it clear the narrator learned about geckos from a book. This supports **option (I)**. Additionally, the passage states that the narrator watches her "favorite animal run around the patio" at her grandparents' house and that her favorite animal is the gecko. This supports **option (II)**. At no point in the passage does the narrator state that she has seen geckos in her own backyard. In fact, the final paragraph implies that there are not geckos where she lives. Otherwise, her grandfather would not state that she would get sick of geckos if she "saw them every day." This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct