

# CONTEXT CLUES



**Context Clues**  
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word *sanguivorous* mean as it is used in the passage?

a similar  
b species  
c different  
d feeding on blood

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the text.  
They use their sharp front teeth to *puncture* the skin of their prey.  
What is the meaning of *puncture* as it is used in the text?

a eat  
b jump  
c feed  
d break

3. What does the word *dwell* mean as it is used in the passage?

a live  
b dark  
c hunt  
d countries

4. Paragraph 3 says, "They live in arid, humid, tropical, and subtropical environments." What is the meaning of *arid* as it is used in the text?

a hot  
b dry  
c wet  
d humid

**Family Structure**  
Vampire bats living in colonies together have strong ties. Vampire bats have developed an adaptation to share food. Vampire bats can only live two days without food. Since food can be scarce, a hungry bat will often beg another bat for food. A donor bat regurgitates some of the blood it consumed for the hungry bat. This ensures that the colony survives. Donor bats will also offer food to starving bats.



**Food**  
Vampire bats drink blood to quickly digest the blood so that they can urinate two minutes after they have consumed their prey. Vampire bats are not like other bats. They can fly in complete darkness. The blood from mammals is their food.



**Context Clues**  
790L  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vampire Bats**  
Vampire bats are sanguivorous. They only consume blood. There are three species of vampire bat, the hairy-legged vampire bat, the white-winged vampire bat, and the common vampire bat. This tells us that they once evolved from a common ancestor.

**Anatomy**  
Unlike other bats, vampire bats have short muzzles. They also have naked nose pads. Common vampire bats have thermoreceptors on their noses. Vampire bats also use infrared radiation to find blood hotspots on their prey. Vampire bats also use their front teeth to puncture the skin of their prey. Unlike most other bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and fly.



**Habitat**  
Vampire bats live in dark places. They can be found in caves, hollow trees, and buildings. They dwell between Central to South America. They live in arid, humid, tropical, and subtropical environments. Colonies can range from a few bats to hundreds of bats. A colony consists of females, young, and a few adult males. There are "resident males" and "nonresident males" in a colony.



# CONTEXT CLUES

4th & 5th grade

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## Word Detectives Use Context Clues



### Definition (meaning)

The concept, or idea, was new to her.



### Examples

\*Like

\*Such as

\*OR

The data, such as reading level growth, can be found in student binders.



### Synonyms

(Same)

The turtle slowly sauntered through the grass.



### Antonyms

(Opposite)

The plate wasn't brittle since it did not break when she dropped it on the floor.



### Word Parts

Is there a helpful prefix, suffix, or root word?

helpful  
rewrite  
pretest

©Julie Bacher



**Context Clues**  
 5. Paragraph 4 states, "Colonies can be found in what the word colonies means as it is used in the passage."  
 two context clues from the passage.  
 Colonies are groups of  
 I know this is 1.0

**Context Clues**  
 Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word sanguivorous mean as it is used in the passage? 

a. similar  
 b. species  
 c. different  
 d. feeding on blood

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 4: "They use their sharp front teeth to puncture the skin of their prey."  
 What does the word puncture mean in the text? 

**Context Clues**

790L

**Vampire Bats**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vampire bats are sanguivorous. They only consume blood. There are three species of vampire bats. These are the common vampire bat, the hairy-legged vampire bat, and the white-winged vampire bat. The three species of vampire bats are similar to each other. This tells us that they once evolved from a common ancestor.



**Anatomy**

Unlike other bats, vampire bats have short muzzles. They also have naked nose pads. Common vampire bats have thermoreceptors on their noses. This helps them locate where blood flows on their prey. Vampire bats also use infrared radiation to find blood hotspots on their prey. Part of their brains is called the inferior colliculus. This helps them detect breathing of the sleeping animals they prey on. They use their sharp front teeth to puncture the skin of their prey. Unlike most other bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and jump.

**Habitat**

Vampire bats live in dark places. They can be found in caves, hollow trees, and buildings. They dwell between Central to South America. They live in arid, humid, tropical and subtropical environments. Colonies can be from a few bats to hundreds of bats. A colony consists of females, their young, and a few adult males. There are both "resident males" and other males known as "nonresident males". Male young live in colonies until they are about two years old.



darkness. The from mammals. winged vampire in vampire on the the to cut the ornains I flow

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e able   still the

John Barber





**Context Clues**

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word *preserved* mean as it is used in the passage?



- a. rotted
- b. placed
- c. spoiled
- d. treated to stay good

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of

Over five million pounds of pickles

What is the meaning of *consumed* as it is

- a. spent
- b. eaten
- c. grown
- d. pickled

3. What does the word *ancient* mean as it

- a. recent
- b. modern
- c. long ago
- d. 100 years ago

4. What does the word *nourishment* mean

- a. food
- b. drink
- c. vitamins
- d. nutritio



**Context Clues**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### All About Pickles

Pickles are cucumbers that are preserved in vinegar, salt, and other flavors. Because they are preserved, they do not spoil easily. People in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia call pickles gherkins. The name "pickle" comes from the Dutch word "pekel" or the German word "pökel", both which mean salt or brine. Over five million pounds of pickles are consumed every day. More than half of the cucumbers grown in the United States become pickles.

Pickles have been around since ancient times. The first pickles were made about 4,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks wrote about using pickles for nourishment and healing. They were prevalent during the Roman Empire and spread throughout Europe. The first people who journeyed to America brought pickles because they did not spoil. Pickles began to be made for commercial sales in 1820. Nicholas Appert was the first person to sell pickles in jars.

Famous people throughout history have had a love of pickles. Pickles are mentioned in the Bible and Shakespeare's writings. Aristotle thought that pickles had healing properties. Julius Caesar gave pickles to his troops because he thought that they gave people physical and spiritual strength. Cleopatra believed that her beauty came from eating pickles. Napoleon Bonaparte offered to pay 12,000 francs (or \$250,000) to the person who could invent the best way to pickle food. French chef Nicolas Appert won the competition. He discovered a way to remove air from the jars before sealing them.

There are many different varieties of pickles. Dill pickles are the most common. Dill pickles are made by adding dill weed. Sweet pickles are made by adding sugar. Other vegetables and fruits can also be pickled. Popular pickling vegetables include onions, radishes, and asparagus. Fermented cabbage is called sauerkraut. In the Middle East, pickled fruits or vegetables, such as peppers, olives, or lemons, are eaten with each meal. A popular dish in Korea is kimchi. Kimchi is pickled cabbage, radishes, and other vegetables and spices. In Japan, pickled plums are popular. Italians make pickled eggplants and peppers.

Pickles are a delicious and low-calorie snack. Next time you crave a crunchy and salty treat, pickles are sure to satisfy your craving.



©Julia Becker

"This also keeps them away from herbivores that may eat them."

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**Context Clues**

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.



Plants and animals adapt to their environments to survive.

What is the meaning of adapt as it is used in the text?

- a. eat
- b. live
- c. change
- d. survive

2. What does the word anatomical mean as it is used in the pass

- a. learn
- b. physi
- c. inhe
- d. beh

3. What

- a. pre
- b. eva
- c. exc
- d. lac

890L

**Context Clues**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plant and Animal Adaptations**

Plants and animals adapt to their environments to survive. These changes can be inherited or learned. Adaptations can also be earned.

**Praying Mantis**

Praying mantises have triangle-shaped heads that can turn 180 degrees. This, along with their multiple eyes, allows them to see everything in their surroundings. Praying mantises are usually green or brown, which camouflages them to the surroundings.



**Salamanders**

A salamander is able to drop its tail when it is caught by a predator. The detached tail continues to wriggle, distracting the predator while the salamander flees. Some species of salamanders are able to regenerate their lost tails in a period of a few weeks. Often, some salamanders have poisonous skin. Brightly colored to warn predators of their toxicity.



**Vervet Monkeys**

Vervet monkeys have developed a more complex language than many animals. They are able to communicate different signs of danger. They have different calls for warnings about snakes, eagles, and leopards. Dolphins, apes, and parrots also have similarly complex languages.



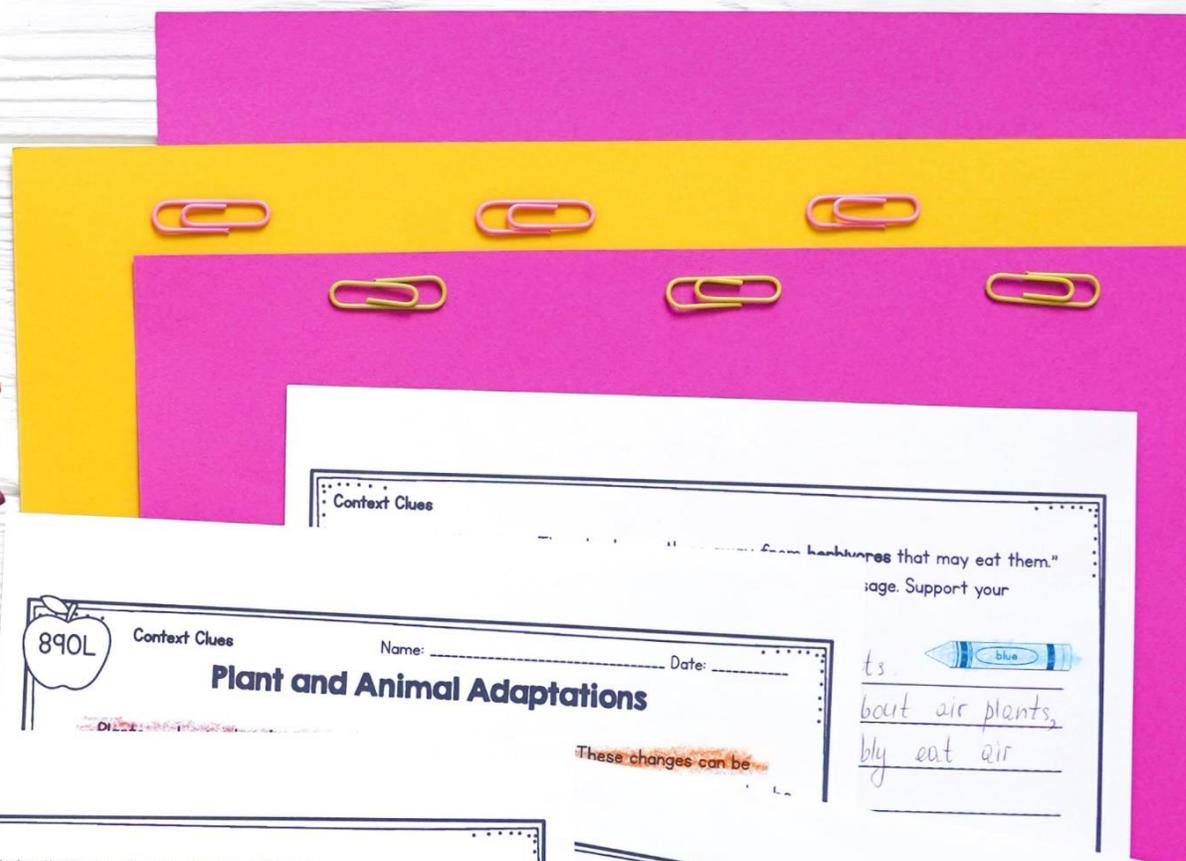
**Panellus Stipticus**

The Panellus stipticus is a fungus that grows in clumps on trees. This amazing fungus is bioluminescent. This light attracts insects like beetles, flies, and ants. These insects then carry the Panellus stipticus' spores away and spread them. In addition to being bioluminescent, the Panellus stipticus also has a circadian clock which helps it know when it is dark enough to turn on its bioluminescence.



Plant and animal adaptations are necessary for many species' survival. It is fascinating for scientists to study how living things have developed their adaptations throughout time.

© Julie Barber



Context Clues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Plant and Animal Adaptations

These changes can be \_\_\_\_\_

Support your \_\_\_\_\_

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Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.

Plants and animals **adapt** to their environments to survive.

What is the meaning of *adapt* as it is used in the text?

a. eat  
b. live  
c. change  
d. survive

2. What does the word *anatomical* mean as it is used in the passage?

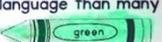
a. learned  
b. physical  
c. inherited  
d. behavioral

3. What does the word *drought* mean as it is used in the passage?

a. predators  
b. evaporation  
c. excess water  
d. lack of water

4. Paragraph 3 says, "Vervet monkeys have developed a more **complex** language than many animals." What is the meaning of *complex* as it is used in the text?

a. easy  
b. simple  
c. similar  
d. complicated

©Jale Pacheco

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**Salamanders**

A salamander is able to drop its tail when it caught by a predator. The detached tail continues to wriggle, distracting the predator while the salamander flees. Some species of salamanders are able to regenerate their lost tails in a period of a few weeks. In addition, some salamanders have poisonous skin. Their skin is colored to warn potential predators of their toxicity.

are  
ave

h 5 states, "Piranhas tend to travel in shoals of 20 fish." Explain what the means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with **one** context the passage.

means groups. Piranhas tend to travel  
ups of 20 fish

**Context Clues**

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

8. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.

Piranhas have a fearsome reputa

What is the meaning of *reputation* as i

- a. jaws
- b. teeth
- c. scary
- d. opinions people have

9. What does the word *inhabit* mean as

- a. live in
- b. bite in
- c. hunt in
- d. scare in

10. Paragraph 4 says, "The piranha's pr  
*cormorants* as it is used in the text?"

- a. caimans
- b. dolphins
- c. seabirds
- d. alligators

11. What does the word *omnivorous* me

- a. fish-eating
- b. plant-eating
- c. animal-eating
- d. plant- and animal-eating

880L

**Context Clues**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEST: Piranhas**

Piranhas have a fearsome reputation due to their sharp teeth. Piranha actually means "tooth fish" in the Brazilian language of Tupi.

There are between 30 to 60 species of piranhas. They live in rivers in South America and have been around for millions of years. Many inhabit the Amazon basin, the Orinoco River, and rivers of the Guianas.

Piranhas vary from about 5 to 10 inches long. They have a single row of tightly packed, sharp teeth that interlock. Their teeth are used for puncturing and shearing prey. Piranhas have one of the strongest bites of any bony fish. The black piranha has one of the most powerful bites of any vertebrate. Piranhas lose their teeth, and they are replaced throughout their lives. Black piranhas can bite with a force of 72 pounds.

The piranha's predators include cormorants, which are medium to large birds, alligators, caimans, and dolphins. People are also predators of piranhas since people eat them. Piranhas are often sought after as pets; however, having a piranha is illegal in most of the United States and other parts of the world. South American natives catch piranhas and use their teeth to make tools and weapons.

Piranhas are omnivorous. Some species of piranhas consume plant matter in the rivers they inhabit. They also eat other fish. Piranhas tend to travel in shoals. They have even been known to attack each other when food is scarce. Red-bellied piranhas are the species of piranha that have a reputation for being the most aggressive.

Piranhas have a feared reputation due to popular movies and myths. While piranhas have attacked humans, humans are not their choice of prey. Many rivers in South America have warning signs about the dangers of piranhas. Piranhas are more prone to attack humans in the dry season since food is scarce. Piranhas are more prone to attack humans in the dry season since food is scarce. Piranhas are more prone to attack humans in the dry season since food is scarce.



Red-bellied Piranha

©John Barber

# Plant and Animal Adaptations

Plants and animals **adapt** to their environments to survive. These changes can be **anatomical**, where plants and animals adapt their physical features. Adaptations can also be behavioral, where traits are inherited or learned.

## Cacti

Cacti have adapted to live in extreme, dry conditions. They are able to store water in their stems and roots. In addition, cacti have spines instead of leaves. Regular plant leaves have large surface areas for evaporation to occur. Cacti's spines minimize water loss. Some cacti can survive years of **drought** due to their ability to retain water!



## Vervet Monkeys

Vervet monkeys have developed a more **complex** language than many animals. They are able to communicate different signs of danger. They have different calls for warnings about snakes, eagles, and leopards. Dolphins, apes, and parrots also have similarly complex languages.

## Air Plants

Air plants, or epiphytes, stay attached to other plants rather than rooting in soil. Attaching to plants above ground gives them more light than ground plants. This also keeps them away from **herbivores** that may eat them. Air plants get water and nutrients from rain and air moisture.



## Praying Mantis

Praying mantises have triangle-shaped heads that can turn 180 degrees. This, along with their multiple eyes, allows them to see everything in their surroundings. Praying mantises are usually green or brown, which camouflages them to the surroundings.



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## Panellus Stipticus

The *Panellus stipticus* is a fungi that grows in clumps on trees. This amazing fungi is **bioluminescent**. This light attracts insects like beetles, flies, and ants. These insects then carry the *Panellus stipticus*' spores away and spreads them. In addition to being bioluminescent, the *Panellus stipticus* also has a circadian clock which helps it know when it is dark enough to turn on its bioluminescence.

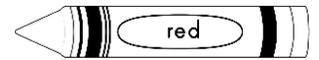


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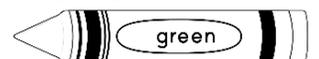
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3. What does the word *drought* mean as it is used in the passage?



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- b. evaporation
- c. excess water
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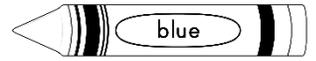
4. Paragraph 3 says, "Vervet monkeys have developed a more **complex** language than many animals." What is the meaning of *complex* as it is used in the text?



- a. easy
- b. simple
- c. similar
- d. complicated

Context Clues

5. Paragraph 4 states, "This also keeps them away from **herbivores** that may eat them." Explain what the word *herbivores* means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with **one** context clue from the passage.



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6. What does the word *toxicity* mean as it is used in the passage?



- a. tails
- b. size
- c. brightness
- d. poisonousness

7. Read this sentence from the last paragraph of the text.



This amazing fungi is **bioluminescent**.

In your own words, write a definition of the word *bioluminescent*. Then list two words or phrases that helped you define the word.

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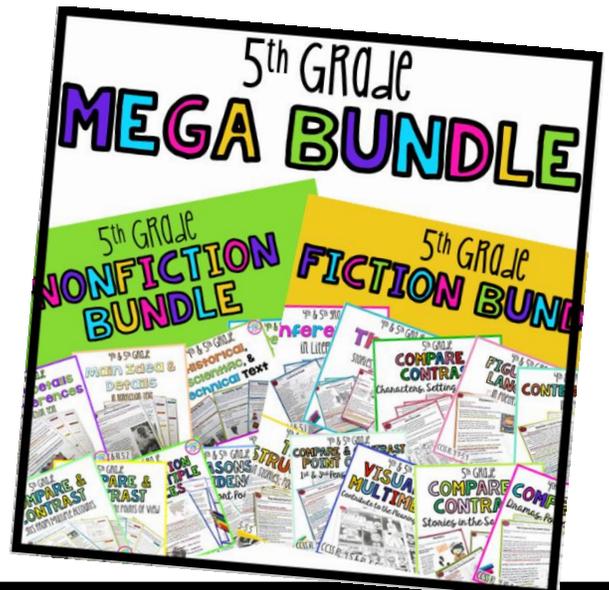
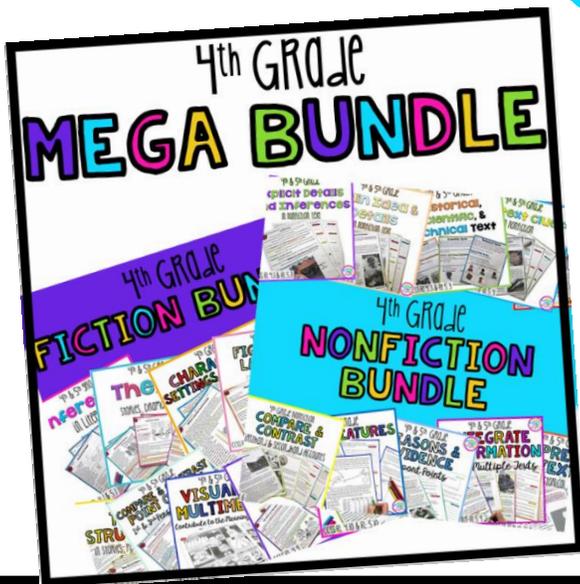


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