

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

# Crocodilian Cousins: Alligators and Crocodiles

By Erin Horner

Alligators and crocodiles are a lot alike. That's because they are cousins! They are cousins in the crocodilian order. Both animals are reptiles with great senses. They have superb hearing and eyesight. Their eyes are on top of their heads. This makes them sneaky stalkers. These meat eaters are great hunters. They both can hunt by hiding underwater. They keep only their eyes and the tips of their snouts exposed. This way, the gators and crocs can stalk their prey without being spotted.

Crocodiles and alligators also have many differences. They have dissimilar snouts. Gators have short, wide snouts. They are shaped like a "u." Crocodiles' snouts are more slender and pointy. They are shaped more like a "v." These cousins also have different teeth. When an alligator closes its mouth, its bottom fourth tooth is hidden. When a croc closes its mouth, this tooth can still be seen. Crocodiles and alligators also have different habitats. Crocodiles tend to live in saltwater. They have special glands in their tongues that make this possible. The glands help to get rid of the extra salt in their body. Alligators have these glands, too. But theirs don't work as well. That is why alligators prefer to live in freshwater.



Alligators and crocodiles have lived on the earth for millions of years. Let's take care of our planet and preserve their environments. If we do, these similar yet different reptiles will be around for millions more years.

Crocodilian Cousins: Alligators and Crocodiles

## Questions

1. Name two ways that crocodiles and alligators are alike.

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2. How is this passage organized?

- A. It tells how things are alike and different.
- B. It makes a statement and then gives the reasons that it is true.
- C. It gives a series of steps in a process.
- D. It states a cause and then gives effects.

3. What does the word dissimilar mean?

- A. unlike
- B. different
- C. not alike
- D. all of the above

4. Which is true about crocodiles?

- A. They have not lived on the earth for very long.
- B. They have "u" shaped snouts.
- C. They have special glands that allow them to live in salt water.
- D. They cannot see very well.

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

Did you know that you don't always have to use the word **place** in your writing? Try to use different words for an overused word like **place**. It will make your work more fun for others to read.

Circle words to the RIGHT or DOWN. Every letter is used exactly ONCE.

L O C A T I O N S T A T I O N  
 S P O S I T I O N  
 I V  
 T S I  
 U E S C S I T E  
 A T T I S P O T  
 T T A N R A  
 I I T I A R  
 O N U T N E  
 N G S Y K A

Write the words found.

AREA	SPOT	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Write something using the word **place** at least two times.

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Now rewrite your boring writing without using the word **place**.

I can't wait to read it!

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How many words do you think it takes to improve your writing?

Fifty. That's 50! There are about 50 overused words we often use in writing and conversations.

When you find yourself repeating, try something different. It doesn't take much work to sound amazing!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Meat Munching Plants

Answer the following questions **BEFORE** you read this book.  
Write what you know. If you want to guess, you can. You will **NOT**  
be marked wrong!

## 1. What is a meat eater?

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## 2. Are animals the only meat eaters on Earth? Explain your answer.

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## 3. Why would a plant need to eat meat?

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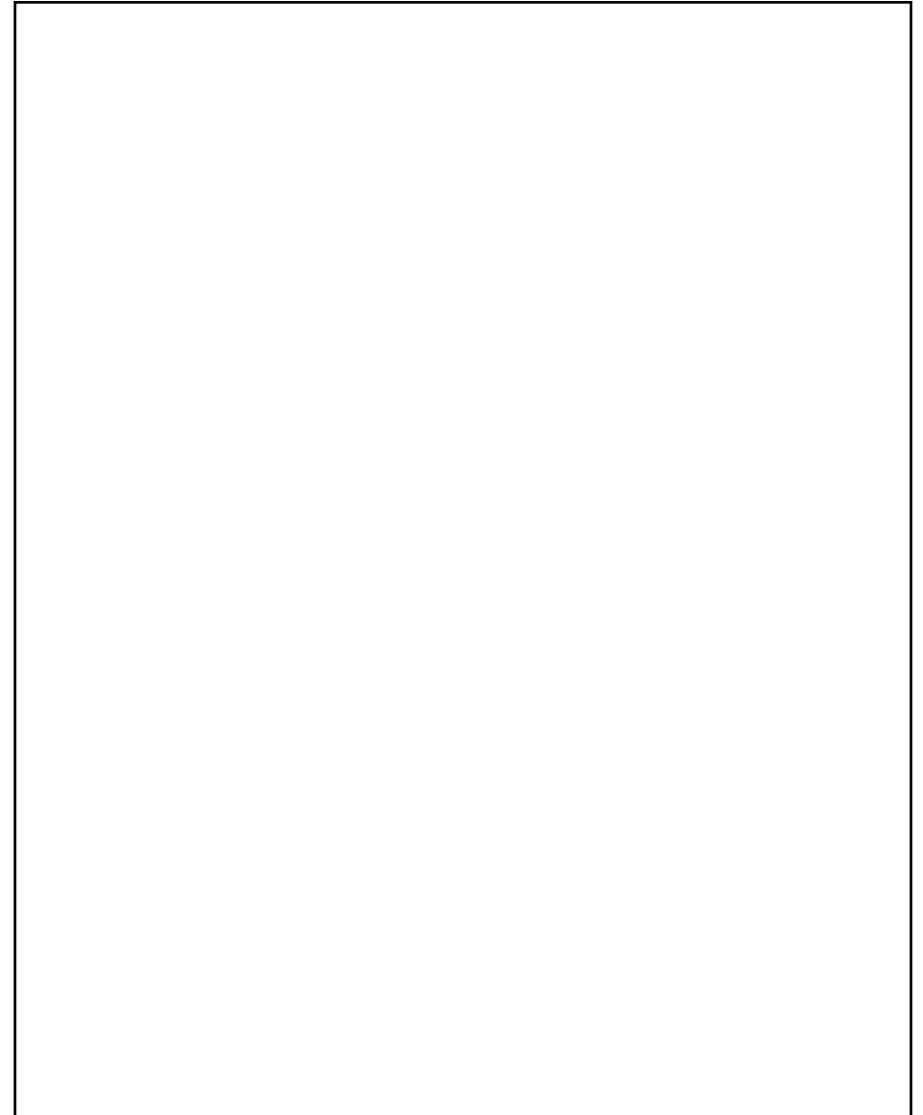
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When I think about a "meat eater" I picture a hungry T-Rex using his sharp teeth to rip his prey apart. I also think about a fierce wolf pack feasting on their latest find.

When you think of a "meat eater" what do you picture?



When I think about meat eaters, I *don't* think about plants. But believe it or not, there are meat-eating plants. These plants might not stalk giant prey near a watering hole, but to an unsuspecting insect, these meat eaters can be just as deadly.

Meat-eating or carnivorous plants grow in areas where the soil does not contain enough nutrients to sustain them. They can be found on every continent except Antarctica.



The Venus flytrap is a meat-eating plant. It does not have teeth, but it can still eat small animals, or as its name implies: flies!



A Venus flytrap sits with its leaves wide open. On the inside, the plant is red and smells very sweet. Flies are attracted to its color and its odor. What insects don't know is that the inside of this tricky plant is also covered with tiny hairs. These trigger hairs have a very important job. They trigger the trap!



Any time an object touches the flytrap's trigger hairs, the plant's leaves snap shut. They can close in less than one second. The fly, or other object, is then trapped inside the plant.



Next the trap begins to secrete a special liquid. These digestive juices dissolve the inner parts of the bug. The plant can then absorb the nutrients from its prey. This takes five to twelve days to complete.



Once the flytrap has absorbed all of the nutrients that it can, its leaves open up once again. Any leftovers or parts of the insect that did not dissolve then blow away in the wind. Finally the plant sits and waits for its next victim to land and its next meal to dissolve.

The pitcher plant is also a meat eater. This plant looks like a pitcher that you might use to pour a glass of lemonade on a hot summer day. Like your pitcher, the inside of the plant is filled with liquid.



What is your favorite thing to drink on a hot summer day?



Insects like to land on this plant. They want to drink some of the liquid that is inside of it. Sadly for them, a trip to a pitcher plant only requires a one-way ticket. Once an insect slides down into the pool, it cannot get out. The unsuspecting bug then drowns.



The same liquid that drowns the bug also dissolves it. The plant absorbs the insect's nutrients. It's almost as if it drinks bug soup for dinner!

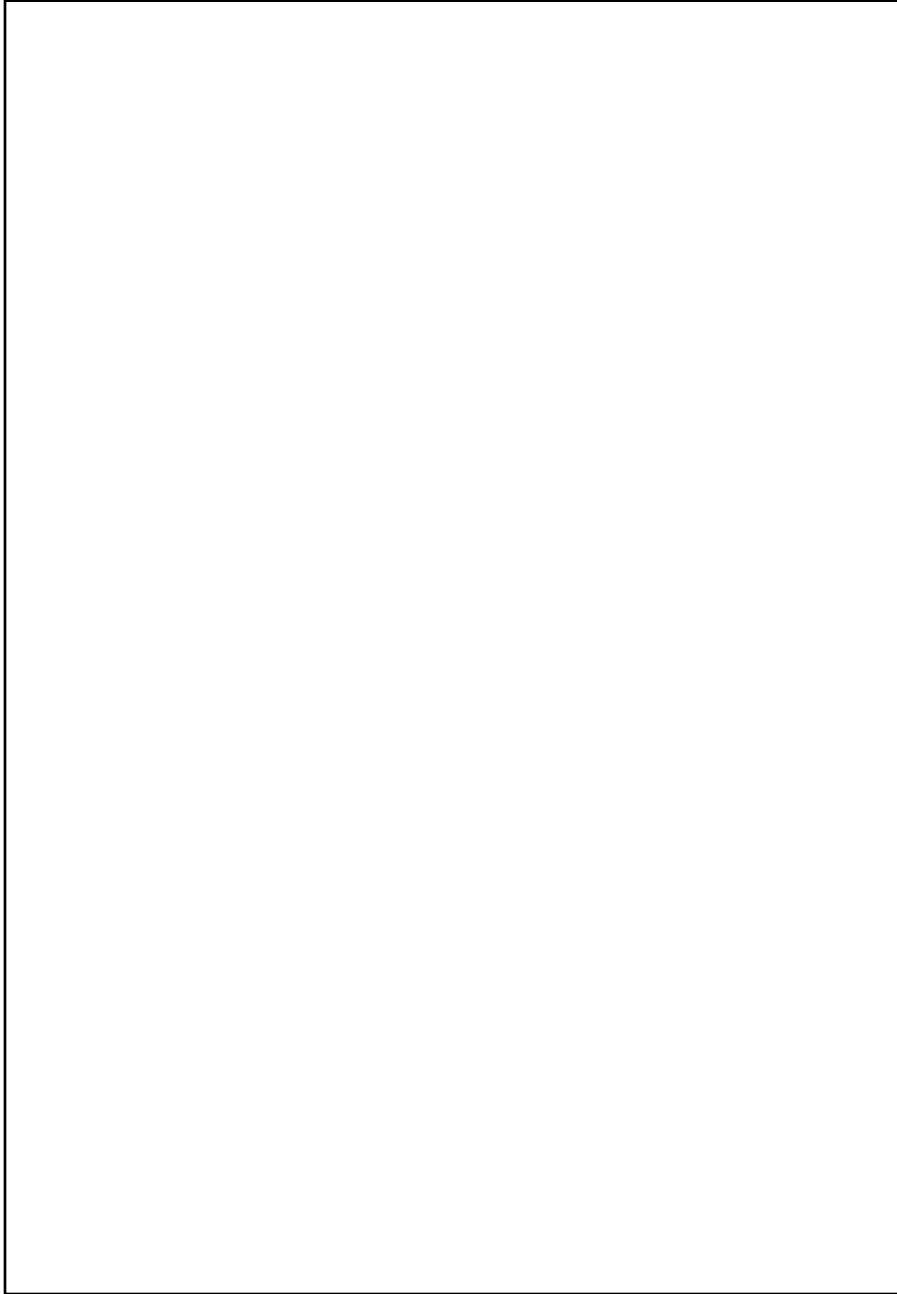


The sundew plant is quite a sight to see. It is surrounded by tentacles that look a lot like fireworks. At the tip of each tentacle is a sticky drop of gel. These drops glisten in the sunlight and look like early morning dew.

These "dew drops" aren't just pretty to look at. They are also hard to resist...at least they are if you are an insect. Any bug longing for a taste of this pretty plant is in for a surprise. The surprise is that they'll get stuck!



Draw a picture of an insect stuck in a sundew plant.



Once an insect is stuck, the plant will wrap itself around the bug and pull it in tight. Like other meat-eating plants, it will feast on the nutrients that its flying meal supplies.



Insects aren't the only ones who can fall victim to these meat munching plants. Small animals like frogs and lizards can also find themselves on the plant's evening menu.



The moral to the story is this: it's fun to look at the many plants we find in nature. If, however, you ever find yourself dressed up like a fly (or small animal), be sure to look and not touch. It's better to be safe than sorry, and it's really better to be safe than supper!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Meat Munching Plants

Answer the following questions **AFTER** you have completed this book.

- 1. Name the three meat-eating plants mentioned in this story.**

**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which meat-eating plant would you most like to see? Rank the following plants from 1-3, with 1 being the plant you'd most like to see.

\_\_\_\_\_ Venus flytrap

\_\_\_\_\_ sundew plant

\_\_\_\_\_ pitcher plant

- 3. What if other common plants were meat eaters? Which of the following do you think would make an interesting meat-eating plant?**

**daisy**

**tulip**

**rose**

**snap dragon**

**lily**

**violet**

**carnation**

other: \_\_\_\_\_

other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you like to have meat-eating plants in your backyard? Why or why not?

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

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

Erin went to Cullowhee Café and ordered a hamburger with lettuce, tomato, and mayonnaise on it, a small order of french fries, and a large drink. The total price was \$4.84. If she pays for her meal with a 10-dollar bill, how much change will she get?

Holly is playing "Penguin Parade" with her best friend. The spinner for the game has twelve spaces. Five of the spaces have two penguins on them. The rest have one penguin on them. On Holly's first spin, what is the chance the pointer will stop on a space with one penguin?

Mr. Brown was in the doghouse. He forgot to bring a new book for Erin. He went back to the store to get the book. The trip took him 47 minutes. If he left at 5:27 p.m., what time did he get back?

Write four words to describe this girl.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



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Fill in the missing fractions.

\_\_\_\_\_,  $\frac{4}{7}$ ,  $\frac{5}{7}$ , \_\_\_\_\_

Write a word to describe July.

\_\_\_\_\_

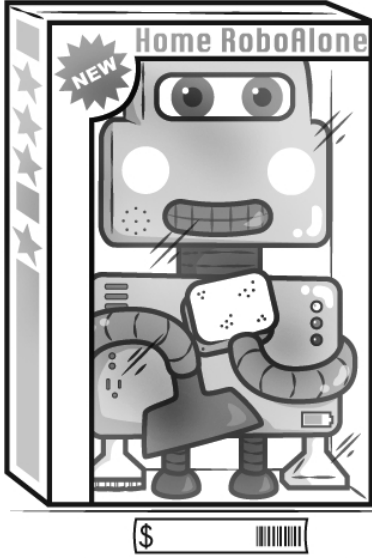
$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ + 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



heroes • backhoe • chick • railroad • continue • shoulder • icicle  
square root • intervention • indoor • powerless • mortified • visual  
conciliatory • melodeon • incidents • beats • nestle • learning • right  
age • understands • mind • flat surface • vivaciously



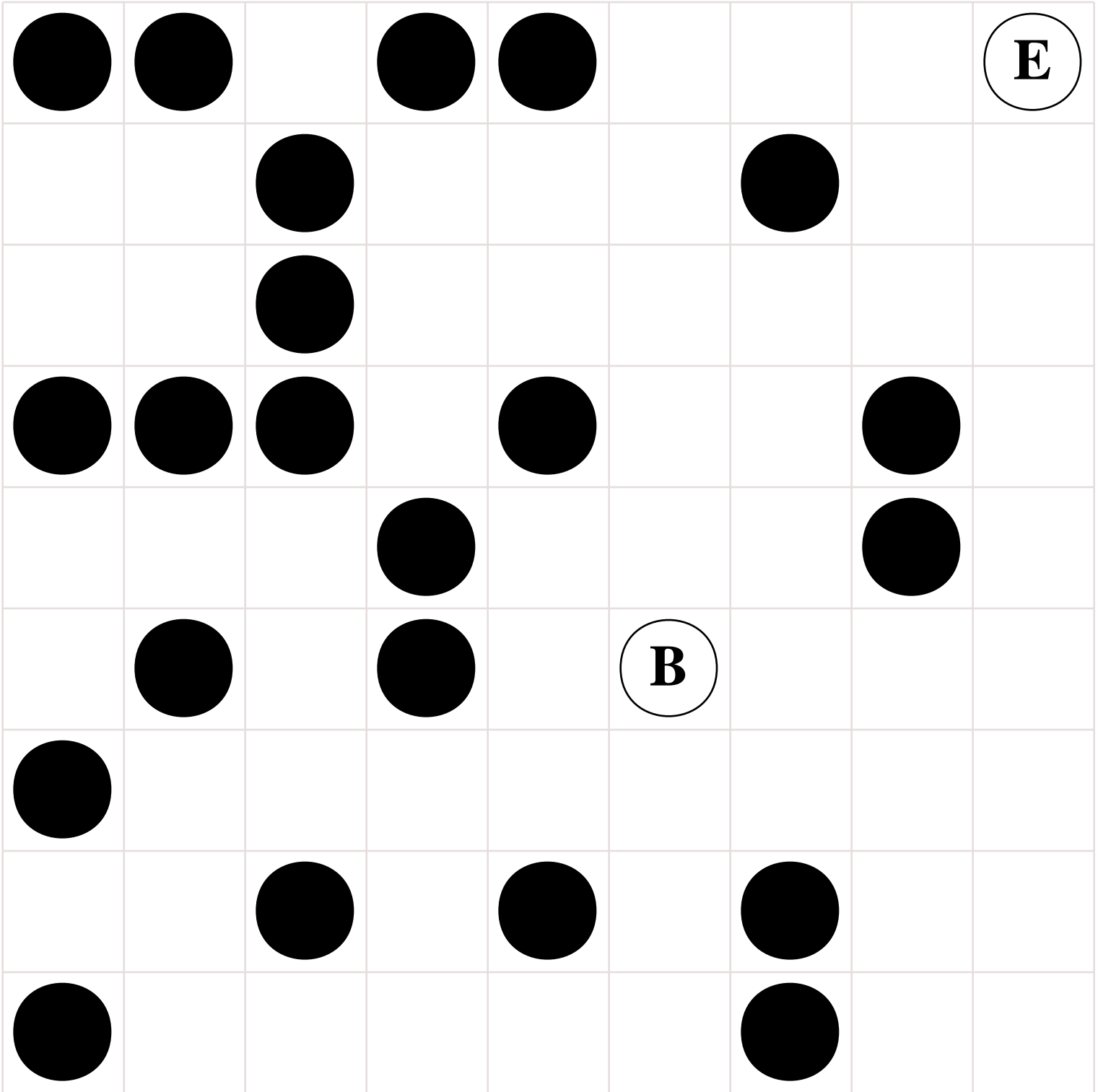
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



It's finally happened! Home robots are ready to ship, but the company, Home RoboAlone, is having PR trouble. They have hired you to write an ad for their new home robots, complete with a slogan and graphics. Draw your ad with its slogan below so the world is prepared to be amazed with the new home helpers!

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

Start on the **B** circle. Do not pick up your pencil. Draw a line going left, right, up, or down.  
**Every line must end on a circle. No stopping on an empty box.** Try to collect all the circles  
 and end your last line on the **E** circle. You can go through a circle more than once.



Didn't get them all? That's ok. This was hard. I missed only \_\_\_\_\_ circles.

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

Explain the meaning of the underlined phrase.

When I went up to Mrs. Graft's desk to ask her a question, she said, "I'm all ears."

\_\_\_\_\_

What figure of speech is shown here?  
The storm raced toward our town so quickly that the weatherman could hardly keep up with it.

\_\_\_\_\_

Insert the missing parentheses in this sentence.

I only speak one language English but my best friend speaks three!

$$\begin{array}{r} 721 \\ - 312 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Jessica rolls a die. What is the chance of her rolling a 1?

\_\_\_\_\_

$8 \times 11 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 332 \\ + 232 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$8 \times 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Jenna rolls two dice. What is the chance of her rolling a 2 on one die and a 6 on the other die?

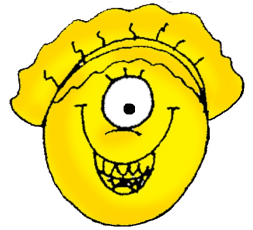
\_\_\_\_\_

What time is 16 hours after 2:00 a.m.?

\_\_\_\_\_

Erin and Rose are playing a number game. Erin says 5. Rose replies that the answer is 20. Erin says 2. Rose replies that the answer is 8. Erin says 1. Rose replies that the answer is 4. Erin says 3. Rose is thinking. What number should Rose reply with?

$$\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ - 31 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$1 \text{ kg} = 1,000 \text{ g}$

$10 \text{ kg} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ g}$

$14 \text{ lb} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ oz}$

The letters C and H each have a line of symmetry. Name another letter between C and H that has a line of symmetry.

\_\_\_\_\_

word root **hemi** can mean **half****hemisphere**

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

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# Flat Tops - How Aircraft Carriers Took Over the Seas

By Toni Lee Robinson

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In World War I, an important discovery was made. A plane could be a deadly tool in warfare. Planes had one drawback, however. They could only fly so far before they had to return to their base and refuel. Most naval battles occurred on the high seas. There were no airplane "gas stations" in the middle of the ocean. Was there any way to use planes in naval warfare? Could ships be used to carry planes to the scenes of battle?



The idea of ships carrying planes was tested in World War I. A British ship brought seven planes to the coast of Denmark. The planes attacked a German airship base. Many airships were destroyed. They were no longer a threat to Britain. The carrier idea worked!

After that, many countries began to make all kinds of ships into aircraft carriers. New battleships were stopped in their tracks, half-built. They never became the floating fortresses they started out to be. Instead, they were turned into floating airports. Hangars were built below the ships' decks. The decks were made wide and flat, like runways stuck on top of the ships. Planes could take off and land on these "flight decks." This feature gave the carriers their nickname. They were called "flat tops."

Pilots had to learn to use the new flight decks. Landing a plane on a flat top was a bit tricky. Planes coming in to land were still propelled by a great deal of power. They blasted onto the deck. Even an ace pilot couldn't stop a plane in the short space. To help, planes were equipped with hooks under their tails. As a plane came in, its tail hook would catch on cables that stretched across the deck. The cables would stop the plane's forward thrust. At least, that's how it was supposed to go. Sometimes the cables wouldn't catch the hooks. The plane would hit the crash barrier at the end of the deck. Some pilots were killed in crash landings.

Flat tops weren't the most graceful of vessels. Their odd top decks made them look a little funny. They weren't the easiest vessels to maneuver in the water, either. Nevertheless, these "ugly ducks" and their warplane "ducklings" were becoming very important. Squadrons were built around the flat tops. They were protected by armed escorts. Battleships, the earlier queens of the sea, became carrier watchdogs instead.

In 1941, Japan launched a shocking surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The assault was carried out by planes. Aircraft carriers had brought the planes close enough to attack. There was great loss of life in the strike. Many U.S. ships and planes were destroyed. A major target of the attack was U.S. aircraft carriers. When the strike planes came in, however, the flat tops were out at sea. All of them escaped the attack.

The U.S. pulled back. It had to rebuild its shattered Pacific force. For a time, Japan flexed its muscles in the Pacific. In May, the two fleets battled in the Coral Sea. Carriers played a big part in the action. In fact, the warring ships in this battle never saw each other. Each fleet's planes carried out the battle from the skies. Japan lost one carrier. The large U.S. carrier *Lexington* was sunk. *Yorktown*, hit by a bomb, limped to Pearl Harbor.

A month later, the two forces met again at the island of Midway. It was one of the most brutal clashes of the war. Again, it was a battle of the carriers and their planes. This time, planes from three U.S. flat tops sank four Japanese carriers. Japan lost 258 planes in the battle. Many of her most skilled pilots were lost as well. It was a hard blow.

On the U.S. side, carriers *Hornet* and *Enterprise* made it through the terrible fight. *Yorktown* was hit by bombs and torpedoes. The blasts caused fires. She kept going in spite of her wounds. Her battle flags still flew proudly. Then she was hit by still more torpedoes. Most of her crew of 2,000 lived through the attacks. But the carrier began to sink. The order came: "Abandon ship!" Petty Officer Bill Surgi had a broken arm when he leaped into the water. He struggled to swim away from the sinking ship. He and other crewmen were rescued. On June 7, 1942, *Yorktown* tipped and went down.

Recently the brave ship was found, resting peacefully on the ocean floor. She is over three miles below the water's surface. The discovery crew filmed the ship. With the crew was a man who knew *Yorktown* well. Bill Surgi gazed at the images sent up by video cameras. He was seeing his ship for the first time in 56 years. "She

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

looks good for the shape she's in," he said. Bill dropped flowers into the water where *Yorktown* rests. He said a final goodbye to shipmates and his ship.

Midway's fierce "clash of the flat tops" changed the path of the war. Japan's lost carriers and planes left a big hole in her naval forces. U.S. forces began to gain ground. Bit by bit, Japan was beat back to her own territory. Finally, the war ended.

It wasn't the end for carriers, though. In a way, even *Yorktown* lived on. New carriers were being built. One of these, the *Bon Homme Richard*, was renamed. She was called *Yorktown* in honor of the proud ship lost at Midway. She was launched in 1943.

From that day on, carriers have been a vital part of the U.S. Navy. They have kept up with the times. The flat top of today looks a little different from those of WWII. Its job, however, is pretty much the same. It is still a floating airport. It still brings planes to work, keeps them fueled, and brings them home again.

### Flat Tops - How Aircraft Carriers Took Over the Seas

## Questions

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1. In WWI, planes had proven themselves to be an important tool in battle. They couldn't be used everywhere, though. How were planes of the era limited?

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The idea of ships carrying airplanes to battle was first tried out:
- A. in WWI when a British ship carried planes to Denmark to destroy a German airship base
  - B. by a group of aviation pioneers
  - C. by the Japanese when they used planes brought by ship to attack Pearl Harbor
  - D. in WWII when U.S. ships brought planes to defeat the Japanese fleet at Midway

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Production of \_\_\_\_\_ came to a stop when the carrier idea was proven to work.
- A. battleships
  - B. planes
  - C. tanks
  - D. airships

4. Explain what changes were made to ships that were turned into carriers.

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5. What measures were taken to help pilots stop planes coming in to land on the carriers?

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

6. Carriers were described as "ugly ducks" because:

- A. They were painted in a camouflage pattern.
- B. Their heavy guns made them look funny.
- C. Their special main decks made them look odd and handle clumsily.
- D. They were slow, outdated, and seldom used.

7. Name two events of WWII which pointed out that flat tops had become very important in naval warfare.

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8. Imagine that you are a former sailor on the *Yorktown*. You have been invited to sail with the team searching for the sunken carrier. What would it be like to participate in the search? What would you feel at the moment your old ship is found?

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What 6 coins add up to 96 cents?

Estimate quickly the difference.  
 $5,250 - 1,600$

What is 50% of 62?

Write the missing family fact.  
 $17 \times 6 = 102$   
 $6 \times 17 = 102$   
 $102 \div 6 = 17$

$$2\frac{2}{7} + 5\frac{1}{7}$$

How much time is it from 7:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.?

E, G, \_\_\_\_\_, I, G, K,  
H, M, I, O

39, 47, 55, 64, 73, 83,  
\_\_\_\_\_, 104, 115, 127, 139,  
152, 165, 179, 193, 208

Round 18,308 to the nearest thousand.



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

Did you know that you don't always have to use the word **swam** in your writing? Try to use different words for an overused word like **swam**. It will make your work more fun for others to read.

Circle words to the RIGHT or DOWN. Every letter is used exactly ONCE.

S  
U  
B B  
A M  
T D E  
H O R  
E V G  
D E E  
F L O A T E D D  
G L I D E D

Write the words found.

GLIDED      SUBMERGED      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now rewrite this without using the word **swam**. Add one or two of your own sentences using some of the words you found in the word search.

We swam for an hour this morning. After lunch we returned and swam until the pool closed.

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My favorite two words to use instead of **swam** are:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

How many words do you think it takes to improve your writing?

Fifty. That's 50! There are about 50 overused words we often use in writing and conversations.

When you find yourself repeating, try something different. It doesn't take much work to sound amazing!