



Using Context

Lesson 2: Working Through the TAKS

Objective 1: Context Clues

Let's try determining the meaning of words in the following paragraph.
Directions: Read the paragraph and fill in a word that you think fits in each blank.

In nature, many animals use some type of camouflage to hide themselves from (1) _____ or prey. Some animals (2) _____ themselves by changing colors, while others use the color of their coats or skin to match their (3) _____. Animals that can change themselves come from every (4) _____ of animal life. Species of animal life are mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.



NEED HELP? Use words from the word box.

kind
hunters
disguise
surroundings

Need more help?

Did you write hunters in the first blank? Good!

Read the paragraph again.

Which word or words helped you to fill in blank # 1 with killers?

hide themselves from



Did you write **hide themselves from**? If you did, you are correct.

Most animals will want to **hide from** things that will kill them.

You have just used context to guess what word should go in the blank!

Now reread the paragraph to fill in the remaining blanks.

Does your paragraph look like the following?

In nature, many animals use some type of camouflage to hide themselves from (1) hunters or prey. Some animals (2) disguise themselves by changing colors, while others use the color of their coats or skin to match their (3) surroundings. Animals that can change themselves come from every (4) kind of animal life. Species of animal life are mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.



If no, reread and use the other words in the paragraph to help you or ask your teacher for help.

If yes, compare your answers to the words the author used in the following paragraph.

In nature, many animals use some type of camouflage to hide themselves from predators or prey. Some animals camouflage themselves by changing colors, while others use the color of their coats or skin to match their environment. Animals that can change themselves come from every species of animal life. Species of animal life are mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.



Match each word in Set A to the word in Set B that means the same:

<u>Set A</u>		<u>Set B</u>
Example: girl	—	young lady
1. species	—	surroundings
2. camouflage	—	killer or hunter
3. predator	—	kind or type of
4. environment	—	disguise

Additional Practice:

You can tell from the paragraph that camouflage means-

- A changing one's appearance
- B changing into another animal
- C changing into the surrounding rocks
- D changing into a larger animal



Let's try determining what words belong in the following paragraphs.

3 Some (1) _____ mammals like the hourglass dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin have "countershading." Their top side is darker than their bottom side, or belly, so that they can better blend into the shades of the ocean when it is hit by light. This shading keeps predators and fishermen from clearly spotting the dolphins in the water.

4 Another marine mammal that uses color as camouflage is the polar bear. The polar bear's white fur allows him to mingle perfectly with the white snow of the Arctic. When sneaking up on its (2) _____, the polar bear will cover its black nose with its paw to disguise itself in the snow.

5 Several (3) _____ animals also use color as camouflage. The leopard generally (4) _____ from pale yellow to deep gold or reddish-gold color depending largely on its (5) _____. Leopards usually live in rocky areas, mountains and forests which hide them from their prey.

6 On the other hand, zebras use camouflage to (6) _____ their predators. No two zebras have the same stripe pattern. When you look at a whole herd of zebras, though, it is hard to tell that each one is different.



Need Help?

This word box contains words you can use to help you fill in blank #1.

ocean	river	desert
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This box contains words you can use to help you fill in blank #2.

food	mate	offspring
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This box contains words you can use to help you fill in blanks #3-#6.

*land	*hunter	*surroundings
*dangerous	*changes	*trick
*comes in different colors	*run	



Now compare your words to the author's words.

3 Some **marine** mammals like the hourglass dolphin and the bottlenose dolphin have "countershading." Their top side is darker than their bottom side or belly so that they can better blend into the shades of the ocean when it is hit by light. This shading keeps predators and fishermen from clearly spotting the dolphins in the water.

4 Another marine mammal that uses color as camouflage is the polar bear. The polar bear's white fur allows him to mingle perfectly with the white snow of the Arctic. When sneaking up on **prey**, the polar bear will cover its black nose with its paw to disguise itself in the snow.

5 Several **land** animals also use color as camouflage. The leopard generally **varies** from pale yellow to deep gold or reddish-gold color depending largely on its **habitat**. Leopards usually live in rocky areas, mountains and forests which hide them from their prey.

6 On the other hand, zebras use camouflage to **trick** their predators. No two zebras have the same stripe pattern. When you look at a whole herd of zebras, though, it is hard to tell that each one is different.

Now that you have compared your answers to the author's words, answer the following questions.

1. In paragraph 3, the word **marine** means-

- A by the mountains
- B in a desert
- C a sailor
- D by the ocean

2. In paragraph 4, the word **prey** means-

- A food
- B child
- C mate
- D enemy

Working through the TAKS: Vocabulary Study

Directions: Define the underlined words as they are used in each sentence.



DO NOT USE A DICTIONARY, USE YOUR OWN WORDS!

1. He boasted about how he could run faster than anyone else, and on this day decided to tease his favorite prey, Thomas the turtle, for his slowness.

prey: _____

2. Giraffes, zebras, and elands, were especially excellent prey, since they were large, grey and so easy to spot in the yellowish-brown land.

prey: _____

3. Jack was greedy and soon ate too much. The heavy meal and hot sun made his eyelids droop.

droop: _____

4. At that very moment, Jack woke with a jolt.

jolt: _____

5. He leapt and bounded at a great rate, his tongue lolling, and gasping for breath.

bounded _____

lolling _____

gasping _____

Lesson 3: Working Through the TAKS

Objective 1: Figurative Language



Let's try predicting what the following figures of speech mean in the following paragraphs.

Directions: Read the paragraph and answer the questions that follow.

When Linda first heard the news, it was like a bolt from the blue it was so surprising. Linda was going around in circles after she heard the exciting news about winning the \$5,000.00 prize for the best essay. She never thought that she would win the essay contest. She ran like the wind to spill the beans to her mother. Her mother was waiting at the door because a little bird had already told her the wonderful news. Her mother, though, listened like a hawk until Linda told her the whole nine yards. Linda was always the apple of her mother's eye, and now Linda's mother could not have been more pleased with her daughter's success.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. In this paragraph, the phrase "like a bolt from the blue" means-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A hard to believeB hit with lightningC hard to understandD easy to understand <p>2. In this paragraph, the phrase "going around in circles" means-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A confusedB excitedC afraidD calm | <p>3. In this paragraph, the phrase "ran like the wind" means-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A all the wayB as quickly as she couldC as happily as the windD toward the wind <p>4. In this paragraph, the phrase "spill the beans" means-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A to tell in a quick mannerB to tell in a confusing mannerC to tell everything that happenedD to tell only the facts |
|---|--|

5. In this paragraph, the phrase "like a hawk" means-

- A to be very confused
- B to be very interested
- C to be amused
- D to be very bored

6. In this paragraph, the phrase "the apple of her mother's eye" means-

- A her mother loves her more than anyone else
- B her mother loves her eyes very much
- C her mother loves apples very much
- D her mother loves her like she loves apples



7. The phrase to spill the beans doesn't actually mean to spill beans. Write a sentence using this figure of speech in the same way it is used in the paragraph. Then write your own definition.

My sentence: _____

My definition: _____
