

Grade 3

Unit 2

Assessment Guide: Unit Assessment

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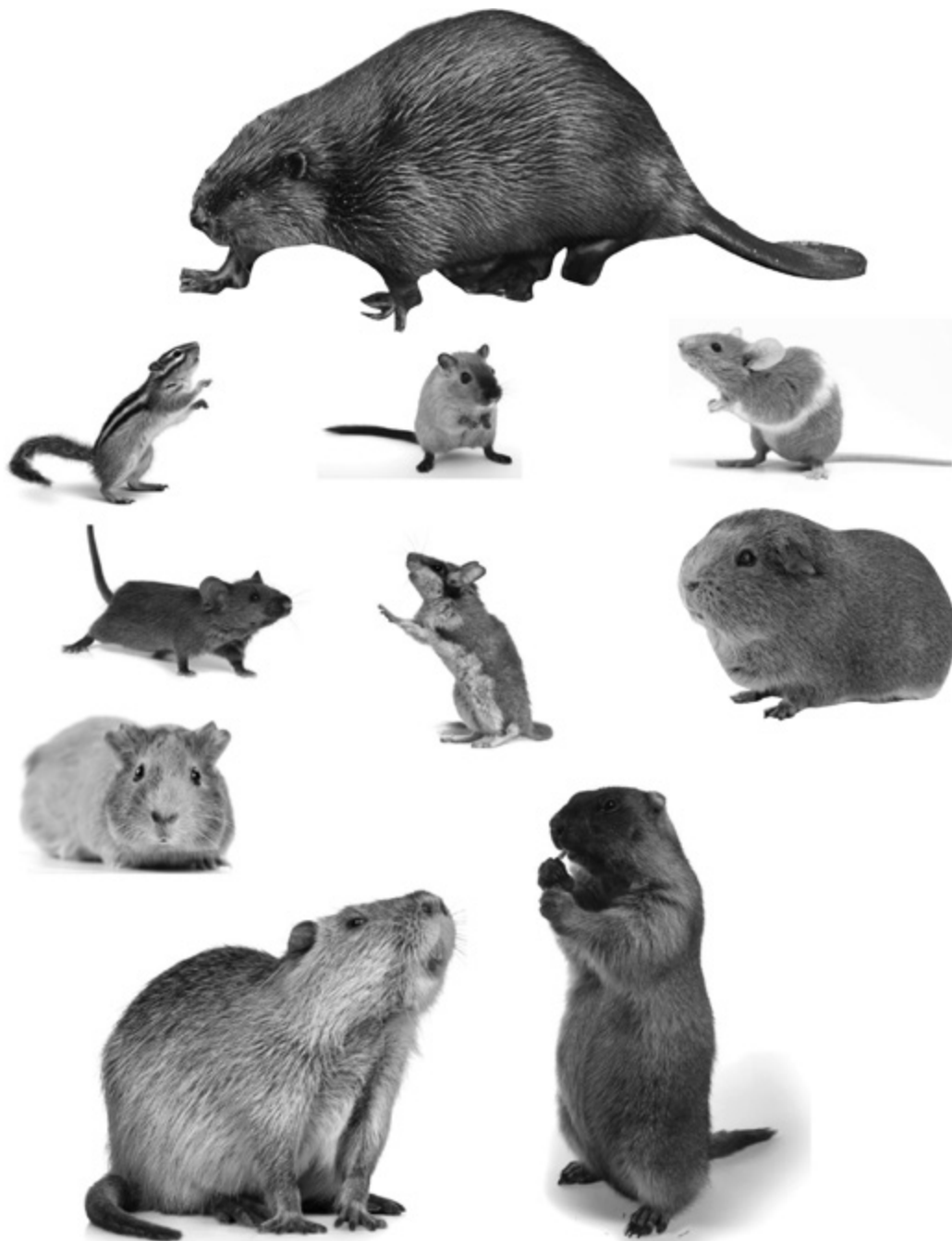
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Beavers



Beavers have long, sharp teeth and a flat, wide tail.



*Beavers are mammals that belong to a smaller group of animals called **rodents**.*

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A beaver swimming from its lodge toward a dam.



*Beavers are **territorial**.*

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Beavers are mammals that have an important role in nature. Beavers have two key characteristics: long, sharp teeth and a flat, wide tail. They use their teeth to **gnaw** down trees of all sizes for food and for building things. They use their tails to swim, but that's not all! If a beaver smells or sees danger nearby, it will warn the other beavers. It slaps its tail on the water surface as a loud warning.

Beavers live in ponds and lakes in some parts of North America and in some parts of Europe and Asia. They are pretty hard to find today because they were nearly hunted to **extinction**. Beavers were prized for their **pelts**, which people used to make fur coats and hats.

They are still hunted today, not only for their **pelts** but also because many people think they are pests. As you will learn, beavers can play a very important role in nature by creating a special habitat called a **wetland**. But sometimes they are pests because they disturb places where people live.

Beavers are the second largest **rodent** in the world. They do look a bit like their fellow **rodents**, such as mice, rats, and hamsters.

Have you ever heard the expression “busy as a beaver”? It comes from the fact that, in the wild, beavers never seem to stop working.

They spend much of their time in water. They are best known for building dams in rivers and streams. They build dams in order to create deeper bodies of water. They move slowly on land, but they are great swimmers. Deep water protects them from bears and other predators. They dive underwater when they sense danger. They can hold their breath underwater for up to 15 minutes.

Beavers also build places to live called lodges. Lodges are big piles of sticks and mud that they build after they have built a nice dam. After the beavers **gnaw** down trees, they strip off and eat the bark of the tree. They use the rest of the tree to build their lodges and dams.

A single beaver family can really change its surroundings. Beavers' dams can cause the water in the stream or river to rise up, flooding the nearby land. This creates a swamp, or **wetland**. **Wetlands** are important habitats for many types of birds, mammals, fish, and insects. But if there are people living nearby, they may not welcome the flooding!

Beavers don't stay in one place for very long. Once the good bark from all the trees is eaten in one place, they tend to move downstream and start all over again. But the **wetland** they made often remains long after they leave.

Beavers are very **territorial**: they often attack other beavers that try to move into a space that they have claimed. They want to keep all the tasty tree bark for themselves.

All in all, beavers are interesting mammals to watch and study.

1. According to the selection, what does the word *gnaw* mean?

2. According to the selection, what does the word *wetlands* mean?

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3. What information did you learn from the photos and captions?

4. What information did you learn from the heading?

5. What information did you learn about the bold print words?

Hummingbirds



A hummingbird compared to the size of a penny.

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A hummingbird approaches a flower for nectar.



The locations where the ruby-throated hummingbird lives in summer and winter.

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A ruby-throated hummingbird feeds its babies.

Birds can be found nearly everywhere on Earth, and they come in many different sizes and colors. They also live in many different types of habitats. This affects how they eat, nest, and sing songs. Hummingbirds are among the smallest birds. The bee hummingbird is the smallest bird on Earth at just two inches long and weighing less than a penny!

A hummingbird is an amazing little animal. It can flap its wings up to 90 times in 1 second! That's so fast that it looks like its wings are a blur. It's hard to see its wings because they are constantly flapping.

Hummingbirds dart around from flower to flower, like bees. They use their long, pointy beaks to drink sweet nectar from flowers. Since they are so busy flapping their wings, they need to eat a lot to replace all of their energy. A typical hummingbird will visit hundreds of flowers every day, drinking more than its own weight in nectar. Nectar has sugar, which gives hummingbirds plenty of energy. As they find insects on flowers, hummingbirds eat them up.

Hummingbirds are attracted to red flowers. They are also drawn to red feeders, which people hang on porches and trees. The feeders are filled with sugary water, which is then dyed red to attract the birds. People hang feeders for them because these birds are a lot of fun to watch!

Like many birds, the ruby-throated hummingbird migrates. This means it spends part of the year in one place and part of the year in another place. It can be found in parts of the eastern United States during the late spring and early summer. When autumn rolls around, it heads south for warmer weather.

Here is an amazing fact: this tiny bird, which is shorter than your finger, doesn't migrate just a few miles. It migrates all the way across the Gulf of

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Mexico—500 miles—without stopping! From there, it may continue south through Mexico to Costa Rica and beyond.

Here is another interesting fact: they are the only birds that can fly backwards! They can also **hover**, or float in the air, and fly upside down.

Their nests are very small, about half as big as a walnut shell. They make their nests using leaves and small yellow and green plants called **moss**. They use spider webs to hold these little bits of nature together. They sometimes eat the spider before using its web as glue.

The spider web is nice and sticky, and it is also **flexible**. A hummingbird will lay two tiny eggs. When its tiny eggs hatch and the babies begin to grow, the spider web will allow the nest to expand. This helps the babies stay warm and safe. In the photo, a hummingbird is feeding its babies. Maybe it is giving them a nice juicy bug to eat or sharing a taste of sweet flower nectar.

See if you can find a more interesting little bird than that!

6. According to the selection, what does the word *hover* mean?

7. According to the selection, what does the word *moss* mean?

8. What information did you learn from the photos?

9. What information did you learn from the map?

10. What additional text feature could be included with this selection? Why?

11. How are these two texts alike?

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12. How are these two texts different?

13. Choose the nouns from the following sentence.

The hog had a litter of seven grunting, snorting babies.

- A. hog, had, litter
- B. the, of, seven
- C. hog, litter, babies
- D. seven, grunting, snorting

14. If you decide to rename something, what are you doing to it?

15. Choose the adjectives from the following sentence.

The mother snake had nine, long, lovely, baby snakes.

- A. mother, nine, long, snakes
- B. snake, long, lovely, baby
- C. nine, lovely, baby, snakes
- D. nine, long, lovely, baby

16. Write the **letter C** over the concrete nouns and the **letter A** over the abstract nouns.

The grandparents were full of pride when they watched their grandstudent get the award for bravery.

Choose the best word to complete the sentence. Write it on the line.

17. Standing outside during a storm is an _____ thing to do because you might get hurt.
(unsafe, uneven)

18. I chose a _____ costume for Derek's costume party since younger kids will be there, and I don't want to scare them.
(nondairy, nonthreatening)

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20. In which animal group are humans classified? How do you know?

[illegible]

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Piranhas

Piranhas are meat-eating fish with razor sharp teeth. If an animal goes into a pond where these fish are, the piranhas may attack. A large school of hungry piranhas can kill a large animal very quickly.	12 25 37
Piranhas live in South America. They are found in the Amazon River and in other rivers and lakes.	48 55
Like most fish, piranhas lay eggs. The female lays up to five thousand eggs at one time. The male piranha guards the eggs until they hatch. However, after they hatch, the baby piranhas are on their own.	67 79 90 92
A typical piranha is five to ten inches long. It might weigh two pounds.	104 106
A piranha has a single row of teeth. These teeth are shaped like triangles and are very sharp. In fact, they are so sharp that in the past, some native people used them to make weapons and tools.	119 134 144
Piranhas have very strong jaws. Pound for pound, they are stronger biters than great white sharks!	154 160
Here is how scientists measure bite strength. First, they weigh the animal. Next, they allow the animal to bite a special tool that measures how strong its bite is. Finally, they divide the bite strength by the animal size.	171 184 197

A great white shark has a bite force about equal to its body. It might	213
weigh five thousand pounds and it might bite with a force of about	226
five thousand pounds. A piranha is much smaller. It might weigh two	237
pounds. But it can bite with sixty pounds of force. Sixty divided by two	250
is thirty. That means the piranha's bite strength is about thirty times as	262
strong as a great white shark.	272
A piranha's bite hurts a lot, but what makes it even worse is what	286
comes next. Once the piranha has bitten down, it spins away from its	299
prey, tearing out a chunk of flesh. Ouch!	307
Piranhas have been known to attack humans. But such attacks are	318
not common. There are some scary movies that make it sound like	330
piranhas are always attacking people. We know now that this is just	342
not true.	344

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Student: _____

Date: _____

Story: *Piranhas*

Total words: 344

Words Words Read Uncorrected Mistakes Words Correct	Time <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Minutes</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Seconds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 40px;"></td> <td>Finish Time</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 40px;"></td> <td>Start Time</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black; height: 40px;"></td> <td>Elapsed Time</td> </tr> </table> (× 60) + = Time in Seconds	Minutes	Seconds				Finish Time			Start Time			Elapsed Time
Minutes	Seconds												
		Finish Time											
		Start Time											
		Elapsed Time											
W.C.P.M. ÷ × 60 = Words Correct Time in Seconds W.C.P.M.													

Compare the student's W.C.P.M. scores to national norms for Fall of Grade 3 (Hasbrouck and Tindal, 2017):

W.C.P.M.	National Percentiles for Fall, Grade 3:
134	90th
104	75th
83	50th
59	25th
40	10th

Comprehension Total ____ / 5

Answers Correct	Level
5	Independent comprehension level
4	Instructional comprehension level
2-3	Frustration comprehension level
0-1	Intensive remediation warranted for this student

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Answer Key

UNIT ASSESSMENT ANSWER KEY

Beavers also build places to live called lodges. Lodges are big piles of sticks and mud that they build after they have built a nice dam. After the beavers **gnaw** down trees, they strip off and eat the bark of the tree. They use the rest of the tree to build their lodges and dams.

A single beaver family can really change its surroundings. Beavers' dams can cause the water in the stream or river to rise up, flooding the nearby land. This creates a swamp, or **wetland**. **Wetlands** are important habitats for many types of birds, mammals, fish, and insects. But if there are people living nearby, they may not welcome the flooding!

Beavers don't stay in one place for very long. Once the good bark from all the trees is eaten in one place, they tend to move downstream and start all over again. But the **wetland** they made often remains long after they leave.

Beavers are very **territorial**: they often attack other beavers that try to move into a space that they have claimed. They want to keep all the tasty tree bark for themselves.

All in all, beavers are interesting mammals to watch and study.

1. According to the selection, what does the word *gnaw* mean?

to bite or chew something

2. According to the selection, what does the word *wetlands* mean?

an area of land covered with shallow water, such as a swamp

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3. What information did you learn from the photos and captions?

Answers may vary.

4. What information did you learn from the heading?

Answers may vary, but they should include information about beavers.

5. What information did you learn about the bold print words?

Answers may vary, but they should identify one of the bold print words.

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Mexico—500 miles—without stopping! From there, it may continue south through Mexico to Costa Rica and beyond.

Here is another interesting fact: they are the only birds that can fly backwards! They can also **hover**, or float in the air, and fly upside down.

Their nests are very small, about half as big as a walnut shell. They make their nests using leaves and small yellow and green plants called **moss**. They use spider webs to hold these little bits of nature together. They sometimes eat the spider before using its web as glue.

The spider web is nice and sticky, and it is also **flexible**. A hummingbird will lay two tiny eggs. When its tiny eggs hatch and the babies begin to grow, the spider web will allow the nest to expand. This helps the babies stay warm and safe. In the photo, a hummingbird is feeding its babies. Maybe it is giving them a nice juicy bug to eat or sharing a taste of sweet flower nectar.

See if you can find a more interesting little bird than that!

6. According to the selection, what does the word *hover* mean?

to float in the air

7. According to the selection, what does the word *moss* mean?

a very small green or yellow plant

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8. What information did you learn from the photos?

Answers may vary, but they could include information about a comparison between a hummingbird and a penny.

9. What information did you learn from the map?

Answers may vary, but they should include information about the location of hummingbirds in the summer and winter.

10. What additional text feature could be included with this selection? Why?

Answers may vary.

11. How are these two texts alike?

Answers may vary, but they may include that both texts describe the characteristics, habitats, and behavior of animals.

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12. How are these two texts different?

Answers may vary, but they may include that one text focuses
on a mammal, while the other discusses a bird.

13. Choose the nouns from the following sentence.

The hog had a litter of seven grunting, snorting babies.

- A. hog, had, litter
- B. the, of, seven
- ☒ C. hog, litter, babies
- D. seven, grunting, snorting

14. If you decide to rename something, what are you doing to it?

naming it again, or giving it a new name

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15. Choose the adjectives from the following sentence.

The mother snake had nine, long, lovely, baby snakes.

- A. mother, nine, long, snakes
- B. snake, long, lovely, baby
- C. nine, lovely, baby, snakes
- ☒ D. nine, long, lovely, baby

16. Write the **letter C** over the concrete nouns and the **letter A** over the abstract nouns.

The grandparents ^C were ^A full of pride when they watched their
grandstudent ^C get the award for bravery. ^A

Choose the best word to complete the sentence. Write it on the line.

17. Standing outside during a storm is an unsafe thing to do because
(unsafe, uneven)

18. I chose a nonthreatening costume for Derek's costume party since
(nondairy, nonthreatening)
younger kids will be there, and I don't want to scare them.

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19. Marcus had too many cupcakes at the reception, and he looked
unwell sitting at the table.
(uneven, unwell)

20. In which animal group are humans classified? How do you know?

Answers may vary, but they should include that humans are
mammals. They have hair, give live birth, nurse their newborns,
are warm-blooded, and so on.

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Amplify CKLA

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