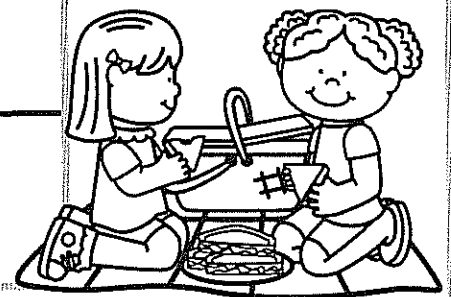


The Picnic

“When is the family picnic?” Katie asked her 8
 mother. Katie’s family always had a huge picnic 16
 every year in the summer. All her relatives came 25
 from all over the country. Katie looked forward 33
 to it more than any other day of the year. She 44
 absolutely loved spending time with her cousins, 51
 and always hated to see them leave. “I have a 61
 surprise for you...it is today!” her mom exclaimed. 70
 Katie was ecstatic. “And I have an even better 79
 surprise,” her mom continued. “This year your 86
 cousins are staying with us for two weeks.” 94
 “That is the best news ever,” Katie remarked. 102
 “This is going to be the best summer ever!” III

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Comprehension Questions: The Picnic

1. Why did Katie look forward to the family picnic?

2. What was the surprise Mom had for Katie?

3. Why did Katie think it would be the best summer ever?

4. What do you think the word ecstatic means?

5. What is a special tradition your family has?

The Amusement Park

Colin loved amusement parks. He loved the games. 8

He loved the food. He loved almost all the rides, 18

except for one - the rollercoasters. Colin was 25

terrified of them. Just looking at the dips and 34

whirls made him queasy. This year he decided that 43

things would be different. He was determined that 51

he was going to ride one. The day finally came 61

when he and his friends went to the amusement 70

park. Colin bravely waited in line for the biggest 79

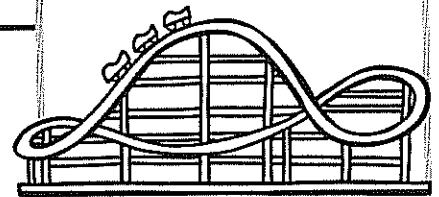
roller coaster at the park. As he stepped into the 89

car he felt nervous. "I can do this," he told himself. 90

Before he knew it, the ride was over. "That was 100

the most fun ever!" he shouted. 116

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Comprehension Questions: The Amusement Park

1. What did Colin love about amusement parks?

2. What was Colin afraid of at amusement parks?

3. What do you think the word queasy means?

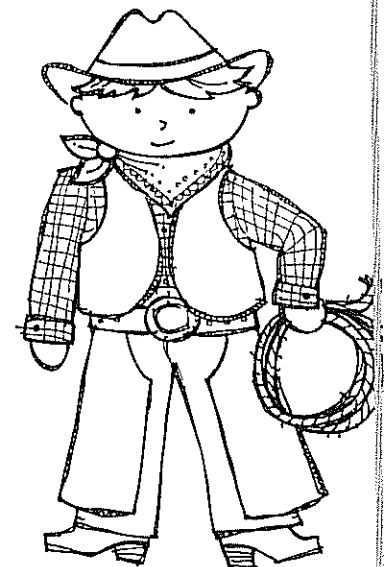
4. What happened when Colin went on the roller coaster?

5. What kind of character do you think Colin is and why?

Annie and Rosebud Save the Day

Cowgirl Annie hopped onto her saddle and 7
 grabbed the reins. "Giddyup!" she said to her 15
 horse Rosebud. Annie and Rosebud began to 22
 gallop up the dusty road. Annie was on the 31
 lookout for a runaway colt from her father's 39
 ranch. "There he is Rosebud!" she exclaimed. She 47
 took out her lasso, swung it over her head, and 57
 threw it across the colt's neck. "It is time to 67
 take you back to the ranch where you belong. 76
 Dad is going to be very happy to see you! Now 87
 we just need to get to work fixing that broken 100
 fence," she said. Annie, Rosebud, and the colt 110
 trotted slowly back home. 116

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Comprehension Questions: Annie And Rosebud Save the Day

1. What did Annie do when she first got onto her horse Rosebud?

2. What were Annie and Rosebud looking for?

3. What did Annie do when she saw the colt?

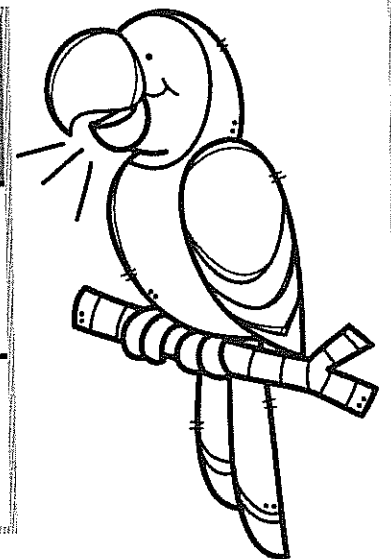
4. Why did Annie say they needed to fix the fence?

5. What do you think colt means?

The Best Pet

My cat Buddy is the best pet ever. Every day 10
 when I arrive home from school, he is waiting 19
 for me by the front door. He rubs against my 29
 legs and purrs when I walk in. He is always 39
 thrilled to see me! When I sit down to watch 49
 television or read, Buddy climbs onto my lap. If I 59
 am feeling down, cuddling with Buddy will always 67
 cheer me up. The best thing about Buddy is that 77
 he likes to sleep with me every night. When I 87
 crawl into my bed, Buddy crawls in too! He curls 97
 up beside me and purrs while I rub his ears. 107
 Buddy is the best pet anyone could ever have! 116

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Name

Date

Comprehension Questions: The Best Pet

1. What does Buddy do when the child gets home from school?

2. How does Buddy cheer the child up when they are sad?

3. What does Buddy do while the child is reading or watching television?

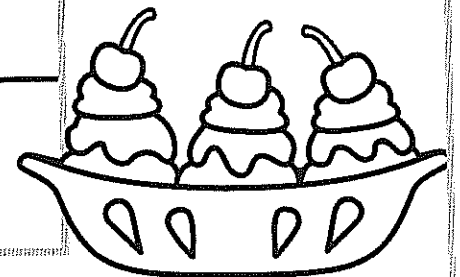
4. What does the child say is the best thing about Buddy?

5. What do you think makes a good pet?

Decisions, Decisions

I am so lucky! A brand-new ice cream shop just 10
 opened in my neighborhood. One of my favorite 18
 things to do with my friends is to ride our bikes 29
 there for a treat. The only problem with the ice 39
 cream shop is that there are so many things to 49
 choose from, it is hard to decide what to order. 59
 There are delicious sundaes, yummy cones, and 66
 tasty shakes. There are many different ice 73
 cream flavors and lots of different toppings too! 81
 It seems like there must be a million combinations! 90
 I plan to try something different every time I 99
 visit the ice cream shop! I hope there are enough 109
 days in the summer for me to try everything! 118

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Comprehension Questions: Decisions, Decisions

1. Why did the child say they were lucky?

2. What is the problem with the ice cream shop?

3. What does the child say is one of their favorite things to do?

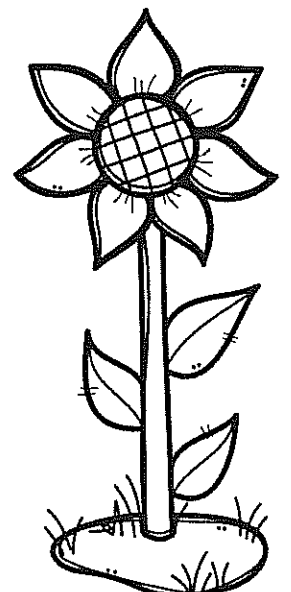
4. What are some of the options at the ice cream shop?

5. What is the child's plan for the summer?

Sunflowers

Sunflowers are unique and beautiful flowers. They 7
 can grow to be very tall. Most sunflowers typically 16
 grow to be between 8-12 feet tall, but the tallest 28
 sunflower ever was a whopping 27 feet tall! There 37
 are approximately 60 different types of 43
 sunflowers. All sunflowers though have a large dark 51
 middle, surrounded by bright petals. The middles are 59
 filled with tiny flowers. After each of these 67
 flowers are done blooming, a seed is left in its place. 78
 Birds like to eat sunflower seeds, and they make 87
 delicious snacks for people too! The seeds can also 96
 be used to make sunflower oil, which people use for 106
 cooking. Sunflowers are beautiful and useful as well! 114

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Comprehension Questions: Sunflowers

1. How tall do sunflowers typically grow?

2. How many types of sunflowers are there?

3. What is the middle of a sunflower composed of?

4. What are sunflower seeds good for?

5. Why does the author say sunflowers are useful?

All Kinds of Shells

When you think about visiting the ocean, you may think about collecting shells. Many people like to collect shells because they are so pretty and because of the many different types of shells there are. Shells come in all sizes, shapes, colors, and patterns. Some are smooth, others are ridged, and some are even spiky. Seashells are exoskeletons of different animals called mollusks. Mollusks are animals like mussels, oysters, and clams. Instead of having bones on the inside, like we do, these animals have their shells on the outside to protect them. After the animals die, their empty shells wash up on the beach and stay there for us to discover.

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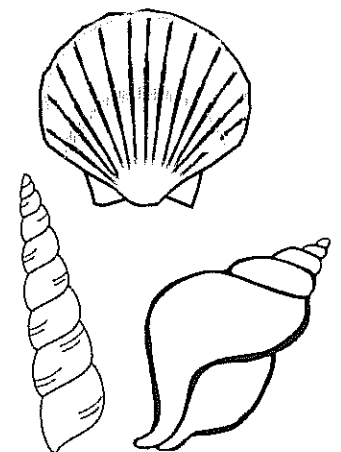
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Comprehension Questions: All Kinds of Shells

1. Why do many people collect shells?

2. What is an exoskeleton?

3. What is a mollusk?

4. How do shells end up on the beach?

5. How can shells be different from each other?

Happy Birthday America!

Every year on July 4th, Americans celebrate 7
 Independence Day. Many people celebrate with picnics, 14
 parties, and fireworks, but not everyone knows the 23
 real meaning of Independence Day. Independence Day 31
 is a celebration of the signing of the Declaration of 39
 Independence. In America's earliest days, it was ruled 47
 by the British Empire. The people who lived in America 57
 decided that they wanted to be their own country. A 67
 group created the Declaration of Independence stating 74
 that they wanted to separate from Britain and be an 84
 independent country. It was signed on July 4, 1776. A 94
 war began, and the Americans won. July 4 marks the 104
 beginning of America as a free and independent 112
 country. 113

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Comprehension Questions: Happy Birthday America!

1. How do many people celebrate Independence Day?

2. What is Independence Day a celebration of?

3. How did America gain freedom from the British Empire?

4. When was the Declaration of Independence signed?

5. Why do you think this passage is called Happy Birthday America?

The Dry, Dry Desert

Deserts are extremely dry regions located around the world. There is very little rain in the desert.

While many people think of deserts as sandy, some deserts are rocky and others are made of

ice! The largest desert in the world is the Sahara

Desert in Africa, which covers about 3 million

square miles. In the desert, it can be very hot

during the day, sometimes reaching above 100

degrees. At night, the temperature can drop as

low as 32 degrees. That is quite a range! There

are many animals which have adapted to life in

the desert. Most desert animals are nocturnal, so

that they can avoid the hot sun of the day.

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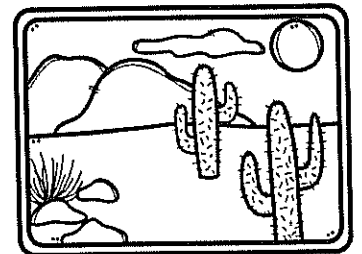
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Comprehension Questions: The Dry, Dry Desert

1. Where are deserts located?

2. What types of deserts are there?

3. What is the largest desert and where is it located?

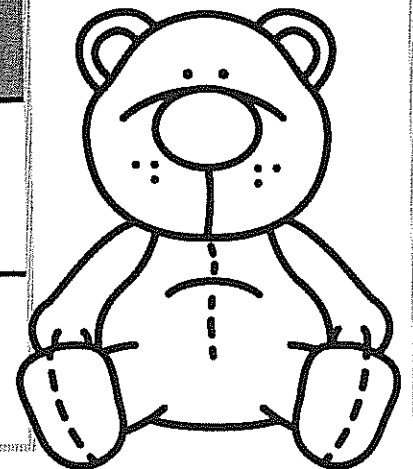
4. What is the range of temperatures in the desert?

5. What are most desert animals like?

Making a Teddy Bear

What is better to cuddle with at night than a teddy bear? 10
 Teddy bears have been helping kids 18
 get to sleep for many years, but have you ever 28
 wondered how one is made? Teddy bears are 36
 produced in a factory. Some teddy bears are put 45
 together using machines and others are made by 53
 hand. To make a teddy bear, companies start 61
 with pieces of fur. The pieces are cut out, and 71
 then some are sewn together, leaving an opening 79
 for stuffing. After the bear is stuffed, it is 88
 sewn the rest of the way together. Finally, the 97
 face goes on, with plastic eyes, and a stitched or 107
 plastic nose. The teddy bear is ready to cuddle! 116

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Comprehension Questions: Making a Teddy Bear

1. Where are teddy bears produced?

2. What do you think it means when it says teddy bears are made by hand?

3. What is the first step in making a teddy bear?

4. What is the last step in making a teddy bear?

5. What other items do you think may be made in the same way?
