

Name: _____

Life in the American Colonies

By Anita Kim Venegas

Imagine sailing across the Atlantic Ocean in the early 1600s. With hopes of owning land and religious freedom, people sailed for 60 days or more. Babies cried, food rotted, sailors shouted, and families waited on deck to catch sight of the New World.

"Land!" someone shouted and everyone looked west to the horizon. Parents lifted their small children to look over the rail. The long journey was about to end. Stepping cautiously onto the rocky shores, families noticed endless forests and wilderness. People needed food, fresh water, shelter, and safety. Men chopped trees for timber to build log shelters, women searched nearby for edible plants while children chased one another.



Painting depicting the James Fort construction in May-June 1607.



The first attempt at colonization in 1607 was a failure. Settlers in Jamestown were met with unfriendly Native Americans as well as a lack of fresh water. A second settlement in present-day Massachusetts became the setting and story of Thanksgiving. Colonists were fortunate to find fields ready for planting and a helpful Native American named Squanto to teach them to plant corn, beans, and squash. Even so, nearly half of the settlers died before the winter of 1620 ended. These first two settlements focused on survival while later settlements focused on making products and growing crops to sell to England.

A Native American named Squanto helped teach colonists to plant crops in present day Massachusetts.

Near present-day Boston, a third attempt to establish a colony was an economic success. Throughout the Massachusetts Bay Colony, families built homes and started businesses. The town needed craftsmen to work as blacksmiths and shipbuilders, as well as fishermen and fur trappers.

Climate and geography influenced the type of work settlers did. Settlers in the north cleared forests for timber to build furniture and export it to England. Farmers in the south grew tobacco to export to England on the ships that were built in the north. As trade expanded in different directions, the colonies imported sugar and molasses from the islands, then exported these products to England. In exchange, England exported cloth, iron, and glass to the colonies.

Native Americans befriended the newcomers when they could trade with them to attain new items from England. Natives traded furs in exchange for axes and guns from the settlers. Violence erupted when either the Native Americans or the settlers felt cheated in some way. Perhaps an agreement was made, and then broken. Perhaps one or the other felt they did not get a fair trade.

For many years, the colonies were profitable for England. Settlers sent goods across the Atlantic, and the British sold them in the European market. When England raised their prices for the colonists, and colonists found they could pay less than what England charged, the colonists bought from other countries. England reminded the colonies that they were established to make a profit for the King of England and not for themselves. England began imposing restrictions on colonists, writing laws that forbade the colonists to buy from other countries besides England.

After leaving their homeland in search of new opportunities and freedoms, the English laws angered the colonists. While they had no voice in the laws that were made, they were forced by England to obey the laws, and pay the taxes. Colonists were unhappy and began to speak of independence; at first in whispers, and then in public meetings. Revolution was coming to the North American colonies.



Drawing showing Native Americans trading with the first settlers.

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1. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?
 - a. to persuade readers to move to America
 - b. to teach readers how to establish a colony
 - c. to entertain readers with an amusing story in American history
 - d. to inform readers about the history of English colonists in America



2. List three items mentioned in the article that were exported from the American colonies to England.

_____, _____, and _____

3. List three items mentioned in the article that were imported from the England to the American colonies.

_____, _____, and _____

4. Which statement about life in the American colonies is an opinion?
 - a. Life was difficult for all settlers in the American colonies.
 - b. Native Americans traded furs in exchange for axes and guns from the settlers.
 - c. England imposed laws and taxes on the American colonists.
 - d. Farmers in the southern American colonies grew tobacco.

5. Reread the following sentence from the article.

Climate and geography influenced the type of work the settlers did.

What do the words climate and geography mean?

Name: _____

Life in the American Colonies

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Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. New World | a. having to do with money |
| _____ 2. failure | b. buying and selling goods |
| _____ 3. settlers | c. lucky |
| _____ 4. fortunate | d. land in North and South America |
| _____ 5. economic | e. people who makes things from iron |
| _____ 6. blacksmiths | f. not a success |
| _____ 7. trade | g. people who live in England |
| _____ 8. revolution | h. people who make a home in a new place |
| _____ 9. British | i. an event in which citizens attempt to overthrow the government |

Name: _____

A Lizard with a Blue Tongue

By Guy Belleranti

Australia is home to some of the world's most interesting animals. One group of lizards living on the Australian continent stands out in a colorful way—they all have blue tongues! These lizards are called blue-tongued skinks.



Blue-tongued skinks are smooth-scaled reptiles with large heads, long bodies, and very short legs. They can grow up to two feet long.

These peculiar animals are active during the daytime, and just like other reptiles, they regulate their body temperature by warming up in the sun and cooling down in the shade. At night, they find shelter in logs, under leaf litter, and in burrows.

Female blue-tongued skinks don't lay eggs. Instead, the soft egg sacs hatch inside their bodies and the young are born live. The babies are miniature versions of the adults. Within a few days, they're off to fend for themselves.

One of the most important daytime jobs for every blue-tongued skink is searching for food. Using its blue tongue to "smell," it finds scrumptious foods like fruit, flowers, snails, insects, slugs, and worms. At the same time, it must watch out for predators such as large raptors, large snakes, kookaburras, and feral dogs and cats.

Unlike most other lizards, this short-legged, low-to-the-ground reptile moves too slowly to outrun most predators. Still, if a blue-tongued skink is grabbed by a predator from behind, it can make an escape by allowing its own tail to fall off. Later, a new tail will regenerate, or grow back.

When a blue-tongued skink is faced by a predator head-on, it has to use a different defense mechanism than losing its tail. This is because the gentle blue-tongued skink has peg-like teeth that aren't sharp enough to deliver dangerous bites. Instead the skink's best chance of survival is to puff up its body, making itself look larger. Then, it opens its jaws, startling the predator with its bright pink mouth and long blue tongue, while hissing loudly. The bright colors it displays are a warning sign in the animal kingdom: "Keep away! I'm poisonous!" Although blue-tongued skinks really aren't poisonous, the predator doesn't know this.



Did you know that blue-tongued skinks are becoming popular pets in Australia? These unique, mild-mannered reptiles sure look a lot different than the average lizard! As the largest of all types of skinks, and one of the gentlest, it's not surprising to see why these reptiles have made their way into peoples homes—and hearts!



About the Author

Guy Belleranti is an author of fiction, poetry, articles, puzzles, and humor for children and adults. He also works as a docent at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences teaching children about the wild animals at the zoo.

Name: _____

A Lizard with a Blue Tongue

By Guy Belleranti



1. According to the article, what is a disadvantage of a blue-tongued skink's body being close to the ground?
 - a. It's body absorbs too much heat from the ground.
 - b. It cannot quickly run away from predators.
 - c. It has a difficult time finding food.
 - d. It cannot fit into spaces like logs, under leaf litter, or in burrows.
2. Compared with other reptiles, the blue-tongued skink is generally more...
 - a. gentle
 - b. aggressive
 - c. poisonous
 - d. fearful

3. Describe some unique physical features of the blue-tongued skink.

4. According to the information in the article, how are blue-tongued skinks similar to mammals?
 - a. They are warm-blooded
 - b. They have hairs on their body
 - c. The females give birth to live young
 - d. They feed their young milk

5. Describe two ways the blue-tongued skink can defend itself from predators.

Name: _____

A Lizard with a Blue Tongue

By Guy Belleranti

Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.



- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. peculiar | a. birds of prey |
| _____ 2. startling | b. an animal that hunts and eats other animals |
| _____ 3. scrumptious | c. to keep under control |
| _____ 4. predator | d. strange; unusual |
| _____ 5. regulate | e. to regrow a part of the body |
| _____ 6. burrows | f. frightening; catching off guard |
| _____ 7. raptors | g. extremely tiny |
| _____ 8. miniature | h. delicious; tasty |
| _____ 9. regenerate | i. untamed; wild |
| _____ 10. feral | j. tunnels or holes dug by small animals |

Name: _____

A Lizard with a Blue Tongue

By Guy Belleranti

In the article, "A Lizard with a Blue Tongue," you learned that blue-tongued skinks will fool their predators into thinking they're poisonous to eat when they aren't. The brightly-colored tongues and mouths of the skinks help them to trick their predators into thinking this.



Choose another species that uses a disguise, trick, or physical feature to fool its predators into staying away. Describe the species, identify a predator it might have, and explain the disguise, trick, or feature it uses to scare away the predator.

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Name: _____

Dr. Seuss: Helping Kids Learn to Read



Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904. He was an American cartoonist and writer. His real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts.

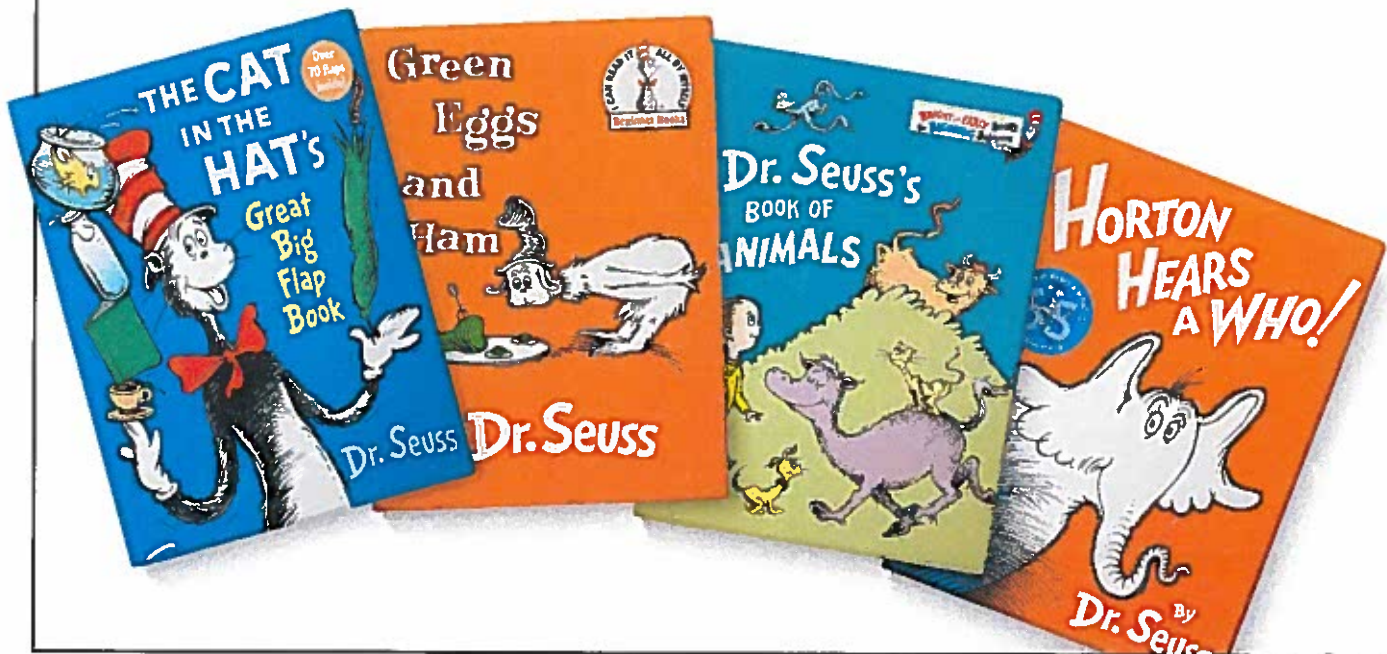
Dr. Seuss liked to draw and write, even as a child. The first book that Dr. Seuss wrote was titled, *And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*. He wrote it while on an ocean voyage, returning from a trip to Europe. The rhythm of the ship's engine gave him the feeling for the poetry rhythm in the story!

Dr. Seuss was not a real doctor. He added the "Dr." to his name to honor his dad, who wanted Theodor to finish his doctoral degree. Even though he never became a

real doctor, he did write books that helped millions of kids learn to read. Dr. Seuss had also used other names, or "pen names," to write books. These names include Theophrastus Seuss, Theo LeSieg (which is his real name spelled backwards), and Rosetta Stone.

Dr. Seuss wrote more than 60 children's books, including some which have been made into movies, such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Dr. Seuss wrote lots of books for children, even though he and his wife never had children of their own. He died at age 87, in San Diego, California.



Name: _____

Dr. Seuss: Helping Kids Learn to Read



1. When and where was Dr. Seuss born?

2. Where was Dr. Seuss when he wrote his first book?

3. Name three Dr. Seuss books that have been made into movies.

4. What other pen names did Theodor Geisel use to write books?

5. Dr. Seuss was not a real doctor. Why did he add the title "Dr." to his pen name?

6. What is your favorite Dr. Seuss book and why?

Name: _____

Rise and Shine! It's Nighttime!

by Guy Belleranti

Animals that sleep during the day and come out at night are called nocturnal.

For desert-dwelling animals, being active at night allows them to escape the heat of day and to conserve water. Many snakes and rodents are examples of desert animals that prefer the night.

The darkness of night makes it easier for some animals to escape predators, especially if the animal is dark enough to blend into its surroundings. Some animals are always listening with their extra good hearing while others keep close watch with great night vision.

Then there's the hedgehog, a small nocturnal mammal that rolls up into a ball of spiny hairs when danger comes near. Because it is active only at night, it can usually wander around unseen. The skunk, another nocturnal animal, has a most smelly way to defend itself. Its fur is mostly black, which blends in with the darkness.



Of course, there are predators that are especially adapted for night hunting, so no prey animal is safe simply because it's nocturnal. Owls and certain species of cats are very effective nocturnal hunters because they have great night vision and excellent hearing. In addition to this, owls have softer feathers than most other birds so they can swoop silently down upon prey. Of course cats don't have feathers, but the soft pads on their feet allow them to quietly sneak up on small animals. Cats also use their whiskers to help feel their way in the dark.

Another predator that's well-known for its nocturnal behavior



is the insect-eating bat. You've probably heard the expression "blind as a bat." Many people are surprised to learn that most bats aren't really blind- they're just color blind. Instead of using their eyes to hunt for an insect dinner they use echolocation. What is echolocation? It works like this: The bat emits a very high-pitched sound. The sound is so high that people can't even hear it. However, the bat has specially adapted ears so it can hear these sounds just fine. When the sound hits an object it bounces, or echoes, back. From the sound of the echo the bat immediately knows the object's size and location. Its echolocation can also determine if an object is a yummy insect or something that can't be eaten like a plant or a tree.



About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with animals and teaching others.

Name: _____

Rise and Shine! It's Nighttime!

by Guy Belleranti



1. According to the information in the article, why are many desert snakes and rodents nocturnal?

2. Fill in table below to show ways animals have adapted to survive at night. Use only information from the article. Some boxes have already been filled in.

	adaptation 1	adaptation 2	adaptation 3	adaptation 4
bat				
skunk		sprays a smelly chemical		
owl	excellent night vision			
cat				excellent hearing

3. What is echolocation?
- a. A way of making high-pitched sounds that bats use to communicate.
 - b. A method of making high-pitched sounds that bats use to avoid being eaten.
 - c. A high-pitched sound that helps bats fly after dark.
 - d. The ability to make a high-pitched sound that bats use to locate things in the dark.

4. Reread the following sentence from the article.

For desert dwelling animals, being active at night allows them to escape the heat of day and to conserve water.

Which is the best definition for the underlined word?

- a. living or residing
- b. nighttime hunter
- c. heat-loving
- d. healthy

Name: _____

Rise and Shine! It's Nighttime!

by Guy Belleranti



Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

_____ 1. conserve

a. move downward from the air

_____ 2. wander

b. saying; commonly used phrase

_____ 3. emits

c. protect

_____ 4. swoop

d. ability to see

_____ 5. expression

e. move around aimlessly

_____ 6. immediately

f. sound waves bouncing off a hard surface

_____ 7. vision

g. gives off

_____ 8. echos

h. right away

Name: _____

Rise and Shine! It's Nighttime!

by Guy Belleranti



In the article, "Rise and Shine! It's Nighttime!", you learned about several different nocturnal animals.

Choose one animal mentioned in the article. Research the animal using books, the encyclopedia, or the Internet. Write a paragraph with interesting facts about the animal you chose.

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Name: _____

Painting My Bedroom

Imagine you were a wonderful painter and your parents would let you paint anything you wanted on your bedroom walls. What would you paint? Describe what it would look like.



Name: _____

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Painting My Bedroom

Name: _____

Painting My Bedroom

Draw a picture to go along with your story.

Name: _____

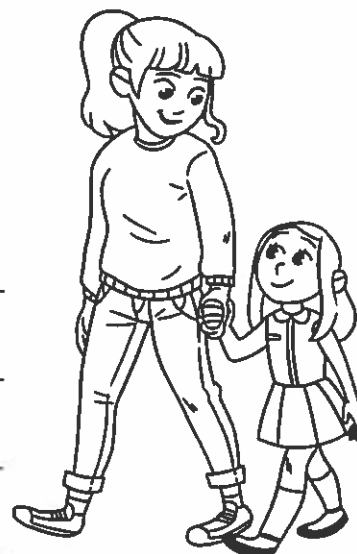
Painting My Bedroom



Name: _____

A Special Afternoon

If you could spend the afternoon with any member of your extended family, who would it be? Explain what you would do and why you like to spend time with that person.



Name: _____

Page _____

A Special Afternoon

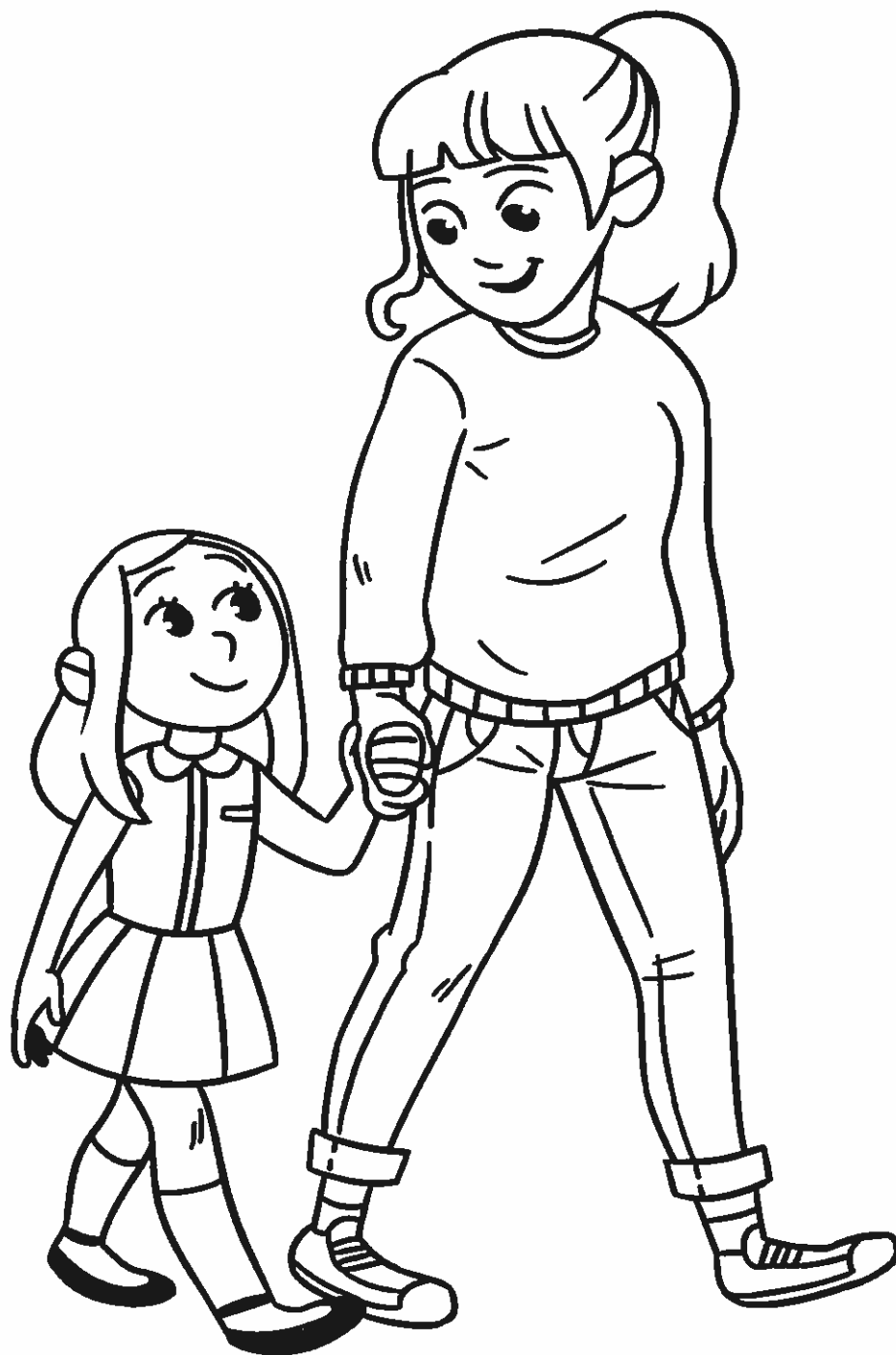
Name: _____

A Special Afternoon

Draw a picture to go along with your story.

Name: _____

A Special Afternoon



Name: _____

My Restaurant

Imagine you opened your own restaurant. Explain what the restaurant looks like, who works there, and what you serve.

[illegible]

Page _____

[illegible]

Name: _____

Page _____

My Restaurant

Draw a picture to go along with your story.