

1st Grade

Day 4

Hummingbirds: Small and Special



Kelly Hunt/Photos by MK

Hummingbirds are very special for many reasons. For one, they are very, very small. The smallest kind of hummingbird weighs less than 2 grams. That's less than half the weight of a sheet of paper!

Hummingbirds are also special for the way they fly. They are the only birds that can hover. That means they can stay in one place while flying. Plus, they can fly backwards and even upside down!

All of that flying is supported by a hummingbird's wings. These birds normally beat their wings up to 70 times per second. They can beat their wings much faster when they dive quickly.

How does a hummingbird get all the energy it needs to beat its wings and fly? It gets energy from the food it eats! Hummingbirds get a lot of their food

from flowers. They drink nectar from flowers using their long, thin beaks and tube-like tongues.

When hummingbirds get their food from a flower, they also help the flower. How? By pollinating it! When hummingbirds put their beak into a tube-like flower, some of the flower's pollen can get on them. Then, when they go to sip nectar from another flower, they move the pollen to that new flower. If the pollen lands in the right place in the flower, the plant will grow new seeds. So hummingbirds help lots of plants survive and grow. These birds are truly special!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How much do hummingbirds weigh?

- A. more than twice the weight of a sheet of paper
- B. less than half the weight of a sheet of paper
- C. more than twice the weight of a baseball

2. The text lists reasons why hummingbirds are special. What is one of these reasons?

- A. They have beautiful feathers and wings.
- B. They can hover, fly backwards, and even fly upside down.
- C. They have babies that they raise.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"All of that flying is supported by a hummingbird's wings. These birds normally beat their wings up to 70 times per second. They can beat their wings much faster when they dive quickly."

Based on this information, what can we conclude about hummingbirds?

- A. They don't need a lot of energy.
- B. They are lazy birds.
- C. They need a lot of energy.

4. How do hummingbirds help lots of plants survive and grow?

- A. Hummingbirds drink nectar from flowers using their long, thin beaks and tube-like tongues.
- B. Hummingbirds fly to different flowers to get the food they need so they have a lot of energy.
- C. Hummingbirds move pollen from one flower to another flower which helps the plants make new seeds.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Hummingbirds are small special birds that can fly in different ways and help plants make new seeds.
- B. Hummingbirds can beat their wings much faster than 70 times per second when they dive quickly.
- C. When hummingbirds put their beak into a tube-like flower, some of the flower's pollen can get on them.

Name _____

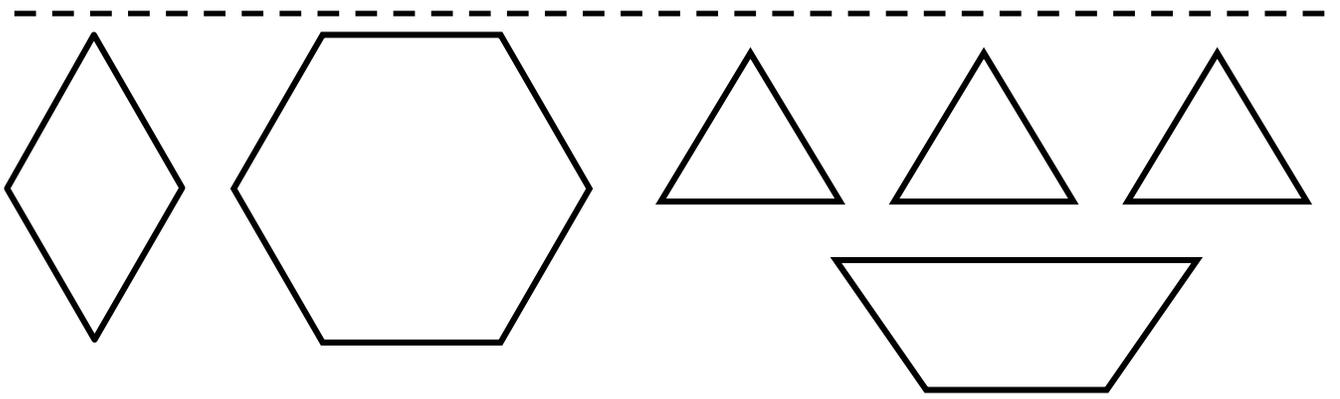
Date _____

Cut out the pattern block shapes from the bottom of the page. Color them to match the key, which is different from the pattern block colors in class. Trace or draw to show what you did.

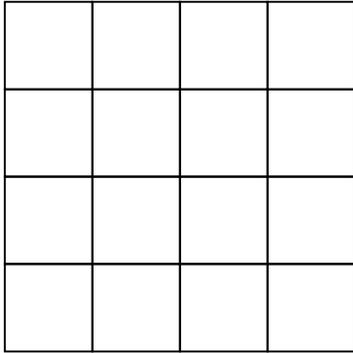
Hexagon—red	Triangle—blue	Rhombus—yellow	Trapezoid—green
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1. Use 3 triangles to make 1 trapezoid.

2. Use 3 triangles to make 1 trapezoid, and then add 1 trapezoid to make 1 hexagon.



3. How many squares do you see in this large square?



I can find _____ squares in this rectangle.

Oceans Around the World



United States Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook

World Map

Take a look at a map of the world. What does all that blue stand for?

That blue space is water! Most of the earth is covered in water. The huge body of water that covers most of the earth is called the world ocean. But this is made up of five main oceans.

Two of the main oceans are the Pacific and the Atlantic. These are the two biggest oceans. They both touch North and South America. The Pacific is to the west of these continents. The Atlantic is to the east.

The third biggest ocean is the Indian Ocean. It stretches between Africa and Australia.

The smallest ocean is the Arctic Ocean. It is by the North Pole.

The Southern Ocean is the last ocean. It has no real edges, so it's hard to say how big it is. It is made up of the water near Antarctica.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does the blue on a map stand for?

- A. land
- B. mountains
- C. water

2. This text lists Earth's five oceans. Which of the oceans is the smallest?

- A. the Arctic Ocean
- B. the Southern Ocean
- C. the Pacific Ocean

3. Read these sentences about our earth's oceans:

"The huge body of water that covers most of the earth is called the world ocean. But this is made up of five main oceans."

- A. The five main oceans are all separate.
- B. The five main oceans are all connected.
- C. The five main oceans are very small.

4. What is "Oceans Around the World" mostly about?

- A. the borders of the five main oceans
- B. the blue space on a map
- C. the size of the Pacific Ocean

5. What do we call the huge body of water that covers most of the earth?

The huge body of water that covers most of the earth is called the _____.

6. What did you learn from "Oceans Around the World"?

7. Class Discussion Question: Discuss the borders of the world's five oceans. Use information from the text to support your answer.

8. Draw a picture of one of the world's oceans.

Who Wants a Spiny Snack?

by American Museum of Natural History

This article is provided courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History.



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A hungry shark looks for its next meal. It spots a small fish.

But as the shark gets close, PUFF-PUFF-PUFF! The fish puffs out into a big ball. And it's covered with sharp spines! Ouch! The shark swims away. The small pufferfish is safe for now.



For a small fish, the ocean is full of danger. Bigger fish, sharks, and even birds eat small fish. Animals that hunt other animals are called predators. Pufferfish have their own way to stay safe from predators.



A shark uses its sharp teeth to catch and eat fish.

All animals have special ways to stay alive. These are called adaptations. An adaptation is a body part or action that helps an animal live. Predators have adaptations that help them hunt. Imagine a shark's sharp teeth. This adaptation helps a shark catch and eat fish.

Other fishes have adaptations too. These adaptations help keep them safe from predators. Some fish might be fast enough to escape a predator. Others might be able to blend in and hide on the ocean floor.



Can you find the flounder?

But some animals don't run or hide. They have bodies that are hard to eat. Porcupines have long sharp spines. So do sea urchins in the ocean. Spines protect these animals. Predators don't like spiny food!



Porcupines have long sharp spines that protect them.

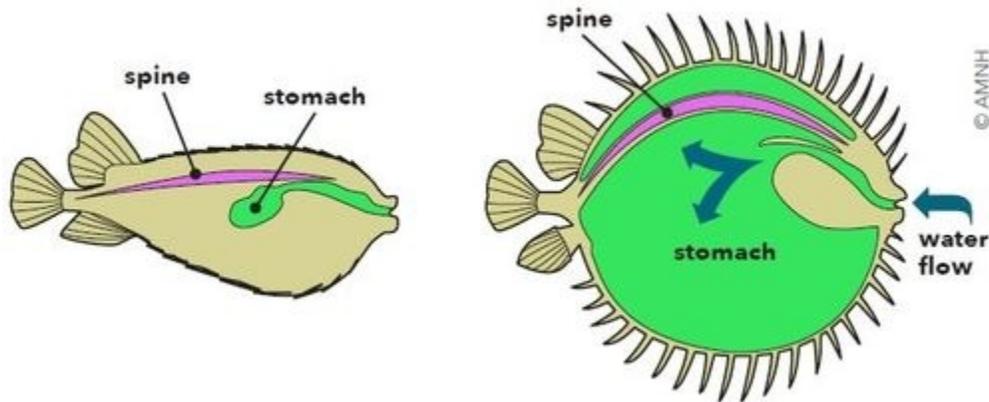
Some toads and snakes have another way to prevent a predator from trying to eat them. They puff up to look bigger. Pufferfish do both of these things. They puff up AND they have spines.



A pufferfish's skin is hard and covered with sharp spines.

Swimming along, a pufferfish looks like any other fish. When a predator gets close, the puffer swells up like a big balloon. Some people call it a balloon fish. But this fish is not soft and smooth like a balloon. Its skin is hard and covered with sharp spines. These spines usually lie flat on the side of the fish. When the fish puffs up, the spines stick out in all directions.

How does the puffer "puff" up? It's not filled with air like a balloon. It's full of water. The fish gulps lots of water into its stomach. Filled with water, its stomach becomes almost one hundred times bigger. Other body parts inside the puffer are pushed to the side to make room.



A puffer can turn into a spiny ball in a few seconds. Then only the biggest animals can eat it. The ocean may be full of dangers, but the puffer is ready. Adaptations like sharp spines and puffing up help keep the puffer safe.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. At the beginning of the text, what does the small fish do when the hungry shark gets close?

- A. It puffs out into a big ball covered with sharp spines.
- B. It shoots spines at the shark as the shark comes near.
- C. It swims away as quickly as it can.

2. What does the author describe in this text?

- A. how sharks stay safe from other predators
- B. how different kinds of toads puff up
- C. how the pufferfish puffs up

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"Other fishes have adaptations too. These adaptations help keep them safe from predators. Some fish might be fast enough to escape a predator. Others might be able to blend in and hide on the ocean floor."

What conclusion can you draw based on this information from the text?

- A. If a fish does not have any adaptations, it is important for it to be able to swim quickly.
- B. A fish that can swim quickly is more likely to stay safe than a fish that can blend in with the ocean floor.
- C. Being able to blend in with the ocean floor is an adaptation that can keep fish safe.

4. When a predator comes near a pufferfish, the fish puffs up to look bigger. Why might a pufferfish want to look bigger?

- A. to make the predator want to eat it
- B. to stop a predator from trying to eat it
- C. to fight the predator

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Adaptations like sharp spines and puffing up help keep pufferfish safe in the ocean.
- B. Adaptations like sharp teeth help sharks catch and eat fish in the ocean.
- C. The ocean is full of dangerous predators that eat small fish.

6. Read this sentence from the text.

"When a predator gets close, the puffer swells up like a big balloon."

Why might the author have compared the pufferfish to a balloon in this sentence?

- A. to hint to the reader that balloons also swell up when large animals get close
- B. to show the reader that pufferfish and balloons are made of similar things
- C. to help the reader understand what it looks like when the pufferfish swells up

7. Read these sentences from the text.

"Spines protect these animals. Predators don't like spiny food!"

How could you rewrite these two sentences as one sentence without changing their meaning?

- A. Spines protect these animals because predators don't like spiny food.
- B. Spines protect these animals, so predators don't like spiny food.
- C. Spines protect these animals, but predators don't like spiny food.

8. What is an adaptation?

9. Why do pufferfish need adaptations like sharp spines and puffing up? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. A shark is a predator that hunts and eats smaller fish like pufferfish. Explain why a shark might need different adaptations than a pufferfish in order to survive. Support your answer with evidence from the text.