

Amazing Animal Helpers



Brien Aho/U.S. Navy/Getty Images
K-Dog, a bottlenose dolphin, has a camera attached to its flipper to record underwater objects. 2003.

This dolphin is helping soldiers. How? It looks for hidden objects on the ocean floor. Other animals help people too. Jump inside to learn all about them!

Animals Have Special Jobs!

Many different types of animals help people. See how these animals lend a hand—or a flipper, hoof, or paw!

Diving Dolphins

A special team of bottlenose dolphins helps the U.S. Navy in the ocean waters near Iraq. The dolphins use **sonar** to find unsafe objects in the water. Sonar is the use of sound to find things. After the dolphins finish their job, they are rewarded with a favorite snack—fish! The dolphins' work helps keep our troops safe from harm.

Reading Dogs

Some dogs help children become better readers. The dogs sit and listen to the children read. That helps kids feel confident while they read. The dogs do not rush the kids or correct them.

Helpful Horses

Meet Cuddles, a guide horse. She is full-grown at 2 feet tall. That is about the size of a large dog. Cuddles helps guide her owner, who is blind. Cuddles wears special sneakers to protect her hooves.

Marvelous Monkeys

Some monkeys help people who cannot move their arms or legs. The monkeys are trained to do tasks such as getting water from the refrigerator or putting a CD in a music player.



osha.gov

This dog helps find people buried in collapsed buildings.

Hot Dogs!

Take a look at some ways these furry friends help people.

- Some dogs look for people who could be buried in snow.
- A dog can search for people in the water.
- Other dogs work to cheer up sick children in hospitals.
- A colorful poodle might visit a child in a hospital.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What job does Cuddles the horse do for her owner?
 - A She finds unsafe objects in the water.
 - B She wears special sneakers to protect her hooves.
 - C She guides her owner who is blind.
 - D She gets her owner water from the refrigerator.

2. The passage compares different animals. What do all the animals described in the passage have in common?
 - A All of them have been trained to help humans.
 - B All of them use sonar to find objects in the ocean.
 - C All of them are small animals.
 - D All of them enjoy the jobs that they do.

3. How do the animals described in the passage affect the lives of humans?
 - A The animals affect the lives of humans in ways that can't be noticed.
 - B The animals affect the lives of humans in both positive and negative ways.
 - C The animals affect the lives of humans in a negative way.
 - D The animals affect the lives of humans in a positive way.

4. "The monkeys are trained to do tasks such as getting water from the refrigerator or putting a CD in a music player." In the passage, the word **tasks** most nearly means
 - A important plans
 - B helpful jobs
 - C sharp objects
 - D easy activities

5. The main idea of this passage is that
 - A people who are blind can have a trained horse help them go places
 - B it is very important for humans to have animals to help them
 - C dogs are the best kind of animal helpers
 - D there are different kinds of animals that help humans

6. How do bottlenose dolphins help the U.S. Navy in the ocean waters near Iraq?

7. What word can be used to describe one of the animals that help people in the passage? Explain why this word can be used to describe the animal. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

8. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Dogs can help children feel more confident as readers _____ the dogs do not make them feel bad if they make mistakes or read slowly.

- A but
- B because
- C so
- D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

A team of bottlenose dolphins uses sonar underwater to help find unsafe objects.

Who? a team of bottlenose dolphins

(finds) What? _____

Where? _____

How? _____

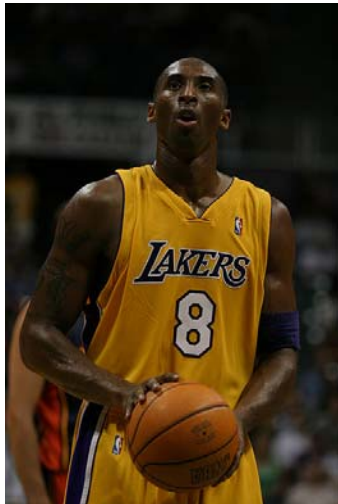
10. Read the vocabulary word and definition below and complete questions 10a, 10b, and 11.

Vocabulary word: confident (con· fi ·dent): to be feeling strong and positive.

10a. Read the sentences below and underline the word **confident**.

1. She had practiced so much that she felt very confident about performing in the play.
2. The soccer player was confident that he would make several goals during the game.
3. The teacher was confident that her students would understand the reading.
4. Once I understood what to do, I was confident that I would be able to do it.
5. I am confident that my friends will come to my birthday party.

10b. Which of the following pictures shows a confident person?



11. Would you feel confident if you were asked to dive into the ocean off a steep cliff? Why or why not?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 670

Featured Text Structure: Enumerative – the writer includes a list, giving examples of something. This text structure is often combined with cause/effect or problem/solution.

Passage Summary: The text describes ways that different kinds of animals help people. The author explains how dolphins, dogs, horses and monkeys all help humans in different ways.

1. What job does Cuddles the horse do for her owner?

- A She finds unsafe objects in the water.
- B She wears special sneakers to protect her hooves.
- C **She guides her owner who is blind.**
- D She gets her owner water from the refrigerator.

2. The passage compares different animals. What do all the animals described in the passage have in common?

- A **All of them have help humans.**
- B All of them use sonar to find objects in the ocean.
- C All of them are small animals.
- D All of them enjoy the jobs that they do.

3. How do the animals described in the passage affect the lives of humans?

- A The animals affect the lives of humans in ways that can't be noticed.
- B The animals affect the lives of humans in both positive and negative ways.
- C The animals affect the lives of humans in negative ways.
- D **The animals affect the lives of humans in positive ways.**

4. "The monkeys are trained to do tasks such as getting water from the refrigerator or putting a CD in a music player." In the passage, the word **tasks** most nearly means

- A important plans
- B **helpful jobs**
- C sharp objects
- D easy activities

5. The main idea of this passage is that

- A people who are blind can have a trained horse help them go places
- B it is very important for humans to have animals to help them
- C dogs are the best kind of animal helpers
- D **there are different kinds of animals that help humans**

6. How do bottlenose dolphins help the U.S. Navy in the ocean waters near Iraq?

Suggested answer: The dolphins use sonar to find unsafe objects in the water. This helps keep our troops safe from harm. [paragraph #3]

7. What word can be used to describe one of the animals that help people in the passage? Explain why this word can be used to describe the animal. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Suggested answer: Monkeys can be described as smart since they can be trained to do tasks that are not natural to them, such as getting water from the refrigerator or putting a CD in a music player.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Dogs can help children feel more confident as readers _____ the dogs do not make them feel bad if they make mistakes or read slowly.

- A but
- B **because**
- C so
- D after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

A team of bottlenose dolphins uses sonar underwater to help find unsafe objects.

Who? a team of bottlenose dolphins

(finds) What? **unsafe objects**

Where? **underwater**

How? **uses sonar**

10. ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: confident

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (con· fi ·dent)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is confident. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "confident."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "Confident means feeling strong and positive."
- b. Teacher says: "The passage describes how dogs can help children feel confident while the children read out loud to the dogs. This means the dogs help the children feel strong and positive about themselves as readers."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "confident."]

Step 3: Practice the word

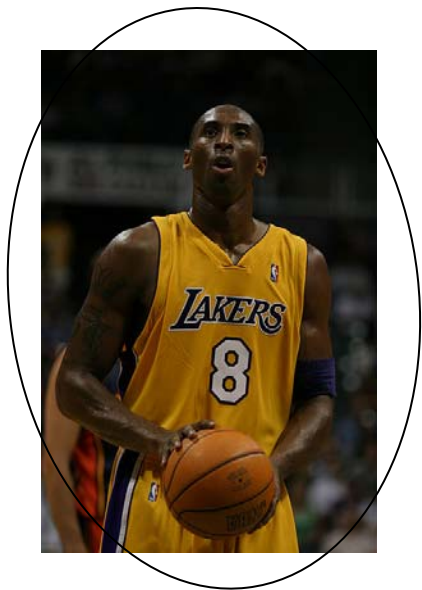
Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again and when you come to the vocabulary word prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

- 10a.**
1. She had practiced so much that she felt very confident about performing in the play.
 2. The soccer player was confident that he would make several goals during the game.
 3. The teacher was confident that her students would understand the reading.
 4. Once I understood what to do, I was confident that I would be able to do it.
 5. I am confident that my friends will come to my birthday party.

Step 4: Check for student understanding.

This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

- 10b.** Which of the following pictures shows a confident person?



- 11.** Would you feel confident if you were asked to dive into the ocean off a steep cliff? Why or why not?

Suggested Answer: No, I would most likely feel fear because the height would scare me and I would not be confident in my ability to land in the water without injuring myself.

Suggested Additional Vocabulary: unsafe, tasks