7th GRADE

Reading/Writing - Modified
Zoos

A zoo, also known as an animal park, is a site where animals are kept in enclosures for the purposes of being viewed by the general public. Animals remain in zoos for most of their lives. Many animals in zoos are also participants in breeding programs and scientific studies. Many of us have had the pleasure of visiting a zoo and enjoying the remarkable display of different animal species.

The Origin of the Zoo
Zoos were originally created as a way to collect and display exotic creatures. Excavations in Egypt reveal that unique animals like the hartebeest, hippopotami, and baboons were collected in zoos called menageries. Leaders in the ancient world prided themselves on their zoos. King Solomon of the Kingdom of Israel and Judah and Alexander the Great of Greece were both famous collectors of animals.

It became common for powerful rulers to use animals as a method to display their wealth and power. The Aztec emperor created a "house of animals" in his city. He kept a diverse collection of reptiles, mammals, and birds. In fact, his collection was so expansive that it required more than 600 employees to maintain!

The Ancient Greeks had a slightly different approach to zoos. Rather than seeing them as just a sign of wealth, they were curious about the animal kingdom and wished to study the different species. They also encouraged scholars to visit zoos as a vital component of their education.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth century, zoos were also created as a result of European exploration. Explorers were sailing the seas in search of new lands. Their discoveries included new flora and fauna. They would take these fascinating animals, new plant species, and aromatic spices back to their country of origin. The animals were placed in cages in private gardens owned by wealthy aristocrats. These garden zoos were not open to the public and only those invited by the owner had the privilege of viewing these unusual creatures.

Modern Zoos
Modern zoos are dramatically different from early zoos curated by ancient rulers and European explorers. In today's world, zoos are not a display of wealth or simply a celebration of the exotic. Instead, they are hubs for scientific research and education. The first modern zoo was established in Paris, France in 1794. A similar zoo was set up in London in 1828. By 1860, Australia opened its first zoo in Melbourne. The United States opened its first zoo, the Central Park Zoo, in the same year.
However, the treatment of animals has evolved significantly since the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Animals were originally kept in cement cages with metal bars or wire on the front.

As people gained more knowledge of animals from around the world, through scientific research and travel, animal enclosures in zoos began to change to reflect the natural habitat of each animal. Today, animals are able to thrive in environments similar to their natural habitats. Special arrangements are made to suit the needs of each unique animal.

For example, nocturnal creatures are kept in enclosures with reverse light-dark cycles. This allows visitors to see these animals during the daytime under very dim white light or red light. At night, these animals are exposed to bright lights to simulate the daytime.

Conservation
In addition to making it possible for children and adults to learn more about wildlife, zoos also play a significant role in the conservation of animal species. This practice began to emerge during the 1970s, when scientists started to realize that certain animal species are diminishing in population or becoming extinct. They saw zoos as a way to prevent this. They thought zoos could serve as educational institutions to the public.

The Jersey Zoo, pioneered by Gerald Durrell, did exactly that and educated people on conservation. Durrell also believed that zoos needed to set up breeding programs for endangered animals. Durrell worked with zoos from around the world to increase populations of endangered species.

There has been growing controversy over the moral issue of keeping animals in zoos. One major concern is that zoos place limitations on the natural behavior of wild animals. For example, elephants in the wild usually travel approximately 45 kilometers a day. Elephants kept in zoos are unable to travel such a long distance. Furthermore, animals who migrate seasonally are notable to carry out this natural behavior. In addition to these issues, it can be challenging and expensive for zoos to replicate the natural environment of all their creatures. Penguins, for example, require an environment that reflects the freezing conditions of Antarctica.

Despite these challenges, zoos have developed significantly throughout history and play an integral role in educating us on the uniqueness of the animal kingdom. The research they allow and the breeding programs they support also play a vital part in ensuring endangered species do not become extinct.
Questions

1. How do you know this is not a firsthand account of visiting a zoo?
   
   A. The author talks about the controversy surrounding zoos.
   B. The author does not include anecdotes or personal stories about her experiences.
   C. The author uses technical terms in her description of zoos.
   D. The author does not include any positive aspects of zoos.

2. Based on the text, which of the following statements can you infer about zoos? Select all that apply.
   
   A. Most zoo animals kept inside small enclosures are nocturnal.
   B. Conservationists have seen success with zoological breeding programs.
   C. Zoos still struggle to adequately meet the needs of every individual animal
   D. All zoos are able to replicate the freezing conditions of Antarctica.

3. What is the author’s main purpose for writing this text?
   
   A. to entertain readers with stories about her time at the zoo
   B. to compare different types of zoos
   C. to convince readers to support breeding programs
   D. to inform readers about the origin, history, and goals of zoos

Writing Prompt:

Zoos have always been controversial. Write an argument that explains whether or not you believe we should continue to fund zoos. Use information from the text, as well as your own background knowledge and opinions, to support your argument.
The Television

The television has become a central element of today's society. A box that transmits sound with moving images might have seemed impossible just 200 years ago. Today, however, the television is used for entertainment, education, news, and advertisements on a daily basis. Nearly every home in the nation contains at least one television.

Early Television Experiments

The very first television was designed in 1927 by a 21-year-old inventor. In 1939, the World's Fair in New York was featured on television. As the speaker at the World's Fair, Franklin Roosevelt was the first president to appear on television.

These early television broadcasts were primitive. Images could only be shown in black and white, and there were not many shows to watch. Few changes to the television were made as America's Attention turned to World War II. It took until 1947 for commercial television broadcasting to enter the modern era.

The Growth of Commercial Television

By 1955, nearly half of all-American homes contained a black and white television set. Viewers could choose between the shows and newscasts offered on a few main stations. Most of the ideas for shows were borrowed from radio. Some of the first shows included *The Texaco Star Theater* and *Howdy Doody*.

Throughout the 1950s, television programming began to move away from radio format. It became more unique. Talk Shows like *The Tonight Show* and *Today Debuted* in the early 1950s. *The Mickey Mouse Club* also debuted for children during this time. One of the most notable comedies was the wildly popular *I Love Lucy*. This sitcom ran from 1951 to 1957.

As the 1960s approached, television news channels became as popular as newspapers. Renowned reporter Walter Cronkite made a name for himself covering everything from presidential elections to the war in Vietnam. John F. Kennedy Proved the power of television after a presidential debate with his rival Richard Nixon. Those who had listened to the debate on the radio felt that Nixon had won. Those watching on the TV, however, preferred the charm and warmth of John F. Kennedy. Kennedy went on to win the presidency.

Color broadcasting emerged in 1964. At this time, almost all television programming came from either ABC, NBCE, or CBS, the three major networks. Topics once hushed in public, like pregnancy, became more acceptable.

Cable and Politics Take over the World Of Television

The next big thing in television was cable. Cable television used a subscription system to offer premiere television. This included sports games, children's programming, and newscasts. ESPN, Nickelodeon, and CNN are all examples of cable channels.
By this time, politicians realized the power of television. President Ronald Reagan had been a Hollywood actor before entering politics. He used television to his own advantage. Reagan placed himself in settings that helped him look more attractive and presidential.

Slowly but surely, television was no longer just a place for entertainment. It had become a new form of communication.

Recent Advances in TV Technology

Ever since the color TV, television technology has become even more sophisticated. Today's TVs hardly resemble the TVs commonly used just 20 years ago.

Today, many televisions are paired with the internet for on-demand streaming and more. Nearly all televisions sold today are also flat screens with a crystal-clear image. Televisions in the 1980s and 1990s could be blurry and unclear. Modern TVs, however, are so accurate that a player's beads of sweat can be seen during a football game.

The Impact of Television on Society

Television has become a staple of American entertainment and communication. It has many impacts on society. While some impacts are positive, others are negative.

Many studies show that television keeps people from spending time with friends, family, and neighbors. It weakens the human bonds that make life so valuable. Health experts believe that the watching of television has also led to the rise in obesity and other related health problems. Furthermore, many people feel that television has exposed young viewers to inappropriate content. This includes violence and foul language.

On a more positive note, TV has had some beneficial effects. News networks keep viewers informed. They help to spread important events from around the globe. Other television shows are educational for children. Television gives friends and family something over which they can bond.

Positive or negative, television is here to stay.
Questions

1. According to the text, what is the relationship between television and politics?
   A. Television caused people to forget about the presidential election.
   B. Many politicians want to outlaw televisions.
   C. Television is an important way for politicians to communicate with the nation.
   D. Television did not prove itself useful in politics.

2. How is television portrayed in the text? Select all that apply.
   A. Helpful to human health
   B. Mostly ignored by people
   C. A major source of entertainment
   D. An important way to get news

3. What was added to the television with the beginning of cable?
   A. Color
   B. Talk shows
   C. News programs
   D. More channels

4. Which of the following changes have been made to television since the 1960s? Select all that apply.
   A. Improved quality of the picture
   B. More available channels
   C. The invention of talk shows
   D. The invention of comedies

5. According to the text, what was the relationship between the radio and television?
   A. The radio advertised the shows that would be playing on television.
   B. The ideas for early television programs came from radio shows.
   C. The radio and television both influenced people have fun.
   D. The radio gave a 21-year-old inventor the idea to create the television.

Writing Prompt:

Is television more helpful than harmful? Why?
Germs

Germs are invisible invaders that cause minor illnesses and serious diseases alike. They are also known as pathogens. Germs can impact plants, animals, and people in many different ways.

The Definition of Germs

Germs are anything that have the ability to cause disease in a plant, animal, or person. They are so small that they can only be seen using a microscope. Germs love wet, dark, warm environments that are rich in nutrients. This is why so many germs are attracted to the human body. Sweat, urine, air, blood, dust, water, food, coughing, sneezing, and touching can all transfer germs from one person to another. Improper hand washing is one of the most common causes of germs spreading to cause infection in the body.

Pathogens can enter the body in four main ways. First, germs come into the body in contaminated food and drinks. Second, many germs sneak into the body from the air. Third, some germs sneak into the bloodstream through wounds and insect bites. Finally, germs are also absorbed through the skin. Germs find a place in the body that is dark, warm, moist, and filled with nutrients. They begin to grow and reproduce. This causes infection, which then can lead to countless health problems and diseases.

Types of Germs

Scientists divide germs into four different categories: bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa.

Germs are commonly found in the form of bacteria - tiny organisms that can survive just about anywhere. Bacteria must steal their nutrients from what is around them in order to survive and reproduce. Common health problems caused by bacteria germs include ear infections, sore throats, cavities, and pneumonia.

Doctors help people fight bacterial infections with antibiotics. Unfortunately, widespread and improper use of antibiotics over the years has created antibiotic resistance. This happens when bacteria no longer respond to antibiotic treatments and cause even more damage. MRSA is one bacterial strain that has become antibiotic resistant, leading to the need for new and innovative treatments.
Edgar Allan Poe

Before there were horror movies that terrified their audiences with suspense and a healthy dose of blood and gore, there was the writing of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe's Horror and mystery tales are unrivaled in American fiction. Born in 1809, Poe lived a life that was as odd and as tumultuous as his writing.

Early Life

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1809 to two actors. By The age of two, his father had left the family, and his mother had passed away. Young Edgar was cared for by Frances and John Allan. The couple provided him with a home but never formally adopted him. Poe's childhood was not an entirely happy one. He was close with Frances Allan, but his relationship with John Allan was complicated. John Allan alternately spoiled and disciplined Edgar. Though he was a father-like figure, John never considered himself fully financially responsible for the boy. When Edgar began college at the University of Virginia, Allan refused to pay for his tuition. This forced Poe to turn to gambling to support his education.

Unable to continue at the University of Virginia, Poe joined the United States Army. He joined under an assumed name and false age. He left his army post two years into a five-year enlistment. After that, he had a short stint at West Point Military Academy, which ended when he intentionally got himself discharged. While in the army, Poe published his first collection of poetry under the pseudonym "a Bostonian" instead of using his real name. The work gained little attention, as did his next two volumes of poetry. At this point in his life, writing was merely a pastime for Poe. After his brother's death in 1831, Poe committed to making his living as a writer.

Poe the Writer

Edgar Allan Poe's career as a writer was filled with almost as much turmoil as his personal life. Upon leaving West Point, he began to focus on his writing. He moved around to various cities. He eventually settled with his aunt and cousin in Baltimore. During this time, he developed a relationship with his 13-year-old cousin, Virginia Clemm. She was both a literary inspiration and a love interest, and the two eventually married.

In 1833, Poe won a prize for his short story, *MS. Found in a Bottle*. This caught the attention of a prominent Boston businessman who would help Poe get published in the future. He also helped secure him his first editorial job at the *Southern Literary Messenger*. While working for the *Messenger*, Poe gained a reputation as a skilled and sharp-tongued critic. He used his position to his advantage, publishing some of his own works in the magazine including his only novel *The Narrative of Gordon Arthur Pym*. In 1839, Poe moved to *Burton's Gentleman's Magazine*. In the same year, he published a collection of
short stories that included *The Fall of the House of Usher*. The book brought him moderate success. However, it was not until 1845, when Poe published his poem *The Raven*, that he really garnered attention.

To this day, the poem, which explores the themes of loss and death, is considered his greatest literary work. Still, the poem success only earned the writer $9. It failed to open doors to future success as a writer.

Poe’s marriage to Virginia was plagued by his drinking and inconsistent employment. In 1842, Virginia contracted tuberculosis, a disease affecting the lungs. At that time, the disease was essentially untreatable. The stress of her illness caused Poe to drink even more heavily until his wife’s death in 1847. Poe continued to write and publish essays, but he was overcome by grief. He passed away just two years later. While the official cause of his death is unknown, illness or substance abuse were most likely the causes. When Poe died in 1849, his writing was only known in small circles. He had failed to fully support himself financially through his craft.

**Poe’s Legacy**

Edgar Allan Poe was relatively unsuccessful as a writer during his lifetime. However, his writing is widely known, published, and read today. He is seen as one of the major forces in American Gothic literature, genre combining horror, fiction, and romance. He is also credited with creating the literary form “detective fiction.” When he published his detective short story *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* in 1841, it was the first of its kind. Today, millions of high school and college students read and study Poe’s poetry and short stories. They never cease to shock and surprise readers.

**Questions**

1. What does the author mean when she writes that Poe “intentionally got himself discharged” from West Point?

   A. He graduated early.
   B. He applied to be accepted there.
   C. He got kicked out on purpose.
   D. He tried to sneak in.
7th GRADE

MATH - Modified
Use a constant of proportionality (unit rate) to write equations.

I. Multiple Choice
Circle the correct answer.

1. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the graph below?

   C = 1g   C = 4g   C = 2g   C = 6g

2. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the graph below?

   C = 0.8g   C = 0.4g   C = 1.2g   C = 1.6g

3. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the graph below?

   C = 1.4g   C = 1.6g   C = 1.8g   C = 0.2g
4. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the graph below?

| C = 1.25g | C = 0.75g | C = 0.25g | C = 2g |

5. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the table below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boxes</th>
<th>Number of Donuts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| C = 6 - g | C = 6g | C = 6 | C = 8g |

6. Which equation represents the proportional relationship seen in the table below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sodas</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$6.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| C = 0.75g | C = 1.25 - g | C = 1.25g | C = 2.5g |
Identify the constant of proportionality (unit rate) in equations of proportional relationships.

I. Multiple Choice
Circle the correct answer.

1. Stephanie says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 23. Is Stephanie correct?

   \[ P = 0.23n \]

   - Yes
   - No

2. Nivea says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 150. Is Nivea correct?

   \[ P = 1.50n \]

   - Yes
   - No

3. Norman says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 2. Is Norman correct?

   \[ P = 1.10n \]

   - Yes
   - No

4. Julie says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 0.45. Is Julie correct?

   \[ P = 0.45n \]

   - Yes
   - No

5. Jackie says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 0.25. Is Jackie correct?

   \[ P = 0.25n \]

   - Yes
   - No
6. Makayla says that the constant of proportionality in the equation below is 125. Is Makayla correct?

\[ P = 1.25n \]

Yes  
No
Identify the constant of proportionality (unit rate) in graphs of proportional relations.

I. Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Emily says that the constant of proportionality in the graph below is 2.5. Is Emily correct?

- Yes
- No

2. Chris says that the constant of proportionality in the graph below is \( \frac{1}{4} \). Is Chris correct?

- Yes
- No

3. Britney says that the constant of proportionality in the graph below is \( \frac{1}{2} \). Is Britney correct?

- Yes
- No
4. Jaisun says that the constant of proportionality in the graph below is 5. Is Jaisun correct?  

5. Kobe says that the constant of proportionality in the graph below is $\frac{1}{2}$. Is Kobe correct?  

6. What is the constant of proportionality in the graph below?  

Answer:
Identify the constant of proportionality (unit rate) in tables of proportional relationships.

I. Multiple Choice
Circle the correct answer.

1. Using the table below, find the constant of proportionality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>x</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. Short Answer
Write your answer in the box.

2. Using the equation \( y = kx \) and the table below, find the constant of proportionality \( k \).

Answer:

3. Using the equation \( y = kx \) and the table below, find the constant of proportionality \( k \).

Answer:
4. What is the constant of proportionality in the table below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Total Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer:

5. What is the constant of proportionality in the table below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kiwis</th>
<th>Total Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer:

6. What is the constant of proportionality in the table below?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boxes</th>
<th>Number of Donuts</th>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Answer: