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Common Core State Standards Correlations

Each lesson meets one or more of the following Common Core State Standards © Copyright 2010. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers. All rights reserved. For more information about the Common Core State Standards, go to <http://www.corestandards.org/> or <http://www.teachercreated.com/standards>.

READING: LITERATURE STANDARDS	Pages
Key Ideas and Details	
ELA.RL.7.1: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	17-18, 23-24, 39-42, 51-54, 55-56, 57-60, 69-70, 77-80, 81-82
ELA.RL.7.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.	23-24, 39-42, 49-50, 51-54, 55-56, 57-60, 77-80, 97-100, 103-106, 107-108
ELA.RL.7.3: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).	23-24, 39-42, 49-50, 51-54, 57-60, 69-70
Craft and Structure	
ELA.RL.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.	17-18, 23-24, 39-42, 49-50, 51-54, 55-56, 57-60, 69-70, 77-80, 81-82, 97-100, 103-106, 107-108
ELA.RL.7.6: Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.	97-100, 103-106, 107-108
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
ELA.RL.7.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	All passages allow students to read and comprehend literature in the grades 6-8 text complexity band.

Common Core State Standards Correlations (cont.)

READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT STANDARDS	Pages
Key Ideas and Details	
ELA.RI.7.1: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	13-16, 19-22, 25-28, 29-30, 31-34, 43-44, 45-48, 65-68, 71-74, 83-86, 91-94
ELA.RI.7.2: Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.	13-16, 19-22, 25-28, 31-34, 65-68, 71-74, 75-76, 83-86, 91-94, 101-102, 109-112
ELA.RI.7.3: Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).	25-28, 31-34, 45-48, 65-68, 71-74, 75-76, 83-86, 91-94, 95-96, 101-102, 109-112
Craft and Structure	
ELA.RI.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.	13-16, 19-22, 25-28, 29-30, 31-34, 43-44, 45-48, 65-68, 71-74, 75-76, 83-86, 91-94, 95-96, 101-102, 109-112
ELA.RI.7.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.	101-102, 109-112
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	
ELA.RI.7.8: Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.	91-94, 95-96, 101-102, 109-112
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	
ELA.RI.7.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.	All passages allow students to read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band.

Name _____

To help you understand what you read in a text, you sometimes need to think about how things are alike or how they are different and make comparisons.

Activity: Read the passages below and complete pages 46–48.

The Platypus and the Echidna

1. A mammal is an animal that has a backbone (vertebrate) and, when young, suckles milk from its mother. The platypus and the echidna are both Australian mammals. Read on to find out more about these interesting creatures.

Platypus

2. The platypus divides its time between water and land. It uses webbed front feet to propel itself through water and its back feet to steer and to act as brakes. The webbing cleverly folds back, so the platypus is able to walk (or waddle) on land.
3. The platypus is covered in fur and has a rubbery bill (resembling a duck's beak) with extra-sensitive nerves in it to help the animal feel its way around and find food. The platypus feeds by using its claws to dig in streams and river beds. Although it has a toothless jaw, it eats small shrimp, insect larvae, and freshwater crawfish.
4. When a male platypus becomes an adult, it uses spurs on the inside of each hind leg to defend itself from predators. Venom from the spur is released when the platypus feels threatened.
5. The platypus is a special type of mammal—a monotreme. A monotreme is unlike other mammals, as it does not give birth to live young. Instead, the female lays soft-shelled eggs (usually two at a time). After 10 days, the platypus hatches. It is held close to the mother by her large tail and suckles on milk from her abdomen. The offspring leave the safety of the burrow when they are about 17 weeks old.
6. Many Australians may have never seen a platypus in the wild, but they probably touch one every day—on their 20-cent coin!



Echidna

7. An echidna is covered with coarse hair and spines. It has a long snout that acts as a mouth, nose, and it can even be used to pound down large prey to a smaller size for eating. The snout is very sensitive and can feel vibrations, which helps the echidna discover the ant hills and logs where it feeds. Its long, sticky tongue flicks in and out of narrow holes to collect ants and termites.
8. With short limbs and large, sharp claws, the echidna is a powerful digger. The front claws are used for digging and the rear ones for grooming.
9. An echidna is a monotreme (a special type of mammal). The female lays one soft-shelled egg that is deposited straight into her pouch. 10 days later, the young echidna, called a *puggle*, hatches and suckles milk from the mother. The echidna is moved from the pouch to its own burrow. Spines appear at about 50 days old. The mother continuously returns to feed the puggle until it is seven months old and can leave the burrow.
10. The echidna's spines help to protect it from predators. The spines are most effective when the echidna rolls into a ball, which it does when it feels threatened.
11. Echidnas are usually found in Australian bushland and are sometimes spotted by people when the creature tries to cross a country road. You can see an echidna on the Australian 5-cent coin!



Name _____

Follow the steps below to learn how you can organize information in order to make it easier to answer questions about similarities and differences.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline the keywords.
- Sometimes, it is easy to see how things are different or the same if you are comparing two things. However, if there are three or more things to compare, it can be helpful to organize the information in a chart. Two examples are shown below.
- Always check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Which two things do an echidna and a platypus have in common?

- (a) They live only on land and lay eggs.
- (b) They eat shrimp and live on land.
- (c) They are monotremes and eat shrimp.
- (d) They are monotremes and lay eggs.

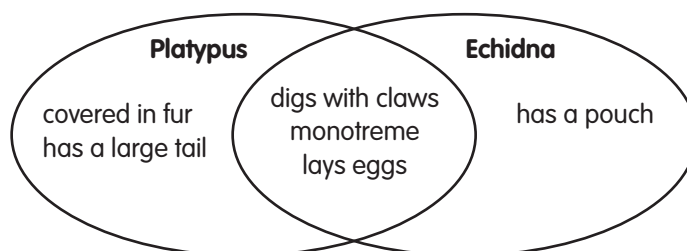
	Platypus	Echidna
Lives only on land		
Eats shrimp		
Monotreme		
Lays eggs		

2. Choose the best answer. You will find it useful to put marks on the chart above to show information from the text.

- (a) Both animals lay eggs, but only the echidna lives only on land. This is not the correct answer.
- (b) Only the platypus eats shrimp and the echidna lives only on land. This cannot be the correct answer.
- (c) Both animals are monotremes, but only the platypus eats shrimp. This cannot be the correct answer.
- (d) Both animals are monotremes and lay eggs. This is the correct answer.

1. Use the information in the Venn diagram to help you find the answer.
Which is true *only* for the platypus?

- (a) has a large tail and has a pouch
- (b) lays eggs and digs with claws
- (c) covered in fur and has a large tail
- (d) covered in fur and is a monotreme



2. Choose the best answer.

- (a) The platypus has a large tail, but it's the echidna that has a pouch. This is not the right answer.
- (b) They both lay eggs and both dig with their claws. The question is asking what is true *only* for the platypus. This is not the right answer.
- (c) The platypus has a large tail and is covered in fur, and the echidna does not have either feature. This is the correct answer, but be sure to check all answers before deciding.
- (d) The platypus is covered in fur, but both the platypus and the echidna are monotremes. This is not the right answer.

Finding Similarities and Differences

Practice Page

Name _____

Use the strategies you learned to practice finding similarities and differences. Use the clues in the "Think!" boxes to help you.

1. Echidnas and platypuses have this in common:
 - (a) They both eat freshwater crawfish.
 - (b) They both use their back claws for grooming.
 - (c) They are both covered in coarse hair.
 - (d) They both are featured on an Australian coin.

Think!

See which piece of information is in the text for both animals.

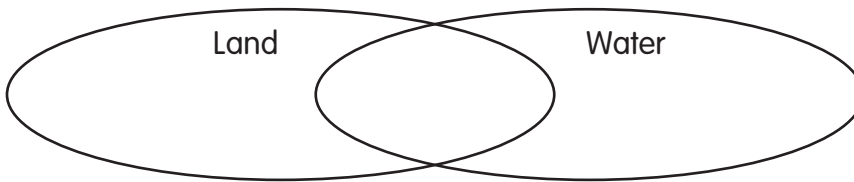
2. Which two things are only true for echidnas?
 - (a) They are mammals and usually lay two eggs.
 - (b) They have powerful claws and a rubbery bill.
 - (c) They lay one egg and are monotremes.
 - (d) They are monotremes and have webbed feet.

Think!

Read only the text about echidnas to find the answer for this question.

3. Complete the Venn diagram and then explain what it means.

Echidna and Platypus Habitats



Think!

Find the parts of the text that say where each animal lives, and write **echidna** and **platypus** in the correct space.

4. Describe three ways that the appearance of a platypus and echidna are different.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Think!

Find the parts of the text that describe the way each animal looks.

5. Explain the similarities between a platypus's bill and an echidna's snout.

Think!

Find the parts of the text about the snout and the bill, and see what is similar about them.

Finding Similarities and Differences

Name _____

Use the strategies you have been practicing to help you identify similarities and differences.

1. The echidna and the platypus are similar because:

- (a) they both find food in streams and river beds.
- (b) they are both covered in coarse hair.
- (c) they both lay soft-shelled eggs.
- (d) they both use their tails to keep their offspring close.

2. Describe the differences in how the following are used . . .

(a) Platypus's front feet vs. echidna's front claws: _____

(b) Platypus's back feet vs. echidna's rear claws: _____

3. Complete the chart to help you complete the sentence.

Platypuses and echidnas are similar because:

- (a) they both eat insects.
- (b) they both use their back feet as brakes.
- (c) they both suckle milk from the mother.
- (d) both their young are called *puggles*.

	Platypus	Echidna
Eats insects		
Uses feet as brakes		
Suckles milk		
Young are puggles		

4. What is different about the way an echidna and a platypus react when threatened by a predator?

5. What are some similarities regarding how echidnas and platypuses produce and raise their offspring?

Name _____

Activity: Read the movie reviews below and complete page 50.

Movie Reviews

The Snake and the Fox

1. In the new action thriller *The Snake and the Fox*, Judd Browning is compelling as Dr. Bradley Fox—dentist and family man by day and Special Agent Fox by night.
2. Choosing the magical European city of Prague as the backdrop for this fast-paced film was pure genius by director Bo Bentley. The chase across the Charles Bridge to medieval Prague, with its cobbled streets and mystical churches, is “edge of your seat” explosive!
3. The evil perpetrator, “The Snake” (a.k.a. veteran actor Stirling PJ Smith), masters the villainous role as he attempts to terminate the peacekeeping leader of the United Nations, Mia Kifo. To do so, he must destroy anyone in his path, which includes, of course, Agent Fox. So dastardly is the Snake that he also sets his sights on Fox’s family—wife Abigail (the English beauty, Nicola Carrington) and their twin daughters. Fox is the ultimate action hero who must rescue his family and protect Mia so that she can continue her work in bringing peace to all nations.
4. With fantastic scenery and superb casting, every scene in this 107-minute masterpiece is captivating. It’s a holiday blockbuster!
5. *The Snake and the Fox* opens on December 12 in cinemas across the country.



Saving Gelato

1. Set in Europe in the striking city of Florence, the likeable Marcello family live a simple life. They work hard running their successful gelato (ice cream) shop amid the cobbled streets and historical churches of Florence. Marcello Gelato is as familiar to the locals of Florence as Ponte Vecchio, the magnificent bridge that crosses the river Arno.
2. The slow-moving plot of this quietly dramatic piece seems familiar—big company trying to buy smaller company to demolish it for profit, wiping out tradition and a family’s livelihood.
3. Head of the Buildco Corporation, Kit Tyson (Stirling PJ Smith) is notorious as the power-hungry executive trying to replace the Marcellos’ store with high-rise apartments.
4. The audience will empathize with the plight of the Marcello family, especially the father, Marco Marcello (played superbly by Adam LaPlaglia) who heroically attempts to stop Buildco’s plans and save the family business.
5. Director and writer Jacinta Stockworth is a wonderful storyteller who has created a film that will captivate audiences. *Saving Gelato* is a picturesque film with believable characters—it is all heart!
6. *Saving Gelato* opens on December 2 in cinemas across the country.

