
Real Rodents

Reading Comprehension

Harvest Mice

Harvest mice are quite graceful animals. They can climb from one plant to another with great ease. They scamper through the forest looking for food. They like to eat seeds and insects. They have to eat a lot of food in the summer, so they can store enough energy as fat for the winter months. In the winter, harvest mice spend most of their time sheltered from the cold. They only leave their nests during the warmest hours of the day.

The harvest mouse has a very long tail. Its tail is very useful and works like another hand or foot. The mouse can grab onto grass to support itself. It also helps the mouse to hang upside-down and balance itself when it climbs.

Harvest mice are some of the smallest mice in the world. An adult male harvest mouse weighs less than 250 grams and is 15 centimetres long, including its tail! Harvest mice make a shrieking sound, and some of their noises are too high-pitched for humans to hear.

Story Questions:

1. What sentence supports the author's point that harvest mice are graceful animals?
 - a. Harvest mice make a shrieking sound, and some of their noises are too high-pitched for humans to hear.
 - b. The harvest mouse has a very long tail.
 - c. They can climb from one plant to another with great ease.
 - d. They have to eat a lot of food in the summer, so they can store enough energy as fat for the winter months.
2. What is the topic of the second paragraph?
 - a. the food the harvest mouse eats
 - b. the predators of the harvest mouse
 - c. the fur of the harvest mouse
 - d. the tail of the harvest mouse
3. What is the meaning of the word *scamper* as used in the passage?
 - a. settle
 - b. jump
 - c. retrieve
 - d. scurry

4. Which paragraph explains the noises that a harvest mouse makes?
- a. first b. second c. third d. not in the passage

Poem Writing

5. Write an [acrostic poem](#) about harvest mice.

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Math Worksheet

6. Practise [multiplying two-digit numbers](#).

Word Problems

7. Read the word problems below and **write** the answers.
- ★ The sixth graders in Miss Wilson's class read 20 pages from a book of their choice about rodents every night, including weekends. How many pages did each child read during the month of November?

 - ★ Miss Wilson has 32 students in her classroom. All of them completed their rodent reading assignments in January. Each child read 20 pages every night, including weekends. How many pages did the entire class read in January?

Fun Stuff!

8. Play the unplugged coding game, ["Feed the Mouse"](#). Find a deck of cards and have a family member available for you to play with.