



7th Grade Skill-based Weekly Comprehension Quiz

Interim 1 Week 3 – Analyze Text Features

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

“Rattlesnake Rustlers: Finding Snakes Where They Hide” by Catherine Clarke Fox

Do rattlesnakes need protection from people?

1 When Heather Ramirez of Auburn, California, went to the dentist recently with her husband Len, she wasn’t there to have her teeth cleaned. She and her husband are professional snake removers. They were there to catch and return to the wild a rattlesnake that had slithered indoors.

2 She describes her work as “protecting people from rattlesnakes—and protecting rattlesnakes from people.” In her part of the country, the northern Pacific rattlesnake often comes face-to-face with humans.

3 Studies show these snakes generally only bite people who are trying to catch or kill them. Keeping your distance prevents bites, which are serious but not usually fatal with today’s medicines. A rattlesnake can even give a loud warning that says, “I am here, stay away” with the rattles located at the tip of its tail.

4 “We find rattlesnakes everywhere,” says Ramirez. “In houses, in yards and woodpiles, under decks.” She says that the snakes aren’t invading human homes—it’s the other way around: “These animals were here first, and we humans came in and built houses. We are living in their territory.”



What would you do if you saw a snake?

5 Many people are frightened when they see a rattler and call for help right away. When the Ramirez phone rings, the couple drops whatever they are doing and rushes to work, often leaving a meal half-eaten on the table.

6 The team is good at finding snakes that have gone into hiding. A tool that looks like long spaghetti tongs allow them to handle the snakes without harming them (see photo), and the tongs are long enough that the snake cannot reach them to bite.

7 “Never pick up a rattlesnake,” says Ramirez. “I’ve been doing this job for twelve years, and I have never touched one with my hands. There’s no reason to take that risk.” “We put the snakes in wooden crates in our pickup truck. Those crates are bolted to the floor and locked for safety,” explains Ramirez. She takes the captives to holding pens at her house until she can let them go far away from human activity.



8 Ramirez tells people to read all they can about snakes so they understand these amazing animals. For example, snakes actually help humans. Small mammals like rats, mice, and gophers carry fleas and ticks that spread serious illnesses like bubonic plague and Lyme disease to people. A snake might eat a dozen rodents a year, helping control the population—and the spread of disease.

9 Ramirez and her husband relocate more than a thousand snakes a year. “The longest was 5 feet 9 inches (1.8 meters), and I’m only five-foot-three, so that was amazing to see.” She enjoys every day working with snakes. “I just love my job!”

How can you stay safe around snakes?

- If you see a snake, don’t touch it. Go tell an adult.
- Snakes like warmth, and they often curl up at night next to big plastic toys outside that hold the warmth of the sun. Look carefully when you go out to play.
- Never put your hands into woodpiles or dark corners of the garage in case a snake is hiding there.
- When you’re out playing, step on rocks and logs, not over them. You don’t want to surprise a snake that might be hiding underneath.

World’s Smallest Snake	
Name:	Lesser Antillean Threadsneak
Length:	1.5 Inches
Diameter:	1/8 Inch (About the size of a pencil lead.)
Home Land:	Lesser Antilles

World’s Largest Snake	
Name:	Python
Length:	49 ft
Weight:	893 lbs
Home Land:	Jakarta, Indonesia

Quick Facts about Snakes:

- ✓ Snakes are carnivores (meat eaters).
- ✓ Snakes don’t have eyelids.
- ✓ Snakes can’t bite food, so they have to swallow it whole.
- ✓ Snakes have flexible jaws which allow them to eat prey bigger than their head!
- ✓ Snakes are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica.
- ✓ Snakes have internal ears but not external ones.
- ✓ snakes generally only bite people who are trying to catch or kill them



- 1 How does the author use text features to capture the reader's attention?
 - A by including a picture of herself so the reader can better understand the text
 - B by using section headings in the form of questions to hook the reader's interest
 - C by including a list of ways people can stay safe around snakes
 - D by giving lots of details about her work and experiences capturing snakes

- 2 Look at the sidebar about snakes. Which new subheading would be most appropriate for the information in this sidebar?
 - A How big are most snakes?
 - B What are some interesting facts about snakes?
 - C How long can a snake get?
 - D How can you stay safe around big and small snakes?

- 3 How does the "Quick Facts about Snakes" text feature contribute to the central idea of the article?
 - A The author believes that the more people know about snakes, the more they will appreciate snakes and stay safer around them.
 - B The author wants to encourage young people to go into careers in wildlife management and gives interesting facts that will appeal to kids.
 - C The author believes that giving facts and information about snakes will make people more fearful about snakes so they will just leave them alone.
 - D The author hopes to prove that all the stereotypes people believe about snakes are generally not true.

- 4 The author wants to include this additional sentence in the text: *When a snake threatens to strike or strikes, it is almost always just attempting to defend its territory.*

Which section would be the **best** place to add the sentence?

 - A Do rattlesnakes need protection from people?
 - B What would you do if you saw a snake?
 - C How can you stay safe around snakes?
 - D Quick Facts about Snakes

Directions: Using the space provided, answer the following question. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.