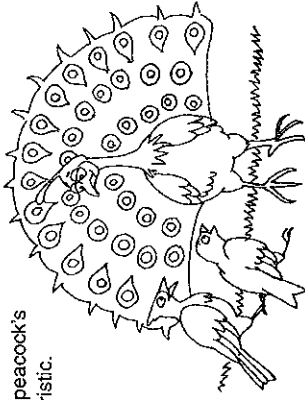


What sets one kind of thing apart from others? Its **characteristics**, or special qualities. A peacock's tail, for example, is its identifying characteristic.

Here's another example.

- yellow : canary ::
 a. cockroach : beetle
 b. maroon : ocher
 c. red : cardinal
 d. sparrow : brown



EXPLANATION: A canary is a yellow bird. Cockroaches and beetles are brown or black. Maroon and ocher are both colors. Sparrow and brown are in reverse order. The answer is c. A cardinal is a red bird.



Characteristics can be behavioral (stubborn mule) as well as physical (little acorn).

Circle the words that correctly complete each sentence.

- A marauder could be described as (*fearsome / fortunate / kind*), and a maraca is a (*magical / musical / surgical*) instrument.
- Obsidian is a (*crumbly / grainy / glassy*) kind of rock, while limestone is (*marbled / chalky / speckled*).
- A hodgepodge is a mixture of (*ideas / items / smells*), and a hubbub is a mixture of (*textures / sights / sounds*).
- A (*tartan / jumper / pattern*) is always plaid, and a (*weasel / boa constrictor / cheetah*) is always spotted.
- A map could be described as (*photogenic / graphic / iconic*), and a dove is commonly (*artistic / realistic / symbolic*).

Circle a letter to select the word pair that best completes each analogy.

- lark : happy ::
 a. fur : feather
 b. fox : wily
 c. earth : sky
 d. species : order
- rowdy : roughneck ::
 a. slacker : hothead
 b. smart aleck : pipsqueak
 c. nosy : busybody
 d. gossip : pennypincher
- yellow : daffodil ::
 a. yew : poplar
 b. winter : fall
 c. white : gardenia
 d. retriever : poodle
- Zeus : Greek ::
 a. B.C. : A.D.
 b. Jupiter : Roman
 c. divine : human
 d. Neptune : Atlas
- protective : fort ::
 a. lofty : aerie
 b. parent : grandparent
 c. nest : burrow
 d. shield : helmet
- woolly : alpaca ::
 a. furry : otter
 b. giraffe : bear
 c. caterpillar : larva
 d. angora : cashmere
- paradox : contradictory ::
 a. problem : solution
 b. paragon : exemplary
 c. rational : emotional
 d. difficult : simple
- casual : picnic ::
 a. Tuesday : Saturday
 b. sentence : paragraph
 c. church : playground
 d. formal : banquet
- chess : (NEMLAT) ::
 tag : (CAILSYPH)
- Cocoon : (KYLSI) ::
 honeycomb : (XWAY)

Unscramble the words to complete the characteristics analogies.



Name _____

Main Idea Passage

They look like blobs of jelly. They sting like bees, and they appeared in record numbers off the U.S. shores last summer. On the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, swimmers reported more jellyfish sightings, and stings, than ever before.

"I was swimming and I felt something like a bee sting on my thigh," says Terryn Marrette, 9, of Maryland, who ran into a jellyfish at a Connecticut beach in August. In San Diego, California, bathers steered clear of huge, purple jellyfish called *Chrysozoa achlyos*. They have bodies the size of basketballs and 25-foot stinging tentacles. This was the first sighting of these slimy giants since 1989.

Researchers have some theories about why the numbers are up, but there is no clear answer. This summer's hot, dry weather could be the cause of the jellyfish invasion. "Maybe the water temperature around shore was just right," says Leslee Yasukochi of Birch Aquarium in La Jolla, California. Warmer than usual shallow waters may also have offered more food. Jellyfish dine on tiny shrimp, fish, and microscopic sea life.

"They have no brains, yet they can do everything an animal needs to do. They swim, eat food, and find mates," says Denise Breitberg, a biologist at the Academy of Natural Sciences in St. Leonard, Maryland. Jellies have no heart or gills, and are made mostly of water. The sting from the man-of-war can be deadly, but the sting from most jellies is just irritating. Some creatures, such as sea turtles and humans, snack on them. Jellyfish have fascinated researchers for years—and how there may be more opportunities than ever to study the creatures.

Adapted from "Jellyfish Invasion," by Christine Puello, *Scholastic News*, November 1, 1999

- What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - Jellyfish look like blobs of jelly.
 - An increase in jellyfish has been reported along U.S. coasts.
 - Maryland had at least one jellyfish sighting.
 - The sting of a jellyfish is like a bee sting.
- What is the third paragraph mainly about?
 - Shallow water contains more food for jellyfish.
 - The water temperature was just right for jellyfish to survive.
 - Hot, dry weather may have created the perfect water environment for a jellyfish invasion.
 - Jellyfish eat shrimp, fish, and microscopic sea life.
- What is the fourth paragraph mostly about?
 - Jellyfish are made up mostly of water.
 - It's amazing that humans would eat jellyfish.
 - Man-of-war stings can kill humans.
 - Many researchers find jellyfish fascinating to study.

Analyzing Poetry

ANALYZE NARRATIVE TEXTS

After Dark

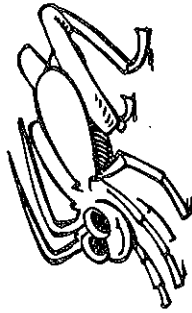
Fireflies flash hello,
While crickets serenade
The last glimmer of day
Below the horizon.

Warm breezes
Give way to cool dark
And all that
Is night arises.

We creep through
The tall grass playing
Hide-and-seek with
Nocturnal surprises.



Firefly



Cricket

Read the poem and answer the questions.

- This poem is mostly about
 - crickets.
 - the sun.
 - night.
 - hide-and-seek.
- The word *nocturnal* relates to
 - night.
 - day.
 - animal.
 - new.
- The purpose of this poem is to
 - teach the reader about night.
 - entertain the reader.
 - persuade the reader to go outside.
 - tell the reader how to play hide-and-seek.
- The last word in the second stanza rhymes with what other word in the poem?
 - glimmer
 - nocturnal
 - playing
 - surprises
- The first stanza tells about all of the following EXCEPT
 - fireflies.
 - crickets.
 - hide-and-seek.
 - the sunset.
- Which word from the poem means *sing to*?
 - glimmer
 - nocturnal
 - creep
 - serenade