

Beautiful Lake Tahoe

There are many beautiful places to visit in the United States. In fact, there are too many to name! One of the most beautiful places I have ever visited, though, is Lake Tahoe. Keep reading to learn more about this wonderful place.

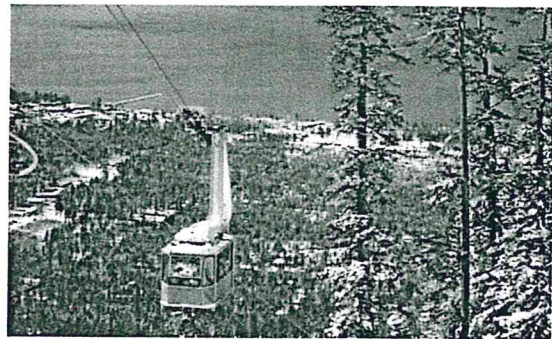
● Lake Tahoe

Sitting on the California and Nevada border, Lake Tahoe is nestled among the pine trees of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is a fresh water lake that is over 1600 feet deep at its greatest depth, making it the deepest **alpine** lake in our country. Due to its crystal clear waters and setting among the forests of the Sierra Nevada's, Lake Tahoe has become a very popular place for people to visit.

alpine –
relating to high
mountains

All year long, you can find things to do up at the lake. For instance, during the summer, you can visit any one of the many beaches and take a dip in the refreshingly cool waters. There are also many popular hiking trails that circle the lake. In the wintertime, you can ski the slopes that surround the lake or snowshoe the trails. No matter what season, you are sure to enjoy the beauty of Lake Tahoe.

If you want to visit somewhere new on your next vacation, Lake Tahoe should be at the top of your list! Trust me, you will love it!



Write a summary of the passage.

Sunny Las Vegas

Nevada may be one of the larger states in our nation, but not many people live in the state! Its largest city lies on the floor of the Mojave Desert and is named Las Vegas. People young and old love this thrilling place.

Las Vegas is a resort city. This means that people go there to get away from it all. It also means that the city of Las Vegas largely depends upon tourism. Las Vegas was founded in 1905 and within a few decades was booming with casinos.

Casinos are businesses where adults go to gamble on slot machines and play other types of card or dice games.

Since casino-style gambling is not allowed state-wide in any other state, except Louisiana, people like to visit Las

Vegas for its many casinos.

tourism –
the activity of traveling
to a place for pleasure



At first Las Vegas was a place that only adults could enjoy, but over the years, the city has worked hard to come up with entertainment that could be enjoyed by families as well. For example, many of the casinos now have areas for families, like large arcades, and shows that all can enjoy. There are also many museums and beautiful parks you can visit as well. A favorite of many is the Springs Preserve, which has fun exhibits that people of all ages can enjoy.

But, besides the glitz of the casinos, just what exactly makes Las Vegas such a great place to visit? Well, Las Vegas is also known for its year-round sunshine! Seriously! The city averages almost 300 days of sunshine a year, with hot summers and comfortable winter temperatures. So, if you're looking for an exciting place to see while visiting the great state of Nevada, add Las Vegas to your list! It's quite the spectacle!

Write a summary of the passage.

Nevada's Symbols

I was born and raised in the state of Nevada and I love my state very much! Today I want to tell you about some of the symbols of my great state.

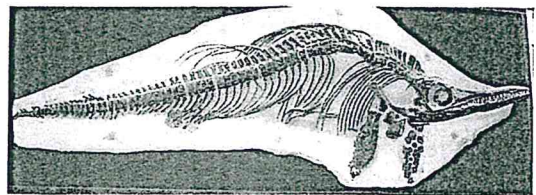
First of all, the state bird of Nevada is the mountain bluebird. Mountain bluebirds are medium sized birds that are bright blue on their backs and lighter blue on their bellies. They like to live in the mountain areas of western North America and are also the state bird of Idaho. It was chosen as the state bird of Nevada in 1967.



Another symbol of the state of Nevada is the desert bighorn sheep, Nevada's state animal. Desert bighorn sheep are great mountain climbers which is why they are able to live in places like Nevada and California. They eat mainly grasses and plants, but they can use their horns as tools to break open cactuses as well. In California, the desert bighorn sheep is protected because it is endangered.



The last symbol I will tell you about is the state fossil. Yes, Nevada has a state fossil, isn't that cool? Our state fossil is the *Ichthyosaur*. It was named a state fossil in 1977 because Nevada is the only state that has a complete *Ichthyosaur* skeleton. An *Ichthyosaur* is a water reptile that lived about 200 million years ago and they were pretty scary looking! They had sharp teeth and big eyes and could grow up to 30 feet long.



Ichthyosaur fossil

Nevada has many other great symbols if you are interested in looking them up. I hope you enjoyed learning about these three!

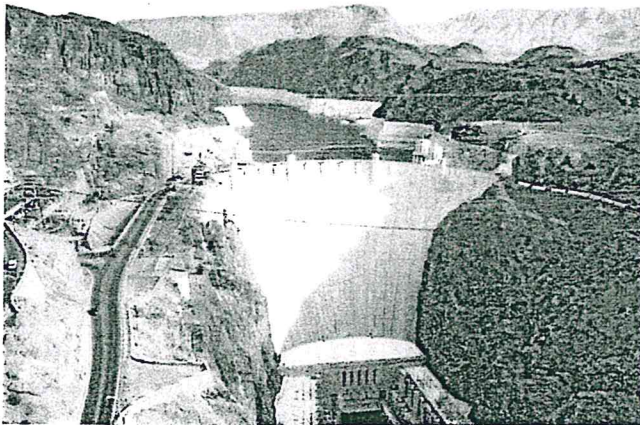
Write a summary of the passage.

The Hoover Dam

Have you ever wondered why people build dams? Well, one reason is that they can be a source of power for communities. The Hoover Dam, just outside of Las Vegas, Nevada, is an example of a dam that provides power for millions of people. Read on to learn more about the Hoover Dam.

The Hoover Dam is a huge dam located on the border of Nevada and Arizona. It is the second tallest dam in the United States, but it is the tallest one made only of man-made materials. It took five years to build and is over 1200 feet wide. The dam was built upon the Colorado River, creating Lake Mead, the largest **reservoir** in the United States. When the dam was being built in the 1930's, so many people were needed to do the work that an entire city had to be built in southern Nevada. This city was named Boulder City and still stands today with a population of about 15,000 people.

As stated in my introduction, the Hoover Dam is important because it gives power to so many people. If you live in southern Nevada, southern California, or Arizona, you may be receiving power from the Hoover Dam. Lake Mead, the reservoir that was created when the Hoover Dam was built, helps to give water to over 20 million people. As you can see, the Hoover Dam is very important to many people.



Fast Facts

What is a reservoir?

A reservoir can be a natural lake or man-made.

They are used as a water supply for communities.

Do an Internet search to find out where the closest reservoir is to your community.

Dams are built for many reasons, but one of the most important reasons is to supply power and water for people. The Hoover Dam is an example of why people need to build dams.

Write a summary of the passage.

The Biggest Little City

Reno, Nevada, found in the northern part of Nevada, near the California border calls itself "The Biggest Little City," a nickname that is now known across the country. Reno is the second biggest city in Nevada and is a one-of-a-kind place!

Reno was officially founded in 1868 as the transcontinental railroad was being built. By the 1930's, Reno was known for its legal gambling and this is where many people think that the motto of "The Biggest Little City" started. Reno has never been a very big city, like Las Vegas or San Francisco, but it offers some of the things you can find in big cities, like casinos. Casinos are a very important part of the culture in Reno and many people work in the casinos.

Understanding Casinos

Have you ever made a bet with a friend about something? Maybe you bet about who would win the Superbowl or who is the faster runner?

Well, adults go to casinos to make bets. Only their bets all involve money, which is why kids aren't allowed to gamble in casinos!

When you gamble, you take a chance to win or lose. When you lose, the casino makes money! Gambling can be fun for adults, but even grown-ups have to be careful not to gamble too much!

Although Reno does not offer all of the lights and sounds of Vegas, there is still much to see and do there. For instance, Reno is only about a thirty-minute drive from beautiful Lake Tahoe, where you can relax on the beach in the summer and go skiing during the winter. Also, the Truckee River is a favorite place for people to do things, like kayaking. There is a kayak racing course in downtown Reno where people from all over the country come to compete. If you are a golfer, Reno is a great place to visit. There are dozens of great golf courses in Reno and the surrounding areas.

If sports activities aren't something you are interested in, Reno is also known for the many great events the city holds year round. No matter what time of year, something is always going on in Reno! From the Great Reno Balloon Races or the Best in the West Rib Cook Off, to Hot August Nights and Street Vibrations, there is something for everyone in Reno!

Reno is home to over 200,000 people and welcomes thousands of visitors every year. It has a lot of things to offer, just like any big city, but is still small enough so you never feel lost, truly making it the "Biggest Little City!"

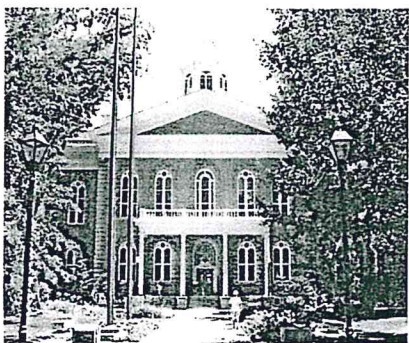
Write a summary of the passage.

Carson City: Nevada's State Capital

Unless you are from Nevada, most people, when asked, think that the state capital of Nevada is Las Vegas, or maybe even Reno! Native Nevadans though always know the answer to this question: Carson City! Today, I will tell you some interesting facts about our state's capital.

Carson City is a small town in northern Nevada, about a thirty minute drive from Reno, and very close to Lake Tahoe. The population of Carson City is only about 54,000 people; so as you can see, Carson City is not a very big place. So, why was it chosen to be the capital of Nevada then, you might ask? Well, part of the answer to that may be that Carson City was founded before Reno, and decades before Las Vegas. Out of these three cities, it was the only one that had already been founded when Nevada first became a state. It would be kind of hard to name a city the capital if it didn't even exist yet!

Although Carson City is pretty small, there are many interesting things to see and do there. Obviously, you could, of course, visit the Nevada State Capitol building. Also, the Nevada State Railroad Museum is in Carson City. Anyone who loves trains would be interested in visiting this museum. Finally, if you like a little bit of mystery, maybe you would like to visit Bower's Mansion. This historical home was built in the 1860's and is about a fifteen-minute drive from Carson City. You can tour the mansion, but be warned: many people think this house is haunted!



Capitol Building

Carson City may never be able to compete in size with other state capitals, like Phoenix or Denver, but there is still plenty to see and do! And, now you know that Carson City, NOT Las Vegas, is the state capital of Nevada!

Write a summary of the passage.

Basket Weaver: Dat So La Lee

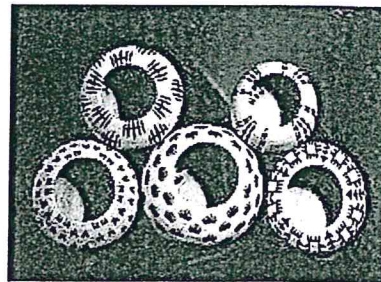
Basket weaving is an art that has always been very important to the Native American people. Dat So La Lee was a native Nevadan who became a very famous basket weaver. In this essay, I will tell you a little bit about her life.

Dat So La Lee was born in northern Nevada during the early 1800's. Most people believe she was born in 1929, but the exact date of her birth is not known because there is no exact record of it. Her real name was Louisa and she was a member of the Washoe people, a Native American tribe that lives in Northern Nevada and California. Louisa did not have the happiest of childhoods. She was made fun of because of her weight and did not have very many friends. She spent a lot of her time watching her mother weave baskets and this is how she learned how to be a basket maker herself. Louisa began to use the name Dat So La Lee as her basket weaving became more popular. Her baskets were sold by a man named Abram Cohn. He and his wife took care of Dat So La Lee so that she could focus only on making her special baskets.



Why are Dat So La Lee's baskets so special? Well, baskets were very popular during that time period and the baskets of Dat So La Lee were very beautiful and tightly woven. Also, today her baskets are very rare. There are only 120 known baskets that she made and at least 20 of them are now kept in museums in Reno and Carson City. It took her years to make just one basket because she wanted each basket to be absolutely perfect. If you were able to get your hands on a Dat So La Lee basket today, you may be able to sell it for hundreds of thousands of dollars!

Before she died, Dat So La Lee had asked to be buried with one of her baskets. So, in 1925 she was buried in Carson City, Nevada, with one of her baskets. She lived to be 96 years old. Her baskets are some of Nevada's greatest treasures. Maybe you will get a chance to see one someday!



Lexile 1010

Write a summary of the passage.

Animal Life Cycles

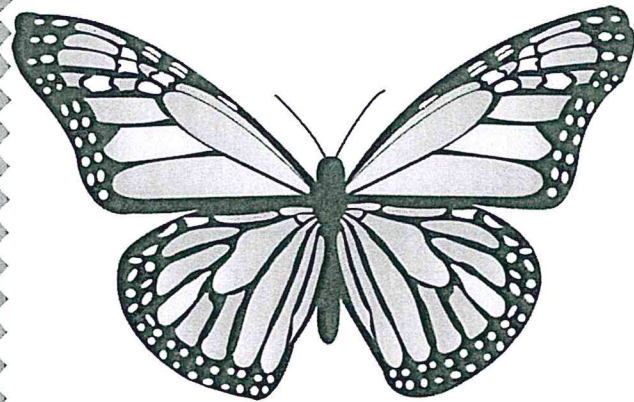
All living things experience the same general life cycle: come to life, grow, reproduce, then death. Each of these stages looks slightly different for different types of animals. Mammals, such as humans, undergo a live birth when they enter the world. They require the care and nourishment (milk) of their mother anywhere from a few months to a few years after birth. Most mammals don't experience metamorphosis, or series of changes. They look like the adult form of their species and they will eventually grow to become an adult. After they reproduce, they will ultimately grow older and die. There are many species of animals that do not experience life in the same way as mammals.

Instead of a live birth, many animals hatch from eggs. After hatching, they may experience a few changes as they grow and become adults. There are a couple of ways these changes can happen.

Complete Metamorphosis

Complete metamorphosis includes 4 life cycle stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Animals that

undergo complete metamorphosis hatch from an egg into a worm-like form called larvae. A larva will travel around, eating plants and preparing for its next change. When it is ready, the larva will find a safe spot, usually on the underside of a leaf, and form a chrysalis. This life cycle stage is called the pupa. A chrysalis will protect the animal as it changes to its next form. Once the animal has become an adult, it will break through the chrysalis and emerge in its adult form. The animal will look very different from stage to stage. One example of an animal that goes through complete metamorphosis is the butterfly. It



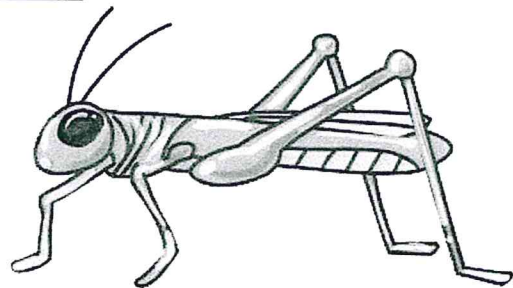
hatches as a caterpillar, then eventually becomes an adult butterfly.

Incomplete Metamorphosis

Incomplete metamorphosis is a bit different from complete metamorphosis. Animals will still hatch as an egg. Unlike complete metamorphosis, the young animal looks very similar to their adult form. This stage is called a nymph. The only difference between the nymph and the adult is their size and nymphs do not have wings.

The nymph can grow by shedding its outer skeleton (exoskeleton) through a process called molting. As it

sheds, its body gets bigger and it will eventually grow wings. Once the animal grows its wings, it has reached its adult form and may start reproducing. Grasshoppers experience incomplete metamorphosis. They hatch from their egg looking just like the adult, except it is smaller and without wings. As it molts its outer skeleton, it continues to grow and eventually grows wings and becomes an adult. Now the grasshopper can reproduce.



Every living organism experiences a life cycle. They go through stages in their life as they age and grow to become adults. While these stages may look different from organism to organism, they will ultimately achieve the same goals of growing up and reproducing.



Animal Life Cycles

Name: _____

Comprehension Practice

Directions: Use the information from the passage to answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are some ways that animals can come to life?

2. Describe the life cycle of a mammal.

3. What does metamorphosis mean and how does it apply to animals?

4. Describe the stages of complete metamorphosis.

5. Describe the stages of incomplete metamorphosis.

6. What is a nymph?

7. Why do insects shed their exoskeleton?

8. What are some similarities between complete and incomplete metamorphosis?

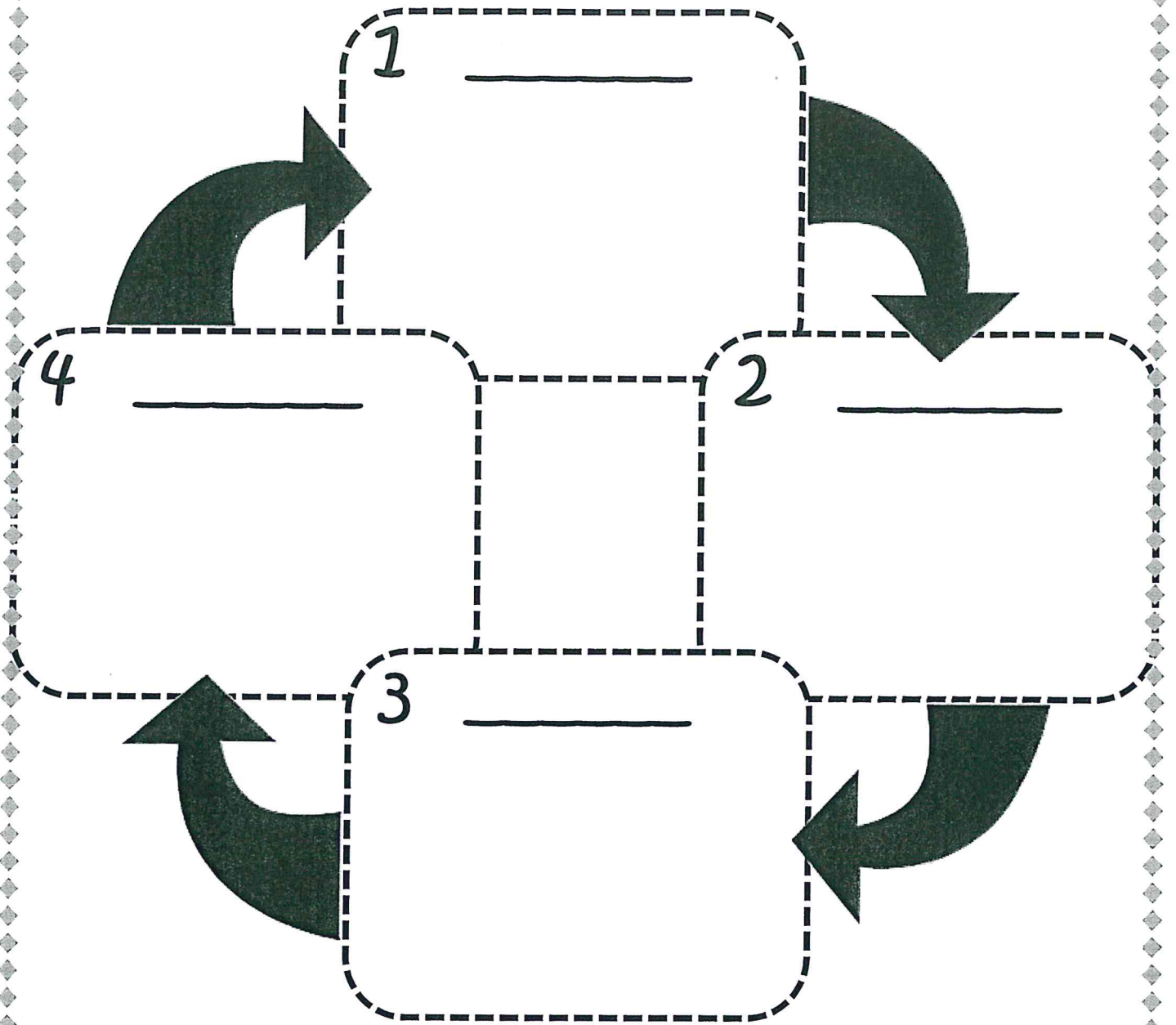


Animal Life Cycles

Name: _____

Concept Practice

Directions: Use the information from the passage to label and illustrate each life cycle stage. Then, write a sentence describing what happens in each stage on the appropriate lines.



This diagram is showing _____ metamorphosis.

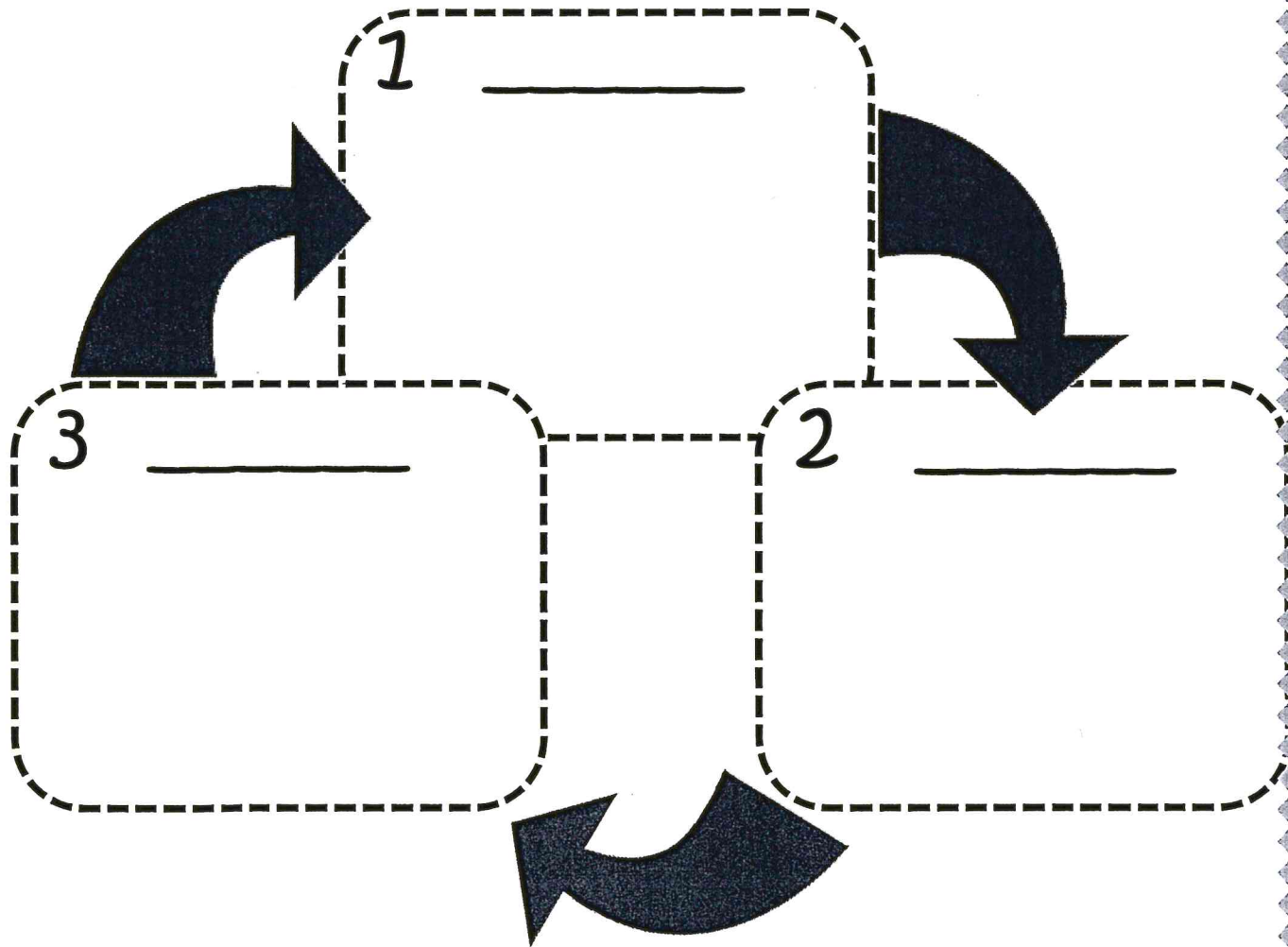
- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____
- 4- _____

Animal Life Cycles

Name: _____

Concept Practice

Directions: Use the information from the passage to label and illustrate each life cycle stage. Then, write a sentence describing what happens in each stage on the appropriate lines.



This diagram is showing _____ metamorphosis.

- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____

Complete Metamorphosis

Incomplete Metamorphosis

◆ Animal Life Cycles

Name: _____

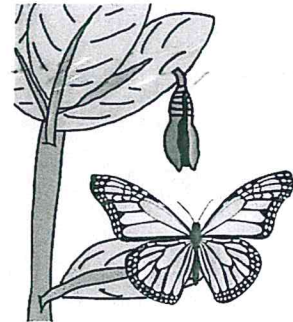
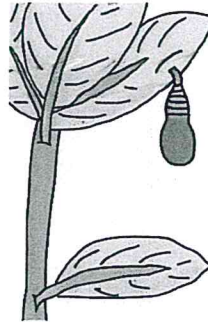
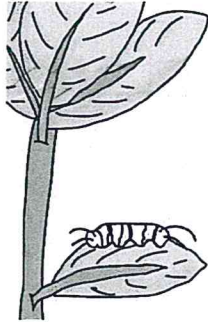
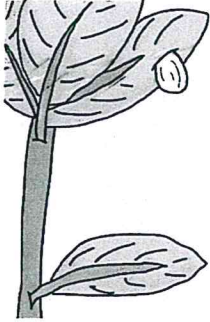
◆ Concept Practice

◆ Directions: Use the Venn Diagram to compare the life cycles of mammals and animals who experience metamorphosis.

Mammals

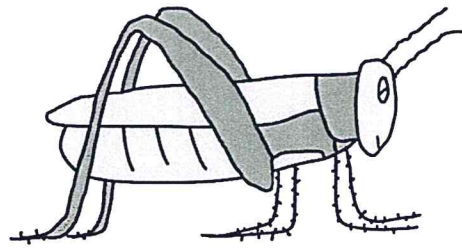
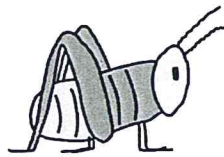
Metamorphosis

1. _____ Metamorphosis



_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. _____ Metamorphosis



_____	_____	_____
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Animal Life Cycles

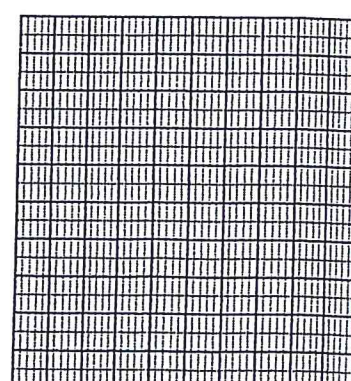
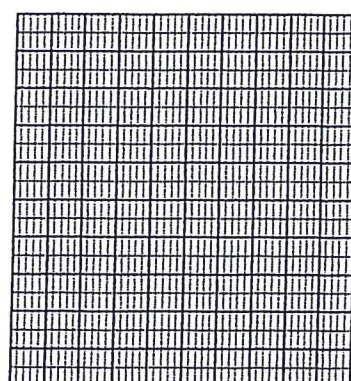
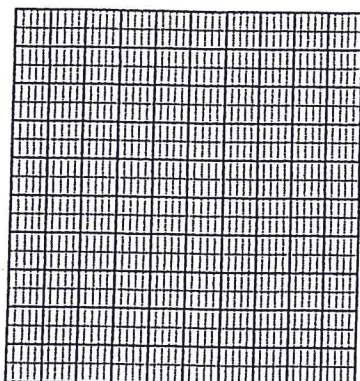
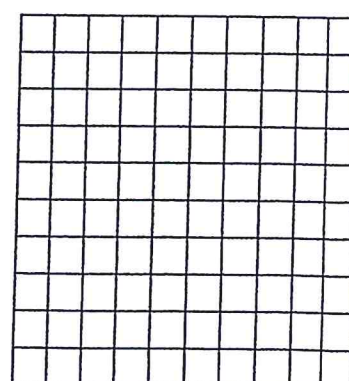
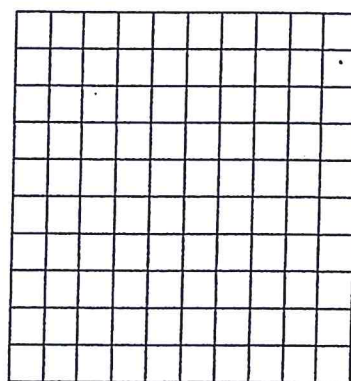
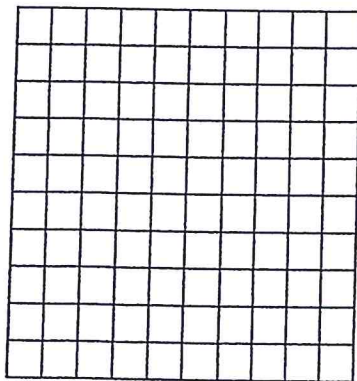
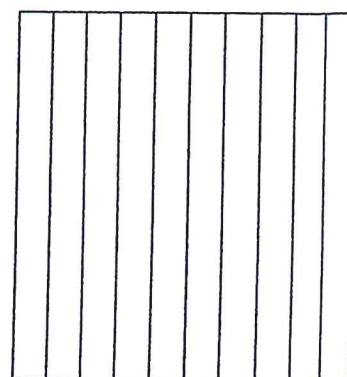
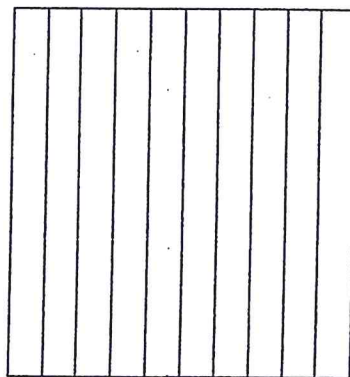
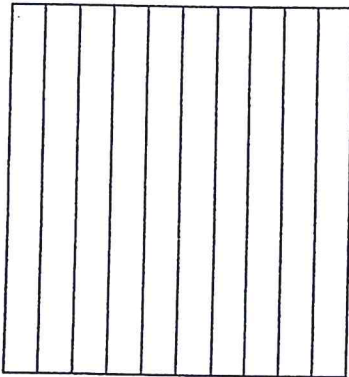
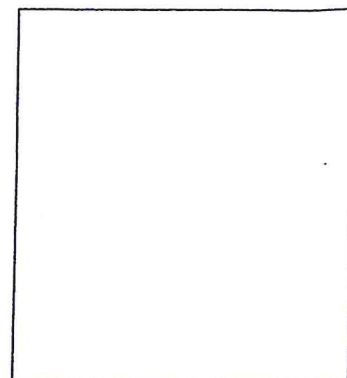
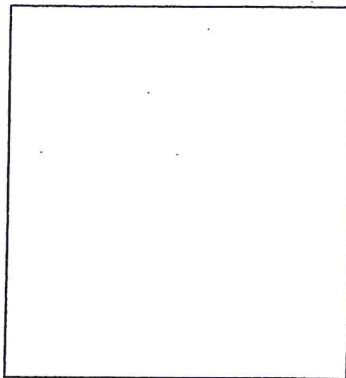
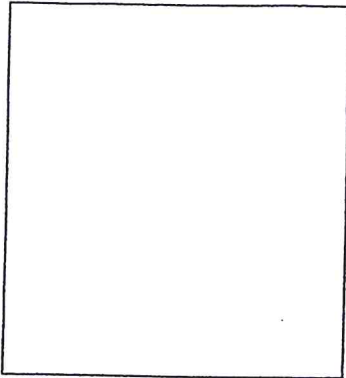
Name: _____

Concept Practice

Directions: Create a review sheet that includes the stages of complete and incomplete metamorphosis. You may include definitions, diagrams with labels and captions, and any other related information.



Decimal Squares



Name _____

Words with VV Syllable Division Pattern

➤ Read each sentence. Underline the word with the VV syllable division pattern in each sentence.

1. I'm afraid the rain will ruin your new hat.
2. The babies will sleep more easily in a quiet room.
3. "There will be a meteor shower next week," the news anchor stated.
4. The bear roamed the camping area looking for food.
5. The teachers will announce the winner of the poetry contest tomorrow.

➤ Underline the correct way to divide each boldfaced word into syllables.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1. dial | dia l | di al | d ial |
| 2. violet | vi o let | vi olet | vio let |
| 3. meow | me ow | me o w | meo w |
| 4. science | sci en ce | scien ce | sci ence |
| 5. diary | dia ry | di a ry | di ary |

Name _____

Critical Vocabulary

You can use the words you learn from reading as you talk and write.

 Use your understanding of the Critical Vocabulary words to support your answers to the questions below.


1. One meaning of the word **oasis** is a pool of water in the desert. How is this meaning like a park in a dirty city?

2. For what kind of project would you need **permission** from the school principal?

3. Why might someone be **installing** things in an **abandoned** house?

4. If you could choose a **frequent** activity, what would you choose and why?

5. How much daily exercise do you think is **sufficient** for someone your age?

 Choose two of the Critical Vocabulary words and use them in a sentence. Include a synonym or antonym for one of the words.

Name _____

Text and Graphic Features

In a graphic novel, text is used either as narration or as speech. Visuals such as diagrams and illustrations help explain ideas in the text.

Answer the questions about page 224 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

1. Which text on the page is narration?

2. What purpose does this narration serve in the story?

3. What purpose do the drawings and speech balloons serve in this part of the story?

Answer the question about page 233 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

4. What are three different ways in which text is used on this page?

Name _____

Words with VV Syllable Division Pattern

Read each sentence. Complete the sentence by choosing the word with the VV syllable division pattern. With this pattern both vowels are sounded.

1. Students can learn to skate by looking at this _____.
pamphlet video
2. The child's toy was made of _____ plastic.
pliable flexible
3. Thelma is studying to be a _____.
dentist librarian
4. The _____ was closed for remodeling.
theater hotel
5. Tyrone loves to read books on _____.
biology chemistry

Read the words in the box aloud. Circle all of the words in which you hear two different vowel sounds in the VV pattern.

refrain	teach	screen	dear	triumph
reality	break	diagram	could	trial
fluid	gradual	serial	explain	pail
pioneer	create	food	diet	client

Name _____

Theme

Knowing the **theme** helps you understand the main message, lesson, or moral of the text.

 Answer the questions about page 216 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

1. How does Luz want to change the empty lot?

2. What can you infer about the theme of the story from Luz's statement?

 Answer the questions about page 238 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

3. What story theme can you infer from Luz's words?

4. How does knowing the theme help you understand the story's events better?

Name _____

Idioms

An **idiom** is a type of common expression. An idiom means something different from the meaning of its individual words.

Knowing how to identify idioms helps you understand what the author has written.

➤ Answer the questions about the idiom on page 223 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

1. What does the idiom “out to lunch” mean?

2. What clues in the text help you understand the idiom?

➤ Answer the questions about the idiom in the middle row on page 228 in *Luz Sees the Light*.

3. What does the idiom “on board” mean?

4. What clues in the text help you understand the idiom?

Luz Sees the Light

► Read “Luz Sees the Light” and answer each question.

- 1 Why does the author most likely show a car driving by and disturbing Luz?
 - (A) to explain why she is hoping to spend the day indoors
 - (B) to show why she wants a place to enjoy the outdoors in peace
 - (C) to show that there has been more traffic than usual in her neighborhood
 - (D) to explain why her neighbors walk away when she tries to stop them on the sidewalk

- 2 Why does Luz think it is important to have a neighborhood farm?
 - (A) so she will have a chance to learn more about gardening
 - (B) because she wants to prove it is possible to grow food in a city
 - (C) because she does not know that there are grocery stores nearby
 - (D) so she will not have to depend on food that is shipped from far away

- 3 In the middle of the story, Luz begins to doubt herself and wonders if she is out to lunch. What does out to lunch mean as it is used in the story?
 - (A) not thinking clearly
 - (B) not moving quickly
 - (C) not supporting her friends
 - (D) not listening to her parents

- 4 Look at the pictures of the clock near the end of the story. How do these pictures help show how Luz is feeling?
- (A) They show that she is tired from all the work she has done and wants to sleep later.
 - (B) They suggest that she is worried about her project because she is running out of time to finish it.
 - (C) They suggest that she is excited about the party because she is counting the minutes until it begins.
 - (D) They show that she is thoughtful toward her friends because she wants to make sure they have time to see the park.
- 5 What is a main theme of the story?
- (A) Tricky tasks demand careful planning.
 - (B) It is important to be hopeful about the future.
 - (C) Projects are often more difficult than they seem at first.
 - (D) People should work together to be sure they get what they need.

Name: _____

Fill in the missing products on the multiplication chart.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	10		30			60
20		40	60		100	
30		60		120		180
40	40			160	200	
50			150		250	300
60	60		180	240		

