



Name _____

Whales – Main Idea

Directions: Write the letter of the main idea in the blank.

Optional: In addition, the main idea may be circled or highlighted. Supporting details may be underlined.

3. _____

Whales are large, intelligent mammals that live their entire lives in water. They are the only mammals that have adapted to living in the open oceans. There are all sizes and types of whales. The dwarf sperm whale is only about 8.5 feet long, while the blue whale is about 94 feet long. The blue whale's length is like the height of a nine story building. Some whales have teeth and hunt for fish, squid, and other marine mammals, swallowing them whole. Some whales do not have teeth, but use a comb-like structure in the mouth called a baleen to strain krill (shrimp-like creatures) from the ocean waters. All whales are warm-blooded, nurse their young, have lungs, and breathe air through a blowhole on the top of their head.

- a. Whales are huge.
- b. Whales are mammals that live in the oceans.
- c. Whales breathe air.
- d. Whales eat without chewing.



4. _____

Some whales do not have teeth. The whales are filter feeders and eat the small organisms that are caught on the baleen. The baleen is a plate or comb-like structure in the mouth with coarse broom-like bristles. Whales will pull in seawater through their mouths and push the water out against the baleen. The baleen will strain or catch the tiny shrimp-like krill. The blue whale, for example, will eat up to 4 tons or 8,000 pounds of krill, schools of small fish, and even plankton each day, all without teeth.

- a. Whales push seawater through their mouths.
- b. Whales eat all day long.
- c. Some whales are filter feeders.
- d. Whales eat tons of food.



Name _____

Giraffes – Main Idea

Directions: Write the letter of the main idea in the blank.

Optional: In addition, the main idea may be circled or highlighted. Supporting details may be underlined.

5. _____

Giraffes are 'fast walkers' adapted for living in the **savannas** of Africa. When they stand still, their coloring and spots camouflage them against the grasses. Their light and dark fur will blend in with the shadows and the light. They have an 18 inch, tough, bluish-purple tongue covered in hair that allows them to eat the leaves from the thorny Acacia tree. Giraffes have four stomachs that help in digestion of the 75 pounds of vegetation that they eat each day. They are most vulnerable to **predators** when they lower their heads to drink. They can run about 35 miles per hour and can kick karate style if necessary when pursued.

- a. Giraffes are adapted for living in African savannas.
- b. It's dangerous for giraffes to drink.
- c. Giraffes can reach leaves in the trees.
- d. Giraffes have lots of stomachs.



6. _____

Giraffes are really tall. They are, in fact, the tallest animals on land. All four of a giraffe's legs will grow to be six feet long. A giraffe is tall enough to look into a second story window without a problem. The giraffe's neck weights 600 pounds, but has the same number of **vertebrate** as humans. The leaves of the Acacia tree, which contain a lot of water, are the giraffes' favorite food. However, when a giraffe does get thirsty, it can drink 10 gallons of water a day. It is not easy to bend down for water when you are the tallest animal on land.

- a. Giraffes are the tallest animals on land.
- b. Giraffes can drink 10 gallons of water a day.
- c. Giraffes find it difficult to drink.
- d. Giraffes eat leaves.