

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 27

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Backyard Friends

They're beautiful. They are masters of flight. They are incredibly fast. For all these reasons and more, most people love watching hummingbirds. Hummingbirds are a favorite bird most people welcome into their backyards as friends.

For such a small package of about an ounce or two, hummingbirds display a lot of bold color. Male hummingbirds have a colorful gorget. A gorget is a group of small, stiff, reflective, colored feathers on the throat and chest of the hummingbird. Sometimes these feathers can look pretty boring. Just wait until the sun hits them. Then the feathers reflect amazing metallic color. These colorful feathers are used to attract female hummingbirds.

Along with their beauty, people enjoy watching the amazing flying skills of hummingbirds. Hummingbirds can fly in all directions. They can do this because their wings are connected only at the shoulder joint. Hummingbirds can fly to the left and to the right. They can fly up and down. Hummingbirds can fly backward and forward. They can even fly upside down. They are the only vertebrates that are able to hover, or stay in one place, while flying. All of this variety of motion makes hummingbirds a joy to watch.

Not only can hummingbirds fly in many directions, these speedy birds can also fly quickly. Most hummingbirds beat their wings somewhere between 70 and 225 times per second. One strange fact is that the biggest hummingbirds have the slowest wings. Their wings can be as slow as 10 beats per second. The smallest hummingbirds have the fastest wings. Whether they are big or small birds, their wings sometimes make a humming sound. This sound happens most often when male hummingbirds are flying in a U-shaped pattern through the air to attract female hummingbirds. That is how the hummingbirds got their name.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Most hummingbirds are speedy and can fly up to 45 mph. They are the opposite of their turtle friends, who move at a leisurely pace. Hummingbirds can also fly long distances. Hummingbirds have been known to fly 18 to 20 hours to cross the Gulf of Mexico. Along with their fast wings, hummingbirds also have a fast heart rate. When hummingbirds are resting, their hearts beat 225 times a minute. When they are flying around, their hearts beat 1,200 times a minute.

All of this motion and speed takes a lot of energy. Hummingbirds typically eat half their weight in nectar from flowers each day. Hummingbirds sip the nectar from flowers with a long tube-like tongue that acts a little like a straw. They can hover in midair while taking the nectar from the flower. These birds particularly look for red and orange flowers that can be seen from a distance. When there are too many hummingbirds in one area, the hummingbirds can guard certain flowers from other hummingbirds. Hummingbirds also eat small, flying insects. They catch these insects in midair. These insects are what hummingbirds feed to their nestlings for the first three weeks until the young hummingbirds are able to find food on their own.

In many areas, population growth has reduced the number of flowers that hummingbirds need to survive. Thankfully, this is an easy problem to fix. One solution is to plant a type of red flower that attracts hummingbirds to your yard. Another solution is to put up a hummingbird feeder. To fill the hummingbird feeder, simply make a solution of four parts water to one part sugar. It seems silly to give sugar to a bird, but that is exactly what hummingbirds need. The nectar hummingbirds get out of flowers is 26 percent sugar. That is double the sugar of soft drinks. All of that sugar gives hummingbirds the energy that they need to do all of that fast flying. As long as people continue to welcome these friendly birds into their backyards, we should continue to enjoy hummingbirds for many years to come.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 1 Why can hummingbirds fly in all directions?
- (A) They can fly at speeds of up to 45 mph.
 - (B) Their feathers reflect amazing metallic color.
 - (C) They have been known to travel great distances.
 - (D) Their wings are connected only at the shoulder joints.
- 2 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Why do hummingbirds eat half their weight in nectar each day?

- (A) Nectar is the only food hummingbirds eat.
- (B) Nectar is rare, so they have to collect a lot.
- (C) Hummingbirds need it to feed their nestlings.
- (D) Hummingbirds require a lot of energy to survive.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- (A) All of this motion and speed takes a lot of energy.
- (B) Hummingbirds hover in midair while taking the nectar from the flower.
- (C) Young hummingbirds are unable to find food for the first three weeks.
- (D) Population growth has reduced the number of flowers that hummingbirds need to survive.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 3 What is the main idea of the last paragraph?
- (A) People can help hummingbirds by planting flowers and providing food for them in their backyards.
 - (B) Sugar water from a feeder is far better for hummingbirds than nectar from flowers because it gives them more energy.
 - (C) Hummingbirds like red flowers best, but they will drink nectar out of orange and yellow flowers too if that is all that is available.
 - (D) There is double the amount of sugar in nectar than in soft drinks, so the nectar allows hummingbirds to fly really fast.

- 4 Read the sentences from the passage.

Most hummingbirds are speedy and can fly up to 45 mph. They are the opposite of their turtle friends, who move at a leisurely pace.

Read the analogy.

Hummingbirds are to speedy as turtles are to _____.

Which word **best** completes the analogy?

- (A) tiny
- (B) slow
- (C) quick
- (D) pretty

Name _____ Date _____

- 5 Mark the boxes to show which details support which main ideas.

	Hummingbirds are beautiful.	Hummingbirds are masters of flight.
Hummingbirds can fly backwards.		
Hummingbirds have colorful gorgets.		
Hummingbirds can fly upside down.		
Hummingbirds' feathers reflect amazing metallic color.		

- 6 What is the main idea of this passage? Be sure to provide details from the passage to support your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) The squirrel scurred into the tree.
 - (B) The boy began to wiggle in his seat.
 - (C) It was funny to watch the clown try to juggle.
 - (D) I love to travil with my family over summer break.
- 8 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) Tanya is the friendlier girl in fourth grade.
 - (B) Tanya is the friendliest girl in fourth grade.
 - (C) Tanya is the most friended girl in fourth grade.
 - (D) Tanya is the most friendlier girl in fourth grade.
- 9 Read the paragraph. Underline the **two** sentences that contain errors in grammar usage.

Dion was practicing for a swim meet. On Wednesday, he swam his event in 1 minute and 15 seconds. He knew he had to swim faster to win. On Thursday, he swam a little faster and finished his event in 1 minute and 5 seconds. On Friday, Dion swam his bestest event ever when he finished in 50 seconds. Now, all Dion had to do was swim just as fastly at the swim meet on Saturday.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 10 Avery began the following journal entry giving her opinion on the seasons. Read her paragraph. Then complete the task that follows.

There are four seasons in a year: winter, spring, summer, and fall. All of these seasons are different. Each season brings fun activities to do. The best season, though, is summer.

Rewrite the paragraph to be more convincing. Add new sentences to support Avery's opinion.
