

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 6

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Discovering a Sea Otter

In September 2014, a person taking an evening walk on a California beach heard the cry of a newborn sea otter. The citizen notified authorities. Scientists studied the situation and decided the otter pup could not be retrieved that night. The following morning, the pup was still in the same location. Since she had apparently been orphaned, the scientists rescued her. She was thought to be only one week old.

Sea otters must eat at least 25 percent of their body weight every day. The newborn female had been separated from her mother for at least 16 hours. She needed prompt feeding in order to survive. The pup was delivered to the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. The aquarium is a leader in rescuing and conserving sea otters. The aquarium helped stabilize the pup. The pup spent a month receiving care in California.

The baby, called Pup 681, was then sent to Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Shedd Aquarium is dedicated to marine mammal care and conservation. Pup 681 was five weeks old, less than two feet long, and weighed a little less than six pounds. She received constant attention from animal care and veterinarian teams. Tim Binder, vice president of Animal Collections at the aquarium, discussed the situation in a press release. “Pup 681’s situation was urgent,” he said. “We were perfectly positioned to ensure that this little pup had a home.”

Sea otters are members of the weasel family. They are the smallest marine mammals that live in the ocean. Pup 681 is a southern sea otter, also known as a California sea otter. Southern sea otters live along the coast of California. They can grow up to four feet long, and adult females can weigh 35 to 60 pounds. In the wild, they may live 15 to 20 years. Currently, the population in the wild is fewer than 3,000.

An adult female will usually give birth to one pup each year. Sea otters give birth in the water. Typically, a mother floats on her back, holding her baby to her chest to nurse it. Pups usually stay with their mothers for about eight months. During this time, they learn life skills. Young otters learn to swim and hunt by watching their mothers. Sea otters ordinarily spend most of their time in the water. However, they may sometimes come ashore to sleep.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

A young sea otter must learn many skills, such as foraging for food and grooming, in order to survive. Otters spend up to four hours a day grooming because they need a clean, healthy coat of fur to stay warm. Because Pup 681 was orphaned, human experts stepped in to teach her important life skills. “Our animal care team is teaching the pup how to be an otter,” Binder said. They began by feeding her formula from a bottle. She moved on to eating solid foods, such as shrimp and clams. They helped her learn other important skills such as grooming.

While people help Pup 681, they will also learn from her. They can study her biology and behavior. Binder also hopes learning about sea otters will “encourage people to preserve and protect them in the wild.”

1 Why did the scientists remove the baby sea otter from the wild?

- Ⓐ Its crying was annoying people.
- Ⓑ Monterey Bay Aquarium wanted to study the animal.
- Ⓒ It had been orphaned and would not survive without help.
- Ⓓ Shedd Aquarium wanted to help educate people about otter behavior.

2 Read the sentences from the text.

Sea otters are members of the weasel family. They are the smallest marine mammals that live in the ocean.

What does the word marine **most likely** mean?

- Ⓐ members of a family
- Ⓑ related to weasels
- Ⓒ travel by water
- Ⓓ from the sea

Name _____ Date _____

3 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What allowed Pup 681 to survive?

- (A) Scientists let her sleep out of the water.
- (B) Scientists called in experts on sea otters.
- (C) Scientists taught her how to behave like an otter.
- (D) Scientists found a female otter to teach her life skills.

Part B

Choose the detail from the text that **best** supports the answer to part A.

- (A) The citizen notified authorities.
- (B) Mother otters teach young otters to swim and hunt.
- (C) An adult female will usually give birth to one pup a year.
- (D) Human experts stepped in to teach her important life skills.

4 Read the sentence from the text.

Pups usually stay with their mothers for about eight months.

What is the meaning of the word pups according to the text?

- (A) dogs
- (B) mammals
- (C) young otters
- (D) female offspring

5 How does Tim Binder feel about the aquarium? How does the author reveal these feelings? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

6 Mark the boxes to match each cause with its effect.

	To Learn to Swim and Hunt	To Carry Their Babies	To Stay Warm
Young otters watch their moms.			
Mother otters float on their backs.			
Otters need a clean, healthy coat of fur.			

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) Mira adores going to plays.
 - (B) Leslie told us about her ordeal.
 - (C) Look at the bird soring overhead.
 - (D) Is everyone aboard the ship now?
- 8 Choose the sentence that contains an error.
- (A) The bell just rang, so please hurry to your class.
 - (B) After school, Shreya and Martina walked home together.
 - (C) Tomorrow our team will playing an important basketball game.
 - (D) Shawn was running late this morning, and he had to sprint for the bus.
- 9 A student is writing an article for class. Underline the sentence that contains an error in grammar usage.

Ants are great construction workers. Many types of ants dig tunnels and build underground nests with many rooms. The rooms have curved ceilings to trap heat and sloping floors so water drain out. Ants keep their nests safe and comfortable by repairing walls and filling holes.

Name _____ Date _____

- 10 Bo is writing a procedural composition about cleaning a bedroom. Read the draft and complete the task that follows.

It is important to have a clean bedroom, but it can be hard to know where to start. Throw away or recycle any trash that is in your room. Be sure to look at papers before you get rid of them in case they are important. Pick up anything that is on the floor. Put your toys away and put your books on the bookshelf. Put clean clothes in your dresser and dirty laundry in your hamper. Take everything off your dresser and shelves. You can dust the tops and put everything back neatly. Make your bed. It is easier to play and sleep in a bedroom that is neat!

Rewrite the paragraph to include transition words to link Bo's ideas.
