

Ms. Ermammarie

Room 9

5th Grade

Due: Thurs. April 2

Spelling List

Fifth Grade

mahogany

majestic

mallard

malleable

marvelous

meager

mediocre

melodious

merchandize

millennium

monumental

negligent

nostalgic

novelty

notable

Read the article "The Burrowing Owl" before answering Numbers 1 through 10.

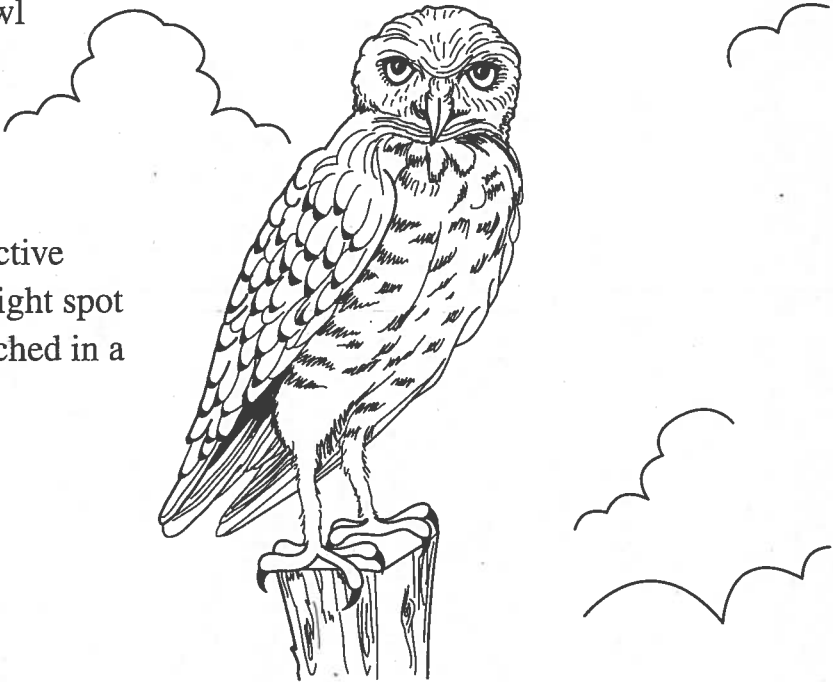
The Burrowing Owl

Have you ever been lucky enough to see an owl in the wild? If it was small and brown with white spots, it could have been a burrowing owl. These owls are found across North America. People often see them at nature preserves or in conservation areas. That is because these are safe places for the owls to live.

Burrowing owls make an interesting sound. This is a good way to identify them. The sound is similar to someone saying "coo-whooh." It is a quavering, chattering sound that is unlike any other. If a ranger were to conduct a nature walk, he or she might tell you to listen for this sound.

If you were looking for the owl, you would search for a bird with brown feathers that is dappled with white marks. It also has long legs. The owl has bright yellow eyes above curved bills. It has white markings over its eyes. Unlike some other owls, the burrowing owl does not have tufted ears, or ears that have long hair.

Among the smallest of owls, the burrowing owl is eight to ten inches tall and weighs only about eight ounces. Most owls are night creatures, but burrowing owls are active during the day. People might spot one on the ground or perched in a tree along a nature trail.



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The burrowing owl got its name because of how it makes its home. This owl does not build a nest in a tree. Instead, it nests in holes under the ground, called burrows, that are no longer used by prairie dogs and ground squirrels. The owl takes over the burrows once the other animals abandon them. For this reason, burrowing owls are found in grasslands and prairies from southwestern Canada all the way to Mexico. People in the western United States and in Florida often see them. In the western states, the owl moves from place to place, but in Florida the birds do not.

If you are lucky enough to see a burrowing owl, remember to stay away from it. If a human comes near, then the owl may become upset or excited. It will make loud noises and bob its head. The burrowing owl has even been known to dive at people. Some people have heard a frightened owl hissing at them like a snake.

It is important to protect the burrowing owl so that it does not become endangered. In several states, the burrowing owl is listed as a "species of special concern." That does not mean it is endangered yet. If it continues to decrease in numbers though, it will be at risk of becoming extinct in the future. There are fewer burrowing owls today than there were in the past. This is because of a few different reasons. Cities have spread across land once used for farming. As a result, the owls lose their habitats, or natural homes. In areas used for farming, large machines can destroy owl nests in the ground.

People can help save the burrowing owl in a few different ways. They can talk to their family members and friends and tell them not to destroy any burrows they find on their property. The owls may return to their nesting area. People can put up a sign to warn of a nest. They can also encourage others not to use pesticides in gardens because burrowing owls eat insects and may be affected by the chemicals. People can spread the word about burrowing owls if they post flyers that inform others about this special bird. We can all do our part to make sure the burrowing owl is here to stay for many years to come.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on "The Burrowing Owl."

- 1 In the first paragraph of the article, what reason does the author give for seeing a burrowing owl in a nature preserve?
 - (A) It is a safe place for the owl to live.
 - (B) Some people are lucky to see the owl.
 - (C) The owl is found across North America.
 - (D) The owl is small and brown with white spots.

2 Read this sentence from the article.

If a ranger were to conduct a nature walk, he or she might tell you to listen for this sound.

Which definition fits the homograph *conduct* in the sentence above?

- (F) to move through
- (G) to lead as a guide
- (H) to act in a certain way
- (I) to direct an orchestra or choir

3 What word from the article means "a bird's beak" but can also be a word that means "a piece of paper money"?

- (A) bill
- (B) flyer
- (C) listed
- (D) post

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- 4 How does the author organize the first paragraph?
 - (F) by comparing and contrasting owls
 - (G) by explaining the natural habitats of owls
 - (H) by giving the cause for seeing a burrowing owl
 - (I) by describing the appearance and behavior of owls

- 5 How did burrowing owls get their name?
 - (A) by where they nest
 - (B) by their appearance
 - (C) by the way they behave
 - (D) by the sound they make

- 6 Which word from the article that means "to display a message for others to see" is a homograph for the word defined below?

a pole used for support

- (F) ground
 - (G) nest
 - (H) post
 - (I) sign
- 7 How does the author help the reader understand why burrowing owls are a "species of special concern"?
 - (A) by describing their appearance
 - (B) by comparing them to other owls
 - (C) by explaining how they got their name
 - (D) by giving reasons why there are fewer now

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8 Read this sentence from the article.

It will make loud noises and bob its head.

Which definition fits *bob* in the sentence above?

- (F) to cut hair short
- (G) to move up and down
- (H) to fish with a float or cork
- (I) to grab at objects with the teeth

9 How does the author organize the second paragraph from the end of page 26?

- (A) by telling what an endangered species is
- (B) by showing how to protect the burrowing owl
- (C) by defending why burrowing owls need protection
- (D) by explaining why burrowing owls will keep decreasing

10 Read this sentence from the article.

If you were looking for the owl, you would search for a bird with brown feathers that is dappled with white marks.

What does *dappled* mean in the sentence above?

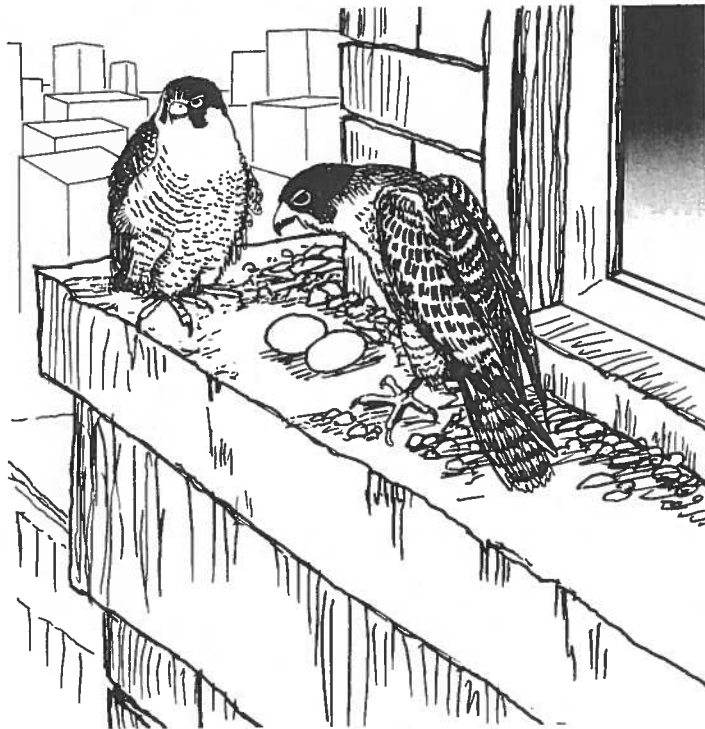
- (F) added
- (G) dipped
- (H) dotted
- (I) hidden

Read the article "Wild in the City" before answering Numbers 11 through 20.

Wild in the City

As cities grow, people expand into areas where wild animals live. When this happens, some animals move away from the lights and noise of city life, but many of them adapt, or change to fit their new situation. For this reason the number of wild animals living in cities is growing.

Wild animals live in parks, on golf courses, and even in backyards. They find food in trash. They drink the water in ponds. They often make homes in hollow logs, trees, or shrubs because they need a safe place to sleep and to raise their young.



Rats

Throughout history, rats have been city dwellers. Black and brown rats traveled from Asia to Europe. They came to North America on ships. Brown rats live throughout the United States, but most black rats live near the Gulf Coast. They can gnaw through wood and metal. For this reason, they make homes in basements and sewers. They are not picky about food and will eat both plants and animals. Rats live in big groups. Sometimes they band together to attack their prey.

Birds

Many birds live in cities too. One is the nighthawk. These birds nest on flat roofs. They eat insects and dive to catch them. Another is the pigeon. Many pigeons were brought to America as pets. Others were used to carry messages. Later they were freed, and the numbers grew rapidly. In cities, they pick through trash for food. They nest on

windowsills, the ledges of tall buildings, or under eaves. They are often seen in large flocks in the heart of a big city like Chicago or New York.

Coyotes

Once coyotes lived in grasslands, mountains, and open prairies. As cities grew and took over open land, coyotes learned to live near people. Since they are intelligent, they adapted well to city life. In some cities, the numbers of coyotes are growing at an alarming rate because they are good at finding food in trash. Like rats, they will eat almost anything. People should be alert when coyotes are reported in a neighborhood since they have attacked small animals. Coyotes may attack a human to protect their pups. People can hear them whine at night. They also growl and bark when threatened.

Bears

Surprisingly, black bears now wander in built-up neighborhoods. In an area of New Jersey only forty miles from New York City, they are seen regularly. Like other city animals that adapt well, black bears eat almost anything. They are found in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. While many people fear them because of their large size, they usually do not attack unless threatened. In most areas, the number of them is either growing or remaining steady. However, the status of the Louisiana black bear and the Florida black bear is “threatened species.”

Cougars

At one time, cougars lived across North America. Also called *mountain lion*, *puma*, and *panther*, the cougar is a large cat. Cities spread into the foothills of mountains in the West. As a result, cougars adapted and now live in neighborhoods near wooded areas and canyons. Many live in Colorado and California. Their numbers are growing rapidly in the western states.

Although people enjoy watching wildlife, they often feel threatened by it. In order to protect themselves, people should be careful not to leave out food. They should put garbage in a covered can. They should also keep dogs and cats indoors most of the time.

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Now answer Numbers 11 through 20. Base your answers on "Wild in the City."

- 11 How does the author organize the information in the article?
 - A by explaining the effect of cities on wildlife
 - B by telling the solution to the problem of wildlife
 - C by telling the order of events in the growth of cities
 - D by comparing and contrasting the sizes of animals

12 Read this sentence from the article.
However, the status of the Louisiana black bear and the Florida black bear is "threatened species."

What does *status* mean in the sentence above?

- F current condition
- G signs of danger
- H full name
- I location

13 Read this sentence from the article.
In cities, they pick through trash for food.

Which definition fits *pick* in the sentence above?

- A to pluck
- B to break up
- C to proceed slowly
- D to choose and pull from

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- 14 How does the author explain what causes wild animals to live in cities?
- F by identifying where they live in cities
 - G by telling that cities were built on their land
 - H by showing how easily they adapt to city life
 - I by contrasting life in the wild to life in the city

- 15 How does the author help the reader understand why cougars have been sighted in Iowa?
- A by describing sightings near Iowa City
 - B by comparing cougars to panthers and puma
 - C by showing that cougars are good problem solvers
 - D by explaining that cougars can travel long distances

- 16 Read this sentence from the article.

Since they are intelligent, they adapted well to city life.

Which definition fits *well* in the sentence above?

- F in a safe way
 - G in a familiar way
 - H in a satisfactory way
 - I an underground source of water
- 17 How does the author explain why black bears adapt well to living in cities?
- A by describing their intelligence
 - B by showing how they solve problems
 - C by saying they eat a wide variety of food
 - D by comparing them to other wild animals

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18 How does the author help the reader understand why birds survive in cities?

- Ⓕ by comparing nighthawks and pigeons
- Ⓖ by telling how many pigeons live in cities
- Ⓗ by describing the appearance of different birds
- Ⓘ by explaining where birds find food and make nests

19 Which word from the article that means “a short, sharp sound” is a homograph for the word defined below?

the tough, outer covering of a tree

- Ⓐ bark
- Ⓑ gnaw
- Ⓒ growl
- Ⓓ whine

20 Read this sentence from the article.

They should put garbage in a covered can.

Which definition fits *can* in the sentence above?

- Ⓕ be able to
- Ⓖ a container
- Ⓗ to fire from a job
- Ⓘ to know how to do



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21 How does the way people use land affect the wildlife in "The Burrowing Owl" and "Wild in the City"? Use text evidence in your response.

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Room 9

Homework

March 26, 2015

Due date - April 2, 2015

Math

5th Grade

Work book pages