NONFICTION

4TH & 5TH GRADE

RI.4.4 / 5.4

CONTEXT CLUES

LEXILE

Family Structure

Vampire bats living in colonies together have strong ties. Vampire bats have developed an adaptation to share food. Vampire bats can only live two days without food. Since food can be scarce, a hungry bat will often beg another bat for food. A donor bat regurgitates some of the blood it consumed for the hungry bat. This ensures that the colony survives. Donor bats will also offer food to starving bats.

Vampire bats drink
to quickly digest the blood so
to urinate two minutes after
has 20-30% of its body weig
air. They return to their r

Vampire bats are
them survive.

Food

Var
common
Hairy-
bats
bat
gr
h

nt in complete darkness. The
blood from mammals.
ned vampire

790L

Context Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

Vampire Bats

Vampire bats are sanguivorous. They only consume blood. There
vampire bats. These are the common vampire bat, the hairy-legged va
white-winged vampire bat. The three species of vampire bats are simil
This tells us that they once evolved from a common ancestor.

Anatomy

Unlike other bats, vampire bats have short muzzles. They also have naked nose pads. Common vampire bats have thermoreceptors on their noses. This helps them locate where blood flows on their prey. Vampire bats also use infrared radiation to find blood hotspots on their prey. Part of their brains is called the inferior colliculus. This helps them detect breathing of the sleeping animals they prey on. They use their sharp front teeth to puncture the skin of their prey. Unlike most other bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and

Habitat

Vampire bats live in dark plac
They can be found in caves, hollow
trees, and buildings. They dwell
between Central to South America.
They live in arid, humid, tropical, and
subtropical environments. Colonies can
from a few bats to hundreds of
A colony consists of females,
g, and a few adult males.
h, "resident males" and
as "nonresident

Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word sanguivorous mean as it is used in the passage?

a. similar
b. species
c. different
d. feeding on blood

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of the text.

They use their sharp front teeth to **puncture** the skin of their prey.

What is the meaning of *puncture* as it is used in the text?

a. eat
b. jump
c. feed
d. break

3. What does the word *dwell* mean as it is used in the passage?

a. live
b. dark
c. hunt
d. countries

4. Paragraph 3 says, "They live in **arid**, humid, tropical, and subtropical environments." What is the meaning of *arid* as it is used in the text?

a. hot
b. dry
c. wet
d. humid

states, "**Colonies** can be from a fe ts to hundreds of bats." Explain
colonies means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with
ues from the pass

s are groups
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bats to hu
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mmon vampire bat b

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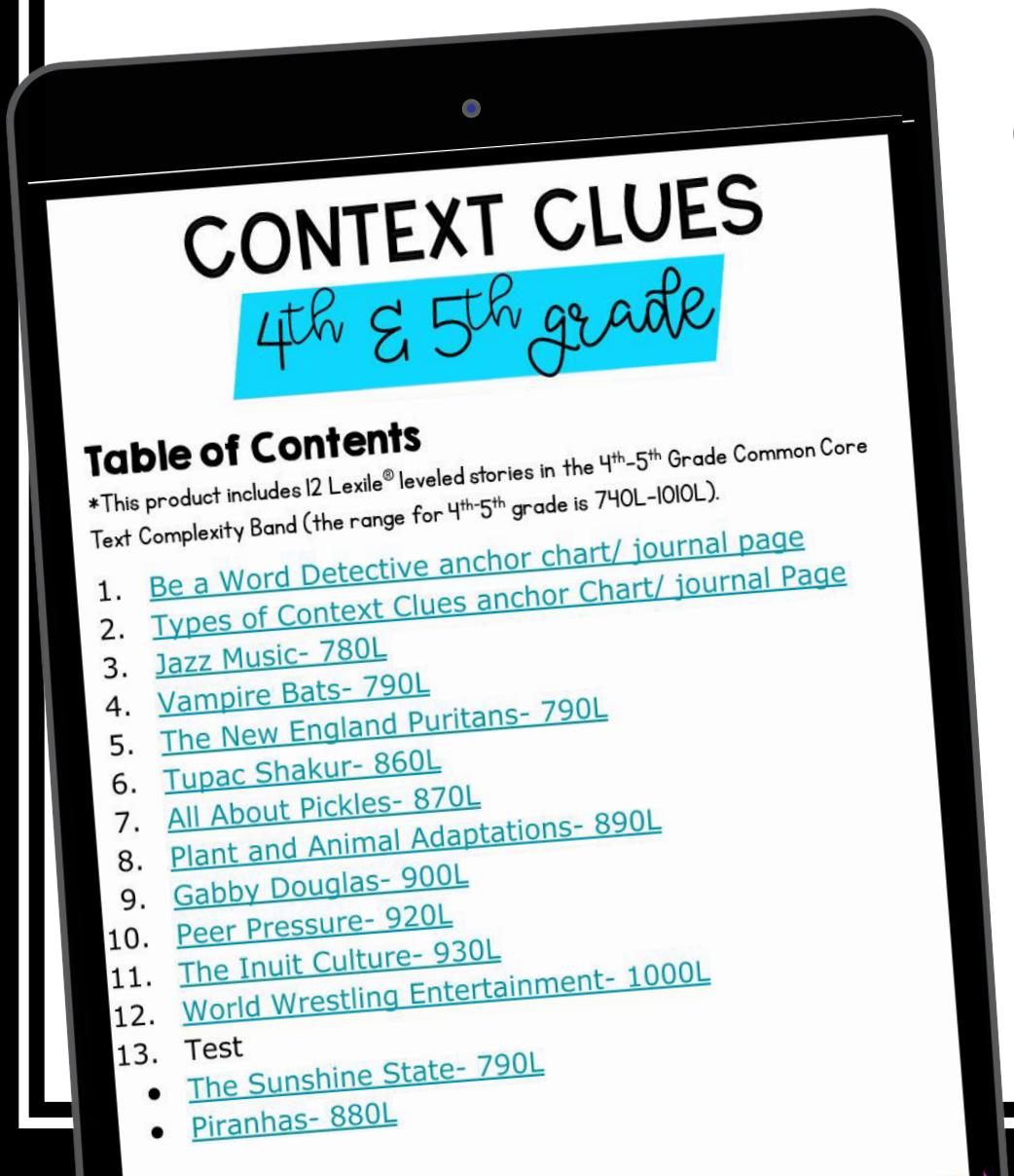
This tells me

MagCORE

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

TEN 4th & 5th Grade DIGITAL and PRINTABLE PDF nonfiction passages & TWO assessments!

- Aligned with 4th and 5th Grade Lexile Levels
- Includes Context Clues Anchor Charts and Journal Pages
- Students can highlight the text for easy comprehension



Created with GOOGLE SLIDES

LEXILE®

NONFICTION PASSAGES

900L

Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

Gabby Douglas

Gabrielle Douglas was born on December 31, 1995 in Virginia. She is the youngest of three siblings. When Gabby was six, her older sister persuaded her mother to **permit** them to take gymnastic classes. Gabby showed **aptitude** in the sport early on. At 8 years old, Gabby won the Level 4 all-around gymnastics title at the Virginia State Championships.

When Gabby was 14, she **relocated** to Iowa to train for gymnastics full-time with coach Liang Chow. Gabby's family stayed in Virginia. Gabby lived with the Partons whose daughter was also training with Liang Chow. Gabby worked hard in Iowa. She competed with her team **globally**. They traveled around the U.S., Italy, and Japan. In 2012, Gabby **attended** the Olympic Trials. She placed first in all-around rankings. This gave her the only guaranteed spot on the U.S. Women's Olympic Gymnastics team.

At the 2012 Summer Olympics, Gabby and her team won the gold medal for the team event. Gabby competed on the uneven bars, vault, floor, and balance beam. She won the gold medal in the individual all-around. Gabby was the first African-American woman to win this event. Gabby continued to train for the 2016 Olympics. At the 2016 Olympics in Rio, Gabby and her team won a second gold medal in the team event.

In 2017, Gabby decided to take a break from gymnastics. "Right now since I've been doing gymnastics for 14 years, I am taking this time off, especially growing into my own person," Gabby stated. Gabby has been focusing on **promotions** for companies such as Post-It. She is also **pursuing** acting. While Gabby is keeping her gymnastics options open, she is currently focusing on appearing in movies.

Gabby (third girl f
the left) and the r
of the 2012 Olym
Gymnastics Team r
President Barac
Obama.

©

Color-coded highlighting supports student comprehension. In Google Slides, students can highlight as they read!

Context Clues

5. What does the word *attended* mean as it is used in the passage? blue

a. left
b. worked
c. traveled
d. went to

6. Paragraph 1 on page 2 states, "Gabby has been focusing on **promotions** for companies such as Post-It." Explain what the word *promotions* means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with **one** context clue from the passage. purple

Students type their answers right in the text box.

7. Read this sentence from the last paragraph of the text. brown

She is also **pursuing** acting.

In your own words, write a definition of the word *pursuing*. Then list words or phrases that helped you define the word.

©

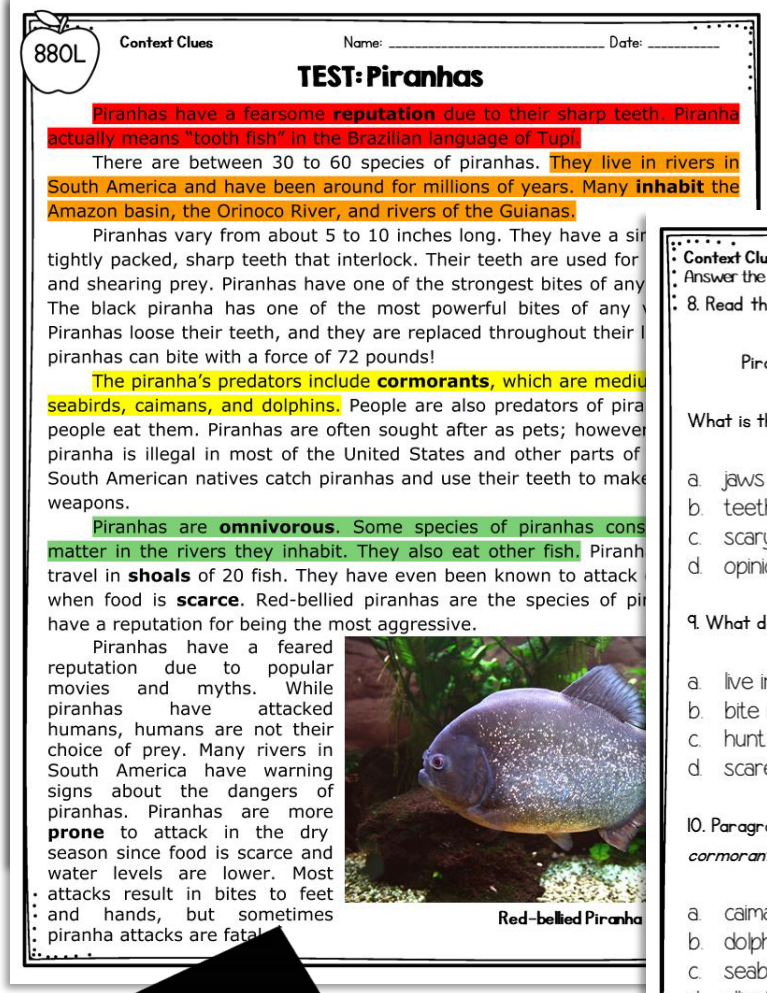
After reading, students type their answers in the text boxes using text evidence.

ASSESSMENTS

790L Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: The Sunshine State

Florida is located in the Southeastern United States. Florida is the third most



880L Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

TEST: Piranhas

Piranhas have a fearsome **reputation** due to their sharp teeth. Piranha actually means "tooth fish" in the Brazilian language of Tupí.

There are between 30 to 60 species of piranhas. They live in rivers in South America and have been around for millions of years. Many **inhabit** the Amazon basin, the Orinoco River, and rivers of the Guianas.

Piranhas vary from about 5 to 10 inches long. They have a sir tightly packed, sharp teeth that interlock. Their teeth are used for and shearing prey. Piranhas have one of the strongest bites of any The black piranha has one of the most powerful bites of any Piranhas loose their teeth, and they are replaced throughout their l piranhas can bite with a force of 72 pounds!

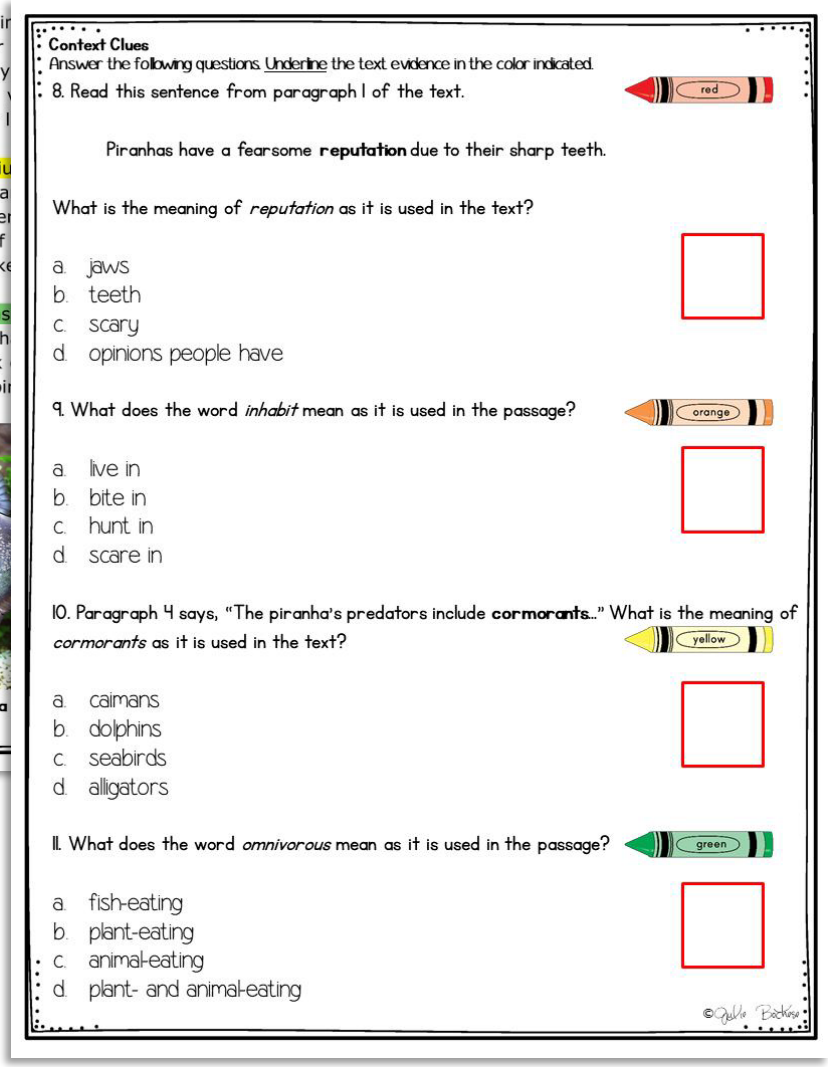
The piranha's predators include **cormorants**, which are mediu seabirds, caimans, and dolphins. People are also predators of pira people eat them. Piranhas are often sought after as pets; however piranha is illegal in most of the United States and other parts of South American natives catch piranhas and use their teeth to make weapons.

Piranhas are **omnivorous**. Some species of piranhas cons matter in the rivers they inhabit. They also eat other fish. Piranh travel in **shoals** of 20 fish. They have even been known to attack when food is **scarce**. Red-bellied piranhas are the species of pi have a reputation for being the most aggressive.

Piranhas have a feared reputation due to popular movies and myths. While piranhas have attacked humans, humans are not their choice of prey. Many rivers in South America have warning signs about the dangers of piranhas. Piranhas are more **prone** to attack in the dry season since food is scarce and water levels are lower. Most attacks result in bites to feet and hands, but sometimes piranha attacks are fatal

Red-bellied Piranha

Color coded highlighting can also be done on the assessments!



Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

8. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text. red

Piranhas have a fearsome **reputation** due to their sharp teeth.

What is the meaning of *reputation* as it is used in the text?

a. jaws
b. teeth
c. scary
d. opinions people have

9. What does the word *inhabit* mean as it is used in the passage? orange

a. live in
b. bite in
c. hunt in
d. scare in

10. Paragraph 4 says, "The piranha's predators include **cormorants**..." What is the meaning of *cormorants* as it is used in the text? yellow

a. caimans
b. dolphins
c. seabirds
d. alligators

11. What does the word *omnivorous* mean as it is used in the passage? green

a. fish-eating
b. plant-eating
c. animal-eating
d. plant- and animal-eating

©Gabbie Bockose

This resource also includes THREE tests with different Lexile Levels for student assessment.

CONTEXT CLUES

4th & 5th grade

Table of Contents

*This product includes 12 Lexile® leveled stories in the 4th-5th Grade Common Core Text Complexity Band (the range for 4th-5th grade is 740L-1010L).

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2. Types of Context Clues anchor Chart/ journal Page
3. Historical Text Anchor Chart/Journal Page
4. Jazz Music- 780L
5. Vampire Bats- 790L
6. The New England Puritans- 790L
7. Tupac Shakur- 860L
8. All About Pickles- 870L
9. Plant and Animal Adaptations- 890L
10. Gabby Douglas- 900L
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ABOUT LEXILE LEVELS

MagiCore Learning, LLC is a certified Lexile® Partner. These texts are officially measured and approved by Lexile and MetaMetrics® to ensure appropriate rigor and differentiation for students.

The Lexile Framework® for Reading measures are scientific, quantitative text levels. When the Lexile of a text is measured, specific, measurable attributes of the text are considered, including, but not limited to, word frequency, sentence length, and text cohesion. These are difficult attributes for humans to evaluate, so a computer measures them.

Common Core State Standards uses Lexile level bands as one measure of text complexity. Text complexity ranges ensure that students are college and career ready by the end of 12th grade. Lexile measures help educators scaffold and differentiate instruction, as well as monitor reading growth.

Grade Band	Lexile® Bands Aligned to Common Core Expectations
K-1	190L-530L
2-3	420L-820L
4-5	740L-1010L
6-8	925L-1185L

Keep in mind when using any leveled text that many students will need scaffolding and support to reach text at the high end of their grade band. According to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards, "It is important to recognize that scaffolding often is entirely appropriate. The expectation that scaffolding will occur with particularly challenging texts is built into the Standards' grade-by-grade text complexity expectations, for example. The general movement, however, should be toward decreasing scaffolding and increasing independence both within and across the text complexity bands defined in the Standards."

Word Detectives Use Context Clues

Definition (meaning)
The concept, or idea, was new to her.

Examples
*Like
*Such as
*OR
The data, such as reading level growth, can be found in student binders.

Synonyms
(Same)
The turtle slowly sauntered through the grass.

Antonyms
(Opposite)
The plate wasn't **brittle** since it did not break when she dropped it on the floor.

Word Parts
Is there a helpful prefix, suffix, or root word?
helpful
rewrite
pretest

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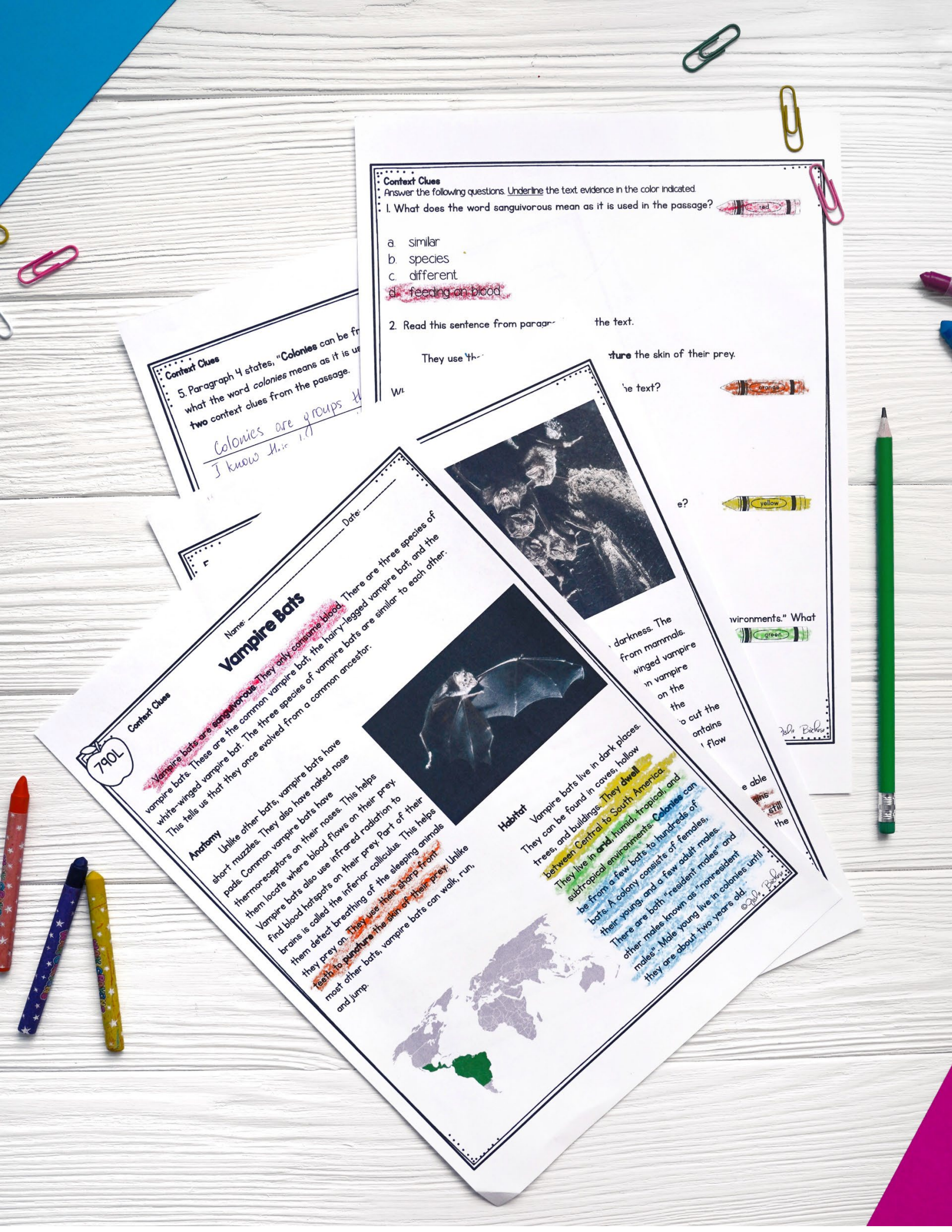

Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word sanguivorous mean as it is used in the passage? red

a. similar
b. species
c. different
d. feeding on blood

2. Read this sentence from paragr... the text.

They use th... ...ture the skin of their prey.

W... ...he text? orange

...e? yellow

...vironments." What green

...darkness. The
...from mammals.
...winged vampire
...n vampire
...on the
...the
...o cut the
...ontains
...flow

...e able
...gins
...still
...the

Context Clues

5. Paragraph 4 states, "**Colonies** can be fr...
what the word *colonies* means as it is us...
two context clues from the passage.

Colonies are groups th...
I know this ...

Name: _____ Date: _____

Vampire Bats

790L

Context Clues

Vampire bats are sanguivorous. They only consume blood. There are three species of vampire bats. These are the common vampire bat, the hairy-legged vampire bat, and the white-winged vampire bat. The three species of vampire bats are similar to each other. This tells us that they once evolved from a common ancestor.

Anatomy

Unlike other bats, vampire bats have short muzzles. They also have naked nose pads. Common vampire bats have thermoreceptors on their noses. This helps them locate where blood flows on their prey. Vampire bats also use infrared radiation to find blood hotspots on their prey. Part of their brains is called the inferior colliculus. This helps them detect breathing of the sleeping animals they prey on. They use their sharp front teeth to puncture the skin of their prey. Unlike most other bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and jump.

Habitat

Vampire bats live in dark places. They can be found in caves, hollow trees, and buildings. They dwell between Central to South America. They live in arid, humid, tropical, and subtropical environments. Colonies can be from a few bats to hundreds of bats. A colony consists of females, their young, and a few adult males. There are both "resident males" and other males known as "nonresident males". Male young live in colonies until they are about two years old.

©Julie Bichose

Context Clues
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. What does the word *preserved* mean as it is used in the passage?

a. rotted
b. placed
c. spoiled
d. treated to stay good

2. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of

Over five million pounds of pickles

What is the meaning of *consumed* as it is

a. spent
b. eaten
c. grown
d. pickled

3. What does the word *ancient* mean as i

a. recent
b. modern
c. long ago
d. 100 years ago

4. What does the word *nourishment* mea

a. food
b. drink
c. vitamins
d. nutriti

870L

Context Clues

Name: _____ Date: _____

All About Pickles

Pickles are cucumbers that are **preserved** in vinegar, salt, and other flavors. Because they are preserved, they do not spoil easily. People in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia call pickles gherkins. The name "pickle" comes from the Dutch word "pekel" or the German word "pókel", both which mean salt or brine. Over five million pounds of pickles are **consumed** every day. More than half of the cucumbers grown in the United States become pickles.

Pickles have been around since **ancient** times. The first pickles were made about 4,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians and Greeks wrote about using pickles for **nourishment** and healing. They were **prevalent** during the Roman Empire and spread throughout Europe. The first people who journeyed to America brought pickles because they did not spoil. Pickles began to be made for commercial sales in 1820. Nicholas Appert was the first person to sell pickles in jars.

Famous people throughout history have had a love of pickles. Pickles are mentioned i the Bible and Shakespeare's writings. Aristotle thought that pickles had healing properties Julius Caesar gave pickles to his troops because he thought that they gave people physica and spiritual strength. Cleopatra believed that her beauty came from eating pickles. Napoleon Bonaparte offered to pay 12,000 francs (or $250,000) to the person who cou invent the best way to pickle food. French chef Nicolas Appert won the competition. He discovered a way to remove air from the jars before sealing them.

There are many different **varieties** of pickles. Dill pickles are the most common. Dill pickles are made by adding dill weed. Sweet pickles are made by adding sugar. Other vegetables and fruits can also be pickled. Popular pickling vegetables include onions, radishes, and asparagus. **Fermented** cabbage is called sauerkraut. In the Middle East, pickled fruits or ables, such as peppers, olives, or lemons, are eaten with each meal. A popular dish in ea is kimchi. Kimchi is pickled cabbage, radishes, and other vegetables and spices. In pan, pickled plums are popular. Italians make pickled eggplants and peppers.

Pickles are a delicious and low-calorie snack. Next time you crave a crunchy and salty eat, pickles are sure to satisfy your craving.

©Jodi Bethke

"This also keeps them away from **herbivores** that may eat them."

herbivores

Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.

red

Plants and animals **adapt** to their environments to survive.

What is the meaning of *adapt* as it is used in the text?

a. eat
b. live
c. change
d. survive

2. What does the word *anatomical* mean as it is used in the pass

a. lear
b. phy
c. inhe
d. beh

3. What

a. pre
b. eva
c. exc
d. la

890L

Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

Plant and Animal Adaptations

Plants and animals adapt to their environments to survive. These changes can be [illegible] their physical features. Adaptations can also be learned.

Praying Mantis

Praying mantises have triangle-shaped heads that can turn 180 degrees. This, along with their multiple eyes, allows them to see everything in their surroundings. Praying mantises are usually green or brown, which camouflages them to the surroundings.

Salamanders

A salamander is able to drop its tail when it is caught by a predator. The detached tail continues to wriggle, distracting the predator while the salamander flees. Some species of salamanders are able to regenerate their lost tails in a period of a few weeks. In addition, some salamanders have pois[illegible] brightly colored to warn p[illegible] their **toxicity**.

Vervet Monkeys

Vervet monkeys have developed a more **complex** language than many animals. They are able to communicate different signs of danger. They have different calls for warnings about snakes, eagles, and leopards. Dolphins, apes, and parrots also have similarly complex languages.

Panellus Stipticus

The Panellus stipticus is a fungi that grows in clumps on trees. This amazing fungi is **bioluminescent**. This light attracts insects like beetles, flies, and ants. These insects then carry the Panellus stipticus' spores away and spreads them. In addition to being bioluminescent, the Panellus stipticus also has a circadian clock which helps it know when it is dark enough to turn on its bioluminescence.

Plant and animal adaptations are necessary for many species' survival. It is fascinating for scientists to study how living things have developed their adaptations throughout time.

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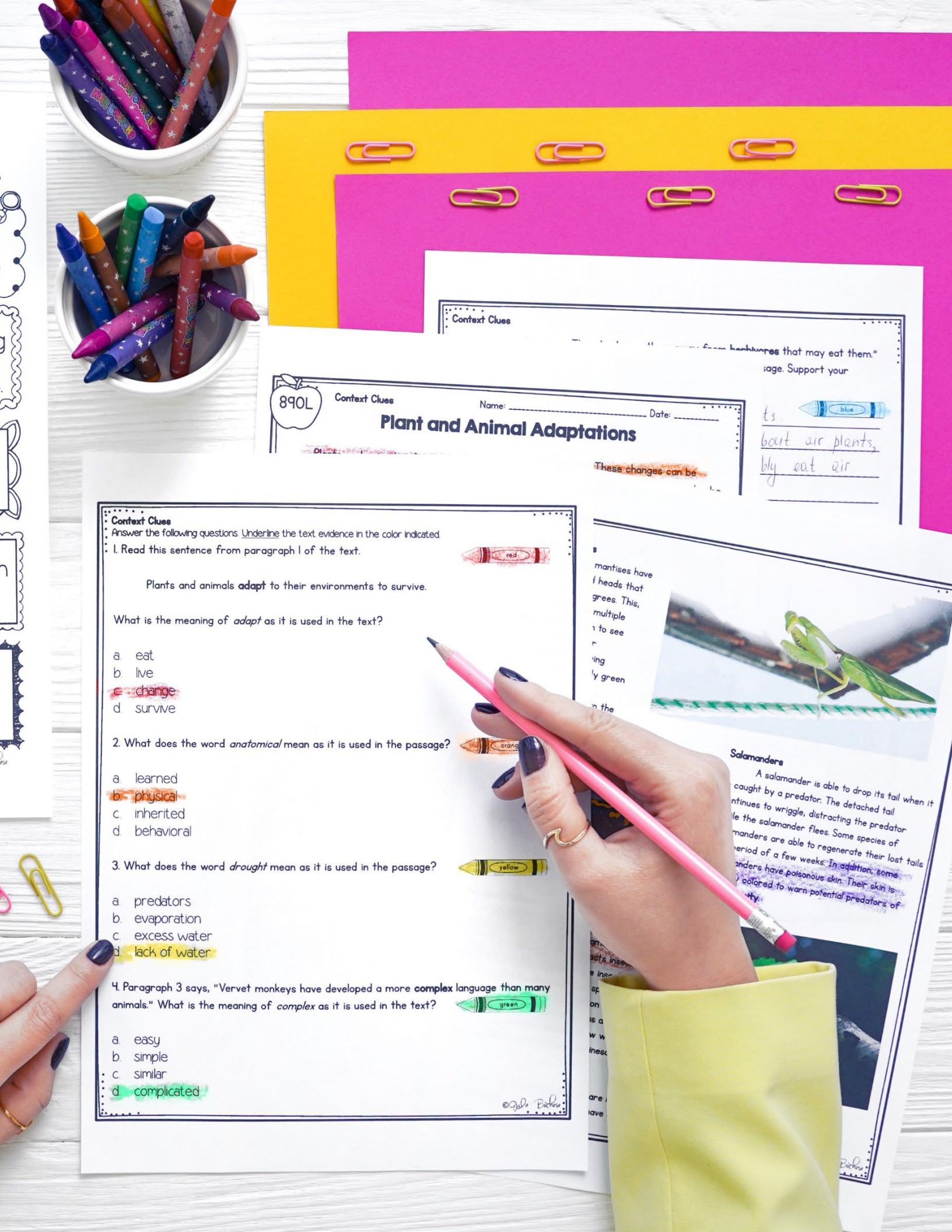
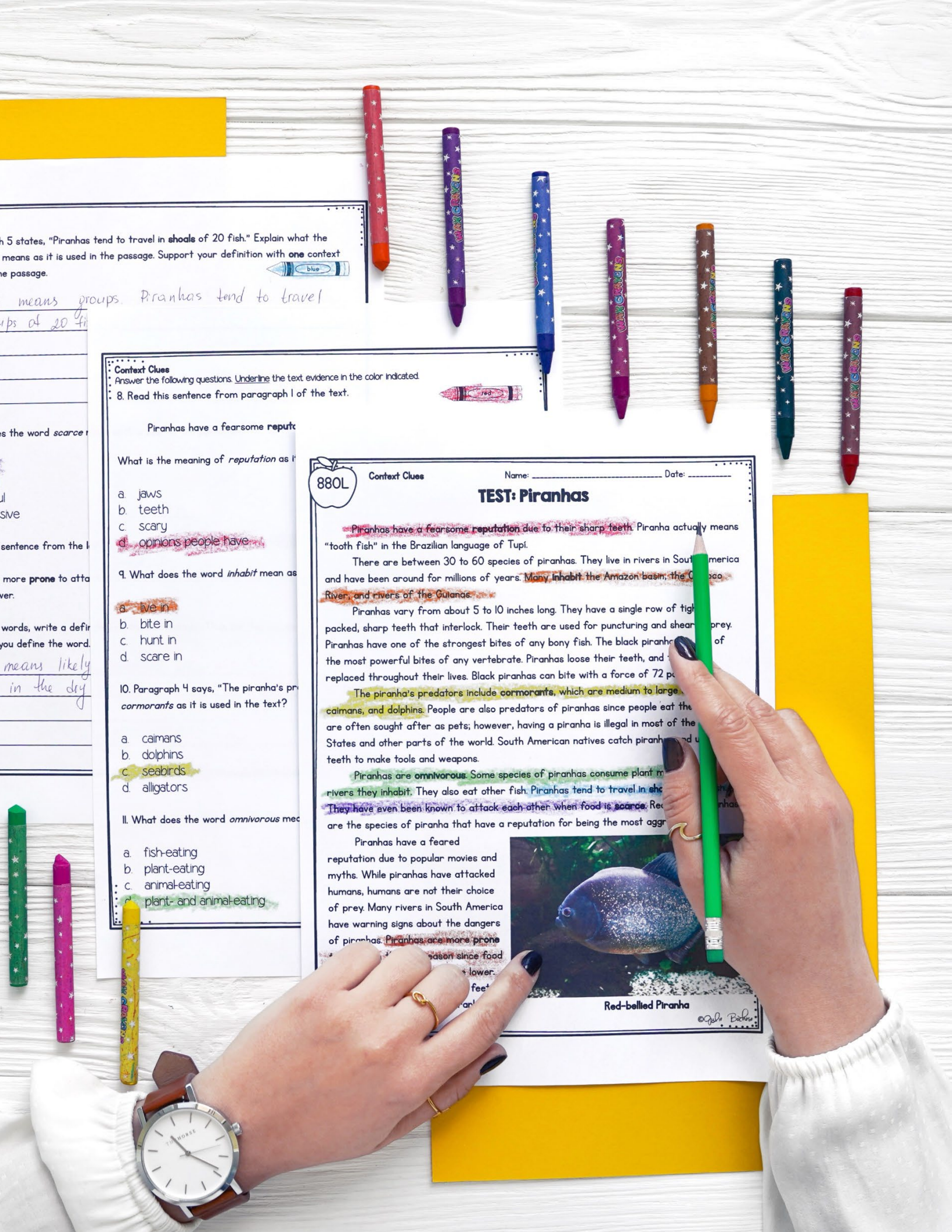

Context Clues
890L
Context Clues
Name:
Date:
Plant and Animal Adaptations
These changes can be
Context Clues
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.
1. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.
red
Plants and animals adapt to their environments to survive.
What is the meaning of adapt as it is used in the text?
a. eat
b. live
c. change
d. survive
2. What does the word anatomical mean as it is used in the passage?
a. learned
b. physical
c. inherited
d. behavioral
3. What does the word drought mean as it is used in the passage?
yellow
a. predators
b. evaporation
c. excess water
d. lack of water
4. Paragraph 3 says, "Vervet monkeys have developed a more complex language than many animals." What is the meaning of complex as it is used in the text?
green
a. easy
b. simple
c. similar
d. complicated
Salamanders
A salamander is able to drop its tail when it
caught by a predator. The detached tail
ntinues to wriggle, distracting the predator
le the salamander flees. Some species of
manders are able to regenerate their lost tails
period of a few weeks. In addition, some
anders have poisonous skin. Their skin is
colored to warn potential predators of



h 5 states, "Piranhas tend to travel in shoals of 20 fish." Explain what the
means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with one context
he passage.
blue
means groups. Piranhas tend to travel
ups of 20 fi
es the word scarce
ul
sive
sentence from the l
more prone to atta
ver.
words, write a defir
you define the word.
means likely
in the dry
Context Clues
Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.
8. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.
red
Piranhas have a fearsome reputa
What is the meaning of reputation as i
a. jaws
b. teeth
c. scary
d. opinions people have
9. What does the word inhabit mean as
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b. plant-eating
c. animal-eating
d. plant- and animal-eating
880L
Context Clues
Name: _____ Date: _____
TEST: Piranhas
Piranhas have a fearsome reputation due to their sharp teeth. Piranha actually means "tooth fish" in the Brazilian language of Tupí.
There are between 30 to 60 species of piranhas. They live in rivers in Sout merica and have been around for millions of years. Many inhabit the Amazon basin, the O oco River, and rivers of the Guianas.
Piranhas vary from about 5 to 10 inches long. They have a single row of tigh packed, sharp teeth that interlock. Their teeth are used for puncturing and shear prey. Piranhas have one of the strongest bites of any bony fish. The black piranh of the most powerful bites of any vertebrate. Piranhas loose their teeth, and replaced throughout their lives. Black piranhas can bite with a force of 72 p
The piranha's predators include cormorants, which are medium to large caimans, and dolphins. People are also predators of piranhas since people eat the are often sought after as pets; however, having a piranha is illegal in most of the States and other parts of the world. South American natives catch piranh d u teeth to make tools and weapons.
Piranhas are omnivorous. Some species of piranhas consume plant m rivers they inhabit. They also eat other fish. Piranhas tend to travel in sh They have even been known to attack each other when food is scarce. Re nhas are the species of piranha that have a reputation for being the most aggr
Piranhas have a feared reputation due to popular movies and myths. While piranhas have attacked humans, humans are not their choice of prey. Many rivers in South America have warning signs about the dangers of piranhas. Piranhas are more prone
eason since food
lower.
feet
Red-bellied Piranha
©John Bachose

890L

Context Clues Name: _____ Date: _____

Plant and Animal Adaptations

Plants and animals **adapt** to their environments to survive. These changes can be **anatomical**, where plants and animals adapt their physical features. Adaptations can also be behavioral, where traits are inherited or learned.

Cacti

Cacti have adapted to live in extreme, dry conditions. They are able to store water in their stems and roots. In addition, cacti have spines instead of leaves. Regular plant leaves have large surface areas for evaporation to occur. Cacti's spines minimize water loss. Some cacti can survive years of **drought** due to their ability to retain water!

Vervet Monkeys

Vervet monkeys have developed a more **complex** language than many animals. They are able to communicate different signs of danger. They have different calls for warnings about snakes, eagles, and leopards. Dolphins, apes, and parrots also have similarly complex languages.

Air Plants

Air plants, or epiphytes, stay attached to other plants rather than rooting in soil. Attaching to plants above ground gives them more light than ground plants. This also keeps them away from **herbivores** that may eat them. Air plants get water and nutrients from rain and air moisture.

©Julia Bochoso

Praying Mantis

Praying mantises have triangle-shaped heads that can turn 180 degrees. This, along with their multiple eyes, allows them to see everything in their surroundings. Praying mantises are usually green or brown, which camouflages them to the surroundings.

Salamanders

A salamander is able to drop its tail when it is caught by a predator. The detached tail continues to wriggle, distracting the predator while the salamander flees. Some species of salamanders are able to regenerate their lost tails in a period of a few weeks. In addition, some salamanders have poisonous skin. Their skin is brightly colored to warn potential predators of their **toxicity**.

Panellus Stipticus

The Panellus stipticus is a fungi that grows in clumps on trees. This amazing fungi is **bioluminescent**. This light attracts insects like beetles, flies, and ants. These insects then carry the Panellus stipticus' spores away and spreads them. In addition to being bioluminescent, the Panellus stipticus also has a circadian clock which helps it know when it is dark enough to turn on its bioluminescence.

Plant and animal adaptations are necessary for many species' survival. It is fascinating for scientists to study how living things have developed their adaptations throughout time.

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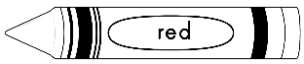
Context Clues

Answer the following questions. Underline the text evidence in the color indicated.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 1 of the text.

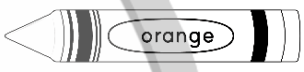


Plants and animals **adapt** to their environments to survive.

What is the meaning of *adapt* as it is used in the text?

a. eat
b. live
c. change
d. survive

2. What does the word *anatomical* mean as it is used in the passage?

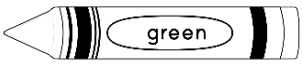


a. learned
b. physical
c. inherited
d. behavioral

3. What does the word *drought* mean as it is used in the passage?

a. predators
b. evaporation
c. excess water
d. lack of water

4. Paragraph 3 says, "Vervet monkeys have developed a more complex language than many animals." What is the meaning of *complex* as it is used in the text?



a. easy
b. simple
c. similar
d. complicated

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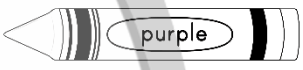
5. Paragraph 4 states, "This also keeps them away from **herbivores** that may eat them." Explain what the word *herbivores* means as it is used in the passage. Support your definition with **one** context clue from the passage.

6. What does the word *toxicity* mean as it is used in the passage?



a. tails
b. size
c. brightness
d. poisonousness

7. Read this sentence from the last paragraph of the text.

This amazing fungi is **bioluminescent.**

In your own words, write a definition of the word *bioluminescent*. Then list two words or phrases that helped you define the word.

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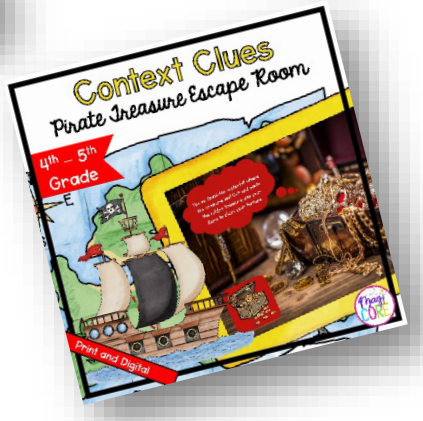

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