

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

The Mysterious “Otter Cat”

¹ I made my way along a dusty trail in Costa Rica’s Manuel Antonio National Park to the Pacific Ocean. I had come to Central America to learn about the rare cats that lived there. I hoped to see some in the wild.

Otter or Cat?

² I had walked several miles when a small, reddish-brown animal dashed across the trail in front of me and disappeared into the brush.

³ “Was that an otter?” I wondered.

⁴ It was a good guess. River otters do live in Costa Rica. Like an otter, the animal I saw had short legs, a small narrow head, and short rounded ears. It also had a long thin tail.

⁵ However, the animal I had seen moved like a cat. “No,” I decided, “that was a jaguarundi.” No wonder it’s sometimes called the otter cat!



The jaguarundi is called the “otter cat” because of its small head, narrow neck and body, and long thin tail.

Name _____ Date _____

A Rare Sight

- ⁶ I had been fortunate to spot a jaguarundi. Jaguarundis are difficult to study because they stay away from people. A few jaguarundis once lived in southern Texas, but most Americans have never even heard of them. Even in Central America, where they still live, few people ever see one.
- ⁷ The cat I saw was reddish brown, but jaguarundis' colors are not uniform. They can be brownish gray or even black. As kittens they have spots that help them blend into the jungle. This makes them harder to see. The jaguarundi I saw was about the size of a small house cat. I guessed that it was a female because males are usually bigger than that.
- ⁸ I followed the cat. I hoped to take a picture, but I didn't think I would be able to. Jaguarundis are great at hiding. I tried to push my way into the undergrowth. It was too thick for me, but it was a perfect hiding place for a short, thin cat.

Studying Jaguarundis

- ⁹ Even though jaguarundis are hard to study, scientists have still been able to learn about how they live. Dr. Michael Tewes and Arturo Caso have captured over 20 jaguarundis. They put special collars that give off radio signals on the cats. Then, they released the cats back into the wild.
- ¹⁰ Tewes and Caso used the collars to track the cats. They learned that jaguarundis usually live alone and hunt during the day. They eat animals such as mice, rabbits, and birds.

Monkey Business

- ¹¹ As I continued to follow the cat, I came upon a troop of monkeys. They were sitting in the trees and calmly eating berries. All at once, the monkeys began screaming. They swung through the trees in all directions. In moments, the monkeys were gone. I hadn't seen or heard the cat, but I think the monkeys had.

Name _____ Date _____

¹²I kept searching for the cat, and soon I came to a stream. I looked for jaguarundi tracks, but the edge of the stream was covered with rocks. I followed the stream until it led me out of the forest and onto the shore of the Pacific Ocean. The jaguarundi had escaped.

¹³My time in Costa Rica would soon end. I did not think that I would see another jaguarundi. Still, I was happy to have seen this rare animal at all.

1 Which word best describes the overall tone of the article?

- Ⓐ angry
- Ⓑ excited
- Ⓒ playful
- Ⓓ scared

2 What was the author's purpose for writing the article? Use details from the article to support your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

- 3 Read the sentence from paragraph 6.

I had been fortunate to spot a jaguarundi.

Now read the thesaurus entry.

fortunate *adjective* good, healthy, lucky, rich

Which word from the thesaurus entry best matches the way fortunate is used in the sentence?

- Ⓐ good
 - Ⓑ healthy
 - Ⓒ lucky
 - Ⓓ rich
- 4 Read the sentence from paragraph 7.

The cat I saw was reddish brown, but jaguarundis' colors are not uniform.

Think about the prefix *uni-*. What is the meaning of uniform above?

- Ⓐ changing to something else
 - Ⓑ different from all others
 - Ⓒ mixing into one
 - Ⓓ all one kind
- 5 Why did the author most likely include paragraphs 9 and 10 in the article?
- Ⓐ to tell readers what jaguarundis like to eat
 - Ⓑ to tell readers why it is hard to study jaguarundis
 - Ⓒ to tell readers how scientists learn about jaguarundis
 - Ⓓ to tell readers that many wild jaguarundis have been caught

Name _____ Date _____

- 6 Which sentence from the article adds to the disappointed mood in the section “Monkey Business”?
- Ⓐ *As I continued to follow the cat, I came upon a troop of monkeys.*
 - Ⓑ *All at once, the monkeys began screaming.*
 - Ⓒ *I kept searching for the cat, and soon I came to a stream.*
 - Ⓓ *The jaguarundi had escaped.*
- 7 What does the picture help the reader understand?
- Ⓐ how jaguarundis move
 - Ⓑ what jaguarundis look like
 - Ⓒ where jaguarundis go to hide
 - Ⓓ why jaguarundis are hard to spot

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Kayla wrote a story about patching up a pair of ripped jeans. Read the story and look for any changes she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

My New Favorite Jeans

- (1) When I ripped my old jeans, Dad said he could show me how to sew on a patch. (2) He went to the closet and came back with a needle, thread, and patches. (3) There were ten small square colorful patches to choose from.
- (4) "I want to use a orange patch and a red patch," I said. (5) Dad handed me the patches and thread, and I starting sewing.
- (6) Now I have a new favorite pair of jeans.

1 Read sentence 2 from the story.

He went to the closet and came back with a needle, thread, and patches.

Kayla wants to add the word *sharp* to the sentence to tell more about one of the things in the sentence. Which use of the word *sharp* makes the most sense?

- Ⓐ He went to the sharp closet and came back with a needle, thread, and patches.
- Ⓑ He went to the closet and came back with a sharp needle, thread, and patches.
- Ⓒ He went to the closet and came back with a needle, thread, and sharp patches.
- Ⓓ He went to the closet and came back with a needle, sharp thread, and patches.

Name _____ Date _____

- 2 Read sentence 3 from the story.

There were ten small square colorful patches to choose from.

Which word in the sentence tells how many?

- Ⓐ ten
 - Ⓑ small
 - Ⓒ square
 - Ⓓ colorful
- 3 Read sentence 4 from the story.

"I want to use a orange patch and a red patch," I said.

What is the correct way to write the underlined part of the sentence?

- Ⓐ an orange patch and a red patch
- Ⓑ an orange patch and an red patch
- Ⓒ a orange patch and an red patch
- Ⓓ No change is needed.