Year 5 reading comprehension: The Greater Bilby

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Easy

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 3 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–3.



The Greater Bilby

The greater bilby is a small desert animal with long ears and soft blue-grey fur. It lives in the dry country of central and northern Australia. During the day, a bilby sleeps in a burrow that it digs with its strong front claws. Some burrows are up to three metres long and keep the animal cool. At night, the bilby comes out to hunt for insects, seeds and fungi. It hardly ever needs to drink, because it gets water from its food. Bilbies were once common, but foxes and cats hunt them and rabbits compete with them for food. Today, rangers fence off safe areas so the bilbies can live without these animals. Many shops also sell chocolate bilbies at Easter to raise money for bilby care.

1. How do we know a bilby can live in very dry country?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** It has long ears.
○ **B** Rangers fence off safe areas.
○ **C** Foxes and cats hunt it.
○ **D** It gets water from its food.

2. Find a word in the text that means ‘found in large numbers’.

Circle one answer.

○ **A** safe ○ **B** strong ○ **C** soft ○ **D** common

3. Which statement is NOT true?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Bilbies sleep at night and hunt for food during the day.

○ **B** A bilby digs a burrow with its front claws.

○ **C** A bilby burrow can be up to three metres long.

○ **D** Bilbies eat insects, seeds and fungi.

Answer key

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1. D — It gets water from its food.

The text says: “It hardly ever needs to drink, because it gets water from its food.” The reason must come from the text.

2. D — common

The text says: “Bilbies were once common, but foxes and cats hunt them and rabbits compete with them for food.” Try the word in the sentence. It must mean the same.

3. A — Bilbies sleep at night and hunt for food during the day.

The text says: “At night, the bilby comes out to hunt for insects, seeds and fungi.” Three choices are true. The one that is not true is the answer.