

Reading for Details

1st–2nd Grade

Objectives

CCSS Reading/Informational Text:

Key Ideas and Details (RI.1.1, RI.1.2, RI.2.1, RI.2.2)

- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
- Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why* and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (RI.1.7, RI.2.7)

- Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

Materials Needed

- “Animal Homes” reading passage
- Reading for Details graphic organizer
- Document camera or whiteboard (optional)
- “Our Closest Star” reading passage
- Question frames
- Scissors
- Highlighters

Introduction

Explain to students that as they read about the ways animals build their homes, they can be “reading detectives” who discover the main topic and important details! To do this, they must read carefully, examine the text and pay close attention to illustrations that will help them find the answer to the following important questions: *Where? When? How? Why?*

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the Reading for Details graphic organizer.
2. Provide each student with a copy of the “Animal Homes” reading passage and have students read the passage aloud together.
3. Encourage students to use the illustrations and text in the passage to read for information, pulling out important details and filling in the information on their graphic organizer—just as detectives do when they are solving a mystery! For example, in the passage “A Hornets’ Nest: Fit for a Queen,” the queen hornet starts making the nest with tree bark and lays eggs in it. Then the eggs hatch, and the baby hornets help build the nest. Guide students through the text and the chart, modeling how to use the chart to find and record pertinent information. (If desired, you can use a document camera or whiteboard to display the passage and/or graphic organizer to model the activity, highlighting the key evidence from the text.)



4. As students fill in the graphic organizer, invite volunteers to point back to the text to show where they found the answer, highlighting the key details.
5. Once the graphic organizer is complete, review the text. Have students share the main topic of the reading passage and support it with evidence from the text.

Extension

1. For further reinforcement, set up a learning center for students to practice their skills in reading for details.
2. Print out two or three copies of the "Our Closest Star" reading passage and a corresponding number of question frames. (You will need to cut out the rectangular piece beneath each question. These will serve as a "window" for students to frame each answer when they find it in the text.)
3. Challenge students to read the passage once and then use the question frames to search for the main topic and important details.



ANIMAL HOMES



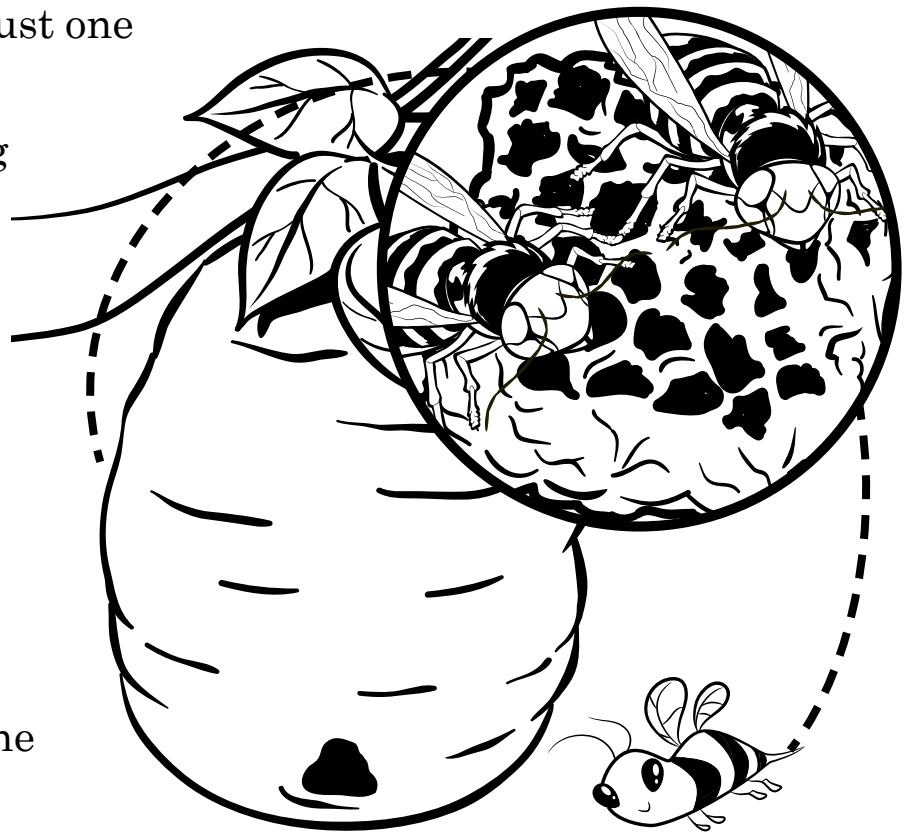
Tents, cabins, and houses—these are all places where people can live. Animal homes come in many different shapes and sizes, too. The steps for building each of these homes are also very different. What steps do animals follow to make their homes safe, strong, and warm? Read on to find out!

A Hornets' Nest: Fit for a Queen

A hornets' nest starts with just one hornet—the queen.

The queen begins making the nest all alone. First, she chews up tree bark or other wood. Then, she shapes it into small tubes. Each tube is called a cell. She lays an egg in each cell.

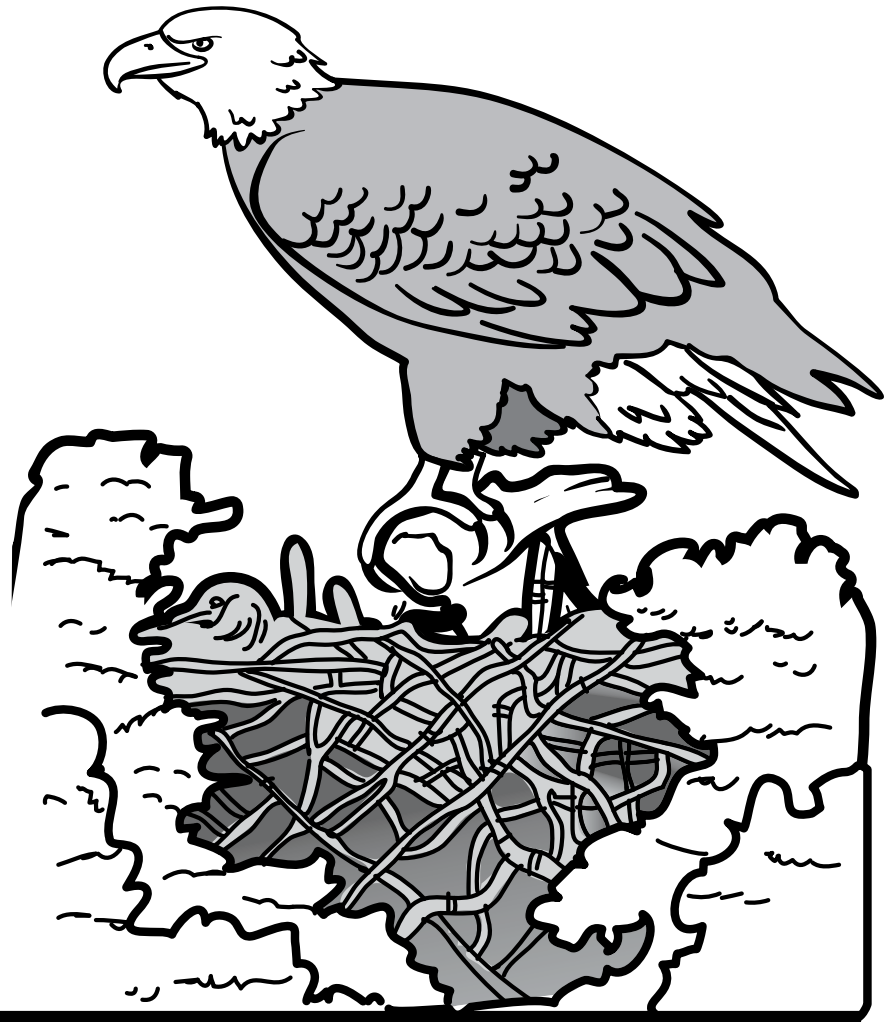
When the eggs hatch, the new hornets help build the nest. They use wood to add more cells. More and more baby hornets are born in the nest.



The hornets make a cover on the outside of the nest. The cover is like a shell made of paper. It keeps them safe inside. They put a hole at the bottom to get in and out. The queen always stays inside the nest.

How Does a Hornets' Nest Grow?

Month(s)	April	May	June–July	August–September
Hornets in Nest	1 (Queen)	About 20	Hundreds	Thousands
Nest Size	Golf Ball	Tennis Ball	Handball	Football



Built to Last

Some birds build many small nests every year. Eagles are different, though. They take up to three months to build one big, strong nest. They come back to this same nest each year. An eagle's nest lasts for a long time!

Room at the Top

Eagles start by finding a tall tree close to the water. They look for a tree with lots of room at the very top. A high spot helps eagles see all around as they look for food.

Layer by Layer

Two eagles work together to build the nest. They find sticks and bring them to the treetop. They lay the sticks in a triangle shape. Then they add more sticks on top. Each layer is a triangle, which makes the nest very strong. But the sticks are not very soft. So the eagles cover the inside with grass and feathers. When the nest is done, it's about four to six feet wide. It is so strong, it can even hold a person!



Busy as a Beaver

Beavers live on the land and in the water. So they need homes that have a little bit of both! Beavers work hard to make their homes. That's why beavers always look so busy.

A Home in the Water

Before beavers can build their homes, they have to make a pond of still water. The beavers lay logs across the water. They put mud between the logs. This makes a wall, or dam, that stops the moving water.

After building the dam, beavers build homes called lodges. First, they make a pile of branches and grass on top of the water. Then, they make a hole for swimming in and out. They also put a hole in the top of the lodge for air.

A Winter Hideaway

During the fall, beavers put mud on the outside of the lodge. When winter comes, the mud gets very hard. It keeps the beavers safe and warm inside the lodge all winter. Not even a bear can get into a beaver lodge!



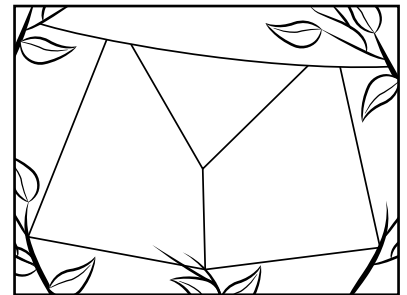


Webs and Wheels: How Spiders Spin

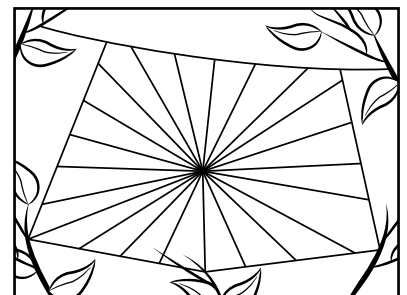
A spider doesn't have to find grass or sticks to make its home. It has what it needs in its belly—silk! The spider pushes the silk through tiny holes on its stomach. Thread comes out. The spider uses the thread to build its web.

Spinning Class

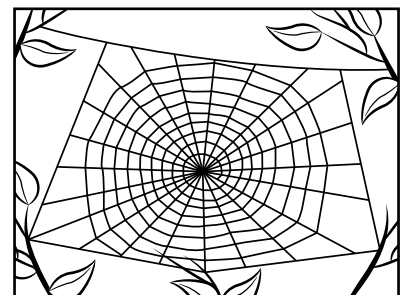
1 Sometimes a web looks like a wheel. It all starts with one long thread. As the spider lets it go, the wind carries it away. One end sticks to something and makes a bridge. Next, the spider spins threads in a Y shape. Then, it makes a box around the Y.



2 Now the spider makes long, straight lines. These lines look like spokes on a wheel.



3 At last, the spider goes around and around in a circle to finish the web. The web will be the spider's home. It is also the place where it will trap its food!



Reading for Details

A Hornets' Nest: Fit for a Queen

where: _____

when: _____

how: _____

why: _____

Built to Last

where: _____

when: _____

how: _____

why: _____

Busy as a Beaver

where: _____

when: _____

how: _____

why: _____

Webs and Wheels: How Spiders Spin

where: _____

when: _____

how: _____

why: _____

Our Closest Star

Do you know the name of the star closest to Earth? It is the sun! The sun is a huge, hot ball of gas. It is so big it could hold a million Earths inside it! That seems like a big star, but there are other stars that are a lot bigger than the sun.

Could you imagine what it would be like without the sun? We would not be able to see anything because the sun gives us light! It also heats up the air. Without it, Earth would be freezing cold. Sometimes the clouds block the sun. This makes cooler weather. Be sure to wear sunscreen on hot days because the sun's rays can burn your skin.

All living things need the sun. Plants need sunlight so they can grow. Animals eat plants for food. People eat

plants and animals. Without the sun, we would not have food to eat.

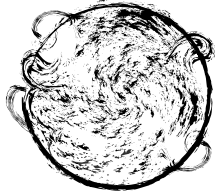
People would not be able to breathe without the sun, either! Plants make oxygen when the sun shines on them. Without oxygen, people and animals could not breathe.

We should all be thankful for the sun!

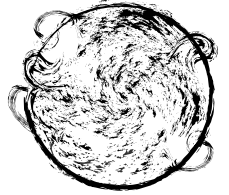


Question Frames

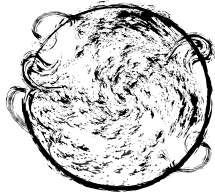
1. What is the sun made of?



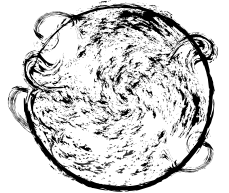
2. What would the weather be like without the sun?



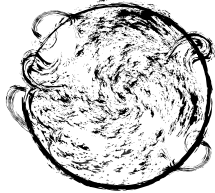
3. Why do plants need the sun?



4. What would happen to our food if there were no sun?



5. If plants did not make oxygen, what would happen?



6. Main Topic

