

READ THE PASSAGE

As you read, visualize what it would be like to visit the cave.

The Cave of Niaux

In southwestern France, there are caves covered with paintings from prehistoric days. One of the least known but most impressive of these caves is the Grotte de Niaux (nee-OH), located on the banks of the Vicdessos River in the Pyrenees Mountains. The paintings were created between 12,000 and 11,000 BC by a group of hunter-gatherers called the Magdalenian.

When visitors enter the cave, a guide leads them with a lantern. They may carry their own flashlights, but only to guide their feet. To protect the ancient, delicate art, only the guide's light can show the paintings.



Painting at the Grotte de Niaux

After a long, dark, damp walk, the guide stops and shines the lantern on the walls. Visitors gasp at the sight of red and black paintings of horses, bison, and deer that cover the cave walls. Some of the animals are pierced with arrows; others are shown running or standing. Although the drawings are simple, they clearly represent the animals portrayed. They were painted with brushes made of animal hair and pigments made from charcoal and iron. A half dozen rooms are covered with this artwork, and some paintings even decorate the cave ceilings. It is hard to believe that people living over 10,000 years ago created realistic paintings that visitors can still view today.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

On a separate sheet of paper, sketch how you visualized the walk through the cave.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- The passage is mostly about _____.
 - French tourism
 - the Magdalenian people
 - ancient paintings in a cave
 - prehistoric artists
- The cave paintings are most similar to _____.
 - cartoon art
 - Greek sculptures
 - modern paintings
 - abstract designs
- Why do people most likely visit the cave?
 - to explore caves
 - to learn about history
 - to paint new art
 - to study France
- From the photo, you can tell that the cave paintings are _____.
 - as accurate as photos
 - detailed line drawings
 - painted on wood or canvas
 - unrecognizable to people viewing them

7th

7

READ THE PASSAGE

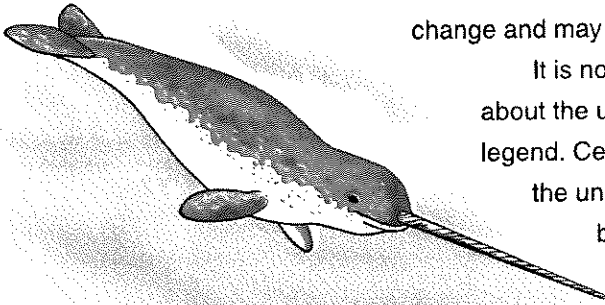
As you read, look for words that help you make a mental picture.

Unicorn of the Sea

One of the strangest-looking sea mammals is the narwhal. It is a type of whale found in Arctic waters. Its name means "corpse whale," probably because its skin is a death-like bluish-gray. All narwhals have two upper teeth. However, one of the male narwhal's teeth grows into a long, spiral tusk that can reach more than eight feet in length. No one knows the exact purpose of the narwhal's tusk. Some scientists think it might be used during courtship. Others believe it amplifies the sonar pulses, or sound waves, that narwhals send through the water.

The narwhal tusk is highly valued. The royal scepter of England is made from a narwhal tusk, and the tusks decorate the royal palaces in Denmark and Japan. Today, many countries limit the number of narwhals that may be hunted. The population is decreasing due to climate change and may soon be threatened.

It is not certain which came first, narwhal sightings or stories about the unicorn, a one-horned, horse-like creature of myth and legend. Certainly, though, narwhal sightings reinforced the idea of the unicorn. It may not be as magical or exotic as the unicorn, but the narwhal is still a unique, fascinating creature of the sea.

**STRATEGY PRACTICE**

Underline words or phrases from the passage that were easy for you to visualize.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What is the passage mostly about?
 - narwhals and past rulers
 - legends about narwhals
 - the habitat of narwhals
 - narwhals and their tusks
- Which detail does the illustration give you about narwhals?
 - the length of a narwhal's tusk compared to its body
 - the geographic region where narwhals live
 - the sounds narwhals make to communicate with each other
 - the swimming habits of narwhals
- The narwhal's tusk is actually a _____.
 - tooth
 - horn
 - nose
 - scepter
- Royal people probably like to own narwhal tusks because the tusks are _____.
 - legendary
 - inexpensive
 - magical
 - rare

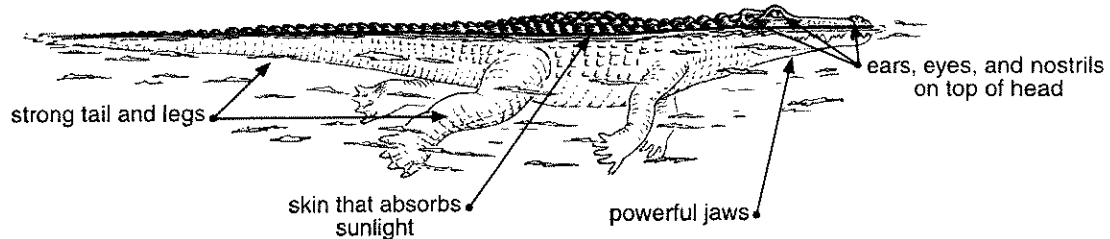
READ THE PASSAGE As you read, visualize a crocodile in its native habitat.

A Well-Designed Hunter

Crocodiles have several adaptations that make them excellent predators both in the water and on land. For example, a crocodile's eyes, ears, and nostrils are on the top of its head, allowing it to keep the rest of its body underwater as it sneaks up on its prey. Also, a crocodile can stay underwater for two hours without breathing, which gives it more time to hunt or to hide from danger.

Crocodiles are extremely fast runners and swimmers due to their strong legs and powerful tails. They can easily chase down their prey or escape threats from other animals.

In addition to having great speed, crocodiles have cone-shaped teeth and powerful jaws—perfect for capturing prey and crushing bones. Their digestive systems are able to process every part of their prey, including hides and hooves.



STRATEGY PRACTICE Write three nouns (people, places, or things) that were easy for you to visualize.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

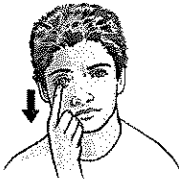
- Which crocodile feature is pointed out in the diagram but *not* in the passage?
 - strong legs
 - skin that absorbs sunlight
 - powerful jaws
 - eyes, ears, and nostrils on top of head
- The labels in the diagram name _____.
 - parts the crocodile uses to swim
 - parts that help the crocodile rest
 - the crocodile digestive system
 - crocodile adaptations
- The diagram helps you best determine what a crocodile looks like when it is _____.
 - resting submerged
 - hunting a deer
 - eating prey
 - escaping danger
- Crocodiles can crush bones easily using their _____.
 - sun-absorbing skin
 - long heads
 - cone-shaped teeth
 - digestive systems

READ THE PASSAGE Think about how you communicate with people you know.

Learning a Foreign “Body Language”

When we think about learning a foreign language, we often focus on how the words from one language translate to another. But have you ever considered how body language translates? Many gestures mean different things in different countries. And many countries have their own gestures that are not used anywhere else. This chart shows some common gestures used in Italy. Do you recognize any of them?

Common Italian Gestures



What this gesture means: tricky

Why people use it: to inform a cheater that he or she has been discovered.

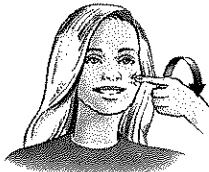
In the United States, the expression “I’ve got my eye on you” has a similar meaning.



What this gesture means: call me

Why people use it: to request a phone call when the person is free.

Both Europeans and Americans claim this as a nearly universal gesture.



What this gesture means: it’s good

Why people use it: to let someone know that their food was delicious.

In other countries, a loud belch at the table after a meal is a sign of respect to the chef.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Work with a partner. Take turns talking about friendly gestures you would use if you saw a friend across the room. Visualize the gestures and discuss their meanings.

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What is the title of the chart?
 - Common Italian Gestures
 - Learning a Foreign “Body Language”
 - What this gesture means
 - Why people use it
- If an Italian girl pulls down on her eye, what is she saying?
 - “Give me a call when you can.”
 - “That makes me want to cry.”
 - “I think you’re trying to trick me.”
 - “I really enjoyed the food.”
- The gestures in the chart that feature arrows are gestures that _____.
 - include sound
 - use motion
 - are about food
 - are a sign of praise
- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - It is important to learn new languages.
 - Most gestures are the same everywhere.
 - All Italian gestures are used in the United States.
 - Gestures, like languages, are unique.

READ THE PASSAGE

Visualize what it would be like to ride the London Eye.

London Eye

The London Eye, which opened to the public in 2000, is one of the tallest Ferris wheels in the world. The London Eye took seven years to plan and build, and it is an amazing engineering feat.

Dimensions

It rises almost 443 feet (135 meters) above the city and is the fourth-tallest structure in London. Almost five million pounds of concrete hold it in place, and huge cables anchor it to the ground.

The Ride

There are 32 capsules for visitors to ride in, representing London's 32 boroughs. Each capsule has a heating and cooling system to keep riders comfortable. The capsules do not stop moving for people to enter. The wheel moves slowly enough that people can step in and out while the giant wheel rotates. Once you step into your capsule, you are moving at .6 miles per hour (about 1 km per hour). That is about twice as fast as a sprinting tortoise. It takes 30 minutes to go once around.

The View

From the top, if it is a clear day, riders can see as far as 25 miles (about 40 km) in every direction. They can see treetops, parks, and building rooftops, including those of landmarks such as the Big Ben clock tower and the Palace of Westminster. Looking directly down, they see the Thames River with ferryboats and bridges spanning its width.

Popularity

If you take a ride on the London Eye, you will have plenty of company. It holds 800 people per rotation and is London's most popular tourist attraction, with 3.5 million visitors a year.

STRATEGY PRACTICE

On a separate sheet of paper, sketch your visualization of the view from the London Eye.

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Another title for this passage could be _____.
 - Designing Ferris Wheels
 - Europe's Giant Ferris Wheel
 - Tourist Attractions in London
 - How the London Eye Was Built
- How does the London Eye differ from most other Ferris wheels?
 - It is faster.
 - It is older.
 - It is taller.
 - It is lighter.
- In which section can you find information about the height of the London Eye?
 - Dimensions
 - The Ride
 - The View
 - Popularity
- Why can visitors see so far from the London Eye?
 - because it takes a long time to go around
 - because there are no tall buildings
 - because the sky is always clear
 - because it is higher than what is around it