

Two One-of-a-Kinds

Read each source below. Then complete the activities on pages 73–75.

Source 1

Phrase

“one of a kind”



What It Is

idiom



What It Means

the only item of a particular type

Source 2



That is a picture of me up there. I am a star-nosed mole, the most unique creature you will ever see.

I am a small mammal that lives in the northeastern part of North America. I can grow to about 8 inches in length; and I have a long tail, water-repellant fur, and 44 teeth. I eat mostly worms, insects, and crustaceans. Oh, and did I mention that I have an awesome nose?

My nose, or snout, is truly amazing, if I do say so myself. It is ringed by 11 pairs of pink, fleshy appendages. (Appendages are smaller parts that stick out of larger parts.) No other animal has a nose like this. And my snout is not just for looks! It is covered with about 25,000 tiny sensory receptors. Since I'm nearly blind, I need those receptors to gather information about my environment. Just how good is my star-shaped snout at doing this? Well, for starters, I am the only mammal that can smell underwater.

Having such a super special snout helps me to find food and gobble it up quickly. In fact, I am the world's fastest-eating mammal. Within 8 *milliseconds*, I can decide if a particle of food is worth eating or not. This is about as fast as a signal to the brain can travel. Within about 120 milliseconds, I can completely consume a meal. I guess you might say that I have a “fast food” diet.

For all these reasons and more, I would say that I am the most unique animal on the planet.

Source 3



A lot of animals like to think of themselves as unique, but really, is there any contest? I am a platypus, and I am certainly the most one-of-a-kind animal in the world. When I was first discovered in my native Australia, some experts even thought I was a joke being played on them. Let me explain.

I have the tail of a beaver and the fur of an otter. I have the bill and webbed feet of a duck. I am an expert swimmer, but when I leave the water, the webbing on my feet retracts. This exposes my bare knuckles, which I use to walk on. This is important, because I like to eat my food on land. You see, I gather up food in the water and store it in my cheek pouches. Then, when I get to land, I pick up pieces of gravel and use them to crush the food in my mouth. I do this because I don't have any teeth.

Having no teeth could make it difficult to defend myself, but luckily I have special spurs on my back feet that can be used to inject venom into my enemies. I am one of the few venomous mammals in the world. Along with a few anteaters, I am also one of the very few mammals that lays eggs.

For these and many other reasons, I believe I deserve to be called the most unique animal on Earth.

Two One-of-a-Kinds (cont.)

Name: _____

Part 1: Read each idea. Does it describe a star-nosed mole, a platypus, or neither? Fill in the correct bubble for each animal. (Note: More than one bubble may be filled in for each idea.)

Information	Animal →	Star-nosed Mole	Platypus	Neither
1. This animal is a mammal.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. This animal lays eggs.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. This animal is not venomous.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. This animal is native to South America.		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part 2: Fill in the bubble next to the best answer to each question.

5. Which of the following clues is **not** given as proof that platypuses spend a lot of time in the water?

- (A) They are expert swimmers. (C) They can smell under water.
 (B) They have webbed feet. (D) They gather their food in the water.

6. Which statement is true about a star-nosed mole? Complete the information in the box to help you.

- (A) It has more appendages on its nose than it has teeth.
 (B) It has $\frac{1}{2}$ as many appendages on its nose as it has teeth.
 (C) It has $\frac{1}{4}$ as many appendages on its nose as it has teeth.
 (D) It has twice as many appendages on its nose as it has teeth.

Number of Teeth	_____
Number of Appendages	_____

7. In both Source 2 and Source 3, what is the author's main purpose?

- (A) to persuade readers to accept an opinion
 (B) to give information about mammals
 (C) to entertain readers and show the personalities of different animals
 (D) to introduce readers to the animals of Australia

8. Both Source 2 and Source 3 end with what type of sentence?

- (A) introductory (B) concluding (C) interrogative (D) exclamatory

Part 3: Search "Two One-of-a-Kinds" to find examples of verbs with the following meanings. Then write the number of the source in which you located this information.

9. "pulls back in" _____ Source #: _____

10. "eat" or "ingest" _____ Source #: _____

Two One-of-a-Kinds *(cont.)*

Name: _____

Part 4: Refer back to the sources, and use complete sentences to answer these questions.

11. Sources 2 and 3 are each written in the first-person voice. How would these sources be different if they were written in the third-person voice? How does the use of the first-person voice change the tone of the writing?

12. Choose a side. Decide which of these two animals is the most “one-of-a-kind.” Write a persuasive essay that makes your case. Use evidence gathered from Sources 2 and 3.

Two One-of-a-Kinds *(cont.)*

Name: _____

Part 4 *(cont.)*:

13. Choose one of the categories below and circle it. Then write two persuasive essays from the perspective of two different animals. (Don't use the animals described in Sources 2 and 3.) In each essay, use the first-person voice to explain why this particular animal best represents the chosen category.

the smartest	the most dangerous	the most helpful	the strongest
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Answer Key *(cont.)*

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. misused (1) 10. inexact (2)

Part 4

11. *Infallible* means “perfect” or “does not make mistakes.” This definition is indirectly given in Source 1. Since we learn in Source 2 that the prefix *in-* means “not,” we can deduce that *fallible* means “not perfect” or “capable of making mistakes.”
12. fore, for; piece, peace; Theirs, There’s; cot, caught
13. Accept appropriate responses.

Unit 18. Pioneers in Space (page 62)

Part 1

1. Source 2 3. Source 1
2. Sources 2 and 3 4. Source 2

Part 2

5. D 6. A 7. D 8. B

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. two decades (3) 10. feat (3)

Part 4

11. Students should point out that Andrew referred to Soviet space travelers as “astronauts.” The correct term is “cosmonauts.”
12. Accept appropriate responses.
- 13.

Year	Name	Accomplishment
1957	Laika	became the first animal to orbit Earth
1961	Yuri Gagarin	first human to orbit Earth
1962	John Glenn	first American to orbit Earth
1963	Valentina Tereshkova	first woman in space
1965	Alexei Leonov	first person to walk in space
1969	Neil Armstrong	became the first person to walk on the moon
1983	Sally Ride	first American woman in space
1995	Eileen Collins	first female to pilot a U.S. space mission
1998	John Glenn	oldest person in space

Unit 19. A Grain of Salt (page 66)

Part 1

1. Source 4 3. Sources 2, 3, and 5
2. Sources 3 and 4 4. Sources 2, 3, and 4

Part 2

5. C 6. D 7. D 8. A

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. *the* (2) 10. FOREVER (3)

Part 4

11. Vick Z. Accept appropriate rewrites that contain complete sentences and proper grammar.
12. Todd Pepper. He owns a competing restaurant, and this would likely affect his opinion. He stands to profit from taking business away from Grain of Salt.
13. A. Foodie

Unit 20. Winning Isn’t Everything (page 69)

Part 1

1. Source 4 3. Source 2
2. Source 5 4. Source 4

Part 2

5. D 6. A 7. B 8. B

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. capsizing (4) 10. sacrificed (4)

Part 4

11. Accept appropriate responses in which students accurately rewrite one of the quotes, paraphrase the chosen quote, and then give an example of it from everyday life.
12. Most likely, students will choose the quote from Source 2. Lemieux did not win his race, but his heroic actions saved two of his fellow sailors.
13. Accept appropriate responses.

Unit 21. Two One-of-a-Kinds (page 72)

Part 1

1. Mole and Platypus 3. Mole
2. Platypus 4. Neither

Part 2

5. C 7. A
6. B (44 teeth, 22 appendages) 8. B

Answer Key *(cont.)*

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. retracts (3) 10. consume (2)

Part 4

11. Accept appropriate responses.
12. Accept appropriate responses. Each student should use evidence from the sources to construct a persuasive argument that shows why the chosen animal is more unique than the other animal.
13. Accept appropriate responses. Students should write two essays, each from the perspective of a different animal. Each animal should explain why it believes it best represents the chosen category. (For example, if the category is “Most Dangerous,” students may choose to write essays from the perspectives of sharks, mosquitos, snakes, etc.)

Unit 22. Double the Fun! (page 76)

Part 1

1. Source 2 3. Source 1
2. Source 1 4. Source 2

Part 2

5. A 6. B 7. A 8. B

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. consensus (1) 10. scholar (1)

Part 4

11. 1st: raccoon, 2nd: coffee, 3rd: dumbbells, 4th: bookkeeper, 5th: mattress, 6th: Mississippi, 7th: access, 8th: committee, 9th: occurred, 10th: pizzazz, 11th: hiccupped, 12th: embarrassing
12. Accept appropriate responses.
13. Accept responses that include at least four words with multiple double-letter combinations, none of which are duplicates from Source 3.

Unit 23. The Pet-Store Thief (page 79)

Part 1

1. Sources 1 and 3 3. Sources 1 and 2
2. Source 1 4. Sources 1 and 3

Part 2

5. C 6. D 7. D 8. A

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. highly intelligent (1)
10. beloved companion (1)

Part 4

11. The thief always steals \$42, so students should fill in the bills with two \$20s and two \$1s (or a \$20, two \$10s, and a \$2).
12. Accept appropriate responses that are written in the students’ words and contain evidence from Source 1 (e.g., Mr. Gage has an alibi, he is physically incapable of committing the crime, he has no prior record).
13. Accept appropriate responses that are supported by evidence.

Unit 24. The Four Applicants (page 82)

Part 1

1. Source 4 3. Source 2
2. Sources 2 and 3 4. Sources 2 and 5

Part 2

5. A 6. D 7. C 8. A

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. pastimes (4) 10. résumé (1, 5)

Part 4

11. Wow, I’d be perfect for this job! I am the funniest guy I know! Also, I have very good grammar, and I can read really well. I have a degree in English, so I must be smart. LOL! All of my friends say that I’m easy to get along with. When do I start?
12. Accept appropriate responses that follow the directions given.
13. Accept appropriate responses.

Unit 25. Making Money (page 86)

Part 1

1. Sources 1, 2, and 3 3. Sources 1 and 3
2. Source 2 4. Sources 3 and 4

Part 2

5. C 6. C 7. D 8. B

Part 3

The source number is given in parentheses.

9. Hawaii (2) 10. New Jersey (2)