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READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

FOR SCIENCE





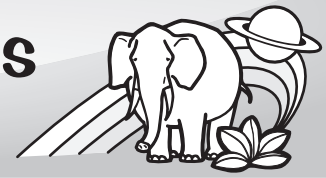




GRADE 5

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Why We Get Goose Bumps



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

⁎ appear	⁎ follicle
⁎ reaction	⁎ dermis
⁎ conserve	⁎ epidermis
⁎ scalp	⁎ oval

Before or after reading the story, write one sentence that contains at least one new word.

_____

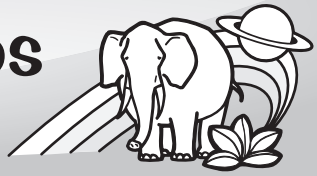
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Why We Get Goose Bumps

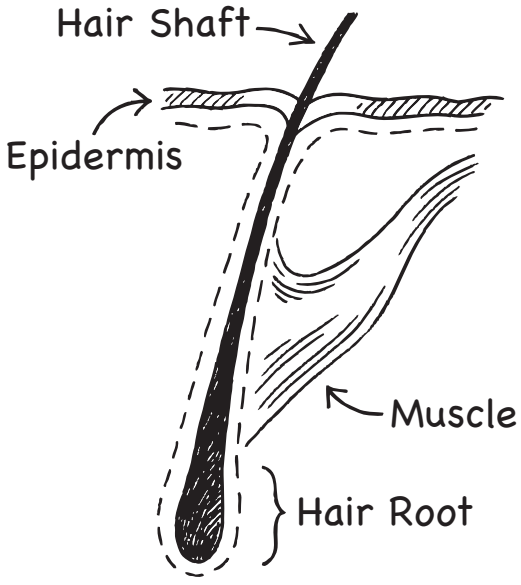


Tiny bumps often appear on our skin when we get cold. Many people call these bumps “goose bumps.” They are also known as “goose pimples” or “cold seeds.” Goose bumps are a reaction to the cold. They are the body’s way of trying to conserve, or save, warmth.

When we are cold, the hairs on our body stand on end. This reaction traps a layer of warm air next to the skin. The layer of trapped air helps keep the body warm. It helps to conserve the body’s heat. How does the hair stand on end? Tiny muscles pull the hair upright. The muscles cause the skin to bunch up and form a bump around each hair. Our skin appears, or seems, to be covered in “goose bumps.”

The hair on top of our head does two things. It helps us to conserve heat. By trapping a layer of warm air next to our scalp, it keeps us from losing a lot of heat through our heads. It also protects our scalps from the burning rays of the sun. It prevents our scalps from getting sunburnt.

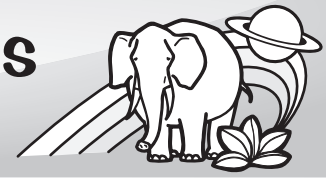
Hair on our body and on our head is made up of the shaft and the root. The root is enclosed in a tiny pit called the hair follicle. Hair follicles are embedded, or set firmly, in the part of the skin called the dermis. The dermis is the thick layer of skin that is below the epidermis. When we look at ourselves, we see a protective coat of dead skin cells covering the epidermis.



hair follicle

Although hair is made from living cells inside the hair follicles, hair is not alive. Our hair grows when new cells produced in the follicles push older cells upward. Hair follicles can be round, oval, or flat. Straight hair grows from round follicles, wavy hair grows from oval follicles, and curly hair grows from flat follicles. Whatever shape hair is, it is extremely strong. A rope made from about 1,000 strands of human hair is strong enough to lift an average adult person.

Why We Get Goose Bumps



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. From the story, one can tell that

- (a) human hair makes the strongest ropes.
- (b) people in warm places do not need hair.
- (c) hair helps to protect people from the sun.
- (d) straight hair is stronger than curly hair.

2. This story is mainly about

- (a) hair.
- (b) skin.
- (c) bumps.
- (d) follicles.

3. It does not hurt to cut our hair because

- (a) our hair is not alive.
- (b) our hair is made from living cells.
- (c) our hair is pulled upright by tiny muscles.
- (d) our hair follicles are embedded in the dermis.

4. Think about how the word *scalp* relates to *head*. What two words relate in the same way?

scalp : head

- (a) eye : see
- (b) leg : arm
- (c) skin : hair
- (d) finger : hand

5. Wavy hair grows from

- (a) flat follicles.
- (b) oval follicles.
- (c) round follicles.
- (d) square follicles.

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The Wrong Door



These are new words to practice.

Say each word 10 times.

- contestant
- participating
- host
- assure
- odds
- probability
- offers
- exchange

Before or after reading the story, write one sentence that contains at least one new word.

_____

_____

_____

_____

The Wrong Door



You have been picked to be a contestant. A contestant is a person who takes part in a contest. You are participating, or taking part, in a game show. You are participating in a contest where the prize is one million dollars. Your host, or the person who has invited you as a guest on the show, shows you three identical doors. It is guaranteed, or assured, that the prize is behind one of the three identical doors.

You are very happy to be a participant, and you choose one of the doors. How assured are you of success? You cannot be assured of success, but you can figure out your odds, or chances. The probability, or likelihood, of your being correct is one in three. The odds of you having chosen the correct door are one in three. You inform your host of your decision, but then something happens.

Your host opens up one of the other two doors. You are happy to see that the prize is not behind the opened door. You still have a chance to win the million dollars. Your host offers, or puts forward, a possible exchange. An exchange is when one thing is traded for another. You can exchange your door for the other unopened door. Should you switch? Should you take your host up on his exchange offer?

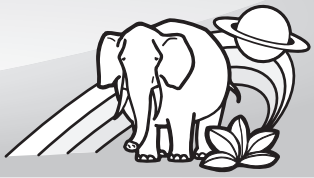
Most contestants do not. This is because they think the chances of both unopened doors being correct are the same. They think the probability is even. The truth is that one has a better chance of winning the million dollars if one switches doors! How can this be?

If you switched, the only way you could lose was to have picked the door with the prize behind it at the beginning. But remember that with your first choice, the probability of being correct was one in three. This meant that the probability that you were wrong was greater. The odds of being wrong were two in three. If you exchange doors, you are betting that your first guess was wrong—which it probably was!



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The Wrong Door



After reading the story, answer the questions.
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. This story is mainly about

- (a) a host and an open door.
- (b) a one-million-dollar prize.
- (c) a game show and probability.
- (d) a contestant and a participant.

2. From the story, you can tell that

- (a) sometimes you increase your chance of winning by changing your answer.
- (b) you can never increase your chance of winning by changing your answer.
- (c) you can never win in a game where you can change your answer more than once.
- (d) your chance of winning always stays the same no matter what answer you choose.

3. Tanya _____ the smaller bike for a bigger one.

- (a) assured
- (b) exchanged
- (c) guaranteed
- (d) participated

4. When you toss a coin in the air, the probability of it coming down heads is

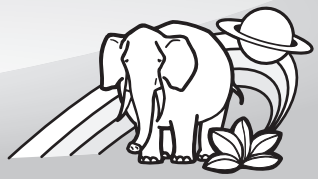
- (a) less than the probability of it landing on tails.
- (b) the same as the probability of it landing on tails.
- (c) greater than the probability of it landing on tails.
- (d) two in three the probability of it landing on tails.

5. Think about how the word *contestant* relates to *contest*. What two words relate in the same way?

contestant : contest

- (a) racer : race
- (b) biker : bike
- (c) swimmer : swim
- (d) driver : drive

Answer Key



A Tarantula and Duct Tape
1. A 4. D
2. C 5. A
3. C

Space Junk
1. A 4. B
2. A 5. C
3. D

Gorilla Lady
1. D 4. B
2. C 5. B
3. C

Why We Get Goose Bumps
1. C 4. D
2. A 5. B
3. A

Strange Partners
1. A 4. D
2. D 5. B
3. C

A Brilliant Element
1. C 4. A
2. C 5. D
3. B

Digging a Hole to China
1. A 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. A

A Picture to Remember
1. D 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. B

A Whale of a Fish
1. A 4. C
2. D 5. D
3. B

Saving Richard Herrick
1. C 4. D
2. B 5. B
3. C

Dressing for Survival
1. A 4. D
2. A 5. D
3. C

Two to Trigger
1. B 4. D
2. A 5. A
3. B

An Expedition for Bloodsuckers
1. D 4. C
2. B 5. A
3. B

All About Feet
1. A 4. D
2. D 5. B
3. C

Surviving Without a Head
1. D 4. C
2. C 5. B
3. D

The Substance Answer
1. D 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. B

The "She" in the Tongue Twister
1. C 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. C

Two Strange Eruptions
1. D 4. A
2. A 5. C
3. D

A Parasite's Greatest Enemy
1. D 4. B
2. D 5. A
3. A

What Color Was the Bear?
1. B 4. D
2. A 5. C
3. B

A Different Walk
1. B 4. A
2. A 5. C
3. C

A Spy or an Alien?
1. A 4. B
2. B 5. D
3. C

Why Pig Bristles Were Glued to Ants
1. D 4. C
2. C 5. D
3. B

Getting Sick on Purpose
1. B 4. D
2. D 5. C
3. C

Where Days Are Different Lengths
1. A 4. D
2. A 5. B
3. B

All About Smelling
1. B 4. C
2. A 5. C
3. A

Name that Mammal!
1. D 4. C
2. D 5. B
3. B

The Eiffel Tower, Meteorites, and Our Diet
1. C 4. B
2. A 5. A
3. C

Out-of-Control Twitching
1. C 4. B
2. D 5. D
3. A

Pus — A Sign of Battle
1. C 4. C
2. B 5. D
3. D

An Inventor Who Was Paid Less
1. B 4. A
2. C 5. D
3. C

A Huge Area in a Small Space
1. D 4. B
2. C 5. D
3. B

The Changing Planet Number
1. A 4. D
2. B 5. A
3. C

Why a Termite Eats Its Skin
1. B 4. C
2. D 5. B
3. A

Making Bread Taste Sweet
1. D 4. C
2. B 5. B
3. D

Donya's Guides
1. B 4. A
2. C 5. A
3. D

The Last Pigeon
1. D 4. A
2. B 5. A
3. B

A Doctor Who Listened with Fingertips
1. B 4. D
2. C 5. C
3. B

The Wrong Door
1. C 4. B
2. A 5. A
3. B

The Tall Man Solution
1. D 4. C
2. C 5. A
3. B

The Cent with a Scent
1. D 4. C
2. B 5. A
3. C

Stopping Dizziness
1. A 4. C
2. D 5. D
3. B

The Rabbit Battle
1. A 4. D
2. A 5. D
3. B

Tornado Information
1. A 4. D
2. B 5. B
3. C

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