

Reading Selection

Reading Selection Comprehension Checklist

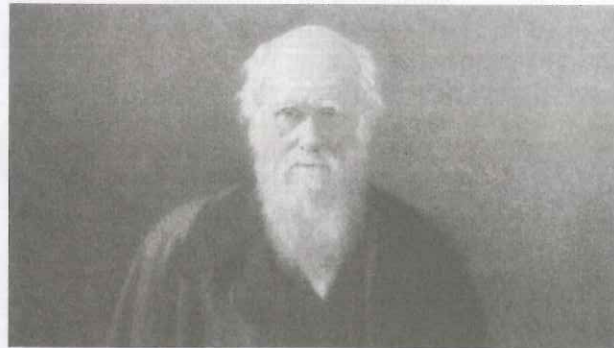
Whether or not you agree with the ideas presented in the reading selection below, make sure to:

- briefly scan the entire selection.
- look at the questions for the selection before reading it.
- carefully read the selection.
- understand the purpose or reason the selection was written.
- understand the main idea and the details that support it.

Complete the Multiple-choice that follow this reading selection.

2 The Voyage of the Beagle

by Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



September 15th — The Beagle sailed round Chatham Island, and anchored in several bays. One night I slept on shore on a part of the island, where black truncated cones were extraordinarily numerous: from one small eminence I counted sixty of them, all surmounted by craters more or less perfect. The greater number consisted merely of a ring of red scoria or slag, cemented together: and their height above the plain of lava was not more than from fifty to a hundred feet; none had been very lately active. The entire surface of this part of the island seems to have been permeated, like a sieve, by the subterranean vapours: here and there the lava, whilst soft, has been blown into great bubbles; and in other parts, the tops of caverns similarly formed have fallen in, leaving circular pits with steep sides. From the regular form of the many craters, they gave to the country an artificial appearance, which vividly reminded me of those parts of Staffordshire, where the great iron-foundries are most numerous. The day was glowing hot, and the scrambling over the rough surface and through the intricate thickets, was very fatiguing; but I was well repaid by the strange Cyclopean scene. As I was walking along I met two large tortoises, each of which must have weighed at least two hundred pounds: one was eating a piece of cactus, and as I approached, it stared at me and slowly walked away; the other gave a deep hiss, and drew in its head. These huge reptiles, surrounded by the black

lava, the leafless shrubs, and large cacti, seemed to my fancy like some antediluvian animals. The few dull-coloured birds cared no more for me than they did for the great tortoises.

23rd.—The Beagle proceeded to Charles Island. This archipelago has long been frequented, first by the buccaneers, and latterly by whalers, but it is only within the last six years, that a small colony has been established here. The inhabitants are between two and three hundred in number; they are nearly all people of colour, who have been banished for political crimes from the Republic of the Ecuador, of which Quito is the capital. The settlement is placed about four and a half miles inland, and at a height probably of a thousand feet. In the first part of the road we passed through leafless thickets, as in Chatham Island. Higher up, the woods gradually became greener; and as soon as we crossed the ridge of the island, we were cooled by a fine southerly breeze, and our sight refreshed by a green and thriving vegetation. In this upper region coarse grasses and ferns abound; but there are no tree-ferns: I saw nowhere any member of the palm family, which is the more singular, as 360 miles northward, Cocos Island takes its name from the number of cocoa-nuts. The houses are irregularly scattered over a flat space of ground, which is cultivated with sweet potatoes and bananas. It will not easily be imagined how pleasant the sight of black mud was to us, after having been so long accustomed to the parched soil of Peru and northern Chile. The inhabitants, although complaining of poverty, obtain, without much trouble, the means of subsistence. In the woods there are many wild pigs and goats; but the staple article of animal food is supplied by the tortoises. Their numbers have of course been greatly reduced in this island, but the people yet count on two day's hunting giving them food for the rest of the week. It is said that formerly single vessels have taken away as many as seven hundred, and that the ship's company of a frigate some years since brought down in one day two hundred tortoises to the beach.

Multiple-choice

Multiple-choice Instructions

On the actual test, these questions will be on a sheet of paper separate from your test booklet and will be marked by a computer. Make sure to completely fill in the circle of the answer you choose.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT use an "X", check mark, half circle fill, nor a partial circle fill.

- A B C D Correct form
 X ✓ ◐ ◑ Incorrect form

Choose the best or most correct answer. To indicate your answer fill in the circle completely.

5.9 Considering the terrain on Chatham Island, it seems unusual that Charles Darwin

- A visited the island.
- B sailed around the island.
- C left the island.
- D slept on the island.

A B C D

5.10 On this visit to the Galapagos Islands, Darwin found that the wildlife was generally

- A afraid of humans.
- B not afraid of humans.
- C unseen by humans.
- D unused by humans.

A B C D

5.11 The country on Chatham Island had an artificial appearance due to

- A the regular form of the craters.
- B the lack of vegetation.
- C the iron-foundries.
- D the subterranean vapours.

A B C D

5.12 Darwin found exploring Chatham island

- A boring.
- B very tiring.
- C dangerous.
- D intricate.

A B C D

5.13 The majority of the inhabitants of Charles Island were

- A whalers.
- B buccaneers.
- C victims of racism.
- D political prisoners.

A B C D

5.14 Darwin was surprised to find that the island contained no

- A fern trees.
- B palm trees.
- C thickets.
- D woods.

A B C D

5.15 The best meaning of the word "parched" is

- A rich.
- B dry.
- C brown.
- D wet.

A B C D

5.16 The most popular meat eaten by the inhabitants of the island was

- A goat.
- B tortoise.
- C wild pig.
- D mud.

A B C D

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Complete the Multiple-choice and Written Answers that follow this reading selection.

2 One Lucky Turkey

by Joanna Lawson



Sentence commuted.

Jamie Langdon, a 16-year-old resident of Kingston, Ontario, has an unusual pet. A full-grown turkey named Tom lives in his back yard. Jamie placed a free want ad in the newspaper. He wants a good home for Tom.

Tom came to the Langdon household as a present from Jamie's grandmother. The idea was to raise the tiny bird and use him for a Thanksgiving meal. The family first called him TG for Thanksgiving. By the time

October arrived, he was a large, noisy family friend and Jamie pleaded for a pardon for TG. His death sentence was commuted. Their Thanksgiving meal came from the supermarket freezer. Jamie ate only vegetables.

After Thanksgiving, Tom was renamed C. for Christmas. Jamie, his brother John, and sisters, Emily and Josephine, were against his slaughter.

The Langdons didn't eat turkey for Christmas dinner either. Mr. and Mrs. Langdon ate beef, but all of the children declined the meat.

Now in January, Tom still lives in the Langdon back yard and garage. He is a sociable bird. He responds to company by gobbling and strutting.

When asked why Tom wasn't a house pet, Jamie replied that all attempts to housebreak the bird had failed.

The Langdons would like to see Tom go to a farm or a child-centred petting zoo where he could live out his normal life. He is good-tempered and would love the country life.

Jamie added that he is considering becoming a vegetarian on a permanent basis.

Multiple-choice

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- A B C D  Correct form
- X ✓ ◐ ◑  Incorrect form

Choose the best or most correct answer. To indicate your answer fill in the circle completely.

3.8 Jamie Langdon is interesting because

- A he is 16 years old.
B he has a pet turkey.
C he lives in Kingston.
D he is a vegetarian.

A B C D

3.9 The turkey was called TG

- A because those were his initials.
B it stands for "tastes good."
C it stands for Thanksgiving.
D a male turkey is sometimes called a "Tom" turkey.

A B C D

3.10 The best meaning for the word "commuted" in the second paragraph is

- A travelled for work.
B expressed ideas.
C enforced.
D change a penalty to a lesser one.

A B C D

3.11 Instead of eating TG, the family

- A only ate vegetables.
B cooked a ham.
C ordered take-out.
D ate a meal from a supermarket freezer.

A B C D

3.12 After Thanksgiving, the family planned to

- A eat TG for Christmas dinner.
B eat Tom for Christmas dinner.
C eat C for Christmas dinner.
D eat something else for Christmas dinner.

A B C D

3.13 Tom was not a house pet because

- A he was too sociable.
B he preferred the garage and back yard.
C he was not housebroken.
D he preferred the country life.

A B C D

3.14 The vegetarians in the Langdon family are

- A Jamie.
B Jamie's parents.
C Jamie's brother and sisters.
D None of the above.

A B C D

Written Answers

Written Answer Checklist

Your written answer should:

- be on-topic, specific, and relevant to the reading selection.
- refer to specific examples in the reading selection.
- be clear, well-organized and use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- be approximately as long as the space you are given on the lines.
- be written legibly using a blue or black pen or pencil.

1. News articles like this one are sometimes called "puff pieces," indicating that they are rather lacking in significance. Decide whether or not you believe this article to be a puff piece. Use information from the story and your own ideas to support your answer.

2. Is it morally wrong to kill and eat innocent animals? Use information from the story and your own ideas to support your answer.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.