

Standard Tested:

## The Workhorses of the Arctic

For thousands of years, animals around the world have helped humans. Horses transport people and cargo. Oxen pull heavy loads. Cows give us milk to drink and food to eat, and sheep provide wool for clothing. In the frozen Arctic, just one animal does all of those things: the reindeer. Within the Arctic Circle in Europe and Russia, reindeer are used for nearly everything, from transportation and hauling supplies, to providing food and clothing.

As pack animals, reindeer are strong enough to carry up to 72 pounds. This strength is important in the Arctic, where people sometimes carry everything they own on a sled.

Reindeer are also a reliable form of transportation in parts of the Arctic. People in the Arctic count on reindeer to pull sleds. Reindeer are powerful runners that can reach speeds of about 40 miles per hour without a load. Reindeer are able to travel great distances, too. They can cover about 20 to 30 miles in a day.

Reindeer seem perfectly suited to live in the Arctic. They have broad, flat hooves, making it easy for them to walk in deep snow. Their heavy fur traps air to keep them warm in freezing temperatures as they cross over ice and snow during winter. It also helps them float, making reindeer strong swimmers. In fact, they can cross freezing, wide, rushing rivers and even parts of the icy Arctic Ocean.

Reindeer are easy to care for, too. Since they have always lived in the Arctic, they can survive on natural sources of food there. As herbivores, or plant eaters, they will eat berries, moss, leaves, lichen, evergreen leaves, or fine twigs, depending on what's growing at the time. This means the people who raise reindeer do not have to grow or carry special food for their animals.

Reindeer are useful to the people living in the Arctic in other ways, as well. Both male and female reindeer have antlers, which have been used to make handles for knives. Their skins can be made into clothing, shoes, blankets, and shelters. Even the thread used to stitch these items comes from reindeer.

Reindeer are also used for food. In the past, reindeer were hunted regularly, but now they are raised for their milk and meat.

Truly the workhorse of the Arctic, reindeer are an important part of everyday life to those who live there. Without them, the people could not survive.




Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

 Accept Reject

43

3180787

Which of the following predictions about reindeer is *most* likely to come true?

-  **A** People of the Arctic will continue to use reindeer to help them.
- B** Reindeer will run out of food and become extinct in the Arctic.
- C** Reindeer will leave the Arctic and migrate to a warmer climate.
- D** People of the Arctic will find other kinds of animals to help them.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept

Reject

44

3332878

List two pieces of information from the article that show how reindeers provide transportation similar to horses. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_


Accept

Reject

45

3181823

If you wanted to write a research paper about reindeer, which of the following activities would be *most* helpful to start your search?

- A** Looking up the word *reindeer* in a dictionary
- B** Conducting an Internet search on Arctic animals
-  **C** Reading about reindeer in an encyclopedia
- D** Finding a magazine article about animals that have many uses in cold weather


Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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3180785

Which of the following statements is an *opinion* stated in the article?

-  **A** A reindeer is easy to care for.
- B** A reindeer eats the natural food of the Arctic.
- C** A reindeer can travel long distances.
- D** A reindeer's thick fur traps air to keep it warm.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept

Reject

47

3332877

Do you think reindeer help the people that live in the Arctic survive? Give one detail from the article to support your opinion. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_


Accept

Reject

48

3192690

Which of the following would *best* show how people of the Arctic feel about reindeer?

- A** A map showing where reindeer live
- B** A photograph of wild reindeer in the Arctic
-  **C** A chart displaying the usefulness of reindeer
- D** A painting of a team of reindeer pulling a sled

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Accept

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49

3183375

Explain, in detail, three ways that the people in the Arctic use reindeer. Use text from the article to support your answer. Be sure to write your response in your answer document.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Accept

Reject