

SCIENCE ITEMS

Guide to the Content and Layout of This Book

The *Science Items* book contains, in a ready-to-use form, the released TIMSS 1995 and TIMSS 2003 science assessment items that appeared in Book 5, *Science Concepts and Science Items*. Each item is presented on a separate page to facilitate printing.

The two books are designed to be used in tandem. The *Science Items* book is designed to facilitate the construction of sets of items tailored to the purpose of the user—most likely a classroom teacher. Users can select items for their own purpose based on their reading of the *Science Concepts and Science Items* book, print these and administer them to students. Student responses can be scored using the scoring instructions presented in the *Science Concepts and Science Items* book, and may be compared to the international benchmarks presented there.

6

	Town A	Town B	Town C	Town E
Lowest Temperature	13°C	-9°C	22°C	-12°C
Highest Temperature	25°C	-1°C	30°C	-4°C
Precipitation (rain or snow)	0 cm	5 cm	2.5 cm	0 cm

This table shows the temperature and precipitation (rain or snow) in four different towns on the same day.

Where did it snow?

A. Town A

B. Town B

C. Town C

D. Town D

The Moon produces no light, and yet it shines at night. Why is this?

A. The Moon reflects the light from the Sun.

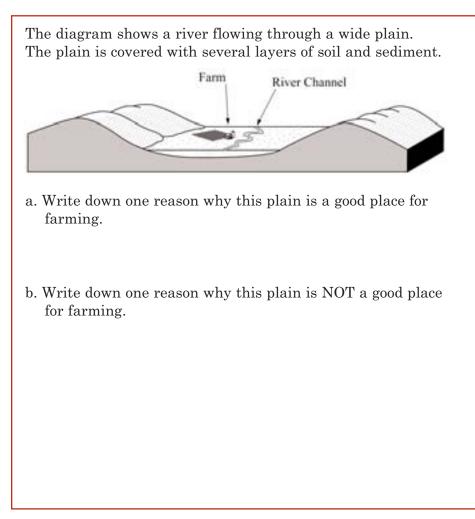
B. The Moon rotates at a very high speed.

C. The Moon is covered with a thin layer of ice.

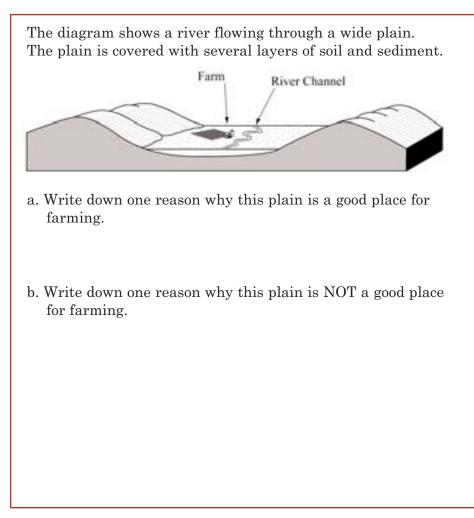
D. The Moon has many craters.

Sometimes mountains can still have snow on their tops when the snow on the lower parts of the mountains has melted. What makes this happen?

The Sun is bigger than the Moon, but they appear to be about the same size when you look at them from the Earth. Why is this?



Item Number: Z1A



Item Number: Z1B

Which one of these refers only to living things?

- A. clouds, fire, rivers
- B. fire, rivers, trees
- C. rivers, birds, trees
- D. birds, trees, worms
- E. trees, worms, clouds

Item Number: N2

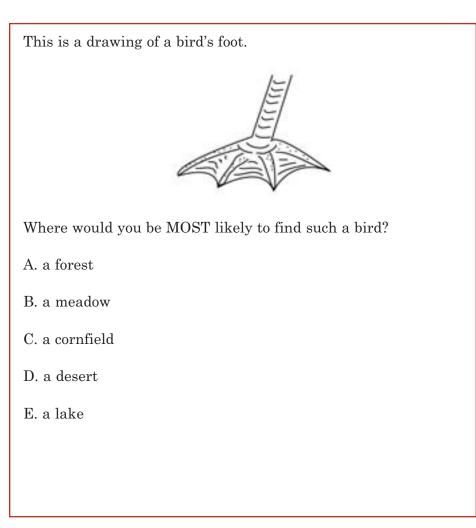
Your temperature is taken when you are NOT sick. Which temperature is CLOSEST to what the thermometer would show?

A. 29°C

B. 37°C

C. 100°C

D. 212°C



Item Number: N5

A baby chick grows inside an egg for 21 days before it hatches. Where does the baby chick get its food before it hatches?

A. It is fed by the mother hen.

B. It doesn't need any food.

C. It makes its own food.

D. It uses food stored in the egg.

E. It eats the egg shell.

Item Number: N6

John kept some seeds on moist cotton in a dish. Mike put the same kind of seeds in a dish beside John's dish, and covered them with water. After two days, John's seeds sprouted, but Mike's did not.

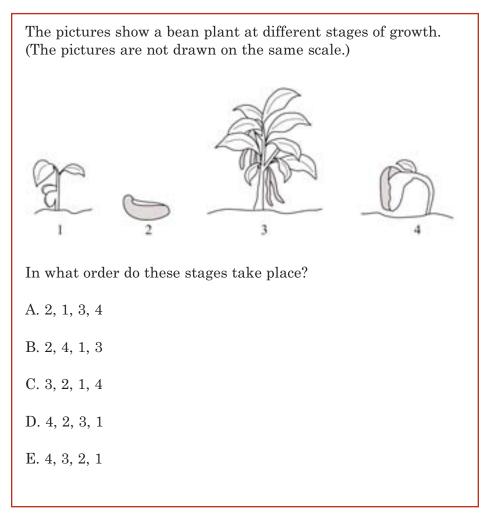
Which is the most likely reason?

A. Mike's seeds needed more air.

B. Mike's seeds needed more light.

C. Mike did not put the dish in a warm enough place.

D. Mike should have used a different kind of seed.



Item Number: O3

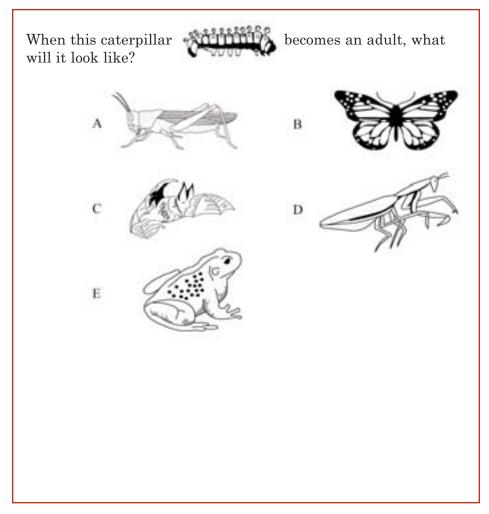
Which animal produces milk for its young?

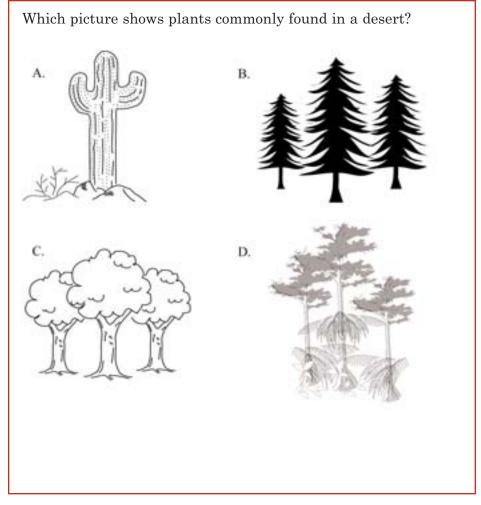
A. Chicken

B. Frog

C. Monkey

D. Snake





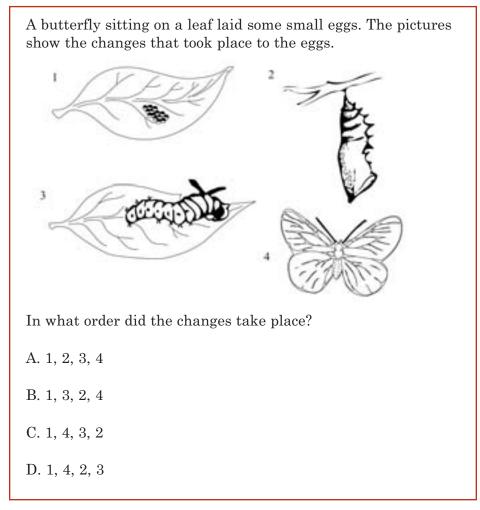
Seeds develop from which part of a plant?

A. Flower

B. Leaf

C. Root

D. Stem



Item Number: Q1

What is the BEST reason for including fruits and leafy vegetables in a healthy diet?

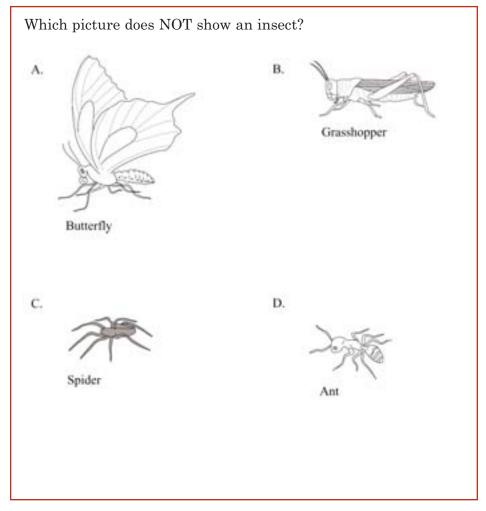
A. They have a high water content.

B. They are the best source of protein.

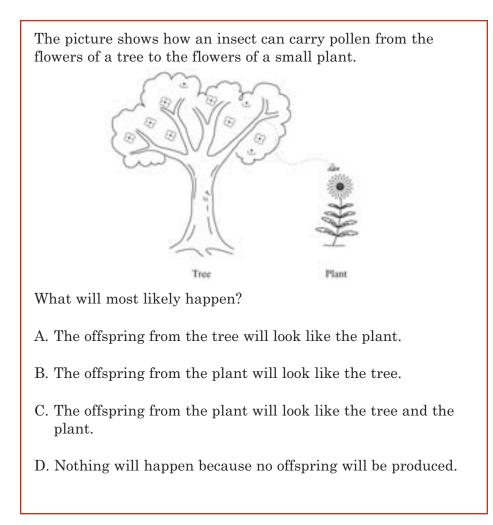
C. They are rich in minerals and vitamins.

D. They are the best source of carbohydrates.

When an animal breathes faster and its heart beats faster, the animal is MOST likely
A. cold
B. frightened
C. resting
D. sleeping



Item Number: Q6



What is the MOST important reason for people to use a sunscreen when they are outside in sunlight?

A. It protects the skin against dangerous rays from the sun.

B. It makes the skin more tanned.

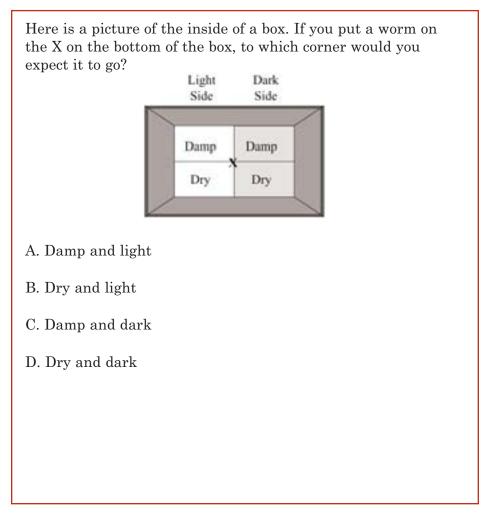
C. It makes the skin smooth.

D. It makes the skin feel cooler.

Which one of these groups contains only animals with a backbone (vertebrates)?

- A. Earthworm, snake, crayfish
- B. Spider, clam, dragonfly
- C. Crayfish, snake, horse
- D. Clam, fish, earthworm
- E. Horse, snake, fish

Item Number: R6



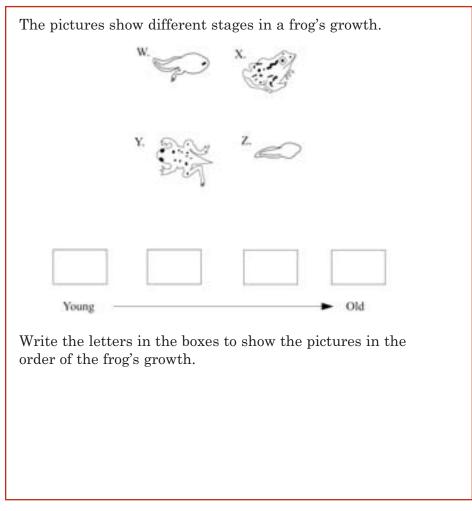
Item Number: R7

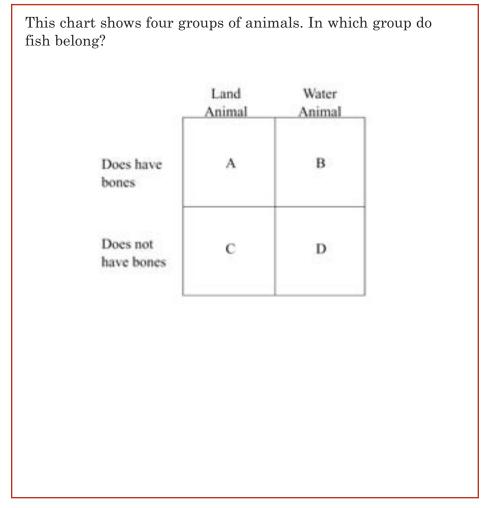
Write down one thing your heart does that helps the other parts of your body.

Write down the reason why we get thirsty on a hot day and have to drink a lot.

The human brain is inside the skull. Write down one advantage of the skull being thick and strong.

Write down one reason why animals could NOT live in a world without plants.





Item Number: X5

Write down two changes that occur in children's bodies as they become adults.

Item Number: Y2A

Write down two changes that occur in children's bodies as they become adults.

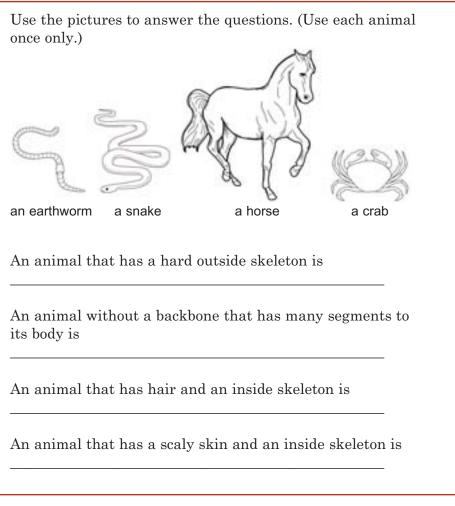
Item Number: Y2B

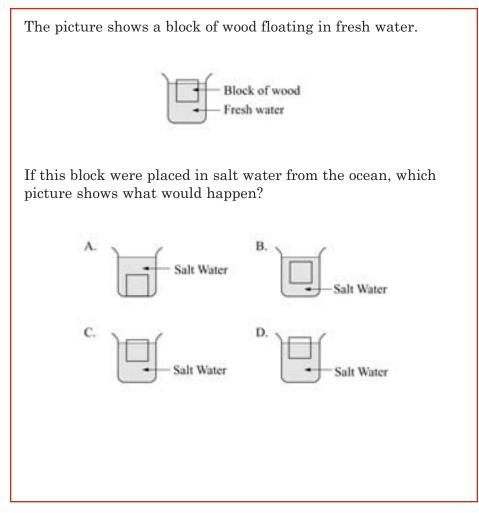
One way for animals to protect themselves is by escaping (running, flying, or swimming away). What are two other ways they protect themselves?

Item Number: Y3A

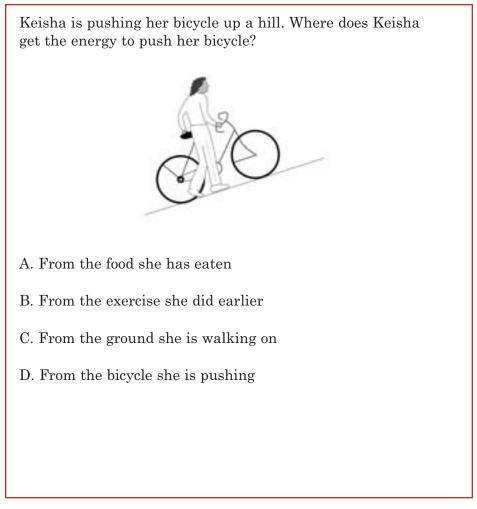
One way for animals to protect themselves is by escaping (running, flying, or swimming away). What are two other ways they protect themselves?

Item Number: Y3B





Item Number: N4



Item Number: N7

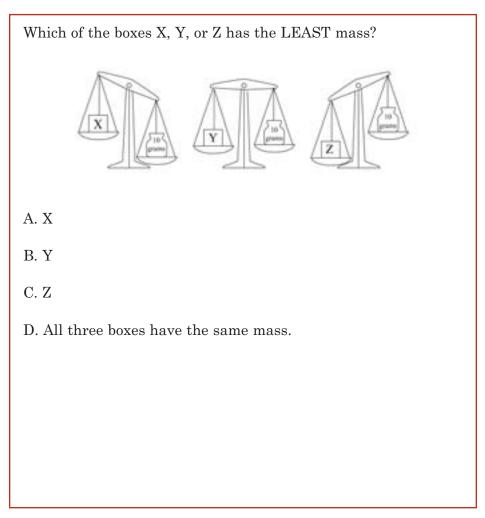
A powder made up of both white specks and black specks is likely to be

A. a solution

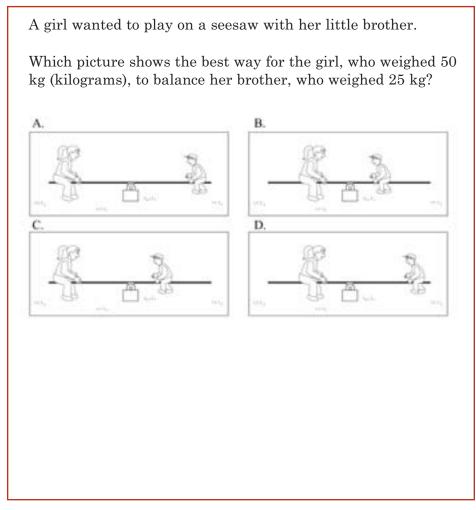
B. a pure compound

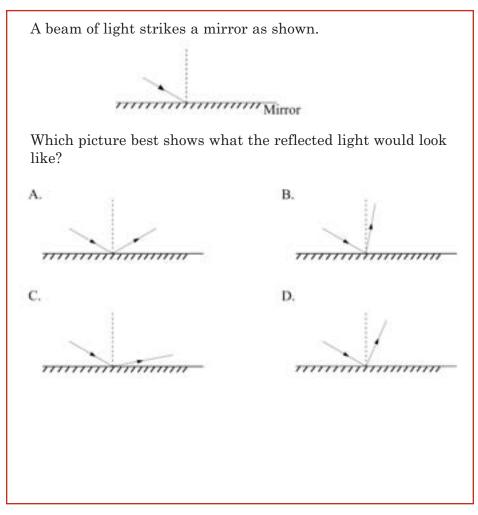
C. a mixture

D. an element



Item Number: N9





Item Number: O5

In a box there is a mixture of iron filings and sand. Which is the easiest way to separate the iron filings from the sand?

- A. Pour water on the mixture
- B. Use a magnifying glass
- C. Use a magnet
- D. Heat the mixture

Item Number: O8

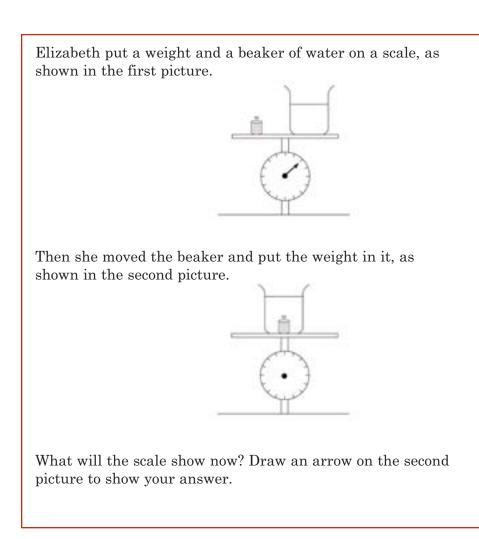
Which is NOT used as an energy source?

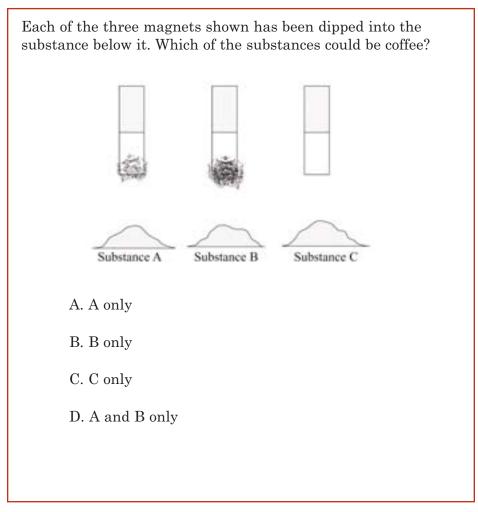
A. Flowing water

B. Iron ore

C. Sun

D. Oil





Item Number: P5

Which travels fastest?

A. A train

B. An airplane

C. Sound

D. Light

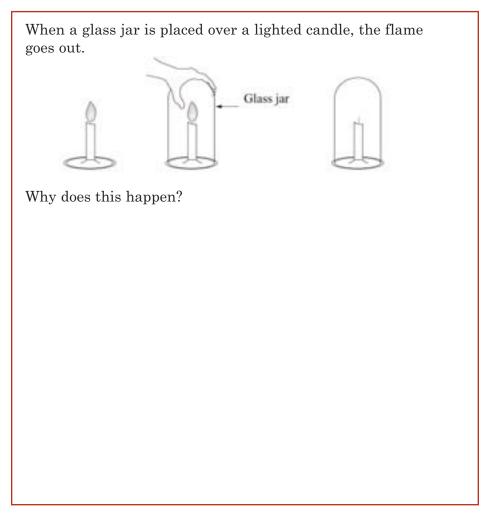
Some things were buried in wet ground. Several years later they were dug up. Which thing is MOST likely to have stayed the same?

A. An egg shell

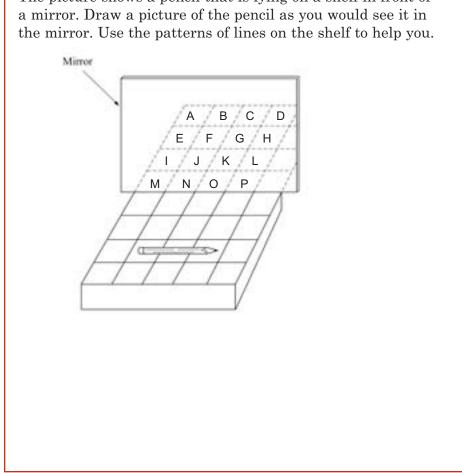
B. A plastic cup

C. A paper plate

D. An orange peel



Item Number: Q4



The picture shows a pencil that is lying on a shelf in front of

Item Number: Q8

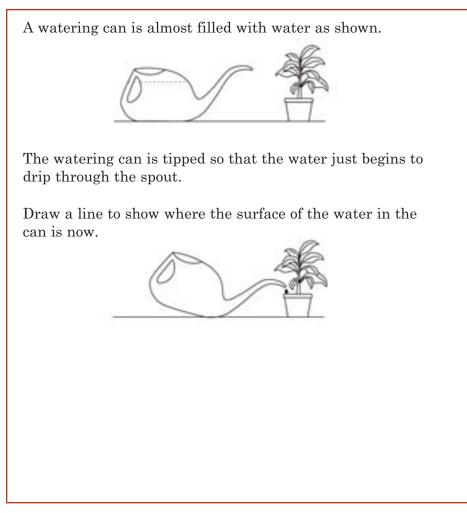
Ken put a thermometer in a glass filled with hot water. Why does the liquid inside the thermometer rise?

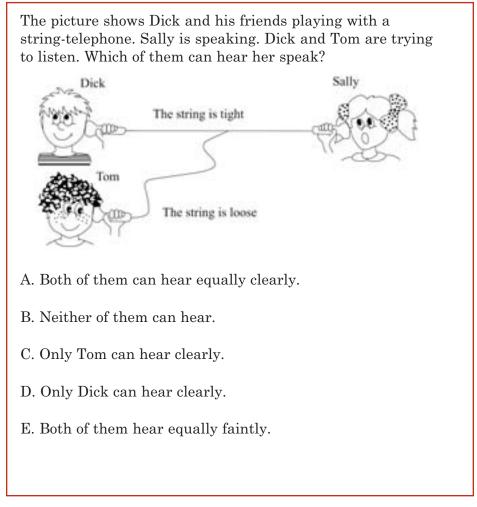
A. Gravity pushes it up.

B. Air bubbles are released.

C. Heat from the water makes it expand.

D. Air pressure above the water pulls it up.





Item Number: R5

Which makes its own light?

A. A mirror

B. A candle flame

C. A diamond ring

D. A magnifying lens

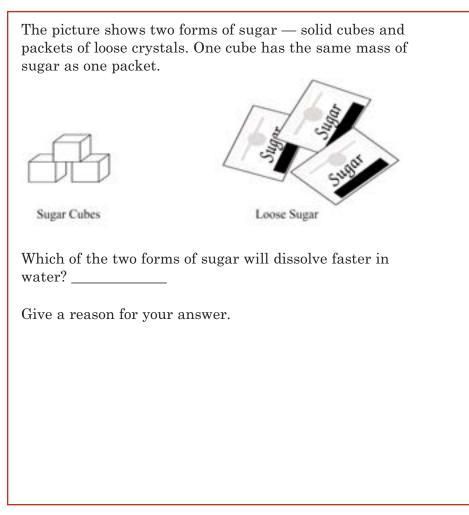
One advantage of solar energy is that it

A. does not pollute

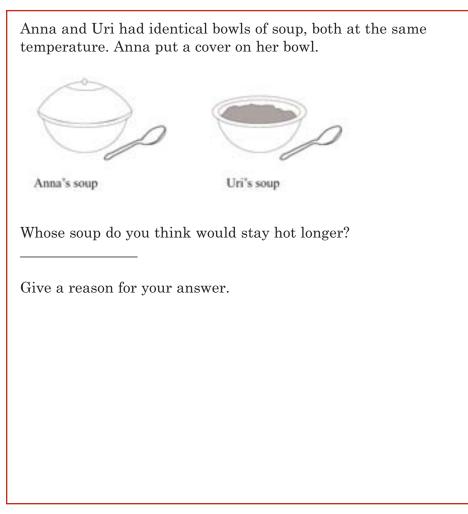
B. is not renewable

C. is efficient in any climate

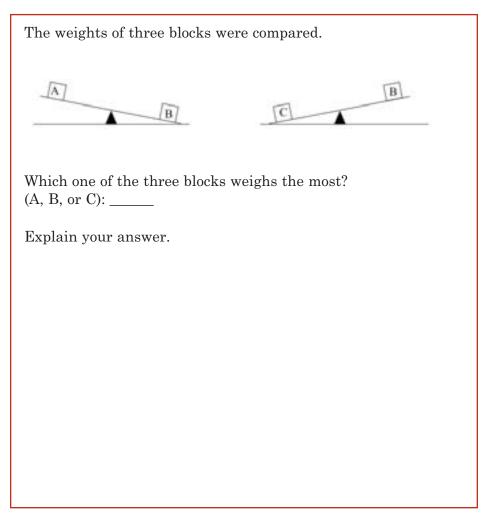
D. is available at all times



Item Number: W1



Item Number: X1



Item Number: Z3

Write down one example of how computers help people do their work.

To find out whether seeds grow better in the light or dark, you could put some seeds on pieces of damp paper and

- A. keep them in a warm, dark place
- B. keep one group in a light place and another in a dark place
- C. keep them in a warm, light place
- D. put them in a light or dark place that is cool

Four children can feel and smell an object inside a bag, but they cannot see it. Which of the following is NOT an observation about the object?

A. "It is flat at one end and round at the other."

B. "It smells like peppermint."

C. "It has a bump on it."

D. "I hope it is candy."

Item Number: Q7

Some children were trying to find out which of three light bulbs was brightest. Which one of these gives the best START toward finding the answer?

- A. "One bulb looks brightest to me, so I already know the answer."
- B. "All the bulbs look bright to me, so there cannot be an answer."
- C. "It would help if we had a way to measure the brightness of a light bulb."
- D. "We can take a vote and each person will vote for the bulb he or she thinks is the brightest."

Write down two different things that people can do to help reduce air pollution.

Item Number: W5A

Write down two different things that people can do to help reduce air pollution.

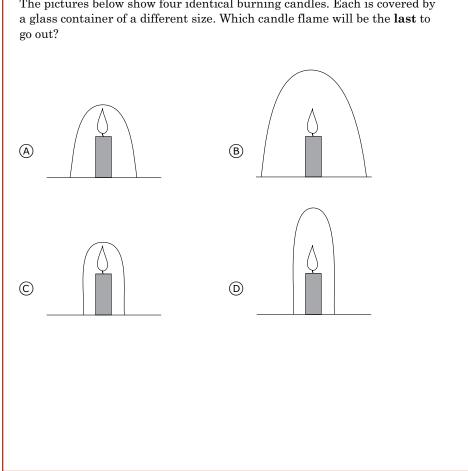
Item Number: W5B

Write as completely as possible why large oil spills in rivers and seas are harmful to the environment.

Item Number: X3

If you throw each one of these things away, which will decay fastest?

- (A) A glass bottle
- (B) A metal can
- © A plastic bottle
- (D) An apple core



The pictures below show four identical burning candles. Each is covered by

Item Number: S031061

Which of these activities will result in a different kind of material being formed?

- (A) A nail is left outside and it rusts.
- (B) A glass is dropped and it shatters into small pieces.
- © A rubber band is stretched until it breaks.
- (D) A pencil is sharpened to a point.

A strong magnet will separate a mixture of

- $(\ensuremath{\bar{A}})$ clear glass and green glass.
- (B) paper cups and plastic cups.
- © iron nails and aluminum nails.
- (D) sand and salt.

Which of these things will dissolve in water?

- (A) iron filings
- (B) wood chips
- \bigcirc sand
- D sugar

Many objects are made of metals (like copper, iron and gold). This is because metals have many useful properties.A. Name one object that is made out of metal.B. What property of the metal makes it useful for this object?

Item Number: S031406A

Many objects are made of metals (like copper, iron and gold). This is because metals have many useful properties.A. Name one object that is made out of metal.B. What property of the metal makes it useful for this object?

Item Number: S031406B

Which statement is true for all objects?

- (A) All objects are shiny.
- (B) All objects are hard.
- © All objects are rough.
- (D) All objects have mass.

The properties of three materials are compared in the table below. One of the materials is wood, one is rock and one is iron.

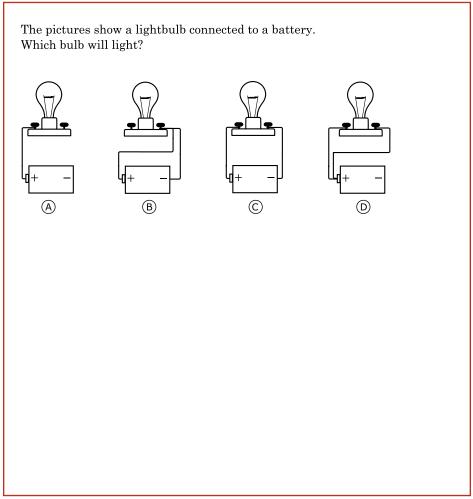
Property	Material 1	Material 2	Material 3
Sinks in water?	Yes	No	Yes
Burns easily?	No	Yes	No
Attracted by a magnet?	Yes	No	No

Identify the three materials by filling in the spaces below.

Wood is material number:

Rock is material number:

Iron is material number:



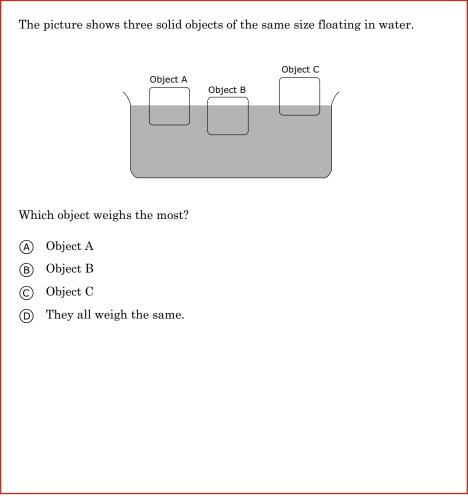
Item Number: S031038

Figure 1	S N	N S)
Figure 2	S N	S N)
Figure 3	N S	N S)
Figure 4	N S	S N)
Which of the four other?	ägures above shows a si	tuation where two magr	nets repel each
(A) Figures 1	l and 3		
B Figures 2			
© Figures 1			
	1, 2, 3, and 4		

Item Number: S031306

A renewable energy source is a source that will not run out. Which is an example of the use of such a source?

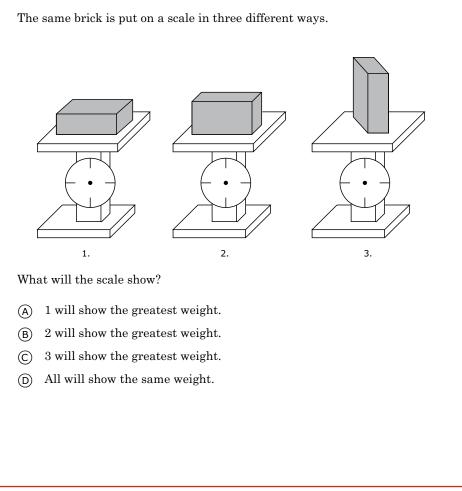
- (A) A coal furnace heating a house
- (B) A windmill pumping water on a farm
- © A kerosene lamp lighting a room
- (D) A diesel truck traveling along a road



Item Number: S011001

Which of the following can make objects repel each other?

- (A) gravity
- (B) magnetism
- \bigodot both gravity and magnetism
- \bigcirc neither gravity nor magnetism



Item Number: S011009

Jessica gave some reasons why kettles and kitchen pans are often made of copper. Which reason is correct?

- (A) Copper is a good conductor of heat.
- (B) Copper is easy to melt.
- © Copper is difficult to shape.
- (D) Copper dissolves in hot water.

There are two things wrong with the shadow of the man shown in the picture above.
Write down the two things that are wrong.
1.
2.

Item Number: S031072

Which pair together could cause a rainbow?

- (A) Fog and clouds
- (B) Rain and snow
- © Clouds and ice
- (D) Sunshine and rain

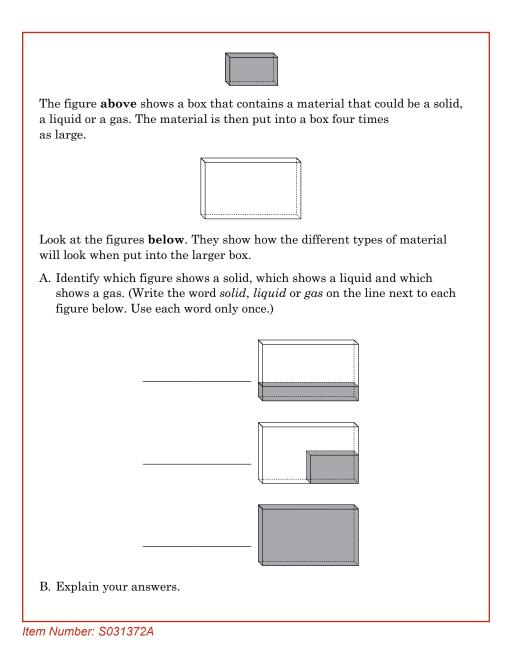
When you make soap bubbles, what is inside the bubbles?

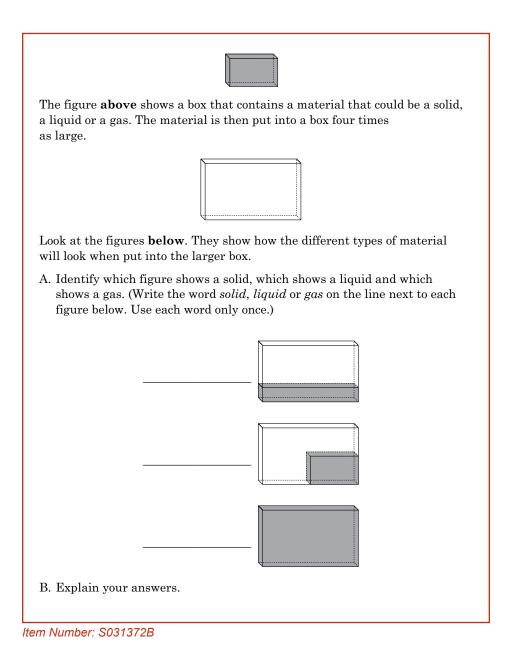
- \bigcirc Air
- B Soap
- © Water
- (D) Nothing

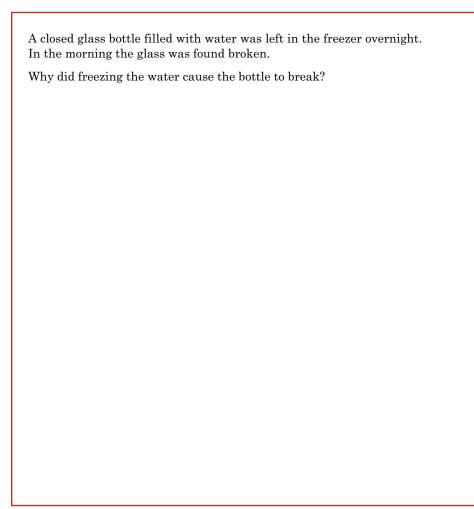
What happens to water when it boils?

- (A) It changes color.
- (B) It becomes heavier.
- © It changes into water vapor.
- (D) It stops bubbling.

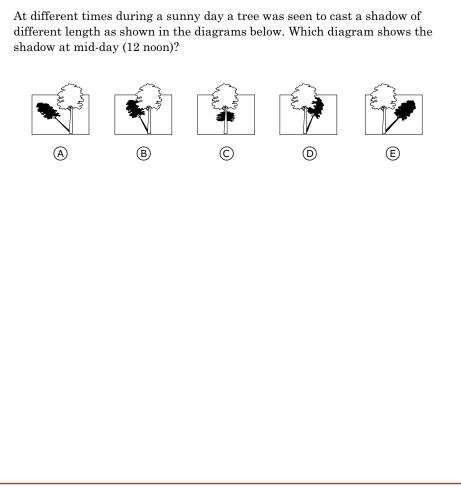
Describe one difference between solids and liquids.







Item Number: S031005



Item Number: S011027

Which of these is hottest?

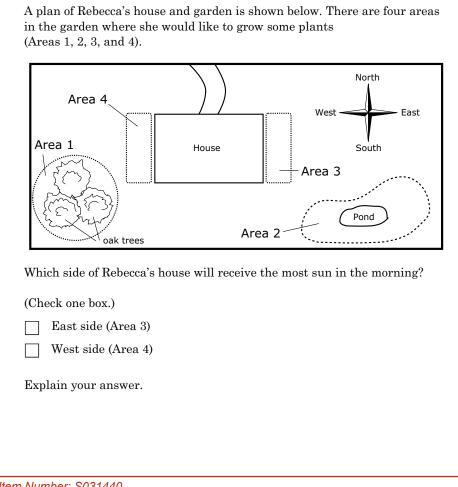
- (A) The Earth
- (B) Mars
- © The Moon
- D The Sun

Each year the Earth moves once around

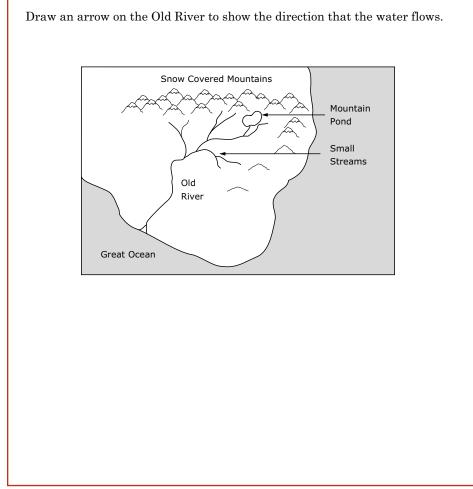
- (A) Mars
- (B) the Sun
- (C) the Moon
- (D) all of the other planets

Kate sees a full moon. About how much time will go by before the next full moon?

- $\textcircled{A} \quad \text{one week}$
- (B) two weeks
- \bigcirc one month
- (D) one year



Item Number: S031440



Item Number: S011032

On a hot, humid day the air contains a lot of water vapor. What happens to the water vapor in the air when the air becomes very cold?

Item Number: S031382

The fossils of dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago can be found in

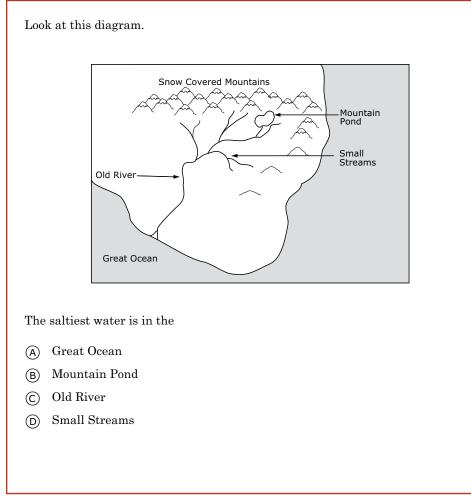
- A the water of oceans.
- B the ice on ponds.
- \bigcirc the trunks of trees.
- \bigcirc rocks in the ground.

	Clouds in the Sky	Lowest Temperature	Highest Temperature
Town A	no	10°C	$25^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$
Town B	yes	$20^{\circ}C$	30°C
Town C	no	$-10^{\circ}C$	-1°C
Town D	yes	$-15^{\circ}C$	5°C

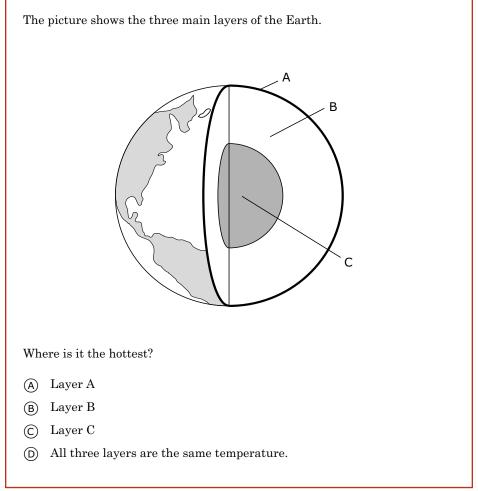
The table above shows some weather information for four different towns during a 24-hour period. In which town did it most likely snow?

- (A) Town A
- B Town B
- © Town C
- D Town D

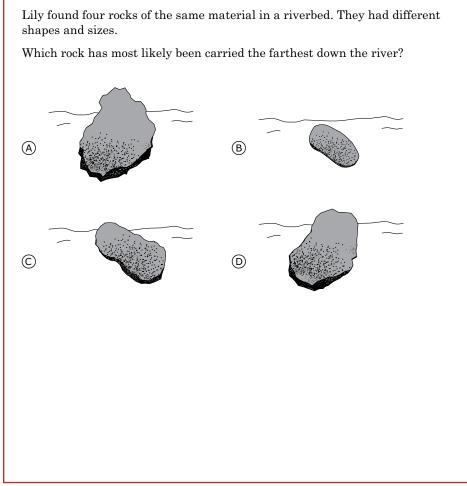
Item Number: S031383



Item Number: S011007



Item Number: S012007



Item Number: S031082

What covers most of the Earth's surface?

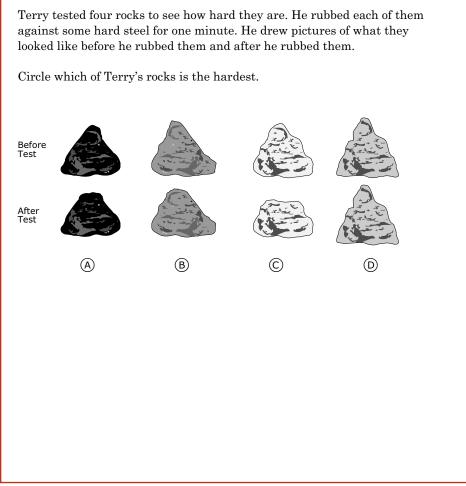
- (A) Water
- (B) Bare rock
- © Farm land
- (D) Cities and towns

What gas in the air do we need to breathe in order to live?

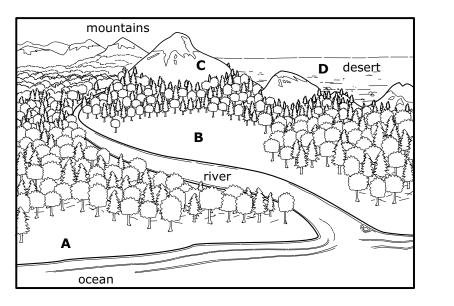
- (A) nitrogen
- (B) oxygen
- © carbon dioxide
- D hydrogen
- (E) water vapor

Large amounts of metals like iron and aluminum are found in

- \bigcirc dead trees
- (B) water
- © animal bones
- \bigcirc oil wells
- (E) rocks



Item Number: S011023



Look at the picture above. Where is the best location to grow crops?

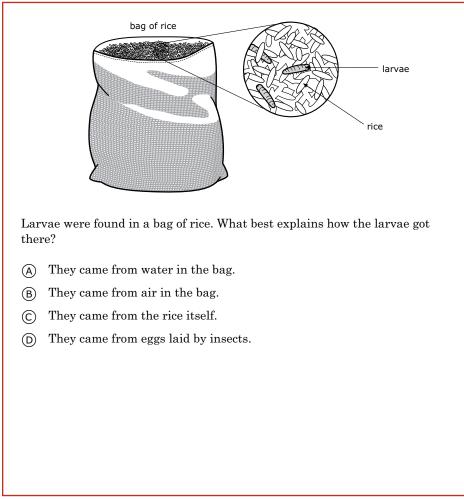
- (A) Location A
- (B) Location B
- © Location C
- (D) Location D

Item Number: S031379

Write down what happens to plants and fish in a river when a factory pours large amounts of hot water into the river.

Minerals are used for making many things including jewelry, chalk, and concrete. Where do we get the minerals needed to make these things?

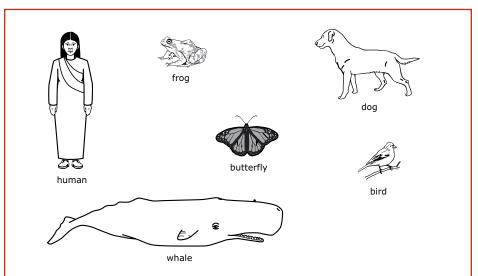
- (A) from air
- (B) from wood
- (C) from rocks
- (D) from crops



Item Number: S031003

Children grow taller and become heavier as they develop into adults. Describe one other physical change that takes place in children's bodies as they become adults.

Item Number: S031251

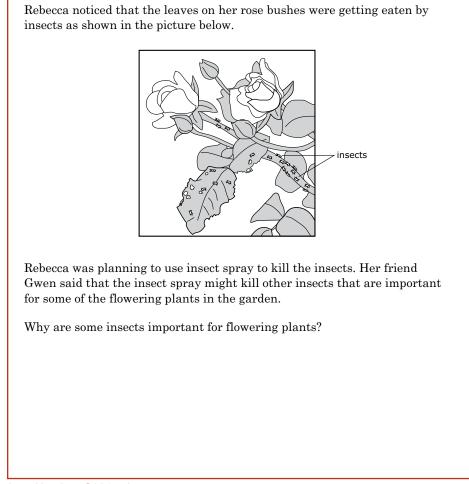


Some of the organisms shown above give birth to young that develop inside the mother. Some of the organisms have young that hatch from eggs that are laid outside the mother.

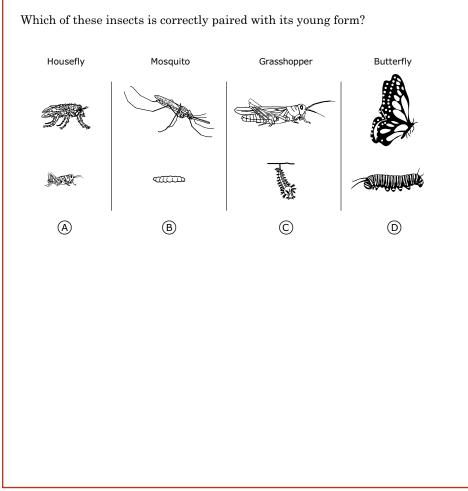
In the table below, write down the names of the organisms that belong to each group.

Organisms that give birth	Organisms that lay eggs

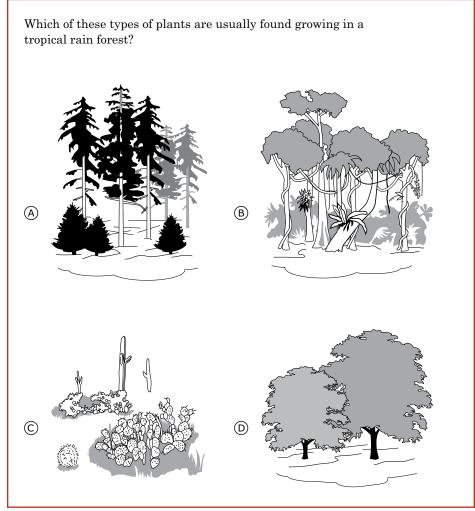
Item Number: S031252



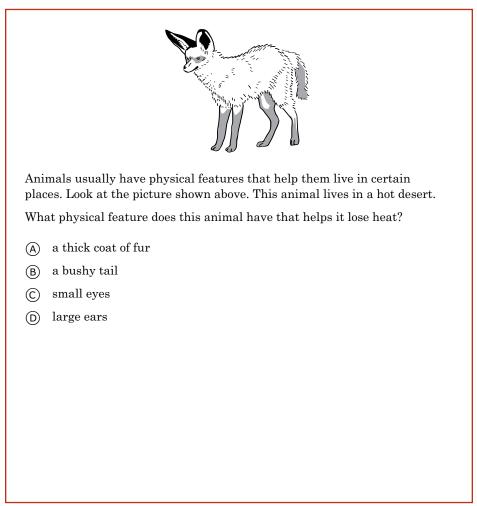
Item Number: S031443



Item Number: S031017



Item Number: S031287



Item Number: S031284

Rebecca moved into a new house. She wanted to grow plants in different areas of her garden.
A. Rebecca knows that plants need light to grow. Why do plants need light to grow?
B. Plants also need water to grow.
Name one other thing plants need in order to grow well.

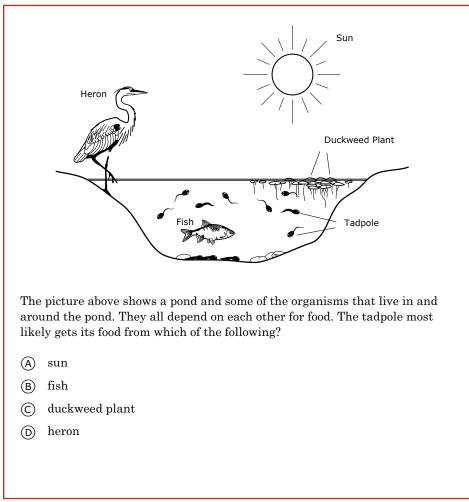
Item Number: S031439A

Rebecca moved into a new house. She wanted to grow plants in different areas of her garden.	
A. Rebecca knows that plants need light to grow. Why do plants need light to grow?	
B. Plants also need water to grow.	
Name one other thing plants need in order to grow well.	

Item Number: S031439B

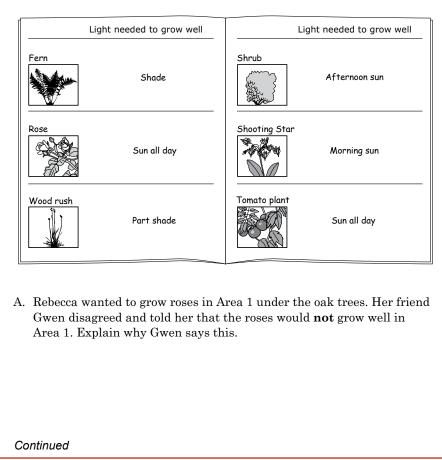
Which animal	eats	only	plants?
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- (A) Cat
- B Dog
- © Lion
- D Rabbit

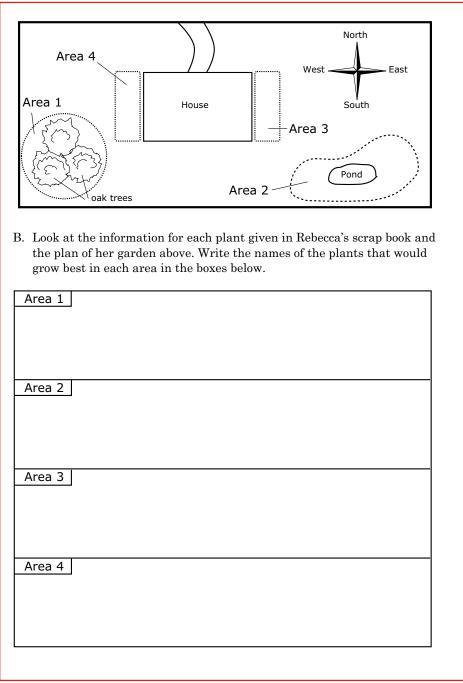


Item Number: S031338

Rebecca wanted to plant each area with different types of plants. She collected pictures of her favorite plants and found out how much sunlight they needed to grow well. She put the pictures and the information she found into a scrap book as shown below.

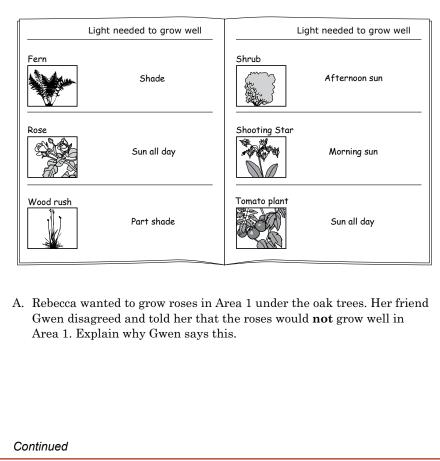


Item Number: S031441A

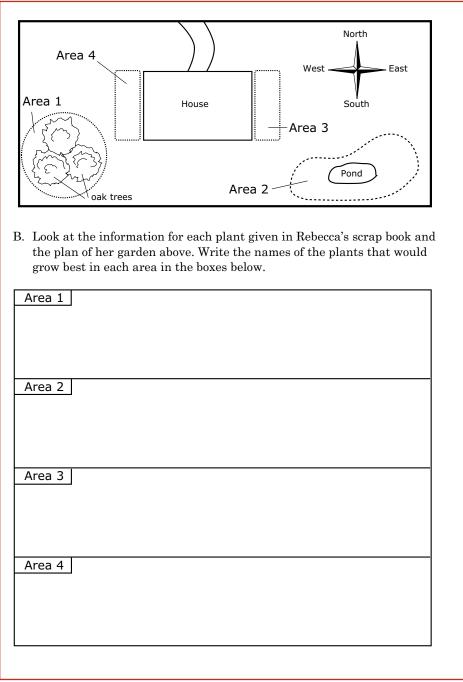


Item Number: S031441A

Rebecca wanted to plant each area with different types of plants. She collected pictures of her favorite plants and found out how much sunlight they needed to grow well. She put the pictures and the information she found into a scrap book as shown below.



Item Number: S031441B



Item Number: S031441B

How can washing your hands help keep you from getting sick?

- (A) It washes away germs.
- (B) It makes your hands look nice.
- \bigcirc $% \left({{\rm{T}}$
- (D) It makes your hands warmer.

People need to protect themselves from getting too much sun. Name one thing that can happen to their bodies if they are not protected from the sun.

Item Number: S031330

Which plant is grown for food?			
A	Rice		
B	Tobacco		
C	Orchid		
D	Cotton		

What will most likely affect your adult height?

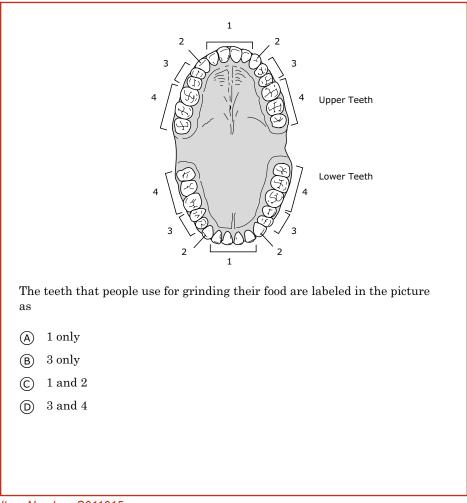
- (A) The height of your parents
- (B) The height of your brothers and sisters
- © Your hair color
- D Your weight

A plant has yellow flowers. What best explains why the flowers are yellow?

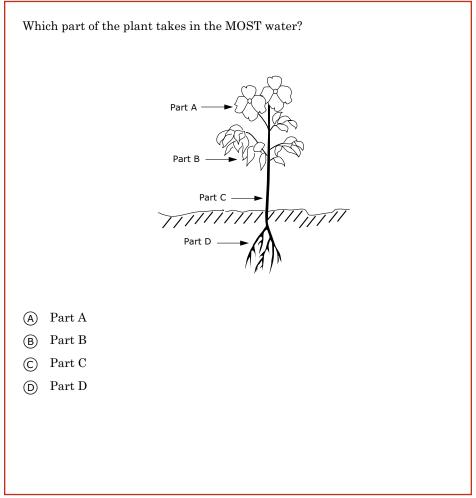
- (A) The sunshine colored the flowers yellow.
- (B) The flowers of the parent plants were yellow.
- \bigcirc $% \left({{\rm{C}}} \right)$ It was very warm when they flowered.
- D It rained every day.

If the body takes in more food than it uses,

- (A) breathing becomes faster.
- (B) weight is lost.
- \bigcirc the heart rate increases.
- (D) the food is stored as fat.



Item Number: S011015



Item Number: S011026

Beth is playing soccer. She gets very hot. Name one thing her body does to cool down.

Item Number: S031246

Where does air go when a person breathes in?

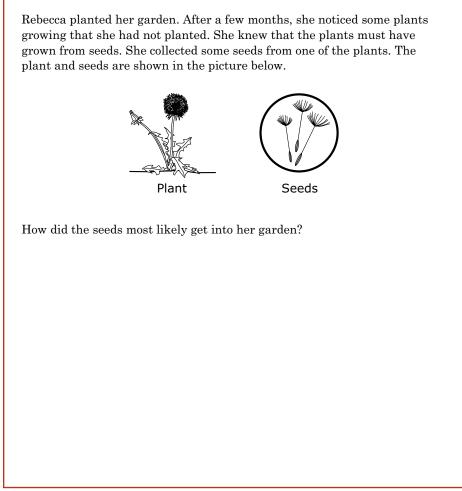
- (A) Into the heart
- (B) Into the stomach
- \bigcirc Into the lungs
- D Into the liver

Humans interpret seeing, hearing, tasting and smelling in the

- (A) brain
- (B) spinal cord
- \bigcirc receptors
- D skin

Immediately before and after running a 50 meter race, your pulse and breathing rates are taken. What changes would you expect to find?

- (A) no change in pulse but a decrease in breathing rate
- (B) an increase in pulse but no change in breathing rate
- © an increase in pulse and breathing rate
- \bigcirc a decrease in pulse and breathing rate
- (E) no change in either



Item Number: S031442

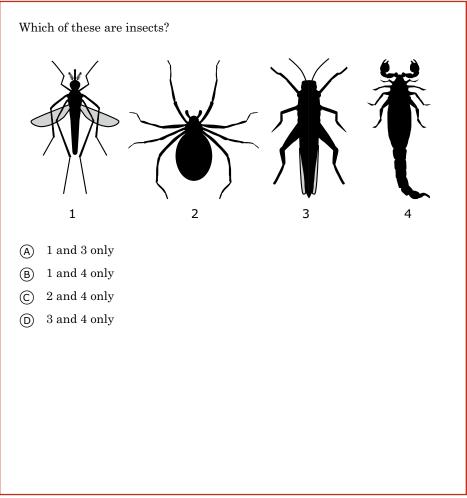
Which one of these animals does NOT lay eggs?				
(A) cł	nickens			
B de	ogs			
© fr	rogs			
D tu	urtles			

Are plants living or nonliving?
(Check one box.)
Living
☐ Nonliving
Explain your answer.

Item Number: S031218

Which group consists only of living things?

- (A) rabbit, seed, bird
- (B) seed, bird, wind
- © volcano, candle, rabbit
- (D) wind, candle, volcano



Item Number: S031349

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