#### Fannin County Inclement Weather Packet 3rd Grade

Day 1 Math: Captain's Cho		Captain's Choice Math Riddle (see paper attached)
	Reading:	Choral read (read with another person) "Camouflaged Creatures" and complete questions. (see paper attached)
Day 2 Math: Subtraction		Subtraction (see paper attached)
	Reading:	Choral read (read with another person) "Hibernation" and complete questions. (see paper attached)
Day 3 Math:		Fact Family Arrays ( see paper attached)
	Reading:	Choral read (read with another person) "Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun" and complete questions. (see paper attached)
Day 4	Math:	Missing Multiples Chart( see paper attached)
	Reading:	Choral read (read with another person) "Racoon Rex" and complete questions. (see paper attached)

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Inclement Weather Packet Day 1 Name:



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## **Camouflaged** Creatures

#### by Guy Belleranti

In nature, predators and prey seem to play a game of hideand-seek. Prey need to hide, so predators do not find them and eat them. Predators need to hide too, so smaller prey cannot see them approaching. Some animals have special colors or marks on their bodies that help them hide among trees, rocks, and grass. This blending is called camouflage.

The earth tone colors of deer and squirrels help them hide from predators among the browns of trees, bushes and soil. A brown squirrel can be difficult to see when it is scampering among brown autumn leaves. A brown deer can be overlooked when it is hiding between tree trunks. The deer and squirrel's special coloring help them hide from predators.

African lions have a tan body coloring. However, lions use it not to hide from predators, but to hide in savanna grasses while watching for prey. A lion can sneak up on prey without being seen more easily by blending into the grassy environment.

Another popular animal camouflage color is green. The green tree frogs of Australia blend in and hide from predators better because of their color. Green tree pythons and emerald boas, meanwhile, are more like lions, using their green color to blend in. When a likely meal (a rodent, bird or lizard) comes along these snakes strike quickly, catching the prey.



Can you see the green snake in this picture? The snake's shape and color help it hide among the green forest leaves.



This owl sleeps during the day, so it does not want to be seen by other animals. Notice how its feather pattern and coloring match the tree trunk.



is this polar bear camouflaged to protect itself from predators or to hunt prey?

The praying mantis takes things a step further. While its green to brown color helps it blend in with vegetation, the mantis also mimics the shape of a stem or leaf. The mantis uses these camouflage methods both to hide from predators like birds, frogs, snakes, spiders and bats, and to await prey such as insects (including other mantises!), spiders, hummingbirds, and small frogs and mice.

Just as important as color camouflage and mimicry is pattern camouflage. Tiger stripes and leopard and jaguar spots are all patterns which help these cats hide among the plants and shadows when they search for prey.

In nature, hide-and-seek is a game of life and death. Pattern and color camouflage, and mimicry, can give predators and prey a survival advantage. Can you think of any other animals that have camouflage?



This praying mantis' body mimics its environment. It looks much like a leaf or twig. This type of blending is called mimicry.



A tiger has vertical stripes that help to hide it among tall grass. This is pattern camouflage.

### About the Author



Guy Belleranti is an author of fiction, poetry, articles, puzzles, and humor for children and adults. He also works as a docent at the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences teaching children about the wild animals at the zoo.

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**Camouflaged Creatures** 

by Guy Belleranti

- 1. How does a lion's special coloring help it survive?
  - a. It helps protect the lion from predators.
  - b. It helps the lion sneak up on predators without being heard.
  - c. It helps the lion hunt prey without being seen.
  - d. It makes the lion completely invisible.

2. Explain how a praying mantis uses more than just color to blend into its surroundings.

- 3. How does camouflage help a polar bear become a better predator?
  - a. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see in the woods.
  - b. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see on rocky ledges.
  - c. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see in a snowy environment.
  - d. It makes the polar bear more difficult to see underwater.
- 4. Read the following sentence from the article and choose the best definition for the underlined words.

The earth tone colors of deer and squirrels help them hide from predators,

- a. color of summer leaves
- **b.** color of the morning sky
- c. color of soil and ground
- **d.** color of the planet Earth
- **Challenge:** Draw a picture of a scene in nature. Include several camouflaged animals in your picture.

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Inclement Weather Packet Day 2 Name:



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Name:



by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Hibernation is a word used to describe an animal that passes the winter months in a sleep-like state. Certain animals do this because they otherwise couldn't survive the severe cold and lack of food through the season. Common hibernators include woodchucks, ground squirrels, hedgehogs, hamsters, and bats. Many people think that bears hibernate. While they do slow down and rest for the winter, they do not go into a true state of hibernation.



Hibernators do three things. First, they store up as much food as possible, either as body fat or actual stored food. Second, they find or make a good winter shelter. And last but not least, they fall into a deep sleep. During hibernation, an animal's heart rate slows down, its body temperature drops, and it breathes more slowly. When spring arrives with warmer weather and sources of food, these animals will wake up and resume their normal lives.

Did you know that there are animals that do this same kind of thing during the summer months? In areas of the world that are very hot and dry, the summer months can be life threatening to some animals. Creatures, like certain frogs and fish, bury themselves in mud and stop all activity until the difficult summer months are over. This process is called estivation.

Both hibernation and estivation are survival tools used to help our animal friends survive their most difficult seasons.

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Inclement Weather Packet Day 3 Name:



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# Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun

by Kelly Hashway

We all know the sun is important. It provides for plants, animals, and people here on Earth. But how does the sun do that? It's the sun's energy that makes life on our planet possible.

Energy from the sun is called solar energy. It comes in the form of light or heat. Solar energy is what makes you feel hot when you sit in the sunlight. People have used solar energy for thousands of years. Houses were built with windows so that sunlight can get inside and provide heat. The sun's energy can also be used to heat water and even food. If you own a magnifying glass, your parents have probably warned you about leaving it in the sun. Solar energy can actually make the magnifying glass burn objects underneath it, causing a fire. This type of energy from the sun in the form of heat is called solar thermal energy.

We can also turn the sun's light into electricity. This is done with solar panels. Solar panels are made up of a material called silicon. The silicon is heated and formed into very thin wafers. When the sunlight hits the solar panel, the electrons (tiny particles) in the silicon move and flow through wires built into the solar panel. Using this technology, we can run a calculator and even power cars.



But what happens when a shadow or group of clouds blocks the solar panels? The electrons in the silicon will stop moving, which means the electricity can't flow. But this doesn't mean that solar energy can only be used on bright sunny days. Solar panels can have batteries attached to them to store electricity for a rainy day. When the sun is shining, the electricity flows from the solar panel into the batteries. This stored electricity can be used at night or on cloudy days.

Did you know that solar energy is not as expensive as It used to be? In fact, in the last few years, solar panels have become much more affordable for people to use. Since the sun gives off more energy in one second than people have used since the beginning of time, imagine what we could do if we used the sun's energy to power our planet.

Name:	
	Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun by Kelly Hashway
1.	<ul> <li>What are solar panels used for?</li> <li>a. to block the sun's dangerous rays</li> <li>b. to create light energy from the sun</li> <li>c. to create heat energy from the sun</li> <li>d. to create electrical energy from the sun</li> </ul>
2.	How is it possible to use solar energy from solar panels at night?
3.	What are solar panels made of?a. electronsb. heatc. silicond. hydrogen
4.	What is solar thermal energy?a. energy produced by solar panelsb. heat energy from the sunc. energy stored in batteriesd. heat energy from water
5.	Write another appropriate title for this passage. Do not use the word "solar" or "power" in your new title.
N	ow try this: Find a solar powered calculator. Try to use it next to a bright window. Then, try to use it in a dark room. What happens?

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### **Raccoon Rex**

by Ruth Donnelly

I walk by night, in darkness. I sneak without a sound. I overturn the garbage can. Oh! What a treat I've found!

I grab the picnic sandwiches. (I haven't yet been seen.) I take my bounty to the brook, And wash it squeaky clean.

I creep up to the campers' tent And snatch a hot dog bun. The campers yell. They scream and shout. But I'm just having fun!

A mask of fur around my eyes, A smile upon my face, My paws can open garbage cans. I move with stealth and grace.

I steal from people's garden plots, From porches and from decks. Yes, I'm a fearless bandit--And my name is Raccoon Rexl



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		Rac	by Ruth I	onnelly	X	
1.	Accordin	g to the poem, a r	accoon is	much like a		
	а. с.	gardener thief	b. d.	carpenter chef		
2.	How do t	he campers feel in	this poem	ıŝ	}A	
	a. c.	disappointed satisfied	b. d.	exhausted angry		
3.		nth line of the poer es this mean?	n says, "I t	ake my bounty 1	o the brook."	
4.		enth line of the poe e word stealth. Use	,		-	се. <sup>и</sup>
Chal	lenge:	Look up the word Find out what ra			pedia.	

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## Raccoon Rex Vocabulary Match



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Re-read "Raccoon Rex" and complete the vocabulary table.

Line Number	Word from the Poem	Synonym
Line 9	creep	
Line 3		flip
	snatch	
Line 19		outlaw
	fearless	
Line 8	·	shining
Line 7		creek