

SEMESTER TWO HOME INSTRUCTION PORTFOLIO: WINSLOW JOHNSTON GRADE 4 SY 2020-21

Parents: Rachel & Steve Johnston Email: randsjohnston@email.com

Annual Verification SY 2021-22: Next year we will be returning to public school at Walkersville Middle School Grade 6.

Language Arts: The Good and the Beautiful Level 5: Cursive Handwriting Workbook for Teens: The Grammar Ace

Compare and Contrast Main Ideas  
Part 1: The Platypus



The platypus is one of the most unusual animals in the world. Found mainly in freshwater habitats of eastern Australia, the platypus looks like a combination of several other animals. It has webbed feet and a flat bill, like a duck. Its tail is wide and flat, like the tail of a beaver. And its body is covered in brown waterproof fur, much like the fur of a beaver.

The platypus hunts for food underwater. It uses its webbed feet and wide tail to move around in the water. The platypus eats insects, shellfish, and worms. Active mainly at night and during the early morning, the platypus uses its flat bill to dig and search for food.

The male platypus is bigger than the female, and the male has sharp, venomous stingers on the heels of its rear feet. The platypus is also one of only two mammals that lays eggs! Most mammals give birth to live young, while birds and reptiles typically lay eggs. The platypus truly is one of a kind!

What is the main idea of this passage? Write your answer in a complete sentence.  
The main idea of the passage is they are unusual animals and how they are one of a kind.

List two or more important details that support the main idea.

- It says, "The males have sharp venomous stingers on the heels of their rear feet"
- Its one in two mammals to lay eggs.
- They have attributes of a duck, but they are mammals and not birds.

Compare and Contrast Main Ideas  
Part 2: A Strange Creature



Last summer, I went to visit my uncle who lives in Georgia. While I was there, we went fishing early one morning at the river near his house. As we were getting our fishing poles ready, I saw something out of the corner of my eye. It looked like the tail of a beaver!

About thirty seconds later, I saw a duck's bill come up out of the water near where I saw the beaver. But as it began to bring its head out of the water, I saw that it had fur instead of feathers! I rubbed my eyes in confusion. The sun wasn't up all the way yet, so it was still a little dark. Maybe it was a beaver after all?

When it finally stepped out of the water, I saw that it really did have small, webbed feet like a duck. But then I saw that it had four feet instead of two. Its smooth fur looked like an otter's, but its body was much shorter. I stared in amazement as the strange creature quickly disappeared into its home in the ground. I'd never seen anything like that before!

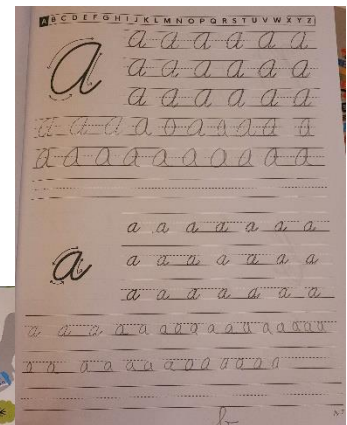
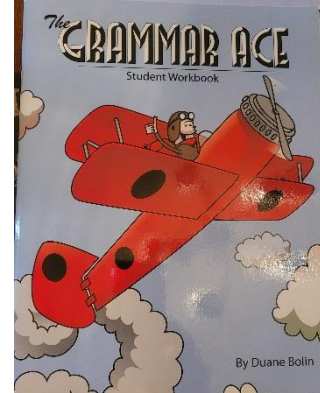
What is the main idea of this passage? Write your answer in a complete sentence.  
The main idea of this passage is how a girl thought she saw a strange creature in the water.

List two or more important details that support the main idea.

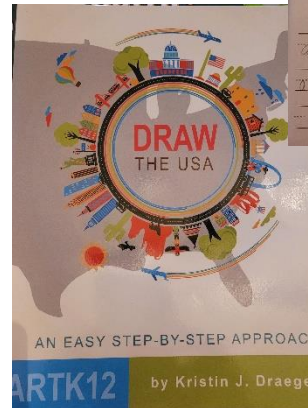
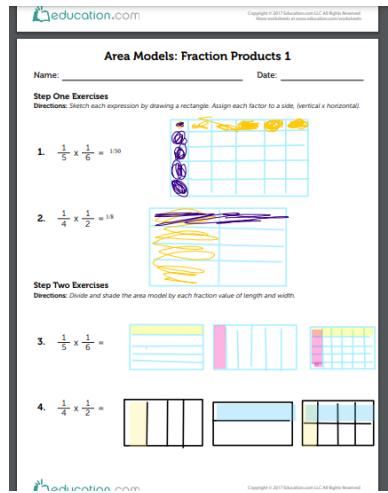
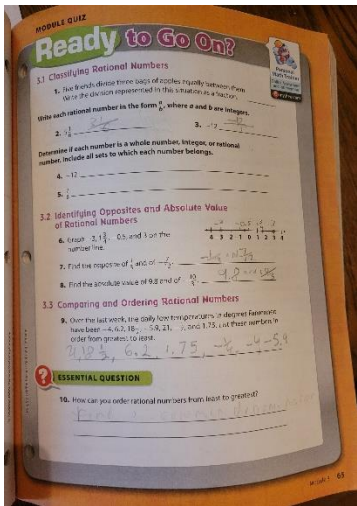
- She saw a bill and webbed feet like a duck.
- She saw smooth fur like an otter and a tail like a beaver.
- She'd never seen anything like that before.

Do you think these two passages are talking about the same animal? Why or why not? Use details from the texts to support your answer.

I think these passages are both talking about a platypus, because they both describe how the animal looks. For example, in text one, they talk about how a platypus is like a beaver, otter and a duck. In the second text, the girl talks about how the creature looked in her eyes and its features. They both described smooth fur like an otter, a bill and webbed feet like a duck and a tail like a beaver.

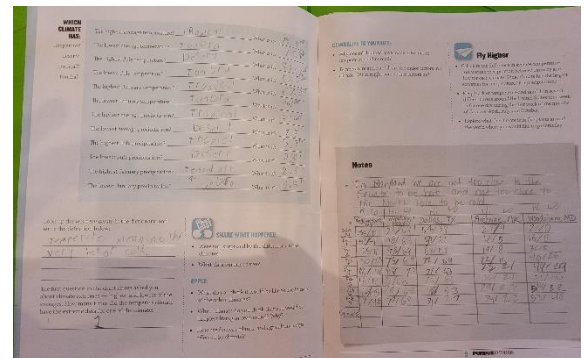
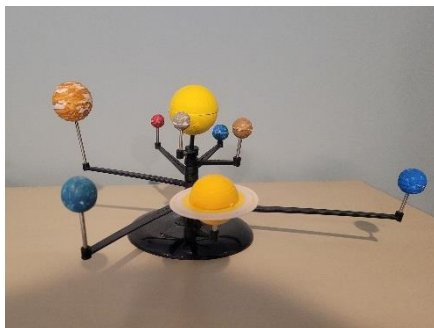


Math: Teaching Textbooks Level 5; Go Math Level 6; Khan Academy; Various TpT worksheets

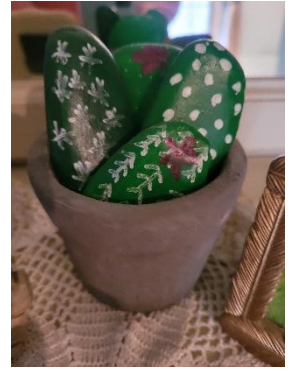


Social Studies: The Good and the Beautiful; US Constitution; Founding of America: Draw the USA Geography

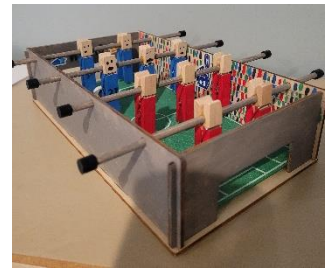
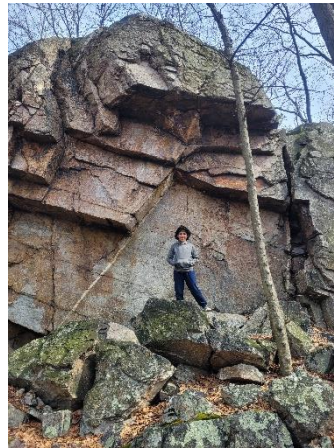
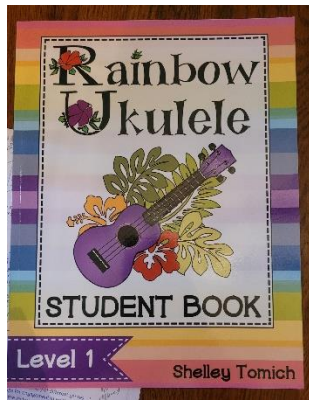
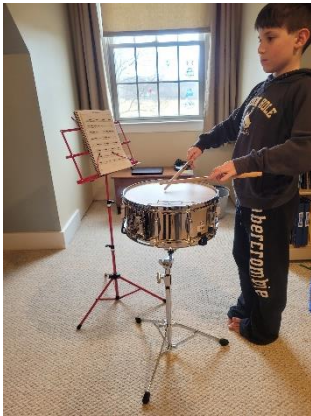
Science: Weather and Climate Studies, Little Passports



Art: Self-directed Study; Tape resist painting; String Art; Watercolor; Rock Painting



Music: Ukulele and Private Drum lessons Health: Boys Body Book; Anatomy PE: Daily Activity; Hiking; History of Foosball



Other: Photography Study; 4H; DAR Essay winner on Boston Massacre; Logic- Montague Mysteries; STEM- Leprechaun Trap

