

Spring 2025

GRADE 3

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/
LITERACY**

Today you will read the excerpts from *Time and Space* and *Time Under the Sea*. As you read these stories, you will answer questions and write a response.

from Time and Space

by Kathryn Lay

- 1 Luis pointed at a section on the control panel [of the time machine]. There were two dials. One could be set for months and the other for years. There was a large lever labeled *Advance* under them.
- 2 "It's amazing. It's crazy," Tyler said. His fingers hovered over the dates.
- 3 "Hey, what are you doing?" Luis shouted.
- 4 "We should go for a spin," Tyler said. "Just a short one and back. We could see what kind of pop quiz Mrs. Sharp is giving on Friday so we could study for it. Or we could go two weeks ahead and find out what parts we're getting in the school play."
- 5 Casey nodded. "Or we could go to last Thursday. . . ."
- 6 Tyler said, "That's not very exciting. How about a real adventure." . . .
- 7 Steel butted its head against Casey's leg. "Or, we could just send Steel," she said.
- 8 Tyler grabbed Steel. Its metallic legs kept moving. "You aren't sending my cat out alone."
- 9 "Okay, okay." Luis knew Tyler and Casey were as excited about the idea of testing it as he was. Tyler was a bit wild, but he loved anything to do with science. He wanted to be either an astronaut or a robot builder with his dad. And Casey was so smart she learned something new every month. Playing guitar, scuba diving, building a go-kart engine.
- 10 Casey took the journal and looked through the pages. "How do you think it works?"
- 11 Luis waved his hands over the dials. "I guess you just set the date you want to go to and push the green button. I bet the machine does the rest."
- 12 Casey moved the date to two weeks in the future. She grinned at them. "I've never acted in a play before. I tried out for the lead. I'd make a cool Robin Hood. Let's just find out if I got it."

- 13 Luis saw a button that showed a picture of a door. He pressed it and the door slid back into place. It all seemed so old-fashioned and futuristic at the same time.
- 14 “Okay, strap yourselves into a seat,” Casey ordered. “Luis, sit on the end and then you can lean over and hit the button. It was your uncle who helped build it, after all.”
- 15 Luis snapped the straps across his chest. He reached for the button. He could just touch it with the edge of his finger.
- 16 “Three . . . two . . . one!” Tyler shouted.
- 17 Luis took a deep breath and stretched his arm a little further. As he pressed the button, a siren went off. He yelled and yanked his arm back.
- 18 That’s when he knocked his elbow against the lever labeled *Advance*. The date dials spun fast. Very fast. Months and years clicked by.
- 19 “Uh-oh!” Luis shouted.
- 20 Tyler’s eyes went wide. “Uh-oh? What does that mean?”
- 21 Luis felt the machine spin. Faster and faster. It felt like it must feel to be inside a tornado.
- 22 Luis tried to reach the *Advance* lever, but his arms were pressed against his sides. The machine twisted back and forth. He tried warning his friends that they were moving fast through time, but his lips felt like they were glued together.
- 23 Luis’s whole body shook. Then a blinding light filled the machine. His friends’ bodies seemed to twist like pretzels. Luis felt sick to his stomach as his own body twisted.
- 24 Then Luis was surrounded by a gray cloud.
- 25 He forced his mouth open and screamed. And the twisting feeling disappeared.
- 26 Luis couldn’t see the time machine. He couldn’t see his friends. He closed his eyes. Had they gone to the end of time? Was he alone?
- 27 When he opened his eyes again, the cloud was gone. He was sitting at a large control panel. There were people all around. They were talking. Machines were beeping. Luis turned to see Tyler and Casey seated next to him.
- 28 “Captain, are you okay?” a voice asked.
- 29 Luis blinked. A man in a metallic green jumpsuit stood behind Tyler.
- 30 What happened to the time machine? Where were they?

- 31 "What?" Luis asked.
- 32 "We've been given the all clear. We can go to docking speed, sir."
- 33 "Docking speed?" Luis asked.
- 34 "We've arrived at the space station, sir."
- 35 Luis looked at the large screen in front of them. It was showing a film with stars and a long white object in the middle.
- 36 Luis blinked. It wasn't a film. Or a screen. It was a window.
- 37 Luis looked at his friends. They stared back with wide eyes. This wasn't Wilton Elementary. They weren't watching Casey's play rehearsal.
- 38 They were on a ship going through space.
- 39 And he was the captain.
- 40 Luis stared at the blinking buttons, metallic panels, and strangers around him. The window directly in front of him shimmered with bright lights. Millions of stars in a dark sky.
- 41 "We're in outer space!" he yelled. They were on a ship. A real spaceship.

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1. This question has two parts.

Part A

Which phrase **best** describes how Tyler feels about using the time machine in the excerpt from *Time and Space*?

- A. Surprised that the door closes
- B. Delighted to try something new
- C. Nervous about what could happen
- D. Confused about how to use the levers

Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "Tyler said, 'That's not very exciting. How about a real adventure.' " (paragraph 6)
- B. " 'You aren't sending my cat out alone.' " (paragraph 8)
- C. "He wanted to be either an astronaut or a robot builder with his dad." (paragraph 9)
- D. "Tyler's eyes went wide. 'Uh-oh? What does that mean?' " (paragraph 20)

2. This question has two parts.

Part A

In the excerpt from *Time and Space*, how is the plot affected when Luis knocks his elbow against the Advance lever?

- A. The twisting feeling disappears.
- B. The time machine stops working.
- C. The friends decide to ask for advice.
- D. The friends arrive in a surprising place.

Part B

Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "Casey took the journal and looked through the pages." (paragraph 10)
- B. " 'It was your uncle who helped build it, after all.' " (paragraph 14)
- C. "Months and years clicked by." (paragraph 18)
- D. "When he opened his eyes again, the cloud was gone." (paragraph 27)

from Time under the Sea

by Kathryn Lay

- 1 He leaned over and set the dials to March 20, 2175. He smiled at his friends. What kind of problem would they have to solve this time? He hoped it wasn't more aliens.
- 2 "Ready?" he asked.
- 3 "Ready!" Casey said.
- 4 "Oh yeah," Tyler added.
- 5 Luis pulled the lever next to the dates. The room began to spin. He knew it wasn't the machine moving. Somehow, they traveled through time because of the machine, but Tesla's Time Twister did not go with them. . . .
- 6 Strange shadows seemed to swim around him. His ears popped like they did when he dived off the high dive into the deep end of the pool at the recreation center. He opened and closed his mouth until the popping feeling stopped.
- 7 The feeling of movement stopped. Luis heard the sound of breaking waves. He opened his eyes.
- 8 Luis stood on the deck of some kind of boat. All around was water. The waves beat against the boat.
- 9 Dark clouds above him rumbled with thunder. Lightning flashed in the clouds. Wind whipped across the deck of the ship, blowing an odd-looking flag back and forth.
- 10 Luis rubbed his eyes as salty water sprayed his face. The flag showed a city under a glass dome. Fish swam around the city and a large letter A was stitched onto the flag.
- 11 "Where are we?" Tyler asked. He sat on the deck next to Steel. "I don't think this salty air is good for my cat."
- 12 Casey pulled her coat tight. "It's not good for any of us. I'm cold."
- 13 Luis looked around the deck of the boat. He realized it wasn't just a boat. It was a huge ship. It shone of black metal. There were no masts or oars.
- 14 Luis walked across the deck, surprised that the metal wasn't slippery with the waves crashing up over the sides.
- 15 "Hey, you three! What are you doing up here? Get below immediately!" a voice shouted.

- 16 Luis and his friends turned. A tall man in a dark blue suit walked toward them. He glared at them as he held his hat on his head to keep it from blowing off in the wind.
- 17 Tyler let go of one of his crutches and whipped his hand to his forehead in a salute.
- 18 “What’s going on?” Luis whispered.
- 19 “It’s an admiral,” Tyler whispered back. “And I don’t think we are officers this time.”

From *TIME UNDER THE SEA* by Kathryn Lay, ABDO Publishing, 2017. Used by permission.

3. This question has two parts.

Part A

Which lesson do the friends learn in the excerpt from *Time under the Sea*?

- A. Some questions need to be answered quickly.
- B. People should listen to directions.
- C. Working together helps solve problems.
- D. Surprises are part of adventures.

Part B

Which event from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. The friends help one another.
- B. The friends feel the room begin to spin.
- C. The friends do not like the weather on the ship.
- D. The friends do not know where they are.

4. This question has two parts.

Part A

The “admiral” in paragraph 19 is **most** likely—

- A. a person who repairs things
- B. a person who is in charge
- C. a person who solves problems
- D. a person who helps others do their job

Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “ ‘Where are we?’ Tyler asked.” (paragraph 11)
- B. “he held his hat on his head to keep it from blowing off in the wind” (paragraph 16)
- C. “Tyler let go of one of his crutches.” (paragraph 17)
- D. “whipped his hand to his forehead in a salute” (paragraph 17)

5. This question has two parts.

Part A

The plots of **both** the excerpts from *Time and Space* and *Time under the Sea* are similar because the friends —

- A. meet people who need their help
- B. arrive in places with bad weather
- C. must understand where they are
- D. hope to learn about future events

Part B

Which details from the stories support the answer to Part A? Select one answer from **each** story for a total of **two** correct answers.

- A. "And the twisting feeling disappeared." (paragraph 25, *Time and Space*)
- B. "This wasn't Wilton Elementary." (paragraph 37, *Time and Space*)
- C. "Wind whipped across the deck of the ship." (paragraph 9, *Time under the Sea*)
- D. "Luis and his friends turned." (paragraph 16, *Time under the Sea*)
- E. "'And I don't think we are officers this time.'" (paragraph 19, *Time under the Sea*)

6. This question has two parts.

Part A

How are the settings in the excerpts from *Time and Space* and *Time under the Sea* the same?

- A. A ship carries travelers.
- B. Stars shine in a window.
- C. A storm thunders overhead.
- D. School becomes exciting.

Part B

Which details from the stories **best** support the answer to Part A? Select one answer from **each** story for a total of **two** correct answers.

- A. "Luis pointed at a section on the control panel [of the time machine]." (paragraph 1, *Time and Space*)
- B. "It felt like it must feel to be inside a tornado." (paragraph 21, *Time and Space*)
- C. "He was sitting at a large control panel." (paragraph 27, *Time and Space*)
- D. "The room began to spin. He knew it wasn't the machine moving." (paragraph 5, *Time under the Sea*)
- E. "Luis walked across the deck, surprised that the metal wasn't slippery." (paragraph 14, *Time under the Sea*)

7. You have read excerpts from *Time and Space* and *Time under the Sea*, two stories about a group of friends who travel in a time machine. Think about why the group of friends decides to travel through time.

Write an essay explaining the reasons why the group of friends uses the time machine in each story. Use details from **both** stories to support your essay.

Read “Why the Evergreen Trees Never Lose Their Leaves” and answer the questions.

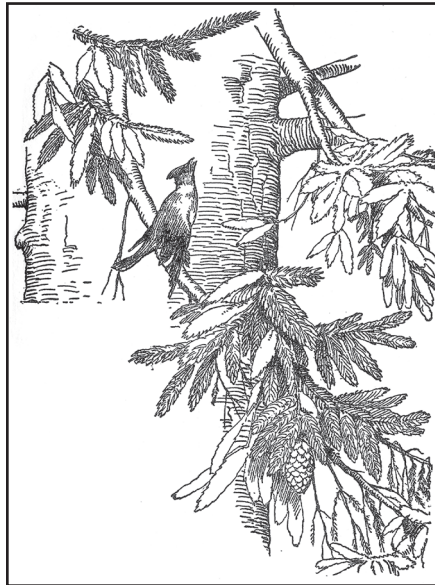
Why the Evergreen Trees Never Lose Their Leaves

by Florence Holbrook

- 1 Winter was coming, and the birds had flown far to the south, where the air was warm and they could find berries to eat. One little bird had broken its wing and could not fly with the others. It was alone in the cold world of frost and snow. The forest looked warm, and it made its way to the trees as well as it could, to ask for help.
- 2 First it came to a birch-tree. “Beautiful birch-tree,” it said, “my wing is broken, and my friends have flown away. May I live among your branches till they come back to me?”
- 3 “No, indeed,” answered the birch-tree, drawing her fair green leaves away. “We of the great forest have our own birds to help. I can do nothing for you.”
- 4 “The birch is not very strong,” said the little bird to itself, “and it might be that she could not hold me easily. I will ask the oak.” So the bird said, “Great oak-tree, you are so strong. Will you not let me live on your boughs¹ till my friends come back in the springtime?”
- 5 “In the springtime!” cried the oak. “That is a long way off. How do I know what you might do in all that time? Birds are always looking for something to eat, and you might even eat up some of my acorns.”
- 6 “It may be that the willow will be kind to me,” thought the bird, and it said, “Gentle willow, my wing is broken, and I could not fly to the south with the other birds. May I live on your branches till the springtime?”
- 7 The willow did not look gentle then, for she drew herself up proudly and said, “Indeed, I do not know you, and we willows never talk to people whom we do not know. Very likely there are trees somewhere that will take in strange birds. Leave me at once.”
- 8 The poor little bird did not know what to do. Its wing was not yet strong, but it began to fly away as well as it could. Before it had gone far, a voice was heard. “Little bird,” it said, “where are you going?”
- 9 “Indeed, I do not know,” answered the bird sadly. “I am very cold.”

¹boughs—branches

- 10 "Come right here, then," said the friendly spruce-tree, for it was her voice that had called. "You shall live on my warmest branch all winter if you choose."
- 11 "Will you really let me?" asked the little bird eagerly.
- 12 "Indeed, I will," answered the kind-hearted spruce-tree. "If your friends have flown away, it is time for the trees to help you. Here is the branch where my leaves are thickest and softest."
- 13 "My branches are not very thick," said the friendly pine-tree, "but I am big and strong, and I can keep the north wind from you and the spruce."
- 14 "I can help too," said a little juniper-tree. "I can give you berries all winter long, and every bird knows that juniper berries are good."



- 15 So the spruce gave the lonely little bird a home, the pine kept the cold north wind away from it, and the juniper gave it berries to eat.
- 16 The other trees looked on and talked together wisely.
- 17 "I would not have strange birds on my boughs," said the birch.
- 18 "I shall not give my acorns away for anyone," said the oak.
- 19 "I never have anything to do with strangers," said the willow, and the three trees drew their leaves closely about them.
- 20 In the morning all those shining green leaves lay on the ground, for a cold north wind had come in the night, and every leaf that it touched fell from the tree.

- 21 “May I touch every leaf in the forest?” asked the wind in its frolic².
- 22 “No,” said the frost king. “The trees that have been kind to the little bird with the broken wing may keep their leaves.”
- 23 This is why the leaves of the spruce, the pine, and the juniper are always green.

“Why the Evergreen Trees Never Lose Their Leaves” from THE BOOK OF NATURE MYTHS by Florence Holbrook—Public Domain

²frolic—fun or cheerfulness

8. This question has two parts.

Part A

The details in paragraphs 3–7 show that some of the trees —

- A. refuse to help the small bird
- B. believe that the small bird will return
- C. ignore the small bird until it moves on
- D. lead the small bird to find what it needs

Part B

Which detail from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. A tree explains that it is part of a large forest.
- B. A tree says that it has warm branches.
- C. A tree talks about birds that it knows.
- D. A tree explains that it can do nothing.

9. This question has two parts.

Part A

What is the spruce-tree's point of view about the little bird?

- A. The spruce-tree believes that the bird should talk to a different tree.
- B. The spruce-tree believes that the bird should find its friends.
- C. The spruce-tree understands that the bird needs a home.
- D. The spruce-tree understands that the bird is hungry.

Part B

Which details from paragraphs 10–12 **best** support the answer to Part A? Select **two** correct answers.

- A. "said the friendly spruce-tree" (paragraph 10)
- B. "it was her voice that had called" (paragraph 10)
- C. " 'live on my warmest branch' " (paragraph 10)
- D. " 'your friends have flown away' " (paragraph 12)
- E. " 'it is time for the trees to help you' " (paragraph 12)

10. This question has two parts.

Part A

Based on the story, what happens to the trees that do not help the little bird?

- A.** They become friends.
- B.** They grow tall in the forest.
- C.** They are protected by one another.
- D.** They are punished for their behavior.

Part B

Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** " 'I am big and strong, and I can keep the north wind from you and the spruce.' " (paragraph 13)
- B.** "The other trees looked on and talked together wisely." (paragraph 16)
- C.** " 'I shall not give my acorns away for anyone.' " (paragraph 18)
- D.** "In the morning all those shining green leaves lay on the ground." (paragraph 20)

11. This question has two parts.

Part A

What is a theme of the story?

- A.** It takes courage to travel to new places.
- B.** Everyone needs friends.
- C.** It is important to help those who are in need.
- D.** Nature can be unfair.

Part B

Which sentence from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** "It was alone in the cold world of frost and snow." (paragraph 1)
- B.** " 'May I live among your branches till they come back to me?' " (paragraph 2)
- C.** "Its wing was not yet strong, but it began to fly away as well as it could." (paragraph 8)
- D.** " 'The trees that have been kind to the little bird with the broken wing may keep their leaves.' " (paragraph 22)

Today you will read about pandas. You will read excerpts from “Helping Pandas” and “A Closer Look.” As you review these passages, you will gather information and answer questions about pandas so that you can write a response.

from Helping Pandas

by Rachel Young

- 1 Baby pandas are born helpless—weighing about as much as a stick of butter, so small you can hold one in your hand, blind, pink, and hairless. For three months, a panda mother holds her baby almost all the time, nursing the baby to help it grow strong enough to find food on its own.
- 2 Panda mothers often give birth to twins. But in the wild, it can be too hard for a panda mom to feed and hold both babies. . . .
- 3 At zoos and research centers, however, people can help the mother care for both twins. As she nurses one twin, helpers called panda keepers take care of the other, cuddling the panda baby and feeding it from a bottle. It’s best, though, if the mother can spend some time with each of her babies. So every few hours the keepers switch the babies. That way, both twins get a chance to be fed and held by the mom.

The Life Cycle of the Giant Panda



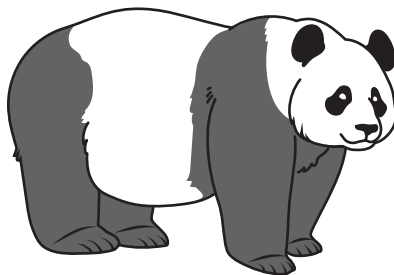
Newborn
(0–4 months)



Cubhood
(4–24 months)



Independence
(1.5–2 years)



Maturity
(4–6 years)

- 4 Now that scientists in China know how to help care for baby pandas, the number of pandas in the world has grown. So today the scientists have a new goal. They want to help pandas leave humans' care to go back to the wild.
- 5 But they can't just let the pandas go free in the forest. Pandas raised by keepers are not wild. They depend on their keepers, who make sure the pandas are healthy and have enough to eat. Wild pandas need to find their own bamboo to eat and safe places to sleep.

- 6 Baby pandas who are being trained to live in the wild can't get too used to their human keepers, or they may learn to look for people for help instead of living on their own.
- 7 So keepers caring for these pandas wear special black-and-white panda suits whenever the pandas can see them. . . .
- 8 So far, only a few pandas have left their human helpers to live on their own. But one day, . . . there will be more safe places for pandas, and more giant pandas munching and munching bamboo under tall trees.
- 9 One panda can eat [70–100] pounds of bamboo in a single day!

From "Helping Pandas" by Rachel Young, Click Magazine, May 2017. Cricket Media, Inc. Used by permission.

12. This question has two parts.

Part A

What is a main idea in “Helping Pandas”?

- A.** People teach young pandas how to live in nature.
- B.** Baby pandas can survive on their own from birth.
- C.** Baby pandas are born without hair on their bodies.
- D.** People give young pandas the bamboo they need to grow.

Part B

Which detail from the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “weighing about as much as a stick of butter” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “every few hours the keepers switch the babies” (paragraph 3)
- C.** “They want to help pandas leave humans’ care to go back to the wild.” (paragraph 4)
- D.** “Wild pandas need to find their own bamboo to eat and safe places to sleep.” (paragraph 5)

- 13.** This question has two parts.

Part A

Read this sentence from paragraph 10 in “Helping Pandas.”

No panda is released into the wild unless the keepers are sure it knows how to take care of itself.

What does the word released mean?

- A.** Set free
- B.** Kept safe
- C.** Guided to food
- D.** Shown how to survive

Part B

Which phrase from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “nursing the baby to help it grow strong enough to find food” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “just let the pandas go free in the forest” (paragraph 5)
- C.** “make sure the pandas are healthy and have enough to eat” (paragraph 5)
- D.** “may learn to look for people for help” (paragraph 6)

14. This question has two parts.

Part A

In the passage “Helping Pandas,” how do humans help baby pandas?

- A.** They teach the pandas to find food.
- B.** They care for one of the pandas at a time.
- C.** They allow the mother to spend time alone.
- D.** They prepare the pandas to stay at a research center.

Part B

Which detail from the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “a panda mother holds her baby almost all the time” (paragraph 1)
- B.** “it can be too hard for a panda mom to feed and hold both babies” (paragraph 2)
- C.** “panda keepers take care of the other, cuddling the panda baby” (paragraph 3)
- D.** “scientists in China know how to help care for baby pandas” (paragraph 4)

from A Closer Look

by Carolee Miot McIntosh

- 1 Pandas, although threatened by humans, do not have many other predators. With their strong jaws, large bodies, and strength, not many animals dare to mess with them.
- 2 A giant panda's diet consists of almost entirely bamboo. They occasionally eat small animals and fish, but that only accounts for about 1 percent of their diet.
- 3 Pandas have special qualities that help them get and eat bamboo. They have strong teeth that slice and crush tough bamboo stems. A lining in their throats prevents them from getting bamboo splinters.
- 4 Pandas work hard to get their food. They have six fingers on each hand to help them grab bamboo and remove leaves or stems from plants before they eat them. Pandas spend more than 12 hours a day eating. Humans spend about 67 minutes a day.
- 5 Pandas are naturally shy. They use their heightened sense of smell to tell when other pandas are nearby. They tend to avoid them unless it is mating season.
- 6 Pandas symbolize peace in China. A flag with a panda on it would be held up to end a battle or call a truce.
- 7 Baby pandas, or cubs, are born hairless, with their eyes closed. They are about the size of a pencil. They stay with their mom for about 18 months before heading out on their own. However, they don't fully mature until sometime between the ages of 4 and 7, which is when they typically begin having cubs.
- 8 Hibernation is not for pandas. Instead of sleeping through the winter, they move to warmer areas.

From "Pandas: A Closer Look" compiled by Carolee Miot McIntosh, *Faces Magazine*, February 2019. Cricket Media, Inc. Used by permission.

15. This question has two parts.

Part A

What is the main idea of paragraph 1 in “A Closer Look”?

- A.** Pandas hunt other animals.
- B.** Pandas prefer to eat bamboo.
- C.** Pandas are protected by humans.
- D.** Pandas are safe from most predators.

Part B

How does the author **best** support the main idea from Part A?

- A.** By listing the food pandas eat
- B.** By explaining that pandas live alone
- C.** By describing how strong pandas are
- D.** By explaining the link pandas have to people

16. This question has two parts.

Part A

According to the passage “A Closer Look,” what must pandas do in order to eat?

- A.** They must hide from predators.
- B.** They must prepare the bamboo.
- C.** They must search for small animals.
- D.** They must move away from other pandas.

Part B

Which phrase from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A.** “only accounts for about 1 percent of their diet” (paragraph 2)
- B.** “remove leaves or stems from plants before they eat them” (paragraph 4)
- C.** “their heightened sense of smell to tell when other pandas are nearby” (paragraph 5)
- D.** “tend to avoid them unless it is mating season” (paragraph 5)

17. This question has two parts.

Part A

Which detail is found in **both** “Helping Pandas” and “A Closer Look”?

- A.** Pandas move to warm areas for the winter.
- B.** Pandas have a special lining in their throat.
- C.** Young pandas are taught how to live on their own.
- D.** Newborn pandas need help because they cannot see.

Part B

Which details from the passages **best** support the answer to Part A? Select one answer from **each** passage for a total of **two** correct answers.

- A.** “you can hold one in your hand, blind, pink, and hairless” (paragraph 1, “Helping Pandas”)
- B.** “Pandas raised by keepers are not wild.” (paragraph 5, “Helping Pandas”)
- C.** “keepers caring for these pandas wear special black-and-white panda suits” (paragraph 7, “Helping Pandas”)
- D.** “prevents them from getting bamboo splinters” (paragraph 3, “A Closer Look”)
- E.** “Baby pandas, or cubs, are born hairless, with their eyes closed.” (paragraph 7, “A Closer Look”)

- 18.** You have read excerpts from “Helping Pandas” and “A Closer Look.” Both passages give information about how pandas survive.

Write an essay explaining what pandas need to survive. Use details from **both** passages to support your essay.





Please let your teacher know that you have completed your test.



