Primary Science Reading Comprehension – (Worksheet 15)

Read the scientific article below and circle the letter of the correct answers to the questions about it.

Understanding Animal Survival During Winter

Winter is a harsh time of year for animals. Not only does it get dangerously cold, but food and warm shelter are hard to find in the winter. Animals must adapt in order to survive through the winter. Some animals (such as some birds, butterflies, and fish) migrate, or travel during winter to other places where the weather is warmer and the food more plentiful. Other animals (like squirrels, mice, and beavers) gather extra food during the fall and store it to eat later during the winter when food is hard to find. Some animals that can’t migrate instead grow new thicker fur in the fall to keep warm in the winter. Many animals also have to adjust their diets to what is available in the winter in order to survive. For example the red fox eat fruit and insects when the weather is warm but in the winter when those foods aren’t available, it eats small rodents. To stay warm in the winter many animals dig holes in logs or trees, burrow under rocks, or tunnel underground. Animals such as bears, skunks, and chipmunks hibernate during the winter. Hibernating means they take a very deep sleep by lowering their body temperature, and slowing their heartbeat and breathing rate. They prepare for hibernation by eating extra food during the fall and storing it as extra body fat. This extra body fat provides energy to live off of during hibernation. Some fish stay near the bottom of the body of water in which they live where it is warmer in the winter. Some cold-blooded animals, such as frogs and turtles, bury themselves underground or in mud where it’s warmer in the winter and place their bodies into a dormant state (similar to hibernation) to survive. During this dormant state, instead of breathing, they absorb the oxygen they need through their skin.

1. Which of these animals migrate in the winter?  
   a. Frogs, turtles, and bears  
   b. Some birds, butterflies, and fish  
   c. Mice, squirrels, and beavers

2. What does it mean when animals migrate?  
   a. They bury themselves in the ground to stay warm  
   b. They store extra food to eat during the winter  
   c. They travel during the winter to warmer climates

3. What does it mean when animals hibernate?  
   a. They go into a deep sleep during the winter  
   b. They travel during the winter to warmer climates  
   c. They bury themselves in the ground to stay warm

4. How do dormant frogs breath underground?  
   a. Through holes they dig to the surface  
   b. Through pockets of air in tunnels they dig  
   c. They absorb the oxygen they need through their skin

5. What things slow down during hibernation?  
   a. An animals running and walking speed  
   b. An animals heart beat and breathing rate  
   c. The speed that an animals fur grows
Key to Primary Science Reading Comprehension – (Worksheet 15)

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