

Title: Scavengers of the Animal Kingdom

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------|---------|-------|
| landfill | predators | immune system | related | packs |
|----------|-----------|---------------|---------|-------|

1. Some scientists think that vitamin C can make your _____ stronger.
2. The ability to run fast helps deer get away from _____.
3. Both wolves and dogs naturally live in _____.
4. Humans are most closely _____ to chimpanzees.
5. Trucks pick up our garbage and take it to the _____.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Scavengers only eat dead animals. T / F
2. Lions usually hunt but sometimes scavenge. T / F
3. Turkey vultures both scavenge and hunt. T / F
4. Vultures have extra feathers on their heads. T / F
5. The smallest scavengers are dust mites. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Some people lock their garbage cans because of (raccoons / hyenas).
2. A bird that both hunts and scavenges is the (crow / seagull).
3. Remoras (attach themselves to / are eaten by) sharks.
4. Hermit crabs (live in / eat) old snail shells.
5. Maggots are (baby houseflies / related to cockroaches).

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Which animal is often fed by African villagers?

- a. Lions
- b. Hyenas
- c. Bears
- d. Rats

2. Which animals do NOT scavenge by smell?

- a. Bears
- b. Raccoons
- c. Turkey vultures
- d. California condors

3. Which is NOT true about cockroaches?

- a. They have wings.
- b. They can eat paper.
- c. They mostly live in people's homes.
- d. They are very well-adapted.

4. Which bird is described as smart?

- a. The black vulture
- b. The turkey vulture
- c. The crow
- d. The seagull

5. Which is true about houseflies?

- a. They bite people.
- b. They kill spiders to eat.
- c. They do not spread illness.
- d. They need liquid food.

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|
| rotting | ecosystem | wounded | infamous | carrion |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|

Scavengers, which feed on _____ things, come in many different kinds. Some mammals, including hyenas and bears, are both hunters and scavengers. Rats are probably the most _____ scavengers. Other animals that scavenge are birds. Vultures feed on dead meat. Many vultures lack feathers on their heads so that _____ cannot stick to the feathers and make them sick. Other bird scavengers are crows and seagulls. In the ocean, sharks help keep the water clean by eating dead and _____ fish. Remoras attach themselves to sharks and other large fish. They try to eat what the larger fish doesn't. Some insects are also important scavengers. Houseflies both eat rotting food and lay their eggs in it. Cockroaches can live in places most animals can't, and they can eat anything. But the smallest scavengers are dust mites and microbes. People tend to find most scavengers disgusting. However, they keep our _____ healthy by recycling dead material.