

# Assessment Answer Key

## Sharing Our Shores

*Note to teachers: The assessment should be used not as a pass-or-fail unit test but as an opportunity to diagnose students' language arts and science skills. We have designed it for students to have their copies of "Sharing Our Shores" available for reference as they work on answering the questions. Please use the assessment diagnostically. With struggling readers, take the opportunity to review their answers individually. We hope that the answer key provides suggestions that will help you improve students' reading. The assessment also can be given aloud as part of a class discussion. Most of all, we hope the assessment—and the entire Audubon Adventures program—will develop students' appreciation for and enjoyment of the environment we share.*

**1. Correct answer:** d. The answer is found in "Distraction Action Heroes" on page 3 of the student magazine. Even if students don't know that a mouse is a "small rodent," they should be able to use the context of the question to determine the correct answer. A student who successfully skims the newspaper for the answer will know or deduce the meaning of "distraction," and/or see the connection between the question and the phrase, "Here are some of the tricks protective parent birds play to protect their chicks and eggs." This represents an opportunity to stress the importance of looking for context clues when skimming text. All of the other options are actions mentioned in the student newspaper, so a wrong answer may indicate that a student has read the newspaper, recognizes a familiar word or phrase, but is guessing at the answer, or that the student skimmed and chose the answer without reading further. You might take the opportunity to review and discuss the meaning of each answer option, which will reinforce understanding of those concepts while making it clear why "running and squeaking like a small rodent" is the only possible correct answer. This question can serve as the starting point for a broader discussion of techniques animals use to protect their young.

**2. Correct answer:** b. The answer is found in the first paragraph under the photos in "Chick and Egg Hide and Seek" on page 3. A wrong answer likely indicates guessing, since any one answer might seem as plausible as the next if the student doesn't recall or hasn't found the answer through skimming. Students can probably define the word's other meaning as a verb or noun—to scratch off the surface of something, or an injury from rubbing skin against a rough surface. You might ask students to compare the meanings and explain how this type of bird's nest is similar to the other kind of "scrape." This question is a good springboard for talking about how and where other birds build their nests and, if time allows, extending the discussion to how and where other animals care for their young.

**3. Correct answers:** a, d. The answers are found on page 3 in "Keeping the Beach Wildlife-Friendly." Choosing answers b and/or c indicates guessing or hasty skimming, and may also indicate that students have missed two very important messages from this issue. Take the time to review the reasons it's important to "be careful where you walk and play" (touching on the concept of camouflage) and "dispose of trash properly" (to avoid attracting predators). The importance of dunes in the coastal ecosystem may be a new idea for many students. You might extend discussion of the topic with an exploration of ways different communities try to protect dunes that can be destroyed by severe storms.

**4. Correct answer:** c. The answer is found in the fourth column of text (under the Black Oystercatchers label) on page 2 of the student magazine. Getting this question correct requires good comprehension, recall, and/or skimming. Generally, an incorrect answer indicates guessing. This question can be a springboard for a discussion about mollusks (which also include scallops, clams, and, of course, oysters) as well as the many different kinds of food birds eat. All of the birds featured in this issue of Audubon Adventures eat live prey caught at the shore or in the water. Many other kinds of birds eat seeds, fruit, and other plant matter; others eat small mammals and even other birds; some eat both animals and plant matter; still others eat insects, worms, frogs, lizards, and the like; and so on.

**5. Correct answers:** b, c. The answer is found on page 3 in "A Big Job for Young Volunteers." "Steward" is likely to be a new word for most students, so a correct answer means the student has successfully used context to discern the definition. A wrong answer suggests guessing or that the student needs help using context clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Wrong answers are also the opposite of the kind of activities beach stewards engage in. This question invites a discussion of the many ways it is possible to be a steward of the earth, not just at the shore, but anywhere, including one's own backyard.

**6. Answers will vary,** but the key to look for is that students have understood that the shore is a place where humans and wild animals may have competing interests. For humans, the shore is a place for recreation and relaxation; for wild animals, it is home. People have a responsibility to respect the shore as habitat, examples of which include keeping the beach clean, protecting dunes, protecting nests, learning about the animals that live there, playing responsibly by avoiding activities that harm or disrupt the lives of animals or damage the habitat, engage in clean-ups and other examples of stewardship. When reviewing students' answers, take the opportunity to engage them about how stewardship can be extended to other habitats as well. As a group, you might look for examples of local places where students could become involved in protecting the environment.