

## Why don't fish sink?



Fish have bones and scales. Bones and scales are a little heavy. They could make the fish sink. But the fish do not sink. Why is this?

Most bony fish have air sacs inside their bodies. These sacs are like balloons. They are called *air bladders*. They keep the fish from sinking. The air sacs may get oxygen from the blood. Some fish gulp air to fill their sacs.

The shark is one fish that does not have an air sac. That is why the shark must keep swimming all the time. If it does not, it will sink.

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1. Fish do not sink because they have air sacs called \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. In paragraph 2 it says that fish's air sacs are like what?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. What fish does not have an air sac?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  4. If the shark does not keep swimming, it will \_\_\_\_\_.
  5. What parts of a fish are a little heavy?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## What is an echo?



Stand in an empty room that has no furniture. Say a short phrase. You will hear the sound of your own voice after you stop talking. That sound is an echo.

This will also happen if you are in the mountains. Call out "hello." You will hear the sound return.

Each time you speak, your words are carried across sound waves. These waves bring your words to your friends. They move just like waves in an ocean.

When sound waves hit a large object, they may bounce back to you. That is the echo you hear. It is like throwing a ball at a wall and catching it when it bounces back.

The echo can be heard in an empty room because there are no other objects to absorb the sound. If the room has chairs, beds, and tables, they disturb the echo. It can't be heard as well.

If you speak softly, the echo won't be heard. The sound waves are too weak. If you talk facing a door, there won't be an echo. The door is too small to bounce the waves back to you.

1. This story is about hearing your voice come back as an \_\_\_\_\_.
2. How do the words you speak reach your friends?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Write the sentence in paragraph four that compares an echo to a ball.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other kinds of sounds do you think would make an echo? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a word in paragraph five that means "to soak up"? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write two words in paragraph four that rhyme. \_\_\_\_\_

## Why does your stomach growl?



When your stomach growls, it can embarrass you. Maybe you're in the middle of a test. The whole class is silent. All at once, your stomach acts up. It makes all kinds of noises and won't be still. Then your face gets red.

This has happened to just about all of us. Your stomach is the place where food is turned into small pieces. The food must be broken apart before your body can turn it into fuel.

Most of the time, a stomach that growls is empty. It doesn't have any food in it. Your stomach is on a schedule. It likes to receive food at least three times a day. After years of being fed, it can tell when it is time for the next feeding.

When the food is late, your stomach gets upset. Its muscles are ready to go to work. So it starts without the food. This is a noisy job if there is no food inside.

Within a few minutes of eating, the noise will go away. The muscles will still be churning, but you won't hear them.

1. This story is about why \_\_\_\_\_
2. What happens to food inside your stomach? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Write the sentence in paragraph three that tells how often your stomach expects food.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can you make your stomach happy and quiet at the same time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What word in paragraph five means "back-and-forth movement"? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write three words in the story that are forms of the word "feed."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## *What country uses more than 1,600 languages?*



Most people in Greece speak Greek. In France, they speak French. In the U.S. most people speak English. Many speak Spanish or French. But India has more than 1,600 languages!

How do they understand each other? India is huge. Many languages are spoken in only one town. Most people are very poor. They don't leave their towns. So they only meet people who speak their language.

The most popular language in India is Hindi. It is spoken by more than 400 million people. Yet that is less than half the people. India has over 1 billion people. That is the second-largest population in the world. The United States has only about 270 million people. This tells you how big India is.

India has 18 main languages. Each one is spoken by millions of people.

1. This story is about the \_\_\_\_\_ spoken in India.
2. What is the most popular language in India? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which paragraph tells how the people can understand each other? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think the United States has so few languages? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a word in paragraph three that means "most liked; most used"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Write antonyms from the story for these words:  
rich: \_\_\_\_\_ few: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why is February a short month?



February, April, June, July, August, September, and November all had 30 days at one time. But these months didn't have their names yet. A Roman emperor, or ruler, decided to change the way time was kept.

The emperor's name was Julius Caesar. He thought it would be a good idea to have a month named for him. So he called one month "July."

Caesar still wasn't happy. He wanted his month to be more important. He "borrowed" one day from February and gave it to July. That meant February had 29 days and July had 31.

When Caesar died, his relative, Augustus Caesar, ruled Rome. He wanted a month named for him, too. That's how August got its name. August already had 30 days, but that didn't satisfy the ruler. He also took a day from February and moved it to August.

Poor February was left with only 28 days. August became one of the longest months, with 31 days. And Augustus Caesar was finally happy. His month was the same length as the one named for Julius Caesar.

1. This is a story about the shortest month, called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What two months are named for the Caesars?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which paragraph tells how Julius Caesar made his month longer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why would a person want to have a month named for him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What word in paragraph four means "to please"? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write the four words in the story that use an apostrophe.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which one is not a contraction? \_\_\_\_\_