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Name: _____

Introducing a Paragraph

Read this example of a paragraph.



Writing Model

A Happy Hippo Is a Wet Hippo

A hippopotamus, or hippo, is well suited to spend time in the water. A hippo's eyes, ears, and nose are on top of its head. This means that a hippo can see, hear, and breathe while it stays cool in the water. A hippo can hold its breath for as much as five minutes! It also has webbed feet that help it move through water. It's no wonder that a hippo loves water.

Writer's Purpose: _____





Paragraph

Name: _____

Writing a Topic Sentence

A. Read each paragraph. Check the box next to the best topic sentence to begin the paragraph.

1. _____ They have thick fur to keep them warm. And they blow air bubbles into their fur. The air bubbles help keep otters dry, which keeps them warm.

Otters are able to stay warm in cold ocean water.

Otters are good at blowing bubbles.

2. _____ They are as long as a big airplane! They are bigger than the largest land animal, the elephant. Blue whales are even bigger than the largest dinosaurs that ever lived.

Blue whales are interesting.

Blue whales are the largest animals that ever lived.

3. _____ The largest sharks are as long as a school bus. Small ones are less than a foot long. Most sharks are about 5 to 6 feet long. That is about as long as an adult human is tall.

Some sharks are big.

Sharks come in different sizes.

B. Read each paragraph. Rewrite the underlined sentence so it tells the main idea of the paragraph.

1. Firefighters are brave. Firetrucks take firefighters where they need to go. Firetrucks hold water for putting out fires. Firetrucks also have many tools to help firefighters.

2. Giraffes are animals. They are the tallest land animals in the world. Their long necks help them reach the leaves on tall trees. Because of their height, giraffes can look out for danger.



Name: _____

Using Good Details

A. Read each paragraph. Notice the details. Cross out the detail that does not tell more about the main idea.

1. **Topic:** a slow-moving animal

Sloths are slow creatures. They live mostly in trees and do not move very much. They have claws. They chew leaves slowly. They even blink slowly.

2. **Topic:** plant parts

A plant has three parts. One part is the leaves. Some plants grow tall. Another part is the stem. The part under the ground is the roots.

3. **Topic:** a water bird

Ducks live near water. Their feathers keep them dry. Geese and swans also live near water. Ducks have webbed feet that help them swim. They eat fish, water snails, and other things.

B. Write two good details for each topic sentence.

1. **Topic sentence:** Dogs are good pets.

Details: _____

2. **Topic sentence:** Elephants are not good pets.

Details: _____

3. **Topic sentence:** Fish are easy pets to keep.

Details: _____
