

Star Fruits



A star fruit is a sweet, yellow fruit. It grows in places with hot, wet weather. At first, this fruit only grew in places in Southeast Asia. But now, it is grown in other hot, wet places too. It is grown around the world!

Star fruits are small. They have five big "ribs" on the outside. These look like big folds in the fruit's skin. When you cut this fruit the right way, you can make a special shape. The special shape has five big points. Can you guess what shape the star fruit makes?

Jackfruit



Have you ever seen a jackfruit?

A jackfruit is a kind of fruit. It grows on trees. The fruit's skin is covered in bumps. When it is young, the skin is green. When it gets older, the fruit gets ripe. Then, the skin turns yellow.

The jackfruit is very large. They can grow to be two feet long. Just one of these fruits can weigh up to 40 pounds!

This fruit grows in Africa and Asia. It can grow in other places, too. All the places where it grows have hot, wet weather. The jackfruit needs hot, wet weather to grow.

Durians



Have you ever had an apple? How about a banana? Both of these fruits are easily found in the United States.

Have you ever had a durian? This is a fruit that isn't often found in the U.S. This kind of fruit grows in some warm countries in the eastern half of the world.

Durians are big fruits. They are about the size of a football. They are brownish green and hard on the outside. And they are covered with spikes!

On the inside, the fruit is yellow-ish white. It feels creamy. And it tastes a little sweet. But the fruit doesn't smell sweet... it smells very, very strongly. Some people don't mind the smell. But many people do. In fact, some places don't allow durians in because of their strong smell!

Dragon Fruit



A cactus is a kind of plant that grows in dry places. These plants do not have leaves. Instead, many of them have spines. The spines are sharp needles.

Some cacti grow fruit. One kind of fruit that grows on cacti is the dragon fruit.

The dragon fruit does not look like many other fruits. It can be bright pink. It is the size of a grown-up's hand. And it has green spines! This fruit's spines are not sharp like the ones on a cactus. They are bendy. They curve down over the fruit's skin.

Rambutan



Different fruits come from different places in the world. People in the United States grow lots of fruits. They grow apples, oranges, and more.

People in the southeast part of Asia grow different fruits. That is because some fruits grow better in the warm, wet weather there. One of those fruits is the rambutan. Have you ever heard of a rambutan?

A rambutan is a small fruit. It can be red, orange, yellow, or green. And it is covered in bristles. These look like little hairs!

On the inside, the fruit is white. It is a little see-through, like a grape. It tastes light and sweet. It is a very popular fruit in Asia!

Tamarind



A tamarind is a fruit. Have you ever tasted one?

You might have tasted one without knowing it. The tamarind is popular in India and Mexico. It is used in lots of foods there. So if you've had Indian or Mexican food, you might have tasted one. It tastes sweet and sour at the same time.

Before the fruit can go into a meal, it has to grow. It grows in groups on trees. A tamarind looks a little like a fat brown bean pod. It has a few seeds inside it. There is pulp around the seeds. The pulp is the juicy part of the fruit. That's the part that tastes sweet and sour.

What Plants Need

by ReadWorks



Fernando and Zoey go to a plant sale. They buy mint plants. They like the minty smell of the leaves. Fernando puts his plant near a sunny window. Zoey puts her plant in her bedroom. Fernando's plant looks green and healthy after a few days. But Zoey's plant has some brown leaves.

"Your plant needs more light," Fernando says.

Zoey moves her plant to a sunny window. Soon, both plants look green and healthy!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What do Fernando and Zoey buy at the beginning of the passage?
 - A. Mint plants
 - B. iPods
 - C. books about plants

2. At the beginning of the story, Fernando and Zoey buy mint plants. Then where does Fernando put his plant?
 - A. near a sunny window
 - B. in his bedroom
 - C. outside

3. Zoey's plant needed more light. How do we know this?
 - A. Zoey put her plant in her bedroom.
 - B. Zoey goes to a plant sale.
 - C. Zoey's plant had some brown leaves.

4. What is the big lesson in "What Plants Need"?
 - A. Plants need water to live.
 - B. Plants need light from the sun to live.
 - C. Don't ever put a plant in your bedroom.

5. Where do Fernando and Zoey put their plants right after the plant sale?
6. What did you learn from "What Plants Need"?
7. **Class Discussion Question:** In the story, Zoey first puts her plant in her bedroom. Explain why this location was not a good choice.
8. Draw a picture of Fernando and Zoey's plants in their homes. Try to show how healthy each plant was after a few days.

A Bumpy Ride

by ReadWorks



Some amusement parks have bumper-car rides. People sit inside the small cars. They wear safety belts. People can turn the cars in different directions. The cars slip and slide around on a shiny metal floor. The cars bump into other cars. The cars bump into the wall around the track. The cars have rubber bumpers around them. The rubber bumpers keep people safe. Do you think it sounds like fun to ride in a bumper car?

Paddle a Canoe

by ReadWorks



A canoe is a small boat. It holds about two people. How do you make a canoe move in the water?

Wear a life jacket, so you are safe. Sit down in the canoe. Pick up a paddle. The paddle has a handle at one end. It has a blade at the other end.

The blade goes into the water. Push the blade against the water. Pushing the blade makes the boat move forward. A bigger push makes the boat go faster. It takes energy to paddle the canoe!

How to Ride a Skateboard

by ReadWorks



Would you like to learn how to ride a skateboard? Here is a quick lesson.

First put on your safety helmet. Then place one foot on the skateboard. Keep the other foot on the ground. Use the foot on the ground to push. Quick! Put both feet up on the board. Now you are skateboarding!

Use a small push to move slowly. Use a bigger push to move faster. Put one foot on the ground to stop. Happy skateboarding!

Let's Play Lacrosse

by ReadWorks



Photo Credit: Anssi Koskinen

Lacrosse is a sport with two teams. Players hold long sticks. Each lacrosse stick has a small net on one end. Players use the stick to throw the ball. Players try to get the ball into a goal.

Native Americans were the first people to play lacrosse. They played the game hundreds of years ago. The ball was made of animal skin. The stick was made of wood. Only men played lacrosse then.

Today, the ball is made of rubber. Balls are usually bright orange or yellow. The stick is made of wood and plastic. Now, anyone can play lacrosse!

Water Safety

by Rachelle Kreisman



Summer can be hot. How do you stay cool? Many kids go to the beach. Some swim in pools. Other children paddle canoes in lakes.

Playing in water can be fun. Just make sure to stay safe. Always swim with a buddy. Make sure an adult is watching you.

What if you do not know how to swim? Take lessons. Many places teach children how to swim. If you go on a boat, always wear a life jacket. Wear a life jacket even if you can swim. It will help keep you safe.

Figure Skating

by Rachelle Kreisman



Do you know what figure skating is? It is when people skate on ice to music. The skaters look as if they are dancing.

Figure skaters use ice skates made of leather. Each skate has a blade on the bottom. The blades glide across the ice.

Figure skaters jump and spin. They move forward and backward. How do they change direction? They turn on one foot. They can also change to the other foot.

Skaters work hard to learn new skills. If they fall, they get back up. Then they try again.

A Day for Fishing

by ReadWorks



"Why do I have to wake up so early?" Rosie asked.

She rubbed her eyes and looked out the window. It was still dark. Her dad was making pancakes. Rosie put on her jeans and a shirt. Then she ate her pancakes and was ready to go.

Rosie's dad drove to the river. They saw the sun come up in the sky.

"Look at the sunrise," Rosie said.

She and her dad caught two fish. They ate lunch. Then they drove back home.

Later that day, Rosie said to her dad, "Look at the sunset!"

They saw the bright red sky. Rosie loved her day of fishing.

Don't Waste Water

by ReadWorks



Drip, drop! Drip, drop!

That is the sound of a leaky faucet. One drop of water is not much. Many drops of water can add up to a lot. Just one leaky faucet wastes some water.

People, animals, and plants need water. What can you do? Make sure you turn off the faucet. If you see a leaky faucet, tell a grown-up.

Listen! Do you hear water dripping? Do not let water go to waste.

Three Kinds of Water

by Linda Ruggieri



Credit: alisdair (CC BY 2.0)

Did you know that water comes in three different forms?

Water can be *liquid*. We drink liquid water, and we wash with it.

Water can be *solid*. Frozen water is called ice. Ice is solid. We use ice cubes to keep drinks cold.

Water can be *gas*. An example is steam. When we boil liquid water, it turns into steam. Steam also creates heat to warm homes.

People need water to live. So remember, use water carefully. Never waste water.

The Water Cycle

by Rachelle Kreisman



Water moves. It goes from the land to the air. Then it moves back to the land. This movement is called the water cycle.

Lakes, rivers, and oceans are made of water. The sun heats the water. Tiny drops of water rise into the air. They join together. Now they are clouds.

The water drops get bigger. They also get heavy. The drops fall from the clouds. The drops are called rain.

The rain falls to the ground. Water fills the lakes and oceans. The sun heats the water. The tiny drops go up in the air again. The water cycle never stops!

A Clean Drink of Water

by ReadWorks



All people need clean water. They need it for drinking, for cooking, and for bathing. Some people in a village in South America did not have clean water. Their water was full of oil and dirt. People there got sick when they drank the water. Far away, other people heard about the problem. They sent empty water tanks to the village. Rainwater fell into the tanks. That water was clean. Now the people in that village have clean water.

We Need Fresh Water

by Linda Ruggieri



Our planet is Earth. Water covers most of our planet. Almost all of that water is salt water. Salt water is very salty. People, animals, and plants need fresh water to live. Fresh water is not salty.

Earth does not have as much fresh water as salt water. People should remember to use fresh water carefully. They should never waste it.

Where is Earth's fresh water? Fresh water is found in rivers, lakes, and streams. It can also be found under the ground. Machines pump the water to the surface for people to use.

Garbage in the Ocean

by Kate Paixão



Kevin Krejci (CC BY 2.0)

The ocean is full of garbage. Most garbage comes from land. How does garbage get into the ocean? Wind blows litter there. Rivers also carry trash to the ocean.

The garbage collects in gyres. A gyre is a place where water moves in a circle. The garbage cannot escape the gyre. It builds up. When that happens, it is called a "garbage patch."

Fish and birds eat the garbage. Eating the garbage makes them sick. Ocean garbage is bad for animals and Earth.

Drinking Fountain

by Marchette Chute

When I climb up
To get a drink,
It doesn't work
The way you'd think.

I turn it up, 5
The water goes
And hits me right
Upon the nose.

I turn it down
To make it small 10
And don't get any
Drink at all.