

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

WEATHER

Question: *What kinds of strange weather do you know about?*

- Read the article below and then answer the questions.

Strange Weather: Raining Frogs!



Our planet's weather is a topic that is becoming more and more popular nowadays. This is because many places in our world are becoming hotter and, in fact, many scientists say that each new year is hotter than the one before it. More and more ice is melting at the north and south poles of our planet, and with less ice there are fewer and fewer polar bears. Unfortunately, we may not be able to stop these changes before our world becomes a much more difficult place to live in. Let's face it, the weather on our planet is just very difficult to understand and even more difficult to control. Here is a very interesting example of our world's strange weather: one Roman man called 'Pliny the Elder' wrote about frogs raining from the skies almost two thousand

years ago. Can this possibly be true? Yes, **it** can! Furthermore, not only can frogs 'rain', but also fish and other small animals. This can sometimes happen when a storm brings strong winds which blow over the tops of oceans or lakes. Small frogs and fish are not very heavy, so **they** can be picked up by the wind into clouds and carried over land where they fall down. Just a few frogs might rain down or maybe many more. In 2005, people in the European country of Serbia walked outside their homes after a storm and they discovered thousands of frogs trying to hop back to water. The Huffington Post, an online news service, tells of many more places in the world where this has happened. If you are interested to see what 'raining frogs' looks like, you can do a quick YouTube search for the 1999 movie 'Magnolia' (starring Tom Cruise). It shows thousands of frogs falling down on a small town in the United States.

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● READING COMPREHENSION

| Score out of eight | As percentage |
|--------------------|---------------|
| /8 | % |

1. The article is about how our world is getting hotter.

- (a) TRUE
- (b) FALSE
- (c) It doesn't say.

2. Why is there less ice at the north and south poles?

- (a) There are fewer polar bears.
- (b) It is not easy to live on our planet.
- (c) The weather is changing.

3. Pliny the Elder was an interesting man.

- (a) TRUE
- (b) FALSE
- (c) It doesn't say.

4. How many different kinds of animals does the article talk about?

- (a) three
- (b) four
- (c) two

5. What does the word 'it' refer to?

- (a) melting ice
- (b) frogs raining
- (c) a storm can bring strong winds

6. What does the word 'they' refer to?

- (a) frogs and fish
- (b) oceans and lakes
- (c) storms

7. How many websites does the article mention?

- (a) two
- (b) three
- (c) one

8. Where do frogs USUALLY rain from the skies?

- (a) America
- (b) Serbia
- (c) It doesn't say.

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Grammar-in-Context

- Complete the paragraph by circling the correct words.

Our planet's weather is a topic that is becoming more and more popular nowadays. This is because many places in our world (1)_____ hotter and, in fact, many scientists say that 2015 may be the hottest year our earth has ever seen. More and more ice is melting at the north and south poles of our planet, and with less ice (2)_____ fewer and fewer polar bears. Unfortunately, we may not be able to stop (3)_____ changes before our world becomes a much more difficult place to live in. Let's face it, the weather on our planet is just very difficult to understand and even more difficult to control. Here is a very (4)_____ example of our world's strange weather: one Roman man called 'Pliny the Elder' (5)_____ about frogs raining from the skies almost two thousand years ago. Can this possibly be true? Yes, it can! Furthermore, not only can frogs 'rain', but also fish and other small animals. This can sometimes happen when (6)_____ brings strong winds which blow over the tops of oceans or lakes. Small frogs and fish (7)_____ very heavy, so they can be picked up by the wind into clouds (8)_____ carried over land where they fall down. Just a few frogs might rain down or maybe many more. In 2005, people in the European country of Serbia (9)_____ outside their homes after a storm and they discovered thousands of frogs trying to (10)_____ back to water. The Huffington Post, an online news service, tells of many more places in the world where this has happened. If you (11)_____ to see what 'raining frogs' looks like, you can do a quick YouTube search for the 1999 movie 'Magnolia' (starring Tom Cruise). It shows thousands of frogs falling down on a small town (12)_____ the United States.

1.

- (A) becomes
- (B) is becoming
- (C) are becoming
- (D) become

2.

- (A) there have
- (B) there is
- (C) there
- (D) there are

3.

- (A) these
- (B) this
- (C) that
- (D) them

4.

- (A) interesting
- (B) interest
- (C) interested
- (D) interests

5.

- (A) write
- (B) wrote
- (C) is writing
- (D) are writing

6.

- (A) the storm
- (B) storm
- (C) an storm
- (D) a storm

7.

- (A) does not
- (B) is not
- (C) do not
- (D) are not

8.

- (A) but
- (B) so
- (C) and
- (D) because

9.

- (A) walk
- (B) walked
- (C) walking
- (D) walks

10.

- (A) hop
- (B) hopped
- (C) hops
- (D) hopping

11.

- (A) are interesting
- (B) interesting
- (C) are interested
- (D) interest

12.

- (A) on
- (B) in
- (C) by
- (D) at

LESSON

Reading and Grammar: Raining Frogs

Aim Reading and Grammar Practice

Level Intermediate

NOTES

Begin the lesson by asking your learners about any strange weather they have experienced or heard about.

Distribute the Reading Comprehension sheet (the ten questions on page 2) before your learners actually read the text on page 1. Give them about a minute to quickly go over the questions and remind them that they want to skim and scan the text to answer the questions quickly – remember: good readers do two things: (1) understand what they read; (2) read quickly. Consider giving your learners an appropriate time limit to read and answer all the questions (about 10 – 15 minutes) – write this on the board so everyone is aware of it. This time may vary somewhat depending on your own specific group of learners, so be flexible.

For the Grammar-in-Context section, make sure that your learners have put away the original reading text before completing the exercise.

My Notes

ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 6. A |
| 2. C | 7. A |
| 3. C | 8. C |
| 4. A | |
| 5. B | |

Grammar-in-Context

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 5. B | 9. B |
| 2. D | 6. D | 10. A |
| 3. A | 7. D | 11. C |
| 4. A | 8. C | 12. B |

GRADE CONVERSION

- 8 / 8 = 100%
7 / 8 = 88
6 / 8 = 75
5 / 8 = 63
4 / 8 = 50
3 / 8 = 38
2 / 8 = 25
1 / 8 = 13
0 / 8 = 0