

Session 3, Reading Selection #1

This excerpt from “Can Bears Predict Earthquakes?” presents evidence that scientists have found to explain how animals seem to predict earthquakes. Read the excerpt below. Use information from the excerpt to answer the questions that follow.

Can Bears Predict Earthquakes?

by Russell Freedman

Students read a selection titled “Can Bears Predict Earthquakes?” and then answered questions 28 through 34 that follow on the next pages of this document.

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Session 3, Multiple-Choice Questions

- 28 This excerpt is **best** described as *nonfiction* rather than fiction because it
- A. tells about extraordinary events.
 - B. tells a story about animals.
 - C. includes surprising descriptions.
 - D. provides mostly factual information.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 28: **Literature/Learning Standard 10**

- 29 The **main** purpose of the first three paragraphs of this excerpt is to provide examples of
- A. how earthquakes destroy the environment.
 - B. unusual animal behavior before earthquakes.
 - C. different ways animals adapt to earthquakes.
 - D. how earthquakes affect magnetic fields.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 29: **Literature/Learning Standard 13**

- 30 According to the excerpt, which animals may sense earthquakes because they can hear low-frequency sounds coming from earth?
- A. fish
 - B. honeybees
 - C. birds
 - D. bears

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 30: **Literature/Learning Standard 8**

- 31 In paragraph 12, what is the **main** purpose of the two questions?
- A. to demonstrate that the author can answer them in the last paragraph
 - B. to summarize the information in the preceding paragraphs
 - C. to give the reader more information about the animals
 - D. to show that there is much left to learn about the subject

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 31: **Literature/Learning Standard 13**

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- 32 In paragraph 5, the author writes, “we know little about the ability of animals to detect such changes.” What does *detect* mean?
- A. predict
 - B. react to
 - C. sense
 - D. understand

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 32: *Language/Learning Standard 4*

- 33 If you wanted to find the origin of the word *investigate*, which source would be the **best** to use?
- A. an almanac
 - B. an encyclopedia
 - C. a dictionary
 - D. a thesaurus

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 33: *Language/Learning Standard 5*

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Session 3, Open-Response Question

- 34 What convincing evidence have scientists found to support the possibility that animals can predict earthquakes? Use information from the excerpt to support your answer.

Reporting Category/Learning Standard for Item 34: Literature/Learning Standard 13