Name: _____

The Helpful Llama
by Guy Belleranti

Did you know that the llama of South and North America is related to the camel? Llamas don't have humps like camels and don't grow as large, but like their camel cousins they are very helpful to man.

It is believed llamas were domesticated from guanacos (another camel cousin) 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. They are among the oldest domesticated animals in the world.

Since ancient times the native people of the Andean Mountains of Peru have used llamas as pack animals. This means they would pack heavy items in sacks on a llama's back to carry goods from one place to another. They also used llama wool for clothing, rugs and ropes and their hides for shoes, gloves and shelter. Llamas have been a source of meat, and their pellets are dried and burned for fuel.

Llama[...]   [...]rews sometimes u[...]   [...]le even have llamas [...]

Sever[...]
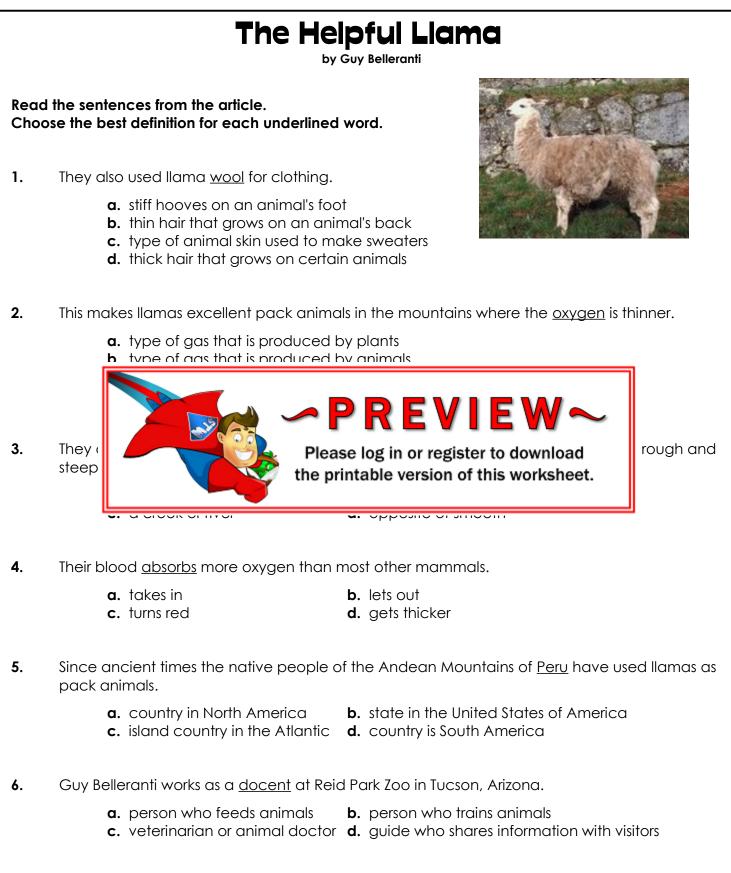
- [...] 20 miles a day over rough and steep terrain.
- Their blood absorbs more oxygen than most other mammals. This makes llamas excellent pack animals in the mountains where the oxygen is thinner.
- They need less water than most other animals.
- They are intelligent and willing workers. Because they are social animals they are happiest and do their best when in herds.

Recently, llamas have also been used as guard animals working together with herding dogs to protect sheep and goats from coyotes.

About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with animals and teaching others.

Name: _____

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1. What is a pack animal?

_____

_____

2. Ancient native people of Peru did not use llamas for...

   a. clothing
   b. transporting goods
   c. protecting sheep
   d. food

3. What does the word domesticated mean?

4. Explai

_____

_____

5. Name two ways a llama is different from a camel.

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this article?

   a. Llamas and camels are similar animals.
   b. Llamas are very useful to people.
   c. Llamas live in groups and are helpful to each other.
   d. Llamas need less water than other animals.

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Read the sentences from the article.
Choose the best definition for each underlined word.

1. They also used llama <u>wool</u> for clothing.

    a. stiff hooves on an animal's foot
    b. thin hair that grows on an animal's back
    c. type of animal skin used to make sweaters
    d. thick hair that grows on certain animals

2. This makes llamas excellent pack animals in the mountains where the <u>oxygen</u> is thinner.

    a. type of gas that is produced by plants
    b. type of gas that is produced by animals

3. They ~~...~~ rough and
    steep ~~...~~

    ~~c.~~ a creek or river   ~~d.~~ opposite of smooth

4. Their blood <u>absorbs</u> more oxygen than most other mammals.

    a. takes in   **b.** lets out
    c. turns red   **d.** gets thicker

5. Since ancient times the native people of the Andean Mountains of <u>Peru</u> have used llamas as pack animals.

    a. country in North America   **b.** state in the United States of America
    c. island country in the Atlantic   **d.** country is South America

6. Guy Belleranti works as a <u>docent</u> at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona.

    a. person who feeds animals   **b.** person who trains animals
    c. veterinarian or animal doctor **d.** guide who shares information with visitors

The Helpful Llama
by Guy Belleranti

1. What is a pack animal?

an animal that carries goods in sacks or packs for humans

2. Ancient native people of Peru did not use llamas for... **c**

    a. clothing
    b. transporting goods
    c. **protecting sheep**
    d. food

3. What does the word *domesticated* mean? **b**

    a. made stronger, so they can carry more

4. Explai

A llan   **vive in mountains where the air is thinner.**

5. Name two ways a llama is different from a camel.

Llamas don't have humps. They are also smaller than camels.
Also accept: They live in North and South America.

6. What is the main idea of this article? **b**

    a. Llamas and camels are similar animals.
    b. **Llamas are very useful to people.**
    c. Llamas live in groups and are helpful to each other.
    d. Llamas need less water than other animals.

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Read the sentences from the article.
Choose the best definition for each underlined word.

1. They also used llama <u>wool</u> for clothing.   **d**

    a. stiff hooves on an animal's foot
    b. thin hair that grows on an animal's back
    c. type of animal skin used to make sweaters
    d. **thick hair that grows on certain animals**

2. This makes llamas excellent pack animals in the mountains where the <u>oxygen</u> is thinner. **a**

    a. **type of gas that is produced by plants**
    b. type of gas that is produced by animals

3. They _____ rough and
    steep _____

    c. a creek or river   d. opposite of smooth

4. Their blood <u>absorbs</u> more oxygen than most other mammals. **a**

    a. **takes in**   **b.** lets out
    c. turns red   **d.** gets thicker

5. Since ancient times the native people of the Andean Mountains of <u>Peru</u> have used llamas as pack animals. **d**

    a. country in North America   **b.** state in the United States of America
    c. island country in the Atlantic   **d.** **country is South America**

6. Guy Belleranti works as a <u>docent</u> at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. **d**

    a. person who feeds animals   **b.** person who trains animals
    c. veterinarian or animal doctor   **d.** **guide who shares information with visitors**