

# The Excretory System

Cross-Curricular Focus: Life Science

Your body is approximately 60% water. Water is part of all the cells in your body and the plasma in your blood. Water helps your cells receive the nutrients they need, and it helps take away the wastes.

All living things produce wastes. It is the job of the **excretory** system to regulate the amount of water that you have in your body and to help remove wastes from your system. If wastes build up in your blood and in your cells, your body becomes toxic, which can be deadly.

Several different organs are involved in your excretory system. Even your skin participates in the process! You have sweat glands that can release water onto the surface of your skin to keep you from getting overheated. You might find it inconvenient to sweat in certain situations, but people who physically cannot sweat are in constant danger of dying from heat stroke, so be glad if you can sweat!

Your liver is an important part of the process as well. Whenever your body recycles parts of cells that are damaged or old, they become part of the wastes that need to be removed. This recycling puts a lot of nitrogen into your blood. Your liver filters the nitrogen out of your blood, changing it into urea. Without your liver, you could die of nitrogen poisoning.

Just inside your lower back are two large bean-shaped organs called your **kidneys**. Their main job is to filter out the urea in your blood. The kidneys have a sophisticated system of pumps and tubes. Most of the liquid is returned to the blood, where it continues on its way through the circulatory system. Your kidneys have sensors that tell it how much water to release. If you've been drinking a lot of water, your blood will have more water in it. Your kidneys can tell. They send only the right amount of water back into the blood. The small portion of liquid that remains behind becomes **urine**. It drains through tiny tubes called ureters into a muscular bag called the **bladder**. Your body knows when your bladder is full and needs to be emptied. Your brain receives a signal to let you know that it's time to visit the bathroom.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) In your own words, explain why the excretory system is important to your body.

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2) Why is it dangerous to be unable to sweat?

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3) What substance does the liver change into urea?

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4) Which organs turns liquid into urine?

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5) What happens if waste builds up in our body?

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**Michael Rajnik**



## **Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of:**

**Owls in the Family - Literature Kit Gr. 3-4** Marie-Helen Goyetche,2008-03-01 Your students will get a hoot out of this story about a boy and his adventures with two owls Target your students need for independent reading skills Demonstrate any prior knowledge on the subject of owls before reading the book Find the word that best matches the vocabulary word from the novel Show comprehension with multiple choice and true or false questions Explain why the owls didn t know how to fly and why Billy didn t show them Convert inches to centimeters to find out how tall Wol is and how wide his wingspread is Rewrite a passage from the book in Weeps the owl s point of view Complete a web to show Wol s encounters with each character from the story Aligned to your State Standards and written to Bloom s Taxonomy additional crossword word search comprehension quiz and answer key are also included About the Novel This is one of Farley Mowat s funniest books about a boy and two rescued owls named Wol and Weeps Billy loves all animals He has rats mice over thirty gophers and two dogs It only seems natural that Billy and his friends search the sloughs and bluffs to find owlets The boys rescue a pair of owlets from an untimely death and end up keeping them for over three years The adventures Billy his friends and the owls have together are not typical Participating in the local Pet Parade owls following him to school and having an owl arrive for dinner with a skunk are only a few funny incidents in *Owls in the Family* **El-Hi Textbooks and Serials in Print** ,2003

**Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts** ,2001 [Subject Guide to Books in Print](#) ,1991 *Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension Year 6* Charlotte Makhoulf,2015-12-07 The importance of being able to read for meaning should never be underestimated The ability to decode text is not enough It is vital that children understand what they are reading More importantly it is fundamental that they enjoy what they are reading so that they grow up to become lifelong readers The passages in the *Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension* series are designed to do just that They provide children with a variety of engaging enjoyable texts that will grab their attention and indeed their teacher s attention as well The types of comprehension passages range from newspaper articles and dialogues to plays stories and poems They gradually increase in difficulty as you progress through the book and through the series encouraging children to develop their ability to read for meaning and use a range of strategies to engage with the text The passages are ideal for guided reading Tasks range from simple factual recall and vocabulary work to more open ended questions enabling the reader to provide a more personal response The cross curricular activities provide a wealth of ideas for extending the passages further and are ideal for fast finishers **Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension Year 5** Charlotte Makhoulf,2015-12-07 The importance of being able to read for meaning should never be underestimated The ability to decode text is not enough It is vital that children understand what they are reading More importantly it is fundamental that they enjoy what they are reading so that they grow up to become lifelong readers The passages in the *Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension* series are designed to do just that They provide children with a variety of engaging enjoyable texts that will grab their attention and

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*Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension Year 4* Charlotte Makhoulf, 2015-12-02. The importance of being able to read for meaning should never be underestimated. The ability to decode text is not enough. It is vital that children understand what they are reading. More importantly, it is fundamental that they enjoy what they are reading so that they grow up to become lifelong readers. The passages in the *Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension* series are designed to do just that. They provide children with a variety of engaging, enjoyable texts that will grab their attention and indeed their teacher's attention as well. The types of comprehension passages range from newspaper articles and dialogues to plays, stories, and poems. They gradually increase in difficulty as you progress through the book and through the series, encouraging children to develop their ability to read for meaning and use a range of strategies to engage with the text. Tasks range from simple factual recall and vocabulary work to more open-ended questions enabling the reader to provide a more personal response. The cross-curricular activities provide a wealth of ideas for extending the passages further and are ideal for fast finishers.

*Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension Year 3* Charlotte Makhoulf, 2015-12-02. The importance of being able to read for meaning should never be underestimated. The ability to decode text is not enough. It is vital that children understand what they are reading. More importantly, it is fundamental that they enjoy what they are reading so that they grow up to become lifelong readers. The passages in the *Brilliant Activities for Reading Comprehension* series are designed to do just that. They provide children with a variety of engaging, enjoyable texts that will grab their attention and indeed their teacher's attention as well. The types of comprehension passages range from newspaper articles and dialogues to plays, stories, and poems. They gradually increase in difficulty as you progress through the book and through the series, encouraging children to develop their ability to read for meaning and use a range of strategies to engage with the text. Tasks range from simple factual recall and vocabulary work to more open-ended questions enabling the reader to provide a more personal response. The cross-curricular activities provide a wealth of ideas for extending the passages further and are ideal for fast finishers.

*Great Source Aim*, 2001-06-08. Quality cross-curricular fiction and nonfiction selections. Step by step reading comprehension and test-taking strategies. Key reading skills including finding main ideas, identifying sequences, and making predictions and other inferences. Clear layout and visually appealing illustrations. **Aim Higher! - Reading Comprehension, Level E** Diane Perkins Castro, Annie Sun Choi, Kelsey Stevenson, Great Source Education Group Staff, 2001-01-01. Quality cross-curricular fiction and nonfiction selections. Step by step reading comprehension and test

taking strategies Key reading skills including finding main ideas identifying sequences and making predictions and other inferences Clear layout and visually appealing illustrations

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## **Table of Contents Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of**

1. Understanding the eBook Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of User Reviews and Ratings
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of Free and Paid eBooks
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of Public Domain eBooks
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of eBook Subscription Services
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of Compatibility with Devices
  - Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Interactive Elements Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
8. Staying Engaged with Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of

- Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
- Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
- Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
- Setting Reading Goals Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
- Fact-Checking eBook Content of Cross Curricular Reading Comprehension Worksheets E 15 Of
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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