Nonfiction Paragraphs

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

1. Clever Octopuses

The octopus is one of the smartest animals in the ocean. It has eight arms covered in suckers and three hearts that pump blue blood. An octopus can change the colour of its skin in less than a second to hide from predators. Some octopuses have even learned to open jars to get the food inside.



2. Our Moon

The Moon is Earth's closest neighbour in space, about 384,000 kilometres away. It does not make its own light. Instead, it reflects light from the Sun. The Moon has no air and no wind, so the footprints that astronauts left there in 1969 are probably still there today.

3. Volcanoes

Deep under the Earth's surface, it is hot enough to melt rock. This melted rock is called magma. When pressure builds up, magma can push up through a crack in the ground and burst out of a volcano. Once magma reaches the surface, it is called lava. Over time, layers of cooled lava can build a volcano into a mountain.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. Paragraph 1: How many hearts does an octopus have?

(a) One
(b) Two
(c) Three

2. Paragraph 1: Why does an octopus change colour?

(a) To hide from predators
(b) To look pretty
(c) To stay warm

3. Paragraph 2: Why are the astronauts' footprints still on the Moon?

(a) Someone guards them.
(b) There is no air or wind to blow them away.
(c) They are made of metal.

4. Paragraph 3: What is magma called once it reaches the surface?

(a) Ash
(b) Lava
(c) Rock

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Paragraph 2: Where does the Moon's light come from?**

2. **Choose one paragraph. What is its main idea?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **Paragraph 1: How many hearts does an octopus have?**
   - a. One
   - b. Two
   - c. **Three**

2. **Paragraph 1: Why does an octopus change colour?**
   - a. **To hide from predators**
   - b. To look pretty
   - c. To stay warm

3. **Paragraph 2: Why are the astronauts' footprints still on the Moon?**
   - a. Someone guards them.
   - b. **There is no air or wind to blow them away.**
   - c. They are made of metal.

4. **Paragraph 3: What is magma called once it reaches the surface?**
   - a. Ash
   - b. **Lava**
   - c. Rock

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Paragraph 2: Where does the Moon's light come from?**
   The Moon reflects light from the Sun. It does not make its own light.
2. **Choose one paragraph. What is its main idea?**
   Paragraph 1: Octopuses are very smart animals with amazing abilities.