

# Assessment Answer Key

## Wildlife in the City

*Note to teachers: The assessment should be used not as a pass-or-fail unit test but as an opportunity to diagnose students' language arts and science skills. We have designed it for students to have their copies of the "City Life for Wildlife" student magazine available for reference as they work on answering the questions. Please use the assessment diagnostically. With struggling readers, take the opportunity to review their answers individually. We hope that the answer key provides suggestions that will help you improve students' reading. The assessment also can be given aloud as part of a class discussion. Most of all, we hope the assessment—and the entire Audubon Adventures program—will develop students' appreciation for and enjoyment of the environment we share.*

**1. Correct answer:** d. The key concept that some animals are able to adapt and could therefore survive as their habitats are changed by people is first introduced in the first paragraph on page 1 of the student magazine. This idea is important because it builds on the idea that all living things have basic survival needs. This is a good opportunity to have a small group or whole class discussion in which students focus on the habitat requirements of animals as well as people. Chances are that a wrong answer to this question is the result of pure guessing.

**2. Correct answer:** c. The basic survival needs of animals are mentioned in several places in the student magazine: indirectly in paragraph 1 of the essay on page 1, explicitly in the next to last paragraph of that essay on page 2 and in the first paragraph of "Parks for All" on page 2, and conceptually in the list of features in "Your Local Habitat: Check It Out" on page 4. A student who does not choose the correct answer may have seen the word "streetlights" while hastily skimming the student magazine. This question can lead to a discussion about how some animals are active only during the day and some at night, and how their bodies and behaviors are adapted accordingly.

**3. Correct answer:** b. The answer is found on page 3 of the student magazine in "Making themselves at Home." The second paragraph of that feature refers to house sparrows as nonnative and describes the negative consequences of introducing nonnative species into a habitat. The definition of "nonnative" is implied, so getting this question right requires students to infer the meaning based on the description in the text. The concept of "native vs. nonnative" is implicit in the "Go native" action recommended in "Green Up Your Neighborhood." While some nonnative species do not cause major disruptions, others can be quite destructive—e.g., zebra mussels, kudzu, Burmese pythons, and so on. A more in-depth discussion or lesson on just how nonnatives can cause problems might be worthwhile.

**4. Correct answer:** a. The answer is given in the first paragraph of "Home Sweet Chimney" on page 3. A wrong answer could be the result of failure to comprehend the text or, of course, from guessing and using faulty reasoning. This question once again touches on the adaptability of some wild animals as well as consequences for animals of human activities that alter habitat.

**5. Correct answer:** b. The answer is in the first paragraph of "Parks for All" on page 2. The feature emphasizes the significance of parks in providing habitat for animals as well as a source of beauty and access to nature for people. Answers a and c are simply wrong, and answer d is irrelevant. Again, the idea is that nature and wildlife are accessible even in cities.

**6. Answers will vary.** "Green Up Your Neighborhood" addresses this topic head on, so look for references to the element of that feature in students' answers. Some students may have additional ideas or draw inferences from other parts of the student magazine, all of which should be acknowledged and discussed.

The key takeaway from this question is that we all can take actions to improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. You might follow up with a habitat-improvement project for the whole class.