



English

Year 6

MARCH EXAMINATION 2021

1 hr. 30 min

Additional Materials:

- Soft clean eraser
- Soft pencil (type B or HB recommended)

Read these instructions first

This paper contains 3 sections. Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

Do **not** use staples, paper clips, and glue or correction fluid.

Any rough working should be done in the rough work booklet provided.

NAME:

DATE:

SCORE:

TOTAL MARKS:

[Turn over]

SECTION A: COMPREHENSION. (15 marks.)

Read passage below and answer the questions that follow.

California's Unlikely Warriors.

Over 100 years ago in America, Californian orchards were almost destroyed by a plague of thousands of tiny creatures called scale insects. These tiny sap-sucking bugs were attacking the orange trees and ruining all the fruit.

Scale insects had never been seen in America before. So where had they come from?

Eventually the invasion was traced to some acacia plants that had been shipped in from Australia.

The scale insects spread so quickly that unless something was done to get rid of them, the whole fruit industry in California would be ruined. The situation was so bad that Californian fruit growers were pulling up their fruit trees and burning them to destroy the pests. Soon, the takeover started to spread to other parts of America. Different kinds of pesticides were used to try to kill the insects but none of them worked.

By now thousands of orange trees were dying.

A professor from the Department of Agriculture, Charles V. Riley, suggested that the scale insects might be controlled by introducing other insects to feed on them. But no-one listened to him.

No-one had ever heard such a theory before! They thought it was a crazy idea and laughed at his suggestion. This made Mr. Riley more determined. He was sure that he was right.

He had heard that in Australia, scale insects were much less of a problem. So, why was this?

Why were the Australians not suffering the same damage to their trees and plants?

Mr. Riley predicted that the Australian scale insects must have a natural enemy that was reducing their numbers. Eventually he was able to persuade a researcher called Alfred Koebele to go to Australia to try to find out if this was the case.

In Australia, Mr. Koebele visited many of the trees that attracted scale insects and made a surprising discovery – a large number of small colorful beetles were living in them. They were ladybirds, and everywhere he found scale insects on the fruit trees of Australia, he found ladybirds feasting on them. Mr. Koebele scooped up as many of the little red and black creatures as he could and sent them back to California.

When the unlikely warriors were set free in one of the dying Californian orange groves, they cleared all the scale insects from the trees in just a few days. The original 350 ladybirds sent from Australia multiplied at such a staggering rate that by June that year over 10,000 were available to be distributed to fruit growers across California. The speed at which the pests were wiped out was astonishing. One grower, who had abandoned all hope for his young orange trees, was able to harvest two to three boxes of oranges from each tree by the end of the growing season.

So successful was the experiment that soon the Americans were breeding and distributing more and more ladybirds. Not only that, but before long other countries around the world also decided to import and breed Australian ladybirds.

Because of this remarkable result, we now know a lot more about these ladybirds.

We know that scale insects are their favourite food and that some ladybirds can eat large amounts in a day. Ladybirds also like to eat honeydew, nectar and pollen – but they still need insects to help them grow and breed.

Today, scientists are still studying ways of using insects to help control the pests and parasites that regularly destroy our plants and trees. As we learn about some of the damage that chemical pesticides can cause, it seems even more important to take care of small creatures that can help us protect our environment.

There is an old superstition which says that ladybirds bring you luck. They certainly brought good fortune to the fruit growers of California!

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS.

- 1. What is the name of the tiny creatures that almost destroyed Californian orchards? (1)

.....

- 2. What does the reader learn about the speed of the scale insects in line 6? (1)

.....

- 3. How bad was the situation for Californian fruit farmers? (2).

.....

.....

- 4. Why did nobody listen to Charles V. Riley’s suggestion? (2).

.....

5. Read paragraph five. What surprising discovery did Mr. Koebele make? (1).

.....

6. Who are the unlikely warriors according to the passage? (1).

.....

7. Find and copy three statements from the passage that show the extent to which Mr. Koebele's experiment was successful. (3).

.....

.....

.....

8. Describe how ladybirds eat. What is their favourite food? (2).

.....

.....

9. Why should we take care of small creatures? (1).

.....

10. What does the old superstition say about ladybirds? (1).

.....

Section B: Grammar

1. Circle the two words that are antonyms in the sentence.

What looked like a worthless collection of rusty metal turned out to include ancient coins and valuable jewellery? [1]

.....

2. Insert full stops and capital letters in the passage below so it is punctuated correctly.

Declan has always been fascinated by animals he has read many books about exotic creatures jellyfish interest him the most and he would like to study them when he is older [2]

.....
.....

3. Circle the adverbs in the sentence below.

Of all the toys in his large collection, Karl's little brother liked the cuddly rabbit most. [1]

.....

4. Insert a pair of Comma's in the correct place in the sentence below. [2]

Jenna a very gifted singer won the talent competition that was held in her local theatre.

.....
.....

5. Add two apostrophes to this sentence.

In the frozen landscapes of Siberia, theres one of the worlds most diverse areas of natural beauty. [1]

.....

6. Circle the three prepositions in the sentence below.

After the game, Omar and Alisha walked home with their grandparents, who lived across the road. [2]

.....

....

.....

7. Find the nouns and circle them in the sentences below.

The dog went swimming in the ocean. [1]

.....

Zach collects model cars and boats. [1]

.....

8. Underline the adverbials in the sentence below.

He hammered noisily and violently on the door. [1]

.....
9. Add the missing punctuation to these sentences.

"Did you see any nerpa seals when you visited Lake Baikal I asked my friend. [1]

.....

"No he replied they are apparently very shy creatures." [1]

.....

10. Write the contracted form of the words in brackets .

We shall not do that again! [1]

.....

11. Which word is an antonym of difficult .

The problem was difficult to solve. [1]

.....

12. Rewrite the underlined verbs in the simple past.

The sky begins to look darker as the storm approaches. [1]

.....

13. Circle the word that shows that the sentence below is a command.

To see pictures of the rugby match, click here. [1]

.....

14. Add a prefix and a suffix to the word below to make a new word. [1]

_____honest_____ [1]

15. Write the correct homophones of the following words. [2]

Throne

Waste

Flour

Wear

16. Underline the pronouns in the sentence below.

Jason hit the baseball. He hit it hard over the fence. [1]

17. Find and underline the verbs in the sentences.

The pantomime would be the biggest show ever. [1]

There were auditions for parts in the pantomime. [1]

18. Underline the conjunctions for each compound sentences.

Emily ate an entire pizza at lunch yet she is still hungry at her usual snack time. [1]

We can go to Disneyland this summer or we can plan a vacation to Hawaii. [1]

19. Complete the passage below with the correct articles.

It was _____ enormous castle. It had a lake and _____ tall tower with _____ most amazing views of the garden. [1]

20. The children listened carefully as the naturalist explained to(the children) how to rear tarantulas, because, the (naturalist) said, tarantulas are tricky creatures outside their usual habitat.

Look at the passage above. Change all the nouns in brackets to appropriate pronouns. [2]

