Name: Date: Score: / 6

Earthworms: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Animals · about 130 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Earthworms

Earthworms might seem slimy, but they are some of a gardener's best friends. An earthworm has no eyes, no legs, and no bones. It moves by squeezing and stretching its muscles. Tiny bristles on its body help it grip the soil.

Earthworms breathe through their skin. Their skin must stay moist, so they live underground where it is damp. After a heavy rain, you may see worms on the sidewalk. Scientists still are not sure exactly why they come up.

As earthworms tunnel, they eat soil and bits of dead leaves. What comes out the other end is called castings. Castings are full of nutrients that help plants grow. The tunnels also let air and water reach plant roots. A garden full of earthworms is usually a healthy garden.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?

   A. how earthworms live and help gardens B. why it rains C. snakes underground D. how to plant seeds

2. **Detail:** What does an earthworm NOT have?

   A. skin B. eyes, legs, or bones C. bristles D. muscles

3. **Detail:** How do earthworms breathe?

   A. with lungs B. through their mouths C. with gills D. through their skin

4. **Inference:** Why do earthworms live underground?

   A. There is more space. B. Their skin must stay moist, and it is damp there. C. They are afraid of birds only. D. They like the dark color.

5. **Vocabulary:** Castings are...

   A. tunnels B. worm eggs C. what comes out after a worm eats soil D. dead leaves

6. **Detail:** Name two ways earthworms help plants.

ANSWER KEY

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