Name: Date: Score: / 6

Sloths: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Animals · about 155 words

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

Sloths

Sloths are famous for being slow. These furry mammals live in the rain forests of Central and South America. They spend almost their whole lives hanging upside down in trees. Sloths have long, curved claws that hook over branches like hangers. They eat, sleep, and even give birth while hanging.

Why are sloths so slow? Their main food is leaves, which give them very little energy. Their bodies digest food slowly, and they move slowly to save energy. On the ground, a sloth crawls at only about one foot per minute. Surprisingly, sloths are good swimmers. They can hold their breath underwater for up to 40 minutes!

Moving slowly also helps sloths hide. Tiny green algae grow in their fur, which helps them blend in with the leaves. Predators such as jaguars and eagles often do not notice them. About once a week, a sloth climbs down to the ground to go to the bathroom.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. sloths and why they move slowly B. how jaguars hunt C. animals that swim D. rain forest plants

2. **Detail:** Where do sloths live?
   A. the Arctic B. the rain forests of Central and South America C. the deserts of Africa
   D. the mountains of Europe

3. **Detail:** What do sloths use to hang onto branches?
   A. their tails B. long, curved claws C. sticky feet D. their teeth

4. **Inference:** Why do sloths move slowly?
   A. They are always sleepy. B. They are afraid of heights.
   C. Their leafy food gives little energy, so they save energy. D. Their legs are broken.

5. **Vocabulary:** Algae are...
   A. a predator B. tiny green living things that grow in water or damp places C. a type of claw
   D. leaves sloths eat

6. **Detail:** How long can a sloth hold its breath underwater?

ANSWER KEY

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