Name: Date: Score: / 6

Saving the Sea Otter: Comprehension

Fiction story · about 210 words

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

Saving the Sea Otter

Lena loved volunteering at the aquarium on Saturdays. Usually she helped the staff by greeting visitors and answering questions at the touch pool. But one Saturday, the head biologist, Dr. Moss, asked if she wanted to see something special.

In a back room, in a tub of shallow water, floated a tiny, fluffy sea otter pup. "We found her alone on the beach two weeks ago," Dr. Moss explained. "Her mother never came back." The pup was only a few weeks old and couldn't swim well yet.

Dr. Moss explained that sea otter mothers spend hours grooming their babies. Sea otters don't have a layer of blubber like seals. Instead, they have the thickest fur of any animal, and keeping it clean and fluffy traps air that keeps them warm. Without grooming, the pup could get dangerously cold.

For the next several months, staff members took turns being the pup's "mom." They brushed her fur, fed her clams and squid, and taught her to dive for food in a pool. Lena visited every Saturday and watched her grow stronger.

In the fall, the young otter was healthy enough to join a group of rescued otters. Lena watched her roll and splash with her new friends. "Good luck," Lena whispered.

1. **Main idea:** What is the story mostly about?

   A. a girl buys a pet otter B. a biologist studies seals

   C. an aquarium team cares for an orphaned sea otter pup D. a family visits the beach

2. **Detail:** Where was the pup found?

   A. in a river B. at the touch pool C. alone on the beach D. in a fishing net

3. **Detail:** What do sea otters have instead of blubber?

   A. thick skin B. the thickest fur of any animal C. feathers D. scales

4. **Inference:** Why is grooming so important for a sea otter?

   A. It helps the otter see. B. It helps the otter sleep. C. Clean, fluffy fur traps air to keep it warm.

   D. It makes the otter look nice.

5. **Detail:** What did the staff feed the pup?

   A. grass and leaves B. bread C. berries D. clams and squid

6. **Character:** Which word describes Lena? Give a detail from the story.

ANSWER KEY

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