

Who Loves the Sun? Iguanas!

by ReadWorks



When it is sunny out, the temperature is usually warmer. This is because sunlight is warm. When there is a lot of sunlight, we feel warmer. But we are not the only animal that notices when it is sunny out.

There is an island in the ocean where a special animal lives. This animal is called an iguana. Iguanas are a kind of lizard. Like a lot of animals, iguanas need sunlight to live. If they don't get enough sunlight, they get too cold. When they get too cold, they can become unhealthy, just like a person can develop health problems from being too cold. So, an iguana has to always watch for when the sun comes out.

Iguanas usually live in caves. These are good places to hide from bigger animals. But because caves do not get a lot of sunlight, they are not very warm. So, if an iguana starts to feel cold, it crawls out of its cave and tries to find a place with a lot of sunlight. It will sit in the sunlight for a long time. This makes the iguana's body warmer and helps it stay healthy.

Where is an iguana's favorite place to sit? Iguanas like to sit on rocks. This is because the rocks are often warm. The rocks are warm because they have been sitting in the sunlight. Just

like the iguana, if a rock sits out in the sunlight, then the rock will get warmer too.

Sunlight can make many things warm. All over the world, wherever the sun is shining, places are being warmed by sunlight. Any surface that gets sunlight is made warmer. During the summer, when it gets hot, people go inside their houses because they want to get less sunlight. The iguana does that too, and it will go back into a cave when it gets too hot.

You can test this with an experiment. If you go outside, try standing in a place where you are in the sunlight. Stay for a couple minutes. After that, walk into a place where there is less sunlight, like in the shade under a tree. Then, ask yourself: "In which place did I feel hotter?" You will probably feel hotter in the sunlight. This is because sunlight is warm. When people or things are in the sunlight, they become warmer too.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is an iguana?

- A. an island in the ocean
- B. a kind of lizard
- C. a rock that gets warm in sunlight
- D. a cave where animals live

2. What does this passage compare to iguanas?

- A. This passage compares caves to iguanas.
- B. This passage compares humans to iguanas.
- C. This passage compares sunlight to iguanas.
- D. This passage compares experiments to iguanas.

3. Iguanas need sunlight to live.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A. When it gets hot during the summer, people go inside their houses to escape the sunlight.
- B. If a rock is sitting out in the sunlight, the temperature of the rock will rise.
- C. Iguanas live in caves because caves are good places to hide from bigger animals.
- D. Sitting in sunlight makes the body of an iguana warmer and helps it stay healthy.

4. Based on the information in this passage, what happens to something when it is placed in sunlight?

- A. It gets warmer.
- B. It gets colder.
- C. It gets larger.
- D. It gets smaller.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A. rocks and islands
- B. caves and experiments
- C. sitting and standing
- D. iguanas and sunlight

6. Read the following sentences: "Iguanas usually live in **caves**. These are good places to hide from bigger animals. But because caves do not get a lot of sunlight, they are not very warm."

What does the word **caves** mean?

- A. tests people do to figure out how things work
- B. days of the year when it is warm outside
- C. open spaces inside the earth
- D. places with a lot of sunlight

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Iguanas usually live in caves, _____ they sometimes go outside to sit in the sun.

- A. for example
- B. yet
- C. first
- D. especially

8. What happens to iguanas if they do not get enough sunlight?

9. Iguanas usually live in caves. Explain why iguanas cannot stay in the caves all the time by using information from the text.

10. Why is sunlight important? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.
