

7th Grade NTI DAY #24

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Instructions

1. Read and annotate the following article and respond to the questions at the end.

Worldwide Loss of Bees a Growing Concern
by Alissa Fleck

When we think of bees, we think of pesky, buzzing insects that sting us and ruin outdoor gatherings. We might wonder: how badly can we possibly need bees? The truth is, bees are an incredibly important part of our ecosystem on Earth—no matter how annoying they may be to humans. Unfortunately, bees have been disappearing around the world for some time now, and their mass disappearance continues to present new problems around the planet.



According to Reuters news source, scientific researchers have been trying desperately for the past 15 years to understand why honeybees around the world are dying off at frighteningly high rates. Over 1 million bee colonies disappear every year, never to return, Reuters reporters noted in 2012.

Kevin Hackett, the national program leader for the bee and pollination program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), called the massive honeybee disappearance "the biggest general threat to our food supply."

How could something so small be so important to us as humans? Bees are used to pollinate many crops, for instance a large portion of California's almond crop, which relies heavily on bee pollination. Bees are also essential for the **pollination** of apple and citrus fruit crops. Without the pollination by bees, these plants are unable to reproduce and may die off.

The mass deaths of honeybees have been linked to something known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)—a mysterious loss of bee colonies with many potential causes—as well as a variety of pesticides, parasites and disease, all of which hurt bee populations. Other possible causes include land development and changes in agricultural practices around the world.

There are numerous kinds and species of bees, and honeybees are not the only ones disappearing in large quantities. Bumblebees can be added to the list of pollinators whose widespread disappearance worries scientists. While the dangers of losing bees, such as the damage to our food supplies, have long been known, researchers are uncovering even more distressing information about the loss of these ecologically crucial insects.

According to researchers who published their findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2013, the disappearance of bumblebees offers new cause for concern: certain plants are having difficulties reproducing with the loss of their bumblebee pollinators, and are at higher risk for extinction.

Two scientists, who conducted research on the impact of bumblebee loss on plant reproduction, found that when a particular species of bumblebee was removed from the pool of pollinators, other bees did not completely take over the pollinating duties. Instead, with less competition from the bees which had been removed from the pool, the remaining bumblebees flew between many different plants and were less likely to be faithful to one kind of plant.

The researchers noted this experiment had damaging effects. For instance, the larkspur, a purple wildflower, requires pollination from its own species-other larkspurs-to survive. The researchers found with fewer bumblebees, the remaining bees were "less faithful" to a particular plant, meaning the larkspur was unable to survive as it would have before the loss of bumblebees.

This particular study highlights the importance of bees to the continuation of, not just our food supply, but also all biodiversity, as the effects of this study do not end with the larkspur plant alone, but point to a much larger issue. The larkspur is just one example of this issue.

In 2012, the USDA and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a joint statement discussing the issue of bee loss, and the search for a solution to the cycle of problems caused by bees dying off.

The organizations concluded: "No single silver bullet will solve the problems affecting honey bees and other pollinators."

In terms of solutions, the organizations proposed: "Habitat enhancement...targeted pesticide use, improved colony management techniques and improved disease and pest resistant stocks of bees are collectively needed to improve the health of honey bee colonies."

"It is imperative that we increase honey bee survival both to make beekeeping profitable," the statement noted, "but more importantly to meet the demands of U.S. agriculture for pollination and thus ensure of [sic] food security."

Follow-up Questions

1. What problem does this article mainly discuss?

- A. Bees can sting us.
- B. Bees can ruin outdoor gatherings.
- C. Bees are disappearing around the world.
- D. Bees are annoying to humans

2. Experts think that pesticides, parasites and diseases, as well as land development and changes in agricultural practices around the world, are some possible causes of bee death. According to this article, what is the most important effect of this new bee shortage?

- A. Researchers are publishing new findings.
- B. Many crops will be unable to survive without pollination.
- C. Scientists are studying bees.
- D. Gardeners are having a harder time growing larkspurs.



3. In the article, Kevin Hackett, the national program leader for the bee and pollination program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), calls the massive honeybee disappearance "the biggest general threat to our food supply." What evidence from the article supports his claim?

- A. Honeybees are not the only ones disappearing in large quantities.
- B. Bees are used to pollinate many food plants, such as California's almond crops, apple crops and citrus fruit crops.
- C. The larkspur, a purple wildflower, requires pollination from its own species-other larkspurs-to survive.
- D. Over 1 million bee colonies disappear every year, never to return.

4. Leaders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), researchers from the National Academy of Sciences, and the USDA and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are all reported to be working hard to understand and solve the problem of the disappearance of honeybees. Based on this evidence, what can be concluded about the organizations trying to solve this problem?

- A. The organizations do not play an important role in keeping humans and the environment safe.
- B. The organizations play an important role in keeping humans and the environment safe.
- C. The organizations are dealing with a problem that is not relevant to their focus.
- D. The organizations are being forced to deal with a problem they do not care about.

5. List two reasons why the USDA and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believe that "it is imperative that we increase honey bee survival."

6. Explain the impact honeybees and humans have on each other. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



Islam

by ReadWorks

7th Grade Social Studies

Clark/Bloomfield

NTI Day 24



Islam is the second most practiced religion in the world, with approximately 1.6 billion practitioners making up nearly a quarter of the world's population. Though they live all over the world, practitioners of the Islamic faith (known as Muslims) are most commonly found in northern Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Only Christianity, with its 2.1 billion believers, outranks Islam in terms of sheer numbers. Both Islam and Christianity, like Judaism, are monotheistic religions, which means they teach faith in one god. Actually, all three religions believe in the same God. These religions also teach that God made a covenant with a man named Abraham; thus, they are called the "Abrahamic religions." Much in the same way Jesus Christ established Christianity by adding new teachings to the Jewish canon, Muhammad founded Islam by sharing his personal revelations from God. Though Jesus is the son of God according to Christian tradition, in the Islamic faith, both he and Muhammad are referred to as prophets.

Muhammad was born during the late sixth century, around the year 570 A.D., in the Arabian city of Mecca. He died on June 8, 632, but not before leaving his mark on history and humanity. Muhammad was a man of deep faith, and upon returning home from a prayer retreat in his fortieth year, he told his family that he had received a revelation - a message from God. One of the messages he relayed to the people who began to follow him was that "God is one." This has been interpreted as meaning that there is only one unique and universal God in existence. The Arabic word *Allah* literally means "the God." Muhammad taught that Allah commands the creation of all things in the universe. He is so great that humans cannot truly comprehend him or his reach of influence. In addition, Muhammad preached that everyone's mission in life must be to worship Allah and live virtuously. People who follow

Muhammad's teachings and act according to the will of God can reach *Jannah*, the Islamic paradise. In *Jannah*, during the afterlife, all of a person's worldly desires will be fulfilled.

After Muhammad had gained some popularity, the wealthy and elite members of his community began to treat him with hostility. Many rejected his teachings in favor of the traditional polytheistic religion. In 622 A.D., he led those who chose to follow him on a migration to a neighboring city, which Muhammad renamed Medina. This event became known as the Hijra and marked the beginning of the Islamic calendar. The Hijra sparked a tremendous growth in the Islamic religion, as Muhammad's number of followers grew to nearly 10,000 in the eight years following; after settling down in Medina Muhammad invited numerous other tribes to join him.

In spite of the peaceful manner with which Muhammad solicited the neighboring Jewish tribes, he could not achieve peace so easily with those in his homeland. There were numerous skirmishes between Muslims and Meccans, some going remarkably well for the Muslim forces. But not always—during the Battle of Uhud, Muhammad's own uncle, Hamza, was slaughtered. He had been a champion of Islam and a strong fighter in previous battles. The fact that he died bravely defending his beliefs made him a martyr. Though they lost the Battle of Uhud, the Muslims rallied around their fallen comrades and survived to continue spreading the word of the Prophet.

In 628 A.D., the Muslims and the Meccans wrote a peace treaty so that Muslims could make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca for religious purposes. To back up the treaty, neighboring tribes were asked to choose sides and support their allies in the event of a treaty violation. Eventually, one of the allied tribes broke the agreement, and Muhammad decided to support his own ally, who had been attacked. By this time his forces outnumbered the Meccans, so he planned a surprise attack on the city of Mecca itself. Because the Meccans were unprepared for battle, they chose to surrender peacefully. Thus, in 630 A.D. Muhammad won back control of Mecca without shedding a drop of blood. Also, in spite of the many years of persecution suffered by Muslims, he refrained from exacting vengeance or forcing conversion to Islam. Those who let the Muslims peacefully inhabit the city were allowed, in turn, to go about their own business. Many of the inhabitants of the city were so impressed by this generosity, as well as by the popularity of the new religion, that they converted to Islam willingly.

Having successfully entered Mecca, Muhammad and his followers were able to complete the holy pilgrimage to the Ka'aba. The Ka'aba was originally the site where the angel Gabriel created a spring to save the life of Abraham's son Ishmael around 2000 B.C., but in the following millennia it had become a holy destination for pagan as well as Christian Arabs. However, when Muhammad led the Muslims on the pilgrimage in 630 A.D., they tore down the pagan symbols and re-consecrated it as the main shrine of Islam. To this day, the pilgrimage to Mecca, called the Hajj, is one of a Muslim's most sacred duties.

In spite of the great victory at Mecca, the fighting was not over. As Muhammad continued to send out envoys and missionaries to the neighboring tribes, threats continued to come from across the Arabian Peninsula. However, Muhammad soon succeeded in uniting the entire peninsula under Islam.

Finally, in the year 631 A.D., nine years after his first migration into Medina and soon after the local civil wars had ended, Muhammad led his followers on the farewell pilgrimage. At his Farewell Sermon, Muhammad instructed his people to end violence for revenge or profit. In pre-Islamic days, violence was always met with violence. In the new Islamic community, there would be peaceful justice. He also spoke in favor of equality and respect for all fellow Muslims. Muhammad would die in

Medina just a few months later, after falling ill.

After Muhammad's death, a book was completed with Muhammad's teachings that he said were messages from God. The book became known as the Qur'an (pronounced: kor-AHN), a word that translates as "the reading." There are disagreements among different Islamic groups and Western scholars over when and how the Qur'an was created. Regardless, Muslims believe that the words in the Qur'an are the revelations Muhammad received from God through the angel Gabriel. These messages were transmitted over the course of about twenty-three years, beginning during that important prayer retreat in 609 A.D.. Because of this belief and its poetic style, Muslims stand firm that the Qur'an is a one-of-a-kind manuscript, the final and most holy of God's revelations.

The second most important holy text in Islam is the Sunnah, a guide for how to interpret the Qur'an and live a perfect life in accordance with God's will, as exemplified by how Muhammad lived his life. The word *Sunnah* means "a clear and well-trodden path." Muslims look to the Qur'an and Sunnah not only for spiritual guidance, but also for solutions to all the problems of mankind.

Today there are many different sects of Islam, whose interpretations of the holy texts vary widely. In the same way that different Christian and Jewish denominations teach similar values with different practical emphases, Muslims are divided by their definitions of scriptural truth. However, they all respect the Qur'an as the ultimate statement of God's will. The message received from Muhammad hundreds of years ago remains impressively intact as the guiding ethic for the world's second most popular religion.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What happened when Muhammad was approximately 40 years old?

- A. He informed others that he had received a revelation from God.
- B. He led those who chose to follow him to Medina.
- C. The number of his followers grew to 10,000.
- D. He fell ill and died.

2. The author describes the sequence of events in Muhammad's life. Which of the following events occurred before the Battle of Uhud, in which Muhammad's uncle was slaughtered?

- A. Muhammad died in Medina after falling ill.
- B. Muhammad led his followers on a pilgrimage and delivered his Farewell Sermon, instructing his people to end violence for revenge or profit.
- C. Muhammad led his followers to Medina.
- D. Muhammad won control of Mecca and succeeded in uniting the Arabian Peninsula.

3. Read the following sentences: "After Muhammad's death, a book was completed with Muhammad's teachings that he said were messages from God... The second most important holy text in Islam is the Sunnah, a guide for how to interpret the Qur'an and live a perfect life in accordance with God's will, as exemplified by how Muhammad lived his life... Muslims look to the Qur'an and Sunnah not only for spiritual guidance, but also for solutions to all the problems of mankind."

What can be concluded about Islam based on this information?

- A. Islam spread only after The Qur'an was created.
- B. Islam became a religion after Muhammad died.
- C. Islam is deeply rooted in the teachings of Muhammad.
- D. Islam is based on different interpretations of Muhammad's teachings.

4. Which of the following words best describes the early beginnings of Islam?

- A. tumultuous
- B. peaceful
- C. surprising
- D. mysterious

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A. the differences of the three "Abrahamic Religions"
- B. religious conflicts in Mecca and Medina
- C. Muhammad and Islam
- D. wars among different religions

6. Read the sentence: "Because the Meccans were unprepared for battle, they chose to surrender peacefully. Thus, in 630 CE Muhammad won back control of Mecca **without shedding a drop of blood.**"

What does the author mean by saying, "**without shedding a drop of blood**"?

- A. The Muslims killed many Meccans without suffering any losses themselves.
- B. No one was killed during battle to take control of Mecca.
- C. Many people were bruised, but they did not bleed.
- D. Muhammad himself was not injured during the takeover of Mecca.

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

_____ Islam, Christianity, and Judaism have differences, they are all rooted in the covenant God made with Abraham.

- A. Since
- B. Because
- C. Although
- D. However

8. List at least two similarities that Islam shares with Christianity and Judaism.

9. In 628 CE, the Muslims and the Meccans wrote a peace treaty so that Muslims could make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca for religious purposes. What did Muhammad decide to do after one of the allied tribes broke the treaty?

10. Explain an important characteristic Muhammad had that made him a strong leader. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Name: _____ Class: _____

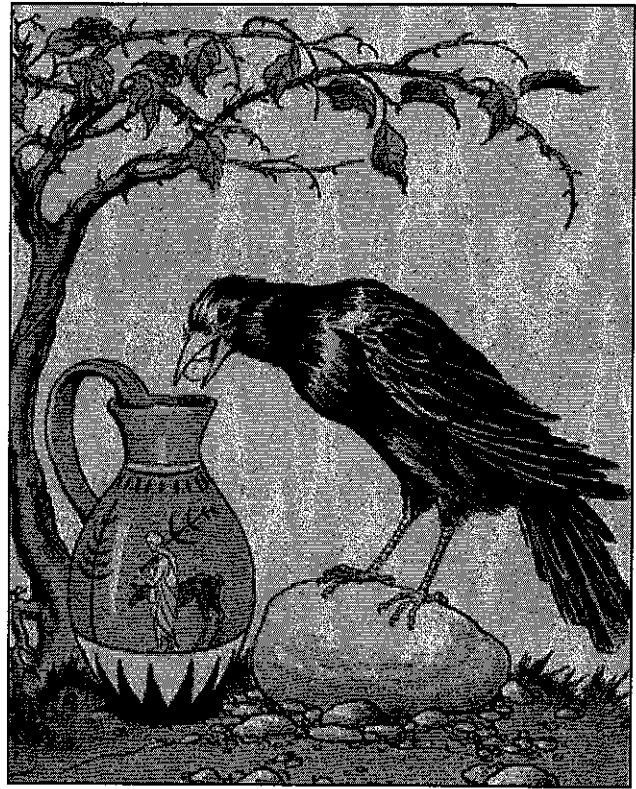
The Crow and the Pitcher

By Aesop
620-560 BCE

Aesop was a storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables," which did not survive in writing but were passed down by people retelling them. They have deeply influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture. As you read, take notes on the conflict the crow faces and how he solves his problem. Think about the lesson the author is trying to teach the reader.

- [1] In a spell of dry weather, when the Birds could find very little to drink, a thirsty Crow found a pitcher¹ with a little water in it. But the pitcher was high and had a narrow neck,² and no matter how he tried, the Crow could not reach the water. The poor thing felt as if he must die of thirst.

Then an idea came to him. Picking up some small pebbles, he dropped them into the pitcher one by one. With each pebble the water rose a little higher until at last it was near enough so he could drink.



"The Crow and the Pitcher" by Milo Winter is in the public domain.

"The Crow and the Pitcher" by Aesop is in the public domain.

1. a container used to hold and pour liquids
2. The "neck" refers to a thin part of an object.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: What does the word "spell" mean as it is used in paragraph 1?
 - A. a saying with magical powers
 - B. a type of weather
 - C. a period of time
 - D. a land needing water

2. PART B: Which phrase from paragraph 1 provides the best support for your answer to Part A?
 - A. "a thirsty crow"
 - B. "when the birds could find very little"
 - C. "a little water in it"
 - D. "found a pitcher"

3. What does the information in paragraph 2 reveal about the crow?
 - A. He is not able to solve a problem.
 - B. He is resourceful and clever.
 - C. He is extremely strong.
 - D. He knows when to ask for help.

4. How does paragraph 2 contribute to the story's resolution?
 - A. After not being able to find anything to drink, the crow decides to ask for help.
 - B. After having lots of water, the crow now can't find any.
 - C. After struggling to get the water from the pitcher, the crow finds a solution.
 - D. After not being able to get water from the pitcher, the crow decides to look in a new place.

5. Explain the theme or lesson of the story. Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. Why was the crow successful in solving the problem he faced? What traits did he have helped him to succeed? Cite evidence from the text and your own experiences in your answer.
2. How could you apply the crow's actions and attitude in your own life? Cite evidence from the text and your own experiences in your answer.
3. In the context of this story, do you think it is more important to be clever or to remain positive in a difficult situation? Cite evidence from the text and your own experiences in your answer.
4. If the crow had not been successful in using the stones to get the water from the pitcher, what action do you think he would have taken next? Cite evidence from the text and your own experiences in your answer.



10-11-1964

10-11-1964



LESSON
4-1
Unit Rates
Reteach

A **rate** is a ratio that compares two *different* kinds of quantities or measurements.

3 aides for 24 students

$$\frac{3 \text{ aides}}{24 \text{ students}}$$

135 words in 3 minutes

$$\frac{135 \text{ words}}{3 \text{ minutes}}$$

7 ads per 4 pages

$$\frac{7 \text{ ads}}{4 \text{ pages}}$$

Express each comparison as a rate in ratio form.

1. 70 students per 2 teachers

2. 3 books in 2 months

3. \$52 for 4 hours of work

In a **unit rate**, the quantity in the denominator is 1.

300 miles in 6 hours

$$\frac{300 \text{ miles}}{6 \text{ hours}} = \frac{300 \div 6}{6 \div 6} = \frac{50 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ hour}}$$

275 square feet in 25 minutes

$$\frac{275 \text{ ft}^2}{25 \text{ min}} = \frac{275 \div 25}{25 \div 25} = \frac{11 \text{ ft}^2}{1 \text{ min}}$$

Express each comparison as a unit rate. Show your work.

4. 28 patients for 2 nurses _____

5. 5 quarts for every 2 pounds _____

When one or both of the quantities being compared is a fraction, the rate is expressed as a **complex fraction**. Unit rates can be used to simplify rates containing fractions.

15 miles every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour

$$\frac{15 \text{ miles}}{\frac{1}{2} \text{ hour}} = 15 \div \frac{1}{2} = \frac{15}{1} \times \frac{2}{1} = \frac{30 \text{ miles}}{1 \text{ hour}}$$

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup for every $\frac{2}{3}$ minute

$$\frac{\frac{1}{4} \text{ c}}{\frac{2}{3} \text{ min}} = \frac{1}{4} \div \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{8} \text{ c}$$

Complete to find each unit rate. Show your work.

6. 3 ounces for every $\frac{3}{4}$ cup

7. $3\frac{2}{3}$ feet per $\frac{11}{60}$ hour

