

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

► Read the selection and answer each question.

The Mystery of the Wet Lizards

by Charline Profiri and Wade C. Sherbrooke, Ph.D.

- ¹ One rainy afternoon in Arizona, Wade Sherbrooke saw something strange. His two Texas horned lizards were standing in an unusual way.
- ² “Both stood with their legs extended and spread far apart,” he says. “Their backs arched up, and their heads and tails pointed down. They were slowly opening and closing their jaws very slightly.”
- ³ He thought they might be drinking rainwater that collected on their backs and flowed to their mouths. He got this idea from reading about another lizard, the Australian thorny devil.
- ⁴ If a thorny devil is placed in a shallow bowl, with only its belly touching the water in the bowl, the water creeps up through channels in the lizard’s skin. When the water reaches the head, the lizard opens and closes its jaws as it drinks. Scientists thought the thorny devils drank this way during rainstorms, but no one had seen them do it.
- ⁵ “Did I just see horned lizards drinking in the same way?” Wade wondered. He wanted to answer that question.

Experiments with Lizards

- ⁶ First, he wet his lizards with a sprinkler. He remembers, “My lizards watched me and never took up the body position or moved their jaws. They seemed too concerned to move.”
- ⁷ Next, Wade dripped harmless colored water onto the lizards’ backs. “The dark blue water spread through channels between their scales,” he says. “As the water moved outward and up to cover each lizard’s head, the lizards began opening and closing their mouths, swallowing the water.”

Off to Australia

- ⁸ Did the Australian thorny devil drink the same way? No one had reported seeing a thorny devil drinking, except in a bowl. Wade wondered how they drank in their desert environment. He traveled to Australia to try to find thorny devils and rain at the same time.
- ⁹ “An Australian biologist and I drove to the southwestern part of the continent,” he remembers. “We soon located ten thorny devils.”

Name _____ Date _____

¹⁰ The scientists checked on the lizards daily, and when rain fell, Wade crawled to look for them. His reward was finding thorny devils standing in the rain. Although these lizards did not stand in the way that Wade had observed in horned lizards, they did open and close their mouths to drink.

¹¹ After a light rain, Wade found each thorny devil again. Next to some, he saw smooth areas of sand where they had rubbed their bellies.

¹² "What a surprise!" he says. "By rubbing their bellies in the damp sand, they used the channels between their scales to pull water from the sand onto their skin."

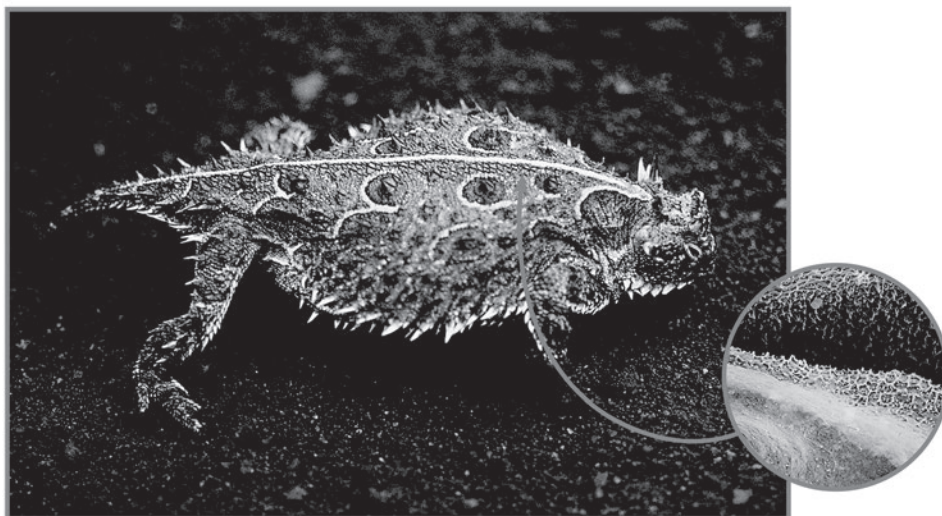
Were Horned Lizards Drinking?

¹³ Back in the United States, Wade tested to see if horned lizards were drinking the rainwater that flowed across their backs.

¹⁴ He built a box to drip water onto the lizards and weighed them before and after dripping water on them. The amount of weight they gained depended on how fast the drops fell and how often they opened and closed their jaws. This result showed that the animals really were drinking.

¹⁵ Observing two horned lizards in his yard led Wade Sherbrooke to discover how some lizards harvest water from rare desert rainfall. Proving his idea took years and helped him earn a higher degree in the science of reptiles (such as lizards) and amphibians (such as frogs and salamanders).

¹⁶ Wade says, "When I see a horned lizard standing in the rain, I'm now convinced that it uses its back and scales to harvest water. I hope you are, too."



A Texas horned lizard standing in its rain-drinking position. The magnified view shows a channel between two scales. Water in the channel will stick to the sides and move along the channel.

Name _____ Date _____

- 1 Which sentence from the article includes an opinion?
- (A) *He thought they might be drinking rainwater that collected on their backs and flowed to their mouths.*
 - (B) *When the water reaches the head, the lizard opens and closes its jaws as it drinks.*
 - (C) *No one had reported seeing a thorny devil drinking, except in a bowl.*
 - (D) *The scientists checked on the lizards daily, and when rain fell, Wade crawled to look for them.*

- 2 Read the sentence from paragraph 4.

If a thorny devil is placed in a shallow bowl, with only its belly touching the water in the bowl, the water creeps up through channels in the lizard's skin.

Which meaning of channels is used above?

- (A) pathways in a surface
 - (B) deep sections of rivers
 - (C) ways to send information
 - (D) straits between other water ways
- 3 What is the main purpose of the three subheadings?
- (A) to summarize Wade's life as a scientist
 - (B) to ask questions that Wade wanted to answer
 - (C) to describe the stages in Wade's search for evidence
 - (D) to name the different places where Wade did his research

- 4 Read the sentence from paragraph 7.

Next, Wade dripped harmless colored water onto the lizards' backs.

Think about the suffix *-less*. What is the meaning of harmless above?

- (A) without heat
- (B) without scent
- (C) without weight
- (D) without danger

Name _____ Date _____

- 5 Which **two** facts support the claim that some lizards use their back and scales to harvest rainwater? Select **two** answers.
- (A) Some lizards are found in the southwestern part of Australia.
 - (B) Australian thorny devils use the channels between their scales to pull water onto their skin.
 - (C) Wade's lizards weighed more after he dripped water on them.
 - (D) Australian thorny devils and Wade's horned lizards do not stand in the same position while in the rain.
 - (E) Wade's lizards did not move when he sprayed them with the water sprinkler.

- 6 How does the test described in paragraph 14 support Wade's ideas about Texas horned lizards? Use details from the article to support your answer.

- 7 How does the photograph help the reader understand the article?
- (A) It shows how much water a Texas horned lizard can harvest.
 - (B) It shows how fast a Texas horned lizard moves across the desert.
 - (C) It shows how the jaws of a Texas horned lizard move up and down.
 - (D) It shows how a Texas horned lizard stands and uses its scales to harvest water.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

► Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Winona wrote an essay about a wind chime she received from her grandfather. Read the first part of her essay and look for any changes she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

A Melody from the Woods

(1) My grandfather sent me a wind chime that reminds me of days we have spent together.

(2) Grandfathers house sits on the edge of beautiful woods. (3) When I visit him, we enjoy watching all the different kinds of birds that make the woods their home. (4) The wind chime has seven beautifully carved birds, which hang from a slender top that looks like a trees branch. (5) When the wind blows, the wings of all seven birds move, making a rustling sound like wind moving through trees. (6) Happy memories return with the gentle melody of the woods.

-
- 1 What change should be made in sentence 2?
- (A) Change *Grandfathers house* to *Grandfathers' house*.
 - (B) Change *Grandfathers house* to *Grandfather's house*.
 - (C) Change *Grandfathers house* to *Grandfathers's house*.
 - (D) No change is needed.
- 2 What change should be made in sentence 4?
- (A) Change *trees branch* to *trees's branch*.
 - (B) Change *trees branch* to *trees' branch*.
 - (C) Change *trees branch* to *tree's branch*.
 - (D) No change is needed.

Name _____ Date _____

3 Read sentence 5.

When the wind blows, the wings of all seven birds move, making a rustling sound like wind moving through trees.

How should the underlined part of the sentence be written to show possession?

- Ⓐ the bird's wings
- Ⓑ the birds' wings
- Ⓒ the birds's wings
- Ⓓ the birds wings

Answer Key: Module 9, Week 2 Assessment

Item Number	Correct Answer	Module, Week, Program Skill	Depth of Knowledge
READING			
1	A	M9W2: Comprehension: Ideas and Support	1
2	A	M9W2: Vocabulary Strategy: Multiple-Meaning Words	2
3	C	M9W2: Comprehension: Text and Graphic Features	2
4	D	M9W2: Generative Vocabulary: Suffixes <i>-y, -ion, -ic, -ous, -less</i>	2
5	B, C	M9W2: Comprehension: Ideas and Support	2
6	See rubric on p. R1.	M9W2: Comprehension: Ideas and Support	3
	Sample two-point response: Wade's test provided evidence that the Texas horned lizards were drinking rainwater. Wade weighed the lizards before and after he dripped water on their backs. He found that the lizards weighed more after the water drops fell on them. He also found a connection between the weight gained and how often the drops fell and the lizards moved their jaws. This connection convinced Wade that the Texas horned lizards drank the rainwater.		
7	D	M9W2: Comprehension: Text and Graphic Features	2
WRITING			
1	B	M9W2: Grammar: Possessive Nouns	1
2	C	M9W2: Grammar: Possessive Nouns	1
3	B	M9W2: Grammar: Possessive Nouns	1

Constructed-Response Rubric

Points	Description
2	2 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response provides a complete and correct explanation of, or answer to, the question.• Response includes clear and specific explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text based on effective comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.• Response is supported with details from the text.
1	1 point <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response provides a partially complete and correct explanation of, or answer to, the question.• Response attempts to include explanations, interpretations, and opinions of the text, but they may be unclear or unsubstantiated, and they show limitation in comprehension, inference, analysis, evaluation, and/or comparison.• Response is supported with limited details (in quantity or quality) from the text.
0	0 points <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response is incorrect, irrelevant, or not provided.