

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think About It!

Close-Reading Questions: Read the article "The Snake That's Eating Florida" in the September 2016 issue of *Storyworks Jr.* Then go back and reread sections of the article to answer the questions below.

1. Read the section "Out of Place." How do the pythons' jaws help them eat?

2. According to the section "Set Free," what happened when pythons grew too big for their owners to care for them?

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3. Read the section "Snake Invaders." What is an invasive species? Why are they a problem?

4. According to the section "A Long Struggle," what is one reason it's hard to know how many pythons are living in the Everglades?

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5. What can you infer about the problem in the Everglades from the photo on page 9?

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Critical-Thinking Question (a big question about the whole article):

6. What lessons can you learn about having animals like pythons as pets?

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Pause and Think

Before Reading: Below you'll find the Pause and Think questions from "The Snake That's Eating Florida" in the September 2016 issue of *Storyworks Jr.* Read the sections that go along with each question and then answer the Pause and Think question below.

1. Beginning Section



PAUSE AND THINK: What did the visitors see?

2. "Out of Place" Section



PAUSE AND THINK: How did Burmese pythons first get to Florida?

3. "Set Free" Section



PAUSE AND THINK: In what two ways were pythons set free?

4. "Snake Invaders" Section



PAUSE AND THINK: What is an invasive species?

5. "A Long Struggle" Section



PAUSE AND THINK: How are people trying to fix the python problem?

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"The Snake That's Eating Florida" Quiz

Directions: Read the article "The Snake That's Eating Florida" in the September 2016 issue of *Storyworks Jr.* Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What sentence in the section "Out of Place" tells you what the section heading means?

- Ⓐ "This surprised them."
- Ⓑ "But these little snakes grow."
- Ⓒ "These snakes eat animals . . ."
- Ⓓ "Burmese pythons are not from the United States."

2. Which word in the first section tells you how scary the fight between the python and the alligator was?

- Ⓐ problem Ⓒ monsters
- Ⓑ strange Ⓓ animals

3. How did a hurricane help set snakes loose in Florida?

- Ⓐ Snakes love rain, so they all came to Florida during the hurricane.
- Ⓑ The winds wrecked a building full of snakes.
- Ⓒ The hurricane killed animals that would have eaten snakes.
- Ⓓ The winds carried snakes over from Asia.

4. Why don't we know how many Burmese pythons live in the Everglades?

- Ⓐ They're very fast.
- Ⓑ They live underground.
- Ⓒ People are too afraid to go look for them.
- Ⓓ Their colors help them blend in with their surroundings.

5. Why do Burmese pythons like to live in the Everglades?

- Ⓐ The climate is perfect for them.
- Ⓑ They like to live near the ocean.
- Ⓒ They love to eat alligators.
- Ⓓ They don't actually like to live there.

6. What is the purpose of the picture on page 9?

- Ⓐ to show how cute the snakes are
- Ⓑ to show how similar their eggs are to chicken eggs
- Ⓒ to show how many babies Burmese pythons can have
- Ⓓ to show how big Burmese pythons can get

Short Answer

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer the question below in a short, well-written paragraph. Make sure to use details from the article.

How are Burmese pythons affecting the environment in the Everglades?

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Invasive Vocabulary



Directions: This issue's nonfiction article includes several words you could use when talking or writing about invasive species. Complete each section below to help you get to know these words.

A. Brainstorm some words that come to mind when you think about invasive species. Write them here:

B. We've highlighted five invasive-species-related words in "The Snake That's Eating Florida." Here they are with their meanings. Place a ✓ next to the words that are new to you. As you're reading, look at these meanings.

- _____ **wetlands:** wet, swampy areas
- _____ **species:** a kind of animal or plant
- _____ **climate:** usual weather in a place
- _____ **environment:** a natural place
- _____ **invasive:** taking over and doing harm

C. Here are three sentences from the article. Fill in the missing word in each with one of the vocabulary words at the left. Use the definitions to help you.

1. "The warm, moist _____ there is perfect for pythons."
2. "Burmese pythons are an _____ species."
3. "This is a wild and beautiful place in Florida, made up of _____."

Extra Practice!

Imagine you hear that an invasive species is starting to take over a park in your neighborhood. Write three sentences about what might happen, using at least one vocabulary word in each sentence.

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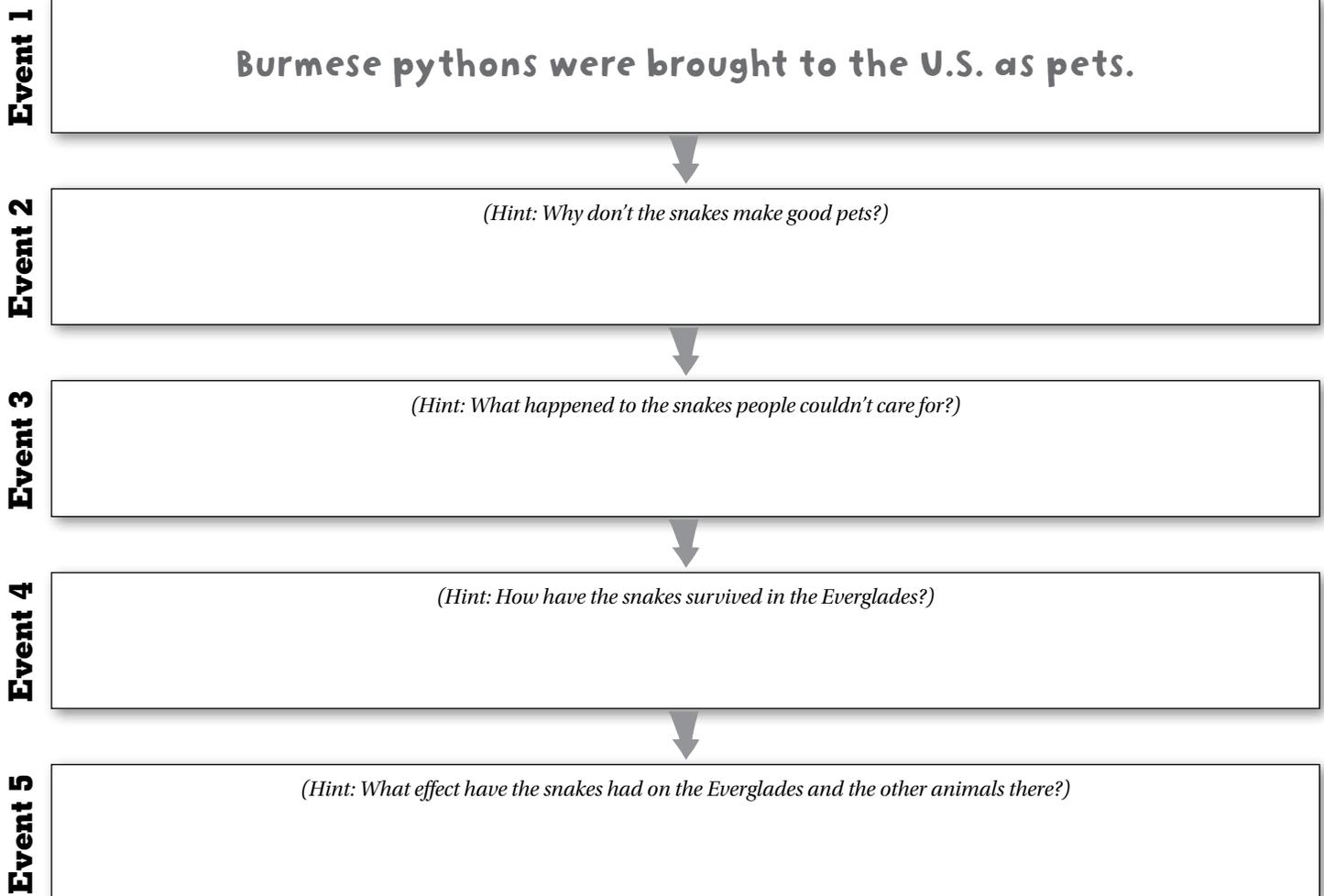
Nonfiction Reading Kit

Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you explore the nonfiction feature "The Snake That's Eating Florida."

Featured Skill: Cause and Effect

REMEMBER! A cause is **why** something happens.
 An effect is **what** happens as a result.

Directions: Fill in the cause-and-effect chain below with events from "The Snake That's Eating Florida." We've done the first one for you. For each event, ask yourself, "What happened next because of this?"



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Text Features

REMEMBER! Text features are the headlines, pictures, captions, maps, and other things on the page that help you understand an article.

Directions: Look at the text features in the article to prepare to answer the questions below.

1. Look at the headline and illustration on pages 4-5. How do they make you want to read the article?

2. What did you learn from looking at the map, photograph, and caption on page 8?

3. Which picture in the story was your favorite? What did it teach you?

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Find the Evidence

REMEMBER! Text evidence is a piece of the text that you can either quote or explain to prove a point or answer a question.

Directions: Read each question below carefully. Some will ask you to select text evidence—or details in the story—to support a statement. Others will ask you to respond in your own words, supporting your ideas with text evidence.

- 1. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that best demonstrates why Burmese pythons are dangerous to the Everglades:**
 - a. "Frogs croaked and crickets chirped." (p. 5)
 - b. "Some people think baby pythons look cute." (p. 6)
 - c. "The Burmese pythons in the Everglades have eaten so many animals that some of them have been disappearing." (p. 8)
 - d. "Scientists are finding and trapping snakes." (p. 8-9)

- 2. Reread the section "Snake Invaders." How are the other animals in the Everglades being affected by Burmese pythons? Use specific evidence from the text.**

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- 3. The section "A Long Struggle" explains why it is so hard to know how many pythons are in the Everglades. Circle the letter of the piece of text evidence that tells you this.**
 - a. "Trying to count the brown-and-green snakes would be impossible, because they blend in with the wetlands."
 - b. "It is now against the law to bring Burmese pythons to the U.S. to sell."
 - c. "Lots of people are hunting the snakes."
 - d. "The struggle will go on for a long time."

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4. In your own words, explain what people in Florida are doing to try to solve the python problem. Use specific evidence from the text.
