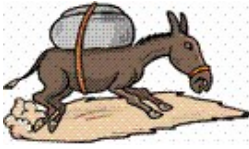


1

Figure 1

The Donkey Carrying Salt



[1] A man heard that he could buy salt for a good price at the seashore. Happy to learn of such a bargain, he took his donkey down to the docks. When he learned that the salt was indeed quite cheap, the man packed his donkey with a heavy load. The donkey's back was bent with his burden.

[2] The man and his donkey started for home. They came to a stream lined with slippery rocks. As they started across it, the donkey slipped and fell into the water, which dissolved the salt. With his load lightened, the donkey stood with ease. The two continued across the stream and went home. The man was sad, but the donkey was quite pleased to be relieved of his burden.

[3] The next day, the man still wanted to buy a load of the cheap salt. So once again he and his donkey set out. At the docks, the man piled the salt even higher on his donkey's back. Traveling home, they came to the same stream and this time, the donkey fell in the water on purpose. As before, the water dissolved the salt and freed him of his load.

[4] The man was sorely vexed. He began plotting a way to cure his donkey of his tricks. Two days later, they traveled once more to the seashore. Instead of salt, the man loaded his donkey with a mound of sponges. When they arrived at the stream, the beast was up to his old tricks. He fell in the water, but unlike the two earlier times, there was no salt to melt. The sponges, which had been so light and airy, were now soaked with water. The donkey's trick had more than doubled the sponges' weight.

[5] The two proceeded home. The donkey staggered along under the heavy weight. The man skipped ahead, with a satisfied smile.

[6] Moral: An old trick played once too often can end up with undesirable results.

Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

Why did the man want to buy a load of salt?

- (A) He had lots of popcorn.
- (B) It was cheap.
- (C) It was for his neighbors.
- (D) His donkey needed a workout.

2 Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

Paragraph 2 says, "As they started across it, the donkey slipped and fell into the water, which *dissolved* the salt." What does *dissolved* mean?

- (A) hardened
- (B) evaporated
- (C) colored
- (D) melted

3 Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

Why was the donkey happy after he crossed the stream the first time?

- (A) His load was heavy.
- (B) His load was no longer heavy.
- (C) The man had praised him.
- (D) He'd just eaten some salt.

4 Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

What lightened the donkey's load?

- (A) The man took the salt off.
- (B) The donkey shook his load off.
- (C) The salt dissolved in the water.
- (D) The sun's heat melted the salt.

5 Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

Why would the donkey want to fall in the water more than once?

- (A) To melt the salt
- (B) To cool off
- (C) To annoy the man
- (D) To catch some fish

6 Refer to Figure 1 and answer the following Question:

The donkey learns something about playing tricks. What does he learn?

- (A) That playing tricks are fun to perform
- (B) That playing tricks too often can end up with undesirable results
- (C) That it is hard work to learn how to play tricks
- (D) That a trick is can only be performed by animals

Figure 2

Animal Tails I

[1] Tails are quite amazing. They swim, protect, steer and communicate. They act as blankets, umbrellas, rudders and alarms. Here are just a few animals and their tails.

Water Animals



Beavers

[2] A beaver has a large, flat, oval tail. It has many uses. When on the ground, a beaver uses its tail for balance. This is helpful when it sits up to gnaw on a tree.

[3] In the water, a beaver uses its tail to swim and steer. When it floats on top of the water, a beaver uses its tail to help steady itself. A mother beaver sometimes lets her young kit ride on her tail. When there is danger, a beaver will raise its tail and slap it hard on the water. This makes a sound so loud it can warn beavers far away.



Whales

[4] Whales use their tails to swim. They are powered by strong tail muscles and flat tail fins called *flukes*. Whales beat their tails and flukes up and down to drive themselves forward. When killer whales hunt for small fish, they smack their flukes on the water to herd fish together. This makes the fish easier to scoop up and eat.

[5] Whales also use their tails and flukes to jump out of the water. They seem to do it just for fun and also to get rid of tiny pests that cling to them.

Flying Animals

Bats

[6] Not all bats have tails. The ones that do often have skin that joins their tails to their back legs. That tail skin helps them make sharp, quick turns while flying. This is a useful skill when chasing down insects.

[7] Some bats use their tail as a net to catch insects. Other bats use their tails as pouches to hold insects until they can be eaten. Sometimes a bat will catch an insect in mid-air and eat it, but usually it takes the insect back to its roost to eat it. It uses its tail skin as a kind of napkin to prevent the meal from falling to the ground.

Birds

[8] The tails of most birds end in long feathers. These feathers help them steer when flying. The tail also helps a bird to stop by turning downward and acting like a brake when it lands.

[9] A tail also helps a bird to balance while it is perched. The stiff tail feathers of some birds help them brace themselves firmly against tree trunks. In some birds, beautiful tail feathers play an important role in attracting mates.

Animals in Trees



Tree Squirrels

[10] The tail of a tree squirrel is quite useful. It is used as a blanket when it sleeps. It works like an umbrella in the rain and snow. In the summer, a bushy tail provides some shade.

[11] The most important use for a squirrel's tail is for balancing. It steadies the squirrel as it dashes through trees and onto roofs and power lines. When it sits, it keeps its tail behind itself for balance.

[12] It is not widely known, but a tree squirrel is a good swimmer. Its tail acts like a rudder to help it steer and balance.

Spider Monkeys

[13] Spider Monkeys have powerful tails and extra-long legs. They like to hang on tree branches by their legs and tails. This makes them look like spiders, which gives them their name. Hanging from branches by their tails leaves their hands free for grabbing food.

[14] Spider monkeys can swing from branch to branch very quickly. When they are standing or walking they use their tails to hold on to branches for support. Spider monkey infants use their tails to cling to their mothers.

Animals on the Ground



Kangaroos

[15] A kangaroo can jump really far. To make these big jumps, it leans forward. It uses its huge tail to balance its body weight. Otherwise, it would fall on its nose.

[16] When a kangaroo sits, its tail becomes a sturdy base. Its tail and two back feet make a handy chair.

Horses

[17] A horse's tail has quite a few uses. In summer, horses use their tails to swish away flies. Sometimes, to help each other out, they'll stand "tail to tail." They swish each other's flies away.

[18] In winter, a horse's tail helps keep its bottom warm. Its tail also helps the horse keep its balance.

Our Pets



Cats

[19] Cats communicate with their tails. If a cat's tail is quivering, it is saying it likes you. If it is flicking, it may be mildly annoyed. If its tail starts waving back and forth, watch out. It may become aggressive. A thumping tail shows frustration.

[20] Cats also communicate with tail position. A tail that is straight up and slightly curled at the end shows friendliness. If a tail is wrapped tightly around the cat's body, it is saying it wants to be left alone.



Dogs

[21] Dogs also use their tails to communicate. When a dog's tail is high and wagging back and forth, it is feeling pretty good. When the tail is pointed straight back, a dog is interested in something. A tucked tail means the dog is frightened. When its tail is high and stiff, the dog is feeling threatened. A tail that is low and wagging shows that a dog is worried.

[22] A dog's tail has another way to communicate. When a dog's tail moves, it acts like a fan and spreads the dog's scent around. One of a dog's most important odors comes from a spot under its tail. Every time a dog wags its tail, its scent is released. This tells other dogs that it has been there.

[23] Look at the animals around you. What do you think they use their tails for?

Refer to Figure 2 and answer the following Question:

How does a beaver signal danger?

- (A) It whistles loudly.
- (B) It slaps its tail hard on the water.
- (C) It dives down and sticks its tail straight out of the water.
- (D) It slaps its tail hard on a tree.

8 Refer to Figure 2 and answer the following Question:

Which of the following is ***not*** a way birds use their tails?

- (A) to catch insects
- (B) to steer when flying
- (C) for balance
- (D) to stop

9 Refer to Figure 2 and answer the following Question:

Why are spider monkeys called spider monkeys?

- (A) They have 7 legs and a tail.
- (B) They create nests that look like spider webs.
- (C) They are related to spiders.
- (D) When they hang from trees, they look like spiders.

10 Refer to Figure 2 and answer the following Question:

What embarrassing thing might happen to a kangaroo if it didn't have a huge tail?

- (A) It would fall backward when it jumped.
- (B) It would fall sideways when it jumped.
- (C) It would fall on its nose when it jumped.
- (D) It wouldn't be able to jump at all.

11 Refer to Figure 2 and answer the following Question:

What would happen if a horse had no tail?

- (A) It might lose its balance.
- (B) Its bottom would get cold.
- (C) Flies might be a problem.
- (D) All of the above.