

Passage 23 Comparing and Contrasting

Animal Baths

To wash yourself, you take a bath or a shower. Animals need to keep clean, too. How do animals clean themselves?

Cats lick themselves to keep their fur clean. Have you ever watched a pet cat clean itself?

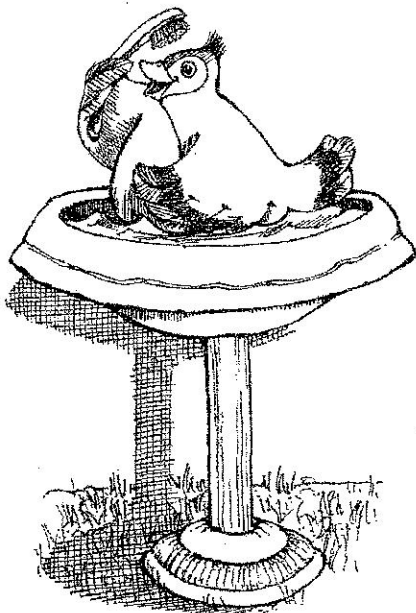


Elephants take baths much as you do. But instead of hopping into the tub, they walk into a river or lake.

Pigs also like to roll around in water. This keeps them clean and cool. If there is no clean water, they will roll in mud on a hot day. They do this to cool off. Pigs do not really like mud. They are happier in a nice, clean pond.

Bats have a funny way to groom. They lick their thumbs to clean their ears!

Guess how polar bears clean themselves. They use snow, of course! Some animals take baths in dust instead of water! The wombat is an Australian animal with lots of fur. To get clean, it lies down. Then it scoops sand all over itself!



Birds clean themselves in many ways. Sometimes they wash in water. That's why some people put birdbaths in their yard. At other times birds take dust baths, just like wombats. Birds also use their beaks to keep their feathers clean. They use their beaks the way you use a comb.

Sometimes a bird has itchy bugs in its feathers. Birds may use ants to help them clean off the bugs. A bird will lie down on an ant nest. Then the ants will crawl on the bird. The ants make a kind of bug spray on the feathers. Then the itchy bugs die!

Birds take baths in something else besides dust and ants! Some birds take "smoke baths." They sit on chimneys. They wave their wings in the smoke!

1. Name two animals that take dust baths.

2. What is a pig's favorite way to get clean?

- Ⓐ It takes a bath in clean water.
- Ⓑ It licks itself.
- Ⓒ It rolls in nice, thick mud.
- Ⓓ It lies down on ants.

3. How is a polar bear's bath different from a cat's bath?

4. A bird uses its beak like a person uses a _____.

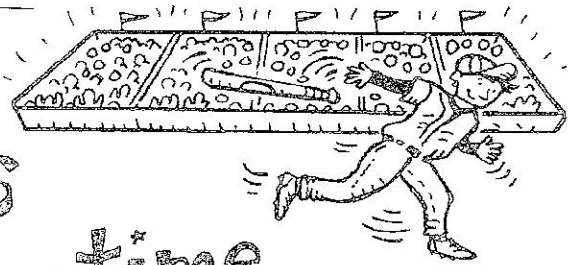
- Ⓐ tub
- Ⓑ comb
- Ⓒ lake
- Ⓓ shower

5. How are the ways elephants and birds take baths alike?
How are they different?

Writing Prompt: Think about the way a pet or animal that you know takes a bath. How is it like and different from the way that people take baths?

Name _____

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.



America's Pastime

A round object used
in games.

Take away two
letters, then add
one more.

A shopping center.

Take away two
letters, then add two.

A pole in the middle
of a sailboat that
holds up the sails.

Change one letter.

Not to hit, as in "Don't
___ the ball."

Change one letter.

A kind of fish, or the
lowest voice in a
chorus.

Change one letter.

mass mist mall
ball small
miss melt
bass mast

Opposite of *large*.
Add one letter.

To change from solid to
liquid because of heat.

Take away two
letters, then add
two.

A light rain.
Change one letter.

A large group of
something. Rhymes
with *lass*.

Change one letter.

b a s e