

Name : _____ Room#: _____ Score: _____

Assessment Tasks

- Read the article, "Leaping Lizards" and fill out the summary chart and write a brief summary about the article.
- Identify the main idea and details of "Leaping Lizards" by completing the main idea/details chart.
- Read the article "Big Birds, Big City" and complete the compare/contrast chart. Hint: Use the chart on page 3 to help you.
- After reading the article "Big Birds, Big City", please complete the cause/effect chart.
 - Remember to use complete sentences and specific details. (Stay away from saying things like "it has" or "they have") Make sure to include specifics!
- Complete the two slides matching the Greek and Latin roots to their meaning.

Leaping Lizards!

Leaping Lizards

By Pooja Makhijani

People go wild for lizards, snakes, and other reptiles in a new exhibit.

Darrel Frost will never forget the time he saw a diamondback rattlesnake coiled up beside a tree. He was just 4 years old, traveling with his family through the Arizona wilderness.

"It was the most beautiful animal I had ever seen in my entire life," he told an audience recently [2006] at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City. "It was just spectacular."

Seeing that fanged rattler up close inspired Frost to become the scientist he is today. As a **herpetologist**, he studies reptiles and amphibians. He helped put together an AMNH exhibit of the scaly lizards and slithering snakes that he fell in love with as a child. The exhibition is called "Lizards and Snakes: Alive!" and features more than 60 live animals.



Before the show opened, *WR News* got an inside look. At the exhibit, leaf-tailed geckos scampered up the sides of a glass tank while an emerald tree boa basked under a sunlamp.

Startled onlookers watched as a veiled chameleon climbed up a tree branch and changed color. The chameleon's ability to **camouflage**, or conceal itself by changing its appearance, helps the creature hide from predators and curious museum-goers.

What's a Squamate?

These lively lizards and sleepy snakes are part of a diverse group of reptiles called **squamates** (SKWAH-mayts). *Squamate* comes from the Latin word for "scale" and is the scientific name for legged lizards and their legless relatives—snakes. All squamates are covered with **scales**—small, hard, plate-like structures that shield an animal's skin and protect it from harm.

There are about 8,000 **species**, or types, of squamates. Along with snakes and lizards, this group includes iguanas, geckos, and Gila (HEE-luh) monsters. These squamates share characteristics with other reptiles, such as turtles and alligators. They are all **cold-blooded**, which means they cannot regulate their own body temperature. Most squamates lay eggs, although some give birth to live young.

New Discoveries

Scientists at the museum felt that the timing was right for an exhibition about squamates and that it would be a big hit. "[The] public is really interested in scaly, slimy things," Jack Conrad told *WR News*. Conrad is a **paleontologist**, a scientist who studies plants and animals that lived long ago. Paleontologists are always finding new squamate **fossils**. A fossil is the remains of an ancient plant or animal preserved in Earth's crust.

Conrad has been examining the fossils of an 80-million-year-old Gila monster with really "bizarre" skin. Studying present-day squamates gives scientists a glimpse into the biology of ancient animals. "Many squamate species haven't changed in 200 million years," says Conrad. "These animals are a window into the past."

Continue

Main Idea/Details

Topic:

Main Idea:

Supporting Detail:

Supporting Detail:

Supporting Detail:

Continue

Summarizing Leaping Lizards

Somebody Who is the main character(s)?	
Wanted What did the main character(s) want?	
But What was the problem/conflict?	
So How did the character(s) try to solve the problem/conflict?	
Then What was the resolution the the conflict?	



Continue

Big Birds, Big City

Big Birds, Big City

Walk around New York City, and you may see some people looking skyward in awe. They might be admiring the city's high-rise buildings, or they might be admiring peregrine falcons instead.

These **majestic**¹ birds of prey, which were on the verge of extinction, have made a comeback across the United States. Some have even moved to New York City. The falcons aren't alone in calling the Big Apple home. Bald eagles have also moved into the neighborhood.



World Almanac for Kids
Some peregrine falcons have moved to New York City.

Death by DDT

Peregrine falcons are the fastest creatures in the air. They can chase their prey at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.

The birds were nearly wiped out in the 1960s from exposure to a **pesticide** called DDT. A pesticide is a chemical designed to kill insects and other pests that damage plants and crops. Scientists didn't realize in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s that DDT also harmed birds and other animals.

According to biologists, DDT made the eggshells of peregrines and other birds thin and fragile. The shells broke before the baby peregrine falcons were ready to hatch. By 1970, there were only 39 known nesting pairs of peregrine falcons in the lower 48 states.

Road to Recovery

The U.S. government banned DDT in 1972. A year later, Congress passed the federal **Endangered Species Act**. The law protected many animals that were in danger of dying out, including peregrine falcons.

Today, more than 2,000 pairs of falcons nest nationwide, including at least 20 couples in New York City. The first two falcon pairs moved to the city in 1983.

Peregrine falcons usually nest on high cliffs. In and around Manhattan, though, the birds have built nests on bridge girders, church steeples, and tall buildings. Peregrine falcons seem to like New York City, according to biologist Chris Nadeski. There are plenty of pigeons and other birds to dine on. Plus, the bridges and skyscrapers provide high, open perches, similar to the perches on cliffs. Bird-watchers and bridge workers monitor the falcons with web cameras.

In 2005, a 10-week-old peregrine falcon left its nest too soon and crash-landed on a street beneath the Brooklyn Bridge. A falconer gave the dazed bird a clean bill of health and released it.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Biologists moved four bald eagles from Wisconsin to New York City.

Eagle Eye

Bald eagles can also be seen in New York City now. In the early 1700s, the birds were a common sight in and around New York. But egg collectors and pesticides almost destroyed the entire bald eagle population in the United States.

In 2004, biologists took two male and two female **eaglets**² from northern Wisconsin to Manhattan. The scientists built a platform for the birds in a tree in northern Manhattan near the Hudson and Harlem rivers. Biologists brought four more eagles to New York from Wisconsin in 2006. All have been flying near the Hudson River in the Bronx.

Continue

Big Birds, Big City

The goal of the reintroduction program is to encourage the birds to nest and breed in the region, once again making it their home. To keep watch over the birds, scientists fitted them with radio-tracking devices.

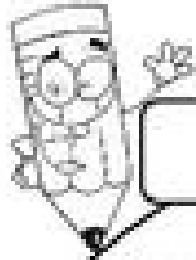
"We're bringing our nation's symbol back to New York," the city's former parks and recreation commissioner, Adrian Benepe, told *National Geographic Today*.

Birds of a Feather	
Falcon	Bald Eagle
Length: 18 to 20 inches	Length: 3 feet
Wingspan: 36 to 45 inches	Wingspan: 6 feet to 7 feet
Maximum weight: 2 pounds, 11 ounces (Females are about one-third larger than males.)	Maximum weight: Females can weigh up to 14 pounds. Males can weigh up to 10 pounds.
Food: other birds	Food: mostly fish, but sometimes snakes and small birds
Life span: 10 to 12 years	Life span: 30 years
Did you know? A falcon's eyesight is eight times more powerful than a human's eyesight.	Did you know? The bald eagle can see more than a mile away.

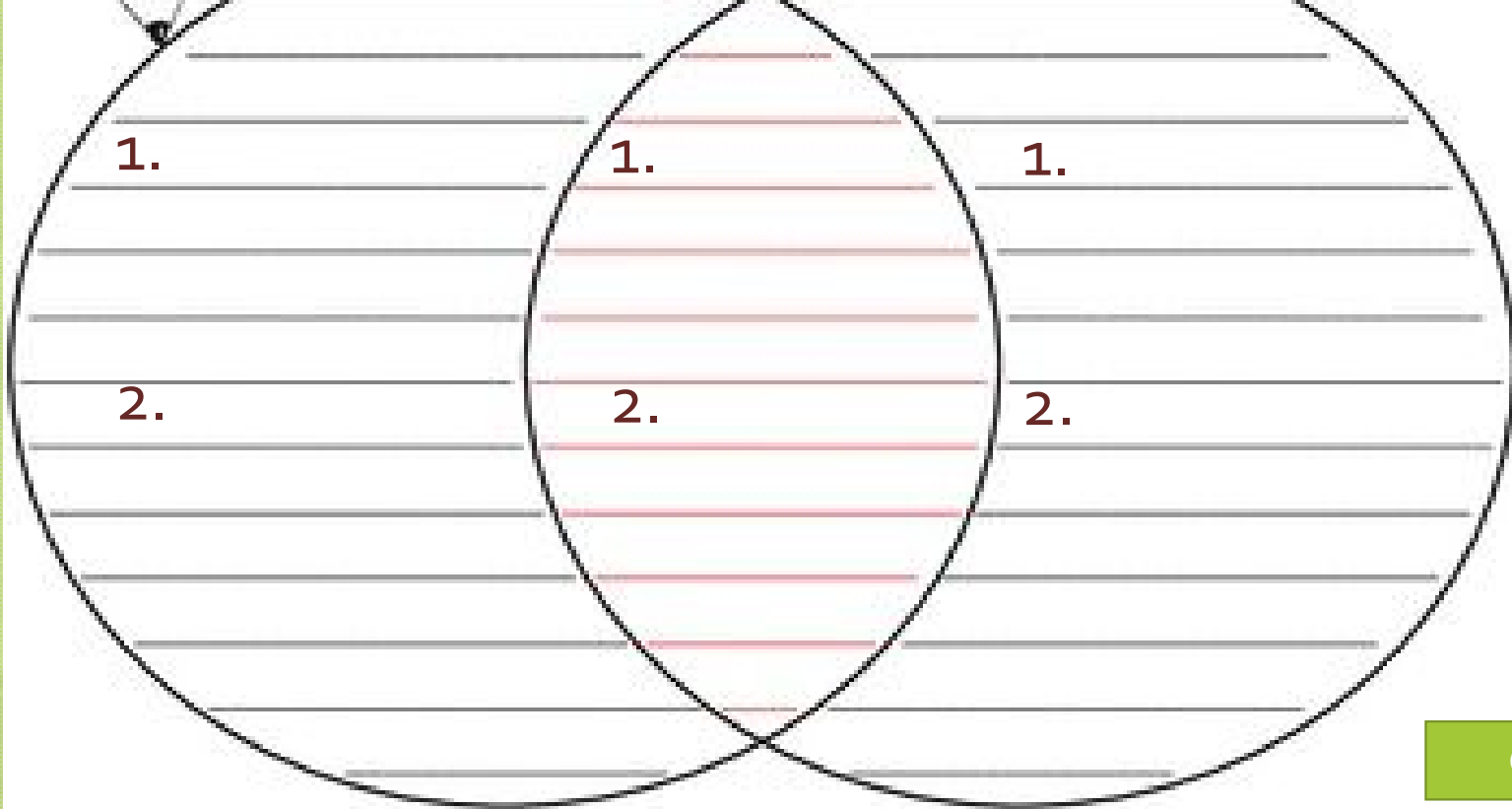
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Date: _____



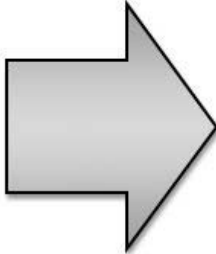
Venn Diagram



Cause & Effect (Whole Group)

2. What caused it to happen?

Graphic Organizer: Cause and Effect

Cause		Effect
		

1. Think about what happened in today's reading.

Continue 

Greek Roots

Match the root to the meaning:

- Auto
- Bio
- Graph
- Hydro
- Therm
- Water
- Self
- Heat
- Life
- Write



Continue

Latin Roots

Match the root to the meaning:

- Audi
 - Dict
 - Ject
 - Port
 - Rupt
- To move
 - To break
 - To hear
 - To speak
 - To throw

