

CFMS



5th Grade

BLIZZARD BAG #1

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Directions: Read the selection.

Rodent Roadmaps

by Jessica Tanenbaum



If you hate asking people for directions, you might consult a wood mouse instead. Scientists now know how wood mice navigate so well through open fields. When the mice go out of their holes, they can't leave behind any scent to help find their way back home (a mousy odor means dinner to foxes and other predators, who would follow the scent to mouse hiding places). So wood mice have a different strategy. They leave behind piles of leaves and twigs as signs to mark the direction they need to go.

How did scientists find out? When several laboratory mice chewed through the wall of their pen, scientists found a leaf near the escape hole. Wondering if the mice deliberately placed the leaf, the scientists set up an experiment, putting plastic disks, instead of grass and leaves, in the mouse pens. They discovered that the mice piled up the disks to mark food and other points of interest.

Using a leaf to flag a promising snack, a mouse in the wild may come back to dine at leisure. Even better, if a mouse flees from a predator in midnibble, it will know where to return. That's smart thinking: scientists thought that only humans make movable landmarks. What's next, birds with compasses?

Directions: Use the selection to answer questions 1 – 4.

1. What is the most important thing that scientists learned from the experiment described in this selection?
 - A. Mice seem to like plastic disks.
 - B. Mice make and use movable landmarks.
 - C. Wood mice do not use scent to navigate.
 - D. Laboratory mice can chew through pen walls.

2. “Using a leaf to **flag** a promising snack, a mouse in the wild may come back to dine at leisure.”

Which word is a synonym for the word **flag** as it is used in the sentence above?

- A. hide
- B. spoil
- C. crush
- D. mark



R

Reading

3. The author wrote this selection mainly for what purpose?
- A. to entertain and amuse readers
 - B. to explain how mice find their way around
 - C. to inform readers about how to read maps
 - D. to persuade readers that mice are predators
4. For a mouse, why does a leaf make a better landmark than a scent?
- A. A scent is too hard to find in the wilderness.
 - B. A scent would spoil a mouse's food and appetite.
 - C. A leaf is safer because a scent might attract an enemy.
 - D. A leaf can be used first as a landmark and later as a snack.

Items 5–13 have not been slated for public release
in 2010.



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Problem Solving

Solve. Write each answer in simplest form.

1. Jeff had $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of string. He used $\frac{2}{3}$ of the string to tie a package. How much string did he use? 1.

He used _____ yard.

2. Julia lives $\frac{7}{8}$ mile from work. She has walked $\frac{4}{5}$ of the way to work. How far has she walked? 2.

She has walked _____ mile.

3. Marla bought $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of milk. She drank $\frac{1}{4}$ of it. How much milk did she drink? 3.

She drank _____ gallon.

4. Hakeem bought $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of cheese. He ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of it. How much cheese did he eat? 4.

He ate _____ pound.

5. Five-sixths of a room is now painted. Carlos did $\frac{2}{5}$ of the painting. How much of the room did he paint? 5.

He painted _____ of the room.

6. The lawn is $\frac{1}{2}$ mowed. Melinda did $\frac{2}{3}$ of the mowing. How much of the lawn did she mow? 6.

She mowed _____ of the lawn.

7. A lawn mower uses $\frac{3}{4}$ gallon of fuel each hour. How much fuel will it use in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour? 7.

It will use _____ gallon.

Name _____

Date _____



MIND YOUR MONEY

The government takes a portion of a worker's paycheck and puts it into the Social Security system. The program serves as a savings account. It's always a good idea to plan for the future. That's why David wants to spend his money wisely. Can you help him manage his money? Read the chart below to find out how much money David earned, spent and saved in one week. Then answer the questions. Show your work on a separate sheet of paper.

DAVID'S MONEY DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amount Earned Walked dogs for one hour: \$4.00 Amount Spent Chocolate bar: 75¢ Bottle of water: \$1.00 Total Spent \$1.75 Amount Saved \$2.25	Amount Earned Walked dogs for two hours: \$8.00 Amount Spent Pack of pencils: 50¢ Pack of gum: 75¢ Total Spent Amount Saved 	Amount Earned Walked dogs for one hour: \$4.00 Amount Spent Video games: \$4.00 Total Spent Amount Saved 	Amount Earned Walked dogs for one hour: \$4.00 Amount Spent Game cards: \$2.25 Pretzel: \$1.25 Total Spent Amount Saved 	Amount Earned Walked dogs for one hour: \$4.00 Amount Spent Video games: \$5.00 Eraser: 25¢ Total Spent Amount Saved 	Amount Earned Allowance: \$10.00 Amount Spent Movie: \$5.00 Popcorn: \$3.00 Soda: \$1.50 Total Spent Amount Saved 	Amount Earned Walked dogs for one hour: \$4.00 Amount Spent Video games: \$5.00 Total Spent Amount Saved

1. Add up the amount of money David spent each day and fill in the blank for the total spent.
2. Subtract the amount spent each day from the amount earned each day. Then fill in the blank in the chart for the amount saved.
3. How much money did David spend this week all together?

4. How much money did David save this week all together?

5. David would like to buy a skateboard that costs \$100. What changes do you think he should make to his weekly spending to help him save money? Write your ideas on the back of this page.
6. If David takes your suggestions, about how many weeks would it take for him to save up for the skateboard? _____