Name _____ Date _____

Animal Senses and Body Structures: How a Barn Owl Hunts

Directions: Read about the barn owl. Then answer each question.

The Quiet Hunter

One evening, Leo watched a barn owl glide low over a dark field. It flew so quietly that he could not hear its wings. Suddenly, it dropped into the grass and caught a mouse.

An animal's body parts are called **structures**, and many of them help the animal survive. A barn owl has large eyes that help it see in dim light. Its heart-shaped face works like a dish. The feathers on its face gather sounds and send them toward its ears, which helps the owl tell where a sound is coming from. Soft edges on its wing feathers help make its flight very quiet, so a mouse may not hear it coming.

Like many animals, an owl takes in information through its **senses**, such as sight and hearing. Its eyes and ears send messages to its brain, and its brain helps it respond.

1. Which structure gathers sounds and sends them toward a barn owl's ears?

A. Its large eyes
B. Its sharp claws
C. The soft edges of its wing feathers
D. Its heart-shaped face

2. How do the soft edges on a barn owl's wing feathers help it catch food?

A. They help it see a mouse in dim light.
B. They gather sounds and send them to its ears.
C. They help it smell a mouse from far away.
D. They help make its flight quiet, so a mouse may not hear it coming.

3. The owl hears a mouse rustle in the grass. Which order shows how the owl takes in this information and responds?

A. Brain, then ears, then wings and claws
B. Ears, then wings and claws, then brain
C. Ears, then brain, then wings and claws
D. Wings and claws, then brain, then ears

4. Which sentence about the barn owl's large eyes is best supported by the passage?

A. The owl grew large eyes because it wanted to hunt at night.

B. Its large eyes help it hear mice in the grass.

C. Its large eyes help it see in dim light.

D. Its large eyes let it see in total darkness.

5. Use the word bank to finish the sentences about other animals' structures.

Word bank
ears • feet • shell • eyes

A box turtle can pull its head and legs inside its hard _____, which helps protect it. A duck's webbed _____ push against the water and help it swim.

6. A rabbit has long ears that can turn toward a sound. How do these ears most likely help it survive?

A. They help it dig its burrow.

B. They help it hear a fox or a hawk coming.

C. They help it smell fresh grass.

D. They help it see in the dark.

7. The passage calls an animal's body parts structures. Which of these is a structure?

A. A bird's beak

B. A bird's flight path

C. A bird's song

D. A bird's nest

8. What would happen if the feathers on a barn owl's face were damaged and could not gather sounds well?

A. The owl would see much better in dim light.

B. Its flight would become loud.

C. It would probably have a harder time telling where a mouse's sounds come from.

D. It would hear faint sounds better than before.