



# Hey!

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

**★ ENDANGERED ANIMALS**

Animals are considered to be endangered when they are at risk of becoming extinct, which means that there are no more of them left. Animals become extinct for a variety of reasons. Many animals are endangered or have become extinct because of human activities. It is important to know what we can do so that we can be aware of how our actions affect the populations of animals.

Animals sometimes become extinct because of changes in their environment. Species may become extinct because of changes in climate and a reduced food supply caused by human activities like pollution or deforestation.

Many species have been hunted to extinction where they are endangered. Animals that live on small islands, especially those that can be easily hunted to extinction. New species are often introduced to the island to help repopulate the island. The arrival of just a few additional people can threaten the survival of island species.

Often, animals are hunted for food. However, some animals are hunted for their body parts like fur, feathers, or ivory. For example, elephants were hunted for their ivory horns. The population of elephants decreased drastically as people hunted for their ivory.

One of the main threats to animals today is the destruction of their natural habitat. This comes from the expansion of human agriculture and building. As areas of land are converted into farms or cities, the natural habitats of animals are destroyed.

Pollution from humans can make species endangered or extinct, as well. Sewage and runoff from cars can poison the water. Air pollution pollutes the air. When one species becomes extinct, other species can be affected as well. This causes problems throughout the ecosystem.

**★ LEWIS & CLARK**

In the early 1800s, there was a man named Meriwether Lewis who was President Thomas Jefferson's private secretary. He was sent on an expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory that had recently been bought for a good price. Lewis and William Clark joined in on the expedition. Clark was in charge of training the men, while Lewis was in charge of supplies they would need. The expedition, along with their team of over 40 men, began in 1803.

**★ THE PRINCESS AND HER DOG**

Once upon a time, Princess Elizabeth lived in a castle with her father the King, her mother the Queen, and her little sister. Elizabeth loved dogs and was delighted when, on her 9th birthday, her parents gave her an adorable Corgi named Lily. Elizabeth took Lily all around the castle to show the dog her new home.

While they explored the castle, Elizabeth talked to Lily about all of the fun things that they would do together. She chattered about playing ball on the lawn, going for rides in the royal carriage, and letting Lily sit at her feet during dinner in the royal dining room. Elizabeth was so happy that she didn't even notice the King and Queen were talking to her.

**★ OUR FAMILY PICTURES**

The extended Collins family was going to get their family pictures taken one sunny Saturday. The Collins grandparents were coming, along with their children, in-laws, and all of the Collins cousins. They knew that it was going to be a chaotic, but fun day!

Melissa Collins was dreading family picture day. She had recently lost a tooth and her cousin Alan kept calling her a jack-o-lantern. She and Alan were born within a month of one another and often fought like siblings.

Melissa wasn't in the mood for Alan's teasing today of all days. Not only did she have a missing tooth, but she had gotten a bad grade on an exam the previous day and woke up with a headache. It was going to be a challenge to smile for the family pictures and look awake.

Meanwhile, Alan was feeling regretful that he had teased Melissa. Alan was the youngest of five brothers, and his older brothers picked on him relentlessly at home. Sometimes he felt so angry at his brothers that the only way to make himself feel better was to pick on someone else, and Melissa was an easy target.

When they all arrived at the picture site, Melissa and Alan's Aunt Cynthia noticed right away that something was amiss. Melissa's face looked like a thundercloud. Alan looked like he was ready to burst into tears. Aunt Cynthia knew that sometimes Alan and Melissa had trouble getting along and decided to intervene.

She pulled the kids aside before the pictures were taken and talked to them. She heard what the problem was and encouraged Melissa to accept Alan's apology. The kids resolved to get along better in the future, and Aunt Cynthia promised to help them. The family pictures turned out great, and everyone felt much happier!

Alan looked sad. She bent down and asked her if she was okay. Lily missed her family and understood. She informed him that she had enough room for them and 8 brothers and sisters. They had enough room for them.



# Why?

# Comprehension Passages



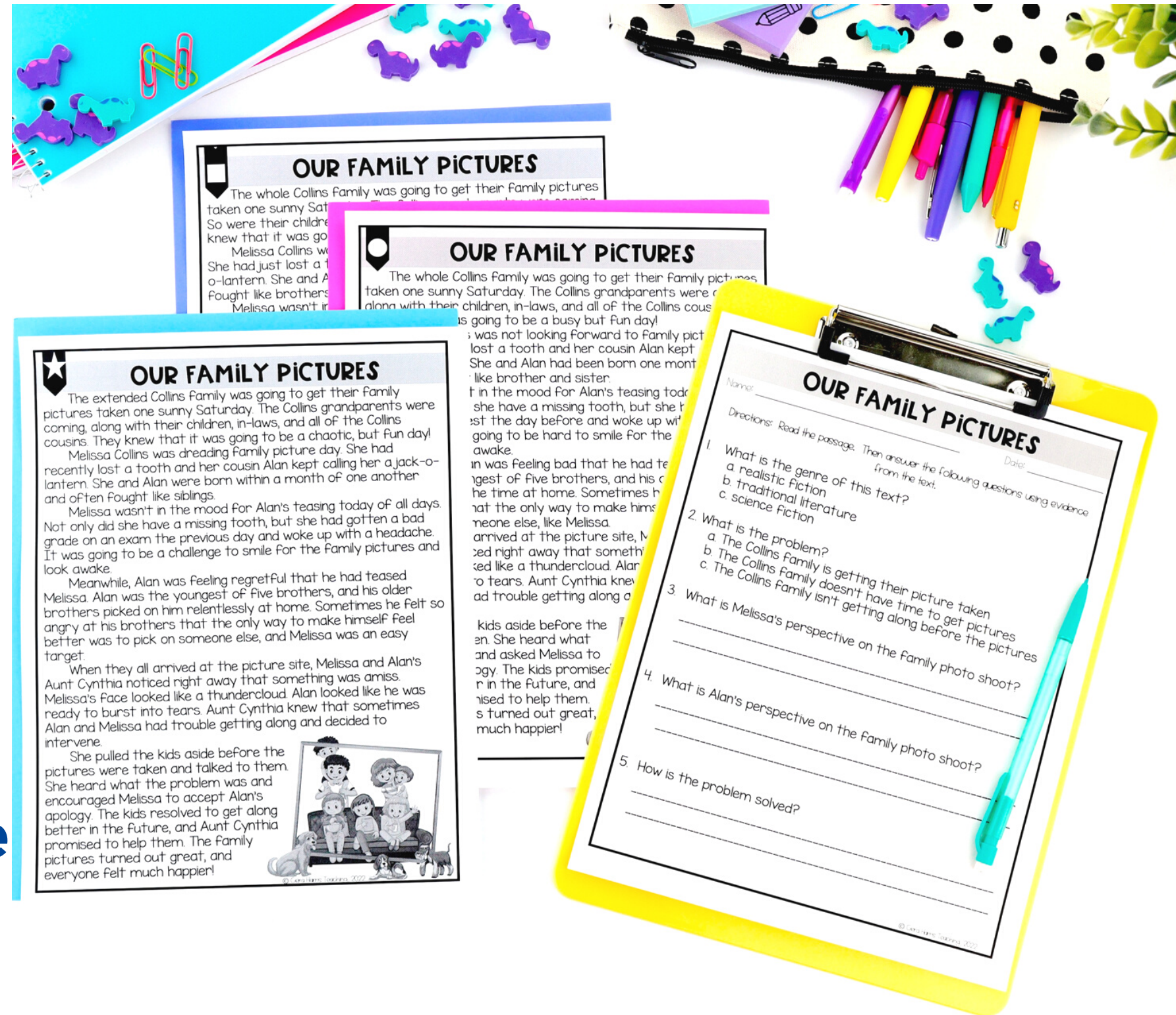
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