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## What is the bullpen in baseball?

- 1 Baseball pitchers can throw the baseball for only so long in a game. Then they are replaced by the relief pitcher. The fenced area where the relief pitchers warm up is called the bullpen. No one is exactly sure how this area got its name. There are different stories, however.
- 2 One story is that the area is named for the holding cells used in jails or wars. The fenced area where prisoners were held was often referred to as a bullpen.
- 3 Another story says that the term dates from the 1800s. Fans that arrived late to a baseball game were placed in fenced areas that were standing room only. These areas were in left field where many foul balls were called. The latecomers were herded into this area like cattle. This area behind the fence was called the bullpen.
- 4 Some think the name is related to the company Bull Durham. This company placed ads on the outfield fences in all the baseball parks. The ads were in left field near where the pitchers warmed up. Some people think the ads featuring a red bull led to the area being called the bullpen.
- 5 Others say the name is related to the New York Giants. The team played its games at the Polo Grounds. The relief pitchers warmed up in an area past the left-field fence. Nearby was a stockyard that held real bulls. The area where the pitchers warmed up became known as the bullpen.
- 6 Today, this area of the ballfield is still called the bullpen. The relief pitchers waiting to play are also called the bullpen.



Circle the correct answers. Write your answer to question 6.

1. The bullpen is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A in right field
- B in left field
- C near home plate
- D in center field

2. Which word in paragraph 1 means "release from a duty or post"?

- A relief
- B area
- C warm up
- D exactly

3. Which paragraph tells where the New York Giants played baseball?

- A 2
- B 3
- C 4
- D 5

4. What is the main idea of this article?

- A The origins of some baseball terms are hard to discover.
- B A bullpen is an enclosure for animals.
- C A bullpen is a term used in baseball.
- D Relief pitchers warm up in the bullpen.

5. You can decide from the article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A cattle are kept in pens
- B Bull Durham ads used a red bull
- C the New York Giants field was near a stockyard
- D a baseball team uses more than one pitcher in a game

6. Think about the stories that tell the origins of the term *bullpen*. Which story seems most likely to you? Explain why you think this story best explains the origins of the baseball term.

 **Details**

 **Context Clues**

 **Details**

 **Main Idea**

 **Inference & Conclusion**

## What is a werewolf mouse?

- 1 You have probably heard a dog howl at the moon. Wolves howl at the moon, too. But did you know there is a mouse that howls at the moon? It is called the southern grasshopper mouse. But its nickname is the “werewolf mouse.”
- 2 The Sonoran Desert is one of America’s hottest deserts. Many venomous creatures like scorpions and tarantulas live in this area. It is also home to the southern grasshopper mouse.
- 3 This small gray mouse looks like an ordinary mouse. But its behavior is very different from a typical mouse. It is the only carnivorous mouse in North America. This little mouse stalks its prey like a cat. The werewolf mouse hunts its prey at night. It likes to eat lizards, rodents, and, of course, grasshoppers. It also eats spiders—even tarantulas. It loves to eat scorpions. Scorpions have a poisonous venom that protects them from predators. But this little mouse is immune to a scorpion’s venom. The werewolf mouse also eats other mice.
- 4 Like any predator, the werewolf mouse covers a large range of land when hunting its prey. This mouse does not create its own burrow. It takes over the nests of other animals. It will even force residents of a burrow out of it.
- 5 Like a wolf or werewolf, this mouse will stand on its hind legs, throw back its head, and howl at the moon. The howl sounds like a high-pitched screech. The mouse will often howl before it completes its hunt. Scientists think the howl is a sign that the mouse is defending its territory.





**Circle the correct answers. Write your answer to question 6.**

1. The article does *not* tell about the southern grasshopper mouse's \_\_\_\_\_.

- A family
- B diet
- C home
- D color

2. You can decide from the article that the mouse \_\_\_\_\_.

- A hunts at night
- B howls like a wolf
- C does not build its own burrow
- D sleeps during the day when it is hot

3. Which word in paragraph 3 means "not affected by"?

- A ordinary
- B typical
- C immune
- D venom

4. What is the main idea of the article?

- A The southern grasshopper mouse is an unusual mouse.
- B The southern grasshopper mouse is nocturnal.
- C The southern grasshopper mouse is carnivorous.
- D The southern grasshopper mouse is small and gray.

5. Which paragraph tells about the southern grasshopper's nickname?

- A 1
- B 2
- C 3
- D 4

6. Think about what you know about mice. How is the southern grasshopper mouse the same as and different from other mice? Explain.