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This story is about an endangered animal of the African grasslands. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Painted Dog

Dogs roam the grasslands of Africa. They look like they have been painted. The dogs are not anyone's pets. Though they look like a dog you might have as a pet, they are wild. They run free. They are called African wild dogs.

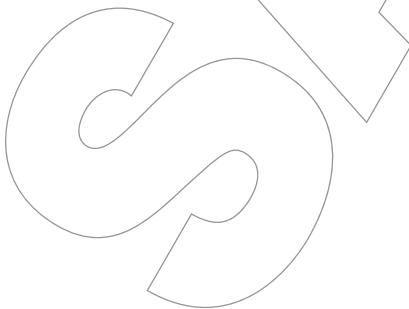
These dogs are also called painted dogs because of their coloring. These dogs have fur that looks like someone painted it. Their coats have patches of red, black, brown, white, and yellow fur. Each dog has a different painted coat just like each person has different fingerprints.

The African wild dogs are different from *domesticated* dogs. Domesticated dogs are dogs people keep as pets. Wild dogs can't be kept as pets. Also, the African wild dogs only have four toes on each foot. Other dogs have five toes.

African wild dogs are like wolves. They live in packs of 6 to 20 dogs. The packs used to be bigger. But there are fewer of these dogs now. The dogs in a pack share food and help sick members. The dogs cooperate and communicate by touch, action, and *vocalizations* like barking.

These dogs hunt together, too. They hunt antelopes and bigger animals, too. They also eat rodents and birds. When people live close, the wild dogs will eat cows, goats, and chickens.

Living near people has led to problems. First, farmers kill the dogs to keep their animals, or livestock, safe. Also, African wild dogs get sick from diseases. They get sick from diseases carried by domestic animals. There is also less land for them to roam. The dogs lose their homes as people move and settle the land. All of this has led to the African wild dog becoming endangered. Endangered animals could die out, and there would be no more of them. There are less than 4,000 wild dogs left.





Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. African wild dogs

- (A) are just like a pet dog
- (B) have five toes
- (C) live alone
- (D) look painted

Inference

2. African wild dogs are endangered mainly because

- (A) they do not have many babies
- (B) they do not live very long
- (C) there are too many of them
- (D) farmers kill them to protect livestock

Critical Reasoning

3. Animals that are endangered

- (A) are very dangerous
- (B) could die out, and there would be no more of them
- (C) live in Africa and eat grass
- (D) are smaller than an African wild dog

Factual

4. How are wolves and wild dogs alike?

- (A) They both live in the snow.
- (B) They like people.
- (C) They are the same color.
- (D) They live and hunt in packs.

Critical Reasoning

5. If you see an African wild dog, you should

- (A) try to feed it
- (B) keep it as a pet
- (C) try to kill it
- (D) leave it alone

Critical Reasoning

6. Domesticated dogs are

- (A) nice dogs
- (B) beautiful dogs
- (C) dogs that can be pets
- (D) dogs that live in the wild

Inference

SAMPLE

7. Vocalizations are

- (A) sounds that African wild dogs use to communicate
- (B) sounds that people use to call their dogs
- (C) meaningless sounds that African wild dogs make
- (D) songs

Inference

8. African wild dogs eat

- (A) antelope
- (B) pigs
- (C) snakes
- (D) fish

Inference

SAMPLE



Summing Up



You have learned some things about African wild dogs. A **Venn diagram** is a special way to compare and contrast two things. Look at the Venn diagram below. Fill in the middle circle.



Write how African wild dogs and domesticated dogs are the same. Fill in the other circles. Write how African wild dogs and domesticated dogs are different. Here are some words to help you:

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| size | four toes | five toes | lives in packs |
| fur | hunts | mean | peaceful |
| like a wolf | wild | lives with people | is hunted |
| kept as a pet | four legs | tame | fed their food |

Same

African wild dogs

Domesticated dogs





Write About It

When you **compare** things, you tell how they are alike. When you **contrast** things, you tell how they are different. You should also give facts to back up your ideas.

Write about how African wild dogs and domesticated dogs are the same. Then write about how African wild dogs and domesticated dogs are different. Use your Venn diagram to help you. The first sentence of each paragraph has been done for you.

African wild dogs and domesticated dogs are alike in some ways. For example, they both _____

African wild dogs are different from domesticated dogs. They _____

Domesticated dogs are different from African wild dogs. They _____

