

Macy the Elephant

By ReadWorks

Macy and her parents are elephants that live in the jungle. They roam around the trees all day, every day, looking for food. Macy's favorite food is bananas. She is always looking for banana trees. When she finds one, she uses her trunk to pick the banana bunches from the top of the tree.

Usually, it gets really hot in the jungle. One day, the sun is very strong, and the temperature is very high. Macy and her mom and dad use their big ears to cool themselves off. They flap their ears back and forth, trying to push away the heat. But it isn't enough—they are still too hot.

The family of elephants walks around to look for a way to cool down. Macy sees a group of orangutans lazily lying on the branches of a big tree. They don't even move as the elephants walk past, too hot to do anything. A family of parrots flies by, but all Macy sees is a blur of red, green, and blue. The colorful birds land on a branch nearby, and Macy admires their bright feathers. Then, all of a sudden, Macy spots a loris sleeping on the tree that sits right next to the parrots. Macy gets excited—she never sees lorises because they are only awake at night. The small elephant stops to look at the small, fluffy animal. It has a tiny, round face and big, black eyes. Macy is about to take a step closer when her mom and dad pull her along with their strong trunks, not wanting to wait any longer to cool down.

Finally, the three elephants find a big pool of water. They run into it and splash the cool water on each other. Macy feels so much better. She lies down and rolls around. She covers her body in mud. Elephants love to take mud baths. It cools their skin and protects them from bug bites. They all play in the water for a while, and other elephants come to enjoy the mud, too.

Then Macy and her parents step out of the water and decide to go and find food. Macy spots a banana tree in the distance. She runs toward the bright yellow fruit. She grabs a bunch with her trunk and munches on the soft bananas. It's been a good day for Macy—bananas and a mud bath. What more could she ask for?

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What kind of animal is Macy?

- A an orangutan
- B a parrot
- C an elephant

2. What main problem do Macy and her parents face?

- A They are too tired and must find a place to rest.
- B They are too hot and must find a way to cool down.
- C They are too hungry and must find something to eat.

3. Mud baths are good for elephants. What evidence from the passage best supports this conclusion?

- A Mud cools their skin and protects them from bug bites.
- B Other elephants join Macy and her parents to take a mud bath.
- C After splashing in the water, Macy covers her skin in mud.

4. Read the following sentences: "Macy spots a loris sleeping on the tree that sits right next to the parrots. Macy gets excited—she never sees lorises because they are only awake at night."

Based on this information, what conclusion can you make about Macy?

- A Macy is not interested in the loris.
- B Macy is not usually awake at night.
- C Macy is often awake at night.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A how a family of elephants cools down
- B how Macy the elephant picks bananas
- C why the loris is only awake at night

6. Read the following sentences: "Macy sees a group of orangutans **lazily** lying on the branches of a big tree. They don't even move as the elephants walk past, too hot to do anything."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**lazily**" mean?

- A done quickly and energetically
- B done with purpose and determination
- C done with little or no effort

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

_____ Macy and her parents cool off, they go to look for food.

- A So
- B After
- C Yet

8. What does Macy cover her body in so that she can cool down?

9. How do the elephants use their big ears to try to cool themselves off?

10. "Different animals have different ways of dealing with heat." Explain whether this statement is accurate using information from the passage.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 810

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Suggested answer: Macy covers her body in mud.

9. How do the elephants use their big ears to try to cool themselves off?

Suggested answer: The elephants flap their big ears back and forth, trying to push away the heat.

10. "Different animals have different ways of dealing with heat." Explain whether this statement is accurate using information from the passage.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students should indicate that the statement is accurate, using the examples of the different ways that animals in the passage deal with heat: the orangutans lie on the branches of a big tree and don't move, while the elephants flap their ears, splash in cool water, and cover their skin in mud to cool down.