

## Foxes – Skimming and Scanning Task

Foxes are a distinctive relative of the wolf which belongs to the dog family. They can live for up to 14 years in captive and around two years in the wild. Foxes are quite small with most of them weighing around 6 to 8 pounds.

Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow faces. They have small stomachs so they eat many small meals every day and eat just about anything. Foxes have incredible hearing because of their large triangular ears which help them to listen out for all the rodents, meaning that they are really good at hunting. Foxes are great night-time predators because their eyes are specially adapted to night vision. Sometimes foxes catch mice just to play with them, rather than eating them. When they become bored, they let the mouse go! They also eat birds, bugs and lizards but if they live near people, they might eat dog food or fruits and berries from your garden. Occasionally, they snatch chickens from the chicken coop!

A foxes' habitat is almost anywhere: woods, forests, farmland, coasts, mountains, towns and cities. There are many different types of foxes, one being the red fox. This is the most common type; it is usually the fox that we refer to when we discuss foxes. Another type of fox is the arctic fox. These foxes live in cold climates in the far north and have deep, thick fur to keep them warm. Fennec foxes live in the North African desert and are the smallest of all the different types, weighing just 2 to 3 pounds. Their feet are hairy which helps to protect them from extremely hot sand and also helps them to dig underground dens.

Female foxes are called vixens and a male fox is called a dog. Baby foxes are called pups, kits or cubs and a group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash. There is usually one female fox who is the boss and she is the only one in her area that has babies. The other adult foxes help her raise the pups.

### Skimming and Scanning Challenge

1. The word 'foxes' appears 15 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'them' appears 7 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 18 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'they' appears 10 times. Underline them all in purple.
5. Circle the word 'fox' in red. How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Circle the word 'pups' in blue. How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Circle the word 'which' in green. How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Circle the word 'eat' in purple. How many are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the correct answer to complete each sentence. Use skimming and scanning techniques to find the evidence in the text.

9. Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow...

cheeks.	faces.	legs.	eyes.
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10. Foxes' feet are hairy, which helps protect them from extremely hot...

food.	mud.	sand.	soil.
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11. Baby foxes are called...

kittens.	pups.	chicks.	foxes.
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12. There is usually one female fox who is the...

youngest.	prettiest.	best.	boss.
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**Foxes** are a distinctive relative of **the** wolf **which** belongs to **the** dog family. **They** can live for up to 14 years in captive and around two years in **the** wild. **Foxes** are quite small with most of **them** weighing around 6 to 8 pounds.

**Foxes** have long, bushy tails and narrow faces. **They** have small tummies so **they** **eat** many small meals every day and **eat** just about anything. **Foxes** have incredible hearing because of their large triangular ears **which** help **them** to listen out for all **the** rodents, meaning that **they** are really good at hunting. **Foxes** are great night-time predators because their eyes are specially adapted to night vision. Sometimes **foxes** catch mice just to play with **them**, rather than eating **them**. When **they** become bored, **they** let **the** mouse go! **They** also **eat** birds, bugs and lizards but if **they** live near people, **they** might **eat** dog food or fruits and berries from your garden. Occasionally, **they** snatch chickens from **the** chicken coop!

A **foxes**' habitat is almost anywhere: woods, forests, farmland, coasts, mountains, towns and cities. There are many different types of **foxes**, one being **the** red **fox**. This is **the** most common type; it is usually **the** **fox** that we refer to when we discuss **foxes**. Another type of **fox** is **the** artic **fox**. These **foxes** live in cold climates in **the** far north and have deep, thick fur to keep **them** warm. Fennec **foxes** live in **the** North African desert and are **the** smallest of all **the** different types, weighing just 2 to 3 pounds. Their feet are hairy **which** helps to protect **them** from extremely hot sand and also helps **them** to dig underground dens.

Female **foxes** are called vixens and a male **fox** is called a dog. Baby **foxes** are called **pups**, kits or cubs and a group of **foxes** is called a skulk or a leash. There is usually one female **fox** who is **the** boss and she is **the** only one in her area that has babies. **The** other adult **foxes** help her raise **the** **pups**.

### Skimming and Scanning Challenge

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2. The word 'them' appears 7 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 18 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'they' appears 10 times. Underline them all in purple.
5. Circle the word 'fox' in red. How many are there? **6**
6. Circle the word 'pups' in blue. How many are there? **2**
7. Circle the word 'which' in green. How many are there? **3**
8. Circle the word 'eat' in purple. How many are there? **4**

Circle the correct answer to complete each sentence. Use skimming and scanning techniques to find the evidence in the text.

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