

Grade 4

# Comprehension and Critical Thinking

**TIME**  
FOR KIDS

- ✓ Test Preparation
- ✓ Comprehension and Critical Thinking Questions
- ✓ Document-Based Analysis



# ***Shell Education***

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5.2 Establishes a purpose for reading.

**Standard 7 Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts.**

7.1 Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of informational texts.

7.3 Uses text organizers to determine the main idea and to locate information in a text.

7.5 Summarizes and paraphrases information in texts.

7.6 Uses prior knowledge and experience to understand and respond to new information.

7.7 Understands structural patterns or organization in informational texts.

**Directions: Read the article.**



## ***Lights, Animals, Action!***

It's 8 A.M. in New York City. Do you know where the gorillas are? Having their morning bananas, of course. The monkeys are waking up just a few doors away. Meanwhile, an elephant is getting a checkup.

Welcome to the Bronx Zoo, the largest city zoo in the United States. The zoo attracts as many as 30,000 people a day. But the place is busy long before any visitors arrive. Zookeepers, veterinarians, a nutritionist, and many others work to keep the animals healthy and happy.

Senior keeper Mark Hoeffling starts his day at 7 a.m. in the kitchen. His cooking is strictly for the birds: a breakfast salad with a side order of worms! Outside, his customers are chirping up a storm. "Morning is a very active time for birds," Hoeffling says.

Over at the Monkey House, keeper Gina Savastano checks to see if any babies were born overnight. Monkeys are full of surprises. "Somebody's always up to something," she says.

Veterinarian Barbara Mangold carries a bag full of medicines on her visits. She never knows who will need her help. "This morning, I worked on an elephant," she said, "and now I'm treating a tiny snake."

The zoo is designed to make the animals feel at home. Jenny Lee helped create the gorillas' rain forest. Now she's working on a home for Siberian tigers. One big challenge: keeping the tigers awake. "We're building big cat toys," she says. Maybe they should put the tigers next to the birds. That noise would keep anyone awake!

**Directions:** Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. What is the largest city zoo in the United States?

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2. Who works to keep the animals healthy and happy?

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3. Describe some things veterinarian Barbara Mangold might do during her workday.

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4. In comparing zookeepers, veterinarians, and nutritionists, which job do you think

would be the most difficult? Why?

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5. What could someone say to convince you to work at the zoo?

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6. What type of big cat toys would you create for the Siberian tigers?

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7. What would you tell people about the Bronx Zoo to encourage them to visit?

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**Directions:** Look at the recipe below. Answer the questions.

Here is a recipe that the zookeepers at the Bronx Zoo use to feed many of their birds:

### **Bird Salad**

15 quarts chopped mixed vegetables (carrots, beans, peas, corn)

15 quarts diced apples and pears

6 quarts blueberries

2 quarts sliced grapes

8 cups salad supplement (vitamins and minerals)

1. List your three favorite ingredients from Bird Salad.

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2. What do most of the ingredients have in common?

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3. Create a recipe that senior keeper Mark Hoeffling might use to feed the gorillas.

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**Directions: Read the article.**



## *On Top of the World*

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay got a view of Asia that no human had ever enjoyed. They became the first to look down from the top of the world's tallest mountain, Everest. But it wasn't a time for celebrating.

"I didn't leap or throw my hands in the air," Hillary, now 83, told Robert Sullivan of LIFE books. "We were tired, of course." Recently, the party was on! Hillary joined his friends and fans in Nepal. They celebrated the climb's 50th anniversary.

In 1852, Everest was declared the world's tallest mountain. Climbing to the top of the 29,035-foot-tall peak became the goal of people looking for adventure. Since 1920, at least 175 men and women have died climbing Everest. Nearly 1,200 others have reached the summit, or top. Ice, snow, wind, and lack of oxygen are a threat to those who tackle the mountain. Many climbers lose toes, ears, and fingers to frostbite. "You cannot conquer Everest," says Jamling Norgay, Tenzing's son. "Everest will give you a chance to stand on top, and that's it."

Sir Edmund Hillary went on to conquer other goals. He led a team across Antarctica to the South Pole. He climbed more mountains. He also helped bring schools and hospitals to Norgay's people, the Sherpas of Nepal. "That's how I'd like to be remembered," he says. "Not for Everest, but for the work I did with my Sherpa friends."

**Directions:** Answer these questions. You may look at the article.

1. Who were the first two humans to look down from Everest?

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2. Since 1920, how many people have died climbing Everest?

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3. How many Everest climbers have gotten the chance to stand on top?

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4. What supplies would be useful when climbing a tall mountain?

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5. Sir Edmund Hillary said that he would "like to be remembered not for Everest, but

for the work I did with my Sherpa friends.” Why do you think he said that?

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6. Why do you think people decide to climb Everest?

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7. Imagine that you are on the top of Everest. Describe what you might be thinking and feeling.

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**Directions:** Look at the chart. Answer the questions.

### World’s Highest Mountains

| Mountain      | Location              | Height      |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Mt. Everest   | Nepal and China       | 29,035 feet |
| Mt. Huascarán | Peru                  | 22,205 feet |
| Mt. McKinley  | United States         | 20,329 feet |
| Kilimanjaro   | Tanzania              | 19,340 feet |
| Matterhorn    | Switzerland and Italy | 14,700 feet |
| Mt. Erebus    | Antarctica            | 12,448 feet |
| Mt. Cook      | New Zealand           | 12,254 feet |

1. Which mountain is the tallest? Which is the shortest?

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2. How could the information on the chart be useful to climbers?

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3. Which mountain would you recommend for climbers? Why?

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