

## Aristotle Greek Philosopher

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Aristotle lived many years ago. He was born in a Greek colony about 350 years before the birth of Christ (B.C.) His father, Nichomachus, was the physician for the king of Macedonia. Unfortunately Nichomachus died when Aristotle was quite young. When he was 17 years old he was sent to Athens to study. Athens was a center of learning and he joined the Academy and studied for twenty years under Plato who was the foremost philosopher and teacher of that time. When Plato died Aristotle left Athens and went to Mysia where he taught for three years in the king's court and married the king's daughter Pythias. They had a daughter and Pythias died when she was a young woman. Some writers claim that Philip, king of Macedonia, invited him to come and teach his son Alexander who was 13 years old at the time. He tutored him for five years. This same Alexander would later go on to conquer the then-known world. He returned to Athens. Aristotle set up his own school, the Lyceum, he would teach there for 13 years. The school he started continued for more than two hundred years. Aristotle was a genius. He studied many different subjects; science, plants, animals, the human body, weather, the earth, the heavens, politics, government, ethics and philosophy. He taught moderation, urging his students to follow the middle road between extremes. He defined virtue as the disposition of the soul that promotes human flourishing. Aristotle thought common men of virtue were capable of governing themselves. He died soon afterward in 322 B.C. at the age of 62.



### Answer each question.

1. What do you know about the early life of Aristotle?
2. What did he do in Mysia?
3. What did some writers claim about Aristotle?
4. Where did Aristotle set up his school?
5. How many subjects did Aristotle study?
6. What were the teachings of Aristotle and when did he die?



# Grade 6 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

## A Missing Cat

**Read the passage. Then answer the questions.**

The owner of a missing cat is asking for help. "My baby has been missing for over a month now, and I want him back so badly," said Mrs. Brown, a fifty-six-year-old woman. Mrs. Brown lives by herself in a trailer park near Clovis. She said that Clyde, her seven-year-old cat, didn't come home for dinner more than a month ago, so she called the police. When the policeman asked her to describe Clyde, she told him that Clyde had beautiful green eyes, had all his teeth but was missing half of his left ear, and was and completely white. She then told the officer that Clyde was about a foot high.

A bell went off. "Is Clyde your child or your pet?" the officer suspiciously asked, "Well, he's my cat," Mrs. Brown replied. "Lady, you're supposed to report missing PERSONS, not missing CATS," said the irritated policeman. "Well, who can I report this to?" She asked. "You can't. You have to ask around your neighborhood or put up flyers," replied the officer.

Mrs. Brown figured that a billboard would work a lot than an 8"x11" piece of paper on a telephone pole. There was an empty billboard at the end of her street just off the interstat highway. The billboard had a phone number on it. She called that number, and they told her they could blow up a picture of Clyde from Mrs. Brown's picture album and put it on the billboard for all to see.

"But how can people see it when they whiz by on the interstat?" She asked. "Oh, don't worry, ma'am, they only whiz by between 2 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. The rest of the day, the interstat is so full of commuters that no one moves." They told her if it would cost only \$3,000, a month.

The month has passed, but Clyde has not appeared. Because she has almost no money in savings, Mrs. Brown called the local newspaper to see if anyone could help her rent the billboard for just one more month. She is waiting but, so far, no one has stepped forward.

### Answer the Questions.

1. What is the theme of the story?
2. Give the description of Clyde?
3. Did Mrs. Brown use flyer or the billboard?
4. How much did it cost?
5. Did she find Clyde? If not why?



## THE FROZEN OCEAN



Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Covering an area of about 5,427,000 square miles, the Arctic Ocean is about the size of Russia, and yet the smallest and shallowest of the world's five major oceanic divisions. It's also one of the least explored, primarily because ice partly covers it throughout the year. It's surrounded by the land masses of Eurasia, North America, Greenland and several islands, while an underwater ridge divides it into two basins, which are further subdivided by ridges. The Arctic Ocean's surface temperature and salinity varies seasonally. Salt lowers the freezing temperature of seawater to  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Despite this, when the atmospheric temperature drops in the Arctic, a thick layer of seawater begins to freeze. What makes the oceans' ecology so intriguing is the amount of hidden life within - not just in its depths but dispersed across every level of the water column. One of the most important aspects of its rich biodiversity is the presence of micro-algae called phytoplankton, which form an essential component of the food chain. These single-celled plants not only provide nourishment to many marine animals, but also help to regulate the amount of tiny ice needles that start to form, creating a salt-free solution called 'frail ice'. As the temperature continues to fall, the frail ice thickens and traps pockets of salty water in its layers. In the summer, the ice melts and the surface cover can be reduced to half of what it was. It thrives during this time, when the sun is out day and night, but struggles to survive in the dark days of winter. Climate change is blamed for the increasing loss of sea ice throughout the Arctic Ocean, as well as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

Answer each question.

1. How much area does the Arctic Ocean cover?
2. Why the Arctic Ocean is the least explored?
3. What is the Arctic Ocean's surface temperature?
4. What is the most important aspect of its biodiversity?
5. What is the 'frail ice'?
6. What happens in summer in the Arctic Ocean?