

Read the passages and select the best answer for each question.

SWIFT SPIDER MONKEYS

Spider monkeys are a specific type of monkey that have long, thin arms, legs, and tails. In addition, spider monkeys range in a variety of colors, from black and brown to red and yellow. Some spider monkeys are even white! They can weigh up to 25 pounds and grow up to 18 inches. This does not include their tail, which can **amplify** their growth by another 36 inches. The ends of their tail do not contain any hair. Therefore the rigid skin on their tail allows them to easily clutch onto branches and food. This lets them use their tails as a fifth arm. Hence where the name spider monkeys came from!

These **diurnal** animals live in the canopy of the rainforest. They swing through the tops of trees, looking for forage during the day. Spider monkeys typically eat fruit and nuts. They live in **troops** with anywhere from 20-40 members. They tend to break apart during the day into smaller groups to stay safe from predators. As nighttime approaches, their moderate-sized group will become larger as an additional 5-8 spider monkeys join them to sleep in the tall trees of the rainforest.

Due to the fact that spider monkeys live and eat high up in the canopy, they don't have a **myriad** of predators. However, a few animals can be dangerous to the spider monkey. Babies can be apprehended by larger birds such as owls, hawks, and eagles. A few tree-climbing predators threaten spider monkeys, such as the anaconda, jaguar, pumas, and ocelots. However, the most significant **threat** to the spider monkey is humans, as we are taking over their habitats by logging and clearing their land. All seven species of spider monkeys are being threatened, most of which are either endangered or critically endangered. When the Europeans first settled in the New World, there were nearly 400,000 spider monkeys. Now there may be approximately only 400 left. Fortunately, many organizations are being founded to help protect the spider monkeys.

1. What does the word amplify mean in paragraph 1?

- a. To make louder
- b. To increase or boost
- c. To step up or raise
- d. To become more intense

2. Which of the following word(s) help to understand that diurnal in paragraph 2 means: daytime?

- a. "live in the canopy"
- b. "rainforest"
- c. "tops of the trees"
- d. "during the day"

3. Select the definition that BEST defines troops as it is used in the following sentence from paragraph 3:

They live in **troops** with anywhere from 20-40 members.

- a. A group of soldiers
- b. A flock of mammals
- c. A collection of people
- d. A basic organizational unit in Boy Scouts

4. Which phrase from paragraph 3 best helps to clarify the meaning of myriad?

- a. "live and eat high up in the canopy"
- b. "of predators"
- c. "There are a few animals"
- d. "be dangerous to the spider monkey"

5. Without changing the meaning of the sentence, which word can be used to replace the word threat in the following sentence:

However, the largest **threat** to the spider monkey are humans as we are taking over their habitats by logging and clearing their land.

- a. Hazard
- b. Protection
- c. Shelter
- d. Injury

KEY

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4. Which phrase from paragraph 3 best helps to clarify the meaning of **myriad**?

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C

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