

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

SLUGGISH SLOTHS

Sloths are slow-moving animals that make their homes in the trees of Central and South-America. Due to the fact they move at such a sluggish pace, they tend to conserve a lot of energy this way. It also takes sloths about a week to digest their food. They come down from the trees about once a week to **excrete** the waste from their body.

Another reason why they move so slowly is because of their **multi-chambered** stomach. Their stomachs are designed this way to help break down the tough cellulose in their foods. Unfortunately, due to the four sections of their stomach, it can take up to thirty days just to digest one leaf!

Sloths spend the majority of their lives hanging upside down from the canopy of the rainforests. Their amazing body structure is designed to accommodate this lifestyle. Many of their bodily organs are connected to their rib cage so there is no pressure on their lungs when they are **inverted** in the trees.

Another fascinating fact about sloths is that they can turn their heads almost completely in a circle! Sloths possess additional **vertebrae** at the bottom of their necks, allowing them to turn their heads 270 degrees! This unique feature allows them to see predators as they approach so they can start heading towards safety.

Even though sloths are the slowest animals on Earth, they **accelerate** quickly through the water. They can move three times as fast in water than on land. Another impressive fact about sloths is that they can hold their breath for 40 minutes!

1. What does the word **excrete** mean in paragraph 1?

- a. To discharge/get rid of
- b. To sweat
- c. To absorb/ soak up
- d. To Taste

2. Which phrase from paragraph 2 best helps to clarify the meaning of multi-chambered?

- a. "Their stomachs"
- b. " down the tough cellulose"
- c. "the four sections of their stomach"
- d. " 30 days just to digest one leaf!"

3. What does the word **inverted** mean in paragraph 3?

- a. Turned over
- b. Upset
- c. Regular
- d. Switched

4. A **vertebra** is most likely:

- a. A toe or finger
- b. A part of the spine
- c. Something to eat
- d. Something soft

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

Even though sloths are the slowest animals on Earth, they **accelerate** quickly through the water.

- a. Propel
- b. Brake
- c. Increase
- d. Dwindle

KEY

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