

Zoe Discovers Life in a Winter Forest

Grade 3

Science

Nonfiction

Winter wonderland Theme

~130 words

NGSS.3-LS4-3

Name: _____ Date: _____

 **READ — READ THIS PASSAGE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY READ IT TWICE.**

Zoe explored a snowy winter forest to learn about environments. She noticed the tall trees had dropped all their leaves. Bare branches reached up into the gray sky. Trees change when the weather around them changes. Cold air and snow are part of a winter ****environment****. Animals change too when winter arrives. Zoe spotted deer tracks pressed deep into the snow. Deer grow thick, heavy fur to stay warm in winter. Their bodies change to match the cold world around them. Zoe also found a frozen pond near the trees. She was surprised fish still lived under the thick ice. Cold water kept them safe from the freezing air above. Zoe discovered that plants, animals, and water all work together. Every living thing must find a way to survive winter.

 *Tip: Read the passage twice before turning to the questions on the next page.*

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Questions

 **ANSWER** USE THE PASSAGE ON PAGE 1 TO HELP FIND YOUR ANSWERS.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the passage say happens to deer when winter arrives? Use words from the passage in your answer.

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word environment mean as it is used in this passage?

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think Zoe was surprised to find fish living under the frozen pond ice?

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. In the passage, what causes the trees in the winter forest to lose their leaves?

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What does the passage say kept the fish safe from the cold air above the pond? Use words from the passage in your answer.

✓ ANSWER KEY — Zoe Discovers Life in a Winter Forest

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TEACHER / PARENT USE ONLY — Suggested answers shown below each question

Zoe explored a snowy winter forest to learn about environments. She noticed the tall trees had dropped all their leaves. Bare branches reached up into the gray sky. Trees change when the weather around them changes. Cold air and snow are part of a winter **environment**. Animals change too when winter arrives. Zoe spotted deer tracks pressed deep into the snow. Deer grow thick, heavy fur to stay warm in winter. Their bodies change to match the cold world around them. Zoe also found a frozen pond near the trees. She was surprised fish still lived under the thick ice. Cold water kept them safe from the freezing air above. Zoe discovered that plants, animals, and water all work together. Every living thing must find a way to survive winter.

MAIN IDEA

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about how plants, animals, and water in a winter forest all work together as an environment. Zoe explores the forest and learns how living things survive the cold.

TEXT EVIDENCE

2. What does the passage say happens to deer when winter arrives? Use words from the passage in your answer.

The passage says that deer change their bodies to survive the cold. It states, "Deer grow thick, heavy fur to stay warm in winter."

VOCABULARY

3. What does the word environment mean as it is used in this passage?

In this passage, environment means all the things in a place — like the air, snow, water, plants, and animals — that make up the world where living things survive. The passage shows that cold air and snow are part of a winter environment.

INFERENCE

4. Why do you think Zoe was surprised to find fish living under the frozen pond ice?

Zoe was probably surprised because the pond looked completely frozen and cold on top, so she did not expect anything to be alive inside it. She likely thought nothing could survive under ice, but the cold water actually kept the fish safe.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

5. In the passage, what causes the trees in the winter forest to lose their leaves?

The trees lose their leaves because the weather around them changes and gets cold. The passage explains that trees change when the weather around them changes, and cold air and snow become part of their winter environment.

TEXT EVIDENCE

6. What does the passage say kept the fish safe from the cold air above the pond? Use words from the passage in your answer.

The passage says the water itself protected the fish. It states, "Cold water kept them safe from the freezing air above."