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Read the article “Animal Homes” before answering Numbers 7 through 12.

## Animal Homes

Some animals live in open areas. When they get tired, they just lie down to sleep. Other animals use caves or hollowed-out trees as their homes. Various animals are able to build their own homes. Beavers, prairie dogs, alligators, and hornets all build their own places to live.

### Beavers

Beavers build a home called a lodge. Beavers move slowly on land but are quick in the water. So, they build their homes in water to stay safe. Beavers use their four long, sharp front teeth to cut down trees. They use trees and branches to make a dam. The dam blocks the flow of water in a stream and creates a pond. Then beavers build their lodge, which looks like a mountain of sticks and mud, in the pond. Other animals are unable to get inside the lodge because the entrance is under the water. Inside the lodge, the beavers are safe and sound, with a dry place to sleep and eat.



### Prairie Dogs

Another animal that builds its home is the prairie dog. Prairie dogs are members of the squirrel family, but they do not live in trees. These animals dig tunnels for a place to live. They make what is called a town, which is made of many tunnels and small rooms. Hundreds of prairie dogs live in the town together. They carry grass inside to make comfortable beds. Prairie dogs are secure in their towns because large animals cannot get inside. The towns stay cool on hot days. They also stay warm when it is cold outside.

### Alligators

Alligators build homes called nests. An alligator nest is built at the edge of the water. It is made of grass and mud. Some nests are about three feet high and six feet wide. The female alligator lays her eggs in the nest, which is a very special place because it is built to keep the eggs warm. The female covers the eggs with rotting plants. These rotting plants make heat.

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## Hornets

Another animal that makes its home in a nest is the hornet. Hornets are flying insects, much like bees. Hornets make big, round nests that look like gray balloons. The hornets make the nest by chewing wood that becomes soft and wet. After the pieces of wood dry, they become paper. Inside the nest, there are tiny cups. The eggs and the young hornets stay in these cups.

Animals' homes keep them safe, warm, and dry. Animals build homes for many of the same reasons that people build homes!

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Now answer Numbers 7 through 12. Base your answers on the article "Animal Homes."

- 7 Read this sentence from the story.

**Some animals live in open areas.**

If the word *animal* means "a living organism," then what does the word *animated* mean?

- (A) large
- (B) lazy
- (C) lively
- (D) organized

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- 8 Read this sentence from the article.

**Then beavers build their lodge, which looks like a mountain of sticks and mud, in the pond.**

Why does the author compare a beaver's lodge to a mountain in the sentence above?

- F to show how high they build the lodge
  - G to show where the lodge is in the pond
  - H to show that other animals cannot climb it
  - I to show what types of sticks and mud they use
- 9 How do beavers prevent other animals from getting inside their lodges?
- A They build the entrance under water.
  - B They use trees to block the entrance.
  - C They build lodges in fast-flowing water.
  - D They plug the entrance with sticks and mud.

- 10 Read this sentence from the article.

**Inside the lodge, the beavers are safe and sound, with a dry place to sleep and eat.**

What does the phrase *safe and sound* mean in the sentence above?

- F friendly
- G protected
- H quiet
- I strong

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- 11 Read this sentence from the article.

**Prairie dogs are secure in their towns because large animals cannot get inside.**

What does the word *secure* mean in the sentence above?

- Ⓐ calm
  - Ⓑ locked
  - Ⓒ safe
  - Ⓓ warm
- 12 Why does the female alligator cover her eggs with rotting plants?
- Ⓕ to keep the eggs hidden
  - Ⓖ to help keep the eggs warm
  - Ⓗ to provide food for her young
  - Ⓘ to help her remember where her nest is