



Fact and opinion

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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If something is *true*, or it *really happened*, it is a **fact**.

If something is *what someone thinks or believes*, it is an **opinion**.  
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As you read this story, think about what parts are **fact** and what parts are **opinion**.

Sloths

Sloths are the slowest-moving mammals on earth. It takes a full minute for a sloth to move 6 feet across the ground. You probably couldn't move that slowly if you tried! The sloth's body is about 2 feet long. It has long legs, and curved claws that are 3 to 4 inches long. Their claws and their long legs help them climb trees and hang from tree branches. They spend almost their entire lives hanging from tree branches. The life of a sloth is not very exciting.

Sloths have a round head, small ears, a stubby tail, and sad-looking eyes set in a dark-colored "mask." The shape of a sloth's mouth makes it look like it is always smiling. It has extra bones in its neck that make it possible for it to turn its head almost all the way around. Sloths don't put on much of a show, but they are very cute to look at.

Sloths' bodies are home to many tiny plants and creatures. Tiny plants grow on the sloth's fur, making sloths appear to be green. This makes the sloths almost invisible against the green leaves of the trees they live in. Moths and insects also live in the sloth's fur. Maybe the sloth doesn't even seem like an animal to these plants and creatures, because the sloth moves so little and so seldom.

Giant sloths the size of elephants once lived in many places on earth, including North America. Today, sloths can be found in the tropical forests of Central and South America. They eat leaves and berries. A sloth can stick its tongue out 12 inches. Maybe they developed this skill so they wouldn't have to move to reach the tasty leaves and berries around their resting spot. Their main enemies are jaguars, eagles, and snakes. Many tropical forests are disappearing, along with the sloths that live there. It would be a sad thing if these fascinating little animals became extinct.

Circle the word “fact” if it is *true* or it *really happened* in the story.
Circle the word “opinion” if it is *what someone thinks or believes*.

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| 1. Sloths are the slowest mammals on earth. | fact | opinion |
| 2. It takes a full minute for a sloth to move 6 feet across the ground. | fact | opinion |
| 3. You probably couldn't move that slowly if you tried! | fact | opinion |
| 4. Sloths spend almost their entire lives hanging from tree branches. | fact | opinion |
| 5. The life of a sloth is not very exciting. | fact | opinion |
| 6. Sloths have a round head, small ears, a stubby tail, and sad-looking eyes. | fact | opinion |
| 7. The shape of a sloth's mouth makes it look like it is always smiling. | fact | opinion |
| 8. A sloth can turn its head almost all the way around. | fact | opinion |
| 9. Sloths are cute to look at. | fact | opinion |
| 10. Tiny plants grow on the sloth's fur. | fact | opinion |
| 11. Moths and insects live in the sloth's fur. | fact | opinion |
| 12. Maybe the sloth doesn't even seem like an animal to the tiny plants and creatures that live in its fur. | fact | opinion |
| 13. Sloths live in the tropical forests of Central and South America. | fact | opinion |
| 14. Many tropical rainforests are disappearing. | fact | opinion |
| 15. It would be sad if sloths became extinct. | fact | opinion |

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16. What is one other **fact** from the story about sloths?

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## Answer Key

1. fact
2. fact
3. opinion
4. fact
5. opinion
6. fact
7. fact
8. fact
9. opinion
10. fact
11. fact
12. opinion
13. fact
14. fact
15. opinion
16. Accept any reasonable response.