



**PAWS
Reading
Grade 7**

**Released Items
With Data**

2009

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Read "A Colorful Puzzle" as if you were writing a report on animals and their environments. After reading the article, answer the question as if you were preparing to write your report.

A Colorful Puzzle



- 1 People often wear clothing with colors that express something about themselves. A happy person might choose to wear a bright yellow shirt. A swimmer might wear a sea-blue dress. A person with a sense of humor might choose an orange-and-purple tie.
- 2 Animals appear in different colors too, but they don't get to pick what they wear every morning as we do. Scientists have known for a long time about some of the ways animal coloring can be beneficial. They know that some animals' colors attract mates or show who is boss. Other animals' colors blend in with their environment; that way the animals cannot be seen by their enemies. Still, scientists do not fully understand why blue jays are blue or why rainforest frogs are golden. Now many scientists are working hard to figure out the puzzling array of animal colors.
- 3 Part of the answer can be found in an animal's habitat, or the place it lives. It turns out that many animals—especially birds, fish, and reptiles—can see more colors than humans can. These creatures notice colors that stand out in their habitat. For example, forests are mostly green, brown, and yellow. For an animal to be seen by others of its species, it would have to be a different color than its background. That explains why you can find birds of many shades of blue living in forests.

- 4 Another piece of the puzzle lies in what an animal eats. Birds often eat things that have chemicals in them called “carotenoids.” These chemicals are what make tomatoes red and bell peppers bright orange or yellow. When birds eat these foods, the carotenoids affect the color of their feathers. For example, a cardinal’s bright red feathers will become lighter or darker depending on how many berries it has found to eat. Flamingos would not be pink without the carotenoids in their shellfish diet.
- 5 Some animals do not have any color at all—but they are not just white; they are transparent! Transparent animals live mostly in the ocean. This amazing marvel of nature came about because the animals needed a way to escape their enemies. They are often slow, defenseless creatures that would have no way of fighting back if larger prey wanted to eat them. Because there are few places to hide in the ocean, these creatures have to hide in plain sight. A good example of this kind of transparent creature is the jellyfish. A jellyfish’s body is almost all water, so it is very hard to see it floating in the ocean.
- 6 Animals come in all kinds of colors, from the red, yellow, and green parrot in the rainforest, to the basic black crow, to the almost invisible sea worm. Their colors are caused by many different factors, and most animals will remain the same color for their whole lives. Think how lucky we are to get to change our feathers every day!

3336395

What is the main idea of this article?

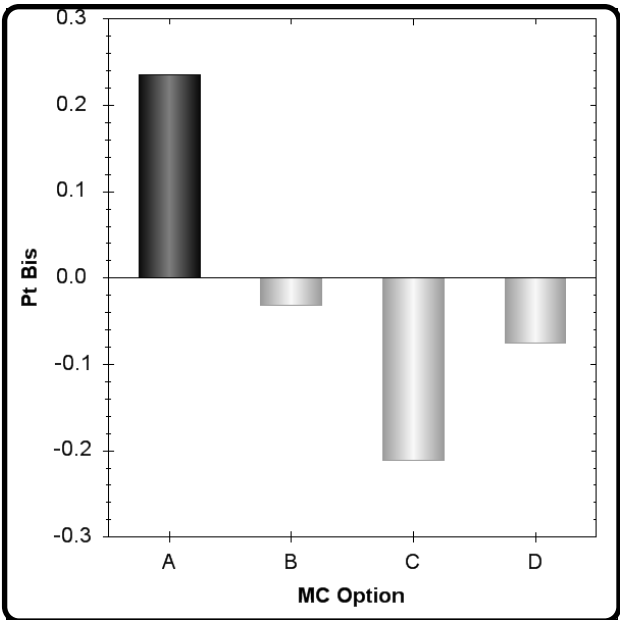
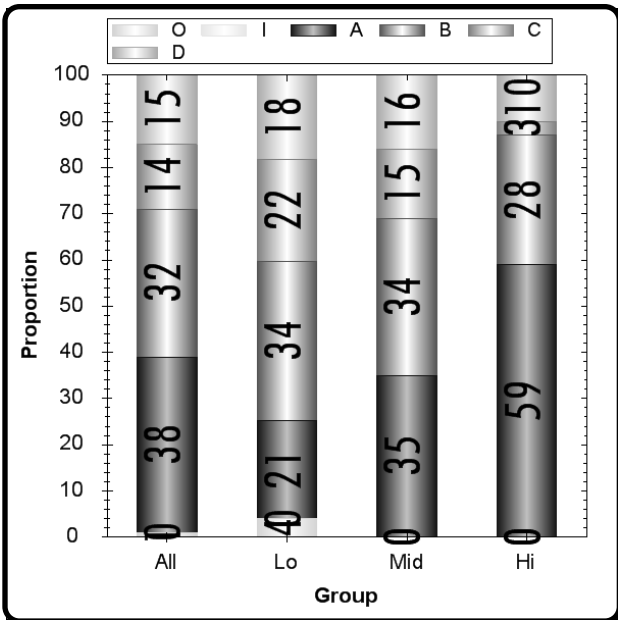
- A.** Animal colors are caused by different factors.
- B.** Animals appear in many different colors.
- C.** Animals need color to blend into their surroundings.
- D.** Animals are unable to choose their colors.

Grade 7 Reading CID 3336395
 Item # 15 Administration OP07
 R.07.E.1
 Psg : A Colorful Puzzle (EXP OP2006,2007)

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	A	4385	0.385	0.236

	A	B	C	D	Omit	Invalid
All	38	32	14	15	1	0
Low Scorers	21	34	22	18	4	0
Middle Scorers	35	34	15	16	0	0
High Scorers	59	28	3	10	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
0.236	-0.032	-0.211	-0.075



Notes:
 Low discrimination. Check item and key (if MC item) for ambiguity.

3336392

According to the article, what is most likely the reason many forest-living birds are shades of blue?

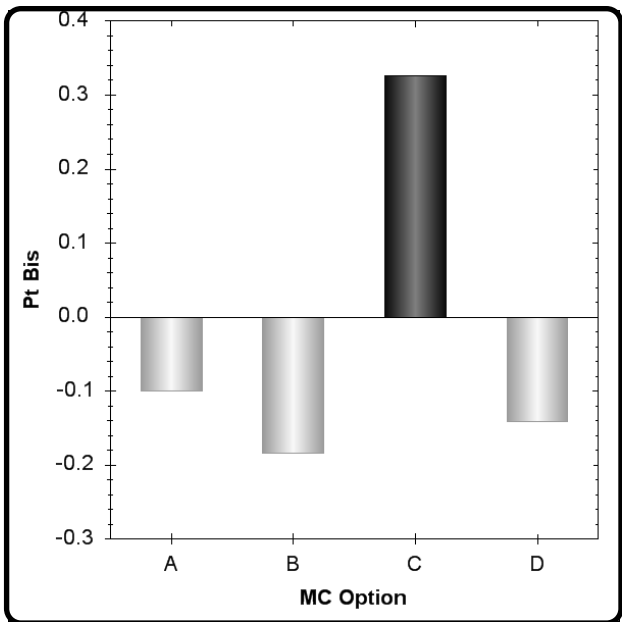
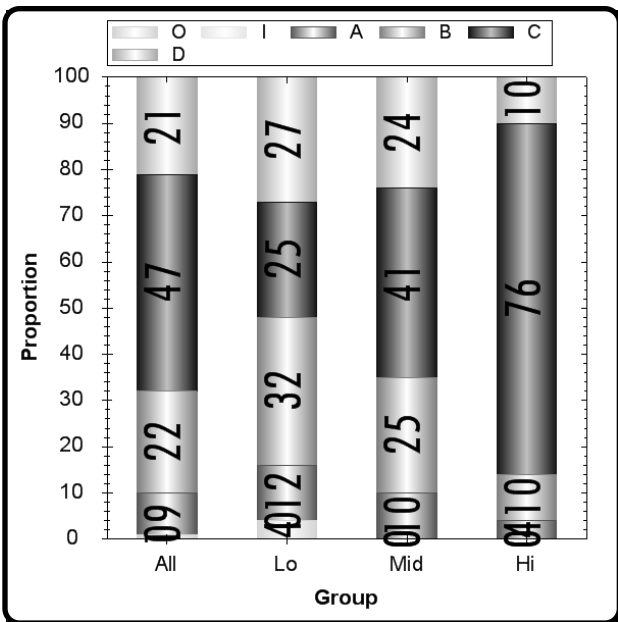
- A.** It shows which bird is the leader.
- B.** It allows them to escape enemies.
- C.** It helps other birds to see them.
- D.** It reveals where they live.

Grade 7 Reading CID 3336392
 Item # 14 Administration OP07
 R.07.E.1
 Psg : A Colorful Puzzle (EXP OP2006,2007)

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	C	4384	0.471	0.326

	A	B	C	D	Omit	Invalid
All	9	22	47	21	1	0
Low Scorers	12	32	25	27	4	0
Middle Scorers	10	25	41	24	0	0
High Scorers	4	10	76	10	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.100	-0.184	0.326	-0.141



Notes:
 White students may perform better on this item as compared to Am. Indian students. (B)
 Non LEP students may perform better on this item as compared to LEP students. (C)

3336404

Which reason for animal coloring most closely matches the reason why athletes wear uniforms during a game?

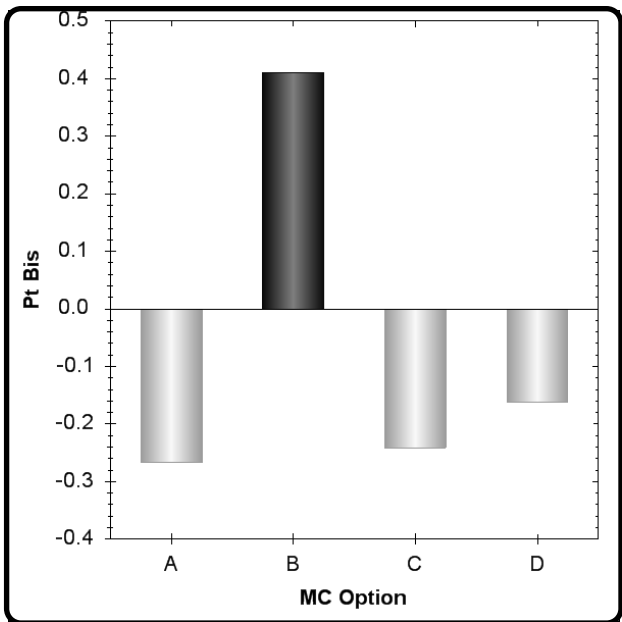
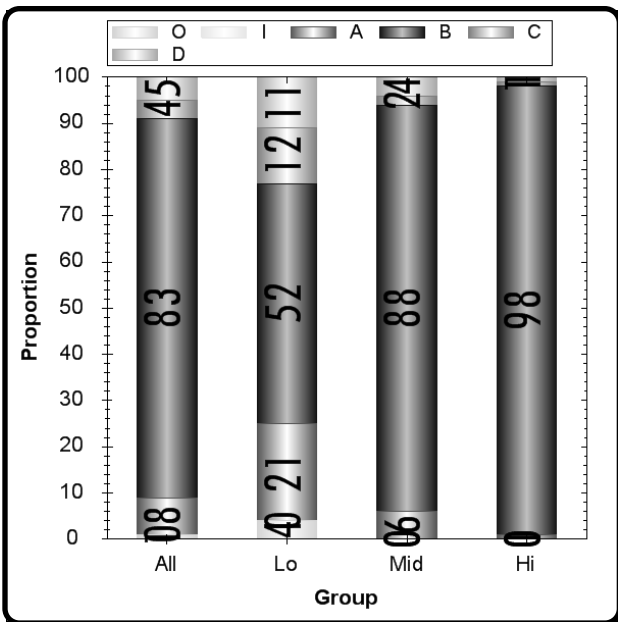
- A.** To blend with the environment
- B.** To identify group members
- C.** To distinguish the group leader
- D.** To express personality traits

Grade 7 **Reading** **CID 3336404**
Item # 17 **R.07.E.3** **Administration OP07**
Psg : A Colorful Puzzle **(EXP OP2006,2007)**

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	B	4385	0.838	0.411

	A	B	C	D	Omit	Invalid
All	8	83	4	5	1	0
Low Scorers	21	52	12	11	4	0
Middle Scorers	6	88	2	4	0	0
High Scorers	1	98	1	1	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
-0.267	0.411	-0.241	-0.163



Notes:

Non SPED students may perform better on this item as compared to SPED students. (C)

3336399

What organizational pattern does the author use in this article?

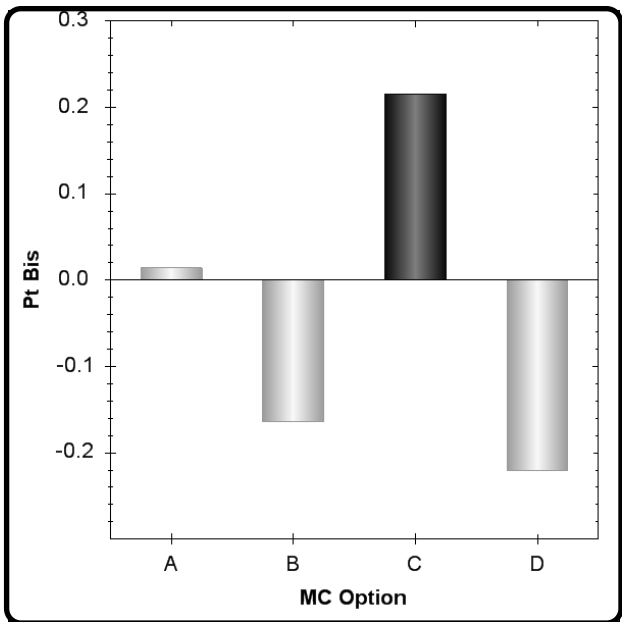
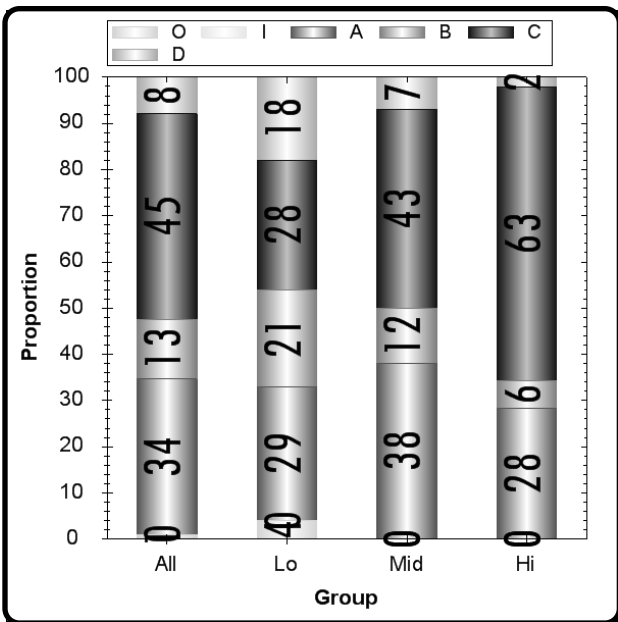
- A.** Comparisons
- B.** Order of importance
- C.** Explanations
- D.** Order of events

Grade 7 **Reading** **CID 3336399**
Item # 16 **R.07.E.2** **Administration OP07**
Psg : A Colorful Puzzle **(EXP OP2006,2007)**

Type	Max Points	Correct Answer	N Count	Item Mean	Discrimination
Multiple Choice	1	C	4383	0.454	0.216

	A	B	C	D	Omit	Invalid
All	34	13	45	8	1	0
Low Scorers	29	21	28	18	4	0
Middle Scorers	38	12	43	7	0	0
High Scorers	28	6	63	2	0	0

MC Item Option Discriminations			
A	B	C	D
0.014	-0.164	0.216	-0.221



Notes:

Low discrimination. Check item and key (if MC item) for ambiguity.

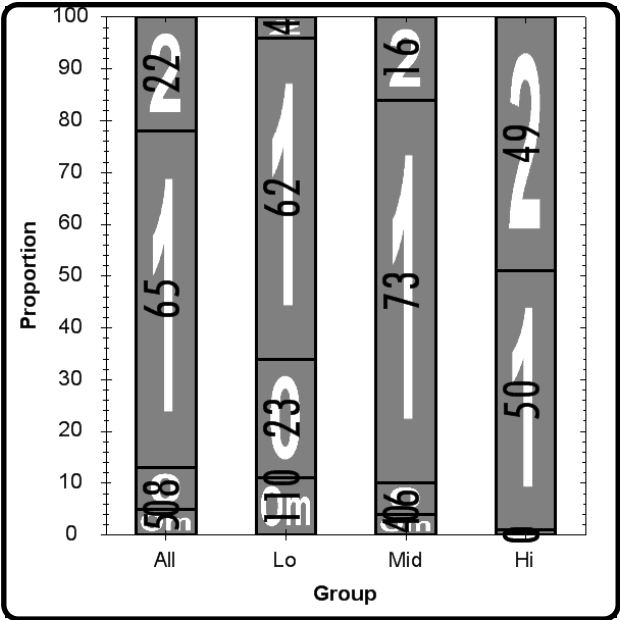
Option A has positive discrimination. Check option for ambiguity/correctness.

Explain why "A Colorful Puzzle" is a good title for this article. Use details from the article for support.

Grade 7 Reading CID 3336400
 Item # 18 Administration OP07
 R.07.E.1
 Psg : A Colorful Puzzle (EXP OP2006,2007)

Type Max Points N Count Item Mean Discrimination
 Open Ended 2 4219 1.141 0.423

	0	1	2	Omit	Invalid
All	8	65	22	5	0
Low Scorers	23	62	4	11	0
Middle Scorers	6	73	16	4	0
High Scorers	1	50	49	0	0



Notes:

