

Name _____

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns show who or what owns, or possesses, something. *My, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its, our, ours, their, and theirs* are possessive pronouns.

- Use *my, your, her, our,* and *their* before nouns.
Is that your cat? It was her gerbil. They pet our dog.
- Use *mine, yours, hers, ours,* and *theirs* alone.
The cat is yours. That gerbil is hers. The dog is ours.
- *His* and *its* can be used both before nouns and alone.
He lost his ferret. The ferret is his.
The dog lost its collar. The collar is its.
- Do not use an apostrophe with a possessive pronoun.

Directions Replace the underlined words or phrases with possessive pronouns. Rewrite the sentences.

1. An ant colony relies on the ant colony's queen.

2. Both males and females have wings on the males' and females' bodies.

3. The queen ant flies to a new location to start a colony and then sheds the queen's wings.

4. Ants are very strong for ants' size and can carry 25 times ants' weight.

5. Most of us think that ants are pests to be swept out of most of us's way.



Home Activity Your child learned about possessive pronouns. Ask your child to make up sentences about objects at home that belong to him or her, to the family, and to others. Have your child identify the possessive pronouns he or she uses.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 11 through 15.

BUSY BUILDERS

by George Laycock



- 1 A farmer in Minnesota had a big surprise one morning when he looked out his kitchen window. His beautiful cornfield had turned into a muddy lake.
- 2 The farmer rushed out to his truck and hurried to the creek. He discovered that, during the night, a family of beavers had moved in and built a fine new dam across the creek. It was working perfectly, too. Hardly a drop of water was getting through!
- 3 The farmer spent many hours tearing down the dam. Finally, the water ran out of his cornfield and back to the flowing creek.
- 4 That night, the beavers built a new dam. Every night, after the farmer had torn down the dam, the beavers rebuilt it. They used up the trees and the brush. Then, they snipped off all of the farmer's corn to build one last dam of cornstalks.
- 5 When they finally moved on, they left behind a farmer who never wanted to see such hard-working beavers again!
- 6 How does the beaver do it? It sits up on its short hind legs, using its wide, flat tail for balance. It gnaws away at the wood with its long, sharp front teeth until the tree begins to crack. As the tree falls, the beaver dives into the water to keep from being hit!
- 7 Next, the beaver cuts the tree into smaller pieces that it can push or pull through the water. The lakes and ponds created by beaver dams also provide homes for many other animals.
- 8 The beaver feels very safe in the water, where it can escape from wolves, bobcats, bears, and other predators. It can stay underwater for 15 minutes without coming up for air. The beaver's feet have webs between the toes, which make each foot a strong paddle for swimming. Thick, waterproof fur protects the beaver from the cold.
- 9 In the water, the beaver uses its flat tail to help it steer, like a rudder on a boat. When an enemy comes around, the beaver lifts its heavy tail and slaps it on top of the water. This makes a loud cracking sound that warns other beavers to dive into safe water.
- 10 Beavers always seem to be busy cutting trees and building dams or beaver homes. Often they work at night so they can stay out of the way of people. Sometimes, they can be very helpful to people. Wildlife rangers in New Jersey once wanted to flood an area. They wanted to create a new nesting area for water birds. Human experts said it would cost \$25,000.
- 11 Then, a family of beaver "experts" moved in and built a dam for free! Everyone, including the beavers and birds, was happy.

11 How are the first five paragraphs of the article organized?

- A** A question is asked and then answered.
- B** Two sides of an argument are presented.
- C** Events are placed in the order they happened.
- D** Events are listed from most important to least important.

12 Which information would fit **best** in paragraphs 6 through 9?

- A** how beavers build their homes in ponds
- B** how humans design and construct dams
- C** how farm crops are damaged by flooding
- D** how nesting areas are built for water birds

13 How is the farmer's reaction to the beavers different from the wildlife rangers' reaction?

- A** The farmer ignores the beavers' work.
- B** The farmer is jealous of the beavers' work.
- C** The farmer is angry about the beavers' work.
- D** The farmer is excited to see the beavers' work.

14 Why did the beavers move from the creek near the farmer's field?

- A** The water in the creek had dried up.
- B** The farmer had chased the beavers away.
- C** The beavers had used up all the resources.
- D** The water birds had moved into the creek.

15 The wildlife rangers in New Jersey would **most likely** describe the beavers as

- A** amusing
- B** expensive
- C** troublesome
- D** useful

Go On

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 16 through 21.

Treasure in the Field

A Vietnamese folktale

Retold by Marilyn Bolchunos

Once there was an old man who lived with his two young sons on a farm in Vietnam. The mother of the boys had died. Since the old man had to tend the field, the boys took care of the house. That is, they were supposed to take care of the house, but they were lazy.

Often the father returned home to find that nothing had been done—he even had to cook dinner.

“What have you been doing all day, Ta?” he would ask his older son.

“Studying, Father, and thinking,” Ta would reply.

“And what have you been doing, Hai, my young son?” the father would ask.

“Watching the house for you,” Hai would answer.

A neighbor asked the old man, “Are your sons helping you?”

“Oh, they would,” the father answered, “but they are young, and they miss their mother.”

Some years later, the neighbor asked, “Aren’t your sons helping you in the field?”

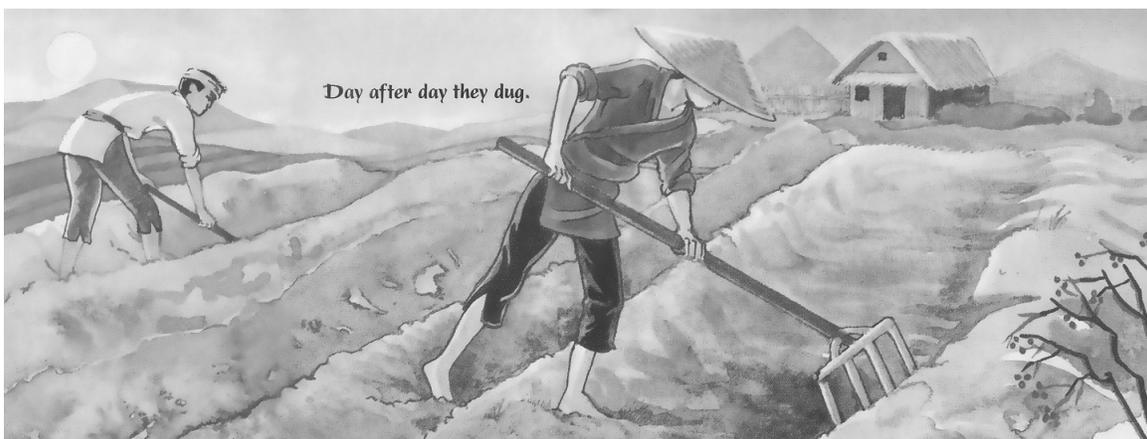
“Oh, they would,” the father replied again, “but they are still young. I will let them enjoy life now. They will help me later on.”

As the years went by, it became clear even to their father that the boys were lazy. Though they sometimes tended the field with him, they always made excuses to go home early.

Finally the father grew too old to work, and he took to his bed. The sons were sad, for they not only depended on their father, but they also loved him.

One day the old man called Ta and Hai to his side and said weakly, “I have a secret to tell you, my sons. Bend close.”

Hai and Ta leaned over to hear the secret.



“Before your mother died,” the old man said, “we learned that there is treasure buried in the field. It’s still there, but you must dig for it.”

The sons’ eyes widened.

“Treasure in the field?” Ta said.

“Where?” asked Hai.

“Dig for it, and you will find it,” said their father. “But promise me that you will share it equally.”

The sons promised and hurried out to begin. Day after day they dug. Their neighbor was astonished to see how long and hard the young men worked. As for Ta and Hai, they felt stronger and better than ever before.

At last, the entire field had been dug, but no treasure had been found. The brothers moped around with their heads down.

Finally an idea came to Ta. “The land is ready for planting,” he said to his brother. “And our

rice is almost gone. You take one half of the field, and I’ll take the other. We’ll tend it just as Father did.”

The days passed and the seedlings grew. In due time, the field gave an abundant harvest. There was rice to eat and rice to sell.

When the sons took the rice to the marketplace, it brought a good price.

Excited, Ta and Hai ran back to the house and approached their father’s bedside. They dropped coins into the old man’s hands.

“Look, Father,” said Hai. “We have sold rice and brought you gold!”

“Yes,” said Ta. “Just as you said, the treasure was in the field.”

The old man smiled. They had learned his secret.

16 Which word **best** describes the father in the story?

- A** lazy
- B** sad
- C** wealthy
- D** wise

17 At first, the father ignores his sons’ unwillingness to work in the field because

- A** he likes to work in the field by himself
- B** his sons are young and miss their mother
- C** his sons are busy taking care of the house
- D** he thinks studying is more important than working

Go On

18 Read these sentences from the story.

In due time, the field gave an abundant harvest. There was rice to eat and rice to sell.

In the first sentence, the word “abundant” means

- A** average
- B** flavorful
- C** important
- D** plentiful

19 The rice in the story is a “treasure” because it is

- A** hard to find
- B** shared equally
- C** sold for gold coins
- D** buried in the ground

20 Which statement **best** describes why this story is a folktale?

- A** It is about people and events from the author’s life.
- B** It is about the lives and beliefs of common people.
- C** It is about a real event in ancient history.
- D** It is about people in a faraway place.