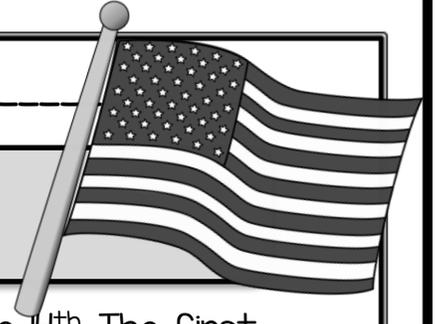


Name _____

Date _____

Flag Day



Flag Day is an American holiday celebrated on June 14th. The first Flag Day was started by a schoolteacher in 1885. He wanted his students to learn more about the importance and meaning of the American flag. He chose June 14th because this was the day in 1777 when the Stars and Stripes became the official flag of the United States. At that time, the flag had thirteen stars and stripes.

Many people will fly their American flag on this day. It is important to always show respect for the flag and know the proper way to handle it. For example, the flag should never touch the ground or be worn as clothing. When the American flag is flown with other flags, it should always be higher than the others. On some days, such as Memorial Day, you may see the flag flown at *half staff*. This means the flag is flown lower on the pole when there has been a death or tragedy. Finally, when a flag is too old and worn to fly anymore, it should be burned in a respectable and proper way.

1. How is the flag today different from the flag in 1777? _____

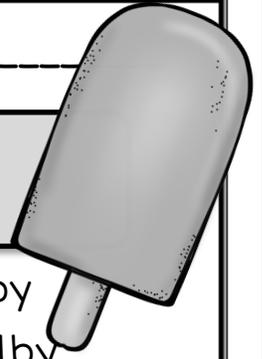
2. Why do you think the flag is burned when it can no longer be used?

3. What does *half staff* mean? _____

Name _____

Date _____

Popsicles!



Do you like popsicles? Did you know they were invented by a kid? Not only were they invented by a kid, but it happened by accident! One night in 1905, an 11 year old boy from California named Frank Epperson made a drink for himself by stirring some soda powder with a cup of water. Later, he left the drink outside and went to bed. With the stick still inside the cup, the drink froze during the cold night. When Frank woke up, he had a frozen drink on a stick!

Frank continued to make them for others and later started selling them. He called them *epsicles*. Later, his own children changed the name to *popsicles*. As you know, popsicles are still very popular today. The cherry popsicle, the most popular flavor, even has its own day. August 26th is National Cherry Popsicle Day.

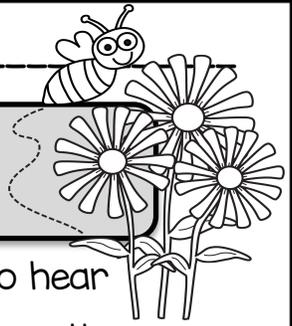
1. What did Frank do *before* he went to bed that cold night?

2. Why is the popsicle called an “accidental invention”?

3. More than 100 years later, popsicle are still popular. Why do you think they are such a popular food? _____

Name _____

Date _____



Buzzing Bees!

We know that summer is almost here when we start to hear those buzzing bees. Although many people are afraid of bees, they are very important to have around. Without them, we would not have honey and there would be less fruit and vegetable plants for us to eat.

In the warm weather, we see bees flying among the flowers looking for food. They are collecting nectar and spreading pollen. Nectar is a sweet, sticky liquid that bees use to make honey. Pollen is a powder made by some plants. As bees carry pollen from one flower to another, seeds begin to grow. This is called *pollination*. When a bee finds nectar or pollen, it does a dance for the other bees to let them know where to find the food.

As for those stinging bees, only female bees have stingers. They usually sting when they are trying to protect themselves or their hive. The most common bee, the honeybee, dies soon after stinging. That is because the stinger, which is attached to the bee's abdomen, gets pulled out of the bee's body after getting stuck in the victim's skin.

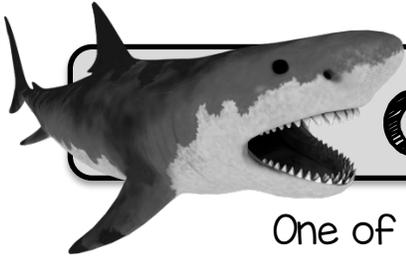
1. Why are bees important insects? _____

2. What is *pollination*? _____

3. What happens to a honeybee after it stings? _____

Name _____

Date _____



Great White Sharks

One of the most feared animals in the world is the shark and the shark most people are afraid of is the great white shark. It gets its name from its white belly. The top of the great white is gray which helps it blend in with the rocky bottom of the ocean. Although some fish are bigger, like the whale shark, the great white can grow up to 20 feet long. Unlike the calm, slow whale shark that feeds on tiny fish and plants, the great white is speedy and aggressive. A great white's prey includes sea lions, seals, sea turtles and rays. They use their razor sharp teeth, not to chew, but to rip their prey into small pieces. They have hundreds of teeth that can grow up to three inches long. The great white does not have many predators in the ocean except for orcas and larger sharks. Humans, however, are its biggest threat. Sharks often get caught in fishing nets or humans kill them for their fins or teeth.

1. How do great white sharks hide from predators? _____

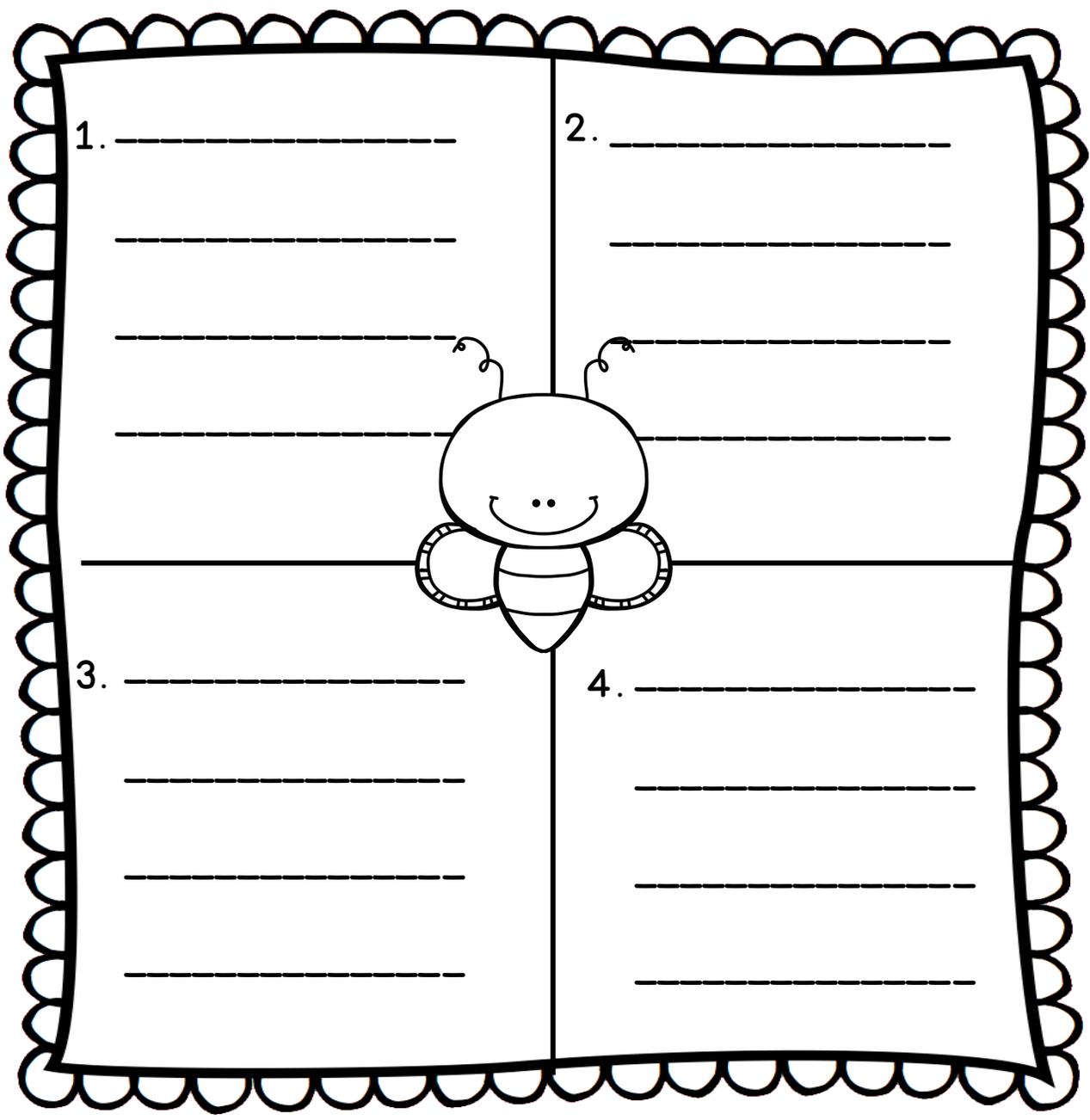
2. Name one way a great white is different from a whale shark.

3. How are humans harmful to great white sharks? _____

Name _____

Date _____

Write 4 facts that you have learned from your reading passages.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

