**Informational Texts – Explanatory vs. Opinion**

**Learning Standards**

**5.RI.KID.1:** Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**5.RI.KID.2:** Determine the central idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text. (6.RI.KID.2: …provide an *objective* summary)

**5.RI.CS.5:** Compare and contrast the overall structure of events, ideas, and concepts of information in two or more texts.

**5.RI.CS.6:** Analyze the similarities and differences in points of view of multiple accounts of the same event or topic.

**5.RI.IKI.8:** Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which points.

*DIRECTIONS: Read and annotate the article, making notes in the margins.*

 **Issue Overview: Animal Testing** by ProCon.org, adapted by Newsela staff (11/16/2016)
 Source: animal-testing.procon.org

In the United States, an estimated 26 million animals are used in experiments each year. Animals are used to develop medical treatments. They are also used to check the safety of medicines and cosmetics, like makeup and shampoo.

Supporters say animal testing has led to many life-saving treatments. They say there is no other way to research how products will affect humans. They also say that strict rules keep animals from being treated badly.

Opponents say it is cruel to experiment on animals. They say that researchers can use other methods instead of animal testing. They also argue that animals are so different from humans that the results are often useless.

**Regulations**

In the United States, the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) was passed in 1966. It sets rules for how lab animals must be treated.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported that in 2010, 1,134,693 animals were used for testing. That number doesn't include farm animals, or animals like lizards or rats.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in charge of making sure new medicines are safe. It says that drug companies must test new drugs on at least two species, or types, of animals.

**Public Opinion**

In 1965, Sports Illustrated magazine wrote about a pet dog that was kidnapped and sold to a lab. The story sparked the anti-testing and animal rights movements in the U.S.

A May 2013 Gallup poll found that nearly 6 out of 10 Americans said medical testing on animals should be allowed. Four out of 10 said it was wrong. Younger Americans are less likely to support animal testing than older Americans.

 **Early History**
The ancient Greeks experimented on live animals as early as 500 B.C., about 2,500 years ago. Writings from the time described how early scientists dissected live animals. They cut them up to see how living creatures worked.

English doctor William Harvey (1578-1657) also experimented on living animals. He discovered that the heart, and not the lungs, pumped blood through the body.

**Animal Testing in the 1800s and Early 1900s**

In the 1800s, more people began adopting pets. People in England began speaking out against experimenting on live animals.

Claude Bernard was a French scientist who supported animal testing. In 1865, he argued that experimenting on animals should be allowed. It helped medicine and enabled people to live longer, he said.

Queen Victoria was against animal testing in England. Soon the anti-testing movement grew strong. It pushed lawmakers to pass laws about using animals for research.

In 1959, scientists William Russell and Rex Burch published "The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique." It laid out the "Three Rs" for using animals in research. These are replacement, reduction and refinement. Replacement means scientists should use other methods instead of animals when they can. Reductions means they should use as few animals as possible. Refinement means they should improve the animals' living conditions so they do not suffer as much. The "Three Rs" are part of the Animal Welfare Act. They are the basis for many international animal rights laws.

**The Modern Debate**

In 1975, Australian philosopher Peter Singer published a book called "Animal Liberation." He wrote that humans are not superior to animals. To think that way is similar to racism, Singer said. He predicted that one day people will feel the same horror about animal testing as they do today about slavery.

In 1981, the animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) discovered that monkeys were being kept in terrible conditions at a Maryland laboratory. The animals were so scared they were hurting themselves. PETA took pictures of this. The lab's director was charged with more than a dozen animal cruelty offenses.

The National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences came out with a report in 2007. It said that scientists should test drugs on cells, instead of on animals. It did say that testing on animals would continue for a while longer, though. Science is not yet advanced enough to use only cells for testing, the report said.

In 2013, the European Union banned the sale of makeup that had been tested on animals. The United States still allows the testing. China says that all makeup must be tested on animals. China is the only country that actually requires this.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) stopped breeding chimpanzees for research in 2007. Since 2013, it has retired all 360 chimpanzees to a chimpanzee sanctuary. **Immediate Reaction/Discussion Questions
1. What did you learn from the article that you didn’t know before? (Notes/bullet points are fine!)**
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**2. What questions do you still have about the topic? (At least two!)**
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**Text-Dependent Questions**

 **1.** Read the paragraph from the section "Animal Testing in the 1800s and Early 1900s.

Queen Victoria was against animal testing in England. Soon the anti-testing movement grew strong. It pushed lawmakers to pass laws about using animals for research.

Which word from the paragraph matches the meaning of the prefix "anti" in "anti-testing"?

**A.** against **B.** strong **C.** animals **D.** research

**2.** Read the sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-3].

They also say that strict rules keep animals from being treated badly.

Which of the following words could BEST replace the word "strict" WITHOUT changing the meaning of the sentence?

**A.** angry **B.** written **C.** firm **D.** punishing

**3.** Which selection from the article BEST supports the perspective that animal testing has helped doctors learn about the human body?

**A.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is in charge of making sure new medicines are safe. It says that drug companies must test new drugs on at least two species, or types, of animals. **B.** The ancient Greeks experimented on live animals as early as 500 B.C., about 2,500 years ago. Writings from the time described how early scientists dissected live animals. They cut them up to see how living creatures worked. **C.** English doctor William Harvey (1578-1657) also experimented on living animals. He discovered that the heart, and not the lungs, pumped blood through the body. **D.** It did say that testing on animals would continue for a while longer, though. Science is not yet advanced enough to use only cells for testing, the report said.

**4.** Based on the section "The Modern Debate," what is China's perspective on animal testing?

**A.** China strongly opposes it.

**B.** China strongly supports it.

**C.** China is reconsidering it.

**D.** China is undecided about it.

**Summarize the Text**

Write a brief, objective summary of the article. Your summary should be **at least 8 sentences**. Do NOT include your own opinion on the topic! Simply state the central idea and list key supporting details from the article.

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