

STUDENT NAME _____



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

GRADE 3
Reading Language Arts
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered Spring 2025
RELEASED

READING LANGUAGE ARTS

Sport Climbing



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Sport climbers use their arms and legs as they climb up a climbing wall.

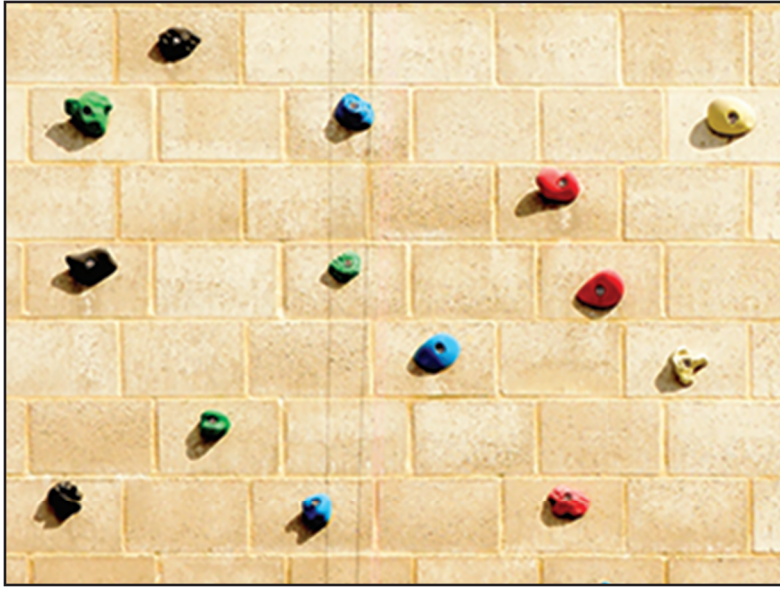
2a



© alexbrylovhk/stock.adobe.com

Athletes competed in sport climbing for the first time at the 2020 Olympics. In this sport, people climb walls with footholds for their feet and handholds that climbers use to pull themselves up.

2b



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Athletes compete in three different sport climbing events at the Olympics. The athlete with the lowest scores in all three events wins first place and the Olympic gold medal.



Bouldering is one of the three sport climbing events. In nature, large rocks called boulders come in all shapes, which makes them difficult to climb. In bouldering, there are different ways to get up the wall. Climbers must solve difficult climbing problems as they plan each move of the climb. The climber who solves the most problems before the time runs out wins.

lowest scores

large rocks

climbing problems

4a



Jenny Evans/Getty Images

Speed climbing is another sport climbing event in the Olympics. It is a race between two climbers who climb up a wall side by side. The climbers put on safety ropes and wait at the bottom for the signal to start the race. The climber who reaches the top of the wall first wins.

Lead climbing is the third sport climbing event. Before the event, climbers have only a few minutes to look at the wall and plan their climb. Climbers must wear a safety rope as they climb. They attach their rope to metal loops on the wall so they can swing from one hold to another.

4a



Maja Hitić/Getty Images

Sport climbers must be able to keep going even when they are tired. They cannot give up, even if they feel sore or discouraged. If they work hard and keep going, they might become Olympic sport climbing champions.

The climbers put on safety ropes and wait at the bottom for the signal to start the race.

Before the event, climbers have only a few minutes to look at the wall and plan their climb.

If they work hard and keep going, they might become Olympic sport climbing champions.

Pecan Trees



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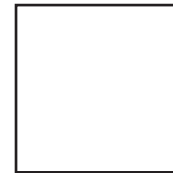
The pecan tree is the state tree of Texas.



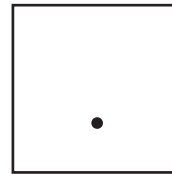
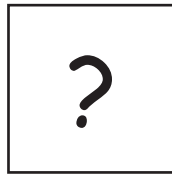
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Pecan trees can grow to be taller than 100 feet.

Did you know that they can live for more than 300 years



6b





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Pecans grow on trees. They are fruits covered by green shells with a seed inside.

Pecans

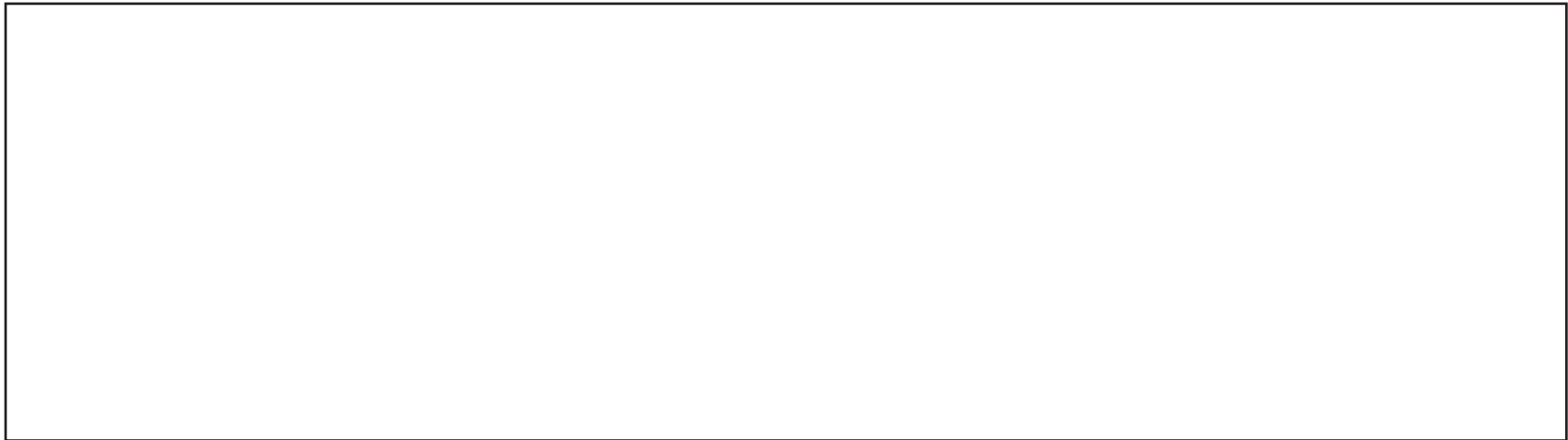
Trees

Shells



© KarepaStock/Shutterstock.com

Pecans were an important food for American Indians who lived in Texas hundreds of years ago.



They **take** pecans with them when they traveled to have something to eat when they could not find food.

They **took** pecans with them when they traveled to have something to eat when they could not find food.

They taking pecans with them when they traveled to have something to eat when they could not find food.

Making the World a More Colorful Place



© Julie Clopper/Shutterstock.com

Every day, children sit down with pieces of paper and draw pictures with crayons from a yellow-and-green box.

10a



© Shutterstock.com/Jeffrey P Miller

Children have crayons today because the Binney and Smith company started making crayons more than 100 years ago. The first boxes cost five cents and had only eight colors—blue, red, green, yellow, orange, black, brown, and purple. Kids still love to color and draw with crayons because the bright colors do not make a messy dust as chalk does.

five cents

ten cents

Eventually the Binney and Smith company changed its name to Crayola. Years after the first box of eight crayons, Crayola began selling a box of crayons with more colors than any other box. This new box had 48 crayons, in rows that children could see all at once when they opened the box.

11a



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Kids loved the big boxes of crayons, and they wanted even more colors. So Crayola made an even bigger box that had 64 colors and a built-in sharpener.



AP Photo/Matt Rourke

Eventually the Binney and Smith company changed its name to Crayola.

This new box had 48 crayons, in rows that children could see all at once when they opened the box.

Kids loved the big boxes of crayons, and they wanted even more colors.



© Julie Clopper/Shutterstock.com

For many years, kids have been drawing with Crayola crayons. Their parents and grandparents probably did too. Since the company began, there have been more than 400 Crayola colors.

As new colors are added, old colors must be taken away. Crayola asks kids which colors are their favorites to help determine which colors to keep and which to retire. Today there are 120 colors. Crayola crayons continue to make the world a more colorful place!

taken away

their favorites

help determine

Linda wears a mask when she goes snorkeling.



Linda wears a diving mask when she goes snorkeling in the ocean.



Alicia is wearing a diving mask.



A snorkel is the breathing tube on a diving mask.

A snorkel is the breathing tube on a diving mask?



Jamie and her brothers like to go snorkeling.

They wear diving masks that help them see underwater.

Them wear diving masks that help them see underwater.

Her wear diving masks that help them see underwater.



Alex wears a diving mask and a snorkel so that he can stay underwater for a long time. He watch the colorful fish that live underwater.

He watching the colorful
fish that live underwater.

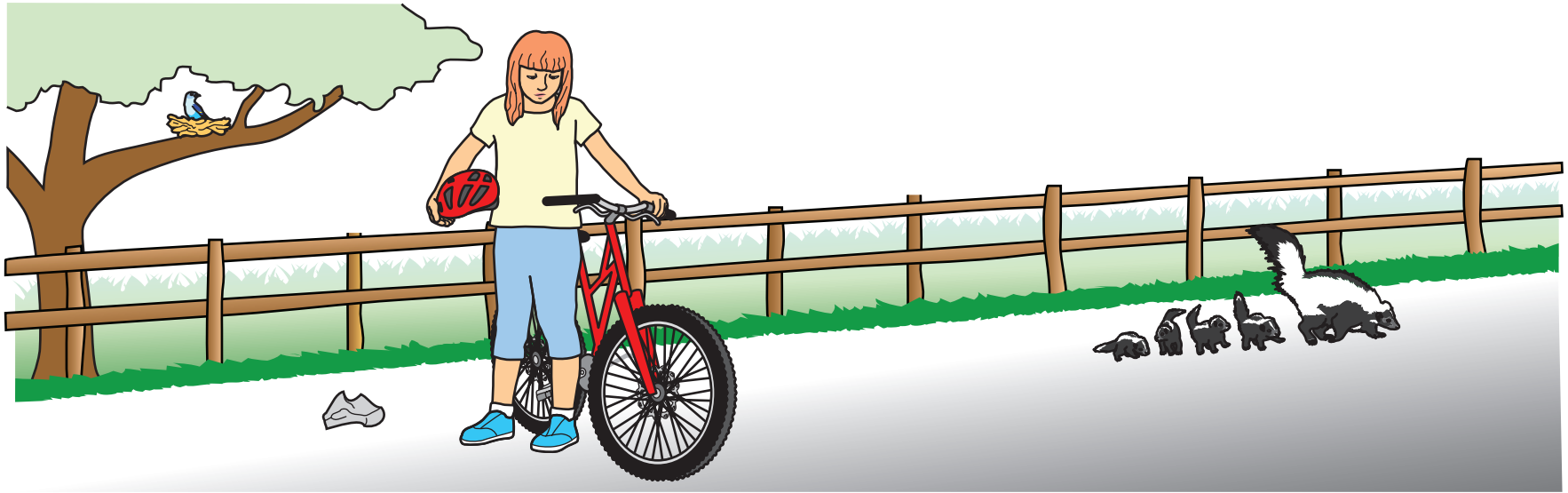
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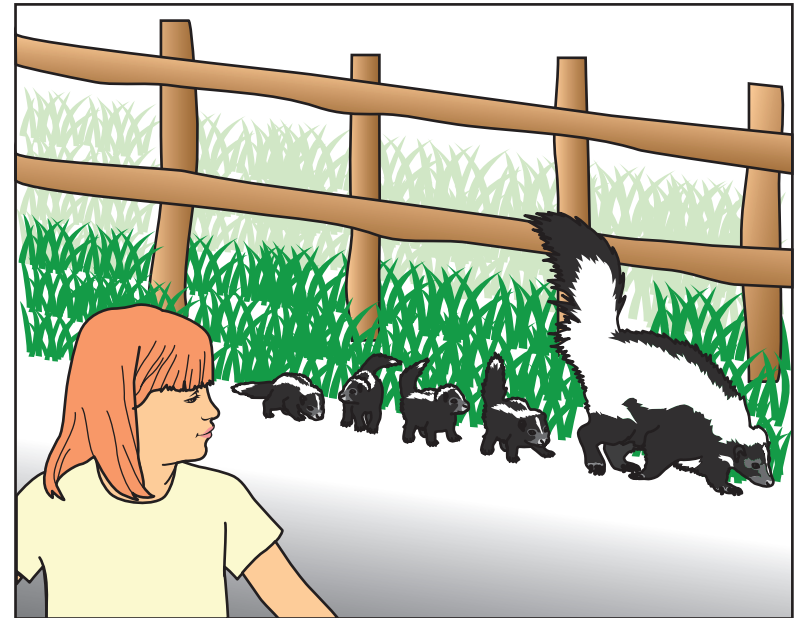
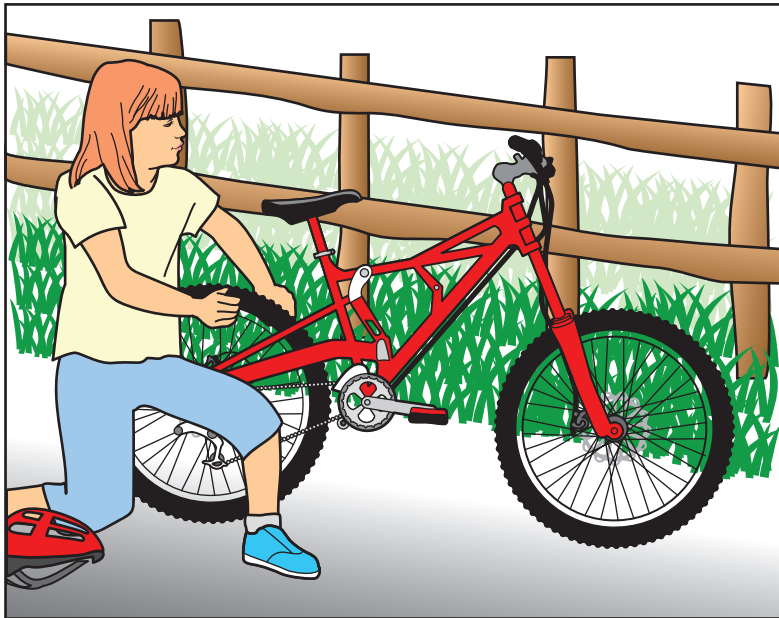
Meet the Skunks

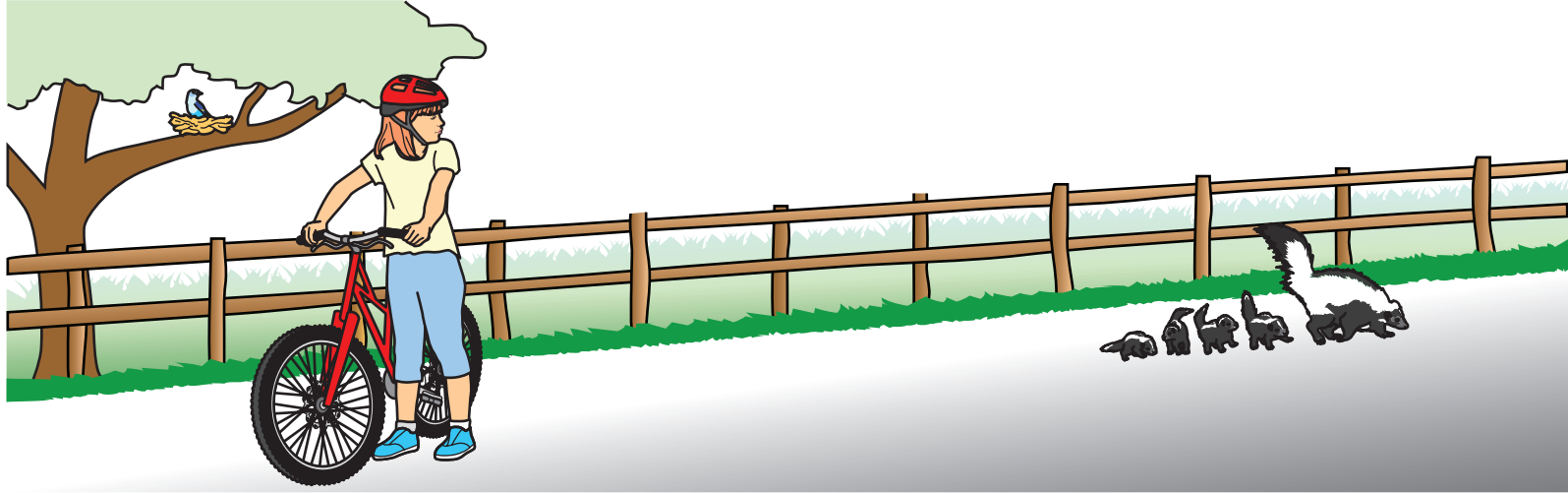


A mother skunk and her four little babies were looking for food on the side of a country road.



Jenna was riding her bicycle on the country road when she ran over a sharp rock. She stopped to check her tires. As she took off her helmet, Jenna saw the family of skunks looking for food on the side of the road.





Jenna knew that skunks can spray a smell that is bad enough to scare away their enemies. She remembered the time when a skunk sprayed under her grandmother's porch. The smell was so bad that the family had to stay away from the house for days.

Grandma said, "Skunks look sweet. But a mother skunk will spray if she thinks her babies are in danger. Skunks can't see very well, so they get scared easily."

Jenna knew she did not want to scare the mother skunk and get sprayed. She waited for the mother skunk to look away. Then she cautiously turned her bicycle to walk away from the skunks.

simply

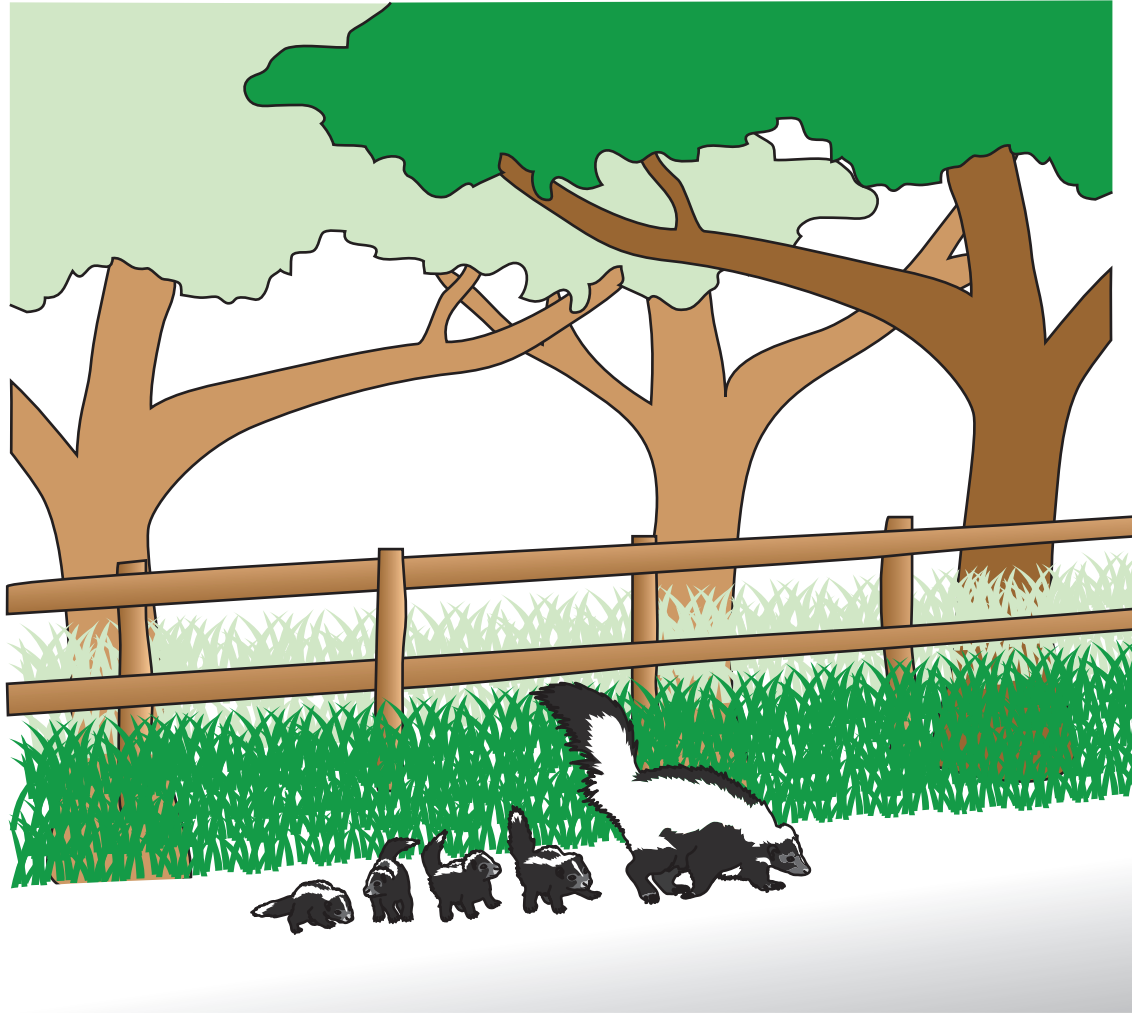
quickly

carefully



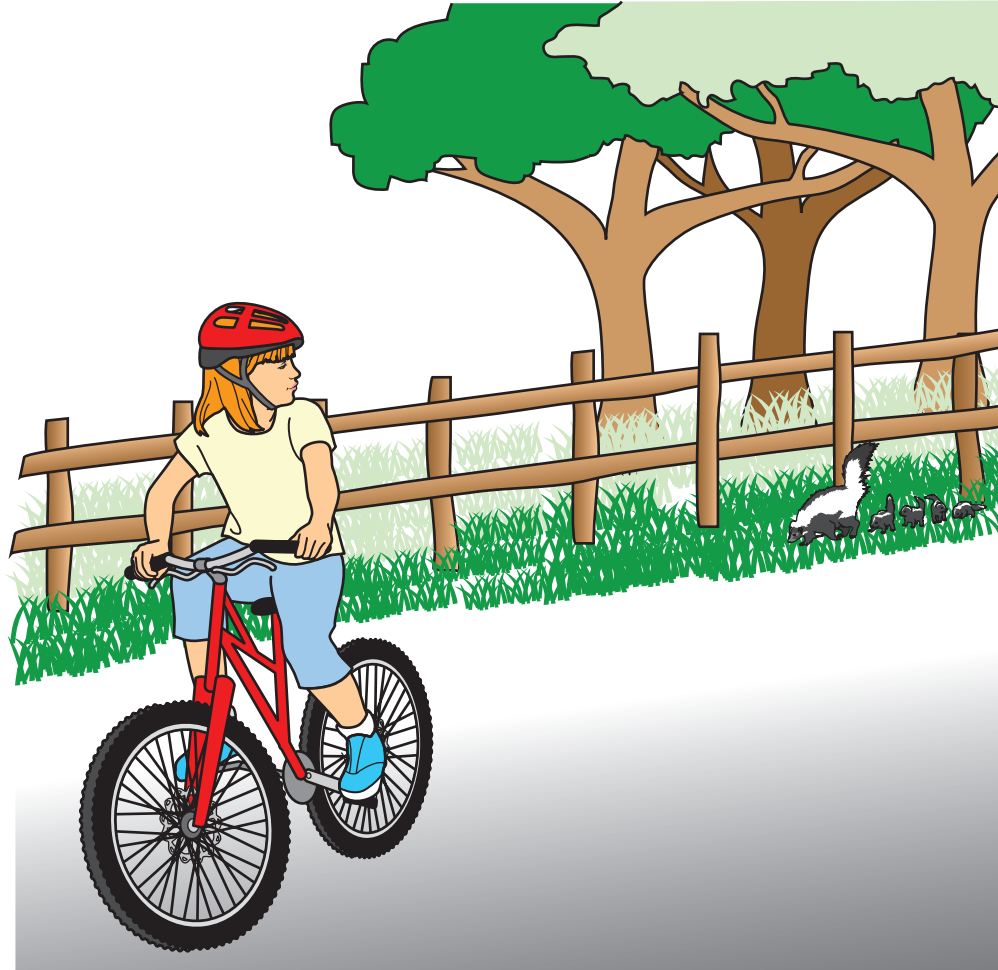
Jenna stood very still when she saw a family of bluebirds building a nest.

20a



The mother skunk quickly turned her head when she heard the birds singing and fluttering their wings. The bird sounds scared the mother skunk, and she moved her babies away. This gave Jenna an idea.

20a



Jenna tried to make the same chirping sounds that the birds were making. The mother skunk heard Jenna and moved away from the sound. Jenna's idea was working! Jenna waited several minutes and then made the chirping sound again. The mother skunk looked around again and then moved her babies even farther away.

When the family of skunks moved far enough from the road, Jenna jumped on her bicycle and rode away as fast as she could. Her grandmother would be so proud! She had outsmarted a family of skunks!

Jenna stands very still and watches the bluebirds build a nest in the tree.

Jenna makes chirping sounds so that the mother skunk will move her babies away from the road.

Jenna jumps on her bicycle and starts riding away as fast as she can.



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