

Form 1: Protecting a Strong Animal

Part 1

My Name: _____

My Partner's
Name(s): _____

Today's Date: _____

My Teacher's Name: _____

My Grade (Circle One): 6th 7th 8th

Directions:

In this activity you are going to read an article from a nature magazine. The author of the article is **John Coates**. Mr. Coates wants to persuade you. He wants you to agree with him. Your job is to read the article and answer questions. Later, you will read another article by **Monique Thomas**. Ms. Thomas disagrees with John Coates. In the end, you have to decide who you agree with.

Before you read...

Look at the article by **John Coates**. Look at the title, the photo, and the first sentence of each paragraph.

What do you think John Coates' article is going to be about? Talk to your partner and finish the sentence below.

I think this article is going to be about: _____

While you read...

Now read **Mr. Coates'** article. While you read the article:

- Underline any words that you don't know.
- Try to guess the meaning of the words from the context.

After you have finished reading...

Now you will work with your partner to answer questions. **You will write down your own answers, but discuss them with your partner.**

Tips for working together:

- Discuss the questions to make sure you understand them.
- Try to agree on the answers before you write them down.
 - **Remember: You can look back at the article at any time.**
- Ask your partner about things you don't understand.

When you are ready, go to the next page.





Directions: For the questions on this page, think about the **topic** of the article, the **main idea**, and the author’s **main argument** (his main point or message).

Warm-up:

Before you decide whether you agree or disagree, think about what the author is saying. Answer this question with your partner.

What is the article about? _____

1

What is the topic of the article? Circle the best answer.

- A. Problems caused by honey badgers.
- B. Keeping honey badgers safe from humans.
- C. Traditional medicine made from honey badgers.
- D. The honey badger’s amazing strength

2

What is the author’s main argument in *Protecting a Strong Animal*?

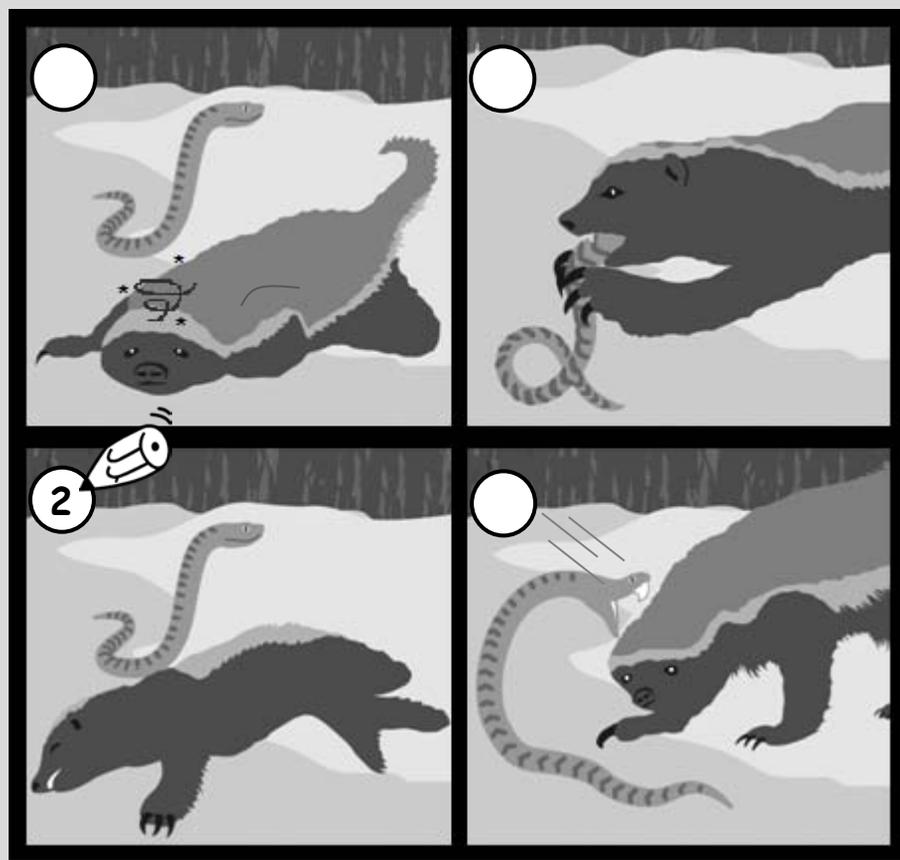
- A. Honey badgers are stronger than most people realize.
- B. Biologists should do more to help honey badgers.

Directions: In this section you need to understand **details** (specific information) from the article.

Warm-up:

In paragraph 2, the author tells about an internet video. These pictures show scenes from the video, but the scenes are in the wrong order.

- Write numbers in the circles to put the scenes in the right order.
- One has been done for you.



Directions: There is a summary of paragraph 3 in the table below, but the sentences are in the incorrect order.

- To answer questions 3 – 5, put the sentences in the correct order so the summary makes sense.
- Draw lines to show which sentence is first, second, third, and last.
- **One line has been drawn for you.**

Incorrect Order		Correct Order	
Example: <i>But there are safe ways to protect bees and farm animals without hurting honey badgers.</i>			first
3 <i>As a result, in some areas the honey badger has completely disappeared.</i>			second
4 <i>Beekeepers and farmers sometimes use traps and poison to kill honey badgers.</i>			third
5 <i>For example, they can use fences to protect the farm animals, or raise the beehives off the ground.</i>			last

Note: A line is drawn from the circle next to sentence 4 in the 'Incorrect Order' column to the circle next to 'third' in the 'Correct Order' column. A pencil icon is positioned over the 'third' label.

Directions: In questions 6 and 7, decide whether the sentences are **correct** or **incorrect** based on the information in the article.

- If a sentence is correct, circle **Correct**.
- If a sentence is incorrect, circle **Incorrect** AND **quote the article** to explain why it is incorrect.
- **Two examples have been done for you.**

SENTENCES	ANSWERS
<p>Example: <i>Honey badgers are small animals that live in Africa, the Middle East, and India.</i></p>	<p>Correct  Incorrect</p>
<p>Example: <i>In most areas, the honey badger has disappeared.</i></p>	<p>Correct <u>Incorrect</u> The article says, "in some areas honey badgers are disappearing." It doesn't say that the honey badger has disappeared in <u>most</u> areas. </p>
<p>6 <i>There is no way to protect bees and farm animals from the honey badger.</i></p>	<p>Correct Incorrect</p>
<p>7 <i>Eating honey badgers can make humans strong and brave.</i></p>	<p>Correct Incorrect</p>

Directions: For questions 8, 9, and 10, read the sentences in the table.

- Check (✓) **Fact** if the sentence expresses a fact.
- Check **Opinion** if the sentence expresses an opinion.
- **One example has been done for you.**

	Sentences from this article	Fact	Opinion
Example:	<i>In some areas, honey badgers are disappearing.</i> (paragraph 1)		
8	<i>The honey badger is an amazing animal.</i> (paragraph 2).		
9	<i>There is a famous video on the internet that shows a fight between a honey badger and a puff adder.</i> (paragraph 2)		
10	<i>There is no good reason for people to kill honey badgers.</i> (paragraph 5)		

Directions: For questions 11 – 13, think about what **words** mean.

- Hint: to find the answers you may need to use clues from the **context**—the words that come before and after.

11 Find and circle the word “**areas**” in paragraph 1. Here are three dictionary definitions for the word “area”. Which of these definitions goes with the meaning of “areas” in paragraph 1?

- A. **area:** A field of research or study, such as biology
- B. **area:** A part of a larger place, such as a region
- C. **area:** The amount of space inside a shape

12 Find and circle the word “**traditional**” in paragraph 4. Which of these words is related to “traditional”?

- A. Old
- B. New
- C. Large
- D. Expensive

13 Find and circle the word “**nevertheless**” in paragraph 4. Choose the word or words that could replace “nevertheless” in the sentence.

- A. Less and less
- B. However
- C. Because of
- D. As a result

Directions: Now think about **word parts**—the chunks that make up words.

- In the table below, look at the word parts and the examples from the article.
- Circle the meaning of each word part (one choice will not be used!)
- Then think of your own example and write it in the blank.
- An example has been done for you.

Word Part	Example From The Article	
<p>Example:</p> <p>dis-</p>	<p><u>dis</u>appeared (paragraph 3)</p>	<p>Meaning (circle): <i>A person Full of <u>The opposite of</u> Between</i> </p> <p>My own example: _____ <i>dislike</i> </p>
<p>14</p> <p>-ous</p>	<p><i>poison<u>ous</u></i> (paragraph 2)</p>	<p>Meaning (circle): <i>A person Full of The opposite of Between</i></p> <p>My own example: _____</p>
<p>15</p> <p>inter-</p>	<p><u>inter</u>net (paragraph 2)</p>	<p>Meaning (circle ONE meaning): <i>A person Full of The opposite of Between</i></p> <p>My own example: _____</p>

Directions: With your partner, brainstorm two more words with the word part “dis-”.

- Remember that “dis-” means “opposite”, so the words you choose should have a meaning related to “opposite”.
- Discuss the definitions of the two words.
- Write down the words and the definitions in the table below.

Word with “dis-”	Definition of the Word
Example: <u>dis</u> appear	to stop being seen (the opposite of <i>appear</i>)
16	
17	

Directions:

- In questions 18 and 19, the **subject** of the sentence is underlined.
- Circle the **verb** that goes with the subject.
- One example has been done for you.

Example:

The subject is underlined. Circle the verb that goes with the subject.


The honey badger eats almost any food that it finds.

18

The subject is underlined. Circle the verb that goes with the subject.

Simple solutions like fences save the lives of honey badgers.
(paragraph 2)

19

The subject is underlined. Circle the verb that goes with the subject.

In addition, some people hunt honey badgers to make traditional medicine. (paragraph 4)

Directions: In question 20, choose the best **paraphrase** for the sentence. When you paraphrase, you say what the sentence says in your own words.

Example:

Sentence: There is a famous video on the internet that shows a fight between a honey badger and a puff adder, a kind of poisonous snake.



Paraphrase: On the internet people can see a honey badger fight a snake.

20

Read this sentence from paragraph 5. Choose the *best* paraphrase.

If biologists do not protect the honey badger soon, one day it may become extinct.

- A. Honey badgers may become extinct even if biologists work very hard to protect them.
- B. Honey badgers might disappear unless biologists work to keep them safe.
- C. Biologists are working hard to protect the honey badger so that it does not disappear.

Directions: In questions 21-25, think about how the different things the author says fit together to make an argument.

- **For numbers 21 and 22**, look at the example with your partner.
- Underline the sentence(s) that offer a solution in number 21.
- Underline the sentence(s) that give a warning in number 22.

Example:

The purpose of paragraph 1 is to introduce a problem and make a suggestion.

- **Underline the sentence or sentences that make a suggestion.**

The honey badger is a small animal. It lives in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and India. It is famous for being tough. However, in some areas honey badgers are disappearing. They are disappearing because humans hunt and trap them. Biologists need to protect the animals they study. They should do whatever they can to keep the honey badger safe. 

21 The purpose of paragraph 5 is to offer a solution and give a warning.

- **Underline the sentence or sentences that offer a solution.**

It is time for biologists to protect honey badgers. There is no good reason for people to kill them. Biologists should teach beekeepers and farmers to use simple, cheap methods to protect their animals. They should also teach people that eating the honey badger cannot make them strong and brave. If biologists do not protect the honey badger soon, one day it may become extinct.

22 The purpose of paragraph 5 is to offer a solution and give a warning.

- **Now underline the sentence or sentences that give a warning.**

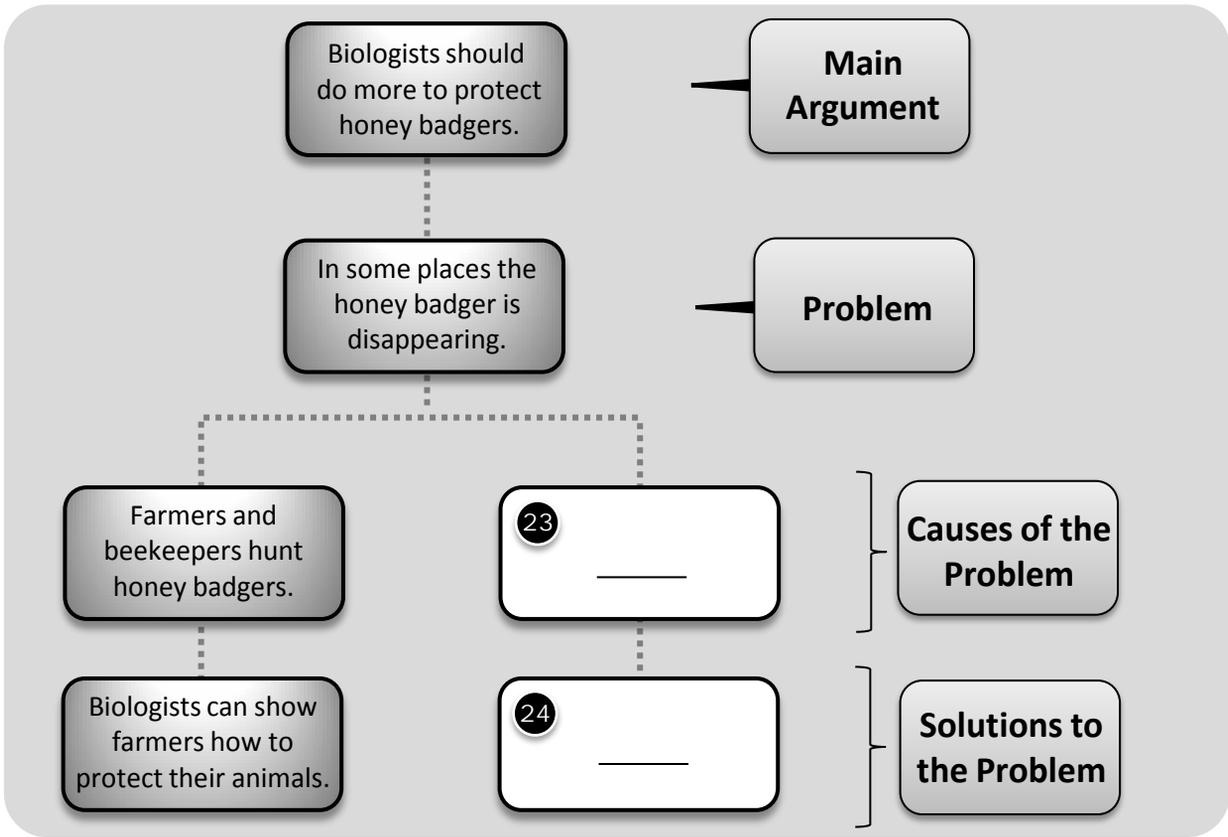
It is time for biologists to protect honey badgers. There is no good reason for people to kill them. Biologists should teach beekeepers and farmers to use simple, cheap methods to protect their animals. They should also teach people that eating the honey badger cannot make them strong and brave. If biologists do not protect the honey badger soon, one day it may become extinct.

Directions: The graphic organizer below shows the author’s **main argument**.

- To answer questions 23 and 24, choose from the ANSWER CHOICES to fill in the blank spaces in the graphic organizer. (Write the letter of the correct choice on the line)
- One answer choice will not be used.**

ANSWER CHOICES

- A. There is a famous video that shows a honey badger fighting a snake.
- B. People hunt honey badgers to make traditional medicine.
- C. Biologists can teach people that eating honey badgers cannot make them strong and brave.



- 25 Which **two** paragraphs in John Coates’ article give reasons that humans hunt honey badgers?
- A. Paragraphs 2 and 3
 - B. Paragraphs 1 and 4
 - C. Paragraphs 1 and 3
 - D. Paragraphs 3 and 4



Before you go on, read Article # 2 with your partner !

Directions: For questions 26 and 27, think about the **connections** between the two articles you have read.

John Coates and Monique Thomas disagree about whether or not honey badgers need protection.

- The table below contains two kinds of sentences:
 - Sentences that argue that honey badgers need protection
 - Sentences that argue that honey badgers DO NOT need protection
- Choose sentences from the **ANSWER CHOICES** to complete the table.

ANSWER CHOICES
A. Farmers poison honey badgers to protect their animals.
B. Honey badgers are wonderful animals.
C. Honey badgers are living in more than 80 countries.

Sentences that argue that honey badgers need protection	Sentences that argue that honey badgers do <u>NOT</u> need protection
<i>People kill honey badgers to make traditional medicine.</i>	<i>Many animals need protection more than the honey badger.</i>
26 _____	27 _____

Directions: In questions 28 and 29, you need to make **inferences**. When you make an inference, you decide what is *probably* true based on what you have read.

- Read the statements in the table below.
- Place a check mark (✓) to show which author (John Coates or Monique Thomas) would probably agree with each statement.

Statement	John Coates	Monique Thomas
Example: Biologists should help the most endangered animals first.	✓ 	
28 It is impossible to protect all animals, so biologists should focus on animals that are in danger of disappearing.		
29 Biologists should try to protect all animals, even if they are not in danger of disappearing.		

Questions 30 and 31 are about the **FIRST** article **only!** (*Protecting a Strong Animal* by John Coates)

Directions: In questions 30 and 31, think about the author’s **argument** and the **evidence** he uses to support it. (Evidence is a fact or example that supports an argument.)

- Read the sentences in the table.
- Decide if each sentence...
 - **SUPPORTS the author’s argument** (makes it stronger)
 - **WEAKENS the author’s argument** (makes it weaker)
 - **IS NOT RELEVANT** (does not strengthen or weaken the argument).
- Place a check mark (✓) in the blank to show your answer.

Example:

People kill honey badgers to make traditional medicine.	✓ 	Supports the author’s argument
		Weakens the author’s argument
		Is not relevant
30 The Philippine eagle is a large bird that lives only in the Philippines.		Supports the author’s argument
		Weakens the author’s argument
		Is not relevant
31 Honey badgers will survive without help from biologists.		Supports the author’s argument
		Weakens the author’s argument
		Is not relevant

Directions: You have read two articles. Each author made an argument about protecting honey badgers. Now it is time for you to decide whose argument was stronger.

- Choose the author who you agree with more.
- Use **specific information from what you read** to explain why you think their argument was the strongest.

32

Who do you agree with more about protecting honey badgers?

- I agree with John Coates more.
- I agree with Monique Thomas more.

Now write a paragraph to explain your choice.

Remember to use specific reasons from the articles you have read.
