Big Elephants Afraid of Bees

It is one of the biggest and most frightening animals in the world, but their size doesn’t help them much. Many elephants are very afraid of bees.

Farmers in Africa are worried about their crops being destroyed. But it is not the weather that is causing the problem – it is the elephants. The farmers have tried many ways of making them stop eating things that grow in their fields. Now it seems they have finally found a method that works – for a while anyway. What they do is put up big loudspeakers that play the buzzing sound of bees.

Most of the elephants that come near the field run away in about a minute. They link the buzzing with the pain they know a sting from a bee can give. That is the reason why they decide to leave so quickly.

The results are fascinating, but the farmers don’t believe that this will work forever. First of all, it is expensive to put up loudspeakers. And secondly, elephants are clever creatures. It will not take them long to understand that it is all a big trick. There are no bees, and they will not get any stings – it is just a sound from a loudspeaker!

1. How do elephants feel about bees?
   They are _____________________________________________

2. Why are elephants a problem for the farmers?
   They ________________________________________________
3. What do the farmers do?

   They …
   A  shoot the elephants that come near
   B  move away from their farms
   C  scare the elephants with sounds
   D  buy many wild and dangerous bees

4. Why do the elephants run away?

   They …
   A  see many bees in the fields
   B  have nothing to eat
   C  don’t like the farmers
   D  are afraid of something they hear

5. What do the farmers think will happen?

   A  The elephants will stop running away
   B  The bees will kill some of the elephants
   C  The elephants will never come back
   D  The bees will eat things that grow in the fields

6. What can you say about using loudspeakers?

   It …
   A  is a cheap way of keeping the elephants away
   B  is the best solution in the long run
   C  will probably only work for a short time
   D  didn’t work in the beginning
S.O.S.

Yesterday two young women were rescued from a beach on one of the Hawaii islands.

The two women, Sheila Walker and Susan Scott, were hiking on the west coast of the island Kauai, one of the many islands in Hawaii. In the evening of their third day of walking, they were surprised by heavy rain. Looking for shelter, Sheila tripped over a root and injured her ankle seriously. She couldn’t walk any further, so her friend found a dry spot under some bushes where they spent the night.

The next morning the ankle was even worse. They needed help, but they were in a wild and deserted part of the island, far from civilization. What were they going to do?

Hearing the sound from the sea, Susan got an idea. She said to Sheila that the beach couldn’t be far away and told her about the idea. Leaning on her friend, Sheila managed to reach the shore and sat down on a tree trunk. Susan took a stick washed up on the beach and began to write three big letters in the sand. It didn’t take long before they saw a plane. When it came closer, they made flashes with a mirror. The pilot, who saw both the flashes and the letters, made sure that a navy helicopter was sent out and both women were rescued.

7. On which island were the women?

8. For how many days had they been hiking when something happened?

9. Why were they looking for shelter?

   A Sheila had hurt her foot  
   B Because of the rain  
   C It was getting dark  
   D They were tired of walking

10. Where did they sleep?
11. The place where they were became a problem. Why?

A  There were no people around  
B  They couldn’t find shelter  
C  There were too many roots  
D  They were afraid of wild animals

12. How did Susan realize that they were close to the beach?

__________________________________________________________________________

13. How was Sheila able to get down to the beach?

A  She used a walking stick  
B  She got help from Susan  
C  She rested on the way  
D  She held on to a tree

14. How did they send messages? (Write two things.)

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Ice Floe

A fourteen-year-old Canadian, Mike Stapp, took a trip down Bow River on an ice floe. A bit shaken after the adventure, he says: “I know that it was pretty stupid, but we just wanted to have fun.”

According to police records, several 911 calls started coming in shortly before 8 pm yesterday, reporting five people jumping on river ice. A policeman went to investigate and reported that part of the ice, with someone on it, had broken away and was floating downstream.

Mike and some of his friends were playing on the ice, when the ice floe broke loose, stranding him on it. His friends tossed him his backpack to sit on and the lid of a cooler to use as a paddle. The river was filling with spring melt, but Mike said he was never worried that he was in danger. “The water isn’t that deep. I mean, it’s really cold and it’s dangerous, but I didn’t have time to think,” he said.

The ice floe got hung up after about a mile, and firefighters put a rubber boat in the water and came to his rescue. The boat ran aground twice on their way across the stony river and they had to struggle to get it free. Safe on the shore again, Mike started to feel weak, taking in what he had done and what could have happened. The waiting nurse gave him a short medical check, but said he didn’t need to go to hospital. When he had managed to get himself back home, Mike promised his parents never to try anything like this again.

15. What country does Mike come from? 

16. When did this happen?

A In the morning  
B In the afternoon  
C In the evening  
D Around midnight
17. How did the police know about the ice jumping?

A Many people had phoned the police
B Mike’s friends called and asked for help
C They had made an investigation
D Mike called 911 on his mobile phone

18. Why did Mike’s friends throw things to him?

A They wanted to see if he could catch them
B They knew that the ice floe was melting
C They saw that he was tired and couldn’t stand up
D They wanted to help their friend out

19. Why wasn’t Mike afraid?  

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

20. How far did he travel on the ice floe?  

____________________________________________________________________

21. What happened to the boat?

A It sunk to the bottom of the river
B It got stuck on some rocks
C The ice made a hole in it
D The motor stopped

22. After Mike had been rescued, …

A he wanted to try it again
B the nurse sent him to hospital
C his parents came to pick him up
D he realized he could have been hurt