



Topic: Animals and Feelings

Read the definitions and complete the sentences using the words in bold.

1. **essential**: necessary or needed
2. **pleasure**: enjoyment, happiness, or satisfaction, or something that gives this
3. **sentient**: able to experience feelings
4. **backbone**: the line of bones down the centre of the back that provides support for the body
5. **nerve**: small fibres in the body that send messages from the brain
6. **documentary**: a film or television or radio programme that gives facts and information about a subject
7. **unlikely**: not probable or likely to happen

1. Without a(n) _____, humans would not be able to stand straight.
2. If you want to know more about the subject, why not watch a(n) _____ about it?
3. It is _____ that you bring a pencil and your ID to the testing centre.
4. The surgeon had to be careful not to damage the _____, as it controls movement in the patient's hand.
5. It was my _____ to help you!
6. When I was little, I thought my stuffed animals were _____.
7. It is _____ that it will rain today as there is not a cloud in the sky.

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

Animals and Feelings

Emotions are an **essential** part of how we experience our world. Emotions help us learn, take action, and survive by adapting to new environments. Humans can tell others how they are feeling through their words. However, how can we tell whether animals experience emotions? Researchers have only started to research the emotional lives of animals in the past few decades. Most people would agree that their pet dog or cat can experience pain and **pleasure**, and feel hungry and thirsty. Animals that can do this are called **sentient**. Humans, of course, are also sentient beings. In fact, all animals with a **backbone** are thought of as sentient. But what about animals without backbones, like spiders or mosquitoes? Can they feel pain? Do they also have emotions?

While spiders and mosquitoes are still in question, in 2021, the UK decided that cephalopods and decapods are sentient beings. Cephalopods are animals such as octopuses and squids. Decapods are animals such as crabs and lobsters. Even though they don't have backbones, they do have a nervous system. The nervous system is the brain and all the **nerves** that make movement and feeling possible by sending messages around the body. Having a complex nervous system is a key sign of being sentient.

In a beautiful **documentary** film, *My Octopus Teacher*, a South African diver and scientist shares his **unlikely** friendship with an octopus. The documentary not only shows how smart octopuses are, but it also shows their human-like ways of thinking.

In some religions, such as Buddhism, it is believed that even plants are sentient. As animal research and technology develop, perhaps more species will be found to be sentient in the future.

1. Which of the following best summarises this passage?
 - a. Octopuses are the only sentient sea creatures.
 - b. From animals to insects and plants, all living things have feelings.
 - c. Besides humans, many other animals can sense feelings.
 - d. Sentient animals are always friendly to humans.
2. According to the passage, what do most sentient animals have in common?
 - a. They have a backbone.
 - b. They have a nervous system.
 - c. They have both a backbone and a nervous system.
 - d. They can speak to humans.

3. Like cephalopods and decapods, spiders and mosquitoes ____ proven to have feelings.
 - a. were definitely
 - b. were not yet
 - c. were not
 - d. were always
4. What does the 'unlikely friendship' mentioned in the passage tell us about the relationship between the man and the octopus?
 - a. The friendship seemed impossible; thus, it did not happen.
 - b. The friendship seemed impossible, but it happened.
 - c. The friendship was possible, but it did not happen.
 - d. The friendship was common and expected.
5. According to the passage, which statement is most likely true?
 - a. Cephalopods cannot think in human-like ways.
 - b. Monkeys do not feel pleasure.
 - c. Humans do not feel hunger and thirst like other animals.
 - d. Dogs and cats feel sadness and happiness.