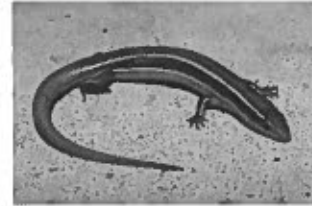


Western Skink Story



Subjects:

Science and Language Arts

Objectives:

- Students will read factual information about western skinks and use that information to write a fictional story using a story map.

Materials:

- Copies of *Become an Author!* worksheet

Procedure:

1. After reading *Wildlife Express* about western skinks, have a class discussion about some of the factual information learned from the reading. Some questions to address might be:
 - a. What is the western skinks' habitat?
 - b. Do western skinks need anything special in their habitat?
 - c. What do they eat?
 - d. How do they appear?
 - e. Is their appearance different than other Idaho lizards?
 - f. How do they protect themselves?
 - g. Is there an interesting way that they attract mates and raise their young?
 - h. When are western skinks born?
 - i. How do western skinks deal with extreme cold or heat?
2. Hand out the *Become an Author!* worksheet.
3. Tell the students they will be writing a fictional story about a western skink using the information they learned from reading *Wildlife Express*. Use the worksheet to help students plan their stories.
4. When students are finished with rough drafts, have them edit with parents, peers or the teacher.
5. Write final drafts, add illustrations, publish and share!

Become an Author!

Writing a story is easy if you plan. Use the story map below to plan your story. Remember, your **fictional** story can have animals that can talk, learn lessons, have feelings, and make friends. Be creative and have fun!

1. Plan your ideas.
2. Complete the story map with your ideas.
3. Write you rough draft.
4. Edit with peers, parents and teachers.
5. Write final draft and add illustrations.
6. Publish!

Story Map

Setting - Time & Place	Characters
Problem or Conflict	Solution to Problem or Conflict

Western Skink – Color by Number

Solve the math problems. Use your answers to color the western skink.

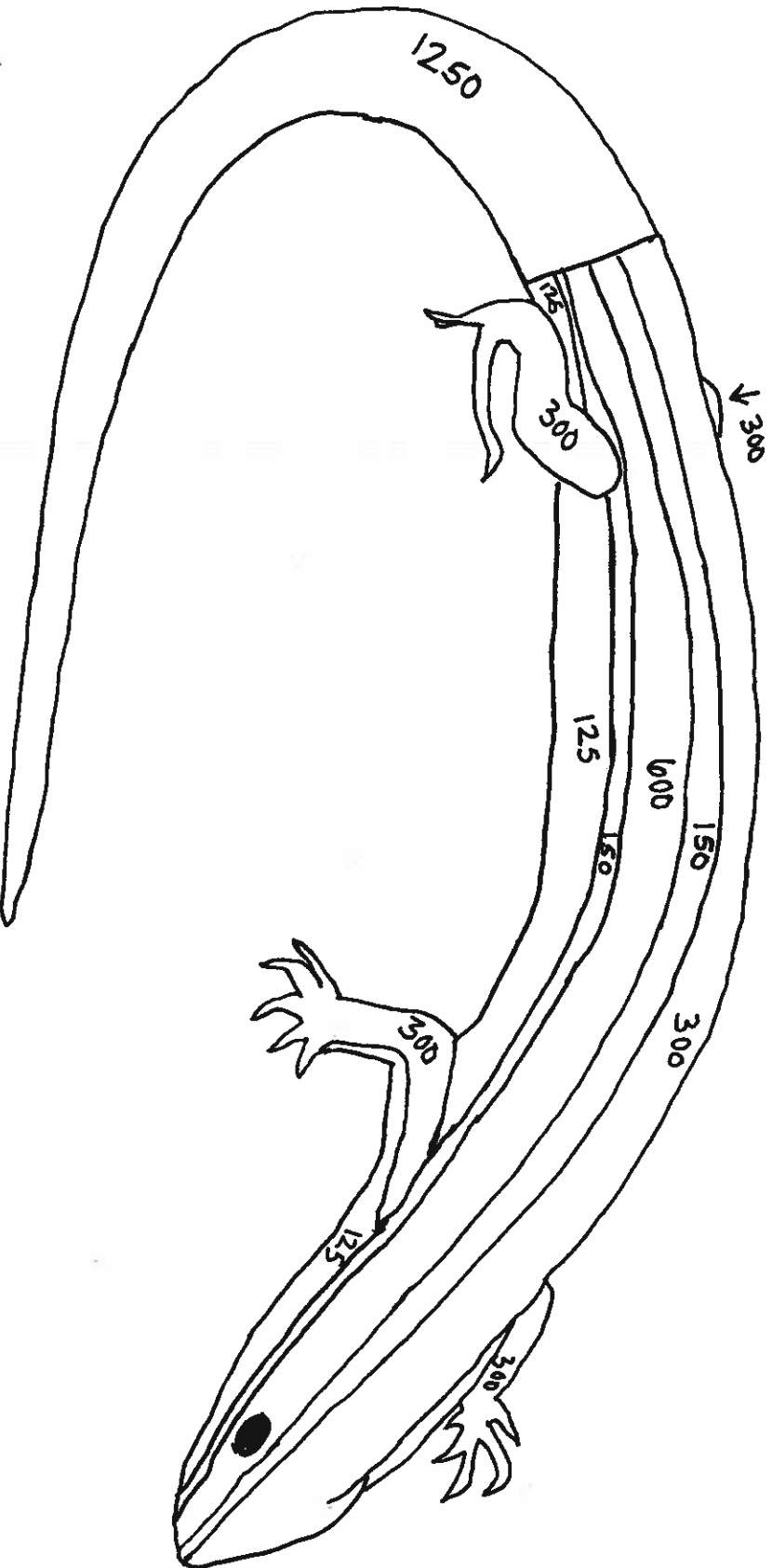
$15 \times 20 =$

$30 \times 20 =$

$300 \div 2 =$

$250 \times 5 =$

$500 \div 4 =$



White = 150

Blue = 1250

Brown = 300

Black = 600

Gray-green = 125

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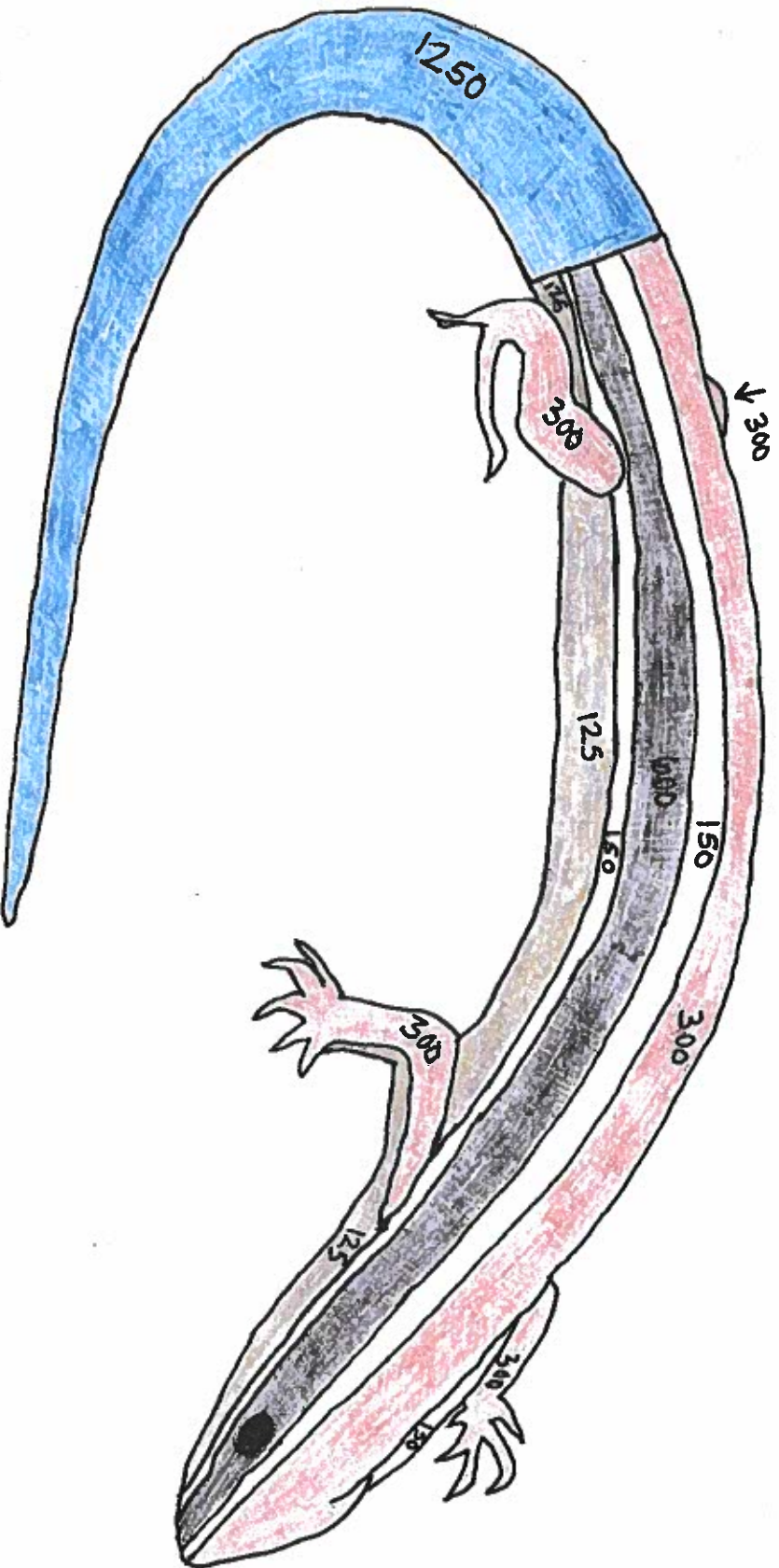
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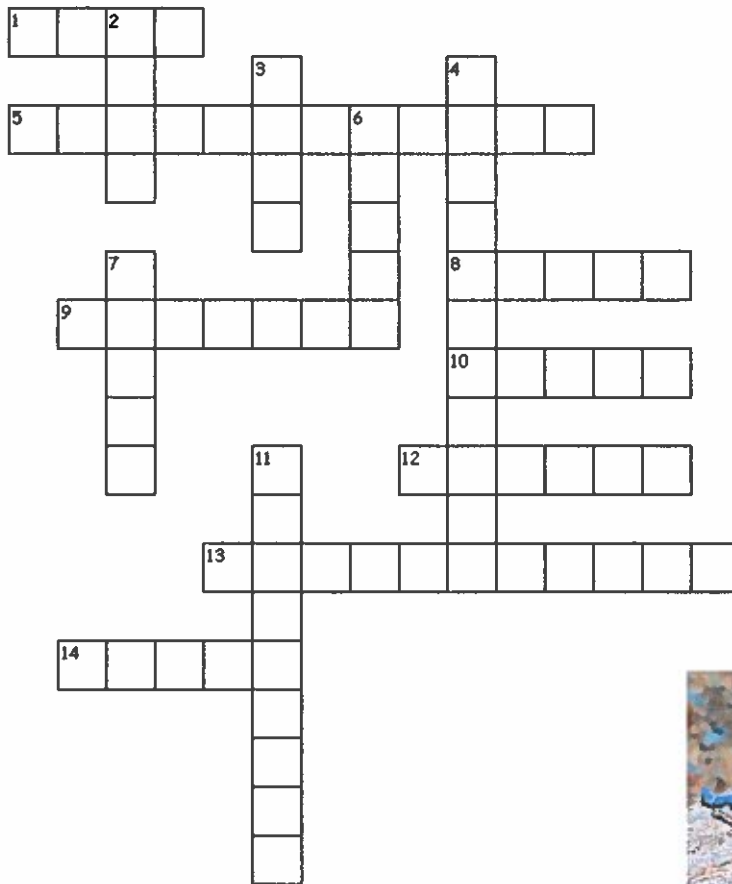
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Western Skink Crossword



Across

1. A western skink may hide under this.
5. Another word for a cold-blooded animal.
8. Western skinks are found in most of _____.
9. These offer protection and a safe place to rest.
10. Western skinks are _____ and fast.
12. Western skinks are a type of _____.
13. This means to rest and slow down bodily functions in the winter.
14. Western skinks will _____ and chase down prey.

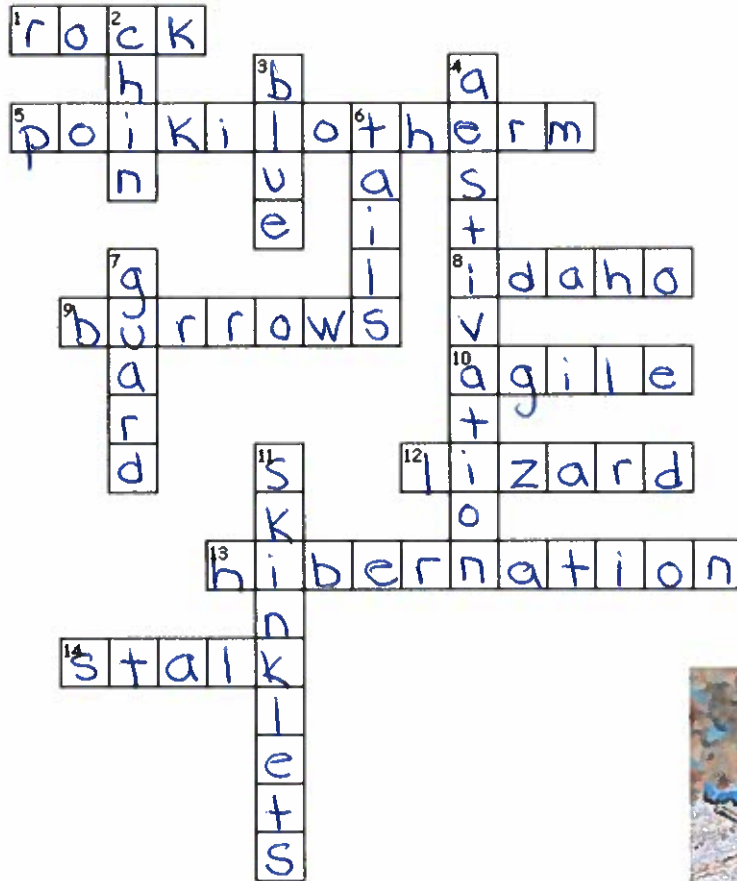
Down

2. A reddish-orange _____ means a skink is trying to attract a mate.
3. Western skinks have a _____ tail when they are young.
4. This means to rest and slow down bodily functions in hot, dry weather.
6. To escape from danger, western skinks can detach their _____.
7. Females _____ their eggs.
11. This is what baby skinks are called.

Words

Aestivation
 Agile
 Blue
 Burrows
 Chin
 Guard
 Hibernation
 Idaho
 Lizard
 Poikilotherm
 Rock
 Skinklets
 Stalk
 Tails

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