

## Test Practice 4: Text Structures and Features

Directions: Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

## Adopt a Box Turtle

1 I am looking for a good home for my box turtle. Pete is 10 years old and a wonderful pet. He's smart, cute, and fun to watch, especially when he's exploring the indoor living space I've built for him. I'm moving soon to a new home where I can't have a pet. I hope to find a loving family that is willing to adopt and care for Pete.

2 You should know some facts about box turtles before you think about adopting Pete. Box turtles are complex pets that need special care and handling. They are probably not the best choice for first-time pet owners. Most young children are not capable of providing the involved care that box turtles require. Parents must be willing to take full responsibility for the care of a box turtle. They also must always supervise their children as they interact with the box turtle. Anyone who handles Pete must wash his or her hands with antibacterial soap afterward because box turtles can carry toxins on their body. Despite these requirements, if a box turtle is cared for properly, it can be a charming member of the family for up to 40 years. For the last few years, I've brought Pete to the local school to teach students about these amazing reptiles.

3 I bought Pete five years ago from a local turtle-breeding farm for \$30. He was already well accustomed to captivity. Since then, I've spent more than \$100 setting up his indoor space. Pete's home is a 5-square-foot area. It includes the equipment necessary to provide Pete with the temperature, humidity, and lighting he needs. Pete's diet and feeding habits must also be carefully managed. To give you an idea of the kind of care these animals require, here's a list of feeding instructions.

### Box Turtle Feeding Tips

- Provide an eating area where the turtle will feel safe.
- Box turtles need to warm up before they can digest their food properly.
  - Try feeding outdoor box turtles in the late morning. In the fall, place the food in the sun.
  - Try putting an indoor turtle's food dish under a fluorescent light. That can make foods more appealing by bringing out the colors of the food.
- Turtles need a diet that includes protein, carbohydrates, fiber, calcium, and vitamins. This makes them less likely to suffer from illnesses. Each feeding should include items from several food groups, such as a protein (earthworms, boiled chicken, beetles), a fruit, and a green leafy vegetable. If your turtle doesn't like one type of food, mix in other foods that it enjoys.
- Depending on the health and activity level of your turtle, it may need more or less food. Feed young turtles a small amount daily. Adults can be fed every other day. Use your best judgment.
- Provide fresh water daily.

5 Box turtles hibernate from fall to spring, depending on the temperature. Owners must do everything possible to ensure good health prior to hibernation. After Pete comes out of hibernation, I return him to his regular enclosure, warm him up, and offer him food. It's important to closely observe the health of box turtles at this time, for many health problems can occur after hibernation.