

Steve Irwin Reading Comprehension

Steve Irwin was born on February 22, 1962, in Essendon, Australia. From an early age he was surrounded by animals. His parents were wildlife enthusiasts and ran the Queensland Reptile and Fauna Park. It was here where Steve acquired his fondness for crocodiles. By the age of six, Steve had a six-foot pet python, and by the age of nine, he was handling the park's crocodiles. Steve soon learned to wrestle crocodiles and helped capture over 100 of them to be relocated to areas away from people, or, to be housed in his family's park.

At the age of 29, Irwin became manager of the park. That same year, he met Terri Raines, an ecologist from Oregon. Four months later, they were married. Steve and Terri would have two children – Bindi and Bob. Steve and Terri had a lot in common. Interestingly, it was footage from their holiday together, that inspired the blockbuster TV series *The Crocodile Hunter*, starring Steve and Terri. The show started in Australia in 1996 and became a smash hit around the world. From 1997 to 2004, the show aired on Animal Planet, reaching millions of people. Steve's enthusiastic style, Australian accent, infectious love of wildlife, fearlessness, and trademark "Crikey!" exclamations, endeared him to millions of fans. Steve even made ecological history. In 1997, he discovered a new species of turtle while fishing off the coast of Queensland. It was named Irwin's turtle and is an endangered species.

Following his work on the Crocodile Hunter, Irwin continued to manage and grow the reptile park, which was renamed the Australia Zoo. He also established Wildlife Warriors and the International Crocodile Rescue. These organizations were designed to promote and raise money for environmental causes. Above all, Steve considered conservation his most important cause. In his own words -- "I consider myself a wildlife warrior. My mission is to save the world's endangered species."

In 2006, Irwin was participating in the filming of the *Oceans Deadliest* documentary when he was "stung" by a sting ray while trying to film it. The sting ray's barb was deadly and despite attempts to revive him, Irwin died. A public memorial for Irwin was televised on September 20, 2006. An estimated 300 million people tuned in to pay their respects.

1. What was most unique about Steve’s childhood?

- A. He and his family loved animals
- B. He acquired a love of reptiles
- C. He learned to wrestle crocodiles at age nine
- D. His family helped to relocate crocodiles that ventured too close to people

2. Based on the passage, which quote most likely describes how Steve Irwin would want to be remembered?

- A. “I was the star of *the Crocodile Hunter* and an international celebrity”
- B. “I made ecological history by discovering the endangered Irwin’s turtle”
- C. “I helped to save endangered species through my television shows and charitable organizations”
- D. “My greatest work was my last work – filming *Oceans Deadliest*.”

3. Which question is answered in the following sentence?

Steve’s enthusiastic style, Australian accent, infectious love of wildlife, fearlessness, and trademark “Crikey!” exclamations endeared him to millions of fans.

- A. Who was Steve Irwin?
- B. What did Steve Irwin hope to accomplish?
- C. What made Steve Irwin so unusual?
- D. Why did people love Steve Irwin?

6. According to the passage, what happened in 1997?

- A. Steve discovered a new species of turtle
- B. Steve became manager of his family’s animal park
- C. Steve and Terri went on their honeymoon
- D. *The Crocodile Hunter* was airing on Animal Planet

7. Which of the following adjectives used in the second paragraph best describes a person’s ability to get other people excited about something?

- A. fearless
- B. infectious
- C. enthusiastic
- D. trademark