



Reading Comprehension

RATS SAVING LIVES



1. Many of us might have a rat as a pet, but did you know that there are rats saving people's lives? They are known as HeroRATs.
2. HeroRATs are trained to sniff out landmines and tuberculosis (TB).
3. Landmines are bombs that have been planted under the ground. If someone walks or drives over it, it explodes. Landmines are planted mainly during times of unrest in countries. Even when the conflicts are resolved, the landmines still stay in the ground.
4. TB is an illness caused by a bacterial infection that affects a person's lungs. A person can be cured from TB by drinking a long course of antibiotics.
5. The good news is that HeroRATs are here to help people.
6. There are currently 46 HeroRATs sniffing out landmines and 32 HeroRATs trained to find tuberculosis.
7. These super rodents find landmines by smelling an explosive chemical used to make the landmines. This chemical is called Trinitrotoluene, or TNT. HeroRATs have been found to smell out a landmine faster than a metal detector, because they are trained not to use any other chemicals. They are currently working in four countries. These countries are Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Angola.
8. What happens if they do sniff out a landmine? The rats scratch the ground, and someone will check the area. And the best part? These rats don't touch a mine. Not one rat has died while looking for explosives.
9. HeroRATs are also trained to smell small samples of someone's spit to find TB. If they wait for longer than three seconds at a sample, the rat will check it for infection. One HeroRAT can check 100 samples in 20 minutes. This is much faster than what a human can do in a laboratory. They work in laboratories in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania.
10. APOPO, the company that trains the HeroRATs, also trains dogs to detect landmines. These dogs have already found 78 landmines.
11. To raise funds for the rats, people can adopt one for about R240 per month.

1. In your own words, explain what a pet is.

(1)

2. What two things are these rats able to smell out? ☹

(2)

☹

3. True or False? Landmines are found beneath the ground.



4. What organs of the body does TB mainly affect?

Answer To Comprehension Rats

Marco Cascella



Answer To Comprehension Rats:

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