

Oratory in the Natural World

Public Speaking · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which species produces the loudest vocalization relative to its body size, often used for long-distance territorial communication?

- A) Howler monkey**
- B) Blue whale
- C) Pistol shrimp
- D) Sperm whale

2. What is the primary function of the 'lek' mating system, a form of collective animal display behavior?

- A) Cooperative hunting
- B) Communal nesting
- C) Competitive visual and vocal signaling**
- D) Resource sharing

3. How do honeybees communicate the specific location of a food source to the rest of the colony?

- A) Chemical pheromone trails
- B) The waggle dance**
- C) Auditory vibration patterns
- D) Visual light patterns

4. The male cicada uses a specialized organ called a 'tymbal' to produce sound; what is the frequency range of these calls?

- A) Infasonic (below 20 Hz)
- B) Ultrasonic (above 20 kHz)
- C) Audible range (up to 20 kHz)**
- D) Radio frequency

5. Which marine mammal utilizes 'codas'--rhythmic patterns of clicks--as a form of social identity and group-specific dialect?

- A) Bottlenose dolphin
- B) Sperm whale**
- C) Humpback whale
- D) California sea lion

6. In the context of avian communication, what is a 'syrinx'?

A) A sensory organ for detecting air pressure

B) The vocal organ of birds

C) A feather display mechanism

D) A specialized hearing structure

7. Which animal uses bioluminescent signaling, a form of 'silent public speaking' for mate attraction?

A) Deep-sea anglerfish

B) Firefly

C) Vampire squid

D) Comb jelly

8. What defines the 'dawn chorus' in ornithology?

A) A feeding ritual at sunrise

B) A period of peak avian vocal activity at daybreak

C) A group migration pattern

D) A sunrise predator avoidance tactic

9. What is the primary purpose of the 'stridulation' process observed in crickets and grasshoppers?

A) Warning predators of toxicity

B) Friction-based sound production for signaling

C) Regulating body temperature

D) Aiding in digestion of plant material

10. Which primate species utilizes complex 'alarm calls' that distinguish between different types of predators (e.g., eagles, leopards, snakes)?

A) Chimpanzees

B) Vervet monkeys

C) Gorillas

D) Mandrills