

Oratory in the Natural World

Public Speaking · Practice Test · 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) Infrasonic (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