

Fluency Passage–Nonfiction



Silkworms

Some insects are seen as pests, but not silkworm	9
caterpillars. Farmers have been raising silkworms for	16
thousands of years. The silk that comes from silkworms	25
can be used to make cloth that is both strong and beautiful.	37
Farmers feed silkworms leaves from special trees,	44
which they eat day and night after they hatch. The hungry	55
silkworms spend almost a month eating the leaves and	64
growing. As they grow, they shed their skin four times.	74
Next, the silkworms stop eating and hang upside down.	83
The silkworms use their spit to make tiny threads of silk.	94
They wrap the silk threads around their bodies, over and	104
over, until they are completely covered in silk.	112
To gather the silk, a farmer carefully pulls the silk threads	123
apart. A single silk thread can be up to one mile long.	135
The threads are used to make silk cloth, which is light	146
and soft. Silk is cool to wear in summer yet warm in winter.	159



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Name _____



Word Count: 159

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		Read 1	Read 2	Read 3	Read 4	Read 5	Read 6
Goal Rate	WPM						
	Errors						
	WCPM						
	Accuracy / Reading Rate %						

Words Per Minute (WPM); WPM – Errors = Words Correct Per Minute (WCPM); (WCPM ÷ WPM) x 100 = Accuracy/Reading Rate %