

Name _____

| | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| adaptation | cache | forage | hibernate |
| agile | dormant | frigid | insulates |

Use each pair of vocabulary words in a single sentence.

1. frigid, insulates

2. dormant, hibernate

3. adaptation, cache

4. agile, forage

Name _____

Read the selection. Complete the cause and effect graphic organizer.

| Cause | → | Effect |
|-------|---|--------|
| | → | |
| | → | |
| | → | |
| | → | |

Name _____

Read the passage. Use the ask and answer questions strategy to help you understand what you read.

Life in the Desert

13 What do you think of when you hear the word *desert*? You probably
14 picture a place that is hot and dry. Although there are some desert areas
15 that are cold, most deserts are as you imagine them. They are dry and hot.

16 A desert is an area that gets less than ten inches of rain each year. Many
17 types of animals live in these harsh climates. Survival for desert animals
18 depends on their ability to adapt, or change.

78 **Structural Adaptation**

79 One kind of adaptation is structural. This means the animal's body has
80 changed so that it can survive in the climate. The gundi is an example of
81 this adaptation. A gundi is a small animal that looks a lot like a guinea
82 pig. Gundis live in the deserts of Africa. The desert has very little drinking
83 water, but gundis get all the moisture they need from their diet of plants.
84 Gundis' fur helps them stay cool during the day and warm at night.

163 **Behavioral Adaptation**

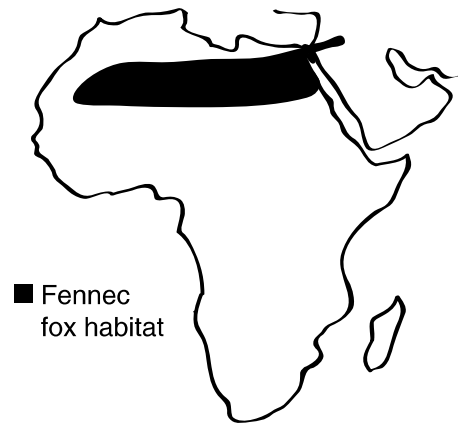
164 Another type of adaptation is behavioral. Desert animals act in ways
165 that help them survive. Since it is so hot during the day, many animals are
166 nocturnal. They rest under rocks or in other cool places during the day and
167 come out at night to hunt for food.

213 **Thriving in the Desert**

214 Most desert animals adapt in a combination of ways. Dromedary
215 camels live in the deserts of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. They raise
216 their body temperature to reduce loss of water, and they can live for days
217 without eating or drinking. Dromedaries have a hump on their backs that
218 is made up of fat. They use the fat for energy when food is scarce. These
219 animals sweat very little, which saves water. When they do drink, they can
220 take in as many as thirty gallons of water in a little over ten minutes!

Name _____

The fennec fox is a tiny fox that weighs only about three pounds as an adult. Like dromedaries, fennec foxes live in the African and Arabian deserts. Their sand-colored fur makes it difficult for their enemies to see them. The light color also keeps them cool during the day. Fennec foxes even have fur on the bottoms of their feet. This makes it easier to walk on the hot desert sand. Their bodies lose water very slowly, so they can go for days without drinking. Fennec foxes rest in burrows during the day. At night they hunt for eggs, insects, and other small animals.



Fennec foxes live in the harsh desert climates of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

The deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico are home to a large lizard called a Gila monster. Gila monsters store fat in their abdomens and tails, which lets them live for months without eating. They come out only at night during the summer. In winter the lizards hibernate. During this period of inactivity, they use very little food and energy.

Many different types of snakes live in the desert. Because they are cold-blooded, snakes' body temperatures change with that of their surroundings. To avoid becoming too hot, they find shelter under bushes or rocks. Some rattlesnakes, for example, are nocturnal and bury themselves in the sand during the day. In the hottest part of the year, many snakes rest for a long period. This is similar to the winter hibernation of some other animals.

Meerkats are members of the mongoose family that live in Africa. They hunt early in the day to avoid the heat. They live in mobs, or groups, of as many as thirty members. The mob helps keep its members safe. Predators, such as eagles or jackals, are often frightened away by a meerkat mob.

Even though deserts are one of Earth's harshest environments, the animals that live in them have bodies that are adapted for extreme conditions. These adaptations help the animals avoid heat, store food and water, and protect themselves from enemies.

Name _____

A. Reread the passage and answer the questions.

1. What causes many desert animals to adapt their behavior so that they sleep during the day instead of at night?

2. What evidence in the fifth paragraph shows the structural effects of a desert climate on an animal's body?

3. What are three ways the fennec fox has adapted to its harsh desert climate?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to rate and accuracy. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

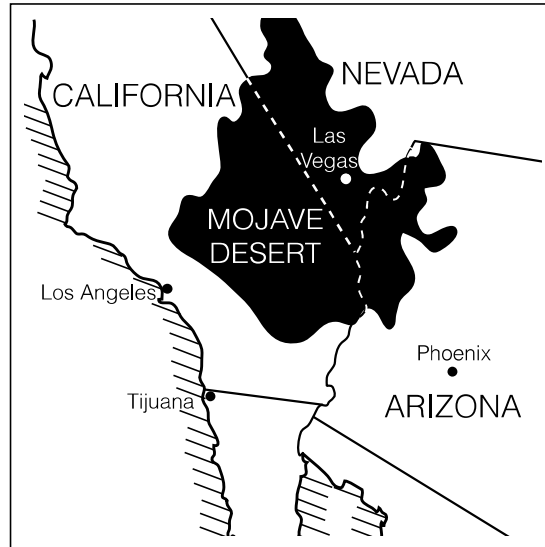
| | Words Read | – | Number of Errors | = | Words Correct Score |
|-------------|------------|---|------------------|---|---------------------|
| First Read | | – | | = | |
| Second Read | | – | | = | |

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Name _____

Desert Plant Adaptations

Plants adapt to living in the Mojave Desert in many ways. One way plants survive is by conserving water. They have spines or thorns that direct air flow and reflect hot sunlight. Waxy leaves hold moisture in to reduce water loss. Shallow roots help plants use every bit of rainfall. Other plants have long roots that allow them to get water from deep in the ground. Desert flowers bloom only when it rains. These adaptations enable a wide variety of plants to survive in the desert.



Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this is expository text?

2. What is the heading? Is it a strong heading for this text? Why or why not?

3. What other text feature does this text include? What information does it give you?

Name _____

Read each passage. Underline the context clues that help you figure out the meaning of each word in bold. Then, in your own words, write the definition of the word.

1. One kind of adaptation is **structural**. This means the animal's body has changed so that it can survive in the climate.

2. Another type of adaptation is **behavioral**. Desert animals act in ways that help them survive.

3. Since it is so hot during the day, many animals are **nocturnal**. They rest under rocks or in other cool places during the day and come out at night to hunt for food.

4. Gila monsters come out only at night during the summer. In winter the lizards **hibernate**. During this period of inactivity, they use very little food and energy.

5. Many different types of snakes live in the desert. Because they are **cold-blooded**, snakes' body temperatures change with that of their surroundings.

6. Meerkats are members of the mongoose family that live in Africa. They hunt early in the day to avoid the heat. They live in **mobs**, or groups, of as many as thirty members. The mob helps keep its members safe.

Name _____

Read each sentence below. Circle the word that has origins in mythology. Then write the meaning of the word on the line. You may use a dictionary.

Janus: Roman god of beginnings

Atlas: Greek giant who supported the world on his shoulders

Luna: Roman goddess of the moon

Clotho: Greek goddess who spins the thread of human life

Oceanus: Greek god of the stream of water encircling the world

Olympus: mountain in Greece known as home of the gods

Furies: Greek goddesses of law and punishment

Fortuna: Roman goddess of luck

1. The ocean is home to a wide variety of plants and animals.

2. They used an atlas to plan their trip around the world.

3. Some people start a new hobby or exercise routine in January.

4. Many people watched the first lunar landing on television.

5. The other team was furious when the referee made an incorrect call.

6. In the winter, people wear several layers of clothes to keep warm.

7. The summer Olympics in 2008 were held in China.

8. In many fairy tales the main characters set out to seek their fortune.

Name _____

Evidence is details and examples from a text that support a writer’s viewpoint. The student who wrote the paragraph below cited evidence that supports his or her view about the author’s use of cause and effect.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Topic sentence | → | In “Life in the Desert,” the author used cause and effect to show that the desert climate affects animals. |
| Evidence | → | To support this main idea, the author gave details about the different ways animals’ bodies adapt to living in the desert. The author also gave details about how animals behave in ways that help them live in hot, dry conditions. |
| Concluding statement | → | The author did a good job of connecting causes and effects to show how animals adapt to living in the desert. |

Write a paragraph about a text you have chosen. Show how the author used cause and effect. Cite evidence from the text. Remember to state your view clearly and include negatives and negative contractions.

Write a topic sentence: _____

Cite evidence from the text: _____

End with a concluding statement: _____

Name _____

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about how you can rewrite sentences to vary the structure and make the writing more interesting to read.

Draft Model

I would rather live in an extremely cold environment. I like cold weather. I can put on a sweater. I can also put on a coat.

1. Which sentences can you combine to add interest for the reader?
2. How can you vary the rhythm of the sentences?
3. What other kinds of sentence structures would make the writing more interesting?

B. Now revise the draft by rewriting sentences to vary sentence structure and to make the writing easier and more interesting to read.

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