

Read the following passage and answer questions 1 through 8.

How Animals Adapt to Desert Life



- 1 High winds often whip across a desert, blowing bits of sand and dust. The temperature can climb to over 100°F during the day, and the desert's clear skies offer little protection from the sun's hot rays. Also, little rain falls in a desert; the average amount is only ten inches a year. This rainfall is unpredictable too. It may rain for several days, and then not rain again for a few years! Even though the desert presents such tough challenges, some creatures still call this place home. How have they adapted to life in a hot, dry place?
- 2 Desert animals have found several ways to beat the heat. Most animals know the best trick. They sleep during the day and creep out during the evening hours when it's cooler. Tortoises, foxes, snakes, some lizards, and rodents all spend their days napping in underground burrows. Here the temperature stays about 86°F. The kangaroo rat even shuts the door to its burrow. He fills it with dirt to keep out the heat and any unwanted visitors. Other animals, like the desert toad, sleep much longer than a day. They bury themselves in a cool burrow and sleep right through the hottest part of the summer.
- 3 Desert animals also have physical traits that help them handle the heat. For example, jack rabbits and foxes have large ears with lots of tiny blood veins. Heat escapes from the veins. This helps cool their bodies. Another helpful feature is a thick coat. Instead of keeping it warm, a camel's thick coat blocks out the sun's hot rays. Finally, many desert animals have light-colored fur, feathers, or scales. The pale colors absorb less heat. They help the animals hide in the sand too.
- 4 One of the biggest challenges of desert living is not the heat but the lack of water. Desert animals must find ways to obtain enough water in their diet. One animal solves this problem by making its own water. The kangaroo rat eats dry seeds, but its body changes the seeds into food and water. This animal never

needs to take one drink during its lifetime!

- 5 Other animals, like snakes, get water from the prey they eat. Still others get water when they eat plants. Leaves and cacti contain lots of liquid. Of course, some animals do need to take a drink, and the camel can take the largest drink of all. It may gulp down thirty gallons in ten minutes! Some people assume this water is stored in the camel's hump, but actually the hump only stores fat. The water a camel needs to survive is stored in its blood and cells.
- 6 Today, many animals live successfully in the deserts around the world. In the Sahara Desert alone, there are forty different kinds of rodents, such as mice and gerbils. There are almost one hundred kinds of reptiles. These creatures all have one thing in common. They have learned to adapt to their hot, dry home.

1 **The idea that many animals live successfully in deserts can be supported by the fact that —**

- A there is little rainfall in most deserts
- B mice and gerbils live in the desert
- C hundreds of animals have adapted to desert conditions
- D there are challenges linked with living in a desert

2 **Read this sentence from paragraph 1.**

High winds often whip across a desert, blowing bits of sand and dust.

The author uses this sentence to create an image of —

- F a weather forecast
- G severe desert conditions
- H a sandy beach
- J major thunderstorm conditions

3 **Read this sentence from the article.**

He fills it with dirt to keep out the heat and any unwanted visitors.

In which word does un- mean the same as it does in unwanted?

- A uncle
- B uniform
- C unaware
- D underneath

- 4 **What happens when a kangaroo rat eats dry seeds?**
- F Its body uses the seeds to keep the rat cool.
 - G Its body turns the seeds into food and water.
 - H It gets thirsty and looks for sources of water.
 - J It can go for a long time without eating again.
- 5 **Many desert animals burrow during the day because —**
- A the sun makes them tired
 - B they enjoy taking long naps
 - C they want to avoid the heat
 - D the night temperature is cool
- 6 **Based on information in the article, why do some desert animals have thick coats?**
- F To keep the animals warm
 - G To block the heat from the sun
 - H To protect them from enemies
 - J To help the animals hide in the sand
- 7 **Which paragraph in the article could have the heading “Daytime Sleepers”?**
- A 2
 - B 3
 - C 4
 - D 5
- 8 **To find other words that could be used in place of “gulp,” a student should look in —**
- F an almanac
 - G a thesaurus
 - H an atlas
 - J an encyclopedia

Read the following passage and answer questions 9 through 17.

Journal of Gurdon Chapell



March 13, 1888
Montville, Connecticut
Age 9

- 1 People are saying I am a hero today, but I don't feel like one. I feel tired and scared, even though I'm safe and warm at home, but mostly I feel sorry for what I did.
- 2 It started yesterday morning. Although it's nearly spring, we woke up to snow everywhere. Legrand and I wanted to play in the snow. But Ma said, "Not in this storm."
- 3 Later someone knocked at the door. It was the doctor. He'd come from Grandma's farm over the hill. He told Ma she would have to take care of Grandma and Pa because they were both sick.
- 4 As Ma bundled up, she put Bernard in charge of keeping Legrand and me busy. For a while, we had fun. Bernard popped popcorn and played with us. For a big brother, Bernard is a good sport. He soon tired of kids' games and decided to check on Grandma and Pa for himself. Legrand and I wanted to go too, but Bernard said no. We were to stay in the house.
- 5 I was angry. Legrand and I had gone to Grandma's in the snow before. "Come on," I said to Legrand. "We're going to Grandma's."
- 6 I dressed both of us in warm clothes. We ran out, but already Bernard was out of sight. So I took Legrand's hand and started out. Now I was the big brother in charge. The wind blew hard; it seemed like forever until we reached our gate. Once we were past it, everything disappeared into whiteness. Soon Legrand started stumbling and crying about being cold.
- 7 Before long we were lost. I had to do something. I once read about a snow cave. So, using my mittened hands and a stick, I started digging. I dug a hole big enough for us to crawl inside. The freezing wind couldn't reach us. Huddling together kept us warmer.

- 8 It seemed like we sat in that cave for days. I was doubtful we'd ever get out, but I couldn't let Legrand know that. To stay awake and fight back fear, I sang songs and told stories. Eventually, hoarse and frozen, I started giving up hope. Then a stick poked through the cave wall. We'd been found!
- 9 Everything happened fast after that. All the neighbors who had searched for us helped get us home. They had to cut off our frozen clothes. People hauled water to make us each a warm bath. I'm not sure why they bothered because after our baths they wrapped us in molasses-smearred sheets. I guess that's supposed to treat frostbite.
- 10 Finally, after a supper of hot soup and cornbread, it was time for bed. When Ma tucked me into bed, she said I was a real hero for thinking of the cave and caring for Legrand. I said "No, I'm not, because we never should have gone out."
- 11 "Accepting that responsibility proves you're a hero," Ma said. "Besides, it's partly Bernard's fault. I hope neither of you will ever forget this lesson learned from the Blizzard of 1888."

9 **In paragraph 5, why does Gurdon feel angry?**

- A He has to work.
- B He has to go out into the cold.
- C He has been left behind.
- D He has to play kids' games.

10 **Read this sentence from paragraph 8.**

Eventually, hoarse and frozen, I started giving up hope.

Which phrase has the same meaning as Eventually?

- F At the end of the day
- G A short time before now
- H As soon as possible
- J After some time had passed

11 **Read this sentence from paragraph 11.**

“Besides, it’s partly Bernard’s fault.”

Gurdon’s mother says this to Gurdon because —

- A Bernard was bigger and stronger than Gurdon
- B Bernard needed to leave and go to Grandma’s house
- C Bernard was supposed to stay and watch his brothers
- D Bernard also does heroic deeds from time to time

12 **The boys probably become lost because —**

- F the storm was a surprise
- G they could not see since they were crying
- H the storm was so strong
- J they ran out quickly without paying attention

13 **Bernard leaves his brothers and goes to Grandma’s farm when he becomes —**

- A alarmed
- B afraid
- C furious
- D bored

14 **After being caught in a blizzard, Gurdon learns to —**

- F follow the example of older children
- G keep moving when he realizes he is lost
- H act like a hero so that he can feel proud
- J think before making a decision

15 **Which of these is used as a healing treatment?**

- A Popcorn
- B Molasses
- C Soup
- D Cornbread

16 **After returning home safely, Gurdon *most* likely feels upset because —**

- F he will probably become ill
- G he worries that the same thing might happen again
- H he thinks there are others still out there
- J he knows they could have been seriously hurt

17 **How did Gurdon learn about snow caves?**

- A He read about them.
- B His mother taught him.
- C His older brother showed him.
- D He studied them at school.

Read the following passage and answer questions 18 through 27.

Working With Dad

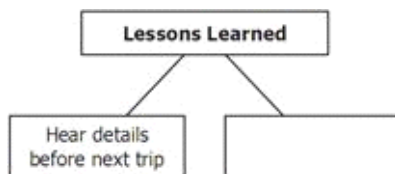
- 1 As a newspaper reporter, Inez's father traveled around the world. He wrote stories about the many interesting people he met. On her eleventh birthday, Inez could hardly believe it when her father announced that she was old enough to go with him on one of his trips! She had grown up hearing tales of her father's experiences, which had always sounded so thrilling to her. He said his next story would be about salt mining in Europe. Inez had never thought much about salt, even though the salt and pepper shakers were always present at meals. She didn't know what to expect, but she knew she would love being with her father.
- 2 Months later, when Inez and her father arrived at the salt mine, they found themselves walking into the middle of a busy workday. Mrs. Walker, the owner, said she would not be available to talk until the workday was over. She suggested that Inez and her father should help out so Inez's father would have first-hand experience for his story. Before Inez realized what was happening, she was in the factory above the mine, working hard and covered with salt. This was not what she had imagined her trip would be like.
- 3 People scurried past her carrying hammers, nails, and slats of wood to make boxes for the salt. Everyone seemed to be in such a hurry. As another newly constructed box was pushed at her, Inez smeared a label with glue and stuck it on the side of the box. When she had agreed to go with her father on his newspaper assignment, she had pictured an adventure, not hard labor.
- 4 Inez looked at the salt covering her father's once-blue pants and sighed. She could taste the salt in her mouth, smell it in the air, and feel it on her skin. It reminded her of being at the beach and not being able to brush the sticky sand off her arms and legs. Inez had been using salt all her life, but she had never imagined that it existed in such quantities or that it was so unbearably hard to package.
- 5 A shout went up from the other side of the small factory. Inez looked up to see a man pointing out the window. Off in the distance was a big truck. "Okay, people, we've got ten minutes until that truck is here to pick up this salt," said Mrs. Walker. *That's probably good news*, thought Inez. Her day in the salt mine was nearly over.
- 6 Beside her, Inez's father rubbed his hands together and grinned at her. "I know this probably isn't what you had in mind," he said, "but sometimes the best days are the ones that don't go as planned."
- 7 *Best?* she wondered. Apparently her father's experience in the salt mine was different from hers. She had learned two lessons today. One was to value every grain of salt to fall from a shaker. The other was to hear the details before agreeing to go on a job with her father!

- 18 **What does the word smear mean in paragraph 3?**
- F Kept clean
 - G Wiped dry
 - H Spread over
 - J Peeled open
- 19 **Why does Inez's father take Inez to Europe?**
- A She is old enough to travel with him now.
 - B He wants her to help him find another job.
 - C She has never traveled with him before.
 - D He wants her to appreciate his hard work.
- 20 **When Mrs. Walker says that the truck will arrive soon, Inez —**
- F wishes her father would let her stop working
 - G hopes the work she is doing with her father is almost finished
 - H hopes the workers finish packaging all the salt
 - J wishes she could work as quickly as some of the others in the factory
- 21 **Which *best* describes how Inez feels about her father's work after their trip to the salt mine?**
- A She has a greater respect for his work.
 - B She decides it is not as appealing as she imagined.
 - C She hopes to have the same kind of experience again.
 - D She thinks he should not keep his job.
- 22 **Which paragraph suggests that Inez will ask questions before she goes on another trip with her father?**
- F 1
 - G 4
 - H 5
 - J 7

- 23 Which sentence *best* supports the idea that Inez is excited about her father's surprise?
- A She didn't know what to expect, but she knew she would love being with her father.
When she had agreed to go with her father on his
 - B newspaper assignment, she had pictured an adventure, not hard labor.
 - C She could taste the salt in her mouth, smell it in the air, and feel it on her skin.
 - D Apparently her father's experience in the salt mine was different from hers.

- 24 Inez and her father probably did *not* expect to —
- F work in the salt factory
 - G see where salt is packaged
 - H watch workers in the factory
 - J meet the owner of the mine

- 25 This chart shows some important ideas in the story.



Which idea belongs in the empty box?

- A Remember those who work at the salt mine
 - B Show respect to parents
 - C Be thankful for returning home from the trip
 - D Appreciate every grain of salt
- 26 Why does Inez's father travel around the world?
- F He uses his travels to relax after he finishes writing.
 - G He enjoys moving around from place to place.
 - H He likes to take his family on adventure trips.
 - J He needs to travel to gather information for stories.
- 27 Why did the author *most* likely write this story?
- A To discuss what it is like when a child travels with a parent
 - B To describe how places around the world are different
 - C To explain which tools are used when packaging salt
 - D To show that sometimes events turn out differently than expected


Read the following passage and answer questions 28 through 38.

TheMattaponiReservation

Address: <http://www.themattaponireservation.com/main>

History Governing Body Events Fish Hatchery River Science Center Reservation School Archives

The Mattaponi Reservation



Created by a 1677 treaty with the Colony of Virginia, the Mattaponi Reservation sits on a bluff overlooking the Mattaponi River. The Mattaponi have worked hard to maintain their ancient way of life, customs, and ceremonies. One purpose of their yearly powwow is to share these traditions with you.


MATTAPONI POWWOW AND CULTURE DAY

May 18
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
King William, VA

ADMISSION: Adults (12 years and older)—\$6.00 Children—Free

Come spend the day with us on the shores of the Mattaponi River for an educational experience demonstrating the customs and beliefs of the Mattaponi. During this special day, American Indians (First Americans) will dance and play drums while dressed in tribal clothing. This year visitors may join in the dancing and drumming.


Visitors will be able to observe artists and craftsmen as they show their basket-making, pottery-making, and tool-making skills. American Indian (First American) storytellers will help you see how their habits and beliefs are passed on to children through legends and stories.





Enjoy Activities


- Taste American Indian (First American) foods
- Purchase crafts and souvenirs
- Play American Indian (First American) children's games
- Watch ceremonial songs and dances

No coolers or pets.
Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.
Tickets may be purchased in advance although no refunds will be allowed.

 [See colorful photos of past powwows](#)

 [Learn about Chief Webster "Little Eagle" Custalow, 1912–2003](#)

 [The story of Great Chief Powhatan](#)

 [The story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith](#)

28 In the first section, the word maintain means to —

- F keep secrets from others
- G discover or invent
- H continue or preserve
- J improve for the future

- 29 **All of the following words help the reader understand the meaning of traditions EXCEPT —**
- A ancient
 - B customs
 - C ceremonies
 - D purpose

- 30 **According to this webpage, habits and beliefs are passed on to children through —**
- F art
 - G school
 - H stories
 - J dancing

- 31 **Read this sentence.**

Mattaponi children study their ancestors.

Under which tab at the top of the webpage would this information *most* likely be found?

- A Governing Body
 - B Fish Hatchery
 - C River Science Center
 - D Reservation School
- 32 **Read this student's notes about the Mattaponi Powwow and Culture Day.**

Mattaponi Powwow and Culture Day

- **May 18**
- _____
- **\$6 for ages 12 and up**
- **Children 11 and under free**

Which statement belongs on the blank line?

- F Colony of Virginia
- G 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- H 1912–2003
- J An invitation

- 33 **The reason some Mattaponi will be dressed in tribal clothing is *most likely* because they —**
- A want the experience to seem real to visitors
 - B think more people will attend the event
 - C need to sell costumes to visitors
 - D hope other people will join the tribe
- 34 **The main purpose of this webpage is to —**
- F persuade readers to try drumming
 - G educate readers on different types of powwows
 - H inform readers about an event
 - J sell crafts and souvenirs to readers
- 35 **What is the *best* summary of this webpage?**
- A Demonstrations of Mattaponi children’s games are available on May 18.
 - B Popular dancing and drumming are a valuable part of the Mattaponi customs.
 - C The Mattaponi enjoy entertaining the public with their dances.
 - D The Mattaponi are inviting people to learn about their way of life on May 18.
- 36 **Readers can tell from this webpage that the author believes —**
- F everyone should try the food
 - G the event will be a great experience
 - H the admission price is too expensive
 - J past powwows were better organized

37 **Read this entry from an online library catalog.**

Title: Culture of the
Mattaponi.
Author: Bright, Shari.
Call Number: J 970.12 BRI
Publisher: NY : Printer House,
c2002.
Description: 102 p. : col. ill. ; 42 cm.
Summary: An overview of
Mattaponi traditions,
customs, and beliefs.
Subject(s): American Indians
(First Americans),
Juvenile literature.
Format: Juvenile.

Which information tells the reader that this resource will be helpful for a report on the Mattaponi?

- A Author
- B Call Number
- C Description
- D Summary

38 **What is the purpose of including the picture of the dancing American Indians (First Americans)?**

- F To demonstrate required clothing
- G To teach a Mattaponi dance
- H To show the location of the powwow
- J To attract the reader's interest

39 **Which word has a suffix that means without?**

- A remarkable
- B automatic
- C speechless
- D graceful

40 Read this sentence.

Attending guitar practice and then completing my homework are activities that occur on a typical Tuesday afternoon.

The word typical *most* nearly means —

- F usual
- G pleasant
- H sunny
- J long