

Summer Work

Incoming 4th Grade

ELA/ Social Studies

Name: _____

Student Directions

*You will be reading passages from different genres that we study in 4th grade. After reading, respond to multiple-choice questions and short response questions. Make sure to employ reading strategies such as: **Re-read, Context Clues, Highlight and Annotate, Ask Questions, Predict** etc.*

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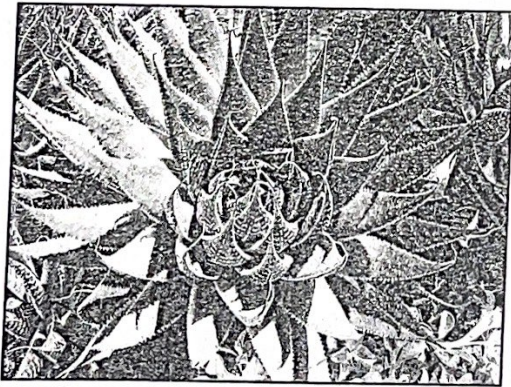
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Desert Survivors

A botanical garden is like a zoo for plants. There you can see all kinds of unusual plants. You'll find growing things of every shape and size. Why do plants vary so much in their appearance?

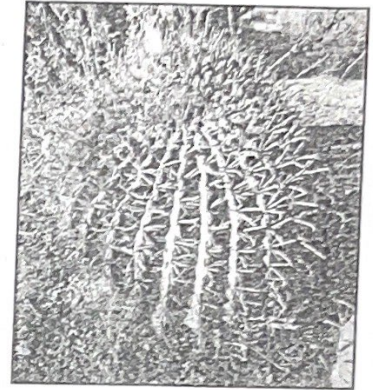
Plants adapt to where they live. They change over time. The changes help them survive in the places they grow. Some changes are not easy to see. But other kinds are **obvious**. Some plants change in ways that make them look like no others. Succulents are this kind of plant. There are about 10,000 different kinds of these plants. They live in very dry places, like deserts. Succulents can store water better than other plants. This helps them go for a long time without rain. Some store water in their leaves. Some store water in their large roots.



A cactus is a kind of succulent. They have been around a long time. The first cactuses looked more like trees. They had leaves, branches, and woody stems. Over millions of years, cactuses changed. Today, they are covered with sharp spines. These spines are their "leaves."

Why did cactuses change? They changed because the places they lived were changing.

These places got hotter and drier. The land became desert. Plants with big leaves could not survive. Water escaped through these leaves and they dried out. Soon, these



plants died out. Plants with narrow, pointed leaves did much better. Their leaves helped them hold on to their water. These plants survived when other plants did not.

More changes developed over time. Narrow pointed leaves changed into spines. Spines have even less area where water can escape. The stems slowly became softer. This made it easier to absorb and store water in their stems.

Cactuses also have very long roots. The roots grow just under the surface of the ground. This helps the plant collect more water when it rains. The saguaro is one kind of cactus. Its roots grow up to 50 feet long! Another cactus can have several quarts of water in it. It is called a barrel cactus. These cactuses have saved the lives of people lost in the desert.

Desert animals get thirsty, too. They are always on the lookout for water. They might try to eat cactuses to get at the water inside. The spines have another purpose. They protect the plant. This is one more way in which cactuses have adapted to survive.

Read each question. Circle the letter of the best answer.

- 1 The roots of a saguaro cactus may be ____ feet long.
A 5 B 10 C 50 D 1,000

- 2 The main idea of this article is that ____.
A there are many different kinds of plants
B succulents store water in their tissues
C succulents have adapted to survive in the desert
D there are about 10,000 kinds of succulents

- 3 You can decide that having roots near the surface allows a cactus to ____.
A tap deep underground streams C move from place to place
B stay upright in strong winds D soak up rainfall before it evaporates

- 4 Which of the following happened *second*?
A Cactuses had spines instead leaves. C Cactuses began to change.
B Cactuses looked like trees. D Cactuses' environment grew drier.

- 5 Which of the following sentences is a fact?
A A cactus is an ugly plant.
B Succulents live in dry places.
C A cactus is a delicious plant.
D Succulents should never be cut down.

- 6 Plants with big leaves couldn't survive a dry climate because ____.
A they provided too much shade C they lost too much water
B cactuses grew long roots D animals liked to eat them

- 7 The word **obvious** means ____.
A hard to notice C correct
B wrong D easy to see

Write your answer to each question on the lines.



- 8 If a desert were to slowly become cooler and wetter, how might cactuses adapt? Explain your answer.

- 9 Landscapers sometimes dig up cactuses from the wild to plant elsewhere. Is this a good idea? Why, or why not? Use facts from the article to support your answer.

New York Explorers

The written history of New York begins when people came here from Europe. That's because the native people did not write things down. They told stories about their past. Today, we have history books. But there is another way we remember history. We name things after important people.

Many people know the name Verrazano. They cross a bridge with that name every day. But most don't think about the man for whom it was named. Giovanni da Verrazano was an explorer from Italy.



Giovanni da Verrazano

He sailed into New York Bay in 1524. But he thought it was a lake. After two weeks, he left. He was looking for a way to China.

Another example is Lake Champlain. This large lake is in northern New York State. It was named after Samuel de Champlain. He was a French explorer. He mapped many parts of Canada. One was the St. Lawrence, a large river. In 1609, Champlain followed a small river that

led off the larger one. At the end was a huge lake. He made a map of the lake. Then he named it for himself.



Samuel de Champlain

In the same year, another explorer sailed to New York. It was Henry Hudson. He was English. But he worked for the Dutch. His job was to find a way to China. Hudson sailed into New York Bay, just like Verrazano. But Hudson saw a river flowing into it. He wondered where it went. Maybe it went all the way to the Pacific Ocean! He



Henry Hudson

started up the river. He traveled about a hundred miles. That's as far north as Albany. Hudson turned back. The river was not a **passage** to Asia. He could not reach the Pacific Ocean on it. But the river he sailed up was named after him.

Read each question. Circle the letter of the best answer.

- 1 Giovanni da Verrazano's name is on a ____.
A bay B bridge C lake D river

- 2 The main idea of the first paragraph is that ____.
A New York State had no history before the Europeans
B native people did not have any forms of writing
C some places are named for important people in history
D the only history that matters is written down

- 3 You can decide from the article that Samuel de Champlain probably ____.
A thought highly of himself C had never been to France
B got along well with Indians D was an educated man

- 4 Which happened *last*?
A Verrazano found New York Bay.
B Samuel de Champlain discovered a lake.
C Henry Hudson sailed a hundred miles up a river.
D A bridge was named for Giovanni da Verrazano.

- 5 Which of the following is a fact from the article?
A Giovanni da Verrazano was not very patient.
B Only Samuel de Champlain made important discoveries.
C Henry Hudson was working for the Dutch.
D Samuel de Champlain was the best of the three explorers.

- 6 When Henry Hudson realized the river was not a way to get to Asia, he ____.
A stopped working for the Dutch C founded Albany
B started a settlement D turned back

- 7 The word **passage** means ____.
A a ticket B a way through C a sea voyage D a tunnel

Write your answer to each question on the lines.



8 Why was finding a way west to China so important? What was the possible reward?

9 Think of a place or thing that is named for someone. Why do you think it was named for that person? Give several reasons.

You will now read two passages and answer questions about each passage. Then, you will answer a short response question using details from both passages.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Turtle Trouble

"Look, Uncle Peter, it's a leatherback!" Erin pointed excitedly to a huge sea turtle moving slowly along the beach. It was as long as Erin was tall! She and her uncle had gone to Padre Island National Seashore to search for leatherbacks—the largest sea turtles in the world.

Erin knelt on the sand to get a better look, keeping a respectful distance from the turtle. That's when she saw the plastic bag wound around the turtle's neck.

"Oh, no," Erin said, "There's a bag around its neck. I bet the bag was floating in the water. The turtle probably thought it was a jellyfish snack. What do we do?"

Uncle Peter thought fast and turned to whistle and wave at a nearby ranger vehicle. He ran up to the truck and explained what they had found. The park ranger stepped out of the truck with some long shears, and Erin immediately knew he would help.

"People need to be more careful with their garbage," Uncle Peter said as he returned. "They don't realize how their careless actions affect other living things."

Erin watched the ranger cut the bag off the leatherback, and she suddenly smiled. "It's a good thing we have people like that ranger then. His actions also affect others, but in a good way." Together, they watched as the leatherback continued on its way to its watery home in the Gulf.

Respond to the questions about *"Turtle Trouble"*. Pick **ONE** answer.

9) What is the main problem in the passage?

- A) Erin and her uncle need to find a park ranger.
- B) Erin and her uncle want to see a leatherback.
- C) Erin and her uncle locate a bag in the water.
- D) Erin and her uncle discover a turtle in danger.

10) Which sentence from the passage shows how the problem is solved?

- A) "The turtle probably thought it was a jellyfish snack".
- B) "People need to be more careful with their garbage." Uncle Peter said as he returned.
- C) "Erin watched the ranger cut the bag off the leatherback, and she suddenly smiled.
- D) "Together, they watched as the leatherback continued on its way to its watery home in the Gulf."

11) Which of the following BEST describes the **theme** of this short story?

Theme: Message of the story

- A) We should always help others in need.
- B) Our actions can affect others.
- C) People need to be careful with their garbage.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Community Circle

It was 2:30 p.m. on Friday, which meant one thing—it was time for Community Circle. The noisy group grew quiet as Mrs. Ramiro walked into the middle of the circle.

“Okay, everyone, I’m not going to beat around the bush. Today is the last day for us to pick a community project to help the local homeless shelter, so we absolutely have to settle on something today.”

Manny raised his hand and said, “What if we did a donation drive, where we all bring in items that people without homes would need? I can ask my mom if there are any clothes that we can give them.”

“That’s a wonderful idea, Manny,” said Mrs. Ramiro. “Why don’t we all ask our families if they can donate one or two pieces of clothing? Everyone can bring them in to school Monday.”

Then Jenny raised her hand and said, “We can do that with food, too—maybe cans of soup, or even milk or juice.”

“Yes,” said Mrs. Ramiro with a smile, “I think the shelter would appreciate that. Let’s all plan to bring in some clothes and food. I think we’re off to a great start to helping some people. Now, what else can we do?”

Mrs. Ramiro smiled again as a few more hands popped up and the kids started talking at once. The Community Circle had come to life!

Respond to the questions about "Community Circle". Pick ONE answer.

13) Read the paragraph from the passage.

"Okay, everyone, I'm not going to beat around the bush. Today is the last day for us to pick a community project to help the local homeless shelter, so we absolutely have to settle on something today."

What does the **idiom** "beat around the bush" show about Mrs. Ramiro?

- A) She does a lot of work in her yard at home.
- B) She wants to start talking about something immediately.
- C) She thinks the community project should be outside.
- D) She has a tool to complete an important task

14) Read the paragraph from the passage.

Mrs. Ramiro smiled again as a few more hands popped up and the kids started talking at once. The Community Circle had come to life!

What does the **idiom** "come to life" show about the students?

- A) They begin to get excited about the project.
- B) They had been sleeping earlier in class.
- C) They had never tried the Community Circle before.
- D) They want to give the people at the shelter a new life.

15) Why do you think the author uses **dialogue** to show how the characters come up with a plan for a food drive?

- A) To show that the characters can speak.
- B) To show that the characters are helping each other come up with the final idea.
- C) The author does not use dialogue.

Writing

How do the characters in "*Turtle Trouble*" and "*Community Circle*" both solve problems? Use details from each passage. Explain what their problems are and how they solve them. Use R.A.C.E!

WHAT DOES THE RACE ACRONYM MEAN?

R	RESTATE <i>the question</i>
A	ANSWER <i>the question completely</i>
C	CITE EVIDENCE <i>from the text</i>
E	EXPLAIN <i>the text evidence</i>