A Walk in the Desert

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. A desert gets little rain and has a very dry climate. Climate is ________________.
   - A. a kind of desert cactus
   - B. a kind of small lizard
   - C. the average weather condition of a place
   - D. the local culture

2. Spiders spin silken webs. A silken web is ________________.
   - A. tough and spiny
   - B. thin and wet
   - C. dry and hard
   - D. soft and shiny

3. You should watch out for scorpions that sometimes lurk under rocks.
   Scorpions that lurk ________________.
   - A. leap out
   - B. lie hidden
   - C. make a lot of noise
   - D. sting

4. There is little water in a desert. How do desert animals solve this problem?
   - A. They drink from desert lakes and rivers
   - B. They store water from the ocean.
   - C. They get water from desert plants.
   - D. They use underground wells.

5. Wood rats build large nests to protect them from ________________.
   - A. enemies and heat
   - B. pack rats
   - C. hunters
   - D. wild cactus

6. Elf owls are the smallest owls in the world. They are about the size of ________________.
   - A. coyotes
   - B. rattlesnakes
   - C. sparrows
   - D. jackrabbits
7. Desert jackrabbits have longer ears than other rabbits. Their long ears help them _______________.
   - A. hear enemies
   - B. find food
   - C. build a home
   - D. stay cool

**B** Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Although roadrunners can fly, they prefer to run after lizards and other small animals. What does this tell you about their flying?

9. Temperatures in the desert may vary from very hot at noon to very cold after sunset. How could people adapt to the changing temperatures?

10. All of the plants and animals that live in the desert are part of a community. They depend on each other. How do you think people who live in the desert might do the same thing?
Roadrunner’s Dance

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Roadrunner must watch the road and be its guardian. A guardian is a ____________.
   ○ A. singer
   ○ B. protector
   ○ C. gift
   ○ D. support

2. In order for Roadrunner to dance around Rattlesnake, he must be agile. If he is agile, he is ____________.
   ○ A. thin
   ○ B. noisy
   ○ C. distracting
   ○ D. quick

3. At first, Roadrunner seems very awkward to the other animals. Awkward means ____________.
   ○ A. clumsy
   ○ B. brave
   ○ C. strong
   ○ D. clever

4. After the family is scared by Snake, they go to the elders for help. The elders are ____________.
   ○ A. the government that makes the laws
   ○ B. wise people who support fairness
   ○ C. elderly people who like snakes
   ○ D. Desert Woman’s parents

5. Which characteristics best describe Rattlesnake?
   ○ A. graceful and active
   ○ B. modest and shy
   ○ C. angry and threatening
   ○ D. noisy and entertaining

6. Roadrunner practices long and hard to be graceful and tricky. Practice is important to this tale because ____________.
   ○ A. Desert Woman keeps telling Roadrunner to practice
   ○ B. it is something we do not like to do
   ○ C. it shows how clumsy and awkward Roadrunner is
   ○ D. it shows that Roadrunner is determined to succeed against all odds
7. The moral, or lesson, of this folktale is that ______________.
   ○ A. if people stand alone and strike out wildly, they can conquer bullies
   ○ B. if people stick together and have a plan, they can conquer bullies
   ○ C. most bullies are never conquered
   ○ D. bullies are mean and should be left alone

**B** Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. When tension builds in a story, it is called suspense. What do you think is suspenseful about this folktale?

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   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

9. Why doesn’t Roadrunner want to be king of the road?

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   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

10. If you had to write a different ending to this story what would it be? Why?

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    ________________________________________________________________
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Animals Come Home to Our National Parks

Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Researchers tracked the relocated elk. Relocated means ____________.
   - A. sick
   - B. healthy
   - C. young
   - D. moved

2. The journey to move 28 elk from Canada to North Carolina was 2,500 miles long. Another word for journey is ____________.
   - A. park
   - B. trip
   - C. airplane
   - D. ship

3. Ten million elk once roamed over North America. Roamed means ____________.
   - A. moved fast by running
   - B. moved around in a large area
   - C. moved from north to south
   - D. stayed in one place

4. By the 1970s, the wolves of Yellowstone National Park ____________.
   - A. had taken over
   - B. had hurt the balance of the park
   - C. were fighting with the bears
   - D. had completely disappeared

5. National parks are important because they protect ____________.
   - A. wildlife, history, and culture
   - B. early settlers
   - C. only trees and bushes
   - D. park rangers

6. The environment of our national parks has changed, mostly because of ____________.
   - A. plants and wildlife
   - B. park rangers
   - C. human activities
   - D. wolves
7. Why did government officials decide to bring the wolves back to Yellowstone?
   ○ A. They wanted to restore a natural balance.
   ○ B. They hoped to attract more tourists.
   ○ C. They were anxious to keep away the bears.
   ○ D. They were planning to make a movie.

**B** Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. What would be another good title for this article? Explain.

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________________________________________________________________________

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9. How would the article change if it focused on national parks in the desert? How might it stay the same?

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10. Why do you think it is important to protect our national parks? What do they contribute to our world?

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At Home in the Coral Reef

**Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.**

1. A giant current runs through the ocean. In this story, current is ________________.
   - A. an event that happens in the present
   - B. a body of slow-moving water
   - C. still water
   - D. the flow of water that moves in one direction

2. Many ocean plants and animals have a partnership.
   A partnership is ________________.
   - A. an agreement to help each other
   - B. an agreement to stay away from each other
   - C. an agreement to live on a ship
   - D. an agreement to be alone

3. Farms, cities, and suburbs use water. Suburbs are ________________.
   - A. towns close to the city
   - B. large apartment buildings
   - C. places in the city
   - D. small cottage houses

4. A coral reef is made of zillions of tiny animals called ________________.
   - A. lagoons
   - B. blue tangs
   - C. coral polyps
   - D. skeletons

5. Which statement best tells how sand is formed?
   - A. Thousands of years ago, someone dropped soil on the beach, and it grew into sand from exposure to the ocean.
   - B. Over thousands of years, ocean waves pound skeletons of reef animals and plants into smaller bits which eventually become grains of sand.
   - C. Over thousands of years, ocean waves pound garbage into sand-like tiny bits.
   - D. No one knows how sand is formed; it is a mystery.

6. Divers can sometimes break pieces of the coral reef. You can say that ________________.
   - A. the coral is not important to the animals of the ocean
   - B. divers need to be more careful when swimming in the ocean
   - C. the broken coral can grow back
   - D. the divers need a place to swim
7. To help the coral reef, people everywhere should ________________.
   ○ A. build many more aquariums
   ○ B. grow coral reefs in laboratories
   ○ C. work to keep oceans clean
   ○ D. move butterfly fish away from the reef

B) **Answer the questions below using complete sentences.**

8. Compare the crest, or top, of the coral reef and the lagoon. How are they alike and different? Use examples from the selection in your answer.

9. What are some lessons people learn from the way a coral reef works?

10. How can people avoid polluting our oceans?
Adelina’s Whales

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. The whales described in *Adelina’s Whales* push their massive heads out of the water. Massive means ______________.
   - A. very small
   - B. medium
   - C. very large
   - D. somewhat large

2. A tiny fishing boat had a unique meeting with a wild fifty-foot whale. When something is unique, it is ______________.
   - A. funny
   - B. scary
   - C. strange
   - D. one of a kind

3. A whale dove below the surface of the water and popped up on the other side of Adelina’s boat. Dove means ______________.
   - A. dropped down
   - B. circled around
   - C. stayed in one place
   - D. floated

4. In January, Adelina walks to the beach after school every day because she likes to ______________.
   - A. collect shells
   - B. watch whales
   - C. hunt whales
   - D. walk in the sand

5. The whales go to Laguna San Ignacio once a year to ______________.
   - A. find and eat shrimp
   - B. hibernate for the winter
   - C. meet other whales
   - D. give birth to their calves

6. Adelina knows a lot about gray whales. A whale’s flat tail is called a ______________.
   - A. fluke
   - B. blowhole
   - C. hammerhead
   - D. fin
7. From their behavior in the selection, Adelina and her family have ______________.
   ○ A. helped the birds at the beach
   ○ B. followed the whales for many years
   ○ C. struggled to save the turtles
   ○ D. shown little interest in whales

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Why do you think Adelina might want to be a biologist when she grows up? Support your answer with details from the selection.

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9. What in the selection tells you that Adelina enjoys living by the ocean?

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10. What would happen if people started to pollute the water in Laguna San Ignacio? Explain your answer.

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