

DESERT CREATURE BY EDWARD ABBEY

2Classwork

1. The best time to see the animals of the Sonoran Desert is
 - a. at noon, when they sunbathe
 - b. in the afternoon, when they go to their waterholes
 - c. at night, when they come out of hiding
 - d. in the morning, when they are still half asleep
2. When a kangaroo rat finds water, it will
 - a. drink greedily
 - b. sip cautiously
 - c. store it in its pouch
 - d. ignore it
3. Coatimundis eat
 - a. only roots and berries
 - b. only barrel cactus
 - c. only what they find in trashcan
 - d. anything
4. Coatimundis have tails like those of
 - a. raccoons
 - b. coyotes
 - c. javelinas
 - d. kit foxes
5. When the author approached a lone coatimundi, the animal
 - a. froze in its tracks
 - b. bared its fangs
 - c. sat up and begged
 - d. walked over to him
6. The author's favorite desert creature is the
 - a. cougar
 - b. coatimundi
 - c. javelina
 - d. coyote
7. The javelinas weakest sense is that of
 - a. sight
 - b. smell
 - c. hearing
 - d. touch
8. The author's first encounter with javelinas occurred when he was
 - a. hunting them
 - b. hunting coatimundis
 - c. taking photographs
 - d. daydreaming
9. Two javelinas came so close to the author that he could
 - a. see their bloodshot eyes
 - b. feel their bristles
 - c. feel their breath
 - d. look down their throats
10. The javelina specializes in eating desert
 - a. mice
 - b. cactus
 - c. lizards
 - d. birds

Thinking About the Essay

1. Why would you suppose that most desert animals remain hidden during the day?
2. The author has learned to observe animals very carefully. What kinds of things does he look for?
3. How does the kangaroo rat obtain water?
4. How does the coatimundi react to Abbey?
5. What kind of cactus does the javelina like to eat?
6. List five other creatures Abbey mentions in his essay.