DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

DESERTS

It might seem that very few things can survive in the desert. Most plants and animals that you see in your town probably wouldn't. But there are many different types of plants and animals that are perfectly suited to the hot, dry climate.

In the desert, there is very little water. The plants and animals that live in the desert have special features for living with little water. Plants like the cactus have short leaves. These leaves trap and store water. The cactus also has spines on its leaves. This is to keep animals from taking its water.

Animals that live in the desert are often nocturnal. This means they sleep during the day. They come out to eat at night when it is cool. Other animals, like the camel, are awake during the heat of the day. They have special eyelashes that keep the sand out of their eyes. They have nostrils that can close to keep the sand out of their noses. They can go for many days without drinking. Many animals that live in the desert can get all the water they need from the foods they eat.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of these could be a title for this passage?
   a. "A Cold Day in the Desert"
   b. "How to Stay Cool in the Desert"
   c. "Plant and Animal Life in the Desert"
   d. "When You are Hot, Drink Water"

2. What makes camels a unique or special animal?
   a. They are used to humans so they eat from our hands.
   b. They are awake at night when it's cool.
   c. They have special eyelashes and nostrils to help keep sand out of their bodies.
   d. They live under rocks.

3. Animals that sleep during the day are called . . .
   a. lazy.
   b. desert creatures.
   c. camels.
   d. nocturnal.

4. If you wanted to visit the desert in the daytime, you might wear . . .
   a. a heavy jacket, mittens, and a hat.
   b. shorts, a tank top, and sunglasses.
   c. long jeans, a sweater, and rain gear.
   d. a swimsuit and goggles.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

TUNDRA

Do you think the desert is the only place that has very little rain? The tundra doesn't get much rain either. It is different from the desert, though. The tundra is almost always frozen!

The tundra is one of the coldest habitats on the earth. Summer only lasts for two months. During this time, the ground thaws, or melts, a little. It is never very warm, though. During the winter, there are times when the sun doesn't shine at all.

Only a few plants are able to stay alive in this habitat. When the icy winds blow, they are only safe because they grow close to the ground. Animals such as reindeer, polar bears, and musk oxen are the only ones that can stay alive in this cold weather. They have very thick fur that keeps them warm. Some of these animals hibernate in the winter while others migrate south.

The plants and animals of the tundra have adapted to this harsh environment.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Summer in the tundra is . . .
   a. hot and dry.
   b. very busy.
   c. two months long.
   d. cold and rainy.

2. If you were to visit the tundra, you might expect to see . . .
   a. parks, benches, and swing sets.
   b. flowers, trees, and large bushes.
   c. low-lying plants and a few animals.
   d. birds, cats, and dogs.

3. A person who plans to visit the tundra should probably wear . . .
   a. shorts and sunglasses.
   b. a light jacket and a baseball cap.
   c. a heavy jacket, warm hat, and gloves.
   d. skis.

4. How are the tundra and a desert similar?
   a. They are not similar at all.
   b. They both have lots of different types of plants.
   c. They have the same types of plants and animals.
   d. They both get very little rain.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

Rainforests are very warm, wet forests. Rain falls for days and even months. Rainforests have millions of different types of plants and animals. They live in the four different zones of the rainforest.

The first zone is called the emergent zone. This is high above the rainforest. Here, giant trees stretch higher than the average height of any of the other plants. Many birds and insects live here.

The second zone is the canopy. This is the leafy area of the tops of the trees. Most of the animals in the rainforest live here. You can find monkeys, parrots, and frogs up here. You can also find butterflies, snakes, and sloths. A sloth is a very slow-moving animal that hangs upside down from the trees.

The understory is the third zone. It is made up of mostly young trees and shrubs. It is dark and cool. It is under the leaves, but not on the ground.

The forest floor is the final zone of the rainforest. The largest animals, such as jaguars and even elephants usually live here. The forest floor is also home to millions and millions of insects!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In which zone would you most likely find a large animal, such as a jaguar?
- a. emergent zone
- b. canopy
- c. understory
- d. forest floor

2. According to the passage, how many types of plants and animals live in the rainforest?
- a. trillions
- b. millions
- c. kazillions
- d. thousands

3. Which is the highest zone in the rainforest?
- a. forest floor
- b. emergent
- c. canopy
- d. understory

4. In this passage, *zone* probably means . . .
- a. time zone.
- b. area under water.
- c. part or section.
- d. area where no animals live.

LIVEWORKSHEETS