

Desert Animals

1. The Gila monster's burrow both _____ and keeps it warm in winter.

- A. protects it from the sun
- B. conceals it from predators
- C. helps it sneak up on prey
- D. attracts other Gila monsters

2. To stay warm in the winter, the fennec fox

- A. builds a burrow out of snow.
- B. climbs trees to keep off the cold ground.
- C. wraps up in its bushy tail.
- D. creates a makeshift coat out of twigs and moss.

3. The fennec fox's huge ears

- A. make it highly visible to predators from the air.
- B. allow it to detect the direction of the wind.
- C. allow heat to escape from its body.
- D. are very susceptible to infection.

4. The Bactrian camel's thick eyelashes

- A. enhance its vision in the bright desert sun.
- B. are sought after for use in traditional woven textiles.
- C. protect its eyes from the desert sand.
- D. make it worth a lot of money to camel herders.

- 5. A meerkat's coat is light-colored because**
- A. it becomes bleached by the sun over time.
 - B. light colors are less attractive to predators.
 - C. light colors reflect the sun.
 - D. its natural habitat is the snowy tundra, which is white.
- 6. The elf owl hunts insects at night because**
- A. it is blinded by the bright sun during the day.
 - B. insects are easier to spot in the dark.
 - C. insects only come out at night.
 - D. it is too hot to hunt during the day.
- 7. Where does the Bactrian camel find water?**
- A. They get the water they need from the plants they eat.
 - B. Bactrian camels drink the water of the dwindling Aral Sea.
 - C. Bactrian camels have evolved to smell water from miles away and can easily locate desert oases.
 - D. Their water comes from puddles after rainstorms.
- 8. The spines on a thorny devil's skin**
- A. scare away birds and other predators.
 - B. are extremely poisonous.
 - C. channel water to its mouth.
 - D. help it trap its prey.
- 9. To avoid being caught by enemies, some meerkats**
- A. choose to live alone rather than in groups.
 - B. stand guard while others dig for food.
 - C. hide in Gila monster burrows.
 - D. use their tails to brush away their tracks.

10. The elf owl, _____, is about the same size as a sparrow.

- A. the smallest owl in the world
- B. a rare and aggressive species of owl
- C. the most common owl in the world
- D. a highly social bird