

# A Grand Old Canyon

## What is a Canyon?

Canyons are deep valleys surrounded by rocky cliffs. They are formed by **erosion**. Rain and river water hit rocks and sand. Strong winds blow cliffs and water wears down the rocks. Canyons are not just found on land. They can be found on the ocean floor. These canyons were formed by strong ocean currents that wore away the rock.

## The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is one of the most famous canyons in the world. It is 277 miles long. It would take you about five hours to drive that many miles. The cliffs of the Grand Canyon are made of brown, red, and yellow rocks and sand. It is one mile from the top of the cliffs to the floor of the canyon. The Colorado River flows along the canyon floor.

## Visiting the Canyon

The Grand Canyon is a national park. Over 5 million people visit it each year. Visitors enjoy hiking, camping, and white water rafting. Hiking in the canyon can be very dangerous. Many people become **dehydrated** from the high temperatures of 100° or more and not having enough water. Many people have also fallen off of high cliffs. About 600 people have died in the Grand Canyon in the last 150 years.



The pink rattlesnake startles hikers in the canyon as it suns itself on warm rocks along trails.



Canyons can be found all over the world. One of the biggest and most famous canyons is the Grand Canyon which is located in Arizona.

There are six species, or kinds, of rattlesnakes that live in the Grand Canyon. The most common is the Grand Canyon Pink Rattlesnake. Its **hue** matches the rocks found in the canyon.

The canyon can be dangerous but people from all over the world continue to visit and enjoy its beauty.

## A Grand Old Canyon

### Nonfiction Graded Assignment

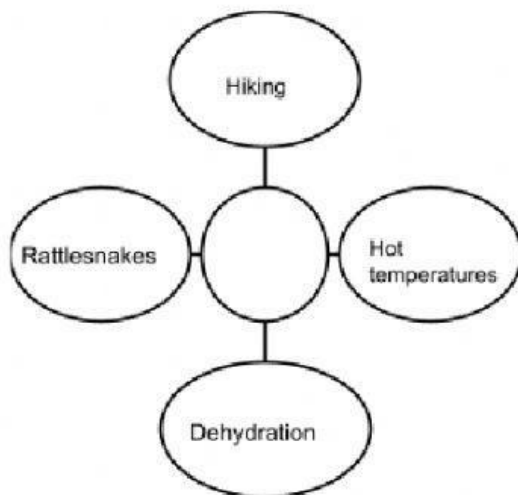
1. Read this sentence:

Its **hue** matches the rocks found in the canyon.

What is the meaning of the word **hue**?

- A. bite
- B. snake
- C. color
- D. head

2. Choose the best title for this web.



- A. Touring the Grand Canyon
- B. How Canyons are Formed
- C. Wildlife of the Grand Canyon
- D. The Dangers of the Grand Canyon

3. What is paragraph 1 mostly about?

- A. It tells how canyons are formed.
- B. It shares activities to do in the canyon.
- C. It describes how the Grand Canyon looks.
- D. It tells which animals live in the Grand Canyon.

4. Based on the article, what caused the Grand Canyon to form?

- A. ocean currents
- B. it was man-made
- C. erosion wore away rock
- D. an earthquake split the land

5. How many miles long is the Grand Canyon?

- A. 600
- B. 150
- C. 277
- D. 100

6. According to the article, what causes people to become dehydrated in the Grand Canyon?

- A. strong winds
- B. white water rafting
- C. high temperatures
- D. dangerous animals

7. Read these sentences from the article:

It is 277 miles long. It would take you about five hours to drive that many miles

Why does the author tell how long it would take to travel 277 miles by car?

- A. to encourage people to visit the Grand Canyon
- B. to convince people to drive along the Grand Canyon
- C. to help people to understand how long the Grand Canyon is
- D. to explain how dangerous the Grand Canyon is

8. What are canyons?

- A. deep valleys surrounded by rocky cliffs
- B. strong ocean currents
- C. rushing water that flows between rocks
- D. cliffs made of brown, yellow, and red rock

9. According to the article, why do pink rattlesnakes startle hikers?

- A. because they are poisonous
- B. because they jump out and scare hikers
- C. because they rest in the sun along the trails
- D. because of their bright colors

10. The author included paragraph 2 to –

- A. explain how canyons are formed
- B. tell about a famous canyon
- C. inform visitors of the dangers of the Grand Canyon
- D. help people plan a vacation to the Grand Canyon