

Name \_\_\_\_\_

climate  
lurksilken  
shimmerlumbering  
eerie

swallows

Substitute a vocabulary word for the underlined word or words in each sentence.

1. The rattlesnake's rattle makes a scary sound, warning us to keep out of its way. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Alligators often lie in wait in the reeds until small animals come near.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. A bear's heavy, awkward step warns small creatures in its path.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The surface of frozen ponds glow brightly in the winter sunlight.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Cacti are plants adapted to dry weather for most of the year.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. A snake gulps its prey without chewing. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A spider's web is made of soft, smooth strands. \_\_\_\_\_

Choose three vocabulary words and use them in one sentence.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

The **main idea** of a selection tells you what it is all about. The supporting **details** in the selection help you to understand the main idea. The main idea is often, but not always, stated in the first sentence.

**Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.**

Many newborn rattlesnakes do not survive their first year of life. A baby rattlesnake is only about 10 inches long. Although they have short fangs and a poisonous bite, they are often eaten by birds and animals. The adult rattlesnakes do not raise their young. The young snakes are entirely on their own. Many die of hunger. In the winter they die if they do not find a warm place where they can hibernate.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

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2. What supporting details tell you how young rattlesnakes are in danger? List two details on the lines below.

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3. What supporting detail tells you how baby rattlesnakes can survive in the winter?

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4. What supporting detail tells you how baby rattlesnakes can attempt to defend themselves?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

As you read *A Walk in the Desert*, fill in the Main Idea Chart.

Main Ideas	Details

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How does the information you wrote in the Main Idea Chart help you to summarize *A Walk in the Desert*?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**As I read, I will pay attention to tempo.**

10 The Sahara is the world's largest desert. It is nearly  
 20 the size of the United States. The Sahara extends over  
 29 10 countries in northern Africa. Like all deserts, it gets  
 fewer than 10 inches (24 cm) of rain a year.

37 In parts of the Sahara, you can see nothing but sand for  
 49 miles. A sand dune forms when wind carries sand over a  
 60 large rock. The sand drops, and gradually a hill of sand  
 71 grows.

72 However, about 80 percent of the world's deserts are  
 80 not sandy. This is true within the Sahara as well. Deserts  
 91 begin as rock. The rock is worn away and broken apart by  
 103 wind, rainstorms, and changing temperatures. Over time,  
 110 the rock is broken into smaller and smaller pieces. The  
 120 rock breaks down first into boulders, then into stones, and  
 130 finally into sand. In some places, the Sahara is made up of  
 142 huge rocks and gravel. 146

**Comprehension Check**

1. What makes the Sahara a desert? **Main Idea and Details**
2. State the details of how a desert is formed. **Main Idea and Details**

	Words Read	—	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		—		=	
Second Read		—		=	



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Assonance** is the repetition of the same or similar vowel sounds in two or more words. For example:

We played in the rain today.

A **metaphor** compares two different objects or ideas and states that one is the other. For example:

A hawk is a feathered airplane circling in the desert.

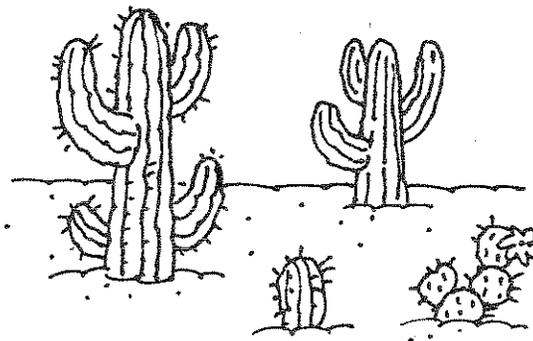
Read the poem and then answer the questions.

### Cactus

Tough spiny plant.

Water hiding inside.

A secret, shaded oasis for me.



1. What two things are being compared in this metaphor?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How is a cactus like an oasis?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What words in the poem are an example of assonance?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. On the lines below, write a metaphor about one of the following.

desert tortoise

wood rat

rattlesnake

roadrunner

lizard

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes **surrounding words** can provide the context you need to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Read the following sentences. Circle the answer with the words that best fits in the blank.

1. A **border** \_\_\_\_\_ often separates one country from another.  
a. of green flowers                      b. such as a river
2. **Venomous** snakes, \_\_\_\_\_, kill prey with their poisonous bite.  
a. including rattlesnakes              b. in the zoo
3. In the west, the open **range** of \_\_\_\_\_ gradually became fenced in.  
a. empty plains                          b. deep lakes
4. Many desert animals hide from **predators** \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. like cows                                b. such as foxes
5. At high **elevations** \_\_\_\_\_ there are fewer trees and plants.  
a. under the ocean                      b. near the top of mountains
6. **Fledglings**, \_\_\_\_\_ hatch from eggs in the spring.  
a. such as baby wrens                  b. such as full-grown hawks
7. **Nocturnal** animals, \_\_\_\_\_, look for food between dusk and dawn.  
a. like bats and owls                    b. like whales and dolphins
8. Western farmers plant **orchards** full of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. orange and lemon trees            b. chickens



Name \_\_\_\_\_

The long a sound can be spelled the following ways:

ay today, stray

ai rail, drain

a\_e slate, graze

ei neigh, sleigh

ea break, great

Read the following sentences. Write the words in the sentences that have a long a sound on the lines below.

1. The baby wood rats played outside today.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Does it take long to make a crate for a rattlesnake?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Rain in the desert can cause a great flood.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Desert sunsets paint the sky bright colors.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you see the snake that just slithered across the trail?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Don't break away from the trail when walking in the desert.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. We heard the stray horses neigh as they grazed on desert bushes.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. We hiked in the desert until my legs ached and I felt faint.

\_\_\_\_\_

