

Quick Check

The Mighty Saguaro Cactus

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. The saguaro cactus lives only in _____.
 - Ⓐ dry riverbeds
 - Ⓑ the Midwest
 - Ⓒ dark, wet forests
 - Ⓓ the Sonoran Desert
2. Which of the following does not describe the saguaro's roots?
 - Ⓐ They spread out in all directions.
 - Ⓑ They can't soak up much water.
 - Ⓒ They soak up a great deal of water.
 - Ⓓ They are just below the ground's surface.
3. What does it mean to **transpire**?
 - Ⓐ to fertilize a plant
 - Ⓑ to produce flowers
 - Ⓒ to give off water vapor
 - Ⓓ to move from place to place
4. The arms of a saguaro cactus are like the _____ of a maple tree.
 - Ⓐ roots
 - Ⓑ leaves
 - Ⓒ flowers
 - Ⓓ branches
5. Why did the Tohono O'odham people move into cactus camps in the summer?
 - Ⓐ to collect saguaro fruit
 - Ⓑ to cut down the saguaros
 - Ⓒ to hunt for javelinas
 - Ⓓ to escape the heat
6. Why is the saguaro cactus called a *cactus hotel*?
 - Ⓐ It has many levels that animals can live in.
 - Ⓑ Many different types of animals live in it.
 - Ⓒ It protects animals from heat and provides them water.
 - Ⓓ All of the above

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Name _____ Date _____

7. What does it mean if the cactus **decomposes**?

- Ⓐ It sprouts and grows.
- Ⓑ It dies and breaks down.
- Ⓒ It keeps water inside of it.
- Ⓓ It puts out thorns to protect itself.

8. Which of the following does not help keep the saguaro from losing water?

- Ⓐ sharp spines
- Ⓑ tough skin
- Ⓒ big leaves
- Ⓓ waxy skin

9. Which statement is true about the Sonoran Desert?

- Ⓐ It rains there most often in the winter.
- Ⓑ Many plants and animals live in this dry desert.
- Ⓒ Only small creatures like insects can survive this desert.
- Ⓓ All of the above

10. What does **germinate** mean?

- Ⓐ to happen quite often
- Ⓑ to sprout and grow roots
- Ⓒ to be used for food by an animal
- Ⓓ a type of plant living on the desert

11. **Extended Response:** Compare a saguaro cactus to a maple tree. Tell two ways they are alike and two ways they are different.

12. **Extended Response:** How has the saguaro cactus adapted for life in the desert?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

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Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
3. Ⓒ Vocabulary
4. Ⓓ Compare and Contrast
5. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
6. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
7. Ⓑ Vocabulary
8. Ⓒ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
9. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓑ Vocabulary
11. Answers will vary but would likely include the following: *Saguaros and maple trees both have roots, have animals that nest in them, start from a seed, and can get diseases. They are different because the saguaro has spines instead of leaves, only lives in the Sonoran Desert, grows flowers and fruit, grows very slowly, has arms instead of branches, and so on.*
12. Answers will include the following: *long shallow roots to collect water; spines instead of leaves and tough waxy skin to help conserve water.*