

English

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(Honeysuckle) (Chapter - 9) (Desert Animals)
(Class - VI)

Working with the Text

Question A:

1. Talk to your partner and say whether the following statements are true or false.

- (i) No animal can survive without water.
- (ii) Deserts are endless sand dunes.
- (iii) Most snakes are harmless.
- (iv) Snakes cannot hear, but they can feel vibrations through the ground.
- (v) Camels store water in their humps.

2. Answer the following questions.

- (i) How do desert animals survive without water?
- (ii) How do mongooses kill snakes?
- (iii) How does the hump of the camels help them to survive when there is no water?

Answer A:

1.

(i) No animal can survive without water. **True**

(ii) Deserts are endless sand dunes. **False**

Not all deserts are endless sand dunes, some are rocky or pebbly and dotted with small bushes while others are sprinkled with colourful flowers during the spring.

(iii) Most snakes are harmless. **True**

(iv) Snakes cannot hear, but they can feel vibrations through the ground. **True**

(v) Camels store water in their humps. **False**

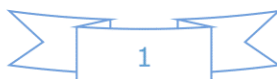
The hump does not store water as it is full of fat. This fat nourishes the camel when food is scarce.

2.

(i) Desert animals cannot survive without water. They find different ways of coping with the harsh desert conditions. For example, gerbils spend the hottest part of the day in cool underground burrows. And darkling beetles catch moisture on their legs and then lift them into air till the drop trickles down into their mouths.

(ii) Mongooses kill snakes without getting hurt themselves. Their reactions are so fast that they dodge each time the snake strikes. They continually make a nuisance of themselves, and after a while, when the snake gets tired, they quickly dive in for the kill.

(iii) The hump of the camels is full of fat that nourishes the camel when the food is scarce. If they have nothing for several days the hump shrinks as the fat is used up.



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Question B:

Read the words/phrases in the box. With your partner find their meaning in the dictionary.

harsh conditions	harmless	survive	intruder
threatened	predators	prey	continually

Fill in the blanks in the following passage with the above words/phrases.

All animals in forests and deserts struggle to _____ in _____. Though most of the animals are _____, some are dangerous when _____. If an _____ is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle _____ for food and water. Some animals are called _____ because they _____ on other animals.

Answer B:

All animals in forests and deserts struggle to *survive* in *harsh conditions*. Though most of the animals are *harmless*, some are dangerous when *threatened*. If an *intruder* is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle *continually* for food and water. Some animals are called *predators* because they *prey* on other animals.

Speaking

Question:

Look at these sentences.

- Deserts are the driest places on earth.
- Gerbils spend the hottest part of the day in cool underground burrows.

Now form pairs. Ask questions using a suitable form of the word in brackets. Try to answer the questions too.

Do you know

1. Which animal is the _____ (tall)?
2. Which animal runs the _____ (fast)?
3. Which place on earth is the _____ (hot) or the _____ (cold)?
4. Which animal is the _____ (large)?
5. Which is the _____ (tall) mountain in the world?
6. Which is the _____ (rainy) place on earth?
7. Which is the _____ (old) living animal?

Can you add some questions of your own?

Answer:

1. Which animal is the *tallest*?
2. Which animal runs the *fastest*?
3. Which place on earth is the *hottest* or the *coldest*?
4. Which animal is the *largest*?
5. Which is the *tallest* mountain in the world?
6. Which is the *rainiest* place on earth?
7. Which is the *oldest* living animal?



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Thinking about Language

Question A:

Look at these sentences.

- Most snakes are quite harmless, but a few are poisonous.
- Most snakes lay eggs, but the rattlesnake gives birth to its young.

Now write five sentences like these using 'most' and the clues below.

1. (90% of) people are honest (10%) are dishonest.

2. (Lots of) fruit have plenty of sugar, (some) citrus fruit are low in sugar.

3. (Every soft drink except this one) has lots of 'empty calories'.

4. (The majority of) films are romances, (a few) are on other topics.

5. (A majority of) people agree that he is a good leader, (just a few) disagree.

Answer A:

1. Most of the people are honest, but a few are dishonest.
2. Most of the fruit have plenty of sugar, but some citrus fruit are low in sugar.
3. Most of the soft drink except this one have lots of 'empty calories'.
4. Most of the films are romances, but a few are on other topics.
5. Most of the people agree that he is a good leader, but a few disagree.

Question B:

Look at these sentences.

- Animals *cannot* survive for long without water.
- So desert animals *have to* find different ways of coping.

The first sentence says what *cannot happen* or be done; the second tells us what must, therefore, be done, what it is *necessary* to do. Complete these sentences using *cannot* and *have to/has to*.

1. You _____ reach the island by land or air; you _____ go by boat.
2. We _____ see bacteria with our eyes; we _____ look at them through a microscope.
3. He _____ have a new bicycle now; he _____ wait till next year.
4. Old people often _____ hear very well; they _____ use a hearing aid.
5. Road users _____ do what they wish; they _____ follow the traffic rules.
6. She _____ accept this decision; she _____ question it.
7. You _____ believe everything you hear; you _____ use your own judgement.



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Answer B:

1. You *cannot* reach the island by land or air; you *have to* go by boat.
2. We *cannot* see bacteria with our eyes; we *have to* look at them through a microscope.
3. He *cannot* have a new bicycle now; he *has to* wait till next year.
4. Old people often *cannot* hear very well; they *have to* use a hearing aid.
5. Road users *cannot* do what they wish; they *have to* follow the traffic rules.
6. She *cannot* accept this decision; she *has to* question it.
7. You *cannot* believe everything you hear; you *have to* use your own judgement.

Writing

Imagine you are journeying through a desert. Write a couple of paragraphs describing what you see and hear.

Answer:

A desert is the region, where the life is full of challenges. When I visited to a desert, I come to know how hot the deserts are. I saw endless expanse of sand and sand dunes. Only few thorny bushes can be seen here and there. There are very few birds or animals. The camel is being used in most of the works by people here. Life is very hard there. Only few villages can be seen near oases. Due to lack of water, greenery is less over there.

Blowing of sand storms and hot winds can be heard here. We hear the calling of mongooses and howling of jackals also. Sounds of activities of camels is most common here.

