

Name _____

- Look at each picture, and read the sentence that goes with it. Write the Vocabulary Word from the box that completes each sentence.

brush spiny habitat topple perch nectar

1. I can prick your fingers.

I am _____.



2. I am the _____ of the saguaro cactus.



3. Birds and bees like to drink me.

I am _____.



4. I grow in the desert.

I am _____.



5. I am a ringtail cat. I like to
_____ on top of this cactus.



6. I am very old. Soon I will
_____ to the ground.



To the Teacher: Use pictures from "Saguaro Cactus" to illustrate the Vocabulary Words. Model completing the first item, and have students complete the remaining items in pairs. After students have finished the exercise, have them write a paragraph about the desert. Ask them to use each Vocabulary Word in their paragraphs.

Skill Reminder**nonfiction = informative or persuasive**

- Read the paragraphs. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

The Desert Tortoise

The Sonoran Desert is very hot and dry. The desert tortoise has a special way to survive in the desert. It digs (burrows) and lives underground. It is cooler there. Desert tortoises spend most of their lives underground. Some have just one burrow. Others have many burrows.

Desert tortoises eat grass and wildflowers. They get water from these plants. But they can live for up to a year without water. They have long lives. They live for eighty to a hundred years. It is against the law to harm a desert tortoise.

- 1 This passage is an example of _____.
A fiction
B science fiction
C nonfiction
D a myth

 **Tip**

Fiction, science fiction, and myths are types of stories. Nonfiction gives information. Read the paragraphs again. Do they tell a story or give information?

- 2 The purpose of the passage is to _____.
F give information about the desert tortoise
G tell the reader to visit the desert
H describe desert plants and animals
J show what it is like to live in the desert

 **Tip**

What are the paragraphs about? Why did the author write them?

- 3 What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
A Tortoises get water from plants.
B Tortoises eat grass and wildflowers.
C The Sonoran Desert is very hot.
D Tortoises survive in the desert by digging burrows.

 **Tip**

Cross out answer choices that come from the second paragraph.

To the Teacher: Review with students the difference between fiction and nonfiction. Ask volunteers to give examples of each. Introduce the story by asking students what they know about tortoises. Then read aloud the directions. Have students work in small groups to read the story and discuss the questions.