

Grade 4 Theme 5, Story 3
“Saguaro Cactus”

LA.A.1.2.3 - Vocabulary – pg. 555

1. Read this sentence from the story.

By the time it is 75 years old, the saguaro is nearly 50 feet tall (15 meters)...and teeming with life!

Which word means the OPPOSITE of *teeming*?

- A. overflowing
(incorrect meaning)
- B. toppling
(incorrect answer)
- C. empty
(correct answer)
- D. full
(incorrect cause)

LA.E.2.2.1 - Cause and Effect - pg. 551

2. What happens to make the saguaro grow fatter?

- A. Many pleats begin to appear.
(incorrect meaning)
- B. The cactus takes in water.
(correct answer)
- C. The roots stay shallow.
(plausible but incorrect)
- D. Branches reach out like arms.
(incorrect cause)

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LA.A.2.2.2 - Author’s Purpose - pg. 547-558

3. Why did the author write the story “Saguaro Cactus”?
- A. To teach readers about the animals of the Sonoran Desert.
(incorrect interpretation)
 - B. To thrill readers with stories of how the ringtail cat gets its food.
(incorrect interpretation)
 - C. To tell readers that the saguaro is the center of life in a harsh desert.
(correct answer)
 - D. To entertain readers with an amusing story of desert animals.
(incorrect interpretation)

LA.A.2.2.1 - Main Idea - pg. 553

4. How does the gila woodpecker help the saguaro cactus?
- A. It tap...tap...taps through the saguaro’s tough skin.
(incorrect interpretation)
 - B. It makes lovely flowers appear every Spring.
(incorrect interpretation)
 - C. It keeps the red-tailed hawk and horned owls away.
(correct answer)
 - D. It eats insects that would harm the saguaro cactus.
(incorrect interpretation)

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LA.A.2.2.7 - Compare and Contrast - pg. 555

5. Why is a saguaro cactus compared to a crowded village?
- A. Because both are teeming with life.
(correct answer)
 - B. Because both have birds and bats coming to drink nectar.
(incorrect comparison)
 - C. Because both allow only large animals to come and feed.
(plausible but incorrect)
 - D. Because both can be used for shelter if you get lost.
(incorrect comparison)