

Name: _____

Date: _____

How Camels Survive the Desert

Grades 3-4

Nonfiction

- 1 Deserts are some of the hardest places to live on Earth. They are very dry, and they can be scorching hot in the day and cold at night. Camels are built for this life.
- 2 Many people think a camel's hump is full of water, but it is really full of fat. When food is hard to find, the camel's body can use the fat for energy.
- 3 Camels can go many days without drinking. When they do find water, they can drink a huge amount very quickly.
- 4 Blowing sand is a problem in the desert, but camels have ways to handle it. They have two rows of long eyelashes, and they can close their nostrils to keep sand out.
- 5 Their feet are wide and padded, so they do not sink into the soft sand. Thick fur on their backs even helps protect them from the hot sun.
- 6 For thousands of years, people have traveled across deserts with camels. That is why camels are sometimes called "ships of the desert."

Draw something you learned from this text.

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Questions: How Camels Survive the Desert

Read the passage again if you need to. Circle the best answer.

1. What is inside a camel's hump?

- ☐ a Water
- ☐ c Sand

- ☐ b Fat
- ☐ d Air

2. How do camels keep sand out of their noses?

- ☐ a They sneeze
- ☐ c They wear masks

- ☐ b They close their nostrils
- ☐ d They breathe through their mouths

3. Why don't camels sink into the sand?

- ☐ a They are very light
- ☐ c They walk very fast

- ☐ b Their feet are wide and padded
- ☐ d They only walk on rocks

4. Why are camels called "ships of the desert"?

- ☐ a They can swim
- ☐ c They look like boats

- ☐ b People have traveled across deserts with them
- ☐ d They live near the sea

5. Explain two ways a camel's body helps it survive in the desert.

Reading Comprehension: Answer Key

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1. b) Fat
2. b) They close their nostrils
3. b) Their feet are wide and padded
4. b) People have traveled across deserts with them
5. Sample answer: Its hump stores fat for energy when food is scarce, and its long eyelashes and closing nostrils keep out blowing sand. Wide padded feet also stop it sinking in sand.