Saguaro Cactus

Directions: For items 1–18, fill in the circle in front of the correct answer. For items 19–20, write the answer.

Vocabulary

- 1. After a long dry spell, no one minded the _____ rain.
 - A spiny

B teeming

© nectar

- (D) habitat
- **2.** Hummingbirds like to drink _____ from red flowers.
 - A brush

B perch

© habitat

- nectar
- 3. The old house was surrounded by untrimmed _____ rosebushes.
 - A spiny

B habitat

© brush

- D perch
- **4.** After a leaf falls on the ground, it _____ and becomes part of the soil.
 - A brush

(B) topple

© decomposes

- (D) nectar
- **5.** In science class we created a wonderful, realistic _____ for the two snakes.
 - A habitat

(B) teeming

© nectar

- D perch
- **6.** Melvin didn't stack the blocks high because he didn't want them to _____.
 - A brush

B topple

© spiny

nectar

7.	When it was time to sleep, the parrot would high up in the tree.		
	(A) brush	(B) decomposes	
	© topple	D perch	
8.		were so high in the empty lot, Frank	
	could hide from his brother.	(P) magter	
	(A) brush	(B) nectar	
	© spiny	(D) teeming	
Comprehension			
9.	9. Where is the Sonoran Desert located?		
	(A) in southeastern Africa		
	B in the southeastern United S	in the southeastern United States	
	in the southwestern United States		
	n southwestern Asia		
10.	Because the weather in the Sonoran Desert is hot and dry,		
	plants		
	(A) grow with difficulty	B are eaten by wildlife	
	© easily grow	(D) grow only in the winter	
11.	11. According to the article, a full-grown saguaro cactus can		
	(A) live about 50 years	B weigh as much as a car	
	© weigh as much as 10 tons	D grow 10 feet tall	
12.	. How is the gila woodpecker helpful to the saguaro?		
	A It lives in the cactus for a long time.		
	3) It eats insects that harm the cactus.		
	© It chases harmful animals away.		
	① It protects the flowers of the cactus.		

- **13.** What lives in the woodpecker's nest after it leaves?
 - A an elf owl

- **B** a starling
- © a white-winged dove
- a red-tailed hawk
- **14.** Why is the saguaro important to grazing animals like the mule deer?
 - A Plants that they eat grow in its shade.
 - B Small animals live around it.
 - © They eat its flowers in the summer.
 - ① The cactus provides water for them.
- **15.** The lizards and spiders that fill the empty nest holes feed mainly on _____
 - A the cactus's skin
 - B the sharp spines of the cactus
 - © berries, melons, and beans
 - (D) insects
- **16.** The ringtail cat lives _____.
 - (A) underneath the saguaro
 - B inside the saguaro trunk
 - at the top of the saguaro
 - n the arms of the saguaro
- **17.** Coyotes and bobcats can hunt in the brush under the saguaro because they have ______.
 - A a keen sense of direction
- B a fine sense of sight
- © very good taste
- D great speed

ame	Date
18.	The authors wrote this selection because they
	A want to entertain the reader with a funny story
	(B) want to inform the reader about the saguaro cactus
	(C) want to persuade the reader to plant a cactus
	D like to write make-believe stories
19.	Why is the saguaro cactus "the center of life" in the desert?
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20.	What happens when the saguaro dies?
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