

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.

<input type="radio"/> (A) spiny	<input type="radio"/> (B) teeming
<input type="radio"/> (C) nectar	<input type="radio"/> (D) habitat

2. Hummingbirds like to drink _____ from red flowers.

<input type="radio"/> (A) brush	<input type="radio"/> (B) perch
<input type="radio"/> (C) habitat	<input type="radio"/> (D) nectar

3. The old house was surrounded by untrimmed _____ rosebushes.

<input type="radio"/> (A) spiny	<input type="radio"/> (B) habitat
<input type="radio"/> (C) brush	<input type="radio"/> (D) perch

4. After a leaf falls on the ground, it _____ and becomes part of the soil.

<input type="radio"/> (A) brush	<input type="radio"/> (B) topple
<input type="radio"/> (C) decomposes	<input type="radio"/> (D) nectar

5. In science class we created a wonderful, realistic _____ for the two snakes.

<input type="radio"/> (A) habitat	<input type="radio"/> (B) teeming
<input type="radio"/> (C) nectar	<input type="radio"/> (D) perch

6. Melvin didn't stack the blocks high because he didn't want them to _____.

<input type="radio"/> (A) brush	<input type="radio"/> (B) topple
<input type="radio"/> (C) spiny	<input type="radio"/> (D) nectar

13. What lives in the woodpecker's nest after it leaves?
- (A) an elf owl (B) a starling
(C) a white-winged dove (D) 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.
(C) They eat its flowers in the summer.
(D) 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
(C) berries, melons, and beans
(D) insects
16. The ringtail cat lives _____.
- (A) underneath the saguaro
(B) inside the saguaro trunk
(C) at the top of the saguaro
(D) on 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
(C) very good taste (D) great speed

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?

20. What happens when the saguaro dies?
