

Name: _____

"Visiting a Desert"

RI 6 Point of View

No two deserts are the same. In some, you can see cacti and trees full of thorns. In others, you can see miles of orange, white, or brown sand dunes. You might spot lizards, snakes, or tiny mice. You could see big sandstone rocks shaped by the wind or deep canyons carved by rivers. In the United States, there are several deserts to visit.

The Sonoran Desert is in southern Arizona. Here, you can see huge saguaro cacti that are taller than a two-story building. You need to be careful when you hike in the Sonoran Desert—almost all the plants have spines or stickers. This protects them from being eaten. Many animals also live here, but you will probably not see too many of them. Most hide under rocks or in holes during the hot days. You might see lizards or small desert mice running from rock to rock.

The Great Basin Desert covers much of Nevada and Utah. It is the largest desert in the United States. You will hike many beautiful canyons and see interesting rock formations in this desert. Many of the rocks are shades of red and orange. This is caused by minerals like iron in the sandstone. Because sandstone is soft, wind and water carve it into interesting shapes over the years. Many animals also live in the Great Basin Desert, but like the Sonoran, you will probably not see too many of them. If you are lucky, you could see hawks flying high. If you are unlucky, you may encounter a rattlesnake.

If you want to visit a desert, you need to be prepared. All deserts are dry, so you must bring water. Even if it is not too hot out, you will feel thirsty if you are hiking in a desert for very long. You will lose your body's water to the dry air with every breath you take. You will probably not find any rivers or streams that have water in them. If you do, the water may be full of mud. Take along more water than you think you will need. Also, wear a hat, long sleeves, and pants. You need to protect yourself from the sun and from plants with thorns and stickers. Enjoy your visit!

from "Visiting a Desert"

What does the author think about hiking in the Sonoran Desert?

- A. You will see beautiful plants.
- B. You may get cold at night.
- C. You need to be careful of the plants.
- D. You need to be careful of the animals.



"Cookies Are Better Than Cake"

I like to eat cookies more than I like to eat cake. You can put cookies in a bag and take them to the park. Cookies are good with milk. Cake has frosting, but cookies have chocolate chips. Cookies last longer than cake. If your parents offer you cookies or cake, you should choose cookies.

"Cookies Are Better Than Cake"

What does the author think about cookies?

- A. Cookies come in different sizes.
- B. Cookies have frosting.
- C. Cookies are easy to take with you.
- D. Cookies are good with lunch.



from "Visiting a Desert"

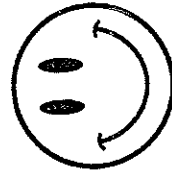
Have you ever visited a desert?

- If so, do you agree with the author's suggestions? Write a paragraph in which you give two reasons why or why not.
- If you have not visited a desert, do you think you would like to? Write a paragraph in which you give two reasons why or why not.



from "Cookies Are Better Than Cake"

Write your own version of this paragraph. State whether you like cake or cookies better and explain why.



"Where Dogs Can Do What They Do Best"

Let your dog join us for Dog Play Group. We have set up a play group just for dogs. This is perfect for those dogs that do not see other dogs during the day. Don't you feel bad leaving your dog alone all day? Do his sad eyes and long face break your heart? Your dog will love the chance to meet other dogs and make new friends. Bring your pet to our play group. We have a morning group and an afternoon group. Your pets can do what they do best—run, jump, fetch, roll over, and play.

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from "Where Dogs Can Do What They Do Best"

What does the author think about Dog Play Group?

- A. It is fun to watch the dogs play.
- B. It will make your dog happy.
- C. It does not cost a lot of money.
- D. It is better than Cat Play Group.



"Pet Snakes"

Have you ever thought about having a snake for a pet? Well, you should! Many people are afraid of snakes. They think they are creepy and slimy. Snakes, though, are very interesting animals that make good pets. They are a lot more fun than dogs and cats. They are easier to take care of. Plus, you can scare people who are afraid of them! If you are thinking about getting a pet snake, there are some things you will need to know.

Before you buy a snake, you will need to get the right things for it. These include a tank to keep it in and food. You can buy all of these things at a pet store. Your snake will need a large size fish tank to live in. Snakes usually eat mice, which you can also get at a pet store and keep in a small cage. Snakes only need to be fed about once a month, so you won't have to buy food very often.

Once you have everything, it is time to choose a snake. A good kind of snake to start with is a king snake. These are gentle snakes. They are good for people who have never had a snake as a pet before. King snakes can reach up to seven feet long. That's huge and a little scary! They can be different colors, such as yellow, red, orange, or black. They may have stripes. This type of snake can live a long time, up to 20 years, so you will need to be sure that you are ready to care for it for a long time.

Once you get your snake home, be sure to put some bark down in the bottom of the tank. Snakes like to hide under it. You should also put a dish with water in it for your snake. Now, it's time to give your snake a cool name. Have fun and enjoy your new pet!

from "Pet Snakes"

What does the author think about snakes?

- A. They need a lot of food.
- B. They can be dangerous.
- C. They make good pets.
- D. They can escape from tanks.



"Giant Pandas"

Panda bears are interesting animals. They live in China in the mountains. The most common panda bears are giant pandas. They are black and white. They have a thick woolly coat that helps to keep them warm. They look different from other types of bears, such as black and brown bears. One reason is because of the black fur around their eyes, which is set against their white faces.

Giant pandas are between two and three feet tall. They weigh up to 250 pounds. They are about the size of black bears. They can live to be 25 years old. Some pandas even live a little bit longer if they are taken care of in a zoo.

All pandas eat bamboo, a type of grass. They also eat other types of grasses and sugar cane. Giant pandas in zoos may be fed apples, carrots, and other fruits and vegetables, as well.

Although giant pandas look cute, they can be dangerous. Chances are you will never run into a wild giant panda, but if you do, look out! If you really want to see a panda, head to your local zoo.

Assessment Technology, Inc. 2007



from "Giant Pandas"

Write a paragraph explaining whether or not you agree with the author that pandas are interesting animals. Give two reasons for your opinion.

from "Pet Snakes"

Write a paragraph explaining whether or not you agree with the author that a snake would make a good pet. Give two reasons why or why not.

