Name: _____ Date: _____

How Camels Handle the Desert

Circle group

A camel can walk across a hot, dry desert. Many animals cannot. A camel has body parts made for the desert.

Look at the sand. Hot sand can burn. A heavy animal can sink in it. A camel has wide, flat feet. They spread out like pads. The camel does not sink.

Look at the wind. In a sandstorm, sand can sting the eyes. A camel has two rows of long eyelashes. It can also close its nostrils. This keeps sand out of its nose.

Look at the food. Some people think a hump is full of water. It is not. It holds fat. The camel's body uses the fat for energy when food is hard to find.

Look at the water. A camel can go a long time without a drink. Then it can drink a lot at once.

These parts help a camel live where food and water are scarce.

Questions

1. Why do wide, flat feet help a camel?

_____

_____

2. How does a camel protect its eyes in a sandstorm?

_____

_____

3. What does a camel's hump hold?

_____

_____

4. What does the camel's body use the fat for?

_____

_____

5. What do some people wrongly think about the hump?

_____

_____

6. What does scarce mean in the last sentence?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place with little rain
eyelashes: short hairs along the edge of the eyelid
nostrils: the two openings of the nose
energy: the power a body needs to move and grow
scarce: hard to find because there is very little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Camels Handle the Desert

Triangle group

Many animals could not cross a hot, dry desert, but a camel can. Its body has special parts that suit life in the sand.

Start with the sand. Hot sand can burn and sink under a heavy animal. The feet of a camel are broad and flat. Each one acts like a big pad on top of the sand, so the camel stays up on the surface.

Now the wind. In a sandstorm, blowing sand can sting the eyes. A camel has two rows of long eyelashes. It can shut its nostrils tight, too, which keeps the sand out.

Now the food. Some people say the hump stores water. It really stores fat. The camel's body can use that fat for energy when food is hard to find.

Last, water. A camel can go many days between drinks. At a pool, it takes in a lot of water quickly.

Each of these parts helps the camel live where food and water are scarce.

Questions

1. Why do wide, flat feet help a camel?

_____

_____

2. How does a camel protect its eyes in a sandstorm?

_____

_____

3. What does a camel's hump hold?

_____

_____

4. What can the camel's body use the fat for?

_____

_____

5. What do people often wrongly believe about the hump?

_____

_____

6. What does the word scarce mean in the last sentence?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place with little rain
eyelashes: short hairs along the edge of the eyelid
nostrils: the two openings of the nose
energy: the power a body needs to move and grow
scarce: hard to find because there is very little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How Camels Handle the Desert

Square group

Why is a camel able to trek across a scorching, dry desert when so many other animals would struggle? The answer is that a camel has body parts that are perfectly suited to desert life.

Consider the sand first. Hot sand can burn, and it shifts under the weight of a heavy animal. A camel has wide, flat feet that spread out like broad pads, so the camel does not sink into the sand.

Consider the wind next. During a sandstorm, blowing sand can sting the eyes. A camel has two rows of long eyelashes to protect them, and it can also close its nostrils to keep sand out of its nose.

Consider the food. Many people mistakenly believe that a camel's hump is filled with water, but it actually holds fat. When food is difficult to find, the camel's body can turn that fat into energy.

Consider the water. A camel can travel for a long time without drinking. When it finally reaches water, it can drink a great deal in a short time.

Each of these features helps the camel survive in a land where food and water are scarce.

Questions

1. How do wide, flat feet help a camel in the desert?

_____

_____

2. How does a camel protect its eyes during a sandstorm?

_____

_____

3. What does a camel's hump actually hold?

_____

_____

4. What can a camel's body turn the fat into?

_____

_____

5. What do many people mistakenly believe about the hump?

_____

_____

6. What does the word scarce mean in the last sentence?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place with little rain
eyelashes: short hairs along the edge of the eyelid
nostrils: the two openings of the nose
energy: the power a body needs to move and grow
scarce: hard to find because there is very little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How Camels Handle the Desert

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How Camels Handle the Desert

Easier · 152 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. They keep the camel from sinking in the sand.
2. It has two rows of long eyelashes.
3. Fat.
4. Energy when food is hard to find.
5. That it is full of water.
6. Hard to find, or very little of it.

Triangle: How Camels Handle the Desert

This passage · 163 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. They keep the camel from sinking into the sand.
2. It has two rows of long eyelashes.
3. Fat.
4. Energy when food is hard to find.
5. That it is full of water.
6. Hard to find, or not much of it.

Square: How Camels Handle the Desert

Harder · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.7

1. They keep the camel from sinking into the sand.
2. It has two rows of long eyelashes.
3. Fat.
4. Energy, when food is hard to find.
5. That it is filled with water.
6. Hard to find, because there is very little of it.