Name: _____ Date: _____

Camels in the Desert

Circle group

A desert is hot, dry, and sandy. Few animals can live there. The camel can. Its body is made for the heat and the dry ground.

A camel's hump is not full of water. Many people think it is, but it holds fat. When food is hard to find, the camel's body uses the fat for energy. A camel can go for days without a drink. When it finds water, it can gulp down a lot at once.

Other parts of the camel help, too. Its feet are wide and flat. They spread out like snowshoes, so they do not sink into the sand. Long eyelashes and thick eyebrows keep out sand and sun. It can close its nostrils in a sandstorm. Its thick fur helps keep off the hot sun.

For thousands of years, people have used camels to carry heavy loads across deserts. Camels are strong, so they are called ships of the desert.

Questions

1. What is inside a camel's hump?

_____

_____

2. What does the camel's body do with the fat when food is hard to find?

_____

_____

3. What can a camel do when it finds water?

_____

_____

4. Why are a camel's wide, flat feet good for the desert?

_____

_____

5. How does a camel keep safe in a sandstorm?

_____

_____

6. Why are camels called ships of the desert?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place that gets little rain
hump: a round lump that sticks up on an animal's back
nostrils: the two openings of the nose used for breathing
loads: heavy things that are carried

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: _____

Camels in the Desert

Triangle group

A desert is hot, dry, and sandy, and few animals can live there. The camel is one that can. Its body is built for the heat and the dry ground.

A camel's hump is not full of water, as many people think. It holds fat. When food is hard to find, the camel's body uses that fat for energy. A camel can also go for several days without a drink. When it finds water, it can gulp down a great deal at once.

Other parts of the camel help, too. Its wide, flat feet spread out like snowshoes, so they do not sink into the soft sand. Its long eyelashes and thick eyebrows keep out sand and sun, and it can close its nostrils during a sandstorm. Its thick fur helps protect it from the hot sun.

For thousands of years, people have used camels to carry heavy loads across deserts. Because of their strong bodies, camels are sometimes called ships of the desert.

Questions

1. What is inside a camel's hump?

_____

_____

2. What does a camel's body do with that fat when food is hard to find?

_____

_____

3. What can a camel do when it finds water?

_____

_____

4. Why are a camel's wide, flat feet useful in the desert?

_____

_____

5. How does a camel protect itself during a sandstorm?

_____

_____

6. Why might camels be called ships of the desert?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place that gets little rain
hump: a round lump that sticks up on an animal's back
nostrils: the two openings of the nose used for breathing
loads: heavy things that are carried

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: _____

Camels in the Desert

Square group

A desert is a scorching, dry, sandy region, and very few animals are able to survive there. The camel is one that can, because its body is superbly adapted to the heat and the parched ground.

Contrary to what many people believe, a camel's hump is not filled with water. It stores fat. When food is scarce, the camel's body converts that fat into energy. A camel can also travel for several days without a drink, and when it finds water, it can gulp down an enormous amount all at once.

Other features of the camel help it survive as well. Its wide, flat feet spread out like snowshoes, so they do not sink into the soft sand. Its long eyelashes and thick eyebrows shield its eyes from sand and sun, and it can seal its nostrils shut during a sandstorm. Its thick fur also helps protect it from the blazing sun.

For thousands of years, people have relied on camels to carry heavy loads across deserts. Because of their remarkable strength and endurance, camels are sometimes called ships of the desert.

Questions

1. What is stored inside a camel's hump?

_____

_____

2. What does a camel's body do with that fat when food is scarce?

_____

_____

3. What can a camel do when it finds water?

_____

_____

4. Why are a camel's wide, flat feet useful in the desert?

_____

_____

5. How does a camel shield itself during a sandstorm?

_____

_____

6. Why might camels be called ships of the desert?

_____

_____

Words to know

desert: a very dry place that gets little rain
hump: a round lump that sticks up on an animal's back
nostrils: the two openings of the nose used for breathing
loads: heavy things that are carried

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: Camels in the Desert

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

Circle: Camels in the Desert

Easier · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. Fat.
2. It uses the fat for energy.
3. Gulp down a lot at once.
4. They spread out like snowshoes, so the camel does not sink into the sand.
5. Long eyelashes and thick eyebrows keep out sand, and it can close its nostrils.
6. They carry heavy loads across the sand, like ships carry cargo across the sea.

Triangle: Camels in the Desert

This passage · 164 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. Fat.
2. It uses the fat for energy.
3. Gulp down a great deal at once.
4. They spread out like snowshoes, so the camel does not sink into the soft sand.
5. It keeps sand out with long eyelashes and thick eyebrows, and it can close its nostrils.
6. They carry heavy loads across the sand, the way ships carry cargo across the sea.

Square: Camels in the Desert

Harder · 182 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. Fat.
2. It converts the fat into energy.
3. Gulp down an enormous amount all at once.
4. They spread out like snowshoes, so the camel does not sink into the soft sand.
5. Long eyelashes and thick eyebrows protect its eyes, and it can seal its nostrils shut.
6. They carry heavy loads across the sand, much as ships carry cargo across the sea.