

The Desert at Night

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 The desert is a hard place to live. In the daytime, the sand is **scorching**. It is so hot that it could burn your feet.
- 2 Many desert animals stay cool in a **burrow**. A burrow is a hole or tunnel that an animal digs in the ground. Under the ground, the air is much cooler.
- 3 A lot of desert animals are **nocturnal**. They sleep all day and come out at night. When the sun goes down, foxes, owls, and mice **emerge** from their hiding places to look for food.
- 4 Water is **scarce** in the desert. There is very little of it, because it almost never rains. Some animals do not need to drink at all. A kangaroo rat gets all the water it needs from the seeds it eats.



A kangaroo rat comes out after dark.

The Desert at Night: Questions

The words near a new word are clues. Underline each clue in the color shown.

1. In paragraph 1, what does scorching mean?

red

- ☐ very soft
- ☐ very hot
- ☐ very wet

2. What is a burrow? Write the sentence from the text that tells you.

orange

3. In paragraph 3, what does nocturnal mean?

yellow

- ☐ awake at night
- ☐ very fast
- ☐ afraid of the dark

4. In paragraph 3, what does emerge mean?

green

- ☐ to fall asleep
- ☐ to dig a hole
- ☐ to come out

5. In paragraph 4, what does scarce mean?

blue

- ☐ easy to find
- ☐ hard to find
- ☐ cold

6. Write your own sentence with the word nocturnal.

The Desert at Night: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. In paragraph 1, what does scorching mean?

red

- ☐ very soft
☒ **very hot**
☐ very wet

Proof Paragraph 1: "It is so hot that it could burn your feet."

2. What is a burrow? Write the sentence from the text that tells you.

orange

"A burrow is a hole or tunnel that an animal digs in the ground."

3. In paragraph 3, what does nocturnal mean?

yellow

- ☒ **awake at night**
☐ very fast
☐ afraid of the dark

Proof Paragraph 3: "They sleep all day and come out at night."

4. In paragraph 3, what does emerge mean?

green

- ☐ to fall asleep
☐ to dig a hole
☒ **to come out**

Proof Paragraph 3: the animals come "from their hiding places to look for food."

5. In paragraph 4, what does scarce mean?

blue

- ☐ easy to find
☒ **hard to find**
☐ cold

Proof Paragraph 4: "There is very little of it, because it almost never rains."

6. Write your own sentence with the word nocturnal.

Answers will vary. Example: An owl is nocturnal, so it hunts at night.