Name _____ Date _____

Definition and Restatement Context Clues: When a Sentence Explains the Word

Directions: In these sentences, the writer explains a hard word right in the sentence. Look for the signal words is, means, called and or, and for meanings set off by commas or parentheses.

1. "A long stretch of time with little or no rain is called a *drought*."

What is a drought?

A. One very hot afternoon
B. A long dry period without enough rain
C. A dry, sandy place with few plants
D. A sudden, heavy rainstorm

2. "Many desert animals are *nocturnal*, or active mostly at night, so they can rest in cool burrows while the sun is hot."

Which words restate the meaning of *nocturnal*?

A. active mostly at night
B. while the sun is hot
C. rest in cool burrows
D. many desert animals

3. "The *archipelago*, a long chain of islands, stretches across the sea for hundreds of miles."

What is an archipelago?

A. A narrow strip of land between two seas
B. One very large island
C. A deep trench in the ocean floor
D. A group of islands

4. "A team digging near the old riverbank found an *artifact* (an object made and used by people long ago)."

Which find would count as an artifact?

A. A dinosaur bone
B. A clay pot from an ancient village
C. A fossil seashell
D. A smooth river stone

5. "To *migrate* means to move from one region to another, often when the seasons change."

Which animal is migrating?

A. A cat stretching in the sun
B. A flock of geese flying south for the winter
C. A bear sleeping in its den
D. A squirrel burying acorns in the yard

6. The word *or* can introduce a restatement, but it can also join two choices. In which sentence does *or* introduce the meaning of the word in italics?

A. Hector could not decide whether to *audition* or to watch.
B. Would you like to *volunteer* at the library or at the park?
C. The *forecast* says it may rain or snow tomorrow.
D. The vet checked the *canine*, or dog, for fleas.

7. "*Erosion* means the slow wearing away of rock and soil by wind, water or ice."

Which event is an example of erosion?

A. Ocean waves slowly carving a sea cliff
B. A seed sprouting in damp soil
C. Snow piling up on a rooftop
D. A volcano building a new island

8. "A *peninsula* is land that is almost surrounded by water but still joined to a larger piece of land."

Which description fits a peninsula?

A. Land with water on its north, east and west, joined to the mainland in the south
B. Land far from any ocean or lake
C. A body of water with land on three sides
D. Land with water all the way around it

9. Which sentence gives a definition or restatement clue for *camouflage*?

A. Animals that use *camouflage* include the stick insect, the flounder and the arctic fox.
B. Zoe read a whole chapter about *camouflage* last night.
C. *Camouflage*, colors or patterns that help an animal blend into its surroundings, keeps the snowshoe hare hidden in winter.
D. The hare's *camouflage* worked so well that a hungry fox walked right past it.

10. Each sentence explains its word in italics with a definition or restatement clue. Match each sentence to the meaning of that word.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ A *plateau* is a large area of high, flat land.
2. _____ Farmers in dry valleys depend on *irrigation*, a system of ditches and pipes that carries water to crops.
3. _____ Every ten years, the United States takes a *census*, or an official count of everyone living in the country.
4. _____ Rivers carry *sediment* (tiny bits of sand, mud and rock) and drop it where the water slows down.
5. _____ A person who moves from place to place with no permanent home is called a *nomad*.

Choices for question 10

A. an official count of the people in a place
B. a tool that measures wind speed
C. bringing water to fields through ditches or pipes
D. a deep, narrow valley with steep sides
E. raised land with a flat top
F. bits of sand, mud and rock moved by water
G. someone with no fixed home who keeps moving