

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Danger in the Desert by T.S. Fields

Chapters 1 & 2

- 1) Who “accidentally on purpose” threw away the new Boy Scout Badge? **(1 pt.)**
- 2) Who is the oldest brother, Scott or Robbie? **(1)**
- 3) Who always wears a red cap unless he is sleeping? **(1)**
- 4) What foundation receives the profits from the purchases of a Gulper of Root Beer? **(1)**
- 5) Before the family moved to Phoenix, what state did they live in? **(1)**
- 6) What happened to their dad? **(1)**
- 7) When Robbie saw a man, what was the man holding in his hand? **(1)**
- 8) Who is narrating (telling) Danger in the Desert? **(1)**
- 9) Scott got his hands tied behind his back with what object? **(1)**
- 10) What did Scott silently mouth to a car that passed? **(2)**
- 11) The kidnapper had a tattoo of what reptile on his right hand? **(2)**
- 12) Why are the kidnappers in trouble? **(2)**



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Chapter 3

- 1) What is Scott's and Robbie's last name? **(1 pt.)**

- 2) How does Robbie want to get out of the desert? **(1)**

- 3) Who is going to drive the car out of the desert? **(1)**

- 4) What did Scott almost run into with the front bumper of the car? **(2)**

- 5) Why is the car not moving anymore? **(1)**

- 6) What does Robbie want to do instead of spending a night in the car? **(1)**



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Chapters 4 & 5

- 1) Scott learned a person needs about how much liquid to survive a day? **(1 pt.)**
- 2) What was Robbie wondering about pee? **(2)**
- 3) Who had never slept outside before, Scott or Robbie? **(1)**
- 4) What do Scott and Robbie have for dinner? **(2)**
- 5) True or False. The robber's plan was to steal the car and the children? **(1)**
- 6) The announcer, on the radio, said there is a watch for what in the eastern Valley desert area? **(2)**
- 7) What was Robbie afraid of when he opened the car door? How do you know? **(2)**
- 8) When lightning hit the desert ground, what happened? **(1)**
- 9) What was Scott going to use the gulper container for? **(1)**
- 10) How does the root beer taste now? **(2)**
- 11) What did Scott see sticking out of his leg? **(1)**
- 12) What does Robbie get from the glove box? **(1)**
- 13) Scott and Robbie are going to use their shoes for what? **(1)**



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Chapters 6 & 7

- 1) What was the blood-curdling screech that interrupted Scott and Robbie? **(1 pt.)**

- 2) What were people invited to call in and describe about on the radio talk show? **(1)**

- 3) Scott had another feeling when he was trying to fall asleep. What was it? **(1)**

- 4) Why did Scott yell when he picked up his shoe? **(1)**

- 5) What did Scott do with the water that was in his shoe? **(1)**

- 6) Robbie had an idea to get the snake out of the car. What was Robbie's idea? **(2)**

- 7) What did Scott want to get out of the car? "Since it's strong enough to hold up the car, it ought to be strong enough to kill a snake, right?" **(1)**

- 8) What type of tree did Scott get the branch from? **(1)**

- 9) What object was gleaming in the headlights? **(1)**



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Chapters 8 & 9

- 1) After Scott went to the bathroom, what animal ran in front of the car? **(1 pt.)**

- 2) Who should someone call if they see the Chevy Caprice station wagon? **(1)**

- 3) What did the boys use to make pillows from? **(1)**

- 4) What were Scott and Robbie both scared to death about? **(1)**

- 5) What type of “ratchety song” sound did the cactus wren make? **(1)**

- 6) Why will the radio not come on? **(2)**

- 7) What color was the water that Robbie saved from the shoes? **(2)**

- 8) Why did Robbie scream when Scott opened the back door of the car? **(2)**

- 9) What did Robbie give Scott to make him feel better? **(1)**



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Chapters 10 & 11

- 1) Scott and Robbie can't survive in the car, so what do they need to make? **(1 pt.)**

- 2) What did Scott wrap on his head to make a turban? **(1)**

- 3) What do the boys need the hubcaps for? **(2)**

- 4) How far do you need to sit up off the ground to stay cooler? **(1)**

- 5) What did Robbie proudly point to in order for airplanes to see them better? **(1)**

- 6) Where did Scott tell Robbie to pretend they were? **(2)**

- 7) When you are lost, what are you supposed to make on the ground? **(1)**

- 8) What game did the boys play? **(2)**

- 9) How old is Robbie? **(1)**

- 10) Who decided to leave? **(1)**



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Chapters 12, 13, & 14

- 1) How many different kinds of scorpions live in Arizona? **(1)**

- 2) What did Scott tell Robbie stung him on his arm? **(1)**

- 3) Robbie told Scott that he was glad he was his what? **(1)**

- 4) What was the last thing Scott wanted to do? **(2)**

- 5) What was the “real” buzzing sound that Scott heard? **(1)**

- 6) What was written on the letter that Scott read? **(3)**

- 7) Who was on board the plane to look after the boys? **(1)**

- 8) Who did Scott say is in charge now? **(1)**



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Chapter 15

- 1) The next time Scott opened his eyes, who did he see? **(1 pt.)**

- 2) What actually stung Robbie on his arm? **(1)**

- 3) What was the doctor's name? **(2)**

- 4) What city was the nurse from that gave the law enforcement the break they needed?**(1)**

- 5) What happened to the drug dealers who left the boys in the desert? **(2)**

- 6) What type of plane was used to fly over the area? Hint: Hatchet **(1)**

- 7) Did Scott or Robbie first talk to the reporters? **(1)**

- 8) What did Robbie talk about during his interview? **(1)**

- 9) Robbie said they have a big press conference like whom? **(2)**



Danger in the Desert by T.S. Fields
Vocabulary Words

Chapter 1: **triumphantly**: rejoicing for or celebrating victory or success

Chapter 2: **jounced**: to move or cause to move in an up-and-down manner

Chapter 3: **transportation**: the public transporting of passengers or goods usually for a price

Chapter 4: **intently**: directed with strained or eager attention

Chapter 5: **downpour**: a heavy rain

Chapter 6: **deserted**: to leave someone or something one should stay with

Chapter 7: **interior**: the internal or inner part of something

Chapter 8: **grimaced**: a twisting of the face or features (as in disgust, disapproval, or pain)

Chapter 9: **doubtfully**: not clear or certain as to fact

Chapter 10: **dehydrated**: to lose water or body fluids






Chapter 11: **frequently**: happening often

Chapter 12: **greedily**: wanting more than one needs or more than one's fair share

Chapter 13: **obey**: to follow the commands or guidance of

Chapter 14: **hallucination**: the awareness of something that seems to be experienced through one of the senses but is not real

Chapter 15: **consciousness**: the condition of being in thought and awareness

<p>State Tree:</p>	<p>Palo Verde. Its name means "green stick." It blooms a brilliant yellow-gold in April or May.</p>
<p>State Bird:</p>	<p>Cactus Wren. It measures 7 to 8 inches in length, and its back is brown with white spots, and its throat is lighter colored with black spots. Its bill is curved down and there's a white line over each eye. Cactus wrens eat insects, seeds, and fruit. They often build their nests inside a cactus to protect them from predators.</p> 
<p>State Mammal:</p>	<p>Ringtail</p> 
<p>State Reptile:</p>	<p>Arizona Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake</p> 
<p>State Fish:</p>	<p>Apache Trout</p> 
<p>State Amphibian:</p>	<p>Arizona Tree frog</p> 

Saguaro Cactus

Identifying Features

The saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) is one of the defining plants of the Sonoran Desert. These plants are large, tree-like cacti that develop branches (or arms) as they age, although some never grow arms. These arms generally bend upward and can number over 25. Saguaros are covered with protective spines, white flowers in the late spring, and red fruit in summer.

Habitat

Saguaros are found exclusively in the Sonoran Desert. The most important factors for growth are water and temperature. If the elevation is too high, the cold weather and frost can kill the saguaro. Although the the Sonoran Desert experiences both winter and summer rains, it is thought that the Saguaro obtains most of its moisture during the summer rainy season.



Range

You find this cactus in southern Arizona and western Sonora, Mexico. At the northern portion of their range they are more plentiful on the warmer south facing slopes. A few stray plants can also be found in southeast California.

Wild Status

The saguaro is not currently listed as threatened or endangered. Arizona has strict regulations about the harvesting, collection or destruction of this species.

Life Span

With the right growing conditions, it is estimated that saguaros can live to be as much as 150-200 years old.

Size

Saguaro are very slow growing cactus. A 10 year old plant might only be 1.5 inches tall. Saguaro can grow to be between 40-60 feet tall (12-18m). When rain is plentiful and the saguaro is fully hydrated it can weigh between 3200-4800 pounds.

Extra Fun-facts

The saguaro is the largest cactus in the United States.



Sonoran Desert
Sidewinder

Snakes

STATUS

:

There are about 2,700 species of snakes, of these 375 are venomous. In the United States, ten species are listed as threatened and seven species are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

DESCRIPTION

:

Snakes are elongated, limbless, flexible reptiles. Their body shape depends on the habitat in which they live. Aquatic snakes usually have a flattened body; those living in trees are long and slender with a prehensile tail while burrowing snakes tend to be compact. Snakes are found in a huge range of colors, from bright to dull. Brightly colored snakes are usually venomous, their coloration serving as a warning to predators, while dull colored snakes use their coloration for camouflage. Some snakes mimic the color and pattern of venomous snakes.

SIZE:

Brahminy blind snakes are the smallest snakes at two inches in length. The anaconda can reach lengths of 38 feet.

LIFESPAN

:

In captivity, some species will live as long as 50 years.

RANGE:

Snakes are found throughout the world except Antarctica, Iceland, Ireland, Greenland and New Zealand. Most snakes are found in tropical regions.

HABITAT:

Snakes are found in many habitats including in the water, forests, deserts and prairies.

FOOD:

Snakes consume a variety of items including termites, rodents, birds, frogs, small deer and other reptiles. Snakes eat their prey whole and are able to consume prey three times larger than the diameter of their head because their lower jaw can separate from the upper jaw. To keep prey from escaping, snakes have rear-facing teeth that hold their prey in their mouths. Venomous snakes inject their prey with venom, while constrictors squeeze their prey. They do not need to hunt everyday. Anacondas and pythons can survive for up to a year without food after feeding. Snakes hunt mostly at night.

BEHAVIOR

:

Often observed flicking its tongue, snakes use their forked tongue to smell the air. Snakes are ectotherms, meaning they must regulate their body temperature externally by sunning themselves or retreating to cool, shaded areas. Snakes hibernate during the winter. Snakes must shed their skin three to six times per year.

OFFSPRING:

Most snake species lay eggs, but some species give birth to live young. Snakes lay their eggs in a warm location. With the exception of some python species, the male or female does not care for eggs and young.

THREATS

:

Roads, habitat destruction.

RATTLESNAKES

Rattlesnakes are best known for, and most easily recognized by, their rattle. The rattlesnake babies are born with what is called a pre-button. The baby snake loses this piece when it sheds its skin for the first time. With the shedding a new button appears. With every shedding after that another button, or rattle, will be added. These buttons are made up of a material called Keratin, which is what the scales and your fingernails are made of! The rattles are empty, so what makes the noise? The noise comes from each segment knocking together, so until a rattlesnake has two or more pieces it isn't going to make a sound! But when it does...you WILL hear it...and you WILL RUN!

Rattlesnakes are found in the southern parts of the United States, from the deserts to the mountains and grow between 3 and 4 feet (.9 to 1.2 m) long. There are 16 different types of Rattlers such as the Eastern Diamondback, Western Diamondback, Sidewinder and the Speckled, just to name a few. All of them have rattles, are venomous and are pit vipers.

Rattlesnakes feed on rodents, squirrels, rabbits and other small critters. They hibernate through the winter and come out in the spring to eat and then mate. Rattlesnake eggs will stay inside their mother until they hatch. Most of the time there are 8-10 babies born at once and are about 10 inches long. Babies are born venomous but cannot rattle and are often more aggressive than the adults.

Yellow Palo Verde Tree

Flower: Loose clusters of bright yellow flowers with 5 lobes, entire flower ½ inch across, appearing in spring and early summer.

Fruit: Two to 4 inch swollen seeds, sharply pointed at ends, light brown, matures in the summer, persist on the tree.

Twig: Slender to moderately stout, yellow-green, smooth, each short twig ending in a sharp point.



Scorpion

Scorpion Profile

Scorpions are members of the class Arachnida and are closely related to spiders, mites, and ticks. They are commonly thought of as desert dwellers, but they also live in Brazilian forests, British Columbia, North Carolina, and even the Himalayas. These hardy, adaptable arthropods have been around for hundreds of millions of years, and they are nothing if not survivors.

There are almost 2,000 scorpion species, but only 30 or 40 have strong enough poison to kill a person. The many types of venom are effectively tailored to their users' lifestyles, however, and are highly selected for effectiveness against that species' chosen prey.

Scorpions typically eat insects, but their diet can be extremely variable—another key to their survival in so many harsh locales. When food is scarce, the scorpion has an amazing ability to slow its metabolism to as little as one-third the typical rate for arthropods. This technique enables some species to use little oxygen and live on as little as a single insect per year. Yet even with lowered metabolism, the scorpion has the ability to spring quickly to the hunt when the opportunity presents itself—a gift that many hibernating species lack.

Such survival skills allow scorpions to live in some of the planet's toughest environments. Researchers have even frozen scorpions overnight; only to put them in the sun the next day and watch them thaw out and walk away. But there is one thing scorpions have a difficult time living without—soil. They are burrowing animals, so in areas of permafrost or heavy grasses, where loose soil is not available, scorpions may not be able to survive.

Fast Facts

Type: Bug

Diet: Carnivore

Average lifespan in the wild: 3 to 8 years

Size: Average, 2.5 in (6 cm);

Largest, 8.3 in (21 cm)

Did you know? Scientists aren't sure why, but scorpions are fluorescent under ultraviolet light.

Size relative to a tea cup:



Arizona bark scorpion

