

Using context clues

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Context clues are hints that readers use to find the meaning of unknown words. There are different types of context clues, including:

- **Definition Clues:** The word is defined in the sentence or nearby sentences.
- **Antonym Clues:** The sentence or a nearby sentence gives a word that means the opposite.
- **Synonym Clues:** The sentence or a nearby sentence gives a word that means the same or almost the same.
- **Example Clues:** The sentence or a nearby sentence gives an example to help explain the word.



As you read the story, look for context clues that help explain the meaning of the underlined words.

How Land Shapes Our World

Have you ever looked at a map and noticed all the different landforms? Earth has many natural features, from towering mountains to wide-open plains. Some of these landforms are shaped by water, like a delta. A delta forms when a river reaches a larger body of water and drops the sand and soil it carries, creating new land.



Some landforms stretch across entire continents. The savanna is a large, grassy plain found in warm areas like Africa and South America. Unlike a desert, the savanna has trees. These are spread out, instead of growing close together. Many animals, like lions and elephants, live there.

Paragraph 3

Water also helps shape the land in different ways. A fjord forms when a glacier slowly carves through a mountain, leaving behind a long, narrow passage. Over time, seawater fills this space, creating a waterway with steep cliffs on either side. Norway is famous for its fjords, where boats travel between towering rock walls and visitors admire the pretty views.

Paragraph 4

Some landforms are found underground. A cavern, or large cave, forms when water slowly wears away rock over time. Some caverns have amazing rock formations hanging from the ceiling or rising from the ground. These underground spaces can be huge, with different tunnels and hidden rooms.

Paragraph 5

Different landforms change at different speeds. A canyon can take millions of years to form as a river cuts through rock and creates deep trenches. On the other hand, a dune can change quickly as wind moves sand into mounds. These sandy hills are common in deserts and along beaches, where the wind constantly reshapes the landscape.

Paragraph 6

Geography helps us learn about the world. It helps farmers understand where they can plant their crops, whether on flat plains or rolling hills. Scientists study glaciers and rivers to see how the Earth is changing. Hikers and travelers must be ready to climb up mountains and walk down through valleys. These different landforms shape our world!



Then answer the following questions:

1. What is the text mostly about?
 - a. Landforms
 - b. Weather
 - c. Animals

2. What is the best definition of the word *delta*, in the first paragraph?
 - a. A deep, narrow body of water surrounded by cliffs
 - b. A place where a river drops sand and soil to create new land
 - c. A hill of sand shaped by the wind

3. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *savanna* in paragraph 2?
 - a. A synonym of savanna is given in the text.
 - b. A definition of savanna is given in the text.
 - c. An antonym of savanna is given in the text.

4. Based on paragraph 3, what is the best definition of *fjord*?
 - a. A narrow space carved by a glacier that fills with seawater
 - b. A grassy plain found in warm areas
 - c. A hill of sand shaped by the wind

5. What is the best definition for *cavern* in paragraph 4?

6. Which phrase from the text helps you figure out the meaning of the word *canyon* in paragraph 5?

- a. "A river cuts through rock, creating deep trenches."
- b. "Wind moves sand to shape hills."
- c. "Animals live in different habitats."

7. What type of context clue in paragraph 5 helps you figure out the meaning of *dune*?

- a. Synonym
- b. Antonym
- c. Example

8. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *valley* in paragraph 6?

- a. Definition
- b. Example
- c. Antonym

Answers

1. What is the text mostly about?
a. Landforms
2. What is the best definition of the word *delta*, in the first paragraph?
b. A place where a river drops sand and soil to create new land
3. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *savanna* in paragraph 2?
b. A definition of savanna is given in the text.
4. Based on paragraph 3, what is the best definition of *fjord*?
a. A narrow space carved by a glacier that fills with seawater
5. What is the best definition for *cavern* in paragraph 4?
A large cave that forms when water wears away rock over time
6. Which phrase from the text helps you figure out the meaning of the word *canyon* in paragraph 5?
a. "A river cuts through rock, creating deep trenches."
7. What type of context clue in paragraph 5 helps you figure out the meaning of *dune*?
c. Example
8. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of *valley* in paragraph 6?
c. Antonym