

Context clues

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Context clues are hints that help us understand unknown words. Different types include:

- **Definition Clues:** The word is defined nearby
- **Antonym Clues:** A nearby word means the opposite
- **Synonym Clues:** A nearby word means almost the same thing
- **Example Clues:** An example nearby helps explain the word
- **Inference Clues:** What the text says and what you already know can be used to figure out the word



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

The Inuit People

Paragraph 1

The Inuit are a group of Indigenous people who live in the cold and snowy Arctic. Like the Lakota people in the Dakotas and the Mayas in Guatemala, the Inuit have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years. Even though they live in an area where the temperatures are freezing and trees don't grow, they have discovered ways to survive.

Paragraph 2

The Inuit used to live in homes called igloos. Known as a snow hut, these small and round homes were made out of snow blocks. The idea of an igloo may make you shiver, but these insulated homes actually helped keep people warm inside! The thick walls blocked the wind and helped keep in body heat.

Paragraph 3

It's hard to grow food in an environment that is usually covered by snow and ice. For this reason, the Inuit are famous for being phenomenal hunters and fishers. Their strong skills helped them survive in the toughest of weather. They know how to catch animals like fish and seals. These animals can provide them with everything they need: from food and clothing to fuel for fires.



Centuries ago, Inuit people traveled using dog sleds. Dogs would help pull sleds over the ice and snow in order to transport people and supplies from one place to another. Dogsleds are still used occasionally today, but many people use snowmobiles to travel more quickly. This demonstrates how the Inuit have adapted to modern life, while still keeping some of their old traditions.

Even though the Arctic is a difficult place to live, the Inuit have learned how to survive and even thrive there. Their resourcefulness, or clever use of resources, helps them make the most of the land, water and animals around them.



Then answer the following questions:

1. What is the text mostly about?
 - a. How animals live in the Arctic
 - b. How the Inuit live and survive in the Arctic
 - c. Why snowmobiles are better than sled dogs

2. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **Indigenous** in paragraph 1?
 - a. Synonym
 - b. Example
 - c. Antonym

3. What kind of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **insulated** in paragraph 2?
- Synonym
 - Definition
 - Inference
4. What is the best meaning of the word **phenomenal** in paragraph 3?
- average
 - extraordinary
 - weak
5. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **adapted** in paragraph 4?
- Antonym
 - Definition
 - Inference
6. What is a possible definition of **adapted** in paragraph 4?
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7. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **resourcefulness** in paragraph 5?
- Definition
 - Inference
 - Example
8. Which sentence from the text helps you figure out what **adapted** means?
- “Centuries ago, Inuit people traveled using dog sleds.”
 - “Dogsleds are still used occasionally today, but many people use snowmobiles to travel more quickly.”
 - “Dogs would help pull sleds over the ice and snow in order to transport people and supplies from one place to another.”

Answers

1. What is the text mostly about?
b. How the Inuit live and survive in the Arctic
2. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **indigenous** in paragraph 1?
b. Example
3. What kind of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **insulated** in paragraph 2?
c. Inference
4. What is the best meaning of the word **phenomenal** in paragraph 3?
b. extraordinary
5. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **adapted** in paragraph 4?
c. Inference
6. What is a possible definition of **adapted** in paragraph 4?
Adjusted or changed in order to live in a new situation.
7. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **resourcefulness** in paragraph 5?
a. Definition
8. Which sentence from the text helps you figure out what **adapted** means?
b. "Dogsleds are still used occasionally today, but many people use snowmobiles to travel more quickly."