

Questions 5-6 are about the following passage.

1 The Sahara Desert is the world's largest hot desert. The Sahara is in North Africa and is as large as the United States. Many people think that an area like this has no animals or plant life, but they are incorrect. In fact, the Sahara Desert has many different "Ecoregions." Each ecoregion has different plants and animals living there. The biggest ecoregion is called the

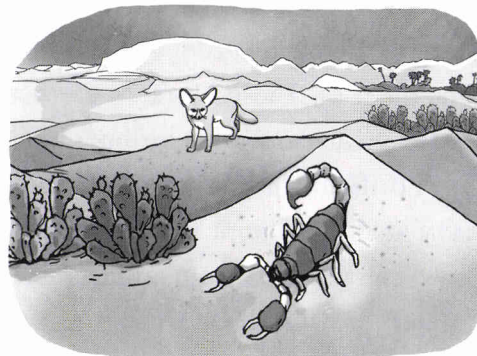
5 "Sahara Desert ecoregion." In this area, the climate is extremely dry and extremely hot. The landscape is sandy and dusty with many high dunes.

Because the Sahara Desert ecoregion is so hot and dry, there are very few plants and animals. Scientists estimate that there are only 500 species of plants. This is not very much when thinking of how enormous the region is. These plants include acacia trees, palms,

10 spiny shrubs, and grasses. The Sahara is also home to 70 species of mammals. Twenty of these are large mammals. There are about 90 species of birds and around 100 reptiles.

The biggest threat to plants and animals in this environment is drying up. Because of this, plants have the ability to recover their health after their leaves have dried out completely. Animals can lose 30-60% of their body mass and still survive. Most animals do not get their

15 water from drinking like in other ecosystems. Instead, they have adapted to get their water through metabolic processes. This is why they can survive in a place like the Sahara Desert ecosystem.



Question

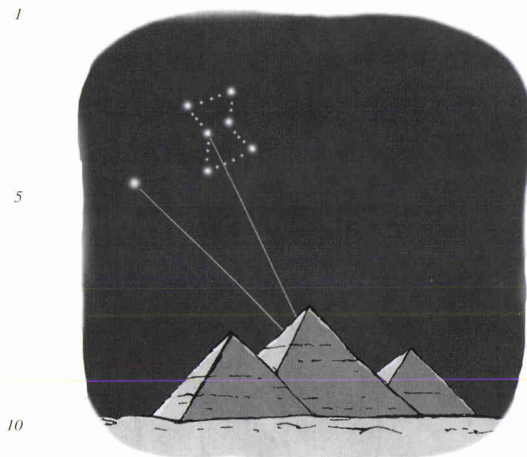
5. In line 3, the word they refers to _____ .

- (A) animals
- (B) people
- (C) areas
- (D) plant lives

6. In line 11, the word these refers to _____ .

- (A) dry homes
- (B) desert species
- (C) large mammals
- (D) seventy kinds of mammals

Questions 7-8 are about the following passage.



Pyramids are structures that were built by many ancient civilizations. Pyramids have been found in China, France, Mexico, Greece, India, and Egypt. The purposes of these ancient pyramids are not all the same. Some were built for rituals, some for ceremony, and others as tombs for nobility. The most famous and notable pyramids are the Great Pyramids in Giza, Egypt. They are three pyramids which were built by three pharaohs around 5,000 years ago. The oldest one is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

The structures of these pyramids required serious engineering and careful architectural planning, along with many skilled laborers. Not only are the pyramids massive in size, but they were also built in relation to the night sky. One of the narrow tunnels from the King's burial chamber in the oldest pyramid points directly to a constellation associated with Osiris, the Egyptian god of resurrection. Also, a tunnel from the Queen's burial chamber points to a star associated with Isis, the wife of Osiris. This is an impressive architectural feat. The pyramids were built from colossal blocks made from huge stones chiseled with copper from stone quarries. These blocks were then moved into position, although there is archeological disagreement about what methods ancient builders used to do this.

It is difficult for archeologists to figure out how Ancient Egyptians could move these heavy stones. Without modern technology, it is hard to imagine how it was possible. Even so, we can get hints from artifacts left behind by Ancient Egyptians. Ancient drawings have revealed that the sheer number of workers could have made this possible. These pictures show that many men pulling a stone could have moved it. The writings of Herodotus also provide information about how the pyramids were built, citing a system of stairs and cranes. Scientists continue to study the Pyramids in hopes of eliminating some of the mystery. Still, there are many questions about the Pyramids that go unanswered.

Question

7. In line 5, the word Some refers to _____ .

- (A) the rituals
- (B) the purposes
- (C) the pyramids
- (D) the civilizations

8. In line 25, the word it refers to _____ .

- (A) a man
- (B) a stone
- (C) a worker
- (D) a drawing