Name: Date: Score: / 6

Camels: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Animals · about 200 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

🐫 Camels

Camels are built for life in the desert, one of the harshest places on Earth. There are two main types. The dromedary camel, found in the Middle East and North Africa, has one hump. The Bactrian camel, from Central Asia, has two humps.

Many people think camels store water in their humps, but that is a myth. A camel's hump stores fat. When food is scarce, the camel's body can break down the fat for energy. If a camel goes a long time without eating, its hump can shrink and flop over.

Camels can go many days without drinking water. When they do find water, they can drink up to about 30 gallons in just a few minutes. Their bodies are very good at saving water. They hardly sweat, even on hot days.

Camels have other desert features too. Two rows of long eyelashes protect their eyes from blowing sand. They can close their nostrils during sandstorms. Their wide, padded feet keep them from sinking into the sand, a bit like snowshoes on snow.

For thousands of years, people have used camels to carry heavy loads across deserts. That is why camels are sometimes called "ships of the desert."

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. how to ride a camel B. sandstorms in Africa C. how camels are adapted to desert life
   D. the history of ships

2. **Detail:** How many humps does a Bactrian camel have?
   A. none B. three C. two D. one

3. **Detail:** What does a camel's hump store?
   A. water B. fat C. food D. air

4. **Detail:** How much water can a camel drink in a few minutes?
   A. one gallon B. up to about 30 gallons C. one cup D. 1,000 gallons

5. **Inference:** Why are camels called "ships of the desert"?
   A. They carry heavy loads across deserts. B. They can swim. C. They live near the ocean.
   D. They look like boats.

6. **Vocabulary:** What does myth mean in this passage?

ANSWER KEY

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   an idea many people believe that is not true