

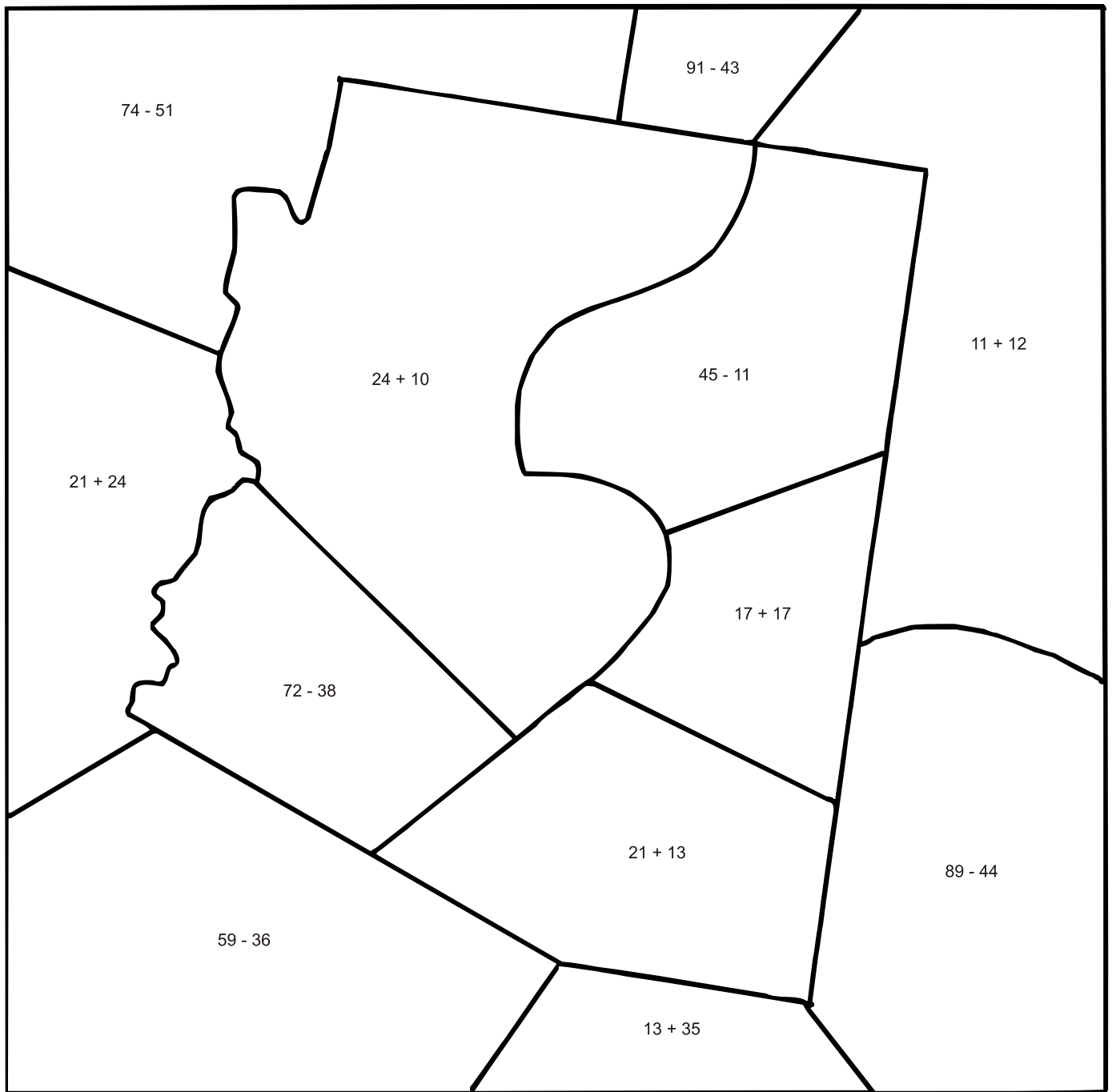
ARIZONA ACTIVITY PACKET



Exclusively for members of MrNussbaum.com

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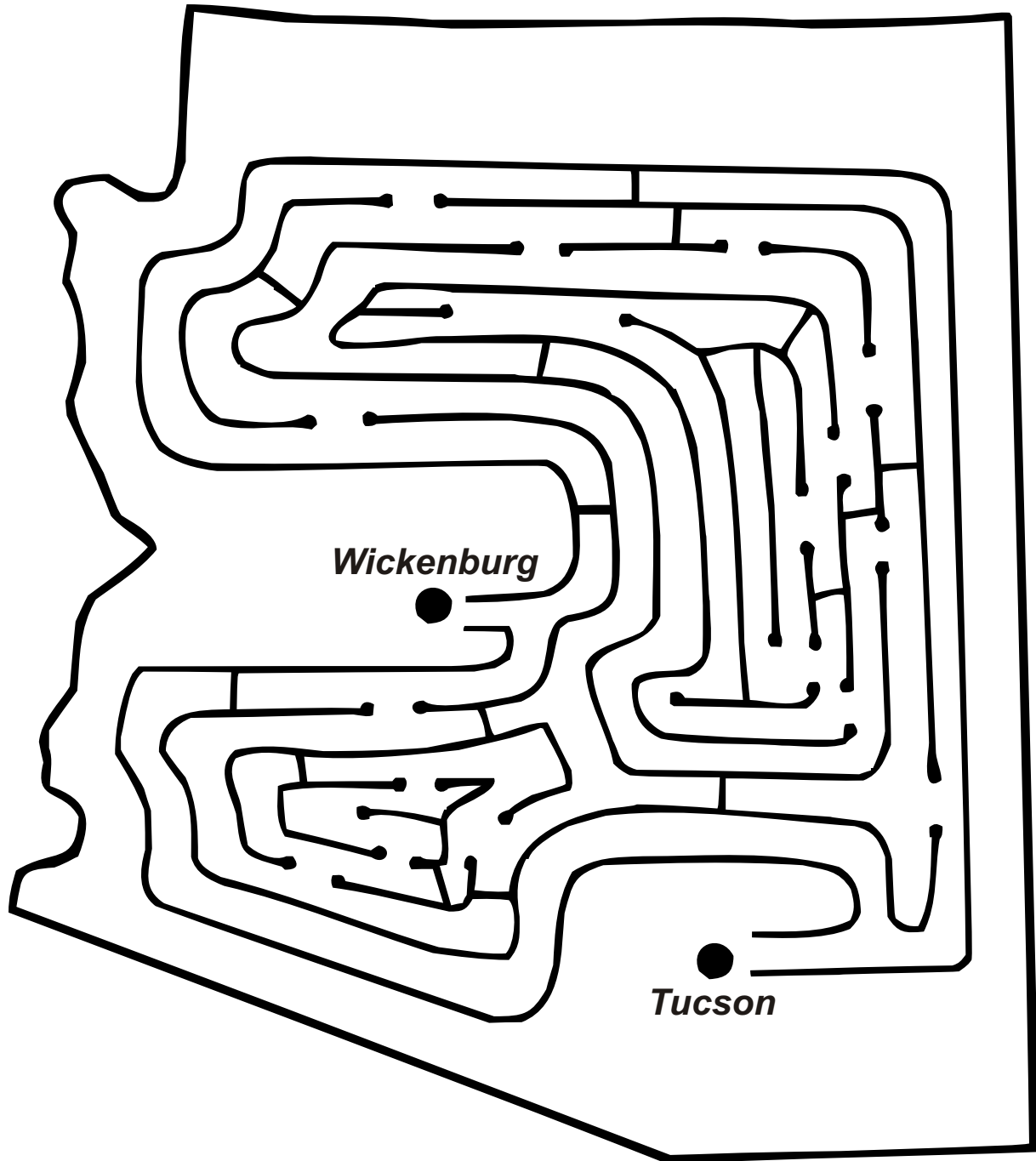


Do you know what state is pictured?

23 = Blue
34 = Light Orange
45 = Red
48 = White

Arizona State Quarter







Cactus Wren



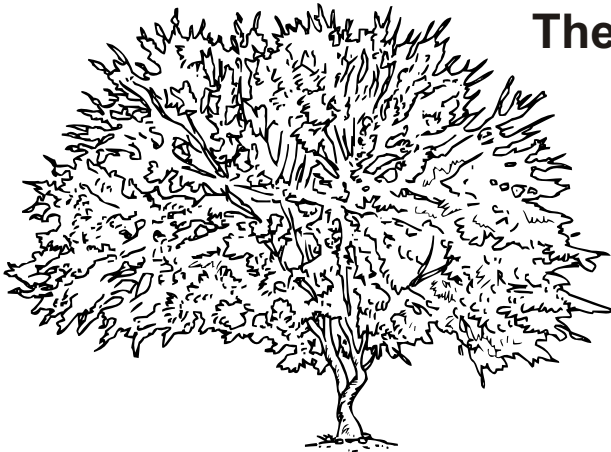
Saguaro Cactus



Arizona

★ Phoenix

The Grand Canyon State



Palo Verde Tree

State license plate



Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____



	FACT	FICTION
Arizona is WEST of New Mexico.		
Mexico is NORTH of Arizona.		
Nevada is EAST of New Mexico.		
Phoenix is WEST of Mesa.		
Colorado is NORTHEAST of Arizona.		
New Mexico is SOUTHWEST of Utah		
Flagstaff is SOUTH of Tucson		
Yuma is SOUTHWEST of Flagstaff		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Arizona is WEST of New Mexico.	X	
Mexico is NORTH of Arizona.		X
Nevada is EAST of New Mexico.		X
Phoenix is WEST of Mesa.	X	
Colorado is NORTHEAST of Arizona.	X	
New Mexico is SOUTHWEST of Utah		X
Flagstaff is SOUTH of Tucson		X
Yuma is SOUTHWEST of Flagstaff	X	

Arizona Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water

Arizona

1

2

3

4

5

6


Arizona Labels

Utah
California
Mexico
Colorado
New Mexico
Nevada

Labels:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Arizona Label-me Map – Bordering States and Bodies of water



Arizona

1

2

3

4

5

6

Arizona Labels

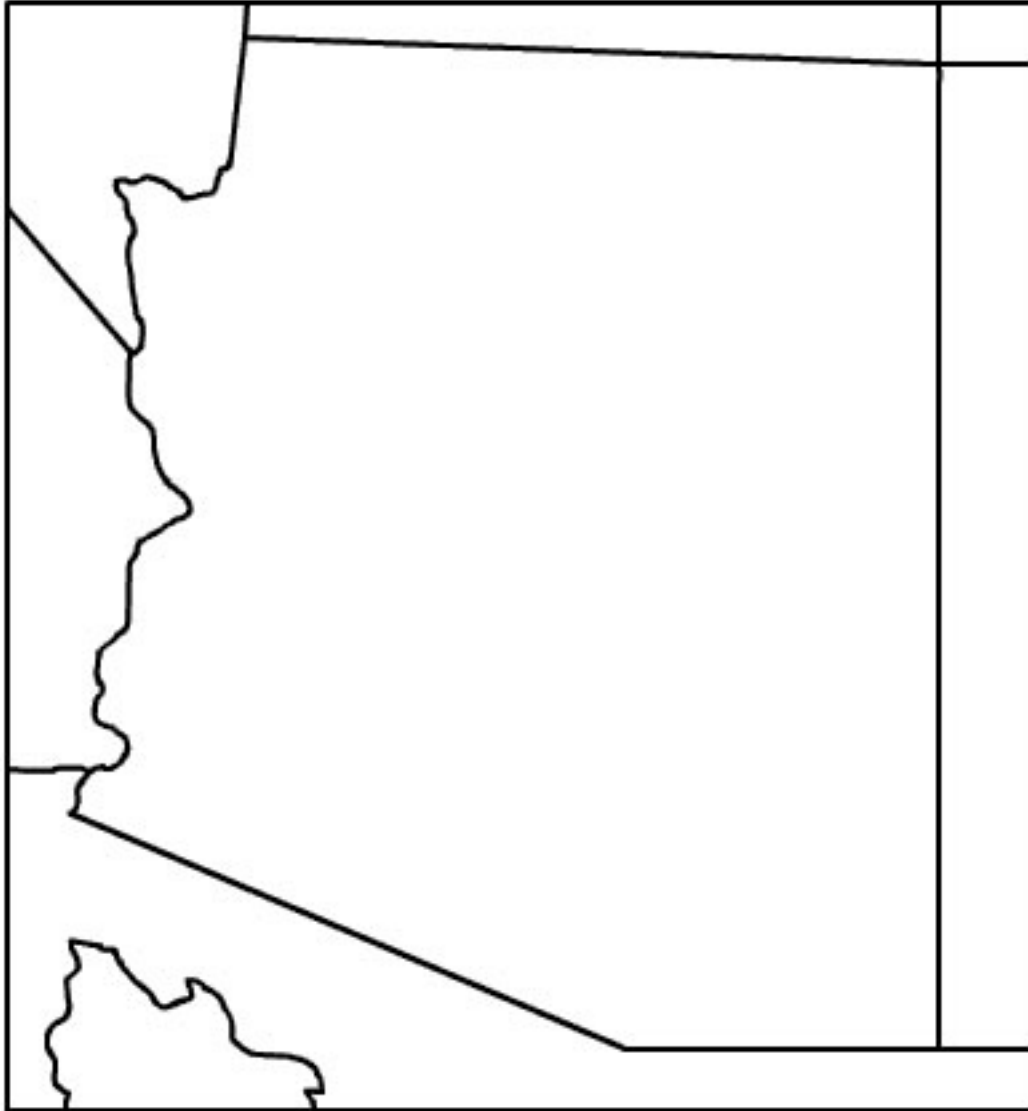
Utah
California
Mexico
Colorado
New Mexico
Nevada

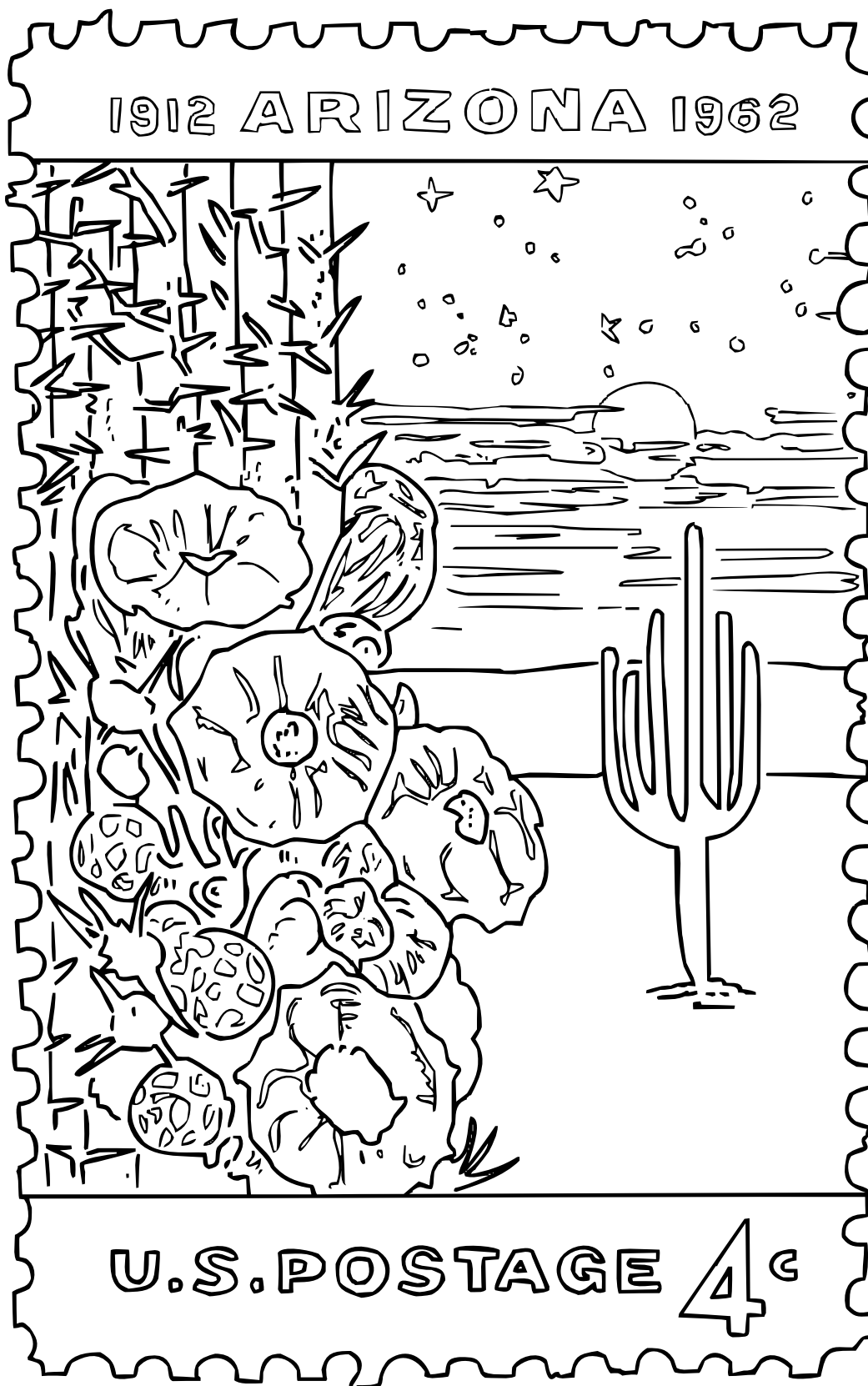
Labels:

1. New Mexico
2. Colorado
3. Utah
4. Nevada
5. California
6. Mexico



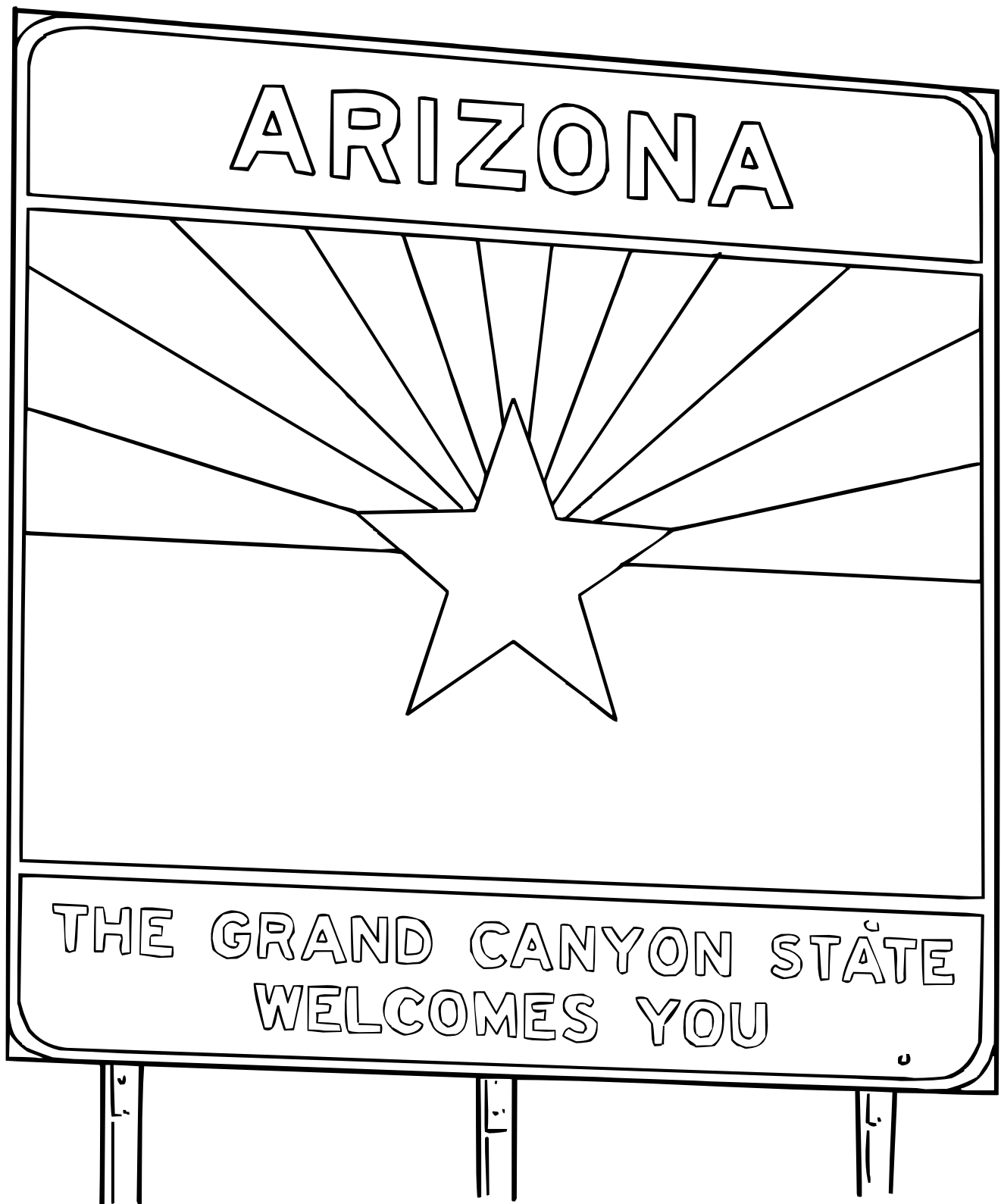
Arizona Printable Outline Map





Arizona stamp

4 cents



ARIZONA

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Grand Canyon

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Saguaro National Park

Comparing and Contrasting Arizona and New Mexico

Name: _____

Arizona

Arizona, located in the southwestern portion of the United States, became a state on February 14, 1912. It was America's 48th state! It is one of the four corner states, and shares borders with California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. Arizona's capital and largest city is Phoenix, which has more than two million people. Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the nation's most popular natural attractions. The Grand Canyon was carved by the ancient Colorado River, which flows through the northern part of Arizona. Much of southern Arizona is covered by the Sonoran Desert, which includes groves of giant Saguaro cacti!

New Mexico

New Mexico is located in the southwestern part of the United States. It became America's 47th state on January 6, 1912. New Mexico borders Texas, Oklahoma, and Arizona. As one of the four corner states, it also borders Utah and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. New Mexico's largest city is Albuquerque and its capital is Santa Fe. Santa Fe is one of the oldest cities in America. Much of New Mexico is covered by desert. The Rio Grande, the nation's fourth longest river, flows through the center of New Mexico. New Mexico is home to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, one of the largest cave systems in the world.

Which facts belong in each category?

Borders Mexico
Borders California
Is one of the four corner states
Is home to the Grand Canyon
Its capital and largest city are the same
Has deserts
Is a southwestern state
Was a state first!
The Rio Grande flows through

Arizona	Both	New Mexico

Answers:

Arizona	Both	New Mexico
Its capital and largest city are the same Borders California	Borders Mexico Is one of the four corner states Has deserts Is a southwestern state	Was a state first! The Rio Grande flows through

Comparing and Contrasting Arizona and Nevada

Name: _____

Arizona

Arizona, located in the southwestern portion of the United States, became a state on February 14, 1912. It was America's 48th state! It is one of the four corner states, and shares borders with California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. Arizona's capital and largest city is Phoenix, which has more than two million people. Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the nation's most popular natural attractions. The Grand Canyon was carved by the ancient Colorado River, which flows through the northern part of Arizona. Much of southern Arizona is covered by the Sonoran Desert, which includes groves of giant Saguaro cacti!

Nevada

Nevada is located in the western part of the United States. It became America's 36th state on Halloween of 1864, just before the Civil War. Located entirely within the Great Basin, Nevada is full of deserts and isolated mountain ranges. It borders California, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho. It shares the famous Hoover Dam with Arizona, on the border of the two states. Nevada's capital is Carson City, but its largest city is Las Vegas. Las Vegas is one of America's top tourist attractions and features famous casinos, theater productions, and restaurants.

Which facts belong in each category?

Borders Mexico
Located with the Great Basin
Is one of the four corner states
Has giant saguaro cacti
Its capital and largest city are different
Has deserts
Borders Utah
Hoover Dam
Is located farther north

Arizona	Both	Nevada

Answers:

Arizona	Both	Nevada
Borders Mexico Is one of the four corner states Has giant saguaro cacti	Borders Utah Has deserts Hoover Dam	Located in Great Basin Its capital and largest city are different Is located farther north.

Comparing and Contrasting California and Arizona

Name: _____

California

California, located along the west coast of the United States, became America's 31st state on September 9th, 1850, soon after gold was discovered at Sutter's Fort. California borders Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and Mexico. The Pacific Ocean lies to its west. Its capital is Sacramento and largest city is Los Angeles. California has more people than any other state and has numerous attractions that bring people from all over the world such as Disney Land, Hollywood, Lake Tahoe, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. California also has vibrant cities such as San Francisco and San Diego. It has beautiful national parks such as Yosemite and Redwood, which feature the tallest trees in the world. California has snow-capped mountain ranges, volcanoes, deserts, and beautiful beaches.

Arizona

Arizona, located in the southwestern portion of the United States, became a state on February 14, 1912. It was America's 48th state! It is one of the four corner states, and shares borders with California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. Arizona's capital and largest city is Phoenix, which has more than two million people. Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the nation's most popular natural attractions. The Grand Canyon was carved by the ancient Colorado River, which flows through the northern part of Arizona. Much of southern Arizona is covered by the Sonoran Desert, which includes groves of giant Saguaro cacti!

Which facts belong in each category?

Borders more states
Home to the Grand Canyon
Has more people
Became a state first
Located in the Midwestern United States
Has deserts
Home to Yosemite National Park
Capital city and largest city are different
One of the four corner states
Has beaches

California
Both
Arizona
Neither

Answers:

California

**Has more people
Became a state first
Home to Yosemite National Park
Capital city and largest city are different
Has beaches**

Both

Has deserts

Arizona

**Borders more states
Home to the Grand Canyon
One of the four corner states**

Neither

Located in the Midwestern United States

Directions: Fill in the correct blanks

The Grand Canyon, located in northwestern Arizona, is one of the world's most _____ sites. _____ over millions of years by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, and between four and eighteen miles wide. In some places, the canyon is more than one mile deep. Its steep-sided, colorful gorge has been _____ on _____ photographs, posters, and postcards. Today, Grand Canyon National Park is one of America's most _____ national parks.

The Grand Canyon was first _____ by explorers searching for the _____ Seven Cities of Cibola in an _____ led by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

Words:

visited
discovered
Carved
countless
dazzling
expedition
captured
fabled

Comparing and Contrasting Colorado and Arizona

Name: _____

Colorado

California, located in the western United States, became America's 38th state on August 1st, 1876. Because it became a state on America's 100th birthday year, it is nicknamed the Centennial State. It is also called the Rocky Mountain State. Nearly six million people live in Colorado. Colorado, which is shaped like a rectangle, borders Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas. It is one of the Four Corner States. Its capital and largest city is Denver. Two great American landforms converge in Colorado: The Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. The eastern part of Colorado is made up mostly of plains and grasslands, whereas central and western Colorado feature the towering Rocky Mountain Range. Southwestern Colorado is mostly desert. Colorado is famous for its many ski resort towns including Vail, Aspen, and Breckenridge.

Arizona

Arizona, located in the southwestern portion of the United States, became a state on February 14, 1912. It was America's 48th state! It is one of the four corner states, and shares borders with California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. It shares its southern border with Mexico. Arizona's capital and largest city is Phoenix, which has more than two million people. Arizona now has almost seven million people! Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, which is one of the nation's most popular natural attractions. The Grand Canyon was carved by the ancient Colorado River, which flows through the northern part of Arizona. Much of southern Arizona is covered by the Sonoran Desert, which includes groves of giant Saguaro cacti!

Which facts belong in each category?

Borders Wyoming
Located in the southwestern United States
Has more people
Became a state first
Has famous ski resort towns
Has the Grand Canyon
The capital city and the largest city are different
Borders Mexico
Has two nicknames
Is one of the four corner states

Colorado
Both
Arizona
Neither

Answers:

Colorado

Borders Wyoming

Became s state first

Has famous ski resort towns

Has two nicknames

Both

Is one of the four corner states

Arizona

Located in the southwestern United States

Has more people

Has the Grand Canyon

Borders Mexico

Neither

The capital and largest city are different

Grand Canyon Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Grand Canyon, located in northwestern Arizona, is one of the world's most dazzling sites. Carved over millions of years by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, and between four and eighteen miles wide. In some places, the canyon is more than one mile deep. It is one of the world's most photographed places and has been captured on countless photographs, posters, and post cards. Millions of people visit it each year.

The Grand Canyon was first discovered by explorers searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in an expedition led by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

1. What formed the Grand Canyon?

- A. Northwestern Arizona
- B. The Colorado River
- C. People
- D. Francisco Coronado

2. What sentence tells the reader that people like to see the Grand Canyon?

- A. In some places, the canyon is more than one mile deep.
- B. Carved over millions of years by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, and between four and eighteen miles wide.
- C. Millions of people visit it each year.
- D. The Grand Canyon was first discovered by explorers searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in an expedition led by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

3. Which is an opinion?

- A. The Grand Canyon is more than a mile deep in places
- B. Millions of people visit the Grand Canyon every year
- C. It was discovered on the Coronado expedition
- D. It is one of the most dazzling sites in the world

4. Which is not discussed?

- A. The size of the Grand Canyon
- B. The discovery of the Grand Canyon
- C. Places to visit near the Grand Canyon
- D. The history of the Grand Canyon

Saguaro Cactus Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The hot cruel sun of the desert beats down on long prickly arms that extend skyward from tall green trunks. Here in the Sonoran Desert, located on the border of the United States and Mexico, the air is dry and every drop of water is fought for viciously. In this arid climate, saguaro cacti battle for survival.

Every part of the cactus helps the plant gather and keep what little water is available. Unlike trees, which often have roots extending dozens of feet underground to reach deep reserves of water, saguaro cacti have very short roots that spread out wide to better capture rainwater. The trunk of the cactus is corrugated, or folded, almost like an accordion. When the cactus is full of water, the trunk can expand to store water for use in drier times. The waxy green surface of the cactus' trunk prevents the cactus from drying out and losing the water stored within.

Many species of cacti have similar methods of storing water in dry climates. The saguaro cactus is unique, however, in its incredible size and growth. Scientists think that saguaro cacti can live to be up to 200 years old. Cacti this old can be more than 40 feet tall and weigh more than a car. Despite this impressive size, saguaro cacti start from humble beginnings. The cactus begins life under the shade of a desert tree, called a nurse tree, that will shield it from the hot sun and from the hungry glances of animals. At ten years old, the saguaro is only about the size of a thumb. As the little cactus grows larger and larger, it begins to demand more water from the soil. Soon, the nurse tree that sheltered the young plant is deprived of water and dies.

As the saguaro grows, it becomes a source of food and shelter for a multitude of desert creatures. Although the prickly spines of the cactus deter animals while the cactus is young, as the saguaro ages, the spines spread out. This allows the first brave explorer, the Gila woodpecker, to approach the trunk. The woodpecker bores a hole in the trunk to make its home. In following years, owls, finches, and sparrows will use the hole to raise their young. When the saguaro matures and begins to produce flowers, bats will visit by night to eat the sweet nectar. In the summertime, the saguaro fruit becomes a tasty snack for many reptiles, insects, and mammals. In times of drought, rodents, deer and sheep will eat chunks of the cactus' water-filled trunk to quench their thirst. Young cacti can even be found sprouting within the sheltered cavities, or holes, in the trunks of older saguaro. In the harsh environment of the Sonoran Desert, the strong saguaro is an oasis of life.

1. According to the paragraph 1, what could be the meaning of the word

“arid”?

- a.) Lively
- b.) Dry
- c.) Empty
- d.) Windy

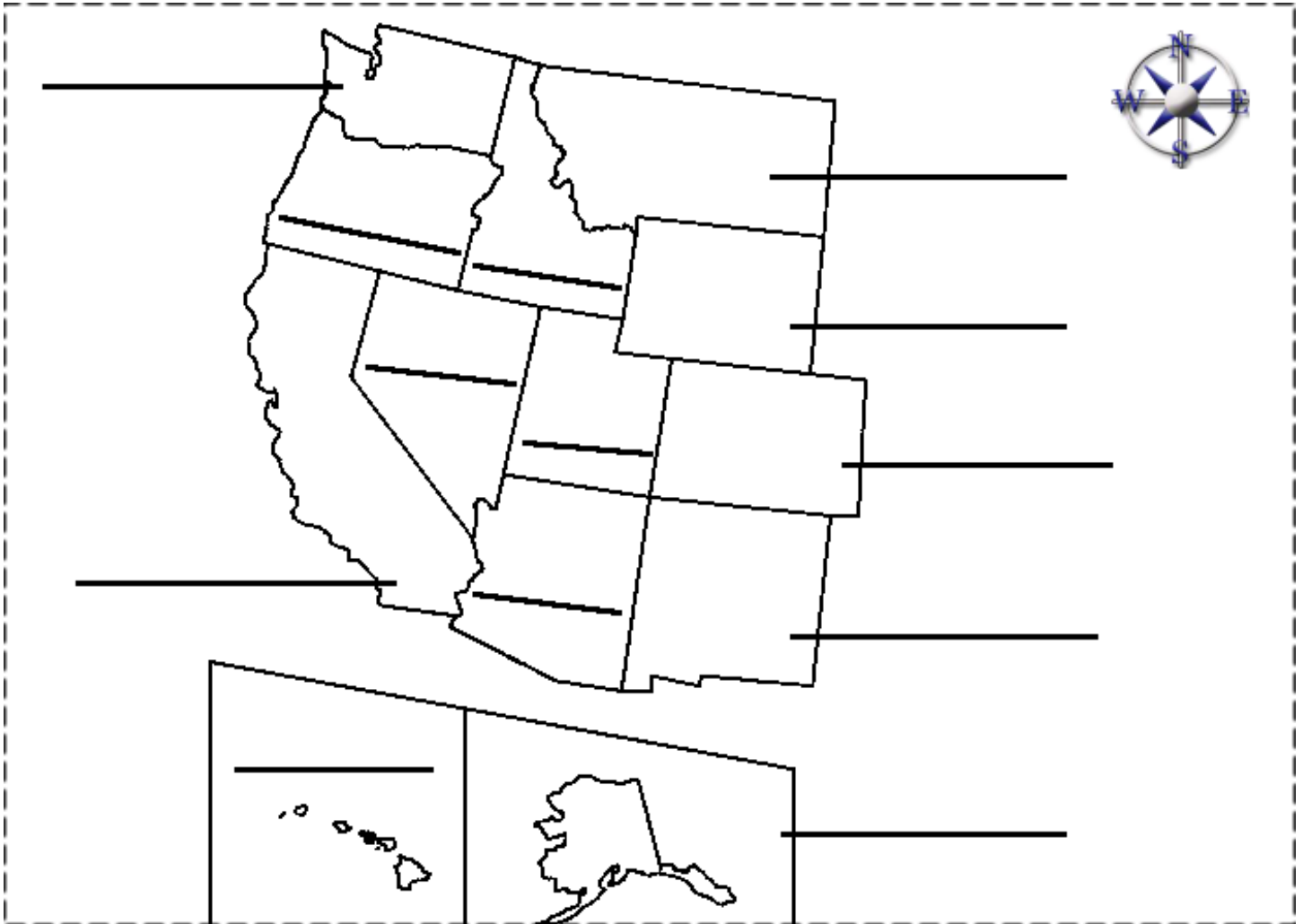
2. Why do trees have roots that are different than the roots of cacti?

- a.) The roots of cacti are made to survive very hot conditions while tree roots do not have to survive such hot conditions
- b.) The roots of trees need to support the heavy weight of the tree while the roots of cacti do not have to support such heavy weights
- c.) The roots of trees are made to reach water deep underground while cacti roots are made to spread out and collect surface rainwater
- d.) Trees have plenty of water and nutrients to grow large roots while cacti can only manage to grow small roots

3. According to the information in paragraph 2, what might happen to a cactus if you took away the waxy green surface of the trunk?

- a.) The cactus would overheat and might die
- b.) The cactus would be more likely to be attacked by animals and diseases
- c.) The cactus would collapse as it will not be able to support itself
- d.) The cactus would lose the water it stored in its trunk

- 4. Which feature does the saguaro cacti share with many other species of cacti?**
- a.) Height of more than 40 feet tall
 - b.) Extremely long lifespan
 - c.) Corrugated trunk for storing water
 - d.) Weight greater than the weight of a car
- 5. What role does the Gila woodpecker play in the life of the saguaro?**
- a.) The woodpecker creates a hole that many animals will use
 - b.) The woodpecker eats the nectar of the cactus fruit
 - c.) The woodpecker removes the prickly spines of the cactus
 - d.) The woodpecker eats the trunk of the cactus during droughts
- 6. Which of the options below would be the best choice as a subheading for the final paragraph?**
- a.) Prickly Protection: The Spines of the Saguaro Cactus
 - b.) Hidden Water in Times of Drought
 - c.) Cozy Home for Many Species
 - d.) Source of Life in the Desert
- 7. Which of the following plants or animals is negatively affected by the saguaro cactus?**
- a.) A nurse tree
 - b.) The Gila woodpecker
 - c.) Young cacti within trunk cavities
 - d.) Bats



Roadrunner

If you live in the southwestern United States, you've likely seen a roadrunner. These common birds are ground-dwelling members of the cuckoo family. They are found in the American southwest and Mexico. Roadrunners are starting to spread to the central United States as well.

A roadrunner can grow to two feet in length. It is mostly brown with white markings. The roadrunner has a large crest and a very long tail. In addition, it has long legs for chasing its favorite prey - lizards, scorpions, and rodents. Roadrunners can reach speeds of more than 20 miles per hour and would rather run away from threats than fly. Roadrunner sometimes show up in backyards and gardens!

1. How would a roadrunner most likely escape from a predator?

- A. It was run away
- B. It was would fly away
- C. It would hide in the bushes
- D. It would try to attack

2. Which is not true about the roadrunner?

- A. They are cuckoos
- B. You can find them in Mexico
- C. They eat scorpions
- D. They live in the southeastern United States

3. What could be a title for this story?

- A. The Roadrunner's Diet
- B. The Basics About Roadrunners
- C. Birds of America
- D. Cuckoos

4. Why do Roadrunners have long legs?

- A. To chase their prey
- B. To stay cool in the desert
- C. To blend in to their environment
- D. Because they don't like to fly.

