Main Idea and Summary

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Mangroves: Trees with Salty Feet

Where warm rivers meet the sea, a strange forest grows right in the water. These are mangrove forests. They line coasts in India, Indonesia, Florida, Brazil, and West Africa. Twice a day, the tide rises around their trunks and then drains away. Their roots grip the soft mud, and their leaves stay green all year.

Most trees would die in salty water, but mangroves have special ways to survive. Some kinds have roots that filter out most of the salt before water enters the tree. Others push extra salt out through their leaves. You can sometimes see white salt crystals shining on a mangrove leaf. The mud under mangroves has little air, so many mangroves send up roots that poke out of the mud like pencils. These roots help the tree take in air.

Mangroves also protect the land and the creatures around them. Their tangled roots act like a wall against waves. During storms, they slow the water and hold the soil in place. Coastal villages behind healthy mangroves often suffer less flooding. Under the water, the roots form a safe nursery. Young fish, crabs, and shrimp hide among them until they are big enough for the open sea. Birds nest in the branches above.

People once cut down many mangroves to make room for farms and buildings. Now some countries are planting them again. Students and fishers often help with the work. The seedlings grow quickly, and within a few years their roots begin to hold the mud in place. In Indonesia and Bangladesh, villagers push young mangrove seedlings into the mud by the thousands. They know these unusual trees guard their homes.

1. Which two main ideas does the text explain?

   why the tide rises twice a day and how storms form at sea

   where mangroves grow around the world and why birds build their nests in them

   how mangroves survive salt water and how they protect coasts and wildlife

2. Which detail supports the idea that mangroves can survive salt water?

   Young fish, crabs, and shrimp hide among the tangled roots.

   Villagers plant seedlings by the thousands.

   Some mangroves push extra salt out through their leaves.

3. Which detail supports the idea that mangroves protect the land?

Their roots slow storm water and hold the soil.

Their roots poke out of the mud like pencils.

They grow in India, Florida, and Brazil.

4. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

Mangroves shelter coasts and young sea animals.

Birds build nests high in mangrove branches.

Mangroves need air, so their roots poke up.

5. Why do some mangrove roots poke up out of the mud?

The mud has little air, so the roots take in air.

The roots push extra salt out of the tree and into the sea.

The roots reach up to collect rainwater.

6. Which detail is least important for a summary of the text?

Salt crystals can sometimes be seen on a leaf.

Mangroves protect villages from flooding.

Mangroves can live in salty water.

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Answer Key - Grade 5 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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