

Life of Pi

by Yann Martel

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: abundant, adapt, approach (2), buoyant, carnivorous, convention (2), devour (2), illustrate, imam, pi, positive (2), ration, reflect (2), sloth, species



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

Life of Pi

by Yann Martel

#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	A
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	C
8	B
9	B
10	A
11	C
12	A
13	C
14	C
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	C
19	C
20	A

Vocabulary Preview

Life of Pi

by Yann Martel

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The region has **abundant** natural resources, from oil to fresh water.
 - A. extremely scarce
 - B. highly disputed
 - C. widely available
2. This passage is **adapted** from Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* ©1952.
 - A. copied
 - B. read
 - C. changed
3. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
4. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
5. The wooden boat is **buoyant** even without a captured pocket of air.
 - A. very strong
 - B. is stable
 - C. tends to float
6. Most bear species are omnivorous, but individuals' diets can range from almost exclusively herbivorous to almost exclusively **carnivorous** depending on what food sources are available locally and seasonally.
 - A. meat-eating
 - B. plant-eating
 - C. both meat-eating and plant-eating
7. In most countries, the **convention** is to shake the head to indicate "no", but in Bulgaria that indicates "yes".
 - A. movement
 - B. agreement
 - C. normal behavior
8. The country has signed the United Nations **Convention** against Torture.
 - A. a large conference or meeting
 - B. written international agreement
 - C. written study with findings
9. The lions **devoured** the antelope.
 - A. killed
 - B. ate
 - C. caught
10. She **devours** anything written about him.
 - A. reads with eager interest
 - B. is careful to avoid
 - C. discusses with friends
11. The example **illustrates** the belief.
 - A. disproves
 - B. proves
 - C. makes clear

12. He was chosen as imam because of his knowledge and good character.
- A. Muslim leader
 - B. politician
 - C. federal judge
13. The value of pi is needed to calculate any circle's area.
- A. a triangle's height
 - B. a square's diagonal
 - C. the circle ratio
14. I'm **positive** our team will win on Friday.
- A. happy
 - B. pretty sure
 - C. certain
15. Volunteering had a **positive** impact on the whole neighborhood.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. harmful or damaging
 - C. minor and unnoticed
16. During the Second World War, products such as food and gasoline were **rationed** in the United States, so more resources could be devoted to the war effort.
- A. restricted in the amount each person could have
 - B. set at a high price only the military could afford
 - C. imported in small amounts from many countries
17. The author used gloomy weather to help **reflect** a depressing situation.
- A. express
 - B. make interesting
 - C. distract from
18. The stop signs in this neighborhood **reflect** light, so you won't miss them even if there isn't a nearby streetlight.
- A. sense
 - B. absorb
 - C. bounce back
19. The **sloth** is hanging upside down in that tree.
- A. a type of animal with odd mating habits
 - B. a type of animal that imitates bird songs
 - C. a type of animal that moves very slowly
20. It is thought that there are over 20,000 **species** of ants.
- A. different categories
 - B. different nest types
 - C. different diets

Vocabulary in Context

Life of Pi

by Yann Martel

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 *Life of Pi* – Yann Martel **AUTHOR'S NOTE** *This book was born as I was hungry.*
 - A. radically new and experimental; or people who practice radically new and experimental ideas -- especially in the arts
 - B. drugs that causes temporary loss of bodily sensations in a limited region of the body while maintaining consciousness
 - C. mathematics: an important constant representing the circumference of any circle divided by its diameter (about 3.14)
- 2 *Our team tested the sleep habits of five wild threetoed sloths by placing on their heads, in the early evening after they had fallen asleep, bright red plastic dishes filled with water.*
 - A. scales where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it
 - B. people considered to be unimportant servants or followers of someone considered important
 - C. mammals of a specific type that seldom move and are typically very slow when they do move
- 3 *Each to him was a triumph of logic and mechanics, and nature as a whole was an exceptionally fine illustration of science.*
 - A. relating to where attention is concentrated
 - B. the act of taking something on as one's own
 - C. something that helps clarify or demonstrate
- 4 *Everything in an enclosure must be just right—in other words, within the limits of the animal's capacity to adapt.*
 - A. to spread one-sided information to influence opinions
 - B. alter the regular state of an otherwise stable system
 - C. adjust (to fit a different situation)
- 5 *Now we call it Shiva, Krishna, Shakti, Ganesha; we can approach it with some understanding; we can discern certain attributes—loving, merciful, frightening—and we feel the gentle pull of relationship.*
 - A. get near (figuratively, get near understanding)
 - B. create dramatic change
 - C. mirror back (an image)
- 6 *A fish jumping out of water was confronted by a famished boy with a hands-on, no-holds-barred approach to capturing it.*
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. technique (way of doing something)
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 7 *I suspect she suspected that I had a different take on the matter, but she never said anything when as a child I devoured the comic books of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and an illustrated children's Bible and other stories of the gods.*
 - A. read with eager interest
 - B. considered (for affect on a result or outcome)
 - C. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
- 8 *He was moving through them, blazing a trail of murder and mayhem, devouring one meerkat after another...*
 - A. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. eating rapidly and completely
 - C. drawing pictures to accompany
- 9 *The imam and the priest nodded.*
 - A. a Muslim leader
 - B. social event or ceremony
 - C. a negatively charged ion

- 10 CITES, the **Convention** on International Trade in Endangered Species, had just come into effect, and the window on the trading of captured wild animals had slammed shut.
- A. someone who expresses disapproval
 - B. an international agreement
 - C. purpose, job, or natural activity
- 11 But a shark is deaf, **conventionally** speaking.
- A. in a pessimistic or disagreeable manner
 - B. enthusiastically or with great interest
 - C. in a normal manner of
- 12 **endangered** species
- A. a similar group of animals or plants
 - B. the quality of exactness or accuracy
 - C. the gain of advantage from something
- 13 Her gestures were slow and tentative and her eyes **reflected** deep mental confusion.
- A. expressed or showed
 - B. provided evidence of something -- especially oral evidence in court
 - C. suffered through (or put up with) something difficult or unpleasant
- 14 Soon the sun was alone in the sky, and the ocean was a smooth skin **reflecting** the light with a million mirrors.
- A. concentrating
 - B. investigating
 - C. shining back
- 15 But it seemed to me highly improbable, if not totally incredible, that when brought together these frugivorous tree-dwellers and **carnivorous** savannah-dwellers would so radically carve out their niches as to pay no attention to each other.
- A. meat-eating
 - B. intentional
 - C. not sincere
- 16 That meant I had food **rations** to last me—31 X 3—93 days!
- A. a fixed share of something, especially scarce goods like food or fuel; or to limit and distribute something in fixed shares
 - B. atones (demonstrates sorrow for a wrong either by doing something good in return for the wrong, or by accepting punishment)
 - C. removes or suppress anything considered obscene, immoral, or politically unacceptable OR people who does such suppression
- 17 In fact, the **buoyancy** of the life jackets was such that they...
- A. the spreading of a disease to another part of the body
 - B. the branch of engineering that deals with small things
 - C. tendency to float
- 18 I caught nothing the whole day, not even in the late afternoon, when marine life appeared in **abundance**.
- A. sharpness or intenseness
 - B. conflict or disagreement
 - C. large amount or quantity
- 19 Ten thousand trumpets and twenty thousand drums could not have made as much noise as that bolt of lightning; it was **positively** deafening.
- A. without regret
 - B. with hard work
 - C. absolutely (used for emphasis)
- 20 I assigned this tension to the new environment of the island; any change, even **positive**, will make an animal tense.
- A. good or beneficial
 - B. not representative
 - C. impossible to find

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

Life of Pi
by Yann Martel

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	pi	Used 30 times in this book.
2	C	sloth (<i>as in: a sloth in the tree</i>)	Used 26 times in this book.
3	C	illustrate (<i>as in: as illustrated by this example</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	adapt (<i>as in: adapted to the new rules</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.
5	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
6	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	devour (<i>as in: devours crime novels</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
8	B	devour (<i>as in: devoured three sandwiches</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
9	A	imam	Used 15 times in this book.
10	B	convention (<i>as in: The Geneva Convention</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
11	C	convention (<i>as in: conventional behavior</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	species	Used 12 times in this book.
13	A	reflect (<i>as in: reflect American Values</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	C	reflect (<i>as in: reflect the light/heat/sound</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
15	A	carnivorous	Used 12 times in this book.
16	A	ration	Used 10 times in this book.
17	C	buoyant (<i>as in: buoyant force or market</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
18	C	abundant	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
19	C	positive (<i>as in: I'm absolutely positive!</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	positive (<i>as in: had a positive effect</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.