

The Deerslayer

by James Fenimore Cooper

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: countenance, denotes, distinguish (2), enable, endeavor, expedient, furlough, impetuous, interpose, melancholy, moccasin, notwithstanding, prudent, render, scarcity, serpent, trifle, trifle with, vagabond



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. Her **countenance** grew stern.
 - A. facial expression
 - B. a method of counting
 - C. voice
2. In algebra, letters often **denote** unknown numbers in equations.
 - A. scatter
 - B. represent
 - C. confuse
3. She can easily **distinguish** authentic paintings from forgeries by examining the brushwork.
 - A. identify similarities
 - B. treat with respect
 - C. recognize as different
4. In the distance, we could just **distinguish** the sound of footsteps approaching through the fog.
 - A. detect
 - B. avoid
 - C. make
5. Modern smartphones **enable** people to work from almost anywhere.
 - A. require
 - B. allow
 - C. remind
6. I will **endeavor** to finish by Friday.
 - A. not be able
 - B. promise
 - C. try
7. Borrowing chairs from next door was a useful **expedient** until the new ones arrived.
 - A. careful warning
 - B. practical solution
 - C. lasting tradition
8. The company **furloughed** employees on the third shift.
 - A. fired
 - B. gave raises to
 - C. ordered not to come to work
9. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
 - A. impulsive
 - B. cautious
 - C. wealthy
10. They have **interposed** themselves on the side of our enemy.
 - A. been seen
 - B. hidden
 - C. inserted
11. This weather makes me **melancholy**. I can't wait for spring,
 - A. happy
 - B. sad
 - C. feel like singing
12. The *driving moc* is a contemporary version of the traditional Native American moccasin.
 - A. weatherproof poncho
 - B. soft leather shoe
 - C. soft seat cushion

13. The budget was approved, notwithstanding the loud protests from the opposition.
- A. in spite of
 - B. as a result of
 - C. in addition to
14. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
15. The disorder will eventually render her paralyzed.
- A. make
 - B. unmake
 - C. compare
16. Work is scarce in the region.
- A. easily found
 - B. extremely hard
 - C. in short supply
17. What does the serpent represent in the Garden of Eden?
- A. fig leaf
 - B. snake
 - C. apple
18. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
19. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with
20. After losing everything, he lived as a vagabond for nearly five years.
- A. wealthy landowner
 - B. wandering drifter
 - C. settled farmer

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 You are but a boy—a sapling, that has **scarce** got root.
 - A. the state of not being aware or concerned about something
 - B. a state similar to sleep where one is unaware of anything
 - C. in short supply OR barely or hardly (by a small margin)
- 2 His **countenance** remained unmoved;
 - A. facial expression
 - B. the best or most important
 - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 3 This new pause was to **enable** Deerslayer to survey the singular edifice, which was of a construction so novel as to merit a particular description.
 - A. stop fighting
 - B. make possible
 - C. grant a favor
- 4 You are not a beauty, as you must know, and why shouldn't friends tell each other these little **trifles**?
 - A. struggles or disagreements
 - B. is attractive or desirable
 - C. things of small importance
- 5 Hetty's instinct of right, if such a term can be applied to one who seemed taught by some kind spirit how to steer her course with unerring accuracy, between good and evil, would have revolted at Hurry's character on a thousand points, had there been opportunities to enlighten her, but while he conversed and **trifled with** her sister, at a distance from herself, his perfection of form and feature had been left to produce their influence on her simple imagination and naturally tender feelings, without suffering by the alloy of his opinions and coarseness.
 - A. treated thoughtlessly or without respect
 - B. injury to muscles or tendons of the knee
 - C. limit light vibrations to a single plane
- 6 So much the more reason for being **prudent** and silent.
 - A. sensible and careful
 - B. not demonstrative of
 - C. sincerity (realness)
- 7 had the effect to **render** her beauty more striking,
 - A. make
 - B. gradually add or remove
 - C. feel sadness and regret
- 8 I should say that **moccasin** has a northern look, and comes from beyond the Great Lakes.
 - A. income not required for mandatory and necessary expenses
 - B. soft leather shoe traditionally worn by Native Americans
 - C. belief or opinion formed by viewing things a certain way
- 9 "Our Indians!" exclaimed the girl, laughing with a sort of **melancholy** merriment.
 - A. relating to the outside
 - B. a sad feeling or manner
 - C. about (but not exactly)
- 10 "I see how it is—I see how it is," **impetuously** interrupted Judith.
 - A. impulsively (acting suddenly without much thought)
 - B. in the manner of a logical, systematic examination
 - C. in a manner that shows care or concern for someone
- 11 **Notwithstanding** all these circumstances, the most experienced veteran in forest warfare could not have behaved better.
 - A. used to show that something remains true even though something else seems to go against it
 - B. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - C. therefore (for that reason)

- 12 *I'm not good enough for the Moravians, and am too good for most of the other vagabonds that preach about in the woods.*
- A. shows fear by positioning the body as though afraid of being hit
 - B. a person who wanders from town to town with no fixed home or job
 - C. degrades (decreases) the purity, quality, or status of something
- 13 *Here the savage advanced with confidence, his hand extended, his face smiling, and his whole bearing denoting amity and respect.*
- A. overly unhappy and unsociable
 - B. stand for or symbolize literally; or be a sign or indicator of
 - C. drawing pictures to accompany
- 14 *Deerslayer met his offered friendship in a proper spirit, and they shook hands cordially, each endeavoring to assure the other of his sincerity and desire to be at peace.*
- A. working or operating
 - B. believing or judging
 - C. trying or attempting
- 15 *He is now in the Ark, with Judith and a Delaware who is called the Big Serpent.*
- A. skill
 - B. snake
 - C. story
- 16 *A better expedient could not have been adopted, to secure the silence and discretion of Hetty, than that which was now presented to her mind.*
- A. most extreme as in final, best, worst, most important, or most fundamental
 - B. convenient, speedy, or practical; or an action that is speedy or practical
 - C. the state or degree of having found a condition or substance to be present
- 17 *The darkness increased rather than diminished, but it was still possible, from the place where the adventurers lay, to distinguish the outlines of the mountains.*
- A. see something that is barely seeable
 - B. describe something in great detail
 - C. compare something to something else
- 18 *The Sumach, all the elderly women, and some of the Huron girls, had fallen by the bayonet, either in the confusion of the melee, or from the difficulty of distinguishing the sexes when the dress was so simple.*
- A. where attention is concentrated
 - B. calculating or judging too high
 - C. recognizing the difference of
- 19 *For a minute, the mind of this creature equally of civilization and of barbarism, was a sort of chaos as to feeling, not knowing what to think of its own act; and then the obstinacy and pride of one of his habits, interposed to assert their usual ascendancy.*
- A. (verb) drew pictures to accompany OR (adjective) accompanied by pictures
 - B. not justified or explained as an understandable reaction to another action
 - C. to insert between other elements; or to interrupt or stop action by others
- 20 *I'm out on a furlough, and if I've strength and reason, I'll go in on a furlough afore noon to-morrow!*
- A. a method of artistic painting on a wall by using watercolors on wet plaster; or the painting made in such a manner
 - B. accept someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - C. a temporary leave from work, duty, or confinement, usually granted by an employer, the military, or an institution

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	scarcity	High-utility academic word; used 31 times in this book.
2	A	countenance (<i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i>)	Used 64 times in this book.
3	B	enable	High-utility academic word; used 26 times in this book.
4	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 15 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 24 times in this book.
7	A	render (<i>as in: rendered her unconscious</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
8	B	moccasin	Used 35 times in this book.
9	B	melancholy	Used 28 times in this book.
10	A	impetuous (<i>as in: an impetuous decision</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book.
11	A	notwithstanding	High-utility academic word; used 27 times in this book.
12	B	vagabond	Used 32 times in this book.
13	B	denotes	Used 16 times in this book.
14	C	endeavor	Used 30 times in this book.
15	B	serpent	Used 43 times in this book.
16	B	expedient	Used 45 times in this book.
17	A	distinguish (<i>as in: distinguish a vague shape</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
18	C	distinguish (<i>as in: distinguish fact from opinion</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
19	C	interpose	Used 13 times in this book.
20	C	furlough	Used 33 times in this book.