

The Maelstrom

by Henry H. Neff

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: acquire, appalling, augur, boon, citadel, clone, direct (3), indignant, luxuriant, mystic, obelisk, perimeter, pragmatic, retort, simulate, ultimatum, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	A
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	C
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	B
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. They are working to **acquire** nuclear weapons.
 - A. obtain (get)
 - B. eliminate (get rid of)
 - C. disguise or hide
2. She has scheduled a news conference to respond to the **appalling** accusations.
 - A. false
 - B. horrible
 - C. foolish
3. The early test results **augur** a successful launch for the new vaccine.
 - A. predict and foretell
 - B. delay and postpone
 - C. ignore and forget
4. For remote workers, high-speed internet is a real **boon**, making it easier to stay productive from home.
 - A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a source of constant distraction
 - C. something that is of great benefit
5. The **citadel** stood on a high hill, overlooking the town like a watchful guardian.
 - A. fortified stronghold
 - B. wooden farmhouse
 - C. outdoor marketplace
6. Dolly the sheep was the first successful mammal **clone**.
 - A. to grow worse; or describing a person or situation that is worse in the sense of deviating from what is socially acceptable
 - B. to burst, break, or tear; or the resultant damage -- can also be non-physical as in damaging a relationship or logical argument
 - C. genetically identical copy created with technology
7. I would like to speak **directly** to the manager.
 - A. formally
 - B. personally
 - C. when convenient
8. She is easy to work with. She is **direct** in her communications and expectations.
 - A. straightforward
 - B. considerate
 - C. humble
9. The judge **directed** the jury to ignore the question.
 - A. asked
 - B. ordered
 - C. understood
10. She was **indignant**, but she agreed to be searched when they accused her of shoplifting.
 - A. annoyed at something unjust
 - B. surprised at the unexpected
 - C. defensive about being suspected
11. Beavers were hunted nearly to extinction for their **luxuriant** fur.
 - A. thick and abundant
 - B. scarce (rare)
 - C. dark brown

12. The mystic spent years in a remote cave seeking spiritual insight.
- A. wealthy merchant
 - B. spiritual seeker
 - C. trained warrior
13. The ancient Egyptians erected obelisks as symbols of the sun god Ra, and many of these impressive structures still stand today.
- A. circular stone structures used for astronomical observations
 - B. stone pillars with a pyramidal tops
 - C. life-like statutes made of stone
14. Build a fence along the perimeter of the yard.
- A. dangerous part
 - B. longest edge
 - C. outer edges
15. Successful politicians are pragmatists. Compromise is built into the system.
- A. practical
 - B. personable
 - C. busy
16. She retorted, "Takes one to know one."
- A. quickly replied
 - B. insulted back
 - C. joyfully laughed
17. Our police are tested in conditions that simulate gunfire exchange with criminals in the presence of innocent bystanders.
- A. imitate
 - B. train
 - C. defend against
18. Russia presented Ukraine with an ultimatum that could not be ignored.
- A. something added to increase attractiveness or interest
 - B. final demand that carried a threat if it is rejected
 - C. an act that violates a rule, promise, or social norm
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

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 For one, they'd obviously had little training, as evidenced by their sloppy **perimeter** and the fact that most were out of breath.
 - A. a fat compound
 - B. a hoofed mamma
 - C. the outer edge
- 2 But as we both know, David Menlo has no further need of formal education, while you persevere in a state of **appalling** ignorance.
 - A. telling someone about something
 - B. shockingly terrible or horrible
 - C. commending or praising publicly
- 3 He knew that if the Director ordered Ben Polk to **acquire** the gae bolga, the Agent would instantly do his utmost.
 - A. obtain (come into the possession of something)
 - B. something that is necessary for something else
 - C. a slight amount; or to contain a slight amount
- 4 She added this last reflection in an undertone before her attention snapped back to Max and Miss **Boon**.
 - A. something that causes great harm
 - B. a traditional practice or custom
 - C. something that is of great benefit
- 5 "An **ultimatum**, I gather," Bram muttered, rising to heat some water and retrieve some chairs from his study.
 - A. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
 - B. a final demand that carries a threat if it is rejected
 - C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 6 Max was about to press David further when he caught the **indignant** eye of a Highland hare glaring at them from the librarian's desk.
 - A. angered or annoyed at something unjust or wrong
 - B. surprised as something unexpected
 - C. accepted of something undesired as unavoidable
- 7 And with that, Skeedle ushered David and Toby into the back of the larger wagon where the pair stretched **luxuriantly** amid the fleeces and blankets.
 - A. characterized by growing well or being richly thick or abundant -- as of vegetation or hair

or (more rarely):

characterized by luxury (very comfortable or extravagant)

 - B. in a manner not appearing dangerous, but actually very harmful over time OR treacherously (in a dangerous manner due to trickery or from hidden or unpredictable risks)
 - C. in a manner that is related to relating to existentialism -- a philosophical movement that assumes each person is free to determine what is essential in their existence
- 8 I'd imagine she must be the same Julie who is now dating one Thomas Polk, a steady young man who bores her to tears and yet she still finds him infinitely preferable to you.... Turning fire red, Max opened his mouth for a furious **retort**.
 - A. quickly reply
 - B. make possible
 - C. stop fighting
- 9 "Clones," said Max quietly.
 - A. snakes
 - B. enters
 - C. copies

- 10 *I've fought a million hyperbattles in the **simulations** and I've never lost.*
 A. things that are not real, but are made to imitate or behave like other things
 B. descriptions of unfavorable opinions; or acts of sharing unfavorable opinions
 C. geological areas where a river divides before entering a larger body of water
- 11 *The main avenue through the city led **directly** east toward where Yuga filled the sky like a spreading pool of ink.*
 A. in a manner that is appropriate or related in size, amount, or degree
 B. straight (in a straight line)
 C. in a manner that is not sexually attractive, or persuasively tempting
- 12 *He rarely relied on **direct** confrontation or brute force; his were more subtle schemes of leverage and manipulation.*
 A. clear, straightforward, or to the point
 B. the state or degree of being very large
 C. meticulousness (care for small details)
- 13 *The **Director** had personally dictated the simulation's parameters, and Max had no idea what they would be.*
 A. a doctor who tests eyesight and provides glasses or contact lenses to improve vision
 B. to guide, aim, or manage -- such as actions, attention, speech, a project or company
 C. someone who polishes something and makes it shiny; or someone who improves something
- 14 *Having rescued Max from Marley Augur's crypt, Varga had earned his way back into Rowan's good graces, but it had come at a terrible price.*
 A. to indicate or predict that something will happen -- especially as a sign of what's to come; or in ancient Rome, a religious official who interpreted signs and omens to guide public decisions
 B. (verb) to intentionally anger, challenge, or upset someone -- especially by mocking them or hurling insults
 OR (noun) an insult or other action intended to anger, challenge, or upset someone
 C. treat in a manner that demonstrates a sense of superiority, but is supposed to seem kind OR the actions of a patron (to support someone or something; or to be a customer)
- 15 *We're not there yet, but we're hopeful that some of Sir Alistair's intelligence will **yield** another prize.*
 A. produce or give
 B. stop (something from happening)
 C. think deeply or carefully about
- 16 *Max studied the girl's hard, **unyielding** face before speaking.*
 A. relating to classical music plays in which most of the dialogue is sung
 B. strict, firm, or hard (not giving in, not giving way, or not giving up)
 C. rude or unfriendly because of using too few words or moving too quickly
- 17 *"He's cunning, brutal, and greedy, but he's also **pragmatic**. ... A tyrant like Prusias doesn't really care why you obey him; he only cares that you obey. But Astaroth is a fanatic. He wants true believers who share his ideals."*
 A. concerned with practical matters
 B. another battle with the same foe
 C. describing someone as antisocial
- 18 *"Mystics are in high demand these days," said Max.*
 A. people who share professional opinions in a specific field
 B. people said to comprehend reality using supernatural means
 C. title for the heads of a government body in some countries
- 19 *The **citadel** walls and fortifications protecting Old College loomed behind them, white and gleaming beneath the moon.*
 A. a stronghold or fortress
 B. island (that is made of a coral reef)
 C. dense, rainy forest with many species
- 20 *That distinction belonged to the thousands of small white **obelisks** spaced in perfect rows.*
 A. acts of officially telling someone about something; or things that contain such message
 B. a stone pillar with a pyramidal top erected as a monument to remember a person or event
 C. governmental systems in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	perimeter	Used 16 times in this book.
2	B	appalling	Used 14 times in this book.
3	A	acquire	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
4	C	boon	Used 83 times in this book.
5	B	ultimatum	Used 4 times in this book.
6	A	indignant	High-utility academic word; used 8 times in this book.
7	A	luxuriant	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	retort (<i>as in: quick retort</i>)	Used 12 times in this book.
9	C	clone (<i>as in: It is a clone.</i>)	Used 16 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
10	A	simulate	High-utility academic word; used 14 times in this book.
11	B	direct (<i>as in: directly above; or buy direct</i>)	Used 8 times in this book; 4 meanings in this book.
12	A	direct (<i>as in: gave a direct answer</i>)	High-utility academic word; 4 meanings in this book.
13	B	direct (<i>as in: direct a question; or direct a film</i>)	High-utility academic word; 4 meanings in this book.
14	A	augur	Used 5 times in this book.
15	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	A	pragmatic	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
18	B	mystic	Used 41 times in this book.
19	A	citadel	Used 18 times in this book.
20	B	obelisk	Used 4 times in this book.