

Travels with Charley

by John Steinbeck

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: approximate, conducive, conviction, cultivate, desolate (2), disparage, distort, indulge, inhabitant, inhibit, inhibited, nostalgia, objective, obsolete, paradox, prejudice, taciturn, uniform, vestige



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

1. The circumference of the earth is **approximately** 24,900 miles at the equator.
 - A. exactly
 - B. commonly mistaken as
 - C. about
2. Her spending habits are not **conducive** to achieving her financial goals.
 - A. helpful
 - B. harmful
 - C. irrelevant
3. She stood up in class with total **conviction** and said, "I believe animals deserve to be treated kindly, no matter what."
 - A. raised voice
 - B. firm belief
 - C. shaky voice
4. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
5. She felt **desolate** when her boyfriend died in a car accident.
 - A. confused
 - B. miserable
 - C. emotional
6. It is in her book of **desolate** desert photographs.
 - A. empty
 - B. bright
 - C. detailed
7. The victors write the history and **disparage** their enemies.
 - A. criticize
 - B. defeat
 - C. erase from history
8. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
9. I **indulge** my taste for sweets more than is good for me.
 - A. give in to
 - B. hold back from
 - C. complain about
10. The **inhabitants** of the village were very friendly.
 - A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors
11. Cold weather can **inhibit** the growth of many tropical plants.
 - A. slow down
 - B. monitor
 - C. describe

12. He was too **inhibited** to dance at parties, even when everyone else joined in.
- A. wild and uncontrolled
 - B. shy and self-conscious
 - C. loud and confident
13. My parents are sometimes **nostalgic** about their college days.
- A. secretive
 - B. longing
 - C. bitter
14. There were lots of rumors, but no **objective** evidence.
- A. done by an expert
 - B. important
 - C. fact-based
15. That old phone is **obsolete**.
- A. outdated
 - B. classic
 - C. broken
16. Her life was a **paradox**: she was both incredibly private and a bestselling memoirist.
- A. something that seems self-contradictory
 - B. something that went as expected
 - C. something that is too short
17. Seeing the defendant wear prison clothes may **prejudice** the jury against the defendant.
- A. create a sympathetic belief in
 - B. create a serious attitude in
 - C. create an unfair belief in
18. She's a bit **taciturn** by nature, but before breakfast you'd think she is deaf and mute.
- A. reserved
 - B. outgoing
 - C. low-energy
19. The shelves were arranged in **uniform** rows along the wall.
- A. colorful
 - B. consistent
 - C. crowded
20. French territories and overseas departments exist as **vestiges** of the colonial empire.
- A. remaining traces
 - B. extensions
 - C. defenders

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 My memories were **distorted** by twenty-five intervening years.
 - A. said (or make a sound) with the voice
 - B. genetically changed through evolution
 - C. altered in an untrue way
- 2 It's just a very lonely, helpless feeling at first—a kind of **desolate** feeling.
 - A. make different; or show difference
 - B. sad or miserable--and often lonely
 - C. to cause something to move forward
- 3 Such a place the Fallen Angels might have built as a spite to Heaven, dry and sharp, **desolate** and dangerous, and for me filled with foreboding.
 - A. empty, providing no shelter or sustenance
 - B. stop interacting; or stop having interest
 - C. treating thoughtlessly or without respect
- 4 When an Indian village became too deep in its own filth, the **inhabitants** moved.
 - A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. people (who live in a particular place)
 - C. things designed to stop something else
- 5 The natural New England **taciturnity** reaches its glorious perfection at breakfast.
 - A. with a tendency to be reserved and not to talk
 - B. held together (connected or united) or wrapped
 - C. a document granting permission to do something
- 6 I **cultivate** this beard not for the usual given reasons of skin trouble or pain of shaving, nor for the secret purpose of covering a weak chin, but as pure unblushing decoration, much as a peacock finds pleasure in his tail.
 - A. cancel or annul a formal ruling or contract
 - B. develop, grow, or prepare for growing crops
 - C. return to an undesirable previous condition
- 7 ...in this era of planned **obsolescence**, when a thing breaks down I can usually find something in my collection to repair it—a toilet, or a motor, or a lawn mower.
 - A. no longer in general use because it was replaced by something better
 - B. difference; or the process of making different or showing difference
 - C. surrealist artist known for melting clocks and eccentric personality
- 8 As often as I could I chose the small wood roads, and they are not **conducive** to speed.
 - A. helpful; or tending to contribute (to something)
 - B. tending to have excessively unfavorable opinions
 - C. the state or degree of criticism or disagreement
- 9 I of course found myself **prejudiced** in spite of his deficiencies, being his owner, but the dog had one advantage over most dogs.
 - A. injured the ligaments of a joint by stretching them too far (ligaments are the tough, fibrous bands that connect bones across joints)
 - B. corrupted or seduced from virtue, duty, or allegiance OR excessively drunk, engaged in casual sex, and/or drug abuse while partying
 - C. bias that prevents objective consideration -- especially an unreasonable belief that is unfair to members of a race, religion, or other group
- 10 Our treasured and **nostalgic** picture of the village store, the cracker-barrel store where an informed yeomanry gather to express opinion and formulate the national character, is very rapidly disappearing.
 - A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. with a longing for something past
 - C. feeling reluctant to do something

- 11 *And Charley, who still had vestiges of his Chicago grooming, waded in the water and became his old dirty self again.*
 A. remaining traces of something that was previously there
 B. relative amounts
 C. acts of betrayal
- 12 *This is true of all but the breakfasts, which are uniformly wonderful if you stick to bacon and eggs and pan-fried potatoes.*
 A. in a manner that is clear, so it is easily understood
 B. in a manner that is consistent (the same in some way)
 C. in a manner that is able to be promised or guaranteed
- 13 *The grieving sky turned the little water to a dangerous metal and then the wind got up—not the gusty, rabbit wind of the seacoasts I know but a great bursting sweep of wind with nothing to inhibit it for a thousand miles in any direction.*
 A. limit or prevent
 B. take on or adopt
 C. make more varied
- 14 *Against the descending sun the battlements were dark and clean-lined, while to the east, where the uninhibited light poured slantwise, the strange landscape shouted with color.*
 A. the process of excessive encouragement or excitement
 B. acting naturally without being overly self-conscious
 C. the ability to take or adopt power or responsibility
- 15 *And it is true I didn't hear many convictions.*
 A. not working or not operating
 B. a strong, firmly held belief
 C. calculates or judges too low
- 16 *It can't explain how it feels, though on the other hand it can't lie, build up its symptoms, or indulge in the pleasures of hypochondria.*
 A. enjoy to excess
 B. work or operate
 C. think carefully
- 17 *It is a mystique closely approximating a religion.*
 A. suggesting that someone was involved
 B. walking in an awkward, shuffling way
 C. estimating (almost, but not exactly)
- 18 *Some years ago, Edna Ferber wrote a book about a very tiny group of very rich Texans. Her description was accurate, so far as my knowledge extends, but the emphasis was one of disparagement. And instantly the book was attacked by Texans of all groups, classes, and...*
 A. criticism
 B. the taking on or adoption of power or responsibility
 C. the process of controlling (how something turns out)
- 19 *In the first place I knew the countryside, and in the second I had friends and relatives by marriage, and such a situation makes objectivity practically impossible,*
 A. growth hormone -- a hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland that promotes growth in humans
 B. "spiritually renews" in a Christian ceremony OR initiates or purifies by a challenging experience
 C. understanding or decisions based on facts without the influence of personal feelings or preferences
- 20 *But the more I inspected this American image, the less sure I became of what it is. It appeared to me increasingly paradoxical,*
 A. a situation or statement that seems impossible because parts of it seem to contradict each other
 B. related to the change of a light wave (or other wave) when it passes an opaque edge or narrow opening
 C. related to a scale where each step is a multiple of the prior step rather than a fixed addition to it

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	distort	Used 9 times in this book.
2	B	desolate (<i>as in: felt desolate</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	desolate (<i>as in: a desolate place</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
4	B	inhabitant	Used 7 times in this book.
5	A	taciturn	Used 4 times in this book.
6	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
7	A	obsolete	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
8	A	conductive	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
9	C	prejudice	Used 4 times in this book.
10	B	nostalgia	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
11	A	vestige	Used 4 times in this book.
12	B	uniform (<i>as in: uniform consistency</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	A	inhibit (<i>as in: inhibited the growth of...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
14	B	inhibited (<i>as in: she is shy and inhibited</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 7 times in this book.
16	A	indulge	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
17	C	approximate	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
18	A	disparage	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
19	C	objective (<i>as in: an objective viewpoint</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
20	A	paradox	High-utility academic word; used 6 times in this book.