

Tunnel In the Sky

by Robert A. Heinlein

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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: analytical, anomaly, carnivorous, conviction, criteria, curt, denizen, devise, distort, futile, irrelevant, migrate, minutes, nevertheless, posterity, ration, rational, rouse, scorn, strenuous



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	B
6	C
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	C
11	B
12	C
13	A
14	B
15	B
16	C
17	A
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. We have a **numbers-tested, analytical** approach to advertising.
 - A. logical and systematic
 - B. creative and artistic
 - C. loud and aggressive
2. We consider the accident an **anomaly**--not a reason to change standard procedures.
 - A. normal occurrence
 - B. unusual occurrence
 - C. proof of concept
3. 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
4. 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
5. The job posting listed several **criteria** for applicants.
 - A. rewards or prizes
 - B. standards or rules
 - C. jokes or stories
6. I tried asking open-ended questions, but all I could get were **curt** replies.
 - A. angry
 - B. selfish
 - C. short
7. The owl is a common **denizen** of the old forest.
 - A. longtime resident
 - B. occasional visitor
 - C. ancient ruler
8. This may be our last chance to **devise** a compromise that will save the peace.
 - A. consider
 - B. create
 - C. save
9. The funhouse mirror **distorted** her reflection, making her head look huge.
 - A. reflected
 - B. improved
 - C. altered
10. Their attempt to fix the cracked screen with tape was **futile**.
 - A. simple
 - B. dangerous
 - C. pointless
11. The writer should delete the sentence because it provides background information that is **irrelevant** to the paragraph.
 - A. confusing
 - B. unimportant
 - C. too wordy

12. Many Germans migrated to South America in the mid-19th century
- A. flew toward
 - B. flew away
 - C. moved
13. I always review the minutes to make sure there are no errors.
- A. written record of what happened at a meeting
 - B. plans that detail how something will be done
 - C. time that has just passed
14. She loves him. Nevertheless, she is determined to stop seeing him unless he stops drinking.
- A. also
 - B. despite that
 - C. in addition
15. She recorded her family history for posterity, hoping her great-grandchildren would one day read it.
- A. personal amusement
 - B. future generations
 - C. academic records
16. Let's try to ignore how upset we are for a moment and think about this rationally.
- A. in a hurried manner
 - B. in a creative manner
 - C. in a reasonable manner
17. 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
18. The smell of freshly brewed coffee roused her from her sleep.
- A. interrupted
 - B. deepened
 - C. awakened
19. That coach scorns students who don't have natural ability.
- A. disrespects
 - B. encourages
 - C. trains
20. Landscaping is strenuous work in the Texas summer.
- A. dangerous
 - B. difficult
 - C. hot

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 He felt that he knew what "Deacon" Matson would saysomething about the **irrelevancy** of fairness to survival.
 - A. the ability and tendency to determine what should be done and to start doing it without instruction; or to start something
 - B. the state of not being relevant (not related to the subject being considered, or not important enough to want to consider)
 - C. someone who is not civilized or not moral OR an offensive term for a person who does not believe in a preferred religion
- 2 I'm sure you can **devise** a water filter with your bare hands and know which side of the tree the moss grows on.
 - A. stop (something from happening)
 - B. come up with (invent or create)
 - C. think deeply or carefully about
- 3 **Nevertheless**, while watching this mob being herded like brutes into a slaughterhouse, Rod felt that the old canard was true even though its mathematics was faulty.
 - A. in keeping with or in agreement with what was just stated
 - B. despite that (used to connect contrasting ideas)
 - C. therefore (for that reason)
- 4 These colonists have paid a premium of sixteen thousand four hundred per person—not counting exempt or co-opted members—for the privilege of seeking their fortunes and protecting their **posterity** by moving to New Canaan.
 - A. not thinking carefully
 - B. all future generations
 - C. lacks adequate funding
- 5 He made a larger model and tried to arrange a dilation, or **anomaly** (he did not call it a "Gate") which would let him get in and out of the field himself.
 - A. in a manner that moves back and forth, or is unsure or weak
 - B. something outside of the range of what is normally expected
 - C. with energetic effort (in a difficult and demanding manner)
- 6 Man is not a **rational** animal; he is a rationalizing animal.
 - A. very large
 - B. related to
 - C. reasonable
- 7 Okay, besides your parka I would make it four kilos of **rations**, five of water, two kilos of sundries like pills and matches, all in a vest pack ...and a knife.
 - 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
- 8 The branches interfered and it was darker under the trees than it had been out in the open; nevertheless he could see, prowling around the tree, the **denizen** that had favored him with attention.
 - A. a person or animal that inhabits or frequently visits a particular place
 - B. characterized by narrower parallel folds when closed and wider when open
 - C. design based on alphabetic letters; or adding such a design to something
- 9 The sound that pulled him out of warm drowsiness came from far away; involuntarily he **roused** himself to hear it.
 - A. beyond the permitted boundary or limit
 - B. explains something in a particular way
 - C. to awaken, make more active, or excite

- 10 So far as he knew there were no **carnivorous** tree-climbers large enough to tackle a man, but he could not be certain; he slept with one eye open.
- A. meat-eating
 - B. intentional
 - C. not sincere
- 11 Rod stared while the hard **convictions** he had formed fell in ruins.
- A. not working or not operating
 - B. a strong, firmly held belief
 - C. calculates or judges too low
- 12 My **analytics** instructor says that all logic is mere tautology.
- A. a system of logical examination of something to better understand it
 - B. acts of again being in a working position; or acts of starting again
 - C. long-established or previously long-established practices or beliefs
- 13 That is what the engineers call a **self-defeating criterion**.
- A. the act or process of stopping something from happening
 - B. a reference point against which things can be evaluated
 - C. a period of time when someone exhibits unusual behavior
- 14 **Futile**.
- A. not capable of being better understood through detailed examination
 - B. clear, easily noticed, and/or identifiable as different or separate
 - C. effort that is pointless because it is unproductive or unsuccessful
- 15 Jacqueline looked **scornfully** at the figure on the ground.
- A. in a disrespectful or rejecting manner
 - B. in a manner that is not easily noticed
 - C. with grace of movement and flexibility
- 16 When I 'read the **minutes**' I just reach back in my mind and recall what the gabble was the night before-I've got an awfully good memory.
- A. formal notes (from a meeting)
 - B. results or predictable values
 - C. things not easily set on fire
- 17 Three days later the **migration** of animals started.
- A. particles emitted by nuclear decay
 - B. a central open space in a building
 - C. movement from one place to another
- 18 Agnes and Curt had drawn into the circle, listening.
- A. a sensible view of a situation
 - B. made by taking on as one's own
 - C. brief to the point of rudeness
- 19 The fighting that Rod was trained in was not simply **strenuous** athletics.
- A. able to be stopped from happening
 - B. difficult (requiring much effort)
 - C. improper, awkward, or unfavorable
- 20 **Space-time distortion**, but I'm no mathematician.
- A. the act, process, or instance of telling a story
 - B. a general feeling of not being as good as others
 - C. to alter something in an unnatural or untrue way

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	irrelevant	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
2	B	devise (<i>as in: devise a plan</i>)	High-utility academic word; used 4 times in this book.
3	B	nevertheless	High-utility academic word; used 18 times in this book.
4	B	posterity	Used 2 times in this book.
5	B	anomaly	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
6	C	rational (<i>as in: rational behavior</i>)	Used 3 times in this book.
7	A	ration	Used 7 times in this book.
8	A	denizen	Used 2 times in this book.
9	C	rouse	Used 4 times in this book.
10	A	carnivorous	Used 14 times in this book.
11	B	conviction (<i>as in: spoke with conviction</i>)	Used 6 times in this book.
12	A	analytical	High-utility academic word
13	B	criteria	High-utility academic word; used 2 times in this book.
14	C	futile	Used 4 times in this book.
15	A	scorn	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
16	A	minutes (<i>as in: keep the minutes</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
17	C	migrate	Used 5 times in this book.
18	C	curt	Used 5 times in this book.
19	B	strenuous	Used 3 times in this book.
20	C	distort	Used 3 times in this book.