

# A Grand Old Canyon

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Canyons are deep valleys surrounded by rocky cliffs. One of the most famous canyons in the world is in the Arizona desert in the United States. It is called the Grand Canyon.

The Grand Canyon stretches for 277 miles. That is a long distance! If you were in a car traveling at highway speed, it would take you about five hours to go that far.

The cliffs of the Grand Canyon are made of brown, red, and yellow rocks and sand. It is one mile from the top of the cliffs to the floor of the canyon. The Colorado River flows along the canyon floor.

Nature has shaped the Grand Canyon. For millions of years, scientists say, wind and water hit the canyon's rocks and sand. Strong winds blew on the cliffs. Rain and river water wore down the rocks. Together, the wind and water created the canyon we see today.

Even today, wind and water continue to change the canyon by reshaping the rocks and battering the cliffs. The change is very slow, but it never stops. A million years from now, the Grand Canyon will look very different.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are canyons?

- A deep valleys surrounded by rocky cliffs
- B rushing water that flows between rocky cliffs
- C cliffs made of brown, red, and yellow rocks and sand

2. What does the article explain?

- A how to get from the top of the Grand Canyon to the bottom
- B how scientists have gathered information about the Grand Canyon
- C how the Grand Canyon we see today was created

3. "A million years from now, the Grand Canyon will look very different." What evidence from the article supports this statement?

- A "Even today, wind and water continue to change the canyon by reshaping the rocks and battering the cliffs."
- B "For millions of years, scientists say, wind and water hit the canyon's rocks and sand."
- C "The cliffs of the Grand Canyon are made of brown, red, and yellow rocks and sand."

4. Why might the Grand Canyon be one of the most famous canyons in the world?

- A It will look very different a million years from now.
- B It was made by nature.
- C It stretches over a long distance.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A Canyons are deep valleys surrounded by rocky cliffs that can be made of brown, red, and yellow rocks.
- B It is one mile from the top of the Grand Canyon to the bottom, where the Colorado River flows.
- C The Grand Canyon is a long, famous canyon that was shaped by nature over millions of years.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"The Grand Canyon stretches for 277 miles. That is a long distance! If you were in a car traveling at highway speed, it would take you about five hours to go that far."

Why does the author tell readers how long it would take to go 277 miles by car?

- A to convince readers that driving is a better way to get somewhere than walking
- B to encourage readers to drive to the Grand Canyon and see it for themselves
- C to help readers understand how long the Grand Canyon is

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long and one mile tall, \_\_\_\_\_ it is longer than it is tall.

- A so
- B because
- C but

8. What are the cliffs of the Grand Canyon made of?

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**9.** Explain how wind and water shaped the Grand Canyon we see today. Support your answer with evidence from the article.

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**10.** "A million years from now, the Grand Canyon will look very different." What might the Grand Canyon look like a million years from now? Support your answer with evidence from the article.

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