

Name: _____

Tree Giants

By Guy Belleranti

In California live the world's two largest species of trees. These are the coast redwood and the giant sequoia. Both are so big even dinosaurs would look small beside them.

Both trees have cinnamon-red colored bark. However, they are different species.

Most coast redwoods grow 150 to 250 feet (46–76 meters) tall. The largest top



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A hiker walks among giant sequoia trees in Sequoia National Park.

diameter. Some sequoias have bark almost 3 feet (1 meter) thick and trunks over 30 feet (9 meters) in diameter.

The largest sequoia, the General Sherman tree in Sequoia National Park, is 36 feet (11 meters) in diameter at the bottom.

That's as large as the height of a telephone pole! The total distance

around this tree's trunk is 102 feet (31 meters). General Sherman is also 275 feet (83 meters) tall. All told, this sequoia weighs more than 2.5 million pounds (1 million kilograms). That's as much as 600 average-sized cars!

Redwoods and sequoias are also giants in lifespan. Some redwoods live

over 2,000 years. One still-living sequoia, the President, is almost 3,300 years old.

Surprisingly, redwood and sequoia seed cones are not giant. Redwood tree cones are only about an inch (2.5 centimeters) long. Sequoia tree cones are the size of a chicken egg.

So where in California do these giant trees live?

Coast redwoods live along the ocean. Here, moist summer



The Chandelier Tree in California is a coast redwood that is so big it has a hole cut out for cars to drive through.



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1. What is the main idea of the article?

2. Use the information from the article to complete the chart below.



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3. What is the name of the largest giant sequoia?

- a. Hyperion
- b. the President
- c. General Sherman
- d. the King

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- a. to inform the reader about the two largest species of trees
- b. to persuade readers to visit Sequoia National Park
- c. to inform the reader about all the tree species in California
- d. to tell an entertaining story about the largest trees in the world

5. Why don't sequoias live near the ocean?

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



1. _____ species

a. slightly wet



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5. _____ moderate

e. a group of animals or plants that are similar

6. _____ moist

f. a part of a larger amount

7. _____ numerous

g. an estimation of an amount that is ordinary or usual

8. _____ portion

h. the amount of time that a person, plant, or animal lives

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1. What is the main idea of the article? **Answers will vary.**



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3. Why don't sequoias live near the ocean? **Answers will vary.**

Examples are: Sequoias do not live near the ocean because they need a warmer and drier climate to survive. // Sequoias need a warm, dry climate. Places near the ocean have a wet, cool climate.

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Match each vocabulary word from the article

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8. f portion

h. the amount of time that a person, plant, or animal lives