Name: _____

Super Climbing Ringtails

By Guy Belleranti

step outside my tent in Arizona's Chiricahua National Monument.

Darkness has arrived and I flick on my flashlight. Glowing eyes meet mine. Then I see the whole animal, including the white and black bands on its long tail. I blink

Both are important because

they are primarily nocturnal animals. This means they are active at night. Most of their activity is searching for food. They eat fruit and berries, rodents, lizards,

snakes insects small hirds and hird eags



Preview

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trees, abandoned animal burrows, and empty buildings. Sometimes, ringtails even den in the attic of an occupied home!

Ringtails are excellent climbers. Their long tails provide balance as they zip up cliffs, trees, and even tall Saguaro cacti. They have retractable claws and can turn their hind feet 180 degrees for a good



grip when climbing down.

Large ears give ringtails great hearing. And big dark

eyes provide excellent vision in the dark.

pitched calls, and piercing screams. They also communicate by marking territory with their scent.

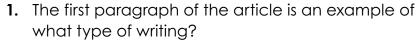
Ringtail mothers give birth to a litter of one to four babies in a den. The infants are helpless and don't open their eyes until a month old. The mother provides most of the care, though fathers sometimes play with the older young. Ringtails are mature at 10 months.

Ringtails are ecologically important in several ways. They help control rodent populations and spread seeds from the fruit they eat. They are also a food source for larger predators like bobcats, coyotes, and great horned owls.

Name:			
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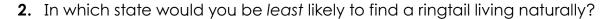


a. fictional narrative

b. personal narrative

c. persuasive writing

d. character description



4. How did the rinatail aet the nicknames "rinatail cat" and "miner's cat"?



Preview

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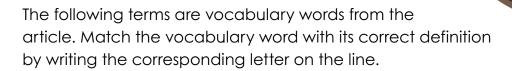
	8 8	0		
5.	Is the statement true or false?			
	Rinatails are a kind of cat.			

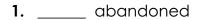
- 6. Why are ringtails ecologically important?
 - **a.** They help control rodent populations.
 - **b.** They are a food source for great horned owls.
 - c. They spread seeds from fruit they eat.
 - **d.** All of the above.

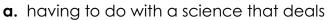
Name:		

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with living things and their anvironments



Preview

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J. TOGOTH.	5.		rodents
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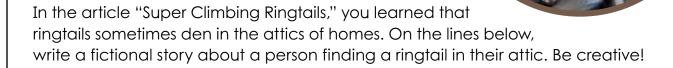
- **6.** _____ prospectors
- **7.** ____ coati
- **8.** _____ solitary
- **9.** ____ mature
- **10.** ____ ecologically

- e. an animal related to the raccoon and ringtail
- f. able to be drawn in
- g. active at night
- **h.** people who explore areas, often looking for materials such as gold or oil
- i. living alone
- j. fully grown

N. I	
Name:	

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ANSWER KEY

Super Climbing Ringtails





- 6. Why are ringtails ecologically important?
 - **a.** They help control rodent populations.
 - **b.** They are a food source for great horned owls.
 - c. They spread seeds from fruit they eat.
 - d. All of the above.

ANSWER KEY

Super Climbing Ringtails



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looking for materials such as gold or oil

9. __**j.** mature

i. living alone

10. _a. ecologically

j. fully grown