

Informational Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about “Baobab, Tree of Life.”

1. What is a central idea of the passage?

- a. The baobab tree can survive for thousands of years.
- b. The baobab tree is home to the white-backed vulture.
- c. The baobab tree is important for both animals and people in Africa.**
- d. The baobab tree is used as a water source for animals like the elephant.

2. What idea(s) from the passage do the elephant’s actions in paragraph 1 help support? Check all that apply.

- The baobab absorbs water.
- The baobab provides a safe place to stay.
- The baobab gives life to animals.
- The baobab trunk is used for shelter.
- The baobab lives for thousands of years.

3a. Which paragraph is best illustrated by the image?

Paragraph 2

3b. How does the image help readers better understand that paragraph? Answers will vary.

The image helps readers understand what the baobab tree looks like. It shows the wide, barrel-like trunk and the twisted branches that look like roots.

4. What other word from paragraph 2 most closely means the same thing as *gnarled*?

- a. angry
- b. soaring
- c. special
- d. twisted**

5. In paragraph 2, how does the phrase “soaring above” help explain baobabs?

- a. It emphasizes the tree’s height.**
- b. It highlights the size of their leaves.
- c. It shows why birds nest in their branches.
- d. It proves that rope is needed to climb them.

6. What does the word *longevity* mean in paragraph 5?

- a. appearance
- b. length of life**
- c. popularity
- d. height

7. What are some reasons people call the baobab the “Tree of Life”? Provide examples from the text to support your answer.

The baobab is a “Tree of Life” because people use it in many ways to support their lives. The text says that people use the leaves for food and medicine and the bark to make rope, cloth, and paper.

