

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1. What state is the Grand Canyon located in?

New Mexico

Utah

Colorado

Arizona

2. How long is the Grand Canyon?

127 miles

227 miles

327 miles

427 miles

3. About how many people visit the Grand Canyon every year?

2 million

4 million

6 million

8 million

4. What is the main cause of the Grand Canyon's formation?

earthquakes

volcanic eruptions

glaciers

river erosion

5. What is the name of one of the hiking trails mentioned in the lecture?

South Kaibab Trail

Grandview Trail

South Bass Trail

Long Hermit Trail

6. About how many plant species does the Grand Canyon support?

500

1,000

1,500

2,000

Discuss these questions with a friend or classmate.

1. What information in the lecture did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. What special natural landmarks are there in your home country?
3. Would you like to go whitewater rafting along the Colorado River? Why? / Why not?
4. What other US natural landmarks do you know about?
5. What dangers might you have to be careful of while visiting the Grand Canyon?
6. What three questions would you like to ask someone who has visited the canyon?

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Audio Script

The Grand Canyon is a magnificent natural wonder that is located in northern Arizona, in the United States. It is a massive geological formation that stretches over 277 miles, with a width of up to 18 miles and a depth of up to one mile. The canyon was formed by the Colorado River by over six million years of erosion, exposing the colorful layers of rock that make up the canyon walls.

The Grand Canyon is one of the most visited national parks in the United States, attracting about six million visitors each year. Visitors come from all over the world to marvel at the stunning views, hike the trails, and explore the unique ecosystem that is found within the canyon.

One of the best ways to experience the Grand Canyon is through hiking. There are many trails that offer spectacular views of the canyon, ranging from easy walks to challenging hikes. The Bright Angel Trail and the South Kaibab Trail are two of the most popular trails for hiking.

The Grand Canyon is also home to over 1,500 plant species, including several rare and endemic species. Some of the more common plants found in the canyon include pinyon pine, juniper, and sagebrush. Wildlife is also abundant in the canyon, with over 400 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Some of the more common wildlife species found in the canyon include mule deer, bighorn sheep, and coyotes.

In addition to hiking and wildlife viewing, the Grand Canyon offers a wide range of activities for visitors. Visitors can take a helicopter or airplane tour over the canyon, ride a mule down into the canyon, or go white water rafting on the Colorado River. The Grand Canyon also has several museums and visitor centers that provide information on the canyon's history, geology, and ecology.

Finally, the Grand Canyon has a rich cultural history that spans thousands of years. The canyon has been inhabited by various Native American tribes for centuries, including the Havasupai, Hualapai, and Navajo. In addition, the canyon is home to several important historical sites, including the Tusayan Ruins and the Grand Canyon Railway Station.

ANSWER KEY

1. Arizona
2. 227 miles
3. 6 million
4. river erosion
5. South Kaibab Trail
6. 1,500