

Read the story “Help Is Just a Click Away” before answering questions 1 through 10.

Help Is Just a Click Away

- 1 Rosa used the Internet to look up information for a report on deserts. While Rosa researched for her report, her mother watched the sites closely, ready to offer advice. When Rosa was finished, she had learned about deserts, but she had also learned what to look for in a website.



- 2 She began by typing the word deserts into a search engine. The search engine had over 8 million sites with something about deserts. This could take some time, thought Rosa.

Clues in the Address

- 3 Look for .com

First, she tried some of the sites with addresses ending in .com because that was what she saw most often. Many of these sites had good information, but much of it was for sale. She found links to specific books. Other links went to companies selling magazines and maps. She even found CDs that had songs with the word “desert” in the title. Interesting, but not helpful. She soon learned to be careful with addresses that ended with .com. This told her that a business or a person created the site. Sometimes, these sources were full of good, correct information, but other times, the people who made them just wanted to sell things. Also, the authors of these sites may have been experts on the subject. Others, it seemed, had created websites just for kicks.

- 4 Look for .gov

Some of the most useful information came from sites with addresses ending in .gov. These were government sites. USGS.gov was the website for the U.S. Geological Survey; it had maps and articles about everything Rosa could think of. It also let her click on any state to learn about deserts there. She could have gone to californiadesert.gov to study California’s deserts. She learned about national parks located in or near deserts from nps.gov. This made Rosa want to visit a desert as a way of studying it.

- 5 Look for .org

Next, Rosa tried some sites with addresses that ended with .org. These were all organizations with connections to deserts. Some of these organizations, such as the National Geographic Society and the International Year of the Desert, had lots of information that seemed to be presented clearly and fairly. However, other

organizations represented a single point of view regarding deserts, such as how to preserve desert habitat or change desert land into new neighborhoods.

6 Look for .edu

Finally, Rosa tried some addresses ending in .edu. These were from schools, colleges, and other educational groups. These were helpful because they were focused on presenting the information. Sometimes the sites were very specific, such as the one about the fleas found on a certain desert mouse. Another site had information about a proposed highway through a desert. Something helpful on that site was the date. The site had been written in 1992 and last changed, or updated, in 1994. By now, the building of the highway was history, not news.

Clues on the Site

7 As soon as she found a site, Rosa learned to look closely at the home page for clues about the author. She found better information when the home page named the person or organization responsible. People who took credit for their work appeared to be proud of it and seemed to make sure it was correct.

8 Links to the Author

She also looked for a link that said “About,” where she learned about the site’s authors. If the person taught about deserts at a college or had written books about deserts, she reasoned¹ that she had chosen a good site.

9 Lists of Sources

Some sites named the books or other sources that had been used to create the site. These sites told where all the words, ideas, photos, and other work on the site had come from. Lists of sources or other notes about the information showed the website author’s concern for presenting correct information. This gave Rosa confidence in the accuracy² of her own report.

Other Clues

10 As her Internet study of deserts continued, Rosa found that she was asking the same questions with each new website. Are there links to other organizations or other useful sites? Do all the links work? Are all the words spelled correctly? Are there pop-up ads or things being sold? Using these clues helped Rosa find the most reliable Web sites.

11 Rosa worked hard to finish her report on deserts. She liked studying their climates and geography. Some day in the future, she may get to visit a desert and see firsthand the things she learned.

¹ **reasoned:** to conclude by logical thinking

² **accuracy:** correctness, free from error

5th Grade Biweekly Assessment 3

Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the story “Just a Click Away.”

1. What advice does the author provide when conducting research on the Internet?

- a) The author’s advice is that .gov web sites have the best information when conducting research.
- b) The author’s advice is to have parents help when conducting research.
- c) The author’s advice is to look for clues in the web address.
- d) The author’s advice is to conduct research with a partner and only at school.

2. Which statement from the text summarizes the passage?

- a) Using a variety of sources including websites, books, and interviews is necessary when conducting research.
- b) Looking at the Internet’s web address, links to authors, and lists of sources, will help when conducting research using a computer.
- c) Parents should always help their child when conducting research at home.
- d) Typing key words into a search engine determines which websites should be used to conduct research.

3. Read this sentence from the passage.

Others, it seemed, had created websites just for kicks.

What does the phrase just for kicks mean in the sentence above?

- a) for a friend
- b) for practice
- c) for enjoyment
- d) for a challenge

4. Read this sentence from the passage.

These were all organizations with connections to deserts.

What does the word organizations mean in the sentence above?

- a) governing bodies that create laws
- b) the systems required to operate something
- c) the buildings in which companies are located
- d) groups of people working for a particular purpose

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- 5. Select the details from the text that support the theme, “It’s important to ask questions when conducting research”.**
- a) Some of the most useful information came from sites with addresses ending in .gov.
 - b) These were helpful because they were focused on presenting the information.
 - c) Some day in the future, she may get to visit a desert and see, firsthand, the things she learned.
 - d) Using these clues helps Rosa find the most reliable websites.
- 6. How does the author prepare the reader for the rest of the passage in paragraphs 1 and 2?**
- a) The author introduces the topic by stating what Rosa learned to look for in a website.
 - b) The author compares the websites to each other, stating the key details of each one.
 - c) The author introduces the topic by listing the websites in order of importance.
 - d) The author compares the websites by the types of information they offer about deserts.
- 7. How do the events in the passage contribute to the reader’s understanding of Rosa’s feelings toward her mother?**
- a) The passage shows that Rosa is less interested than her mother in the Internet search.
 - b) The passage shows that Rosa is less careful than her mother when doing the Internet search.
 - c) The passage shows that Rosa is more knowledgeable than her mother about Internet searches.
 - d) The passage shows that Rosa is more actively involved than her mother in the Internet search.
- 8. How does paragraph 3 contribute to the overall development of Rosa?**
- a) Readers are able to tell Rosa’s thoughts, which helps them to better understand that Rosa is being careful when using .com websites.
 - b) Readers are able to tell Rosa’s thoughts, which helps them to better understand the relationship between Rosa and her mother.
 - c) Readers are able to tell Rosa’s thoughts, which show why adult supervision is important when looking at .com websites.
 - d) Readers are able to tell Rosa’s thoughts, which shows them how the Internet has changed over time.