Know Your SAT Words!

Mystery Name: The Mystery in the Amazon Rainforest

SAT Words

1. elated _____
2. putrid _____
3. nocturnal _____
4. strenuous _____
5. captivate _____

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.
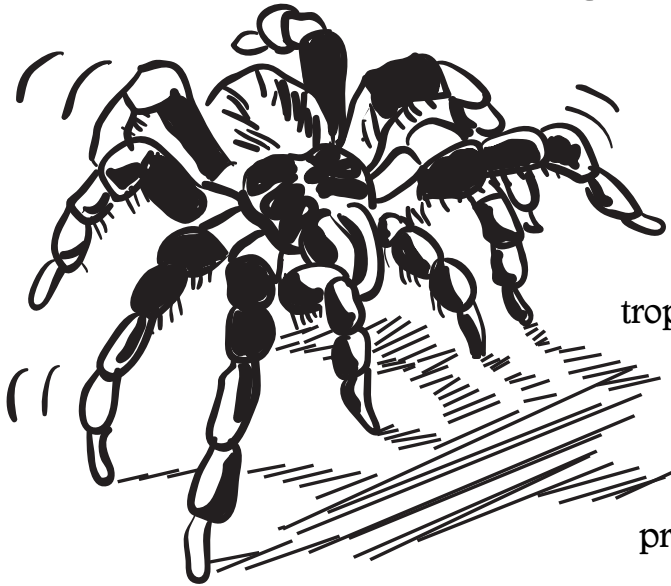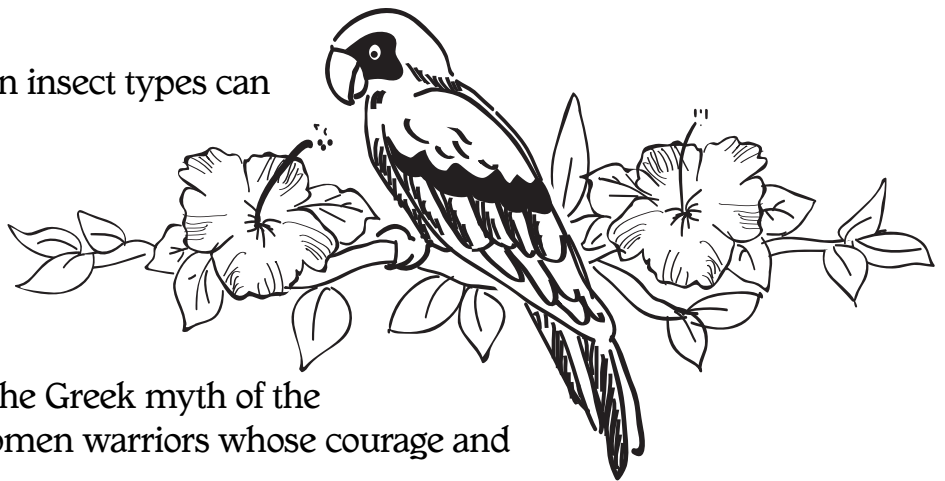
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Amazon Trivia

· Rainforests used to cover 14% of the earth's land surface; now they only cover 6%.

· More than half of the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects live in the tropical rainforests.

· The Amazon gets nine feet of rain every year!

· More than 20 percent of the world oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.

· Over 500 mammals, 175 lizards and over 300 other reptiles species, and one third of the world's birds live in Amazonia.

· It is estimated that about 30 million insect types can be found here.

· The Amazon covers 2.5 million miles, about the size of the USA west of the Mississippi

· The name Amazon comes from the Greek myth of the Amazonas, who were powerful women warriors whose courage and war cries terrified their enemies.

· The Amazon forest is full of world records. It has the largest beetle, the Titanus gigantus, 20 centimeters long; and the smallest monkey, the sagui, or pygmy marmoset, which reaches a length of only 15 centimeters and weighs only about 100 grams.

· There are more fish species in the Amazon river system than in the entire Atlantic Ocean.

· At least 1/3 of the planet's bird species live in the Amazon rainforest.

Fascinating Facts

The Mystery of the Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Basin

• The world's largest rainforest is located in the Amazon Basin. It is thought to be the oldest tropical forest area in the world.

• The Amazon River is the world's second longest river. It is over 4,000 miles long.

• The Amazon River drains an area almost the size of the United States.

• The high temperatures, rainfall, and humidity in the rainforest provide excellent conditions for plant and animal life.

• There are an estimated 30 million species of insects living in the Amazon Rainforest.

• Watch out! Piranhas and giant anacondas live in the Amazon River!

• Twenty percent of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon Basin.

• Over 120 different types of medicines are made from materials found in the Amazon Rainforest.

• There are 750 different types of trees just in two acres of the Amazon Rainforest. That's more than all the types of trees in North America!

• One-third of all the animal species in the world live in the Amazon Basin!

Fascinating Facts

The Mystery of the Amazon Rainforest

Brazil

• Brazil is the largest country in South America. It covers 3,300,169 square miles.

• The largest sports stadium in the world is located in Rio de Janeiro. It can seat 200,000 people!

• Brazil is the only country in Latin America where Portuguese is spoken.

• Brazil's soccer team has won the World Cup five times, more than any other country!

• Brazil is home to more than 1,000 rivers, including the great Amazon River.

• More than 800,000 dancers and over 5,000 musicians take part in Carnival in Rio de Janeiro each year. The dancing and music lasts for five days, but the participants practice all year.

• Brazil's flag is yellow, blue, and green. Yellow represents gold, blue represents the sky, and green represents the forests.

• Traditional Brazilian foods include arroz (white rice), feijao (black beans), and farinha (flour). This combination is served with meat, chicken, or fish.

• People in Brazil greet their guests by kissing them twice on each cheek.

• Brazil produces more oranges than any other country in the world.

Fascinating Facts

The Mystery of the Amazon Rainforest

Peru

• An ancient civilization called the Incas used to live in Peru. They built a city named Macchu Picchu. It is the most famous tourist attraction in Peru.

• The most famous Peruvian food is called ceviche. It is marinated raw fish with onions, peppers, corn, lettuce, and potatoes.

• Spanish and Quechua, the Inca language, are the two official languages of Peru.

• Peru has three different geographical areas. They include the warm coastline, the cold Andes Mountains, and the wet Amazon plains.

• The potato is originally from Peru. Today, Peru grows over 3,000 different types of potatoes.

• Peru is home to the Plaza de Acho, the second largest bullfighting ring in the world.

• Peru's Cotahuasi Canyon is the deepest canyon in the world—even deeper than the Grand Canyon!

• Peru makes many different kinds of cereals including Kiwicha, the cereal NASA astronauts eat on their trips.

• In Peru, llamas are used to carry heavy loads. Peruvians drink their milk and eat their meat!

• Lake Titicaca is one of the highest lakes in the world. It is located in the Andes Mountains. Half of it lies in Peru, and half lies in Bolivia.

Online Quiz

The Mystery in the Amazon Rainforest

Fact or Fiction?

Write Fact or Fiction next to each question below.

_____ 1. Christina and Grant arrived in Brazil in the *Mystery Girl*.

_____ 2. Sam's parents owned a teaching store.

_____ 3. Most of the Amazon River lies in Brazil.

_____ 4. The man wearing the Panama hat had a scar on his forehead.

_____ 5. The three jewel thieves were originally from Peru.

_____ 6. Grant found the sacred necklace.

_____ 7. The shaman was a medical doctor.

_____ 8. Machu Picchu means Deep Valley.

_____ 9. The chest contained pearls as large as parrot eggs.

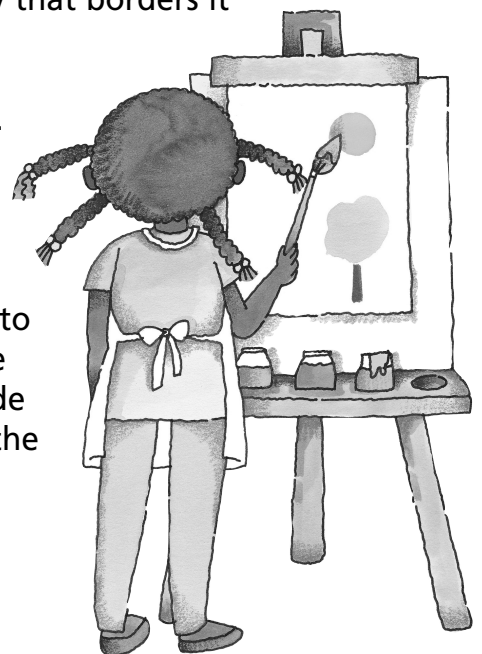_____ 10. Most of the mummies excavated in Machu Picchu were women.

Online Book Club

The Mystery in the Amazon Rainforest

Bring It To Life!

1. Pretend to be in the rainforest. Take a group hike in your local forest. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds of the birds and animals you hear and try to identify them.

2. Make up a story about the rainforest and use your friends as characters.

3. Ask your teacher if you can study the animals of the rainforest. Call it "Amazing Animals!" Each book club member can choose one animal that lives in the rainforest. Learn how it lives and what it eats. Make a drawing of the animal and share it with the class.

4. Play samba music during your book club meeting and learn the steps! You can find instructions on the Internet.

5. Find pictures of rare butterflies from the rainforest. Some are tiny and some are as large as a saucer. Draw and color them.

6. Draw a map of the Amazon Basin. Name each country that borders it and show how the water runs into it.

7. Using the Internet, identify the many medicine plants. Print them out and paste them onto a poster board. Write each plant's medical use under each picture.

8. Create the colorful headdresses of Carnival. Use the Internet to look them up. Draw and cut poster board to make them. Paint, and use lots of glitter glue to make them shine in the sun. Add feathers too. Have a parade to show them off and have a contest to see who has the best headdress.

Online Book Club

The Mystery in the Amazon Rainforest

Talk About It!

1. Would you like to live in a place with a rainy season from November to April where it rains just about every day? Why or why not?

2. After Papa rescued Grant from the tarantula, Grant whispered, "My tummy hurts." Has your tummy ever hurt after something frightened you?

3. What do you think piranha fish eat for dinner?

4. What was your favorite creature in the rainforest? Why did you pick that one?

5. Would you like to explore the rainforest like the children did? Why or why not?

6. Where did you think the little pygmy boy was taking Christina?

7. How do you think the heavy stones to build Machu Picchu got up to the top of the mountain?

8. Christina says that geography seems alive to her after traveling with Mimi and Papa to many interesting places. Do you like to study geography? After reading this mystery, can you see why geography can be really cool?

9. If you hadn't learned what uncut gemstones look like from reading this story, what would you have thought they would look like? Would you have had the same reaction as Grant did when he saw them for the first time?

10. Who was your favorite character in the story? Why did you like that person so much?