



## Determining meaning of multiple-meaning words: homographs

**Instructions:** Read the web page below.



### Desert night life

Deserts are very hot places that appear empty of any living thing. However, many animals make the desert their home. These animals are adapted to the desert. They have learned how to live in harsh conditions. Some birds stay in the desert during the cooler months. They fly to other places when it gets hot. Other animals are active at night or in the early morning when it is cooler. They sleep during the day when it is too hot to be active. They search for food and hunt at night.

One of these animals is the *pocket mouse*. The pocket mouse avoids the heat by only coming out at night. It digs under the ground to make a nest. The earth is cooler there. At night, it goes outside in search of food. The pocket mouse fills its cheek pockets with seeds to take home. It almost never has to drink water. It gets water from the food it eats.

Another desert animal that is adapted to the desert is the *ringtail cat*. It has seven to eight circular bands of white along its tail. During the day, the ringtail cat hides in a den. At night, it goes out to look for food. The ringtail cat uses its lean body and fast legs to move quickly along rocky ledges. It eats small prey, insects, and fruit. Like the pocket mouse, the ringtail cat can go without water for days.



**Instructions:** Draw a line to match each word on the right with its meaning on the left.

band

quick

long

conceal

ground

earth

fast

not fat

hide

stripe

lean

lengthy

**Instructions:** Read the question. Then write your answer on the lines below.

1. How do the pocket mouse and ringtail cat survive the desert heat? List at least three examples.

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Address:

Desert Night Life

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Internet

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|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| band   | quick   |
| long   | conceal |
| ground | earth   |
| fast   | not fat |
| hide   | stripe  |
| lean   | lengthy |

**Instructions:** Read the question. Then write your answer on the lines below.

1. How do the pocket mouse and ringtail cat survive the desert heat? List at least three examples. **Answers will vary.**

**Possible response: Both the pocket mouse and ringtail cat hunt for food at night. The pocket mouse lives in the cool earth. The pocket mouse gets water from the food it eats. The ringtail cat hides in its den during the day. The ringtail cat can go for days without water.**