Anjelo’s Nation

Anjelo knew what Michael expected when he came to Arizona. Anjelo had visited his cousin in Connecticut the summer before, and Michael kept insisting that Arizona was all a flat, dry desert. So on the ride from the Tucson airport toward Sells, the capital of the Tohono O’odham Nation near the Mexican border, Michael gaped at the huge saguaro cacti they passed.

“Nation,” Michael had mumbled the first time he heard the name. “It must really be a small one.”

“It’s not the biggest Indian reservation in Arizona,” Anjelo agreed, noting that it was, however, about the size of Connecticut.

As they approached Sells, Michael could see the beautiful green dome on the Pima County courthouse. Sells wasn’t as big or as hot as Michael expected. Anjelo explained that they were more than two thousand feet above sea level and that it seldom got hotter than eighty degrees there in the summer. Still, Michael couldn’t resist suggesting that they stop and buy some bottled water just in case they ran out.

“No shortage of water here,” Anjelo said, laughing. “It rains a lot in the summer, and our deep wells fill up. Travelers stop here just to taste the delicious water.”

Anjelo outlined the agenda for the weeks Michael was to be there. They would go to the desert museum, its zoo, and the botanical garden in Tucson. Another day they would see more than 250 historic planes in the air and space museum there. Anjelo anticipated that the best time would be the camping trip they would take high into the nearby mountains, where there were waterfalls splashing in the crisp, refreshing air.

Michael’s vacation would be full of surprises.
1. Anjelo’s cousin Michael thinks that Arizona is
   A. bigger than Connecticut.
   B. nothing but desert.
   C. very mountainous.
   D. cold in the summer.

2. From the brief description in this story, which of these would be the best way to describe the area where Anjelo lives in Arizona?
   F. a varied landscape
   G. high in the mountains
   H. wet, lush, and green
   J. a barren landscape

3. What can Michael expect on his vacation?
   A. He will be stuck in a small town far from nowhere.
   B. He will see and do many interesting things.
   C. There will be little to do to pass the time.
   D. The heat will make him very uncomfortable.

4. What is the water situation in Sells?
   F. People have to survive on bottled water.
   G. The place is often flooded.
   H. They have all the good drinking water they need.
   J. Their water is pumped in from Tucson.

5. Why was Michael surprised?

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Common Core State Standards

Questions 1–4: Literature 5. Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot. Question 5: Literature 1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.