The Legend of the Cherokee Rose Rock

Near Noble, Oklahoma, a seemingly perfect rose appears from the ground. Its dusty red petals are delicately arranged in full bloom. Charmed by its beauty, a passerby bends to pluck it. No vase will hold this rose. It has no stem, and its petals are as heavy as a rock. Indeed, this rose is a rock.

Actually, rose-shaped rocks can be found in several places around the world. These rock roses, however, are a light color. The rusty red rose rocks appear only in Oklahoma. From this fact has grown a legend as beautiful as the rocks themselves.

Oklahoma played an important role in Native American history. It marked the end of what is known as the “Trail of Tears.” With the discovery of gold in Georgia, the Cherokee tribe lost their right to the land. They courageously walked 1000 miles to what is now Oklahoma.

Much of the journey took place in the winter.

The Great Spirit of the Cherokee did not abandon his people. He cared for his people and thought of them with affection. He knew of their misfortune and wanted to honor the travelers. The memorial would be made from the tears shed along the way. The Great Spirit remembered a beautiful white rose in Georgia called the Cherokee rose. The memory of the flower would comfort his people. It would remind them never to be discouraged. The Great Spirit transformed the tears into a rust-colored, rose-shaped stone.

Since that time, rose rocks have had many admirers. In 1968, Oklahoma named the rose rock its official state rock. The legend and spirit of the Cherokee rose rock lives on.
1. Which sentence best states the theme?

A The rusty, red rose rocks appear only in Oklahoma.
B The memory of the flower would comfort his people.
C It would remind them never to be discouraged.
D The legend and spirit of the Cherokee rose rock lives on.

2. How did Oklahoma play an important part in Native American history?

A It was where the red rose rocks were found.
B It became home to the Cherokee people.
C It was where the Great Spirit honored his people.
D It became the site of gold mines.

3. Why did the Great Spirit make the rose rocks?

A to remind his people of their Georgia home
B to show the route followed by the Cherokee
C to encourage the Cherokee people
D to create a valuable stone for the people
4. **What is the most probable reason for choosing the rose rock as the official rock of Oklahoma?**

A  The unusual rock was endangered.
B  The rose rock’s color matches the state redbud trees.
C  It symbolizes part of the state’s history.
D  Many people collect the strange rock.

5. **Why did the Cherokee leave their homes?**

A  The Georgia farmers needed more land.
B  The farmers did not get along with the Cherokee.
C  People were greedy for gold and wanted it for themselves.
D  People thought that Oklahoma was a more suitable place.

6. **What is the main idea of paragraph 2?**

A  A legend explains why the red rose rocks are only found in Oklahoma.
B  Rose rocks are found in several places in Oklahoma.
C  Because a legend has grown around them, everyone wants rose rocks.
D  Rose rocks are unusual and can only be found in a few places.
7. How does the author structure paragraph 1?

A by comparing and contrasting a rock rose with a real rose  
B by listing the sequence of development of a rock rose  
C by showing what causes rock roses to be in Oklahoma  
D by discussing problems that rose rocks cause in Oklahoma

8. Which statement is an opinion?

A “Near Noble, Oklahoma, a seemingly perfect rose appears from the ground.”  
B “It has no stem, and its petals are as heavy as a rock.”  
C “It marked the end of what is known as the ‘Trail of Tears.’”  
D “The memory of the flower would comfort his people.”

9. What is the author’s purpose in “The Legend of the Cherokee Rose Rock”?

A to persuade the reader to obtain a rose rock  
B to describe a beautiful rock  
C to tell the story attached to a rock formation  
D to inform the reader about an unusual rock
10. Which Web site would give the most information about the Trail of Tears?

A  State Parks Along the Trail of Tears  
B  National Historic Trails  
C  The History of Trails in Northwest Georgia  
D  Accounts of the Trail of Tears

11. Which paragraph could have the subheading “The Legend”?

A  paragraph 1  
B  paragraph 2  
C  paragraph 3  
D  paragraph 4

12. Which graphic would be most helpful to the reader?

A  a map of the United States showing Oklahoma  
B  an illustration of a rose rock next to a real rose  
C  a list of the chemical make-up of a rose rock  
D  an illustration of a Native American Cherokee
### 6th Grade Practice Reading Selection #4
#### Answer key

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