

What is Death Valley?

Gray's Social Studies
AMI Day 3

The lowest piece of land in the Western Hemisphere is a desert valley that stretches across parts of California and Nevada. It is 282 feet below sea level in places. This area is also very hot. In summer, noon temperatures often reach 120 to 125 degrees. Once it hit a sizzling 134. The name of this harsh land is Death Valley.



Death Valley got its name in 1850. A group of settlers were heading west in search of gold. Because of a mistake on their map, they got lost in the middle of the desert valley. One man found a way

out and got help for the others. Leaving the valley at last, one woman looked back and said, "Good-bye, Death Valley." The name stuck.

In spite of its name, however, Death Valley is full of life. Burros, birds, snakes, lizards, and rare bighorn sheep live there. So do some unusual fish called pupfish. They may be Death Valley's oldest creatures. The tiny pupfish have lived in the valley's streams and pools for thousands of years.

Death Valley also has many human visitors. In 1933, it was made a national monument. Its 3,000 square miles were set aside for everyone's enjoyment. Each year more than half a million tourists come to the valley. They appreciate its breathtaking scenery as well as its deserted mining towns, camping sites, and museum. Death Valley seems to have something for everyone.

Mark the circle (○) beside the right answer.

- The article does not tell about Death Valley's _____.
 animals plants heat visitors
- Which word in paragraph 4 means pleasure?
 sites monument enjoyment scenery
- Which paragraph tells how Death Valley got its name?
 1 2 3 4
- A fact is something known to be true. An opinion is something thought to be true. Mark Fact or Opinion for each sentence below.
Death Valley is beautiful. Fact Opinion
The temperature there once reached 134. Fact Opinion
Too many people visit Death Valley each year. Fact Opinion
- HELP is to AID as deserted is to _____. Think how the first two words go together. Then mark the word that goes with deserted in the same way.
 sizzling unusual harsh empty
- We can decide from reading the article that Death Valley _____.
 has a volcano gets a lot of rain is an unusual place