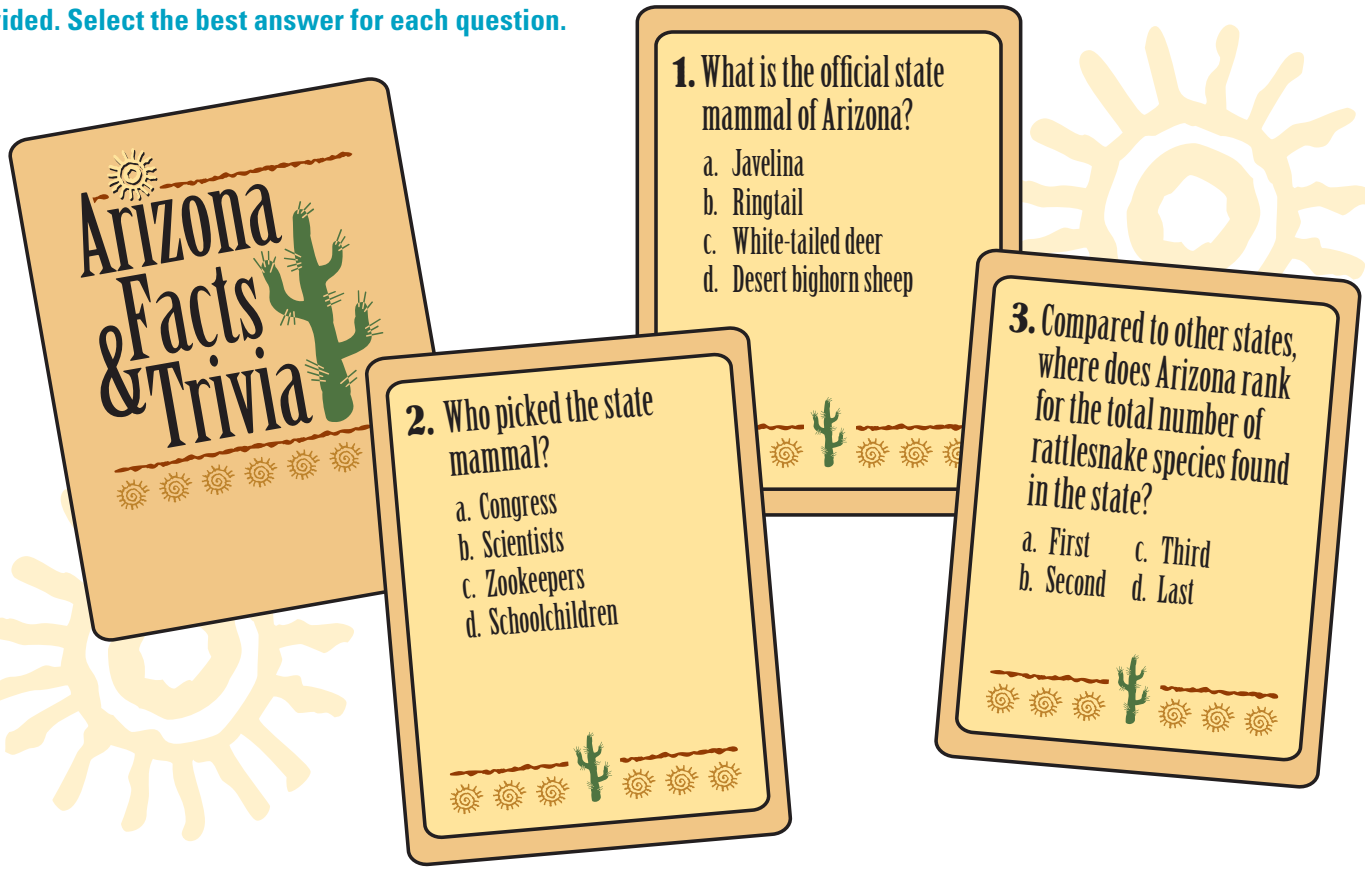
Focus Wild Arizona

For the past year, Arizona has been honoring its centennial, which took place Feb. 14, 2012. To end this year of celebration, we thought we would test your knowledge of Arizona facts and trivia. Read each question and the answers provided. Select the best answer for each question.



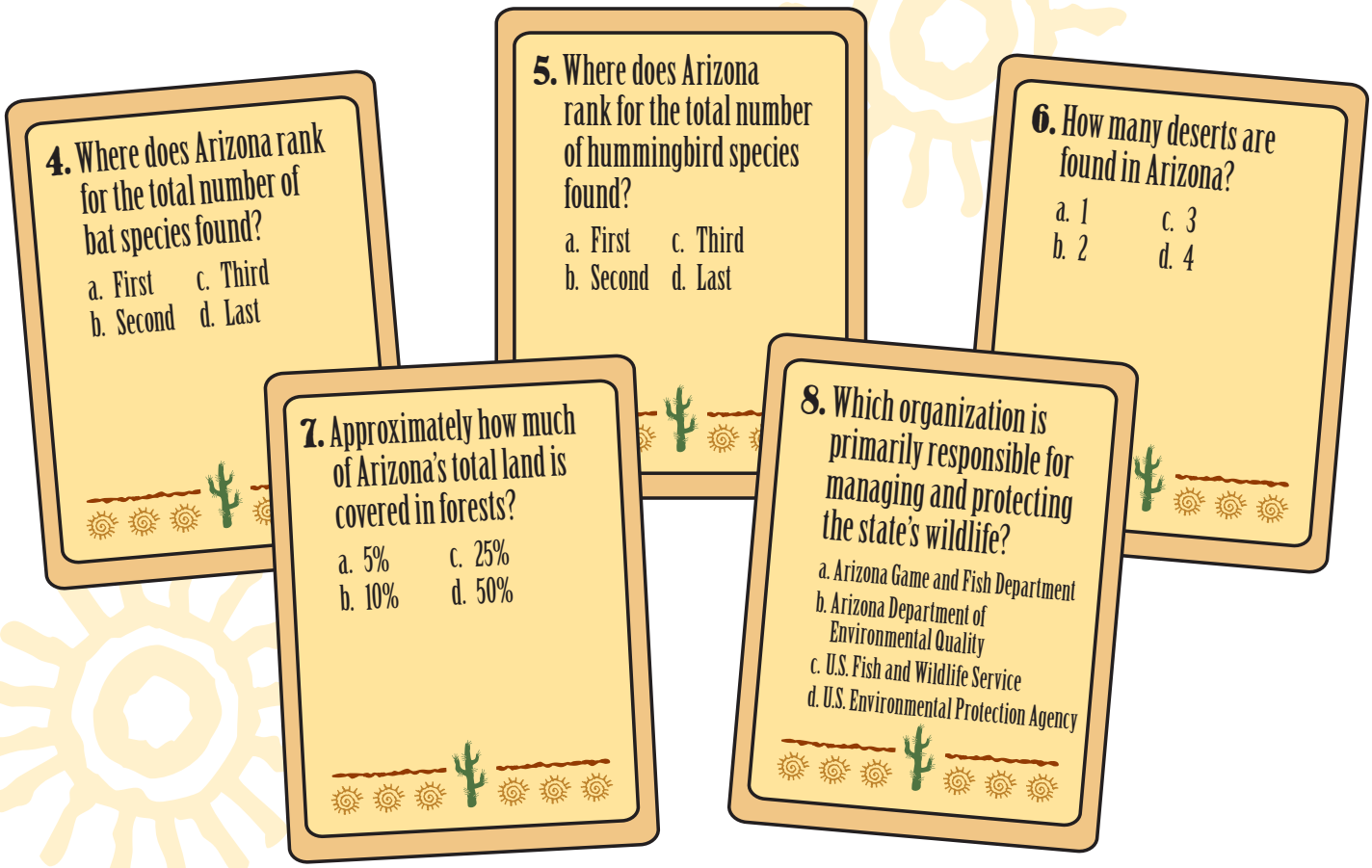
How do you think you did? Let's check your answers.

North America has four deserts, and at least a portion of each one stretches into Arizona. As a result, Arizona is considered a desert state. However, with 26 mountains taller than 10,000 feet, Arizona has many other habitats. In fact, approximately one quarter of the state is covered in forests!

This incredible habitat diversity brings incredible animal diversity. It's probably not surprising that Arizona ranks No. 1 for rattlesnakes. There are 17 rattlesnake species in the world, and 13 of them live right here. You may be surprised to learn, however, that we fall just behind Texas for total number of bat species, and we tie Texas for the lead in hummingbirds. Texas is more than twice the size of Arizona. Yet the habitat diversity in Arizona means we offer a suitable home for many types of animals.

One of those animals is the ringtail. It is very common, yet few people see it. Ringtails come out at night to hunt small mammals, birds, lizards and insects. During Arizona's early years, miners used to keep ringtails near their camps to hunt mice and other pests. In 1985, students selected the ringtail to serve as the official mammal of Arizona. It

By Eric Proctor



joined a small group of other animals and plants, including the cactus wren and saguaro cactus blossom, to represent the amazing diversity in Arizona.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is the government agency responsible for managing all of this diversity. It is part of our mission to conserve, enhance and restore the state's wildlife resources while providing quality outdoor experiences. This is not easy, but it is important. How much fun would birdwatching be if there were no birds to see? How much fun would fishing be if there were no fish to catch?

Arizona proves to be the ideal home for a diverse collection of animals as well as an ideal setting for outdoor recreation. The Game and Fish Department has been instrumental in managing that diversity through the first century of Arizona's statehood and will continue this vital role as we move into the next 100 years.

How did you do on the quiz? Were you surprised by any of the answers? Now it's time to test your friends or parents. Give them the quiz and see how well they do!

▪ This feature is part of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Focus Wild Arizona program, a free educational program for teachers, parents, students or anyone interested in learning about wildlife and habitat. Visit our website, www.azgfd.gov/focuswild, to find exciting lessons and resources.