

Name _____

Date _____

Parentheses and Ellipses

Definition

Parentheses () contain supplemental, non-essential information that clarifies. **Ellipses (...)** indicate omitted words, a pause, or an unfinished thought.

Example

Mark	Example	Purpose
Parentheses ()	"The meeting (which lasted two hours) covered many topics."	Additional information
Ellipses (...)	"The poem begins, 'Roses are red...'"	Omitted text
Ellipses (...)	"If only I had..."	Unfinished thought

Part 1: Select the sentence that correctly uses parentheses or ellipses.

1. a) The Mississippi River Delta (which covers approximately 13,000 square miles) has been formed by sediment deposition over thousands of years.
- b) The Mississippi River Delta which covers approximately 13,000 square miles has been formed by sediment deposition over thousands of years.
- c) The Mississippi River Delta (which covers approximately 13,000 square miles has been formed by sediment deposition over thousands of years.
- d) The Mississippi River Delta which covers approximately 13,000 square miles) has been formed by sediment deposition over thousands of years.

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2. a) The scientist wrote, "The delta continues to change shape..." in her report on coastal erosion.
b) The scientist wrote, "The delta continues to change shape.." in her report on coastal erosion.
c) The scientist wrote, "The delta continues to change shape." in her report on coastal erosion.
d) The scientist wrote, "The delta continues to change shape....." in her report on coastal erosion.
3. a) Sediments (sand, silt, clay) are carried downstream and deposited where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico.
b) Sediments (sand, silt, clay are carried downstream and deposited where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico.
c) Sediments sand, silt, clay) are carried downstream and deposited where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico.
d) Sediments (sand, silt, clay)) are carried downstream and deposited where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico.
4. a) "The Mississippi River has changed course many times throughout history..." explained the geologist during the field trip.
b) "The Mississippi River has changed course many times throughout history.." explained the geologist during the field trip.
c) "The Mississippi River has changed course many times throughout history..." explained the geologist during the field trip.
d) "The Mississippi River has changed course many times throughout history...." explained the geologist during the field trip.
5. a) The formation of the bird-foot delta (so named because of its shape resembling a bird's foot began millions of years ago.
b) The formation of the bird-foot delta so named because of its shape resembling a bird's foot) began millions of years ago.
c) The formation of the bird-foot delta (so named because of its shape resembling a bird's foot) began millions of years ago.
d) The formation of the bird-foot delta (so named because of its shape resembling a bird's foot began) millions of years ago.

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Add parentheses or ellipses where appropriate in the following sentences about the Mississippi River Delta.

1. The Mississippi River carries approximately 400 million tons of sediment _____ including sand, silt, and clay _____ to the Gulf of Mexico annually.
2. "The rate of land loss in the delta is alarming _____ " the environmental scientist couldn't finish her thought as she viewed the eroded coastline.
3. Native plant species _____ such as cattails, bulrushes, and cordgrass _____ help stabilize the delta's fragile ecosystem.
4. The textbook states: "The Mississippi Delta began forming about 7,000 years ago _____" The remaining information about geological processes was continued on the next page.
5. The Mississippi River's course has been modified by human engineering _____ particularly through the construction of levees and channels _____ which has dramatically altered natural delta formation.

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Parentheses and Ellipses – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. a) The Mississippi River Delta (which covers approximately 13,000 square miles) has been formed by sediment deposition over thousands of years.
2. a) The scientist wrote, "The delta continues to change shape..." in her report on coastal erosion.
3. a) Sediments (sand, silt, clay) are carried downstream and deposited where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico.
4. c) "The Mississippi River has changed course many times throughout history..." explained the geologist during the field trip.
5. c) The formation of the bird-foot delta (so named because of its shape resembling a bird's foot) began millions of years ago.

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. The Mississippi River carries approximately 400 million tons of sediment (including sand, silt, and clay) to the Gulf of Mexico annually.
2. "The rate of land loss in the delta is alarming..." the environmental scientist couldn't finish her thought as she viewed the eroded coastline.
3. Native plant species (such as cattails, bulrushes, and cordgrass) help stabilize the delta's fragile ecosystem.
4. The textbook states: "The Mississippi Delta began forming about 7,000 years ago..." The remaining information about geological processes was continued on the next page.
5. The Mississippi River's course has been modified by human engineering (particularly through the construction of levees and channels) which has dramatically altered natural delta formation.