

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Can the Desert Tortoise Be Saved?"

1. decoy(DEE-koi) *noun*; A decoy is a person or an object that lures someone or something into danger. *Decoy* is often used to describe a fake version of someone or something that is meant to trick an animal or a person into thinking it's real. Ducks will often land in a spot where they see other ducks. So duck hunters often use duck decoys, like this one, to attract real ducks to a particular area.

2. deter (dih-TUHR) *verb*; To deter is to discourage—to cause someone to decide not to do something or to prevent something from happening. Bad weather might deter people from attending an outdoor concert.

3. feat(feet) *noun*; A feat is an extraordinary act—an achievement showing courage, skill, or strength.

4. infectious (in-FEK-shuhs) *adjective*; An infectious disease is one that you can catch, either from another person or from an animal. (When an infectious disease can be passed from one person to another, we call that infectious disease *contagious*.) Colds are infectious. They can spread when people sneeze.

Infectious can also mean "spreading quickly," as in "Melissa's excitement was infectious. Soon everyone in the room was excited too."

5. ingenious (in-JEEN-yuhs) *adjective*; Something that is ingenious is very clever; it shows creativity and inventiveness. Some might say that the wheeled suitcase was an ingenious invention. (Before suitcases had wheels, people had to carry them by a handle. Oof.)

6. poacher (POH-chuhr) *noun*; A poacher is someone who illegally kills or captures animals. Many elephants are killed by poachers, who sell the elephants' ivory tusks. The ivory is often carved into ornaments and jewelry.

7. vulnerable (VUHL-ner-uh-buhl) *adjective*; Something that is vulnerable can easily be harmed, either physically or emotionally. You might feel vulnerable in a new place. Baby birds are vulnerable without the protection of their mother.

Directions: In the space below, list any other words from the play whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.