

**The Gift of Water**  
Teacher Question/Answer Sheet

1. What was the role of water in the story?  
*It brought guests to Alejandro's home so Alejandro was not so lonely.*
2. What is the importance of water?  
*Water would quench the thirst of people and animals.*
3. Why was water important in the story?  
*The water brought friends to Alejandro, which helped him realize how he could use water to help others.*
4. What is the author's point of view about water? About modifying the environment?  
*Alejandro helped animals, but also protected the environment.*
5. What changes did Alejandro make to the environment?  
*He made a waterhole.*
6. Were the changes good or bad?  
*Answers will vary.*
7. What gift did Alejandro get?  
*Alejandro made friends and received companionship.*
8. How did Alejandro's waterhole make a difference?  
*Answers will vary.*
9. Do you think the animals were using the waterhole? Why or why not?  
*Answers will vary.*
10. Since Alejandro didn't see the animals at waterhole 1, how did he know if the animals were using it or not?  
*Answers will vary.*
11. Why did Alejandro think it would take longer for the larger animals to find the waterhole?  
*They were afraid to come near his house and the road because Alejandro was there.*

12. What was the mystery Alejandro solved?

*Why the animals would not come to waterhole 1.*

13. Since Alejandro did not go near the waterhole, how did he know the animals were there?

*He heard the twitter of birds, rustling of mesquite, soft hoofbeats, and sounds of the animals.*

**Gift of Water**  
Vocabulary Sheet

**Natural Resources:** Resources that come from nature--an example is water.

**Adaptation:** A body part, a body covering, or an action that helps an animal survive

**Modification:** A change that alters the physical environment

**Physical Environment:** Environment that can be observed or measured

## **Graphic Organizer for Newspaper Story**

Who: (Who is the story about?)

What: (What is the story about?)

When: (When did this story happen?)

Where: (Where did this story take place?)

Why: (Why is this story important and/ why did the person do what they did?)

## Sample News Story

### **Alejandro Helps Animals**

Alejandro, an elderly man, living in the desert in an adobe house, has done a remarkable thing to assist the desert dwellers near his home. Alejandro often found himself alone in his small house. He planted a garden, which brought many animals, small and large, looking for water. Alejandro decided to assist the animals by building a waterhole for them. His windmill pumped the water to fill the waterhole. Without destroying the environment, Alejandro had been able to modify his environment and help the desert animals. At the same time, he found his desert home much less lonely, now that his animal friends, large and small, visit the watering hole daily.

## Rubric for Newspaper Article

### Organization

5. Includes an inviting introduction and a conclusion. Ideas connect and have a logical sequence. Includes details. Organization flows.
3. Paper has an introduction and conclusion. Ideas are sequenced. Some details are present. Organization sometimes supports main point.
1. No introduction or conclusion. Sequence needs work. Few details are included. Paper is hard to understand.

### Ideas

5. Ideas are clear and understandable. Topic is focused. Information is accurate. Details go beyond the obvious.
3. Ideas are clear. Topic is somewhat focused. Most information is accurate. Some details provided.
1. Ideas are unclear. Topic is unclear. Most information is inaccurate. Few, if any, details are present.

### Conventions

5. No or few errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, or usage.
3. Some errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization or usage. Errors do not interfere with meaning.
1. Many errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization and usage. Errors make it difficult to understand.

### Content

5. Includes 3 or more modifications and reasons/benefits.
3. Includes 2 or more modifications and reasons/benefits.
1. Includes 1 or fewer modifications and reasons/benefits.