



The Grand Canyon of Arizona is a sculpted vista of multicolored stone. It is one of the largest and deepest canyons in the world and is located in northwestern Arizona. The Grand Canyon was formed by the Colorado River, which flows west through the canyon. Geologically it is significant because of the thick sequence of ancient rocks that are beautifully preserved and exposed in the walls of the canyon.

Sentences, Fragments, and Run-ons

A **sentence** contains both a **subject** (who or what) and a **verb** (the action).

- Over the last six million years, the (**Colorado River**) (**has eaten**) through solid rock to form the Grand Canyon.
- The (**floor**) of the Grand Canyon (**contains**) fossil footprints of over 20 species of reptiles and amphibians.

A **fragment** is missing the subject, the verb, or both.

- (**Became**) a national monument in 1908.
- Two geological (**processes**), weathering and erosion.

A **run-on** contains two or more complete sentences without appropriate punctuation between them.

- The (**climate**) within the canyon (**is**) semi-arid the (**floor**) in summer (**can heat up**) to 106 degrees.
- The (**Grand Canyon**) (**is**) a chasm 277 miles long and over a mile deep (**it**) (**is**) up to 18 miles wide.

The Grand Canyon

A. Rewrite the fragments and run-ons in the box on page 17 to make complete sentences:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. Write the correct form of the underlined verb:

1. The Grand Canyon consider one of the natural wonders of the world. _____
2. As early as 1200 BC, Ancestral Pueblo people build settlements within the canyon. _____
3. It is so big, The Grand Canyon can see from outer space! _____
4. The canyon border by forests of pine, juniper, spruce, fir, and aspen. _____
5. In 1869, John Wesley Powell lead other scientists down the Grand Canyon. _____
6. The Northern Rim measure 1,200 feet higher than the Southern Rim. _____
7. My family have rode mules to the bottom of the canyon several times. _____
8. This year, we chosen to take a helicopter tour of the canyon. _____
9. The canyon could held all the river water on earth and still be only half full! _____
10. Theodore Roosevelt visits the Grand Canyon in 1903. _____



Comma Usage with Appositives, Direct Address, and Introductory Words

Use commas before and after **appositives**; an appositive explains who or what the noun is.

- The North Rim, the highest and coolest area of the canyon, stands 8,700 feet above sea level.
- The kaibab squirrel, a rare tassel-eared animal, can be found only in the ponderosa pine forests of the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park.

Use commas when speaking to someone; this is called **direct address**.

- Tourists, be sure to exercise caution while visiting the canyon; it is still a wilderness!
- Did you know, Jack, that there are 400 miles of trails in the park?

Use a comma to set off **introductory words**.

- At the bottom, nearly two billion years of the earth’s geological history have been exposed.
- In 1908, the Grand Canyon became an official national monument and a national park in 1919.

C. Add commas to the sentences below where necessary:

1. Today over 1,500 plant species 290 types of birds 96 different mammals 60 reptiles and amphibians and 26 fish species are found in or near the Grand Canyon.
2. In 1883 stagecoaches began bringing people from nearby Flagstaff and Williams and Grand Canyon tourism was born.
3. As long as rain and snow continue to fall in northern Arizona the forces of erosion will continue to shape the Grand Canyon.
4. Unlike peaks and valleys almost everywhere else the Grand Canyon shows a brilliant palette of grays browns greens ochers deep reds oranges and golds.
5. The Grand Canyon one of the planet’s greatest landmarks is the only one of The Seven Natural Wonders of the World to be located in North America.

D. Read the underlined sections in the sentences below. Circle the letter of the section that contains an error, write the correction on the line, or write D for “no error.”

1. The glen canyon dam controls the flow of the Colorado River through the canyon. _____
 A B C
2. California condors soars on their nine-foot wings over the canyon. _____
 A B C
3. The major geologic exposures in the Grand Canyon range in age from the 2 billion year old Vishnu Schist at the bottom of the Inner Gorge, to the 230 million year old Kaibab Limestone on the Rim. _____
 A B C
4. Grand Canyon National Park attracts about five million visitors per year. _____
 A B C
5. Petroglyphs, also called wall drawings are found in caves in the canyon. _____
 A B C
6. The pueblo people considered the Grand Canyon a holy site and made pilgrimages to it. _____
 A B C