

Name _____

Mirage in the Desert

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The desert is described as having a "cruel and unkind" illusion because it can deceive travelers into thinking they have found water and relief, only to disappoint them with the harsh reality of an empty landscape.
2. The traveler likely felt a combination of desperation, frustration, and disappointment when he realized the mirage was not real.
3. If the stranger hadn't appeared to help the traveler, he might have succumbed to dehydration and the harsh conditions of the desert.
4. The traveler may have learned the importance of caution and skepticism when faced with illusions or promises that seem too good to be true. He might also have gained a deeper appreciation for the kindness and assistance of strangers.

