

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Using Colons and Semicolons

### Lesson 67

# Read and Discover

- a. The Galápagos Islands are located 600 miles west of Ecuador, they lie along the equator.
- b. These isolated islands are home to many unusual creatures: penguins, giant tortoises, and swimming iguanas are just a few of these.
- c. Scientists have studied Galápagos wildlife for centuries; they study not only the habits of certain species but also the interactions among them.

In which sentence are two independent clauses separated incorrectly with only a comma and no conjunction? \_\_\_\_\_

What punctuation marks are used to separate the independent clauses in the other two sentences? \_\_\_\_\_

A **semicolon** (;) can be used instead of a comma and conjunction to separate the independent clauses in a **compound sentence**. A **colon** (:) can be used to separate two independent clauses when the second explains the first. It can also be used to introduce a list at the end of a sentence, to separate parts of references in a bibliography, and to separate hours and minutes in an expression of time.

See Handbook Sections 8, 13

### Part 1

Write a colon or a semicolon to separate the clauses in each sentence. Note: Four sentences require a colon.

1. About five million years ago the Galápagos Islands rose from the sea they are thought to be the result of volcanic explosions deep under the water.
2. These volcanic islands are barren and harsh initially they were lifeless.
3. Scientists have a theory about how wildlife came to the Galápagos creatures from South America rode there on "sea rafts" of vegetation.
4. These creatures were undisturbed for centuries over time they adapted to the environment in unique ways.
5. The marine iguana is quite unusual it swims in the rough surf.
6. Adult marine iguanas can dive forty feet they can stay underwater for thirty minutes.
7. Hundreds of years ago pirates stopped in the Galápagos some hid treasure there.
8. Whalers and seal hunters filled their ships with giant tortoises they used them for food during long voyages.
9. The Spanish name for the tortoises is *galápagos* the islands got their name from this word.
10. The tortoises are huge they can weigh up to 600 pounds.
11. At one time there were 250,000 tortoises in the Galápagos today there are fewer than 15,000.
12. Predators are responsible for much of this decrease they have eaten tortoise eggs and killed adult tortoises.
13. Human beings have caused animal predation we are now trying to protect the remaining tortoises.
14. Humans introduced dogs, pigs, and rats to the islands these animals prey on the tortoises' eggs.
15. Scientists have taken action to save the tortoises from extinction they have built a captive-breeding station.