McElhaney Cattle Company was one of the first commercial cattle feedlots in the USA. Under the good management and foresight of its founder, Sam McElhaney, it has become one of the largest and most respected feedlots in the Southwest.

The headquarter of the company is on a 3,000 acre ranch near Yuma, Arizona and they feed more than 85,000 head of cattle for commercial cattlemen and independent businessmen from all parts of the country. The stability of the weather with mild winters and an average rainfall of 2.5 inches make it possible to feed the cattle on a year-round basis without the climatic risks of snow storms or cold and muddy pen (Pferch) conditions. Consequently, cattle which is fed at McElhaney Cattle Company can be kept without the risk of excessive (übermäßig) weather changes and so they are able to calculate the finish weight costs exactly.

As they are near the Arizona and Southern California beef market – one of the best in the country – they can be sure to get a very good price paid for fat cattle.

1 Fill in the missing words.

a) Sam McElhaney was the _____ of the McElhaney Cattle Company.

b) It was one of the first commercial _____ in the USA.

c) The headquarter of the company is near _____.

d) On an area of _____ acres they feed more than _____ head of cattle.

e) The climate in Arizona is with _____ winters and an average yearly rainfall of only _____.

f) They can get a good price for their cattle because the beef markets of Arizona and Southern California are

_____.

2 Answer the questions.

a) Where is McElhaney Cattle Company?

b) How large is it?

c) How many heads of cattle do they feed there?

d) What makes it possible to feed the cattle on a year-round basis?

e) What can you say about the climate in Arizona?

f) Which geographic aspect helps them to get a good price?

3 Working with the dictionary. Look up the words.

a)	to feed – fed – fed		f)		Durchschnitt
b)	the food		g)	muddy	
c)		etwas/jemanden satt haben	h)	acre	
d)		wohlgenährt	i)	inch	
e)	commercial				

Name: **Klasse:** **Datum:**

Klett