

AMAZON RAIN FOREST Reading Comprehension

The Amazon is the world's largest tropical rain forest. It covers an area of nearly 2.8 million square miles, which is nearly the size of the continent of Australia. The Amazon rain forest gets its life from the majestic Amazon River, the world's second-largest river, which runs directly through the heart of the region. The rain forest itself is simply the drainage basin for the river and its many tributaries. The vast forest itself consists of four layers, each featuring its own ecosystems and specially adapted plants and animals.

The forest floor is the lowest region. Since only 2 percent of the sunlight filters through the top layers to the understory, very few plants grow here. The forest floor, however, is rich with rotting vegetation and the bodies of dead organisms, which are quickly broken down into nutrients integrated into the soil. Tree roots stay close to these available nutrients, and decomposers, such as millipedes and earthworms, use these nutrients for food.

The understory is the layer above the forest floor. Much like the forest floor, only about 2–5 percent of the sunlight reaches this shadowy realm. Many of the plants in the understory have large, broad leaves to collect as much sunlight as possible. The understory is so thick that there is very little air movement. As a result, plants rely on insects and animals to pollinate their flowers.

The layer above the understory is the canopy. This is where much of the action in the rain forest occurs. Many canopy leaves have specially adapted leaves which form "drip tips." Drip tips allow water to flow off the leaves, which prevents mosses, fungi, and lichens from occupying the leaves. Leaves in the canopy are very dense and filter about 80 percent of the sunlight. The canopy is where the wealth of the rain forest's fruits and flowers grow. Bromeliads, cuplike plants, provide drinking pools for animals and breeding locations for tree frogs.

The emergent layer is above the canopy and is the top layer of the rain forest. Trees in the emergent layer break through the canopy and may reach heights of 200 feet. Leaves in the emergent layer are small and covered with a special wax to hold water. Seeds are blown to other parts of the forest. Trees that rise to the emergent layer are massive. Many are braced by huge buttress roots. Trunks can be 16 feet in circumference. Many animals that survive in the emergent layer never touch the ground.

1.) The Amazon rain forest covers an area nearly the size of the continent of _____.

2.) Which of the following is not a layer of the rain forest?

- a.) understory b.) emergent c.) sub-canopy d.) canopy

3.) Which layer of the rain forest is right above the forest floor?

- a.) emergent layer b.) canopy c.) understory

4.) Most of the fruits and flowers of the rain forest grow in its...

- a.) emergent layer b.) canopy c.) forest floor d.) understory

5.) _____ provide drinking pools for animals and breeding locations for tree frogs.

6.) Many trees in the _____ of the rain forest are braced by huge buttress roots.

- a.) emergent layer b.) understory c.) canopy d.) forest floor

7.) Animals that live in the _____ may never touch the ground.

- a.) canopy b.) understory c.) forest floor d.) emergent layer

8.) Why do few plants grow in the understory?

- a.) There is not enough water. b.) There is not enough sunlight. c.) Their leaves are too large. d.) There are not enough nutrients.

9.) Why do plants in the understory have to rely on insects to pollinate them?

- a.) The sun is too bright in the understory. b.) The wind is too strong and seeds blow into the Amazon River. c.) There is very little wind in the understory. d.) There are very few butterflies in the rain forest.

10.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The canopy is higher than the emergent layer.
b.) The understory is below the canopy.
c.) The Amazon rain forest is located in South America.
d.) Leaves in the canopy are very dense and filter a high percentage of sunlight.

ARCTIC FOX Reading Comprehension

The Arctic fox is a small fox found commonly in the arctic regions of the world. Measuring a little less than three feet in length, this fox is mottled brown in the summer and pure white in the winter. Adult foxes weigh between six and twenty pounds, though most are closer to six. Its thick fur coat helps insulate it from the freezing temperatures and windswept snow.

The Arctic fox is the ultimate survivor. It will eat just about anything including insects, small mammals, birds, ducks, geese, eggs, and even an occasional snowy owl. Lemmings, small mouse-like mammals, are its most common prey. In fact, when populations of lemmings crash every three or four years, so do the populations of foxes. Arctic foxes will eat berries and seaweed as well. When food is scarce, Arctic foxes become scavengers. The Arctic fox is sometimes preyed upon by polar bears.

Arctic fox vixens (female foxes) can give birth to as many as twenty-five kits (baby foxes) in the springtime (the largest of any carnivore). Most litters, however, contain between five and eight kits. Both male and female foxes help take care of the young.

While the Arctic fox is common throughout much of the Arctic region, it is exceedingly rare in the Scandinavian nations of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, where populations never recovered from severe overhunting. In addition, recent movements of the red fox into Arctic fox territory (probably as a result of global warming) threaten the Arctic fox population as well.

1.) How often do Arctic foxes eat snowy owls?

- a.) somewhat often
- b.) never
- c.) not often
- d.) very often

2.) Populations of Arctic foxes rise and fall according to...

- 1.) the severity of the winter.
- 2.) the warmth of the summer.
- 3.) the population of polar bears.
- 4.) the population of lemmings.

3.) What is the main prey of the Arctic fox?

- a.) lemmings
- b.) insects
- c.) birds
- d.) eggs

4.) Which is NOT true about the size of an Arctic fox?

- a.) They can grow to three feet in length.
- b.) Some can reach 20 pounds.
- c.) Most are close to 20 pounds.
- d.) Most are near six pounds.

5.) What does the word “insulate” mean in the sentence below?

Its thick fur coat helps **insulate** it from the freezing temperatures and windswept snow.

- a.) warn
- b.) protect
- c.) catch
- d.) cool

6.) Where would I find information about threats to the Arctic fox?

- a.) third paragraph
- b.) introductory paragraph
- c.) concluding paragraph
- d.) second paragraph

7.) What do Arctic foxes do when food is scarce?

- a.) move south
- b.) become prey for polar bears
- c.) eat more berries and seaweed
- d.) become scavengers

8.) Which is NOT true about Arctic foxes?

- a.) They have brown summer coats.
- b.) They are rare in Sweden.
- c.) They will eat almost anything.
- d.) The Arctic fox is never prey

9.) Complete the analogy:

Vixen: Fox :: _____ : Lion

- a.) Savanna
- b.) Cub
- c.) Lioness
- d.) Tiger

10.) If an answer to a question is “5 to 8,” what is the question?

- a.) How many kits survive?
- b.) How many kits can a vixen have?
- c.) How many kits does a female fox normally give birth to?
- d.) How many litters does a female fox have in her lifetime?

BALTIMORE ORIOLE Reading Comprehension

The stunning Baltimore oriole is a common summer visitor to Eastern and Midwestern deciduous woodlands, neighborhoods, and gardens. Baltimore orioles winter in the tropics.

About seven inches in length, the male Baltimore oriole has a black head, throat, back, and wings. Its breast, stomach, and rump are bright orange. It also has an orange patch on the top of each wing and white wing bars. The tail is mostly black with orange fringes. The female is dull orange throughout.

Baltimore orioles range throughout the Eastern and Midwestern United States and can be found as far west as the Dakotas. At the western edge of their range, Baltimore orioles may breed with the Bullock's Oriole (they were once considered the same species under the name northern oriole).

Baltimore orioles build unusual pouch-like nests that hang down from branches. They usually nest high in the trees but often come down to lower heights, flashing bright orange and black feathers to delighted observers. Active and acrobatic by nature, Baltimore orioles may even feed upside down at times.

Baltimore orioles eat insects and berries. They can easily be attracted to gardens by nailing orange wedges to tree branches. Baltimore orioles are also known to feed at hummingbird feeders and sapsucker wells.

_____ 1.) Which of the following does not attract the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) oranges b.) hummingbird feeders c.) sap d.) sunflower seeds

_____ 2.) The Baltimore oriole winters in the:

- a.) Dakotas b.) Carolinas c.) tropics d.) desert

_____ 3.) The Baltimore oriole can be found as far west as:

- a.) North and South Dakota b.) The Carolinas c.) California d.) Baltimore

_____ 4.) What color would you not find on a Baltimore oriole?

- a.) purple b.) orange c.) white d.) black

_____ 5.) Which of the following is closest in size to the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) a ruler b.) a little more than half of a ruler c.) a little less than half of a ruler d.) two rulers

_____ 6.) The nest of the Baltimore oriole...

- a.) is in a tree cavity. b.) stands upon the branch of a tree. c.) hangs from a branch of a tree. d.) is usually low in the branches.

_____ 7.) What word best describes the female Baltimore oriole?

- a.) bright orange b.) light orange c.) dull d.) white

_____ 8.) What did the Baltimore oriole used to be called?

- a.) Bullock's Oriole b.) Baltimore's oriole c.) northern oriole d.) southern oriole

_____ 9.) Which of the following is not true about the Baltimore oriole?

- a.) They feed upside down sometimes.
b.) They may breed with the Bullock's oriole.
c.) The Baltimore oriole is uncommon.
d.) The Baltimore oriole has a black throat.

_____ 10.) Where would I probably not find a Baltimore oriole?

- a.) high in the trees b.) in gardens and neighborhoods c.) deciduous woodlands d.) the Arctic tundra

Bandicoot Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The eastern barred bandicoot is a small, rabbit-sized marsupial native to southeastern Australia and the island of Tasmania. The eastern barred bandicoot is largely light brown with long ears and a long snout. It uses its strong claws and snout to dig small holes in the ground to get at insects and invertebrates. It has distinctive bars or stripes on its hindquarters. It is strictly nocturnal and rests in beds of grass during the day. One interesting fact about bandicoots is that their 12-day gestation period is among the shortest of any mammal. Gestation refers to the time period in which a female is pregnant. Males and females can breed at four months of age and a female may have three or four litters per year. Young bandicoots stay in their mother's pouches for about two months. While females can birth as many as 16 young in a single year, mortality rates of young bandicoots are extremely high. Furthermore, the average lifespan of a bandicoot is less than three years. There are other, more common species of bandicoots that live in parts of Australia including the golden, northern brown, and southern brown bandicoots. All have suffered severe population declines. There are two sub-species of eastern barred bandicoots.

Victorian sub-species

The Victorian sub-species of the eastern barred bandicoot was native to southwest Victoria. It was once common throughout the region's grasslands and Basalt Plains. Habitat loss and the introduction of invasive predators such as foxes and cats caused a total collapse of the population resulting in its extinction in the wild. The current population is captive. Plans for reintroduction are dependent on finding predator-free habitats, community education, and intensive research. There are thought to be about 150 Victorian eastern barred bandicoots left.

Tasmanian sub-species

The larger Tasmanian sub-species is listed as a vulnerable species according to the IUCN Red List. Populations of wild Tasmanian bandicoots still exist because the island of Tasmania still has suitable habitat and lacks foxes. Eastern barred bandicoots, however, still suffer predation from feral cats and dogs and also succumb to a disease called Toxoplasmosis - which is often fatal to bandicoots.

- 1. Which of the following is not a characteristic of a bandicoot?**
 - A. Strong claws
 - B. Long snout
 - C. Long lifespan
 - D. Long ears

- 2. Compared to other species of bandicoot, the eastern barred bandicoot is...**
 - A. less common.
 - B. equally as numerous.
 - C. more common.
 - D. Endangered.

- 3. Both the Victorian and Tasmanian sub-species of the eastern barred bandicoot...**
 - A. are often killed by foxes.
 - B. are endangered species.
 - C. are extinct in the wild.
 - D. are preyed upon by feral cats.

- 4. Which of the following is NOT true?**
 - A. Bandicoots have one of the longest gestation periods of any mammal
 - B. Bandicoots have short lifespans
 - C. Bandicoots populations throughout Australia are declining
 - D. There are no wild Victorian eastern barred bandicoots left in the wild.

- 5. Which of the following is least likely?**
 - A. Seeing a Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoot in a grassland in Tasmania
 - B. Seeing a Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoot that is has lived for two years
 - C. Seeing a Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoot hunting during the heat of the day.
 - D. Seeing a nine-month old Tasmanian eastern barred bandicoot with a litter of young

6. What is an invasive predator as used in the following sentence?

Habitat loss and the introduction of invasive predators such as foxes and cats caused a total collapse of the population resulting in its extinction in the wild.

- A. Small to medium-sized cats
- B. Deadly predators
- C. Predators that do not naturally occur in a habitat
- D. Predators that are more common than their prey

7. Complete the analogy.

bandicoot : marsupial :: (bandicoot is to marsupial as..)

- A. reptile : snake
- B. tiger : cub
- C. hamster : mammal
- D. robin : egg

Bengal Tiger Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Bengal tiger is one of the strongest animals in the world and the largest cat. Its massive body is orange or light brown above with black stripes throughout. Each tiger has a different pattern of stripes. Tigers have white underparts. Male tigers can weigh more 500 pounds, although the heaviest tiger ever recorded was more than 850 pounds! Females are smaller and rarely surpass 350 pounds. Bengal tigers have huge canine teeth that can measure up to four inches long.

Bengal tigers are endangered species. Population growth in India and southeast Asia has resulted in the destruction of their habitat. In addition, illegal hunting (called poaching) has reduced tiger numbers. Those who poach tigers can become rich by selling their parts to people in China. Tiger parts are used to make traditional Chinese medicines. Today, there are only about 2,000 Bengal tigers thought to be left in the wild.

- 1. Which of the following would be a good way to tell one tiger from another?**
 - A. By its weight
 - B. By its age
 - C. By its pattern of stripes
 - D. By its color
- 2. Which of the following would be unlikely?**
 - A. A male tiger that weighed 500 pounds
 - B. A tiger with canines that measured three inches long
 - C. A female tiger that weighed 375 pounds
 - D. A tiger that has a white belly
- 3. Which of the following are reasons why tigers are declining? Circle all that apply.**
 - A. Habitat Destruction
 - B. Chinese Medicine
 - C. Poaching
 - D. Population Growth

4. Which of the following is NOT answered?

- A. How do males and females differ?
- B. What can people do to help save tigers?
- C. How do poachers make money from tigers?
- D. How many tigers are left in the wild?

Black Cats

Name _____

Black cats have been considered symbols of both bad luck and good luck for hundreds of years. In colonial New England, black cats were often considered "familiars" of witches, or, spiritual guides that helped witches commit evil. Others believed that black cats were witches themselves who had shape-shifted. Black cats that walked across the paths of people were thought to be omens of misfortune. In the United States, black cats are common symbols of Halloween.

Some people still consider black cats symbols of bad luck. In fact, black cats are adopted from shelters less often than other kinds of cats. To combat superstitions about black cats, the United States, England, and Ireland each have black cat appreciation or protection days built into their calendars.

Conversely, black cats that wandered into people's homes in Scotland signified prosperity. Fishermen's wives sometimes kept black cats at home because they thought that keeping such a cat might help their husbands remain safe on the high seas.

Despite the many superstitions attached to black cats, they are quite common and are really just ordinary house cats. There are 22 kinds of cats that can have black coats. Such cats may have completely black coats, or, coats that "rust," or turn slightly reddish or brownish from sun exposure. Some black cats can "gray" over time like humans! Most black cats have yellow or green eyes.

- 1. People in colonial New England...**
 - A. had positive impressions of black cats.
 - B. held negative impressions of black cats.
 - C. believed black cats were symbols of Halloween.
 - D. believed black cats kept witches as pets.

- 2. Which of the following is evidence that some people still consider black cats symbols of bad luck?**
 - A. They were kept by fishermen's wives
 - B. They are actually just normal house cats
 - C. They are adopted less often from shelters than other cats
 - D. Some people believe black cats signify prosperity

- 3. Which of the following is an example of a superstition?**
 - A. Black cats are effective in hunting mice.
 - B. Breaking a mirror will result in something bad happening
 - C. Black cat fur can turn reddish or even grayish
 - D. Black cats were once considered spiritual guides to witches

- 4. Which of the following best describes the passage?**
- A. It mainly explains why black cats should be adopted
 - B. It mainly explains how black cats are similar to other cats
 - C. It mainly explains how black cats were viewed in colonial New England
 - D. It mainly explains the different ways black cats have been viewed in history
- 5. Which is NOT true about black cats?**
- A. There are more than 20 kinds of cats that can be black cats
 - B. Their fur can turn reddish or even grey
 - C. They usually have yellow or green eyes
 - D. They are uncommon and less numerous than other cats
- 6. Which of the following words in the passage means “warning” or “sign of danger?”**
- A. omen
 - B. prosperity
 - C. exposure
 - D. superstitions
- 7. To which of the following questions would “to fight superstitions about black cats” be the answer?**
- A. Why are black cats adopted less than other cats?
 - B. Why did fishermen’s wives keep black cats in their homes?
 - C. Why do some countries have black cat protection days?
 - D. Why were black cats said to bring misfortune?



Eastern Bluebird



Western Bluebird



Mountain Bluebird

Bluebirds are among the most well-known and popular groups of birds in North America. They are members of the thrush family and are thus related to robins. There are three species of bluebirds: the eastern bluebird, the western bluebird, and the mountain bluebird. Bluebirds can grow to lengths of about seven inches. They weigh a couple of ounces.

The Eastern Bluebird – This bird is common in southeastern Canada, the eastern United States, and northern Mexico. It eats insects and berries and can be attracted to feeders with mealworms. Males are sky blue above and orange below. Females are similar to males but paler in coloration. Eastern bluebirds nest in tree cavities but can be attracted to man-made nest boxes. They are usually found in open areas with scattered trees, including suburban neighborhoods. The eastern bluebird is the state bird of New York and Missouri.

The Western Bluebird – The western bluebird is similar to the eastern bluebird. It is found mostly in the western United States and northern Mexico. Like the other bluebirds, the western bluebird nests in tree cavities or man-made nest boxes. Unlike the other bluebirds, however, western bluebirds prefer forests rather than open areas. Males look like male eastern bluebirds except they have orange on their backs. Females are more grayish than males.

The Mountain Bluebird – The mountain bluebird is found in western North America. Unlike the western bluebird however, it can be found as far north as Alaska and northern Canada. The mountain bluebird is found in alpine meadows and open areas. It often feeds by catching insects in mid-air. Males are dazzling blue above and lighter blue below. Males are told from other bluebirds by a lack of orange on the underparts. Female mountain bluebirds are largely gray with hints of blue. Mountain bluebirds nest in tree cavities and man-made nest boxes. The mountain bluebird is the state bird of Idaho and Nevada.

- 1. Which is NOT something all three bluebirds have in common?**
 - A. Females have duller colorations than males
 - B. All are state birds of at least one state
 - C. All bluebirds are related to robins
 - D. All will nest in man-made boxes

- 2. How is the mountain bluebird dissimilar to the other bluebirds?**
 - A. It lacks orange on its underparts
 - B. It prefers open area habitats
 - C. It nests in tree cavities
 - D. It is about seven inches in length

- 3. What do the mountain bluebird and eastern bluebird have in common?**
 - A. They are both found in the same parts of the United States.
 - B. They both hunt insects in mid-air
 - C. They both prefer open area habitats
 - D. They both have similar colorations

- 4. Which is NOT true?**
 - A. Two of the three bluebirds live in the same kinds of habitats
 - B. Two of the three bluebirds live primarily in the western part of North America
 - C. All three sometimes nest in tree cavities
 - D. All three will catch insects in flight

- 5. Which could be a title for this passage?**
 - A. Bluebirds of the Western United States
 - B. Comparing and Contrasting the Three Bluebirds Species
 - C. Bluebird Conservation
 - D. Attracting Bluebirds to Your Yard

Manute Bol Reading Comprehension **Name** _____

Manute Bol was the tallest player in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA). At 7'7" Bol towered over even the tallest players in the NBA. Born in the African nation of Sudan, Bol's mother was said to be nearly seven feet tall and his father was 6'8" tall. Bol claimed his great grandfather was 7'10" tall! Bol played soccer as a child but switched to basketball at age 15 when he grew too tall for soccer.

Bol came to the United States in 1993. He played college basketball at Bridgeport State University in Connecticut where he averaged 22.5 points per game, 13.5 rebounds, and 7.1 blocks. In 1985, Bol was drafted by the Washington Bullets in the second round. Although he did not finish college, Bol said he entered the draft to earn enough money to ensure his sister could leave war-torn Sudan. Interestingly, in 1987, the Bullets drafted the 5'3" point guard Muggsy Bogues, resulting in the NBA's tallest player in history playing at the same time as the NBA's shortest player in history.

As a player, Bol was limited by his lack of mobility and strength and never became a force on offense. Bol did, however, excel on defense. Bol once blocked eleven shots in a single half, and twice blocked eight shots in a single quarter. In a game against the Orlando Magic in 1992, Bol blocked shots on four consecutive possessions. In his career, Bol blocked 2,086 shots and is the only player in NBA history to have more blocked shots than points scored. He retired from the NBA in 1995 after suffering a knee injury.

Over the course of his basketball career, Bol contributed nearly all of his earnings to Sudanese causes and advocated Sudan-related causes. He was well-respected by his teammates and was said to be a practical joker. He forged close friendships with NBA stars Charles Barkley and Chris Mullin. On July 10, 2006, Bol died of kidney failure. He left behind ten children. One of his sons, Bol Bol, is considered a top college basketball recruit and plays for the Oregon Ducks (as of 2018).

1. Which of the following is listed from tallest to shortest?

- A. Manute Bol >> Manute's great grandfather >> Manute's mother
- B. Manute's great grandfather >> Manute's mother >> Manute Bol
- C. Manute's great grandfather >> Manute Bol >> Manute's mother
- D. Manute's great grandfather >> Manute's father >> Manute's mother

- 2. Why did Manute Bol enter the NBA draft?**
- A. Because he didn't want to finish college
 - B. Because he wanted to play for the Washington Bullets
 - C. Because he needed money to help his sister escape from Sudan
 - D. Because he thought he'd become a big star
- 3. Which would be an accurate description of Manute Bol's professional basketball career?**
- A. Manute was a highly effective offensive player and defender
 - B. Although Manute was not effective as a defender, he was very effective as an offensive player
 - C. Although Manute was not effective as an offensive player, he was highly effective as a defender
 - D. Manute was neither effective as an offensive player or defender
- 4. For which of the following questions would "because he was too tall" be the answer?**
- A. Why did Manute Bol retire from basketball?
 - B. How did Manue Bol die?
 - C. What was Manute Bol ineffective as a basketball player?
 - D. Why did Manute Bol quit soccer?
- 5. Which of the following made Manute Bol unique among NBA players?**
- A. He was very tall
 - B. He did not finish college
 - C. He averaged 22.5 points per game in college
 - D. He finished his career with more blocks than points
- 6. Which of the words used in the third paragraph means "ability to move?"**
- A. mobility
 - B. consecutive
 - C. possessions
 - D. retired
- 7. Which is NOT true about Manute Bol?**
- A. He played with the shortest player in NBA history
 - B. Manute's mother was taller than his father
 - C. Sadly, Manute died of kidney disease in 2006
 - D. Manute's son, Bol Bol, plays in the NBA

The Legend

Paul Bunyan is a fictional, giant lumberjack in American lore. Said to have been born with a full beard, Paul Bunyan could fell a dozen trees with a single swing of his oversized ax and could outperform “machines” that, at the time, threatened the livelihood of lumberjacks. Together, with his 5,000-pound blue ox named Babe, whose footsteps allegedly became Minnesota’s 10,000 lakes, the legendary pair accomplished superhuman feats that involved clearing the land of trees. Most of the tales involved the oversized Bunyan and his ox fighting fearsome creatures, clearing wide swaths of land, or fighting off severe weather. The tale of Paul Bunyan was similar to other folktales of the time that involved the settlement, growth, or industrialization of America such as those of John Henry and Johnny Appleseed.

The History

The legend of Paul Bunyan was thought to have been born in the lumber camps of Minnesota in the late 1800s, though some historians insist the legend of Paul Bunyan is nothing more than “fakelore,” a literary invention that claims to be authentic folklore. Paul Bunyan was first mentioned in print in the *Duluth News Tribune* in 1904. His legend grew as part of a promotional campaign for the Red River Lumber Company. In 1958, Disney produced the successful musical *Paul Bunyan*, making him a household name.

Was he Real?

Historians are not in agreement whether or not Paul Bunyan, as a regular human actually existed. Some believe Paul Bunyan was born from a tough French-Canadian logger nicknamed “Saginaw Joe.” Others believe he was derived from a different logger named Bon Jean and that Paul Bunyan was born from the merging of the legends of Saginaw Joe and Bon Jean. Whether he existed or not, the spirit of Paul Bunyan and his ox live on. Numerous “larger-than-life” statues of the pair exist today, including a 49-foot-tall Paul Bunyan in California.

1. Which is true about Paul Bunyan?

- A. He was a huge lumberjack that could do unimaginable things
- B. He was part of a folktale that explained how America was settled
- C. He was a French-Canadian logger
- D. He was an invention made up by the Red River Lumber Company

- 2. Which of the following would not be included in the story of Paul Bunyan?**
- A. Paul and Babe chopping down trees and clearing the land
 - B. Paul and Babe fighting off tornados
 - C. Paul and Babe fighting off deadly wildlife
 - D. Paul and Babe using modern machinery of their time
- 3. What would folktales involving John Henry, Johnny Appleseed, and Paul Bunyan have in common?**
- A. They all are folktales that involves animals
 - B. They all are folktales that lumberjacks
 - C. They all are modern folktales
 - D. They are folktales about America's development
- 4. Paul Bunyan...**
- A. may or may not be modeled from an actual person or people
 - B. was a "faketale."
 - C. first appeared in a Disney movie in 1958.
 - D. was first mentioned in a lumber company promotional campaign.
- 5. For which of the following could "Saginaw Joe" be the answer?**
- A. Who was Paul Bunyan?
 - B. Was Paul Burney a real person?
 - C. Who was one of the lumberjacks Paul Bunyan may have been modeled after?
 - D. Which of Bon Jean's friends was Paul Bunyan modeled after?
- 6. Which of the following could replace "merging of" in the following sentence?**

Others believe he was derived from a different logger named Bon Jean and that Paul Bunyan was born from the merging of the legends of Saginaw Joe and Bon Jean.

- A. explanation of
- B. combination of
- C. result of
- D. positioning of

7. What is a “household name” as used in the sentence below?

In 1958, Disney produced the successful musical *Paul Bunyan*, making him a household name.

- A. Someone everybody has heard of
- B. Someone people who live in houses have heard of
- C. Someone who owns one or more houses
- D. Someone who some homeowners have heard of

Market Street Catacombs

Beneath the bustling Indianapolis City Market are the catacombs of Tomlinson Hall - a complex of passageways, tunnels, and arches made of brick and limestone, originally built in 1886 beneath the hall. Tomlinson Hall was a massive building and centerpiece of the city market. It could hold over 3,500 people! The catacombs were used by workers of the City Market to transport and store goods to be sold in the market. The underground spaces allowed refrigerated goods to stay cooler than they would above ground, thus preserving them longer. Tomlinson Hall burned down in January of 1958. City workers cleared out the debris, leaving the limestone and brick structures in place. The catacombs were never utilized again and Tomlinson Hall would never be rebuilt.

The Market Street Catacombs span twenty-thousand square feet, and remain mostly intact more than one hundred years after they were built. These catacombs are one of a dozen catacomb sites in the United States. Though they are not open directly to the public, visitors can schedule appointments with tour guides. The site is becoming increasingly well-known in Indianapolis.

- 1. What was the primary use of the catacombs before they were abandoned?**
 - A. To hide items and goods to be sold later
 - B. To store and preserve food items
 - C. To preserve the limestone arches and tunnels
 - D. To showcase the history of Indianapolis

- 2. What happened after Tomlinson Hall burned down?**
 - A. The catacombs were cleared away
 - B. The city market closed down
 - C. The catacombs were left in place
 - D. Tomlinson Hall was rebuilt

3. What word could replace “intact” in the following sentence?

The Market Street Catacombs span twenty thousand square feet, and remain mostly intact more than one hundred years after they were built.

- A. Old
- B. Damaged
- C. Undamaged
- D. New

4. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. How can visitors explore the catacombs?
- B. Where in the United States are other catacomb sites?
- C. What happened to Tomlinson Hall in 1886?
- D. How many people visit the catacombs?

5. Which is NOT true about Tomlinson Hall?

- A. It could hold 3,500 people
- B. It was the centerpiece of the Indianapolis City Market
- C. The site is becoming increasingly well-known within the city of Indianapolis
- D. It was rebuilt after the 1958 fire

Cawker City Ball of Twine

Tiny Cawker City, Kansas, is home to the world's largest ball of twine. It was dedicated to the city in 1961 by the creator of the ball, Frank Stoeber. Stoeber began his mission in 1953. After four years, his prodigious ball of twine grew to eight feet tall and weighed over 5,000 pounds.

Over time, Stoeber's ball became part of the Cawker City community. Throughout Cawker City, businesses honor the ball of twine with paintings and murals. Sidewalks in the town are painted with a twine stripe path that leads to the site of the world's largest twine ball. Even windows depict recreations of the story of Frank Stoeber and his ball of twine! Every year, Cawker City holds a "twine-a-thon" in August, where people can visit the giant ball and add their own twine to the creation. The ball continues to grow as each twine-a-thon is held, although there is twine ball competition in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Missouri. In September of 2013, the Cawker City ball of twine was reported to weigh almost twenty thousand pounds. It is one of the most popular attractions in all of Kansas.

- 1.) The ball of twine plays a _____ role in the Cawker City community.**
- a.) minor
 - b.) favorite
 - c.) general
 - d.) significant

2.) What does the word “prodigious” mean as used in the following sentence?

After four years, his prodigious ball of twine grew to eight feet tall and weighed over 5,000 pounds.

- a.) huge
- b.) important
- c.) visible
- d.) round

3.) What is the EFFECT of each twine-a-thon as stated in the passage?

- a.) More people learn about Cawker City
- b.) The legend of Frank Stoeber grows
- c.) the ball of twine increases in size
- d.) other cities and towns start their own balls of twine

4.) What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) What is a twine-a-thon?
- b.) What did Frank Stoeber do for a living?
- c.) How does the community of Cawker City honor the great ball of twine?
- d.) How much did the ball of twine weigh in 2013?

5.) Which of the following is true?

- a.) There is competition for the world’s largest ball of twine in every state
- b.) Sidewalks in Cawker City are painted with a twine-striped path.
- c.) Each year, Cawker City holds its twine-a-thon in June
- d.) The ball of twine in Missouri grew larger than the Cawker City ball

Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland was named for General Moses Cleaveland, a surveyor for the Connecticut Land Company, who formulated plans for the city's public square. The city grew rapidly after the completion of the Erie and Ohio Canal in 1832. It was incorporated as a city in 1836. Cleveland became a key point between the Great Lakes and Ohio River and a major manufacturing and steel producing center. John D. Rockefeller started his legendary company, Standard Oil, in Cleveland in 1870. By 1950, the city was the fifth largest in the nation.

Today, Cleveland is a vibrant city (though it is now the 36th largest in the nation). It is home to the Rock 'n' Roll Hall-of-Fame and several major corporations including National City and Sherwin Williams. Cleveland is a major center for medical research. The Cleveland Clinic is regarded as one of the nation's top medical research and treatment facilities. The clinic cared for over three million patients in 2012.

1. When did Cleveland start to grow rapidly?

- A. When it was incorporated as a city
- B. When it was surveyed by General Moses Cleaveland
- C. After the Completion of the Erie and Ohio Canal.
- D. After the construction of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall-of-Fame

2. The first paragraph presents information...

- A. by cause and effect.
- B. chronologically.
- C. in the form of a biography.
- D. by comparing and contrasting.

3. Which of the following are contrasting statistics about Cleveland?

- A. The completion of the Erie and Ohio Canal and the year in which Cleveland started growing.
- B. Its ranking terms of America's largest cities in 1950 and today
- C. The Cleveland Clinic and its number of patients treated in 2012
- D. John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil

4. Based on the tone of the final paragraph, which of the following best describes how the author feels about Cleveland?

- A. Indifferent
- B. Positive
- C. Negative
- D. Bored

5. Which of the following is NOT true about Cleveland?

- A. It was once the fifth largest city but is now the 36th
- B. It is home to major corporations
- C. It is a major hub for medical research
- D. Moses Cleaveland started his legendary company in Cleveland in 1870

The Desert of Maine

The state of Maine is well known for its lush wilderness, boreal forests, and crystal lakes. Less known, however, is the “the Desert of Maine,” an area among the boreal forests in Freeport, Maine, on Desert Road. Although it is not technically a desert, the Desert of Maine is a forty-acre space of overgrazed farmland. The history of the land dates back hundreds of years to the Tuttle family, who apparently used the land to grow potatoes.

William Tuttle purchased the plot of land in 1797. By the late 1800s, the land had dried because decades of cultivating potatoes, without the rotation of crops, had robbed the soil of its nutrients. In addition, the land was further depleted by the grazing of the Tuttle’s flock of sheep. These two factors created an unnatural, desert-like terrain that rendered the land totally useless. The Tuttle family abandoned the plot in 1919. Eventually, great dunes formed from glacial silt that had been uncovered from the degradation of the soil. Today, the Desert of Maine is a popular tourist attraction, complete with a gift shop, sand museum, and farm museum.

1. Why did William Tuttle’s land become a “desert”?

- A. It was located on Desert Toad
- B. It was in the midst of boreal forests
- C. The soil lost its nutrients
- D. The Tuttle family abandoned its plot

2. What does the phrase “not technically a desert” suggest?

- A. The land doesn’t actually fit the definition of a real desert
- B. The land is real desert but isn’t located where most deserts are
- C. Although the land is a real desert, it may not appear that way to some people
- D. The land may or may not be a real desert

3. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. The dunes are made of glacial silt rather than sand
- B. The “desert of Maine” has its own gift shop
- C. The rotation of crops is one reason the land became useless
- D. The Tuttle family once used the land to grow potatoes

4. What word could replace “rendered” in the following sentence?

These two factors created an unnatural, desert-like terrain that rendered the land totally useless.

- A. Cut
- B. Made
- C. Said
- D. Swayed

5. The grazing sheep...

- A. had no impact on the land.
- B. contributed to the land losing its nutrients.
- C. contributed to the usefulness of the land.
- D. allowed for the rotation of the crops.

Great Barrier Reef Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Great Barrier Reef, located off of the northeastern coast of Australia, is the world's largest coral reef. It is a living system of over 900 islands and 3,000 reefs. A reef is an underwater ridge of rock or coral close to the surface of the water.

Most of the Great Barrier Reef is protected as part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef Park. It is the second largest protected sea area in the world. Thousands of ocean species live in the reef including over thirty kinds of dolphins and whales, six kinds of sea turtles, and over 500 kinds of coral. Unfortunately, the future of the reef is uncertain. Global warming and water pollution are the major threats to its continued existence.

1. Which of the following is true about the Great Barrier Reef?

- A. It contains 300 reefs
- B. It is a living system
- C. It contains 90 islands
- D. It is the largest protected sea area in the world

2. Circle all of the following that are threats to the Great Barrier Reef.

- A. Sharks
- B. Pollution
- C. Global Warming
- D. Coral

3. All reefs...

- A. have dolphins and whales.
- B. are threatened by human activity.
- C. are close to the surface of the water.
- D. are located in Australia.

4. What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. How many reefs make up the Great Barrier Reef?
- B. What kind of sea animals live in the Great Barrier Reef?
- C. What is the world's largest coral reef?
- D. What is the largest protected sea area in the world?

Great Lakes

The Great Lakes are located in the northern United States and southern Canada. Together, they are the largest group of freshwater lakes in the world and contain over 20 percent of the world's entire supply of fresh water. The largest of the lakes, Lake Superior, is the second largest freshwater lake in the world. Lake Michigan is the only of the five lakes located entirely within the United States. The Great Lakes were formed from retreating glaciers that left large basins in the land about 14,000 years ago. The basins were filled with meltwater from the glaciers, thus forming the lakes.

The Great Lakes

Lake Superior – The largest of the great lakes is nearly the size of the state of Virginia. Lake Superior is about 350 miles long. It has an average depth of about 483 feet and a maximum depth of 1,333 feet. Duluth, Minnesota, is its largest port.

Lake Michigan – Lake Michigan is the only great lake located entirely within the United States. It is about 307 miles long. It has an average depth of 283 feet and a maximum depth of 923 feet. Its major ports are Chicago, Illinois, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lake Huron – Lake Huron is the second-largest of the Great Lakes. It is about 206 miles long and 183 miles wide. On average, it's 195 feet deep with a maximum depth of 750 feet. The lake contains more than 30,000 islands and thus, has more shoreline than any other great lake.

Lake Erie – Lake Erie is the second-smallest of the Great Lakes. It is also the shallowest and has the least amount of water of any of the lakes. Its deepest point is only 210 feet. Its major ports include Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio, and Buffalo, New York.

Lake Ontario – Lake Ontario is the smallest of the Great Lakes. It serves as the outlet of the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence Seaway, and thus, the Atlantic Ocean. Its major ports include Toronto, Ontario, and Rochester, New York

- 1. What do all of the Great Lakes have in common?**
 - A. They all have parts that are more than 500 feet deep
 - B. They are all split between the United States and Canada
 - C. They were all formed by retreating glaciers
 - D. They all have major ports

- 2. Which of the following is true?**
 - A. Lake Erie is smaller than Lake Ontario
 - B. Lake Huron is totally within the borders of the United States
 - C. Lake Huron has more shoreline than any other of the Great Lakes
 - D. Chicago is one of Lake Superior's major ports

- 3. Which of the following orders the Great Lakes from largest to smallest?**
 - A. Superior >> Michigan >> Huron >> Ontario >> Erie
 - B. Michigan >> Superior >> Ontario >> Huron >> Erie
 - C. Superior >> Huron >> Erie >> Michigan >> Ontario
 - D. Superior >> Huron >> Michigan >> Erie >> Ontario

- 4. Which of the following best describes how the Great Lakes were formed?**
 - A. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that advanced
 - B. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then melted
 - C. The Great Lakes were formed by glaciers that retreated and then froze again
 - D. The Great Lakes were formed 14,000 years ago

- 5. Which of the following best describes the chart?**
 - A. It gives opinions about the Great Lakes
 - B. It tells the history of the Great Lakes
 - C. It tells a few facts about each of the Great Lakes
 - D. It tells about how the Great Lakes are used today

The Miracle of the Gulls – the Story of how the California’s Gull became Utah’s state bird
Name _____

Mormon settlers led by Brigham Young settled in Utah’s Salt Lake Valley in 1847. They had settled in Utah to practice their religion without the persecution and violence they had experienced in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois.

In the late spring of 1848, after the Mormons had settled the land and built their homes, they were attacked by a terrible swarm of katydids that were nicknamed “Mormon Crickets.” The flightless crickets emerged by the millions on the Mormon settlement and threatened to destroy the crops that sustained the settlers. The Settlers were powerless to stop the winged destroyers and turned to prayers and fasting. According to legend, their prayers were answered. A flock of thousands of California gulls appeared from the west and tenaciously feasted on the katydids until the entire horde was consumed over a two-week period. The grateful Mormons henceforth held the gulls in high esteem. Eventually, the California gull was honored as the state bird of Utah and a statue was built to honor the birds in downtown Salt Lake City. The gulls had saved the harvest of the 4,000 settlers.

Truth or Hyperbole?

While elements of the “Miracle of the Gulls” may have been true, the story could be “too good to be true” according to William G. Hartley, author of the novel published in 1992: *New Mormon History*. According to Hartley, the cricket plague was well-established in Utah in 1848 and by the time the gulls had reached the Mormon settlement the damage had already been done. Even if there was a large flock of gulls feeding on the crickets, it might have helped the situation but would not have prevented the destruction of the crops. Furthermore, the event was hardly unique as California Gulls live in colonies on the Great Salt Lake and are known to feast on insect hordes far from water.

Whether the legend is true or embellished, it is still the subject of conversation and debate today and the California gull remains the state bird of Utah.

1. Why were the Mormons in Utah?

- A. To grow crops
- B. To escape religious persecution
- C. To own land
- D. To honor the California gull

2. Which of the following IS NOT true about the insects that attacked the settlement?

- A. They could fly great distances
- B. They came by the millions
- C. They were called “Mormon Crickets” but were actually katydids
- D. They threatened to destroy the entire harvest

3. Why might have the “Miracle of the Gulls” story been “too good to be true?”

- A. Because damage had already been done to the crops before the gulls arrived
- B. Because the gulls themselves would have done damage to the crops
- C. Because California gulls only occur near water
- D. Because California gulls do not live in Utah

4. What does the word “embellished” mean as used in the following sentence?

Whether the legend is true or embellished, it is still the subject of conversation and debate today and the California gull remains the state bird of Utah.

- A. downplay
- B. validate
- C. minimize
- D. exaggerate

5. Which of the following is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. How long did it take the gulls to dispose of all of the katydids?
- B. Why did the Mormons settle in Utah?
- C. Do California gulls venture to areas without water?
- D. What year was the California gull made Utah’s state bird?

6. Which of the following is likely true about William G. Hartley?

- A. He was in Utah in 1848
- B. He is an expert on the history of the Mormons
- C. He is an expert on gulls
- D. He is an expert on the wildlife of the Great Salt Lake

7. William G. Hartley believed...

- A. the gulls may have helped the situation, but the crops were likely damaged or destroyed anyway.
- B. that the story is fiction and there was never a massive horde of katydids that destroyed Mormon crops.
- C. that California gulls never visited the Mormon settlement in Utah.
- D. that the “miracle of the gulls” was a unique event in Utah history.

Holy Land, Connecticut

Holy Land USA was a Christian theme park that was open in Waterbury, Connecticut from 1958 to 1984. Though it wasn't open for a long period of time in comparison to other theme parks, Holy Land USA attracted many visitors. At the height of its popularity, the park had over forty thousand visitors a year. It was famous for its "Holy Land USA" sign that resembled the Hollywood sign, and a fifty-six-foot steel cross that was lit up at night.

The idea for Holy Land USA came from John Baptist Greco, an attorney in Waterbury, in the 1950s. The park would resemble Bethlehem and include religious exhibits, such as the Garden of Eden and life events of Jesus Christ.

The theme park closed in 1984 to start an expansion, but John Baptist Greco passed away in 1986 while renovations were underway. The project was never completed. Holy Land USA was then passed to the Religious Sisters of Filippini, who used it to hold prayer meetings. As the years went by, the park fell into disrepair and could not be sold. In 2013, the mayor of Waterbury partnered with a car dealer to purchase Holy Land USA for three-hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

1. Why did Holy Land USA close in 1984?

- A. To expand
- B. It went out of business
- C. It was purchased for \$350,000
- D. It fell into disrepair

2. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. How many people visited Holy Land?
- B. What kind of exhibits would the park include?
- C. What happened after the park was sold?
- D. What kinds of rides would the park include?

3. Which of the following points supports the idea that Holy Land was popular?

- A. It had a fifty-six-foot-tall steel cross
- B. It has a large Holy Land USA sign that resembled the Hollywood sign
- C. The park was founded in the 1950s by an attorney
- D. 40,000 people visited the park per year

4. Which of the following words could replace “renovations” in the following sentence?

The theme park closed in 1984 to start an expansion, but John Baptist Greco passed away in 1986 while renovations were underway.

- A. Improvements
- B. Payments
- C. Movements
- D. Situations

5. What happened first?

- A. The park fell into disrepair
- B. John Baptist Greco died
- C. 1985
- D. The mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut teamed up with a car dealer to turn the park into a dealership

Thomas Jefferson Reading Comprehension

Thomas Jefferson was born April 13, 1743, in Albemarle County, Virginia. When he was 14, he inherited his father's estate and slaves. Soon after, Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary.

In 1769, when he was just 26, Jefferson was elected to the Virginia House of Representatives. The following year, he married Martha Wayles Skelton. In 1772, Jefferson began building his home, Monticello.

As a member of the Second Continental Congress, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence in 1776. In 1779, he was elected as governor of Virginia. Although he resigned in 1781, during his term as governor, Jefferson wrote his famous Statute for Religious Freedom. Jefferson's writings also formed the basis of the Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787. From 1785–1789, Jefferson served as minister to France. In 1789, George Washington appointed him secretary of state.

Due to political differences concerning the role of the government with other cabinet members, Jefferson resigned as secretary of state in 1793. Jefferson next ran for president but was defeated in 1796 by John Adams. Nevertheless, he was appointed vice president. Although Jefferson and Aaron Burr received equal electoral votes for presidency, Jefferson was elected president by the House of Representatives in 1800. During Jefferson's presidency, both the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition occurred. Jefferson served two presidential terms. He later established the University of Virginia. He died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Coincidentally, John Adams died on the same day.

1.) When was Thomas Jefferson born?

- a.) 1734
- b.) 1743
- c.) 1473
- d.) 1762

2.) Which of the following documents was Thomas Jefferson not involved with?

- a.) Declaration of Independence
- b.) Statute on Religious Freedom
- c.) Ordinance of 1784
- d.) Ordinance of 1786

3.) Thomas Jefferson served as minister to what country? _____

4.) Why did Thomas Jefferson resign as secretary of state?

- a.) Political differences between cabinet members.
- b.) He was about to be president.
- c.) He had to write the Declaration of Independence.
- d.) He was fired.

5.) Which of the following did Thomas Jefferson not serve as before he was president?

- a.) vice president
- b.) governor
- c.) senator
- d.) secretary of state

6.) When was Thomas Jefferson defeated in the presidential election?

- a.) Before he wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- b.) Before he was minister to France.
- c.) After he was minister to France.
- d.) 1792

7.) The _____ Purchase occurred during Jefferson's presidency.

8.) What happened last?

- a.) Jefferson was elected president.
- b.) Jefferson founded the University of Virginia.
- c.) The Lewis and Clark Expedition
- d.) John Adams died.

9.) When did Jefferson write the Statute for Religious Freedom?

- a.) While he was governor
- b.) When he was 26
- c.) While he was vice president
- d.) Before he wrote the Declaration of Independence

10.) What does "inherited" mean?

- a.) Given away in a will
- b.) Received from a will
- c.) Taken over
- d.) Destroyed

Judaculla Rock, located in the mountains of western North Carolina, features some of North America's oldest petroglyphs. Some estimates date the petroglyphs back 2,000-5,000 years. The rock was first discovered before the age of colonization by the Cherokee, who regarded it as sacred. The Cherokee believed the symbols on the rock were born from Judaculla, a slant-eyed giant mentioned in Cherokee folklore, who jumped from one mountain to the other and landed on the rock. The symbol was said to be an imprint of his seven-fingered hand. European settlers that came across the rock and the surrounding fields regarded the land with superstition. Needless to say, false rumors sprang up of mythical creatures that lived near Judaculla Rock, such as demons and a giant snake.

The origins of Judaculla Rock's carvings are still unknown. The meanings of the hundreds of petroglyphs remain unknown as well. The rock contains at least ten figures, various circles, deer tracks, claws, arcs, and even a winged shape. The rock has three times as many petroglyphs as any other rock discovered east of the Mississippi River.

1.) Based on the age estimates concerning the petroglyphs, what conclusion could you make?

- a.) Scientists know exactly how old the petroglyphs are
- b.) Scientists are fairly sure they know how old the petroglyphs are
- c.) Scientists are fairly unsure of the exact age of the petroglyphs
- d.) Scientists have no idea how old the petroglyphs are

2.) What is Judaculla Rock named for?

- a.) Various figures
- b.) The Cherokee
- c.) A giant with a seven-fingered hand
- d.) A giant snake

3.) If you were to look at Judaculla Rock, what would you NOT see?

- a.) Claws
- b.) Deer tracks
- c.) Figures
- d.) Stars

4.) Judaculla Rock....

- a.) features more petroglyphs than any other rock in America
- b.) features more petroglyphs than any other rock discovered east of the Mississippi River
- c.) is home to unusual creatures such as giant snake
- d.) is located on the plains of North Carolina

5.) What word or phrase could replace “needless to say” in the following sentence?

Needless to say, false rumors sprang up of mythical creatures that lived near Judaculla Rock, such as demons and a giant snake.

- a.) Unfortunately
- b.) Not Surprisingly
- c.) Tentatively
- d.) Carefully

Colleen King Reading Comprehension – Creator of Math Playground

Name _____

Colleen King was born in Brooklyn, New York, where she spent the first five years of her childhood. After her two younger siblings arrived, Colleen's family moved to Long Island. Colleen had a large extended family there and spent her summer vacations and holidays with cousins, aunts, and uncles. Growing up near the ocean, Colleen quickly became a strong swimmer and even learned how to surf.

Music was an important part of Colleen's childhood. At the age of 7, she taught herself how to play the guitar although she secretly longed to be a drummer. Colleen did well in school and was especially fond of her math classes. She enjoyed computing numbers in her head and was very good at estimating the number of jelly beans, pennies, or gum drops in a jar. Colleen majored in Biochemistry at Hofstra University and completed three years of graduate work in Chemistry. Math was essential to her research along the way.

While working in biotech, Colleen met her future husband, Tom. Tom was a high school teacher whose classroom stories inspired her to change her career. Together, Tom and Colleen founded a math and science school in 1997. Once in the classroom, Colleen made it her mission to create engaging math lessons for her students. Impressed with the progress her students made, Colleen wondered if she could create a similar learning environment online.

In 2002, Colleen launched Math Playground and invited students to play with numbers. Her first game was a role playing adventure about a boy named Astro whose toy rocket would take him into space. Colleen went on to create dozens of math games to teach children about place value, number operations, fractions, geometry, and algebra. Colleen developed games that provided immersive learning experiences where children could be X Detectives, Penguin Pals, or Candy Cashiers.

In 2018, Math Playground celebrated its 16th year online. Today, Colleen works full-time at Math Playground and continues to design original math games for children. In her spare time, Colleen volunteers at a local food pantry, plays drums in a rock band, and supports a number of humanitarian causes. She lives with her family and two golden retrievers in Massachusetts.

- 1. Which question about Colleen is NOT answered in the first paragraph?**
 - A. How many siblings did Colleen have?
 - B. Did Colleen have any brothers?
 - C. How long did Colleen live in Brooklyn for?
 - D. What skills did Colleen learn from living in Long Island?

- 2. Which of the following details supports the fact that Colleen had unusual talent in math?**
 - A. Even at a young age, Colleen could make accurate estimates of the number of jellybeans in a jar
 - B. Colleen's husband was a high school math teacher
 - C. Colleen taught herself to play the guitar
 - D. Colleen made a role-playing adventure game about a boy named Astro

- 3. What question led to the creation of Math Playground?**
 - A. Should I change my career?
 - B. Can my students learn math on the computer?
 - C. Should I become a math teacher?
 - D. Could I create engaging math experiences online?

- 4. Which of the following best explains why Colleen changed her career?**
 - A. Colleen decided she wanted to create a popular math website
 - B. Stories from her husband's classroom experiences proved inspirational
 - C. She decided to help build a math and science school
 - D. She had already accomplished everything she hoped for in biochemistry

- 5. Which of the following MOST SPECIFICALLY describes the types of games available on Math Playground?**
 - A. Role-playing learning games
 - B. Role-playing math adventure games
 - C. Role-playing adventure games
 - D. Place value and fractions games

- 6. What information is OMITTED from the passage?**
 - A. How long has Math Playground been online?
 - B. What does Colleen do besides work on Math Playground?
 - C. What does the future hold for Math Playground?
 - D. Where does Colleen live currently?

- 7. If Colleen added information about the growth of Math Playground's audience, what paragraph could that information be added to?**
- A. First
 - B. Second
 - C. Third
 - D. Fourth

Mackinac Island is located on Lake Huron, between Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas. The 3.8 square mile-long island has been a popular tourist attraction and summer getaway since the late 1800s. In 1898, motor vehicles were banned from the island because of safety considerations for the island's residents and their horses. While nearby communities gradually dissolved the laws prohibiting motor vehicles, Mackinac Island remains a car-free island. Residents of the island travel by foot, bicycle, or horse. Visitors can reach the island by ferry, airplane, or in winter, via snowmobile over an ice bridge! Many visitors stay at the world famous Grand Hotel, which has hosted five presidents.

Mackinac Island is a National Historic Landmark and 80 percent of its land is part of the Mackinac Island State Park. The park features more than seventy miles of trails. Bogs, marshes, fields, and boreal forests can be found within the park. Mackinac Island is home to Fort Mackinac, a British fort that was originally built during the Revolutionary War. The fort played an important role in the War of 1812, where two separate battles were fought for control over it.

1.) In contrast to nearby communities...

- a.) Mackinac Island now allows cars
- b.) Mackinac Island always allowed cars
- c.) Mackinac Island still does not allow cars
- d.) Mackinac Island does not allow horses

2.) What question is answered in the first paragraph?

- a.) Why were cars not allowed on Mackinac Island?
- b.) How many miles of trails are found in Mackinac Island State Park?
- c.) What battles occurred on Mackinac Island?
- d.) What kind of animals live on Mackinac Island?

3.) What does the word “banned” mean in the following sentence?

In 1898, motor vehicles were banned from the island because of safety considerations for the island’s residents and their horses.

- a.) Allowed
- b.) Encouraged
- c.) Registered
- d.) Disallowed

4.) Which of the following IS NOT true?

- a.) The Grand Hotel has hosted five presidents
- b.) Marshes, bogs, and boreal forests are found on the island
- c.) Fort Mackinac was built during the War of 1812
- d.) Residents can get to Mackinac Island during the winter via snowmobile

5.) Which of the following is an effect of the 1898 law that prohibited motor vehicles on the island?

- a.) The island has bogs, marshes, and boreal forests
- b.) The island’s residents found alternative methods of transportation
- c.) The Grand Hotel was built on Mackinac Island
- d.) The entire island was made a National Historic Landmark

Mockingbird



If you live anywhere in the southern two-thirds of the United States, the mockingbird is likely a familiar sight. While the mockingbird is certainly a handsome bird, it's not its looks that make it remarkable, but rather, its incredible vocal repertoire. The mockingbird is one of the most prolific songsters in the avian world. It can "sing" for hours on end from conspicuous perches on rooftops, telephone wires, or exposed branches. A clue to what really makes it unique among birds, however, is embedded in its name! Not only can it imitate the songs of other birds such as blue jays, killdeer, cardinals, and robins, but it can make "expert" imitations of car alarms, whistles, dogs barking, cats meowing, or any other range of everyday sounds. Often times, the mockingbird mixes in everyday sounds with its own warbles and calls, producing a bizarre chain of auditory wonders.

The mockingbird has actually played a role in American history. America's third president, Thomas Jefferson kept a mockingbird he named "Dick" as a pet. "Dick" was thought to be the first pet to live in the White House. Jefferson was known to be extremely fond of his pet, which he considered to be a superior to other birds. In the quote below, Jefferson congratulates a friend who had identified a mockingbird in her yard.

I sincerely congratulate you on the arrival of the Mocking bird. Learn all the children to venerate it as a superior being in the form of a bird, or as a being which will haunt them if any harm is done to itself or it's eggs. I shall hope that the multiplication of the cedar in the neighborhood, and of trees and shrubs round the house, will attract more of them: for they like to be in the neighborhood of our habitations, if they furnish cover."

In addition to Jefferson's admiration of the mockingbird, five southern states (Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Florida) claim the mockingbird as state bird.

As for the mockingbird itself, it is mostly gray with a long tail. It has bold white wing patches that flash while it is in flight. Mockingbirds often lives in suburban neighborhoods but usually avoid deep forests. They can be aggressive near their nests and will regularly dive-bomb cats, dogs, and even humans who approach to closely.

1. Which of the following would be an unusual observation?

- A. A mockingbird imitating a car horn
- B. A mockingbird singing within a thick forest
- C. A mockingbird singing for hours
- D. A mockingbird singing from an exposed branch

2. Which of the words in the following two sentences means “easily seen”?

The mockingbird is one of the most prolific songsters in the avian world. It can “sing” for hours on end from conspicuous perches on rooftops, telephone wires, or exposed branches.

- A. perches
- B. songsters
- C. prolific
- D. conspicuous

3. According to the author, what makes the mockingbird remarkable?

- A. Its appearance
- B. The fact that it can imitate a car alarm
- C. The incredible range of sounds it can make
- D. The fact that it is common in the southern two-thirds of the United States

4. What “warning” does Thomas Jefferson offer in his quote?

- A. Make sure your children learn about the mockingbird or else they might be haunted
- B. Do not plant cedar trees near a mockingbird’s nest
- C. Planting the wrong kinds of trees can hurt mockingbirds
- D. Harming a mockingbird or its eggs carries consequences

5. Which of the following supports the idea that the mockingbird is a popular bird?

- A. It is the state bird for five different states
- B. It lives in suburban neighborhoods
- C. It was the first pet to live in the White House
- D. Thomas Jefferson considered the mockingbird superior to other birds

6. Which is NOT true about mockingbirds?

- A. They have white wing patches
- B. Mockingbirds have long tails
- C. The mockingbird is the state bird of Arkansas
- D. Mockingbirds avoid places that humans live

7. According to Thomas Jefferson, what are the ways to attract mockingbirds to yards? Circle all that apply

- A. Plant trees and shrubs around the house
- B. Plant cedar trees in the neighborhood
- C. Provide cover
- D. Set up nesting boxes

Malware

Malware refers to a group of computer programs designed to work against the requirements of a user's computer for the purposes of causing harm. Those who spread malware are called "hackers." There are several different classes of malware. Malware is a significant problem throughout the world resulting in billions of dollars in damages to individuals and businesses every year. Below is a summary of some of the most common forms of malware.

Viruses – These are computer programs that replicate and modify other programs by inserting code. Viruses typically target individual computers.

Worm – A worm is a malicious program that replicates itself in order to spread to other computers, often in a single network. Worms target groups of connected computers on a network.

Trojan Horse – A Trojan horse is a malicious program designed to trick a user about its true intent. Trojan horses typically show up in e-mail attachments or drive-by downloads. They often create "backdoors" which allows the creator unauthorized access to a user's computer.

Ransomware – Ransomware is a malicious program that encrypts the files on a user's computer so they are unreadable. These files can only be retrieved if the user agrees to pay a ransom (usually in Bitcoin) within a specified amount of time to obtain a decryption key. Decryption without the key is impossible.

Spyware – Spyware is a type of malicious program covertly installed on a user's computer to collect important information such as credit card numbers or passwords.

Scareware – Scareware is a type of malicious program designed to scare people into buying unwanted programs such as anti-virus software. Scareware typically comes in the form of warnings or alerts that the user's computer is infected with a virus and the purchase of software is the only way to save the computer.

- 1. Which of the following malware programs is designed to spread from computer to computer on the same network?**
 - A. Trojan horse
 - B. Worm
 - C. Spyware
 - D. Virus

- 2. What is a “backdoor?”**
 - A. A program that shows the user false alerts
 - B. A program that demands payment
 - C. A method for a hacker to retain access to a user’s computer
 - D. A program that replicates itself and causes harm to a computer

- 3. What does a decryption key do?**
 - A. Allows a user to read his or her files again
 - B. Makes files unreadable
 - C. Allows a user to find the identity of a hacker
 - D. Collects information about users that can be seen by hackers

- 4. I got a message on my computer that reads “Your computer is infected! Purchase Tom’s Anti-Virus right now for \$69.99 to clean your computer.” I probably have:**
 - A. A backdoor
 - B. A worm
 - C. Scareware
 - D. Ransomware

- 5. I got an e-mail with the message “Download attachment to redeem \$5,000!” If I click, I would likely install a _____ on my computer.**
 - A. Trojan Horse
 - B. A worm
 - C. Scareware
 - D. Spyware

- 6. What is not true about ransomware?**
 - A. Files can sometimes be decrypted without a key
 - B. Hackers usually demand bitcoin payments
 - C. Users typically must pay within a certain time frame
 - D. Ransomware makes files unreadable

7. Juan found some suspicious charges on his credit card. Which of the following malware programs could be the culprit?

- A. Worm
- B. Trojan Horse
- C. Scareware
- D. Spyware

NARWHAL Reading Comprehension

The narwhal is a medium-size whale that lives in the Arctic region year-round. It is characterized by its single, straight tusk, which is actually an elongated canine (tooth) that grows to a length of ten feet. Normally, such tusks are unique to males. Occasionally, a male narwhal will have two tusks. The tusk functions as a sensory organ and is rarely, if ever, used for aggressive or defensive purposes. The narwhal itself can grow to about 18 feet in length, but most average about 13 feet. Narwhals can weigh up to 3,500 pounds.

The word “narwhal” comes from an old Norse (from Norway) word meaning “corpse.” The narwhal’s grayish, drab coloration reminded sailors of a dead body.

The narwhal feeds on Arctic fish such as cod and halibut, as well as shrimp and squid. Because narwhals lack teeth, it is thought that they swim toward their prey and suck it into their mouths.

Narwhals are a migratory species of whale. They migrate to shallow, ice-free coastal waters in the spring in pods (groups) of 10–100 individuals. In winter, they move to deeper waters under pack ice. Narwhals can dive to depths of over 2,500 feet and can stay underwater for 25 minutes or more. Their dives are among the deepest ever recorded for marine mammals. They use sonar to guide themselves through the murky depths.

Scientists believe there are about 75,000 narwhals living in the Arctic waters. Individuals in the wild can live up to 50 years. Narwhals are thought to be extremely sensitive to climate change and reduced pack ice in Arctic waters.

1.) **Based on the passage, which is the best definition for the word “migratory?”**

- a.) Something that travels
- b.) Something that stays in one place
- c.) Something that is rare
- d.) Something that hunts

2.) **If the answer to a question is “13 feet,” what is the question?**

- a.) How long can the narwhal grow?
- b.) What is the average length of a narwhal?
- c.) How long is the narwhal tusk?
- d.) How much longer is the male narwhal than the female?

3.) **The narwhal CANNOT...**

- a.) live up to 45 years.
- b.) grow to weigh more than 3,500 pounds.
- c.) grow to a length of 15 feet.
- d.) stay underwater for 20 minutes.

4.) **Based on the passage, which of the following might be harmful to the narwhal population?**

- a.) more sea ice
- b.) less sea ice
- c.) more polar bears
- d.) colder waters

5.) **What is the narwhal’s tusk used for?**

- a.) To scare off predators
- b.) As a sensory organ
- c.) To fight other narwhals
- d.) To hunt

6.) **Which of the following would not fit the PROFILE of a narwhal?**

- a.) A narwhal migrating to shallow waters in the spring
- b.) A narwhal using sonar
- c.) A narwhal swimming in icy waters
- d.) A narwhal using its teeth to tear prey

7.) **Which of the following words is an ANTONYM of “murky” as used in the following sentence:**

They use sonar to guide themselves through the murky depths.

- a.) clear
- b.) noisy
- c.) muddy
- d.) fast

8.) **The narwhal's tusk...**

- a.) is actually a long tooth.
- b.) is longer than its body.
- c.) is longer in females.
- d.) is the same size as its body.

9.) **Where would you find the answer to “What does the narwhal eat?”**

- a.) second paragraph
- b.) third paragraph
- c.) concluding paragraph
- d.) introductory paragraph

10.) **Where are narwhals in the winter?**

- a.) under pack ice in shallow waters
- b.) under pack ice in deep waters
- c.) in ice-free deep waters
- d.) in ice-free shallow waters

The Neptune Memorial Reef, located three miles off the coast of Key Biscayne, Florida, is an underwater representation of the lost city of Atlantis designed by local artist Kim Brandell. The Reef is both an underwater cemetery and an artificial reef. It is the world's largest man-made reef, spanning sixteen acres across the bottom of the ocean, forty feet below the surface. The "city" features a series of underwater roads that lead to a central feature with benches and statues. Currently there are nearly 250 people who have chosen to have their cremated remains buried in the reef.

The reef was specifically built to promote the growth of marine life. The underwater structures that characterize the Lost City promote the development of coral reefs. Recent studies have shown that the Lost City has succeeded in transforming a sea region with relatively little biological activity, to one with lots of life!

As a cemetery, the reef remains peaceful, with little boat activity above ground, save for families traveling to visit their loved ones. No fishing is permitted in or near the site. People who are dive certified are able to snorkel down to the reef and visit the site of a loved one's burial. The Lost City is free for all and attracts marine biologists, students, and scuba divers among others.

1. The Neptune Memorial Reef is not...

- A. open to the public.
- B. a cemetery.
- C. a representation of the Lost City
- D. popular with fisherman.

2. If something has “relatively” little biological activity, it has...

- A. none at all.
- B. actually, a lot.
- C. a small amount compared to similar areas.
- D. A medium amount.

3. Which of the following is confirmed in the second paragraph?

- A. Neptune Memorial Reef has brought more marine life to the area
- B. Snorkeling is allowed in the reef
- C. The city features underwater roads
- D. There are many structures in the reef

4. Which statistic concerns the size of the reef?

- A. It is located forty feet underwater
- B. The reef is a little more than three miles off the coast of Key Biscayne
- C. It is the world’s largest man-made reef
- D. The reef is free to visit

5. Which of the following IS NOT described in the passage?

- A. The appearance of the reef
- B. The location of the reef
- C. The depth of the reef
- D. The number of people who have visited the reef

Greg Nussbaum (Founder of MrNussbaum.com) Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Greg Nussbaum was born on August, 14, 1975, in St. Louis, Missouri. His father was a radiologist and his mother was a former special education teacher who stayed at home to raise him. In 1979, his brother, Scott was born in Tennessee. He grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and went to Shady Side Academy. He is a lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates fan.

From an early age, Greg loved copying presidential biographies from the World Book Encyclopedia. He was fascinated by American birds, which he learned from his father, and was an avid collector of stamps, sports cards, and toys from super market vending machines. He played soccer and tennis. In 1994, Greg was accepted to Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, where he majored in psychology. In 1997, he met his future wife, Clara. That same year, he took a child development class at Hamilton and gained his first experience inside a classroom at Clinton Elementary School. Following college, Greg planned on becoming a children's book author.

In 1999, Greg completed his Masters of Arts in Teaching at the University of Pittsburgh and was hired as a second grade teacher at Fairview Elementary School in Fairfax Station, Virginia. He quickly became a popular teacher for the fun games he invented with his second graders. While at Fairview, Greg bought his first HTML for Dummies book. HTML is the language used to make web pages. He was fascinated by HTML and began building mrnussbaum.com in 2003. At first the site was simply a way to post assignments and pictures of class activities for parents. When Greg realized that he could make many of the games he invented in the classroom into digital reality through web-based languages such as java script and software called Flash, everything changed. Cash Out, Tackle Math Ball, Coast to Coast, and GeoAmerica, were among the first games to be published on MrNussbaum.com. Greg came up with the concepts but hired Paul Burney, a web applications developer, to write the code and make the graphics. The games were big hits with his students and parents and soon word spread about mrnussbaum.com. In a few months, the site generated enough web traffic to attract advertisers. With advertising money, Greg started to hire programmers and graphic designers to make complex educational games such as Tony Fraction's Pizza Shop, Conquer the Continents, Genius Boxing, and eventually games such as the Lost Lunchbox and the Great American Multiplication Challenge. Meanwhile, Greg continued teaching and building the site's non-game content such as interactive maps, biographies, math drills, and reading comprehension exercises. In 2010, MrNussbaum.com achieved one million visitors in a month for the first time. It has become one of the world's most popular educational destinations for young students.

Today, MrNussbaum.com continues to grow and Greg continues to develop games and activities while teaching sixth grade full-time. He now teaches at White Oaks Elementary School in Burke, Virginia. He and Clara have two boys: William and Gabriel.

1. Which is NOT true about Greg Nussbaum?

- A. He lived in Tennessee
- B. He loved to collect things as a child
- C. He went to college in New York
- D. He always planned to become a teacher

2. When did Greg meet his future wife?

- A. In 1994
- B. After graduate school
- C. The same year he launched mrnussbaum.com
- D. During college

3. What is the significance of the HTML for Dummies book in Greg's life?

- A. It helped him to learn how to program computers
- B. It influenced him to create mrnussbaum.com
- C. It helped him learn to create games in the classroom
- D. It helped him learn to create complex computer games

4. Who was Paul Burney?

- A. A web applications developer who helped bring Greg's classroom games to digital reality
- B. A web applications developer who came up with the complicated concepts for games
- C. A web applications developer who helped Greg come up with game concepts
- D. A web applications developer who hired Greg to help create educational games

5. What question is answered in the third paragraph?

- A. How many visitors does mrnussbaum.com attract today?
- B. Does Paul Burney still develop games for mrnussbaum.com?
- C. Does Greg Nussbaum still teach at Fairview Elementary School?
- D. How did advertising money help in the development of mrnussbaum.com?

6. Greg...

- A. programmed many of the games on mrnussbaum.com.
- B. made most of the complex graphics on mrnussbaum.com.
- C. builds the site's math drills and reading comprehension exercises.
- D. continues to teach 5th grade in Virginia.

- 7. Which of the following best describes a turning point in Greg's life?**
- A. When he became a Pittsburgh Steelers fan
 - B. When he bought the HTML for Dummies book
 - C. When he thought he would become a children's book author
 - D. When he developed the site's non-game content such as reading comprehension exercises and math drills

Through most of America's history, African-Americans have enjoyed less rights and freedoms than White Americans. In the 1900's, a practice called "segregation" was common in America, particularly in the Southern United States. Segregation simply means "separation." Schools, restaurants, bathrooms, and even public buses were segregated. African-Americans went to different schools, ate at different restaurants, went to different bathrooms, and were forced to obey rules on buses that required them to give up their seats for White passengers. "Separate but Equal," were the words that justified segregation, but of course, "separate but equal" really meant that the White Americans would have many advantages over African-Americans.

In 1955, Rosa Parks had had enough. She was riding on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, when the driver ordered her to give up her seat to a White passenger. Parks, however, refused, and was arrested. She was ordered to pay \$14 in fines because she broke the law. African-Americans in Montgomery had also had enough. Led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the community banded together and staged a powerful boycott that lasted 381 days! A boycott is a form of protest in which a group refuses to buy the services of the company or organization that is the subject of the protest. The boycott worked! Not only did the companies that operated the buses lose money, but the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's bus laws were illegal. Just nine years later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed making segregation illegal throughout the United States.

1. What is an example of segregation?

- A. Having different bathrooms depending on gender
- B. Having different classrooms depending on skin color
- C. Having private and public schools
- D. Having height requirements for theme park rides

2. "Separate but equal" ...

- A. meant that African-American children and White children would go to school in different buildings that were equal.
- B. were hollow words that really meant White students would have better places to go to school than African-American students.
- C. meant that African-American and White students would be go to school in different places for a short while.
- D. meant that in some places White students would go to better schools and in some places African-American students would go to better schools.

3. What was the ultimate effect of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat?

- A. African-Americans would have less advantages that White Americans
- B. She was forced to pay \$14 in fees
- C. Dr. King would lead the Montgomery bus boycott
- D. Segregation was made illegal in all of the United States

4. Why would a boycott work as a kind of protest?

- A. A boycott could result in the government becoming involved
- B. People don't like boycotts
- C. Boycotts often result in companies losing a lot of money
- D. Boycotts often result in violence

PENGUINS Reading Comprehension

Description: The emperor penguin is the world's largest and tallest penguin. It is also the heaviest penguin, with some individuals recorded at nearly 100 pounds. Adults have a black head, back, tail, and wings. The underparts are dingy white. The sides of the neck are marked with a large golden or yellow stripe. In addition, there is a varying amount of gold on the upper breast. Like most penguins, the emperor penguin has thick, waterproof feathers that cover the entire body except for the bill and feet. Emperor penguins normally live about 20 years in the wild, though some individuals have been recorded at 40 years of age.

Diet: Crustaceans, krill, and small fish. Emperor penguins will dive to depths of 800 feet in search of food. Most dives last 3–6 minutes.

Predators: Sharks, leopard seals, and orcas. Chicks are vulnerable to predation from south polar skuas.

Range: The Emperor penguin is found throughout the Antarctic perimeter. It is the only species of penguin to breed during the Antarctic winter. Breeding takes place about 60 miles from the coast in the Antarctic interior, where temperatures regularly drop to -40 degrees Celsius. The trek from the Antarctic coastline to the breeding grounds was the inspiration for the movie "March of the Penguins."

Nesting: Female emperor penguins lay a single egg in May or June. After the egg has been laid, the female must immediately feed in the ocean. First, the egg is carefully transported to the male, who incubates the egg under a brood patch that rests above the feet. Occasionally, the transfer is unsuccessful and the egg rolls onto the ice and instantaneously freezes.

The male will incubate the egg for up to 65 days! During this time, he will not eat a single meal. On particularly cold days, hundreds of male penguins may gather together in a compact huddle to warm themselves in the pounding Antarctic winds. In about two months, the female returns and locates her mate and chick by sound. She regurgitates food stored in her stomach to feed the growing chick. The male then takes his turn feeding in the ocean and returns after about a month, at which point both parents tend to the chick by regurgitating food and keeping it off the ice. Once the chick is about seven weeks old, it joins other chicks in a crèche (huddle) to keep warm.

Status: Populations of emperor penguins are thought to be stable. Estimates indicate about 200,000 breeding pairs.

1.) Which of the following animals only preys on penguin chicks?

- a.) orcas
- b.) sharks
- c.) seals
- d.) skuas

2.) Select all of the following that are TRUE.

- a.) After the egg is laid, the male ventures off to the sea first.
- b.) The female locates her chick by sight.
- c.) Both parents will feed chicks by regurgitating food.
- d.) The female locates her chick by sound.

3.) Which of the following scenarios is unlikely?

- a.) Finding an emperor penguin after it has been underwater for 10 minutes
- b.) Finding an orca that has just eaten an emperor penguin
- c.) Finding an emperor penguin that is about 20 years old
- d.) Finding an emperor penguin that weighs 80 pounds

4.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) After the female lays the egg, the male must immediately feed in the ocean.
- b.) Sometimes, the egg transfer from the female to male results in the egg freezing.
- c.) The female lays an egg during the Antarctic winter.
- d.) The male incubates for more than two months without eating

5.) What color is the tail of the emperor penguin?

- a.) white
- b.) yellow
- c.) black
- d.) orange

6.) Where do emperor penguins breed?

- a.) along the coast
- b.) South America
- c.) in the water
- d.) the Antarctic interior

7.) Which of the following is NOT part of the diet of the emperor penguin?

- a.) insects
- b.) krill
- c.) fish
- d.) crustaceans

8.) How many eggs are laid by the female emperor penguin?

- a.) 0
- b.) 2
- c.) 3
- d.) 1

9.) What happens third?

- a.) The egg transfer
- b.) The female feeds in the ocean while the male incubates.
- c.) The male feeds in the ocean while the female tends to the chick.
- d.) The young penguin joins a crèche.

10.) At the end of the passage, a line reads "Populations of emperor penguins are thought to be stable. Estimates indicate about 200,000 breeding pairs." What does stable mean?

- a.) uncertain
- b.) staying the same
- c.) decreasing
- d.) increasing

THE PEREGRINE FALCON Reading Comprehension

The peregrine falcon is a large, powerful falcon of seashores, mountain ranges, and the Arctic tundra. Peregrine falcons hunt medium-to large-sized birds and are especially fond of ducks, shorebirds, and pigeons. Peregrine falcons are extremely strong flyers and often seize their prey at speeds of over 100 miles per hour. Some peregrine falcons have even been clocked at higher speeds while hunting.

The peregrine falcon could once be found throughout the United States. DDT, a chemical for controlling insects, caused the eastern population of peregrine falcons to crash. Peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and other birds of prey would eat fish and ducks that were contaminated with the chemical. As DDT built up in their bodies, such birds of prey would lay brittle eggs that would crack easily. In 1972, DDT was made illegal to use in America, and some birds of prey made a comeback. The peregrine falcon, however, did not.

Scientists took a different approach to the peregrine falcon. Since peregrines nest on mountain cliffs, scientists began capturing the falcons and relocating them to big cities with skyscrapers. The plan worked. Today the peregrine falcon is no longer an endangered species. Peregrines now thrive in Boston, New York City, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh. In those cities, they can have as many pigeons as they want.

1.) Where would the peregrine falcon not be found?

- a.) Rocky Mountains
- b.) California shore
- c.) Arctic tundra
- d.) Arizona desert

2.) Which of the following would the peregrine falcon likely not eat?

- a.) wood duck
- b.) hummingbird
- c.) pigeon
- d.) shorebirds

3.) Some peregrine falcons have been clocked at speeds of more than _____ miles per hour while _____.

- a.) 100; hunting
- b.) 100; sleeping
- c.) 50; defending the nest
- d.) 50; chasing away predators

4.) Which of the following words would best describe DDT?

- a.) harmless
- b.) harmful
- c.) helpful
- d.) colorful

5.) Which of the following statements is true?

- a.) Unlike other birds of prey, the peregrine falcon made a comeback after DDT was made illegal.
- b.) Like other birds of prey, the peregrine falcon made a comeback after DDT was made illegal.
- c.) Unlike other birds of prey, the peregrine falcon did not make a comeback after DDT was made illegal.
- d.) Like other birds of prey, the peregrine falcon did not make a comeback after DDT was made illegal.

6.) What does brittle mean?

- a.) weak
- b.) strong
- c.) thick
- d.) hard

7.) How did scientists try to save the peregrine falcon?

- a.) They set aside land for them.
- b.) They captured them and brought them back to the mountains.
- c.) They captured them and released them in big cities.
- d.) They captured them and released them in skyscrapers.

8.) Which happened first?

- a.) DDT was made illegal.
- b.) Peregrine falcons populations crashed.
- c.) Scientists brought them to live in big cities.
- d.) Peregrine falcons were taken off of the endangered species list.

RAINBOWS Reading Comprehension

Rainbows are often seen when the sun comes out after or during a rainstorm. Rainbows are caused when sunlight shines through drops of water in the sky at specific angles. When white sunlight enters a raindrop, it exits the raindrop a different color. When light exits lots of different raindrops at different angles, it produces the red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet that you see in a rainbow. Together, these colors are known as the spectrum. These colors can sometimes be seen in waterfalls and fountains as well.

Did you know that there are double rainbows? In a double rainbow, light reflects twice inside water droplets and forms two arcs. In most double rainbows, the colors of the top arc are opposite from those in the bottom arc. In other words, the order of colors starts with violet on top and ends with red on bottom. In addition, rainbows sometimes appear as white arcs at night. These rainbows are called moonbows and are so rare that very few people will ever see one. Moonbows are caused by moonlight (rather than sunlight) shining through drops of water.

1.) Rainbows are often seen _____.

- a.) after the sun sets at night
- b.) after a rainstorm
- c.) when it snows
- d.) before a rainstorm

2.) Rainbows are produced when _____.

- a.) the sun causes a rainstorm
- b.) the sun comes out after a storm
- c.) the spectrum causes a rainstorm
- d.) light exits many raindrops at different angles

3.) What color is NOT in a rainbow?

- a.) pink
- b.) yellow
- c.) indigo
- d.) orange

4.) Which of the following IS NOT true?

- a.) Double rainbows are two rainbows that are exactly the same.
- b.) Rainbows are usually seen after or during a storm.
- c.) Spectrum colors sometimes appear in fountains and waterfalls.
- d.) Moonbows are caused by moonlight.

5.) What question is answered in the last paragraph?

- a.) What colors appear in a rainbow?
- b.) How do double rainbows form?
- c.) How long do rainbows last?
- d.) Why do waterfalls produce rainbow-like spectrums?

6.) What would be a good title for this passage?

- a.) Moonbows!
- b.) The History of Rainbows
- c.) Differences Between Normal Rainbows and Double Rainbows
- d.) The Basics About Rainbows

7.) The author describes moonbows as "so rare that very few people will ever see one." Which of the following might also be described as very rare?

- a.) A ruler
- b.) A fireman
- c.) A pink diamond
- d.) A squirrel

8.) What color is a moonbow?

- a.) white
- b.) green
- c.) the passage doesn't say
- d.) yellow

REPTILES Reading Comprehension

Description: The loggerhead sea turtle is named for its large head and blunt jaw. This huge sea turtle can grow to 800 pounds (though the average turtle is about 200 pounds) and three-and-a-half feet in length. It is the largest hard-shelled turtle in the world. The carapace (shell) and flippers are reddish brown, and the plastron (lower shell) is yellowish. The carapace has five lateral scutes and five central scutes. Scutes are hexagonal sections of the carapace. Underparts are white or whitish. These incredible turtles have powerful flippers that can propel them through the water at speeds of up to 16 miles per hour. The loggerhead sea turtle has a life span of up to 50 years in the wild.

Habitat/Range: The seafaring loggerhead sea turtle is found throughout the world's tropical oceans. They are also found in temperate waters in search of food and in migration. Breeding populations exist in many locales including the Atlantic Coast of the United States (from North Carolina to Florida), numerous Caribbean islands, Central America, the Mediterranean Sea, and Africa.

Diet: Loggerhead sea turtles consume fish, crustaceans, mollusks, crabs, and jellyfish. They use their powerful jaws to crush prey. These turtles often ingest stray plastic bags, which are mistaken for jellyfish and which cause potentially fatal complications.

Nesting: The female loggerhead sea turtle normally lays her eggs on the same beach in which she was born. It may take up to 30 years before these turtles reach reproductive age. In June or July, females will emerge from the ocean and dig a hole in the sand. Between 70 and 150 eggs are deposited in the hole. The female uses her hind flippers to cover the hole. The eggs are about the size of ping-pong balls. Eggs hatch within 65 days. Upon hatching, young turtles instinctively head toward the ocean (which reflects the moonlight). Many of these young turtles are taken as prey by opportunistic gulls, vultures, and raccoons. Others are led in the wrong direction by lights from roads and beach houses, which the turtles mistake as moonlight. Those that are fortunate enough to make it to the water are swept toward the open ocean by waves and sea currents.

1.) Why is this species named loggerhead sea turtle?

- a.) No one knows.
- b.) It has a large head.
- c.) It hunts on logs.
- d.) It rests its head on logs.

2.) What shape are scutes?

- a.) hexagonal
- b.) diamond
- c.) octagonal
- d.) square

3.) Which of the following is not part of the turtle's shell?

- a.) tail
- b.) carapace
- c.) plastron
- d.) scute

4.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Loggerhead sea turtles can live 50 years.
- b.) Loggerhead sea turtles are negatively affected by trash that makes its way into the sea.
- c.) There are no hard-shelled turtles larger than the loggerhead sea turtle.
- d.) Baby loggerhead sea turtles, by instinct, stray away from light when they hatch.

5.) Loggerhead sea turtles DO NOT eat...

- a.) crabs.
- b.) mollusks.
- c.) jellyfish.
- d.) dolphins.

6.) Where would you most likely NOT see a loggerhead sea turtle?

- a.) Off the coast of Africa
- b.) In the Caribbean Sea
- c.) In the ocean near South Carolina
- d.) In Lake Michigan

7.) Where do female loggerhead sea turtles lay eggs?

- a.) On gravel surfaces away from the beach
- b.) On the beach in which she was born
- c.) On any beach that does not have people
- d.) At the bottom of the ocean

8.) What does the word "fatal" mean in the following sentence:

These turtles often ingest stray plastic bags, which are mistaken for jellyfish and which cause potentially **fatal** complications.

- a.) annoying
- b.) confusing
- c.) deadly
- d.) painful

9.) What does the word "emerge" mean in the following sentence:

In June or July, females will **emerge** from the ocean and dig a hole in the sand. Between 70 and 150 eggs are deposited in the hole.

- a.) swim away from
- b.) return to
- c.) give birth in
- d.) come from

10.) Which is not true about loggerhead sea turtle eggs?

- a.) They are shaped like ping-pong balls.
- b.) They are poisonous to predators.
- c.) They hatch within 65 days.
- d.) They are laid in the sand.

Dot Richardson – Softball Star

Name _____

Dot Richardson was born on September 22, 1961, in Orlando, Florida. Richardson is one of the most decorated international softball players in the sport's history. Richardson is also a licensed physician.

Richardson began playing softball at an early age in and around the Orlando area. She enrolled at Western Illinois University before transferring to UCLA in 1980. She played softball at UCLA for four years. In 1982, she was part of UCLA's national championship team. She was an All-American softball player for each of her four years at UCLA and was named Most Valuable Player on her team three times. Following her collegiate career, she went on to play professional softball.

Following her professional career, Richardson went to medical school and earned her medical degree at The University of Louisville in 1993, thus, becoming Dr. Richardson.

Richardson became most famous when softball was added to the Olympics in 1996. That year, she slugged the game-winning home run that won the United States the gold medal. That same year, she was inducted into the UCLA sports hall-of-fame. In 1997, Richardson was awarded the Babe Zaharias Award for female athlete of the year. Once again, in the 2000 Olympics, Richardson was part of the American team that earned the gold medal. Following the 2000 Olympics, Richardson resumed her career as an orthopedic surgeon. She currently serves as the head coach of the Liberty University softball team.

1. What is another way to write the sentence below?

Richardson is one of the most decorated international softball players in the sport's history.

- A. Richardson was one of the first softball players in history
- B. Richardson was one of the best softball players in the sport's history
- C. Richardson was a softball star at UCLA
- D. Richardson hit the game-winning home run in the 1996 Olympics.

- 2. When was Richardson inducted into the UCLA Hall-of-Fame?**
- A. 1996
 - B. Before she earned her medical degree
 - C. After the 2000 Olympics
 - D. 1997
- 3. Which of the following is NOT true about Dot Richardson?**
- A. She played on two United States softball teams that earned gold medals
 - B. She is currently the softball coach at Liberty University
 - C. She earned a medical degree in 1993
 - D. She attended UCLA before she went to Western Illinois University
- 4. Who is Babe Zaharias?**
- A. A famous softball player
 - B. The passage doesn't tell
 - C. The passage doesn't tell, but we can infer she was a famous female athlete
 - D. The passage doesn't tell, but we can infer she won several Olympic gold medals
- 5. What is the text structure of the passage?**
- A. Cause and Effect
 - B. Problem and Solution
 - C. Chronological
 - D. Compare and Contrast
- 6. If each of the paragraphs had a heading, which of the following would be the correct sequence?**
- A. Introduction; Becoming Dr. Richardson; Collegiate Star; Olympic Gold
 - B. Introduction; Collegiate Star; Olympic Gold; Becoming Dr. Richardson
 - C. Introduction; Collegiate Star; Becoming Dr. Richardson; Olympic Gold
 - D. Introduction; Olympic Gold; Becoming Dr. Richardson; Collegiate Star
- 7. What is NOT described in the passage?**
- A. Dot's awards and medals
 - B. Dot's college softball career
 - C. Dot's success as an Olympian
 - D. Dot's childhood

Sahara Desert Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world and the third largest desert in the world, following Antarctica and the Arctic—two cold deserts. It is located in North Africa and extends more than 9 million square kilometers, covering parts of ten countries.

The Sahara is the world's largest low-latitude desert; it is located closer to the equator than the poles. In this high-pressure area, air from the atmosphere sinks down to the ground, leading to warming and drying of air. The sinking air from the atmosphere prevents the evaporation of water from the ground, as well as the subsequent condensation which would lead to cloud formation and rainfall. Thus, the Sahara Desert is an environment with dry air, lots of sunlight, and a lack of clouds and rainfall, contributing to high temperatures and arid overall conditions.

Stone plateaus, known as hamadas, and large spaces populated with sand dunes, known as ergs, are common in the vast desert. Some ergs can rise to nearly 600 feet in height. Wind plays a large role in constructing the desert's appearance, shaping sand dunes, dune fields, gravel plains, and other natural structures.

Historically, the Sahara has been home to many powerful civilizations, including those of ancient Egypt and the Kingdom of Kush. Cities and farming villages formed along oases and rivers, and trade routes carrying cloth, ivory, jade, and gold across the Sahara helped establish the ancient African economy.

While the Sahara's conditions are currently extreme, the area actually switches between desert-like and savanna-like conditions every 41,000 years. The alternation is caused by changes in Earth's axis while it rotates around the sun. The Sahara is expected to become green again in 15,000 years!

1. Which statistic is NOT true about the Sahara Desert?

- A. It is the world's largest desert
- B. It extends more than nine million square kilometers
- C. It is the world's largest hot desert
- D. It covers parts of ten African nations

- 2. Which of the following would be unusual for the Sahara Desert?**
- A. Scorching hot temperatures
 - B. Little to no rainfall
 - C. Fluffy Clouds
 - D. Arid conditions
- 3. Which of the following is the best explanation for why the Sahara Desert is hot and dry?**
- A. Because it is a high-pressure area filled with sand
 - B. Because there is very little evaporation or condensation that occurs because of the way the air sinks in the region
 - C. Because of the region's proximity to the equator and distance from the north and south pole
 - D. Because the area has too much dry air and sunshine, which lead to unusual hot temperatures and arid conditions
- 4. How does wind affect the Sahara Desert?**
- A. It provides some relief from the scorching heat
 - B. It helps the growth of plants that can manage to survive in the desert
 - C. It shapes the landscape
 - D. It results in the formation of hamadas
- 5. Which of the following is a true statement about the Sahara Desert?**
- A. Throughout history, the extreme conditions of the Sahara Desert have proven made it impossible for civilizations to thrive in
 - B. The area that is now the Sahara Desert will soon be very different
 - C. The area that is now the Sahara Desert may one day be a rainforest
 - D. The area that is now the Sahara Desert will not always be hot and dry
- 6. Which paragraph tells about the history of the desert?**
- A. Second
 - B. Third
 - C. Fourth
 - D. Fifth
- 7. Why will the landscape of the Sahara Desert eventually change?**
- A. Because of global warming and climate change
 - B. Because of changes in the Earth's axis as it rotates around the sun
 - C. Because it will eventually change from a desert into a savanna
 - D. Because it will become green again in about 15,000 years

Scurvy Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Scurvy is a horrible disease that results from an acute lack of Vitamin-C over time. Vitamin-C is most commonly found in fruits and vegetables. During the Age of Exploration, sailors on long ocean voyages often contracted Scurvy, as food supplies quickly spoiled, reducing diets to salted beef (though in many cases fresh meat has enough Vitamin-C to prevent or cure Scurvy), dried grains, or in desperate situations, anything that could be eaten. Sailors during this time believed Scurvy was caused by a wide range of potential culprits including putrid air rising from swamps. The idea that the disease was caused by a lack of Vitamin-C was not confirmed until 1932. According to some estimates, Scurvy accounted for the deaths of over two million soldiers during the Age of Exploration.

Sailors with Scurvy would first experience weeks of malaise or fatigue. As the disease worsened, bone and joint pain intensified and sailors would develop sores that failed to heal. In later stages, gums would swell, teeth would fall out, and mental changes such as agitation and confusion would manifest. In its final stages, scurvy would result in the swelling of various parts of the body, convulsions, and organ failure. Even in its later stages, the effects of Scurvy could be reversed if Vitamin-C was introduced.

1. During the Age of Exploration...

- A. sailors knew the cause of scurvy.
- B. sailors believed scurvy was caused by a lack of vitamin-c.
- C. sailors believed scurvy was caused by air over swamps
- D. sailors believed scurvy was caused by spoiled meat.

2. The cause of scurvy was discovered...

- A. during the Age of Exploration.
- B. before the Age of Exploration.
- C. after the Age of Exploration.
- D. in desperate situations.

3. Which of the following diets could result in scurvy?

- A. Spoiled or salted meat over an entire month
- B. Spoiled and fresh meat over an entire month
- C. Fresh meat and grains over an entire month
- D. Vegetables and spoiled meat over an entire month

4. Which was NOT a symptom of scurvy?

- A. Sores throughout the body
- B. Joint pain
- C. Confusion
- D. Sneezing and coughing

5. In its final stages, scurvy...

- A. cannot be reversed
- B. can be reversed with vitamin-c
- C. can be reversed with medicine
- D. can be reversed without vitamin-c

6. What does “intensified” mean in the following sentence?

As the disease worsened, bone and joint pain intensified and sailors would develop sores that failed to heal.

- A. magnified
- B. clarified
- C. erupted
- D. became worse

7. Which of the following is accurate?

- A. The first paragraph tells about the history of scurvy and the second paragraph tells about the ways people could get scurvy
- B. The first paragraph tells about why sailors got scurvy and the second paragraph tells about signs of scurvy
- C. The first paragraph tells why sailors got scurvy and the second paragraph explains how scurvy is diagnosed today
- D. The first paragraph tells about how sailors spread scurvy and the second paragraph tells about signs of scurvy

SEQUOYAH Reading Comprehension

Sequoyah was a Cherokee silversmith who invented the language known as the Cherokee syllabary.

Virtually nothing is known about Sequoyah's early life. Some historians believe he grew up in Tennessee. He was most likely abandoned by his father, who was thought to have been a fur trader or scout for George Washington. Sometime around 1809, Sequoyah moved to the village of Willstown, Alabama, where he established himself as a silversmith. While at Willstown, Sequoyah quickly grew enamored with the written communications used between white settlers. In 1809, Sequoyah decided to create a written Cherokee language. Sequoyah's Cherokee alphabet took 12 years to complete. He created a system in which each syllable had a specific character (written symbol). In all, his alphabet featured 86 different characters. Sequoyah's alphabet was quickly adopted by the Cherokee Nation and was made their official language in 1825. From 1828 to 1834, the language was used in the Cherokee Phoenix, the official newspaper of the Cherokee Nation.

Sequoyah eventually endeavored to create a universal language for all Native Americans. Throughout the 1830s and early 1840s, Sequoyah traveled throughout North America seeking the support of tribes. He died sometime between 1843 and 1845 while traveling in Mexico.

1.) Sequoyah invented a language known as the Cherokee _____.

2.) What word best describes Sequoyah's early life in the eyes of historians?

- a.) unknown
- b.) sad
- c.) interesting
- d.) exciting

3.) Sequoyah's father was thought to have been a scout for _____.

4.) Sequoyah was a _____.

- a.) goldsmith
- b.) painter
- c.) carpenter
- d.) silversmith

5.) Select all that are true from the choices below:

Sequoyah began thinking about a system of written communication...

- a.) in 1846.
- b.) in Alabama.
- c.) in Tennessee.
- d.) in 1809.

6.) Sequoyah's Cherokee alphabet had _____ characters.

7.) In Sequoyah's alphabet, each _____ had a specific character.

- a.) sentence
- b.) syllable
- c.) letter
- d.) word

8.) What did the Cherokee Nation think of Sequoyah's alphabet?

- a.) They eventually used it.
- b.) They refused to use it.
- c.) They quickly used it.
- d.) They decided they did not need an alphabet.

9.) What was the Cherokee Phoenix?

- a.) A Cherokee god
- b.) A Cherokee celebration
- c.) A Cherokee symbol
- d.) A Cherokee newspaper

10.) What word best describes Sequoyah?

- a.) ambitious
- b.) colossal
- c.) jealous
- d.) careful

Topeka

Located on the banks of the Kansas River, Topeka is the state capital. The name "Topeka" is translated as "a good place to dig potatoes" in tribal language. Topeka was founded in 1854 as a stop along a trail from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley in which people could cross the Kansas River. Soon, Topeka became a shipping hub for steamboats. In 1861, Topeka was named capital of Kansas, after it became the 34th state. For most people, however, Topeka would come to prominence in 1951.

That year, the city of Topeka, Kansas, was the defendant in one of the most important Court cases in the nation's history (Brown vs the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas). In 1951, a law-suit was filed against the school board of Topeka, Kansas by 13 families on behalf of their children. The suit called for the integration of the city's high schools that were segregated by race (African-Americans were forced to attend different schools than Whites). Federal law permitted racial segregation as long as the schools were "equal" in what they provided students. Segregated schools, however, were never equal. Schools for White students had better facilities and materials. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation of public schools was unconstitutional, and by 1955 demanded integration of all American schools "with all deliberate speed". The vague demand by the Supreme court allowed those who favored segregation to organize resistance.

- 1. What happened after Kansas became the 34th state?**
 - A. Topeka was founded
 - B. Topeka became capital
 - C. Railroads were built through Topeka
 - D. It became a shipping hub
- 2. Which is NOT true about Topeka?**
 - A. It is located on the Kansas River
 - B. It was founded in 1861
 - C. It was a once a shipping hub for steamboats
 - D. According to its name, it's a good place to dig for potatoes
- 3. Why was the Brown vs Board of Education law-suit filed?**
 - A. To ensure schools could remain segregated
 - B. So that Topeka could defend itself
 - C. So that schools would forced to be integrated

D. So that schools could make their own decisions

4. Segregated schools...

- A. were separate and equal.
- B. were separate but not equal.
- C. were declared constitutional.
- D. had both White and African-American students.

5. What best describes “all deliberate speed” as used in the final sentence?

- A. It meant all schools should desegregate immediately
- B. It meant schools could “take their time” in desegregating
- C. It meant schools did not have to desegregate in all cases
- D. The meaning is confusing and allowed for resistance

6. What was the effect of segregated schools?

- A. White and African-American students enjoyed similar educations
- B. White students and African-American students went to school together
- C. Eventually schools would become integrated
- D. White students had advantages over African-American students

7. In which of the following ways is the word “integration” used correctly?

- A. I was hoping to integrate early so I'd have energy for tomorrow
- B. I was hoping to enhance my lesson through the integration of technology
- C. I think it shows great integration to admit when you make a mistake
- D. It takes a lot of integration to walk across the rickety path without falling

Vent Haven Museum

The Vent Haven Museum, located in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, is home to the world's largest collection of ventriloquist dummies. It is housed within a private home and several small outbuildings. The museum features hundreds of ventriloquist dummies, displayed in various themed rooms. Some rooms have shelves of dummies, while others feature dummies sitting in rows of chairs. There are clown dummies, animal dummies, zombie dummies, and even presidential dummies.

The creator of the museum, William Shakespeare Berger, was a Cincinnati businessman, and former president of the International Brotherhood of Ventriloquists. He collected ventriloquist dummies for sixty years, eventually amassing a collection of over 800. In addition, the museum frequently receives donated dummies. Some of the dummies of Vent Haven are worth thousands of dollars. One such dummy, a grinning red monkey dummy, is worth over \$30,000. The Vent Haven Museum even holds an annual convention known as the Vent Haven Convention, which attracts ventriloquists from throughout the United States.

1. What question is answered in the first paragraph?

- A. How many dummies are displayed in the Vent Haven museum?
- B. How did the Vent Haven museum get its name?
- C. What kind of dummies are displayed in the Vent Haven museum?
- D. Who created the Vent Haven museum?

2. Which is NOT true about the Vent Haven Museum?

- A. It was founded by a Cincinnati businessman
- B. The museum does not accept donated dummies
- C. There is one dummy in the collection worth \$30,000
- D. The museum is located within a private home and small outbuildings

3. What does the word “annual” imply in the following sentence?

The Vent Haven Museum even holds an annual convention known as the Vent Haven Convention, which attracts ventriloquists from throughout the United States.

- A. It happens every year
- B. It happens only once
- C. It is important
- D. It is the only conference ventriloquists attend

4. Which of the following is true about William Shakespeare Berger?

- A. He collected dummies for sixty years
- B. He was once the president of the International Brotherhood of Ventriloquists
- C. He had a collection of over 800 dummies
- D. All of the above are true

5. Which of the following dummies does the author describe as valuable?

- A. Presidential dummy
- B. Soldier dummy
- C. Zombie dummy
- D. Monkey dummy