

Name: _____

Blizzard Bag Day #2
4th Grade Language Arts

1.



There are many kinds of wild animals in the U.S. One type of animal is the bobcat. Bobcats are about twice the size of a housecat. Their fur is tan and orange combined. They have black spots on their bodies, but black stripes on their faces. The bobcats' coloring and spots help them to hide in the wild. People sometimes call a bobcat a bay lynx, but this is incorrect. A bobcat looks a lot like a lynx, but it is a totally different type of cat.

The paragraph above is mostly about

- A. wild animals in the U.S.
 - B. what bobcats look like.
 - C. how to hide in the wild.
 - D. really large housecats.
-

2.



Riding in a hot air balloon is an exciting way to travel. Passengers climb into a basket that is attached to a huge balloon with cables. The balloon is filled with hot air. The burning gas and heat inside the huge balloon make it lighter than the surrounding

air. The balloon rises and lifts the passengers into the sky. The pilot does not know where the balloon will go. It floats gently in the direction the wind blows. The passengers enjoy a fun ride with a terrific view of the land and water below them. When the pilot is ready to land, he or she lets the air cool inside the balloon. The balloon starts to become heavier and begins going back down to land. A group on the ground follows the balloon in a car and watches where it lands. Part of the excitement is that no one knows exactly where a hot air balloon will land.

The main idea of this passage is

- A. traveling in a hot air balloon is exciting.
 - B. hot air balloon passengers ride in baskets.
 - C. groups of people follow balloons in cars.
 - D. hot air balloons are lifted by hot air.
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3. Australia is an interesting country. It has wildlife you will never find in the U.S., such as kangaroos and koalas. There are waterfalls, cliffs, and beaches to explore. Some people like to go skiing in the mountains. If you like trains, you can take a ride on the Puffing Billy Steam Railway. You can even visit towns with interesting names like Mallacoota and Yarra Glen.

What is the main idea of the paragraph above?

- A. The mountains are the best place to ski in Australia.
 - B. Australia's Puffing Billy Steam Railway is really fun.
 - C. Australia's kangaroos and koalas are great animals.
 - D. There are a lot of things to see and do in Australia.
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4.



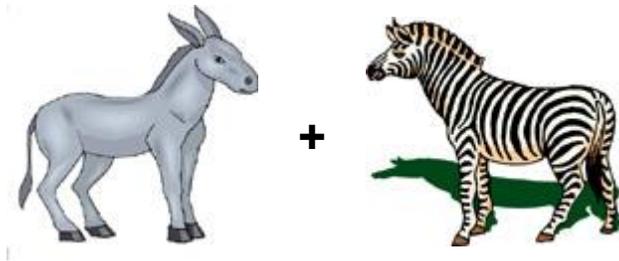
Some people wish on stars. They think that "shooting stars" are very lucky. Many people do not know that "shooting stars" are not really stars at all. They are meteors. Meteors are streaks of light caused by rocks and dust that enter the Earth's

atmosphere. The atmosphere is the layer of gases surrounding the Earth. The rocks and dust catch on fire and burn up. People often call the light from the burning rocks and dust a "shooting star" or a "falling star."

The main idea of this passage is

- A. people like to make wishes on "shooting stars."
 - B. there is a layer of gases around the Earth.
 - C. "shooting stars" are also called "falling stars."
 - D. "shooting stars" or "falling stars" are really meteors.
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5.



Have you ever heard of a zonkey? It is a cross between a zebra and a donkey. Other names for this type of mix are zedonk, zenkey, and zebonkey. Not all animals can mix. The zebra and donkey can mix together because they are in the horse family. However, you would not be able to mix a pig and a bird because they are in different animal families. What other animal mixes have you heard of?

This passage is mostly about

- A. combining different animals.
 - B. zebras being like horses.
 - C. animals in different families.
 - D. liking all kinds of animals.
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6.



I have learned a lot of things from my grandpa. He taught me how to play checkers, ride a bike, and dive into a swimming pool. He also showed me how to throw a football and a baseball. My grandpa even taught me how to make soup. My favorite thing to do with my grandpa is to fish. We have caught huge catfish, trout, and bass. One time, we fried them up for supper on a campfire my grandpa made himself. My grandpa knows how to do a lot of stuff, and I hope he teaches me every single one.

Which sentence from the passage above best states the main idea?

- A. "We have caught huge catfish, trout, and bass."
 - B. "My favorite thing to do with my grandpa is to fish."
 - C. "I have learned a lot of things from my grandpa."
 - D. "My grandpa even taught me how to make soup."
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7. Many people have played the board game Monopoly. However, they probably do not know that this game helped British soldiers escape from German prisons. During World War II, German guards allowed British prisoners to get packages. Charity groups—or groups that like to help people, often sent care packages to soldiers. The care packages included items like soap, toothbrushes, candy, and cards. The British secret service had charity groups send Monopoly games to British soldiers in German prison camps. The game boards had secret spaces that hid maps and small tools. The tools included files and compasses. The files were useful for sawing through metal bars. The compasses were helpful because they showed north, south, east and west. British soldiers would sneak out of the German camps and use the secret maps to find safety.

Which statement **best** supports the main idea of this passage?

- A. "The British soldiers would sneak out of the German camps and use the secret maps to find safety."
 - B. "The care packages included items like soap, toothbrushes, candy, and cards."
 - C. "Charity groups—or groups that like to help people, often sent care packages to soldiers."
 - D. "During World War II, German guards allowed British prisoners to get packages."
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8.



Popcorn is a light and fluffy snack. Each piece of popcorn starts as a hard kernel before it ends up as a crunchy, white puff. There are oil, liquid, and starch inside of the hard shell. When the kernel grows hot, the liquid turns into steam. The steam forces the shell to pop. Then, the starch inside of the popcorn kernel hardens into a white, foamy treat. People often enjoy popcorn with salt and butter.

What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Hot steam inside the kernels causes them to pop.
 - B. Popcorn starts as kernels then turns into puffs.
 - C. There are oil and starch inside of popcorn kernels.
 - D. People like to eat popcorn with butter and salt.
-

9.



Paint horses are known for their interesting coats. They have white hair and at least one other color of hair. The second color can be a shade of brown or black. There are three main coat patterns for Paint horses.

The overo pattern is mostly dark or mostly white. The white part of the pattern is splashy. It usually does not cross the horse's back. Paint horses with the overo pattern have at least one dark leg. The tails of horses with this pattern are often one color.

The tobiano pattern normally has round or oval shaped spots. The dark color in this pattern usually covers the horse's sides. Paint horses with the tobiano pattern often have four white legs. It is common for a horse with the tobiano pattern to have a tail with two colors.

Spots of different sizes make up the tovero pattern. The spots can cover a horse's chest, sides, and the base of its tail. Horses with the tovero pattern have dark markings around their ears and mouths.

What is this passage **mostly** about?

- A. The overo pattern is the prettiest one for Paint horses.
 - B. There is some white hair in every Paint horse's coat.
 - C. People like to own Paint horses because of their coats.
 - D. Paint horses have one of the three main coat patterns.
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10. Our bodies are amazing things. They depend on all their parts to stay alive. These different parts are called systems. For example, the respiratory system helps us breathe. Our bodies need food, water, and air to keep these systems working correctly.

This passage is mainly about

- A. breathing and seeing.
 - B. the human body.
 - C. getting food and air.
 - D. the respiratory system.
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11. It is hard to believe that people get paid to taste ice cream. However, being an ice cream taster is a real job. Ice cream companies hire tasters to make sure that the ice cream is yummy. Tasters try a bit of ice cream from each batch that is made. They check to see if the flavors are good. They also look to see if the ice cream mixes well enough. For example, in fudge swirl ice cream, the tasters check to make sure that the fudge spreads evenly. If there is too much fudge, or too little fudge, the batch is thrown out. Ice cream tasters must really enjoy going to work!

Which sentence **best** supports the main idea of this passage?

- A. "Ice cream companies hire tasters to make sure that the ice cream is yummy."
 - B. "It is hard to believe that people get paid to taste ice cream."
 - C. "Ice cream tasters must really enjoy going to work!"
 - D. "If there is too much fudge, or too little fudge, the batch is thrown out."
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Many people live in places where there is limited space. They do not have big backyards. Now there is a way for these people to have a swimming pool. A company in New York is recycling trash dumpsters into swimming pools. The dumpsters are lined with thick plastic sheets and filled with treated water. The dumpster pools are five and half feet deep. They are slim enough to fit into cramped backyards. The company has made several of these pools in a Manhattan neighborhood. The company plans to sell and rent these pools to the public.

12. Which of the following sentences gives details about the actions of a company in New York?

- A. "Many people live in places where there is limited space."
 - B. "Now there is a way for these people to have a swimming pool."
 - C. "They do not have big backyards."
 - D. "The dumpsters are lined with thick plastic sheets and filled with treated water."
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13. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Manhattan is a nice place to live because of the pools.
 - B. A New York company will make a lot of money off pools.
 - C. People live in places where there is not a lot of room.
 - D. Trash dumpsters are being turned into swimming pools.
-

Swimming is a popular sport. There are swimming championships all around the world. The sport of swimming has recently been changed by improvements in swimsuits. A new brand of swimsuits has proven to make swimmers faster. The Jaked swimsuit helps the swimmers float in the water better. It also makes the water move around the swimmer's body without slowing him or her down. Swimmers have broken 30 world records while wearing Jaked swimsuits. Many people believe that swimmers are cheating when they wear this special swimsuit to help them win. FINA is the group that makes the rules for the sport of swimming. It has decided to make rules against wearing the new Jaked swimsuit during an event. The records set by swimmers wearing the Jaked swimsuits will be hard to break.

14. Which sentence supports the idea that many swimmers like wearing Jaked swimsuits?

- A. "There are swimming championships all around the world."
 - B. "FINA is the group that makes the rules for the sport of swimming."
 - C. "Swimming is a popular sport."
 - D. "Swimmers have broken 30 world records while wearing Jaked swimsuits."
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15. The main idea of the passage is

- A. records set by swimmers wearing Jaked swimsuits will be hard to break.
 - B. the Jaked swimsuit has caused big changes in the sport of swimming.
 - C. it is against the rules to wear the Jaked swimsuit during an event.
 - D. swimmers wearing Jaked swimsuits to help them win are cheating.
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