

## Study Island

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### Passage 1

#### Haruki and the Sonar

Haruki swam faster in an effort to escape that mind-splitting sound. It seemed like there was no escape. He kept going. He was running out of air. He would have to surface to breathe. As he changed directions and went upward, the noise became louder for a moment. However, it gradually got quieter as he neared the surface. He broke through the water and greedily gasped the air. Above the water, the noise was almost gone.

Although it was dangerous for a dolphin to get too close to the shore, Haruki was willing to try anything. As he headed towards the beach, other dolphins began popping their heads above water and swimming in the same direction. Too much sun could overheat the dolphins and cause severe damage to their bodies. However, the sound below the water's surface was maddening.

"Look! Dolphins! There must be 30 or more! What in the world?" Matt exclaimed to his shipmate.

"I bet it's the sonar. I've heard of people protesting the Navy's use of sonar equipment. They say it drives dolphins, whales, and other sea animals crazy. Maybe they're right. I've never seen that many dolphins swim towards shore." Tomas offered the best explanation he could.

Matt headed for the phone. "Captain Rogers, Sir, the sonar is causing 30 or more dolphins to swim to shallow water. They're gonna get themselves stranded. We have to shut the sonar off. Sir!"

"No way! Who is this? You're asking me to shut down the testing of a cutting edge weapon—a weapon that could save thousands of human lives—for some overgrown fish? That is out of the question!" Captain Rogers shouted.

"Sir, this is Private Daniels. I understand, sir. Can we change the frequency, or something?" Matt fumbled for a solution.

"No! Get back to your post sailor—or I'll have you suspended without pay!" Captain Rogers ordered.

"Sir! Yes, sir." Matt replied respectfully.

He did not go back to his post on deck; he went to the control room. He told the

sonar operator to change the direction. They pointed it towards the shore. The dolphins immediately went the opposite way—back to deeper water. They were safe—for now.

## **Passage 2**

### **Rescue at Sea**

Mayuka was tired from the mental and physical strain of keeping herself alive after the explosion. The torpedo had come out of nowhere. She was still shocked. The blast had destroyed the ship's hull. It went down quickly. She was treading water in a deep, dark sea.

Mayuka focused on positive thoughts. *The coast guard will be searching for survivors. The rescuers will come at any moment. They will reach me, before the enemy does.*

Something bumped her leg. It was something big. Suddenly, the water was alive with movement, fins, and tails. She felt her body being pushed through the water. She screamed and kicked. She saw fins in the shape of triangles. Then she saw a pointed beak, followed by a rounded head pop above the water. It was a dolphin. It looked right at her. It was still up against her. The movement and splashing continued several yards away, where she had been only moments ago. From what she could see and hear, there were several dolphins attacking a shark. They had come to save her. They were her rescuers. They were her heroes. Mayuka had never appreciated living creatures the way she did at that moment.

1. What is the main difference between the dolphin's problem in the first passage and the woman's problem in the second?

- A. Shark attack is immediate; overheating is slow.
  - B. There is no difference.
  - C. Overheating is painful; shark attack is not painful.
  - D. Shark attack is common; overheating is not common.
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2. In the first selection, a dolphin was one of the main characters. In the second, a woman was the main character. How is the main idea in both stories still the same, even though the characters are different species?

- A. Nature affects both humans and animals.
  - B. Humans and animals have a will to survive.
  - C. Water can be a danger to humans and animals.
  - D. Dolphins and humans are very similar.
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3. How is Matt in the first story **most** similar to the group of dolphins in the second?

- A. Both complain about bad things that happen to them.
  - B. Both save the life of a member of a different species.
  - C. Both are tired of people messing up the environment.
  - D. Both are distracted by other creatures around them.
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4. How are Haruki and Mayuka similar?

- A. Food is the most important thing to each character.
  - B. They must both rely on modern inventions for rescue.
  - C. The actions of humans cause them both to suffer.
  - D. Mother Nature causes both of them to be in danger.
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### Passage 1

#### Golden California

Nicknamed the "Golden State," California is the third largest state in area after Alaska and Texas. The discovery of gold and the immigration in 1849 of thousands of "forty-niners" in search of the precious metal helped California's admission into the Union in 1850. Today, California, land of the giant redwoods, has the highest population of any state in the nation and is America's principal agricultural state. It is also the home of Hollywood, the center of America's movie and television industry.

### Passage 2

#### California Gold

The first major gold strike in North America occurred at Sutter's Mill, near the Sacramento River in California, in 1848. California was soon besieged by thousands of fortune seekers who camped out under conditions that only the promise of gold could make them endure. By the following year about 80,000 "forty-niners" (as the fortune seekers of 1849 were called) had stampeded to the California gold fields, and 250,000 of them had made it by 1853.

5. What **comparison** can be made between the two passages?

- A. They both probably came from the newspaper.
  - B. They both focus only on the California gold rush.
  - C. They both give information about California.
  - D. They both are about the discovery of gold.
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6. What **contrast** can be made between the two passages?

- A. Passage 1 is about the gold rush; passage 2 is California in general.
- B. Passage 1 is about fiction; passage 2 is nonfiction.
- C. Passage 1 probably came from a history book; passage 2 probably came from a book of short stories.
- D. Passage 1 is about California in general; passage 2 is about the gold rush.

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**Passage 1**

**Mice**  
**(from an encyclopedia article)**

Mice are small rodents with fur-covered bodies that are between two and five inches long. They have thin tails that vary in length from about one to three inches long. Mice have short, rounded noses, prominent ears, and four short legs with little claws.

Mice live in all parts of the world. They are found in India, Africa, Australia, the United States, Mexico, and even in the Arctic. They are hunted by reptiles, birds, and larger mammals, like wolves. Mice eat a wide variety of things. They eat many different seeds. They also eat fruits, insects, and worms. Mice that live in people's homes will eat anything they can digest.

Different species of mice reproduce at different rates. Common house mice are known to breed throughout the year. They can give birth to 12 babies at a time.

Mice can cause many problems for humans. They leave their waste wherever they go. The urine and droppings from mice can spread diseases to humans. In some areas, mice have destroyed crops and consumed large quantities of stored grain. This activity can lead to food shortages.

**Passage 2**

**Control Your Pests**  
**(from Rid-X Pest Control advertisement)**

Protect your home from unwanted pests. Hire a Rid-X professional today. One of our trained professionals will come to your home and scope out any pest problems you may have. He or she will seal any points where pests can enter your home.

If you already have a problem, we can solve it. A Rid-X professional will find and remove any unwanted pests from your home. The Rid-X professional will not harm animals in your home. Mice and other rodents are caught safely in traps. It is important to have mice removed from your home. They can reproduce at alarming rates. Mice can have 14 litters of 12 mice per litter, in one year. They eat your food and leave their waste which can spread diseases. We will keep your family safe and healthy by getting rid of harmful pests.

7. What information is found in both the encyclopedia article and the pest control advertisement?

- A. Mice eat many different types of seeds, fruits, insects, and worms.

- B. Mice spread diseases to humans through the waste they leave behind.
  - C. Mice are hunted by predators such as birds, reptiles, and even wolves.
  - D. Mice are known to destroy crops and consume large amounts of grain.
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8. Which of the following statements would **most likely** be found in the encyclopedia article?

- A. Mice and other rodents have been known to chew through electrical wires in homes.
  - B. Pests like roaches also carry diseases that can be spread to human adults and children.
  - C. Pests like roaches can be removed by using products that are designed to target them.
  - D. Many mice dig burrows below the ground, while others build nests on the ground.
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9. What information is found only in the advertisement for pest control?

- A. problems that mice can cause
  - B. foods that any mice will eat
  - C. areas where mice are found
  - D. ways to protect against mice
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10. What information is found only in the encyclopedia article?

- A. a physical description of mice
  - B. facts about mice reproduction
  - C. information on removing mice
  - D. reasons humans get rid of mice
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11. Which of the following statements would **most likely** be found in the pest control advertisement?

- A. The fur of mice varies in color from brown to gray and in texture from coarse to fine.
  - B. The pygmy mouse, weighing only a few grams, is probably the smallest type of mouse.
  - C. The use of specially designed products is the best way to remove or eliminate pests.
  - D. The Indian field mouse breeds throughout the year and has up to 13 babies per litter.
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**Passage 1**

**Whiskers at Work**

by Donna P. Dowdy

When your cat darts through a fence hole barely wider than its body, whiskers are at work. When your cat moves flawlessly through a dark room, whiskers are at work. And when it leaps into a bush or pounces on a mouse, whiskers are at work.

A cat's whiskers are important sense organs. These thick, stiff hairs grow on the upper lip, on both cheeks, above the eyes, under the chin, and on the elbows of the forelegs. Each whisker is rooted in a bundle of nerves beneath the cat's skin. When a whisker is touched, the nerves tell the brain about it.

Each set of whiskers on your cat's body helps it in special ways. The whiskers on its lip and cheeks stick out to both sides and to the front, extending the cat's touch beyond its body. Your cat uses these whiskers to judge the size of an opening. If the opening is wide enough for the whiskers to fit through, the cat knows it can slip through, too— unless it's a fat cat whose sides have outgrown its whiskers.

Your cat's whiskers also guide it through the dark. Although a cat can see in light six times dimmer than you can, it cannot see in total darkness. Its whiskers, however, can feel in the dark.

Acting like an insect's antennae, whiskers feel even the slightest vibrations in the air. That means that the whiskers do not have to touch an object for a cat to know it is there. Your cat can sense a wall, a sofa, or a bed because these objects cut off air vibrations. And a cat in the wild can sense its way on the darkest night, hunting for prey.

Your cat's food probably comes from a supermarket, but a cat is designed by nature to catch its own food. Like its wild ancestors, your cat has chin whiskers to feel food on the ground that it may not see. And your cat has whiskers on its front elbows to help it position a mouse or other prey for a quick kill. These whiskers also signal if the mouse is about to escape.

The whiskers above your cat's eyes trigger a blinking reflex. If an object such as a twig brushes these whiskers, your cat will blink, and its eyes will be protected from injury. You can see this for yourself by gently brushing the whiskers with a fingertip.

Your cat's whiskers are always at work. Sensing, guiding, and protecting, whiskers help your pet whisk happily through its days and nights.

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## **Passage 2**

### **Cat Whiskers! (from a personal Web site)**

If you were thinking about trimming your cats whiskers just to make them look pretty—think again. Whiskers serve a valuable purpose with cats. Their whiskers are strategically located above their eyes, under their chin and on the sides of their faces. The inside ends of their whiskers are surrounded by sensory nerves. They help them judge size—if the whiskers don't fit, neither will kitty. They may get stuck someplace they shouldn't—it might even be life threatening if they are an outside cat. They could be blinded if they start through underbrush and don't get the signal to close their eyes too. They may try to run into something to get away from someone or something and not fit or get stuck. So please don't trim those whiskers. They do it themselves too much with candle flames. And one other thing I read recently, whiskers also help cats smell

odors. Interesting.

<http://www.geocities.com/Petsburgh/7848/astrology.html#story5>

12. Which detail is mentioned on the personal Web site but not in the magazine article?

- A. Whiskers help cats smell odors.
  - B. Whiskers are an important part of a cat's body.
  - C. Cats have whiskers on the sides of their faces.
  - D. Cats use whiskers to judge the size of an opening.
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13. How does the information in the magazine article differ from the information on the personal Web site?

- A. The magazine article focuses on cat whiskers, but the personal Web site does not.
  - B. The magazine article gives fewer details than the personal Web site.
  - C. The magazine article uses a story to show how cats use whiskers, but the personal Web site lists facts.
  - D. The magazine article is from a more reliable source than the personal Web site.
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### **Passage 1**

#### **Winnipeg (from *The City of Winnipeg* Web site)**

The city of Winnipeg is located in the Canadian province of Manitoba. It is only 60 miles north of the United States' border. The Red and Assiniboine Rivers meet in Winnipeg. This point, known as The Forks, is almost at the center of North America.

Winnipeg was founded as a city in 1873. It had a population of only 1,869. In 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway brought rapid development to the city. Today, it is the eighth largest city in Canada. It has a population of around 670,000.

Winnipeg is a thriving city. Food and beverage products and farming equipment are made here. Goods are easily transported on the railway. Tourism is another main source of business for the city. Also, a lot of grain is grown here. The city's water supply can support one million people.

Winnipeg has a lot to offer. The downtown areas are full of stores. People can shop without having to pay a general sales tax. There are many nice hotels and motor home parks. The city is also known for its lovely parks that are full of trees. The nearby lakes are wonderful for fishing, boating, and swimming.

### **Passage 2**

## Visit Winnipeg (from a travel agency Web site)

Travelers will enjoy the beauty and excitement of Winnipeg. The city is just 60 miles north of the U.S. border. The Red River and the Assiniboine River intersect in the city at a point known as The Forks. People can climb Market Tower for a great view of the two rivers.

There is a variety of places to stay. Some may prefer to stay at the homey Winnipeg Bed and Breakfast. Other travelers may want to stay in a deluxe suite at the modern Downtown Winnipeg Hotel.

Winnipeg's restaurants are sure to delight visitors with many different tastes. Couples can enjoy a romantic dinner at the Ukrainian restaurant on Regent Street. Vegetarians can relish the flavor of the Underground Café. Visitors do not want to miss out on a classic diner like Kelekis.

Winnipeg has many attractions. Some of the best include The Forks, St. Boniface, the Exchange District, and Oak Hammock Marsh. St. Boniface is the city's historic French neighborhood. The Exchange District has the most buildings from the early 1900s. Guided tours are available. Oak Hammock Marsh is a wonderful place to experience nature in a canoe or on a hiking trail.

Winnipeg has it all! The city is filled with entertainment, shopping, dining, culture, and nature. Come and enjoy everything this city has to offer.

14. Which of the following statements would **most likely** be found in the article from the travel agency's Web site?

- A. Visitors can enjoy performances from around the world at Foklorama, a multicultural festival celebrated for two weeks out of the year.
- B. The name Winnipeg is derived from the Cree Native American words "win," which means muddy, and "nipee," which means water.
- C. Although fur traders had previously set up posts, Scottish farmers were the first to establish a permanent settlement in the area in 1812.
- D. The steam railway connected St. Paul Minnesota to a point right across the river from Winnipeg in 1878, and in 1886, it went all the way through to Montreal.

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*Xochipilli (zoe-shee-pee-lee) was the Aztec god of beauty, words, and poetry. He was the god of art. His twin sister Xochiquetzal (zoe-shee-ket-zal) was the Aztec goddess of flowers, dancing, and games.*

## How Art Came to Be Important by c.safos

Xochipilli spent most of his days indoors. He had stories he wanted to tell. Those stories just wouldn't come out the right way. He wrote letters on blocks and placed each block on the floor of his house, hoping the stories would come to him.

Outside, Xochiquetzal spun in circles as the flowers moved into her spin. "I shall call

that dance the Morning Glory," she said as the flowers fell to her feet. Every day, Xochiquetzal came up with dances. She created games to help her remember the dance steps.

Every day, she tried to get her brother Xochipilli to play in her dancing game. "I cannot dance Xochiquetzal," he would say "I have to get all of these words out."

One day, Xochiquetzal wanted Xochipilli to see her new dance, and she trotted into his room, kicking over the lettered blocks. "Oh no!" Xochipilli cried seeing all of his hard work trampled over. Xochiquetzal apologized and helped him gather his letters. As she moved the blocks, Xochipilli noticed something. The letters that were laid out started to make sense. The more that he and Xochiquetzal moved them around the better Xochipilli began to see the words. This made it easier for him to write the sentences and stories in his head.

Xochiquetzal's dance had created a game. That game helped Xochipilli write beautiful stories. Xochipilli taught his sister how to write, and Xochiquetzal taught her brother how to dance. Together, they showed everyone the importance of art.

*Apollo was the Greek god of medicine and healing, light, and truth. However, he was also the god of music, song, and poetry.*

## **Apollo and Pan's Musical Duel**

adapted by c.safos

Pan, the Greek god of shepherds, flocks, and rustic music, practiced his music every day. He played and played until he decided that his music was sweeter than any he had ever heard. He was so pleased with his music that he decided that he would challenge Apollo to a game—a musical duel. He wanted to see who was the better musician. Apollo agreed, and the god Tmolus was chosen to judge the contest. A crowd gathered knowing they would be treated to the best music ever played.

Pan played first. He blew his pipes to a beautiful song that enchanted not just himself, but his follower, Midas, who attended the challenge. When he was done, Apollo then played his stringed lyre. From his first notes, everyone in the crowd, including Tmolus, agreed that Apollo's song was more beautiful than Pan's —everyone that is except for Midas.

Pan was heartbroken. Midas refused to say that Apollo's song was better. He stubbornly stood by his friend even though deep in his heart he knew that Apollo was the better musician. Apollo knew that Midas only sided with Pan because they were friends even though he was too stubborn to admit that Apollo was the better musician. To punish him, Apollo changed Midas' ears to donkey ears. This is what many believe is the cause for donkeys' stubbornness.

**15.** How do Xochipilli and Pan show that they are both serious about their art?

- A.** Pan practices his music every day just as Xochipilli rearranged his blocked letters each day.
- B.** Pan is shown that he is out of breath after the music duel while Xochipilli sleeps after dancing.

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- C. Pan's music attracts many people to come to the duel just as Xochipilli's stories attract many people.
  - D. Pan teaches Apollo the song from the duel just as Xochipilli teaches his sister how to dance.
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**16.** In what way are Midas and Xochiquetzal similar?

- A. They are both twins.
  - B. They are both dancers.
  - C. They are both stubborn.
  - D. They are both musical.
-