

Test Name : WORDS IN CONTEXT

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Date : _____

Your Name : _____

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Directions

This passage tells how to turn a garden into a habitat for animals and insects. Read the suggestions. Then answer the questions that follow.

How to Invite Animals into Your Garden

Would you like to invite animals into your garden? You can by providing the things that they like and the things that they need. By making just a few changes in your garden, you can entice birds, butterflies, chipmunks, and squirrels to visit. Here are a few items you might want to add to your garden.

Bird Feeders

Many birds can be allured to your garden with a bird feeder and their favorite food. Here are two suggestions:

- Supply sunflower seeds in a tube-like feeder with short perches to feed small birds.
- Toss stale crackers or bread into the garden. If you do this regularly, you'll find that the birds, and maybe a squirrel or two, will be waiting for their daily handout.

Shrubs

Plant shrubs give some animals a place to hide. Shrubs that produce berries will attract birds looking for food. Here are two suggestions:

- Juniper is a shrub that grows close to the ground. The juniper berries provide food for birds throughout the winter. The low branches hug the ground to provide a hiding place for chipmunks

and rabbits.

- Tall, dense shrubs, such as wild rose bushes, provide nesting places for birds. Rose bushes also produce a fruit called hips that provide food for both birds and mammals into the winter.

Flowers

Adult butterflies are attracted by brightly colored, nectar-producing flowers. Orange, pink, lavender, purple, yellow, and white seem to be the favorite colors of butterflies. Here are two suggestions:

- Plant nectar-producing flowers, such as zinnias and marigolds. Another favorite of butterflies is the butterfly bush, which has purple flowers.
- Help butterflies with their entire life cycle by providing food for caterpillars. Plant milkweed for monarchs, and dill and parsley for black swallowtails.

Water

All the little animals will come to your garden for clean water. Birds come for a dip. Squirrels stop for a drink. Fragile butterflies float in for a sip. Even frogs hop in for a soak. Here are two suggestions:

- A shallow container, such as a flowerpot saucer, can be set on the ground in the shade of low ground cover so all the animals can reach it.
- A pedestal birdbath can be set up in the sun near plants where birds can hide. Then watch them flit in for a drink or bath.

1. What is the meaning of the word allured?

- A Fed
- B Permitted
- C Strongly deterred; repelled
- D Tempted with something pleasurable

Directions

There are thousands of caves in the world. Read the passage to learn more about them. Then answer the questions that follow.

Exploring Caves

A cave is a dark opening in the earth that is big enough to hold a person. It might be a series of rooms and tunnels, or it might consist of only one chamber. The Mammoth Cave-Flint Ridge cave system in Kentucky is the longest cave system in the world. It stretches more than 190 miles.

There are many types of caves. Sea caves are formed when ocean waves crash against cliffs and wear away the rock. Lava caves are created when volcanoes erupt and send hot lava under ground. When streams flow below mountain glaciers, ice caves may form.

The most common type of cave is the limestone cave. This cave is formed when rainwater slowly trickles through tiny cracks in the rock on the earth's surface. The water picks up carbon dioxide from the air and soil and forms an acid that begins to eat away the limestone underneath the ground. After thousands of years, the water drains out, leaving a huge cavern. A cave is born.

Sometimes water continues to seep into the cave, a drop at a time. Each drop leaves a tiny crystal on the cave's ceiling. As one crystal joins another, unusual icicles form. These icicles, which are made of stone, are called stalactites. Some drops fall to the floor of the cave. The drops build one upon another, causing unusual formations that seem to grow out of the ground. They are called stalagmites. When stalactites and stalagmites meet, they form a column. It takes many trillions of drops of water to form these magnificent wonders.

The entrance of a cave is called its mouth. The section between the mouth and the part where daylight ends is always cooler in the summer and

warmer in the winter than the air outside. Some birds, snakes, and mice, as well as green plants, live in this area.

The further one goes into a cave, the darker it gets. There is still a little sunlight, but not much. Mold grows and bats sleep there. The temperature varies somewhat in this area.

The innermost part of a cave is very damp and completely dark. It is like a basement with no windows. Sunlight cannot reach it, so the temperature and humidity are always the same. Few creatures are able to survive, and the ones that can are blind. No green plants can grow in this black, moist, deep section of a cave.

There is evidence that people lived in caves thousands of years ago. Stone tools and skeletons have been found, as well as paintings on the walls. If you ever visit a cave, remember to treat it with respect. Caves have many fascinating secrets to share.

2. In this passage, the word trickles means—

- A drips
- B erupts
- C gushes
- D pours

Directions

One of the best-known figures in American history is Betsy Ross. Read to find out how she became an American legend.

Betsy Ross and the Flag

Three men knocked on the door of a small brick house in Philadelphia in June of 1776. It was the home of a seamstress, Betsy Ross. The three men, so the story goes, were George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross. They were members of the Continental Congress. George Washington was a general. He had not been elected President yet. This was also shortly before America declared independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776.

George Ross was an uncle of Betsy Ross's by marriage. He knew that she had a workshop in her house and that she had made flags for the Pennsylvania Navy. The men brought the design of a flag they wanted Betsy Ross to make. She looked at the design. It consisted of several stripes and stars. Then she showed them how to make a five-pointed star. She said that it would be easier to make than the six-pointed star shown on the design. The men agreed to the change, and she agreed to do the job.

On June 14, 1777, Congress formally adopted the flag, called the Stars and Stripes. It was made of thirteen stripes, red and white. In the corner was a square blue background. Thirteen white stars were in a circle on the blue background. The stars and the stripes stood for the thirteen states in the Union at the time.

Betsy Ross was not mentioned in Congress. She was not given credit for sewing the flag. She told her family and friends about it, though. It was not until 1870, about a hundred years later, that the public knew about her participation. Her grandson, William Canby, told her story to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He had heard the story from his aunt, who had heard it from her mother. Today most people believe that Betsy Ross sewed

the first flag. Although they don't think she came up with the design, she may have decided to put the thirteen stars in a circle. There are no written documents to prove any of this, however. Nevertheless, in 1898, the house in Philadelphia was named the Flag House. It was restored. In it are some of Betsy Ross's belongings. The house still stands as a tribute to an American legend.

In 1795, Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union. Two stars and two stripes were added to the flag. It had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. In 1818, five more states joined the Union. Congress decided that the flag should have only thirteen stripes. The number of stripes would not change, but a star should be added for each new state added to the Union. It would be added on the July fourth following that state's admission to the Union.

Since 1777, there have been 27 changes in the flag. The last change was made on July 4, 1960. Since then the flag has had fifty stars for fifty states. But it still has thirteen stripes for the original thirteen states.

3. In this selection, adopted means—

- A chose a pet from a humane society
- B named
- C raised as one's own child
- D voted to accept

Directions:

Most people probably don't give much thought to tomatoes. Read the poem to find out why one writer finds the tomato quite interesting. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Tomato

It's the color of an apple and the size of a peach,
But don't throw it in a cooler for a day at the beach.

Perhaps you already know about the grand tomato—

It isn't a true veggie like the carrot or potato.
Although it doesn't taste a bit like other fruit,
It's clear from here to Sicily that no one gives a hoot.

The explorers were afraid that it would make them ill,

But the locals knew it was a gastronomic thrill.
Today we eat tomatoes with garlic, salt, or pepper,
For lunch, for snacks, and especially for supper.

Bake them, fry them green, or boil them into sauce,
With juicy tomatoes, a chef is never at a loss.

Mash, chop, puree, or dice,
Crush, blend, or just plain slice.

Any way you take them, tomatoes are just fine—
But I like them best fresh off the vine.

4. What is the meaning of the word gastronomic?

- A Having to do with exploration
- B Having to do with eating
- C Having to do with Native American culture
- D Having to do with vegetables and fruits

Advice for Canoeing

Thousands of people across the country go canoeing every year. It is a fun and exciting way to get exercise in the great outdoors. However, as with any sport, it is important to be careful when canoeing. Here is some advice to help you canoe safely.

1. Wear a life preserver. It will help you swim better in case you fall out of the canoe.
2. Canoes can sometimes roll to the side and leave you in the water. Keep your belongings in waterproof bags. Before you push off into the water, tie loose items to the canoe. You don't want anything to wash downstream!
3. Watch out for other canoes. Maybe you can help someone who's in trouble, or maybe they can help you.
4. Don't stand up in the canoe. It will tip easily, and standing up can throw it off balance. Always stay seated, even if you are not paddling. If you have to stand up for some reason, make sure the water is not too rough before you do it.
5. Watch the sky. Be sure to look for bad weather. Return to land if you see a storm or lightning. You can always go canoeing some other time.
6. Paddle calmly and don't get too tired. One of the best features of canoeing, is that you sit back, relax, and watch the beauty of nature.

And last but not least...

7. Enjoy yourself and have fun!

5. What is the best definition of the phrase to wash downstream as it is used in the following sentence?

You don't want anything to wash downstream!

- A to clean the river
- B to go to the bottom of the stream
- C to drift away
- D to go to a waterfall