

1. What is recycling?

- A. a process where something is reused**
- B. a process where something is thrown away
- C. a process where something is taken and buried
- D. a process where something harms the earth

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

- A. The author explains the problems with recycling and suggests different solutions.
- B. The author describes similarities and differences between recycling and throwing things away.
- C. The author lists information about recycling in order of importance, from most to least important.
- D. The author describes recycling and shares an argument about why it's important.**

3. Read these sentences.

"... recyclable objects have to be sorted from trash. Then the objects have to be cleaned."

These sentences can be used to support which conclusion below?

- A. "... the objects are turned into materials that can be used by people and companies."
- B. "Recycling can be time-consuming and dirty work."**
- C. "Recycling helps protect the earth."
- D. "Be proud of recycling."

4. What can be concluded from this passage?

- A. The author works for a recycling plant.
- B. The author does not believe in recycling.
- C. The author believes that all you have to do to save the environment is throw a bottle in a bin.
- D. The author believes that everyday people can help the earth.**

5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Recycling helps protect the earth and conserve its resources.**
- B. Many people avoid recycling because it is too difficult.
- C. People must make decisions what to recycle.
- D. Only certain things can be recycled.

6. At the end of paragraph one, the author asks, "Why should people bother to recycle even though it takes a lot of work?" Why does the author include this question?

- A. to transition the reader to the next paragraph, which answers the question**
- B. to question the reader's knowledge about recycling
- C. to summarize the major points in paragraph one
- D. to allow the reader to demonstrate understanding

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Recycling takes work, \_\_\_\_\_ it is good for the environment.

- A. instead
- B. before
- C. so
- D. but**

8. What does the author suggest you do when you are about to throw a plastic bottle in the garbage?

The author suggests that you stop and think about your action and choose a recycling bin instead of a garbage can.

9. What examples does the author provide to show that recycling helps conserve the earth's resources?

The author provides two examples. Factories use less energy when recycling steel cans than when making new ones. When paper is recycled, trees are saved from being cut down. Trees are used to make paper.

**10.** Read these sentences from the text.

"Get in the habit. Be proud of recycling. Encourage others to recycle."

How can these actions make a difference? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answers may vary but should be supported by the text. Students may answer that when people recycle and encourage others to recycle, more materials will be recycled. This will protect the earth from waste in landfills and help conserve the earth's resources.

**Teacher Guide & Answers****Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 970

1. Corinne is hoping the Cougars will win this game.
  
2. The story takes place at a baseball stadium.
  
3. "She cheered at the top of her lungs for every strike and bood when anyone on the other team, the Cyclones, got a hit."
  
4. Corinne loves baseball, and this is her first time at a baseball game.
  
5. Corinne greatly enjoys her first time at a baseball game.
  
6. The phrase means to be very calm.
  
7. because (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)
  
8. Answers may vary.
  
9. Answers may vary.
  
10. Answers may vary.

1. What is Maria's favorite sport?

Maria's favorite sport is soccer.

2. The climax of a story is the most exciting or intense part of the story. What is the climax of "Soccer in the Park"?

The climax is when Maria blocks the ball from entering the goal.

3. Soccer is a big part of Maria's life. What sentence from the story best supports this statement?

"Her first steps were taken on a soccer field, and she had been watching soccer games as long as she could remember."

4. Read these sentences from the story.

"Most of the players were Maria's age, but some were much bigger. Maria reached for her father's hand. 'I don't know, Papa,' she said. 'Some of these kids look big.'"

How does Maria feel at this point in the story?

Maria feels intimidated.

5. What is the main idea of this story?

Maria overcomes her shyness and participates in a soccer game, helping her team win.

6. Read the sentences and answer the question.

"Two teams were playing. Most of the players were Maria's age, but some were much bigger. Maria reached for her father's hand. 'I don't know, Papa,' she said. 'Some of these kids look big.'

"'You can do it,' said her father. 'I know you can.'

"Maria strapped on her cleats and her gloves. She walked onto the field and found the team's captain. 'Do you guys need a goalie?' Maria asked him hesitantly."

What does the word "hesitantly" mean as used in this text?

doubtfully

7. What word or phrase best completes the sentence?

\_\_\_\_\_ Maria was too shy to play soccer with the other children, she still loved to watch.

although (Please note that there may be more than one acceptable response.)

8. When Maria and her father arrive at the soccer field, she sees two teams playing soccer. Why does she hesitate to join them?

**Answers will vary.**

9. Why does Maria feel happy after the soccer game?

**Answers will vary.**

10. Explain how playing in the soccer game affected Maria by using evidence from the story.

**Answers will vary.**

## Teacher Guide & Answers

1. **D** - Monica and her mom go out to pick blueberries in the country.
2. **C** - Monica gets stung by a yellowjacket.
3. **A** - Monica enjoys picking blueberries.
4. **A** - She goes from being in a bad mood to being in a good mood.
5. **C** - how awesome a mother can be
6. **D** - to show how grumpy the main character is feeling
7. **B** - although
  
8. Monica asks, "Aren't you a little old to be playing make-believe?"
  
9. Monica smiles.
  
10. Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the story. Students may claim that Monica's response has changed because of her experience picking blueberries. Getting stung by a yellowjacket while on her own at the blueberry farm may have given Monica a new appreciation of her mother and the comfort her mother offers. Also, discovering the joy of singing and dancing herself under the blueberry branches may have made Monica more tolerant of such behavior in her mother.

1. The adults in Sarah's life seem confused about what?
  - A. New York City
  - B. garbage dumps
  - C. birds and wildlife
  - D. the Meadowlands**
  
2. Sarah takes her dad's canoe to explore the Meadowlands. What motivates Sarah's actions?
  - A. She wants to know if the Meadowlands are an ugly swamp or a beautiful oasis.**
  - B. She wants to prove that her dad is wrong about the danger of the Meadowlands.
  - C. She wants to study the Meadowlands to complete a class project.
  - D. She wants to show her dad that she is brave and adventurous by exploring on her own.
  
3. There are different, contrasting opinions about the Meadowlands. What evidence from the story best supports this statement?
  - A. Sarah doesn't know what the Meadowlands are really like, so she decides to go and see for herself.
  - B. The Meadowlands used to be polluted by garbage dumps, but now the Meadowlands are recovering.
  - C. Some say the Meadowlands are a dangerous swamp; other say they are a precious habitat for birds.**
  - D. Sarah's father warns her not to go to the Meadowlands, but Sarah ignores his warnings and visits them anyway.
  
4. Based on the story, what can you conclude about the Meadowlands?
  - A. The Meadowlands are dangerous and should be left alone.
  - B. The Meadowlands can be both beautiful and disgusting.**
  - C. The Meadowlands are always a beautiful and flowering oasis.
  - D. The Meadowlands are still too polluted for animals to live there.



5. What is this story mostly about?

- A. Sarah goes to the Meadowlands, and her father gets mad at her.
- B. Sarah discovers that the Meadowlands are dangerous and ugly.
- C. Sarah asks her teacher about the history of the Meadowlands.
- D. Sarah goes to the Meadowlands to learn more about them.**

6. Read the following sentences: "Well, the Meadowlands once had a lot of garbage dumps that polluted the water pretty badly. But most of the dumps are closed now. And the habitat for wild birds is **recovering**."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**recovering**" most nearly mean?

- A. getting better**
- B. getting smaller
- C. getting older
- D. getting sick

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Sarah wants to see what the Meadowlands are like, \_\_\_\_\_ she takes her dad's canoe and paddles into the swamp.

- A. soon
- B. namely
- C. so**
- D. but

8. According to Mr. Morrison, why are the Meadowlands precious?

The Meadowlands are precious because they are one of the last places near New York City where birds migrating from Florida can stop and rest.

**9. Why does Sarah start to cry in the Meadowlands?**

Sarah starts to cry because her canoe gets stuck in the mud, and when she tries to paddle away, her paddle releases an overwhelming gas stench.

**10.** In the story, there are two different views of the Meadowlands: 1) the Meadowlands are a dangerous and ugly swamp, and 2) the Meadowlands are a beautiful and precious oasis. Which of these views (if any) accurately describes the Meadowlands? Support your answer using information from the story.

Answers may vary and should be supported by the story. Students should indicate that both of the views accurately describe the Meadowlands, because there are two sides to the wetlands. In some places and at some times, the Meadowlands are beautiful-Sarah sees flowers and wildlife and thinks, " *This is all so beautiful!* " However, the Meadowlands can also be ugly and dangerous-Sarah gets stuck in the mud, which smells "like a combination of old paint and rotting food." Like Sarah's dad says, "The swamps can be pretty disgusting, but there's some beautiful stuff in here. You just have to know where to look."

**Teacher Guide & Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 810

1. What is the town in the passage famous for?

- A tightrope walkers
- B jugglers**
- C bowling pins
- D circus elephants

2. What main problem does Mayor Arnold face?

- A People are complaining about the jugglers, and she doesn't know what to do.**
- B Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a juggler's stray bowling pin.
- C She holds imaginary conversations with the golden cat statue in her office.
- D The jugglers might sue the city if they were fined for disturbing the peace.

3. While many people are happy to live in a famous town, not everyone is happy about the jugglers. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A The biggest newspaper in the state capital writes an article about the jugglers.
- B Excited crowds gather around the skilled jugglers outside the movie theater.
- C Donald Seastrunk leads a crowd in an anti-juggler protest.**
- D Donald Seastrunk is hit in the head by a bowling pin.

4. Read the following sentences: "The mayor chewed her pen. She tapped her foot furiously. She sighed so strongly that important documents blew off her desk, and this made her sigh again."

Based on this description, how is Mayor Arnold most likely feeling?

- A inspired
- B upbeat
- C lonely
- D frustrated**

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A how Mayor Arnold makes decisions
- B problems caused by jugglers in a town**
- C the dangers of increased numbers of copycat jugglers
- D the routines performed by skilled jugglers

6. Read the following sentence: "Winking and smiling, the jugglers performed **astonishing** feats: dozens of balls in the air at once; nifty, behind-the-back and through-the-legs tricks; even juggling blindfolded."

What does the word "**astonishing**" mean as used in this sentence?

- A unsurprising
- B realistic
- C colorful
- D **amazing**

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The jugglers bring tourists and money to the town; \_\_\_\_\_, the jugglers disturb the peace and annoy some citizens.

- A **on the other hand**
- B initially
- C above all
- D as a result

8. Why does Donald Seastrunk send an email to the mayor's office?

**Suggested answer:** Donald Seastrunk sends an email to the mayor's office to complain about the jugglers.

9. Why can't the mayor order the police to fine the jugglers for disturbing the peace?

**Suggested answer:** The mayor can't order the police to fine the jugglers, because the jugglers might sue the city. If they did, the case would go to court and the city could lose a lot of money.

10. Explain why the issue of the jugglers is so difficult for Mayor Arnold. Support your answer using information from the passage.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. For example: The issue of the jugglers is difficult for Mayor Arnold because there is no clear solution. She cannot pass a law banning juggling, and fining the jugglers is too financially risky. It is a difficult issue because there are two conflicting viewpoints among the citizens: some people like the jugglers and enjoy living in a famous town, while others, like Donald Seastrunk, find the jugglers a nuisance. Additionally, the jugglers attract tourists, who spend money at local stores and increase the wealth of the town. So, the jugglers' presence is both good and bad for the town.

1. In which place did the Burmese python become an invasive species?
  - A. southwest Asia
  - B. southeast Asia
  - C. the Mojave Desert
  - D. the Florida Everglades**
  
2. Fifty percent of the Everglades was reclaimed for agricultural or urban use. Which of the following is an effect of this agricultural or urban use?
  - A. The Burmese pythons spread throughout the Everglades.
  - B. The crayfish population increased.
  - C. Much of the northern area of the Everglades was polluted with phosphorous.**
  - D. Significant developments in surrounding states took place.
  
3. The decreasing numbers of small mammals in the Everglades was most likely due to the presence of Burmese pythons in the area. Which of the following evidence from the text best supports this conclusion?
  - A. Python eggs and hatchlings are a food source for other animals.
  - B. The Burmese pythons reached numbers that designate them as invasive species in the Everglades.
  - C. The population loss of small mammals was not observed in areas where the python had not established itself.**
  - D. The first Burmese python found in Florida was probably kept as a pet and then released by its owner.
  
4. Based on the information in the passage, what kind of effect did Burmese pythons have on the Everglades?
  - A. They had a mainly positive effect.
  - B. They had both a negative and positive effect.
  - C. They had no effect on the Everglades.
  - D. They had a mainly negative effect.**

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. how Jason Leon was able to capture and kill a Burmese python
- B. the reclamation of the Florida Everglades for agricultural and urban use
- C. the Florida Everglades and the Burmese pythons that live in them**
- D. efforts to decrease the number of Burmese pythons in the Florida Everglades

6. Read the following sentences from the text.

"Since then efforts have been underway to safeguard the park and return the Everglades to health. Water levels are monitored, as are nutrient levels in both water and soil samples.

"Much of the conservation project was designed to reverse-engineer the canal system that was built in the 19th and mid-20th centuries. By the mid-2010s, ecological indicators showed some improvements."

Based on the text, what does "conservation" most nearly mean?

- A. preservation and protection**
- B. destruction and damage
- C. elimination or deletion
- D. discovery and exploration

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Burmese python is native to tropical and subtropical zones in Southeast Asia, \_\_\_\_\_ it managed to establish itself in the Florida Everglades.

- A. since
- B. so
- C. but**
- D. because

**8.** The reclamation of the Everglades for agricultural and urban use had harmful effects on the Everglades. List at least two of these harmful effects.

Answers may vary but should include:

the crayfish population decreased the nesting habits of the wading and migratory birds were disrupted much of the northern area of the Everglades was polluted with phosphorous

**9.** How did the python invasion of the Everglades affect the other animals that live in the Everglades?

The python invasion of the Everglades threatened other animals that live in the Everglades because the pythons prey on some of them. The pythons can eat animals of different sizes. They especially enjoy dining on small mammals and birds. Studies have shown that since their appearance in the Everglades, the numbers of small mammals in the area dropped significantly.

**10.** Identify the two main threats to the Everglades mentioned in the passage, and describe the efforts to fight these two threats.

Students should identify the reclamation of the Everglades for agricultural and urban use and the invasion of the Burmese python as the two main threats to the Everglades. The efforts to fight these two threats should be accurately cited from the text. For example, students may note that in order to reverse the damage of agricultural and urban use, water and nutrient levels are monitored, and the park is protected given its designation as a national park. To combat the Burmese pythons, students may explain that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issued permits to hunt the snakes within state wildlife-managed areas of the Everglades.

## Teacher Guide & Answers

1. **C** - roots, trunk, branches, and leaves
2. **A** - They make streams and rivers healthier by keeping soil where it's supposed to be.
3. **C** - "Too much carbon dioxide makes the earth heat up too much, causing strong storms and sea-level rise. Since trees absorb carbon dioxide, they can help reduce the greenhouse effect."
4. **D** - By absorbing more carbon dioxide, a healthy forest would help the atmosphere not get too hot.
5. **A** - Trees are very important for the earth's atmosphere and living things, and many people are working together to make sure that trees are healthy.



**Teacher Guide & Answers****Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 1030**1.** What is the sun?

- A** a planet that can only be seen from northern Alaska
- B** an asteroid that shines light onto the earth
- C** a star that can only be seen from northern Alaska
- D a star that shines light onto the earth**

**2.** The midnight sun in northern Alaska is an effect described in the passage. What is its cause?

- A** animals moving south in the winter
- B** getting a sunburn in the winter
- C** the Northern Hemisphere tilting away from the sun
- D the Northern Hemisphere tilting toward the sun**

**3.** Read the following sentences: "During part of the spring and summer in Earth's Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun so much that the sun in northern Alaska, which is located in the Arctic Circle, never goes below the horizon. . . . During parts of the fall and winter in Earth's Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted in such a way that the sun doesn't come over the horizon in northern Alaska for a little over two months."

What conclusion about the impact of the tilt of the earth does this information support?

- A** The tilt of the earth has no impact on the amount of sunlight different parts of the earth receive.
- B** The tilt of the earth has an impact on how fast the earth moves around the sun.
- C The tilt of the earth has an impact on the amount of sunlight different parts of the earth receive.**
- D** The tilt of the earth has an impact on how fast the Earth rotates on its axis.

**4.** Based on the text, how does the Northern Hemisphere tilt during the Northern Hemisphere's winter months?

- A away from the sun**
- B** towards the sun
- C** away from the moon
- D** towards the moon

**5.** What is this passage mostly about?

- A** the town of Barrow, Alaska, and what people there do in the arctic summer
- B sunrise, sunset, midnight sun, and polar night**
- C** mosquitos, caribou, and adult birds
- D** how living things have adapted to survive the arctic summer and winter

6. Read the following sentences: "During some of the spring and summer in Earth's Northern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun so much that the sun in northern Alaska, which is located in the Arctic Circle, never goes below the horizon. In Barrow, Alaska, the sun doesn't set for almost three months! This **phenomenon** is called the midnight sun, when the sun has not set at midnight."

What does the word "**phenomenon**" mean above?

- A large body of water
- B event or occurrence**
- C big problem or disaster
- D the study of stars, planets, and space

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The midnight sun is when the sun never sets; \_\_\_\_\_, the polar night is when the sun never rises.

- A for instance
- B most importantly
- C in contrast**
- D in the end

8. How does the Northern Hemisphere of the earth tilt when northern Alaska is experiencing the midnight sun?

**Suggested answer:** The Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun.

9. How does the Northern Hemisphere of the earth tilt when northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night? Use information from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** The Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun. The text states "the Northern Hemisphere is tilted in such a way that the sun doesn't come over the horizon in northern Alaska for a little over two months." Furthermore, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted *towards* the sun when northern Alaska is experiencing the midnight sun, so the opposite is most likely the case when northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night. Based on these two pieces of information, students can conclude that the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun when Northern Alaska is experiencing the polar night.

10. How does the earth's tilt affect the earth? Use information from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** Answers may vary and should be supported by the text. Students should generally explain that the earth's tilt affects how much sunlight a hemisphere receives, impacting its people and wildlife.

**At this time, the answer key for “Butterflies in Culture” is not available.**