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In the Rain Forest

Some of the world’s most interesting plants and animals live in tropical rain forests. These forests are near the equator, in a part of the world called the tropics. The climate there is always warm. Tropical rain forests usually get rainfall every day.	12 27 39 43
A rain forest has four layers. The bottom layer is called the forest floor. It is quite dark. Very little sunlight filters through the tall trees. The forest floor is also very damp. Water drips off the plants after the rain, and even the air is wet. Nothing ever really dries out in this first layer.	57 71 86 99
The second layer up is the understory. Many kinds of animals live in the smaller trees that grow in this layer.	113 120
The third layer up is the canopy. Even more animals live here. At this level are the tops of many trees. The leaves and branches of different trees link together. The canopy is like a roof.	134 148 156
The fourth and top layer in the forest is the emergent layer. It includes the tops of the tallest trees. Some are more than 200 feet (61 m) tall. These trees get the most sunlight and rain.	171 187 193
Many plants grow only in the rain forest. These plants have developed ways to live there. Myco-heterotrophs are one kind of plant that lives on the forest floor. Not much sunlight reaches them. Most plants must have sunlight to make their own food. Myco-heterotrophs get food another way. Their roots draw food from the fungi that decompose dead leaves and flowers.	205 219 231 242 254
Many rain forest flowers are high in the trees. In most rain forests, the trees flower at different times. Some flowers in the rain forest only bloom once every five years!	268 281 285

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1 What do most plants need to make their own food?

- (A) fungi
- (B) flowers
- (C) sunlight
- (D) dead leaves and flowers

2 Which layer of a rain forest receives the MOST sunlight?

- (F) the canopy
- (G) the understory
- (H) the forest floor
- (I) the emergent layer

3 What is the meaning of the word *draw* as used below?

Their roots draw food from the fungi that decompose dead leaves and flowers.

- (A) to remove from a holster
- (B) to take or pull
- (C) to sketch
- (D) to bring

4 What structure does the author use to discuss the four layers?

- (F) compare and contrast
- (G) problem and solution
- (H) alphabetical order
- (I) cause and effect

5 Compare the forest floor of a tropical rain forest with the emergent layer. Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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The Kid from Brighton Beach

Boris was excited when his family moved from Russia to America.	11
He would have to learn to speak English, but he had always been a good student. Boris was also excited because he had always been told that America was the land of baseball.	26 38 44
Boris and his friends in Russia had organized two teams. Although they didn't have much equipment, they played baseball in the park on weekends in the spring and summer. Boris became the best hitter of them all.	56 69 81
Boris liked his new home in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, New York. Now that it was springtime, he thought more and more about baseball. He had seen his school baseball team, the Eagles, practicing. However, he didn't know how to get on the team.	93 106 117 127
One afternoon, Boris stopped to watch the Eagles practicing. One of the boys said, "Coach, that's Boris Brodsky. He's in my class. He just moved here from Russia."	139 152 155
The coach asked if there was something he could do for Boris. Boris said, "I like baseball. I must ... to play ..." He struggled for the right words.	169 182
The coach said, "I'll give you a chance. Step up to the plate. Let's see what you can do."	197 201
Boris could feel his heart beating fast. The ball came speeding toward him. Boris swung and missed. He backed away from the next two pitches. Then came the pitch that Boris had been hoping for. He blasted the ball way, way out beyond the far end of the field.	213 226 241 250
The coach cried out, "Way to go, kid! I want you on the team. Where did you learn to hit like that?"	266 272
Boris smiled. "In Russia," he said.	278

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 How does Boris meet the coach of the Eagles?
- (A) Boris introduces himself.
 - (B) Boris goes to try out for the team.
 - (C) A boy in Boris's class introduces him to the coach.
 - (D) He and the coach live in the same neighborhood in Brooklyn.
- 2 Why does springtime make Boris think about baseball?
- (F) He plans to return to Russia in the spring.
 - (G) He knows the Eagles hold tryouts in the spring.
 - (H) He has been told that America is the land of baseball.
 - (I) In Russia, he played baseball in the spring and summer.
- 3 What is the meaning of the word *blasted* as used below?
- He blasted the ball way, way out beyond the far end of the field.**
- (A) blew
 - (B) destroyed
 - (C) hit hard and far
 - (D) made a loud noise
- 4 When Boris steps up to the plate, why does he *feel his heart beating fast*?
- (F) He has been running.
 - (G) He is nervous or excited.
 - (H) He has his hand on his chest.
 - (I) He had been drinking tea or coffee.
- 5 How does Boris feel about the fact that he learned to play baseball in Russia? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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What Is Metal?

You use it when you wear a watch. You use it when you open a can of soup. You use it when you use a coin to pay for something. What do you use? Metal.	16 32 35
Metal is usually hard and shiny. Iron, gold, and silver are metals. So are nickel, lead, zinc, copper, aluminum, and tin. Steel is a metal that is made from iron and other materials.	49 63 68
Many things are made of metal because metal can be melted and formed into many shapes. The shapes can be large or small, sturdy or delicate.	81 94
Look around the room. Do you see a paper clip? A lamp? A key? Those things are often made of metal or have metal parts. The coins we use for money are made of metal, too. However, each coin is a mix of different metals.	108 122 137 139
A penny is mostly zinc with a coating of copper. A dime, a quarter, a half-dollar, and a dollar coin are mixes of nickel and copper. These four coins all have three layers. The middle layer is copper. The two outside layers are a mix of nickel and copper. Think about the different metals in coins the next time you are counting your money.	153 167 180 194 203
Metal comes from the earth. You may have read about workers who dig in the earth to find metal. Some of them search for valuable metals such as gold, silver, or copper. These rugged workers are called miners. When miners find the metal they are searching for, they dig it out of the earth. The holes that miners dig are called mines. The deepest mine in the world today is about 2.5 miles deep.	216 230 242 257 271 277

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Which metal is made from iron?
- A aluminum
 - B copper
 - C silver
 - D steel
- 2 Which metals does the author describe as *valuable*?
- F iron, gold, and silver
 - G copper, nickel and zinc
 - H gold, silver, and copper
 - I lead, aluminum, and tin
- 3 Which pair of words from the article have almost the OPPOSITE meaning?
- A valuable, rugged
 - B sturdy, delicate
 - C coating, layer
 - D hard, shiny
- 4 What is the MAIN idea of the article?
- F Metal comes from the earth.
 - G Metal is usually hard and shiny.
 - H The coins we use are made of metal.
 - I Many things are made of metal because metal can be formed into many shapes.
- 5 Compare the structure of a penny with the structure of a dime, a quarter, a half-dollar, and a dollar coin. Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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Fireboats of New York

Have you ever seen a fireboat? What are fireboats, anyway, and what do they do?	13
Many years ago, as New York City was growing, problems were growing, too. Many goods were shipped out of New York. Many goods were shipped into New York. The ships, docks, and warehouses along the harbor had to be protected from fire. The fire department had to find a way to fight fires there. Their engines were useful only on land.	15
What could they do? They decided to use fireboats! The very first fireboat used by the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) was a tugboat rented in 1865 called the <i>John Fuller</i> . It could pump 2,000 gallons of water each minute! It took the water directly from the river.	27
The first real fireboat in New York City was the <i>William F. Havemeyer</i> . The ship entered service in 1875. It had a wooden hull and could pump 3,000 gallons of water each minute. The <i>Havemeyer</i> served New York City until 1901. By that time, people had learned that fireboats with wooden hulls were not such a good idea. Can you guess why? The boats could catch on fire, too! They began making fireboats from steel.	40
On land, it might take many fire engines to put out a fire. On the water, it usually takes just one fireboat. Fireboats have amazing power! One fireboat can pump about as much water as twenty fire engines!	53
Fireboats help fight fires on the many waterways of New York. These firefighters save people from burning ships, docks, and warehouses. They save millions of dollars worth of goods, too. They are a very important part of the Fire Department of New York City.	68
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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1 Where did the water sprayed by the *John Fuller* come from?

- (A) It came from tanks in the hull of the ship.
- (B) It came from twenty fire engines.
- (C) It was pumped from the river.
- (D) It came from a fire hydrant.

2 What is the meaning of the word *engines* as used below?

The fire department had to find a way to fight fire there. Their engines were useful only on land.

- (F) machines
- (G) fire engines
- (H) railroad locomotives
- (I) Internet search engines

3 How many years passed from the time the FDNY first rented the *John Fuller* until the *Havemeyer* was put into service?

- (A) two years
- (B) ten years
- (C) thirty-six years
- (D) twenty-six years

4 Why did people begin making fireboats with steel hulls instead of wood?

- (F) Steel is lighter than wood.
- (G) Steel is stronger than wood.
- (H) Steel ships are faster than wooden ships.
- (I) Steel is less likely than wood to catch fire.

5 Why does the author describe the *Havemeyer* as *the first real fireboat* in New York City? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

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The Golden Runner

One of the greatest Olympic runners ever was Wilma Rudolph. She was fast and graceful. Her long legs seemed to glide along the track. Wilma broke many records. She helped increase interest in women's track events. After her running career, Wilma helped young African Americans train for track and other sports.	12 25 36 47 51
Wilma's road to greatness was not easy. She had to overcome many physical problems. Her courageous struggle to compete and win still inspires people today.	63 74 76
As a child, Wilma often became ill. Her left leg was strapped to a metal brace. By the time she was twelve, her leg was strong again. She could walk without the brace. She would finally have a chance to play like other children.	91 105 119 120
Wilma joined the girls' basketball team at her school. She also found time to run track. She was naturally fast and liked to run. In the summer of 1956, Wilma went to Philadelphia for her first important meet. There she won every race she ran, including two sprints and a relay race.	132 148 160 172
Wilma was asked to try out for the United States Olympic team. She traveled to the Olympic Games in Australia. She won a bronze medal in the 400-meter relay. She was only sixteen years old.	184 197 207
Four years later, at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Wilma won her first gold medal in the 100-meter race. She won a second in the 200-meter race. In the 400-meter relay, Wilma ran the last leg of the race. She used all her speed to pass two other runners. Rudolph's team won the race by less than a second. With that victory, Wilma became the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympic Games.	221 236 252 266 278 285

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Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Why did Wilma have to wear a leg brace as a child?
- A She had long legs.
 - B She injured her leg running.
 - C Illness had left her leg weak.
 - D She had been in an automobile accident.
- 2 In what year did Wilma win her FIRST Olympic medal?
- F 1952
 - G 1956
 - H 1958
 - I 1960
- 3 What is the meaning of the word *leg* as used below?
- In the 400-meter relay, Wilma ran the last leg of the race.**
- A a slender support of a piece of furniture
 - B one part of a pair of pants
 - C a lower limb of a person
 - D one of several parts
- 4 In the SECOND paragraph, what does the phrase *Wilma's road to greatness* mean?
- F The route Wilma flew to Australia.
 - G Wilma's physical problems as a child.
 - H The track on which Wilma won her gold medals.
 - I Wilma's life leading up to her Olympic victories.
- 5 Briefly summarize the events of Wilma Rudolph's life. Write your response on another sheet of paper.