

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**READING
CMT PRACTICE
PACKET**

#2

Reading



STUDENT'S NAME: _____

Rain Forests

How Much Rain Falls?

Rain falls for much of the year in the rain forest. The Amazon rain forest can get up to 10 feet of rain each year. Some years, it gets much more rain. How tall is 10 feet? The walls of most rooms are eight feet tall. So a pail would need to be higher than the walls of a room to catch 10 feet of rain.

Some places in the United States, such as parts of Florida, can get a lot of rain. These places in Florida can get five feet of rain each year. The Amazon rain forest gets twice as much rain as Florida does.

Why Are Rain Forests Important?

Rain forests are important to people, other animals, and plants. Rain forests cover only a small part of the earth. However, they are home to half of all the animals and plants on earth.

Many things people need come from rain forests. The sap from rubber trees is made into rubber. Rubber is used to make things we use every day, like balls and tires.

Rain forests keep weather the same in many parts of the world. When trees are cut down in rain forests, weather can change all over the world.

1. What is the Amazon rain forest like?

- a. Many animals but not many plants live there.
- b. It is cold and rainy.
- c. It is hot and rainy.
- d. Many plants but not many animals live there.

2. What is a rain forest?

3. What is another name for "How much Rain Falls?"

- a. "The Amazon Rain Forest"
- b. "Rain in Florida"
- c. "The Wet, Wet Rain Forest"
- d. "Rain Forests in Florida"

omit

4. Does the Amazon rain forest or Florida get more rain each year? Explain your answer using information from the article for support

Making Connections

5. What do you think it would be like to live in the rain forest? Tell why you think that way.

6. Name two reasons rain forests are important.

A City Hosts a Festival

San Jose in northern California holds the Tet festival on its fairgrounds every year. Tet is the Vietnamese New Year. It always falls between January 20th and February 20th of the year.

Many Vietnamese people live in San Jose. In fact, Northern California counts 160,000 Vietnamese among its citizens, more than any place outside of Vietnam itself. Tet is their most important holiday, the Feast of the First Day, and the Vietnamese come together during Tet for three days of celebration.

Tet is a time for wearing one's best clothes and a bright smile, too. No one wants any gloom at the New Year! It is time for visiting family and doing good things for others.

At the fairgrounds there are many ways to celebrate. You can ride the Ferris wheel on the midway. You can watch stage shows or listen to musical concerts. You can attend the table tennis contests or follow the volleyball tournament. You can watch students in martial arts perform their routines and receive awards from the judges.

There are many different kinds of foods at the festival. You'll see people lined up all around the fairgrounds, waiting to sample the Vietnamese treats. The dishes of barbecued pork and specially prepared chicken-with-rice are big favorites.

After reading the above passage, answer the following questions.

(Facts/Details)

- _____ 1. How many Vietnamese can be found in Northern California?
A. one hundred sixty thousand B. one thousand and sixty
C. one hundred six thousand D. sixteen thousand
- _____ 2. According to the passage, the Tet festival is a celebration of _____
E. independence. F. the New Year.
G. thanksgiving. H. the coming of spring.

Read the paragraphs below. Then look for clues to help you answer the questions. Discuss the clues and why you chose your answer with your family and classmates.

San Jose is a fast-growing urban center with a rich variety of ethnic communities. There are large numbers of Europeans in the city, such as people of English, Irish, German, and Italian descent. A very large community of Mexican-Americans lives in San Jose. You will also find communities of African-Americans and Asian-Americans within the city limits. (Main Idea)

- _____ 1. What is this paragraph mostly about?
- A. Many Germans and Italians live in San Jose.
 - B. Many African-Americans live in San Jose.
 - C. Many different ethnic communities live in San Jose.
 - D. Mexican Americans form a large community in San Jose.
- _____ 2. In this passage an urban center means _____
- E. a healthy group.
 - F. a city.
 - G. an ethnic community.
 - H. a rich neighborhood.

The people of San Jose vote every four years for a *mayor* to help run their city and 10 *city council members* to help. Then they hire a *city manager* to run the government. The city manager prepares a budget that tells how the money will be spent.

The money for the budget comes from the taxes that people pay. Some of these taxes are collected from a *sales tax* they pay when they buy things. Some taxes are *property taxes* which people pay on homes they own. Other taxes are on *utilities*, such as taxes paid on the telephone or gas bill. (Draw Conclusions)

- _____ 1. The top person in San Jose government is the _____
- A. sheriff.
 - B. mayor.
 - C. city manager.
 - D. tax collector.
- _____ 2. The city budget tells how money will be _____
- E. spent.
 - F. taxed.
 - G. loaned.
 - H. borrowed.

<p>Most of the Vietnamese people in Northern California left Vietnam after the war. Many of them escaped in the middle of the night in little fishing boats</p>	<p>hoping to make it to a free land. We all such people refugees because they are looking for safety (refuge) in another land.</p>
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- _____ 1. In this passage a refugee is a person who is looking for _____
- A. food.
 - B. safety.
 - C. comfort.
 - D. wealth.
- _____ 2. People left Vietnam because they were _____
- E. afraid
 - F. sick
 - G. angry.
 - H. unlucky.

TRY IT

Read the sentences below. What does the underscored word mean?
Look for context clues. Write a sentence telling what the word means.

1. For hundreds of years the Vietnamese people lived in villages. But in recent times large cities have been built. As a result, today many people live in the big cities rather than the villages.

2. Along the banks of the Mekong River, the land is fertile. The rich black earth is good for growing rice, coffee, and coconuts.

Popcorn is made from kernels of corn. A popcorn kernel is very small. If you plant the kernels, they will grow. Corn kernels need good soil, water, and sunlight. They are 1. If they are given good care, they will grow into plants.

Corn kernels have a hard shell. Inside the kernel there is a drop of water. When the kernel is heated, the drop of water becomes hot. As it becomes hot, it also gets larger. The hot water needs more 2 than the shell can provide.

Finally, it cannot fit inside the shell any longer. Then the kernel 3. When this happens, we say it "pops." That is why this form of corn is called "popcorn."

1. (a) children (b) seeds
(c) friends (d) people
(e) toys

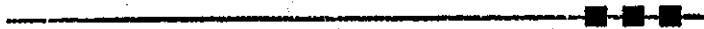
HINT ■■■
What does the pronoun *They* mean? Look for clues to help you fill in the blank.

2. (a) coffee (b) ice
(c) room (d) salt
(e) butter

HINT ■■■
What does the hot water need more of if it cannot fit?

3. (a) explodes (b) smells
(c) shrinks (d) disappears
(e) bends

HINT ■■■
What happens to the kernel? When a kernel pops, what does it do?



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THE ARCTIC

The Arctic is at the top of the world. It is cold much of the year. The Arctic is mostly frozen snow. The snow covers everything it is like a white _____1_____.

In the winter months, the sun does not shine in the Arctic. The sky loses its light. The land also becomes _____2_____. Then, one day the sun comes back. Each day, it shines longer than the day before. In time, the land begins to grow warm.

The snow slowly melts. Life returns. Land animals, as well as _____3_____, come back to the Arctic. They return from other parts of the world. Foxes, wolves, and rabbits are seen again. Even giant sea animals, such as the _____4_____, return.

Some animals never leave the Arctic. For example, polar bears _____5_____ through the cold, black winter. A mother polar bear and her baby cubs spend the winter in a small space under the snow. The mother bear digs out this winter home. She does it before the cold comes. Then, she and her cubs curl up for a winter nap.

In the spring, the warm weather wakes the sleeping family. The mother digs up to reach the warming earth. She uses her strong paws like you might use a _____6_____ or other digging tool. She works and works. In time, the bear family stands in the open air.

Now, the mother will begin to hunt. Her babies need food. They like to eat the food their mother catches. The cubs eat meat and _____7_____, too. In time, they will grow strong. One day, the cubs will hunt their own. But for now they must wait for their mother to bring food.

In a few short months, the weather will change again. Sunny days will grow shorter. It will be dark and cold again. Some animals know it will soon be time to leave. They will travel south. There they will find warmer weather. Others will get ready to spend another winter in the Arctic cold.

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|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1. a. sled | b. flower | c. shoe | d. horse | e. blanket |
| 2. a. kind | b. large | c. dark | d. hot | e. careful |
| 3. a. birds | b. lamps | c. rocks | d. letters | e. bottles |
| 4. a. cat | b. pig | c. dog | d. whale | e. monkey |
| 5. a. walk | b. sleep | c. fight | d. cry | e. shop |
| 6. a. stove | b. car | c. shovel | d. hat | e. book |
| 7. a. candy | b. soup | c. paper | d. fish | e. string |

Editing and Revising

Directions: Read each passage. Then read each question and choose the best answer. Mark this answer in the correct place.

Composing and Revising

Eric's local library is having a writing contest for children. The writing contest is called "What My Library Means to Me." The children must write on this topic. Third-grader Eric has written the first draft of his entry. Now he needs your help revising it.

This is the rough draft of Eric's paper. Read and use it to answer questions 1 through 4.

What My Library Means to Me

(1) I like going to the library. (2) There is so much to do there.

(3) The library is fun. (4) I can find great books on many different subjects.

(5) There are even neat magazines just for kids. (6) If I get tired of reading, I can play games on the computer or look at the videos. (7) My dad just bought a new videocassette recorder.

(8) The library is a good place to do schoolwork. (9) It is a quiet place to study or do homework. (10) When I have a report to do. (11) I know I can find the information I need.

(12) The library has nice people. (13) The librarians are always ready to help. (14) They can find a book that is just right for you. (15) Sometimes the library doesn't have the book you need. (16) Then the librarians will get it for you from another library.

(17) What does my library mean to me? (18) The library means fun, the library means learning, and the library means nice people.

1. Which one of these sentences does NOT belong?

- (a) Sentence 2
- (b) Sentence 5
- (c) Sentence 7
- (d) Sentence 14

HINT...

Find the sentence that does not support the main idea of its paragraph.

2. Which one of these is NOT a sentence?

- (f) Sentence 2
- (g) Sentence 10
- (h) Sentence 15
- (i) Sentence 17

HINT...

A sentence must be a complete thought. It has a subject and a verb. Which sentence does not include a complete thought?

3. The topic sentence of the fourth paragraph is

- (a) sentence 12.
- (b) sentence 14.
- (c) sentence 15.
- (d) sentence 16.

HINT...

A topic sentence gives the main idea of the paragraph. It tells what the paragraph is about.

4. Sentence 18 is poorly written. Which one of these is the BEST way to rewrite it?

- (f) The library means fun, learning, and nice people.
- (g) The library means fun, and the library means learning, and the library means nice people.
- (h) The library it means fun, the library it means learning, and the library it means nice people.
- (i) Meaning fun, meaning learning, and meaning nice people is what the library means.

HINT...

What is wrong with the sentence? What words can you get rid of without changing the meaning of the sentence?