The Cricket in Times Square

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Tucker Mouse learns things by eavesdropping on unsuspecting human beings. Eavesdropping means ____________.
   ○ A. dropping from eaves
   ○ B. listening to conversations while hidden
   ○ C. talking loudly
   ○ D. waiting until nightfall

2. Tucker’s nest was a jumble of different objects. A jumble is a ____________.
   ○ A. very large structure made of straw
   ○ B. confusing mix
   ○ C. carefully organized collection
   ○ D. funny story

3. Tucker Mouse says Chester is very logical to follow the liverwurst smell, meaning Chester is ____________.
   ○ A. caring
   ○ B. unreasonable
   ○ C. sensible
   ○ D. smelly

4. The beginning of this story takes place in a ____________.
   ○ A. train station in Connecticut
   ○ B. picnic basket on a train
   ○ C. subway station in Chester Place, Connecticut
   ○ D. subway station in Times Square, New York City

5. When we first meet Harry Cat, he has been ____________.
   ○ A. looking for food
   ○ B. singing to Chester
   ○ C. trying to get out of a drainpipe
   ○ D. taking a bath

6. Why doesn’t Tucker Mouse fear Harry Cat?
   ○ A. Harry Cat doesn’t have teeth.
   ○ B. Harry Cat no longer eats mice.
   ○ C. Harry Cat prefers candy.
   ○ D. Tucker Mouse is larger than Harry Cat.
7. Which statement best describes the theme of this story?
   ○ A. Even though animals may live in a noisy subway station, they can find food.
   ○ B. Mice and crickets should not try to be friends.
   ○ C. Despite being very different, three creatures can find common ground and be friends.
   ○ D. If you run away from home, you’ll be sorry.

(B) Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Why is Chester afraid of Times Square?

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9. How would this story be different if Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat somehow got lost in Connecticut, and Chester helped them?

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10. If you had to give this story a different title, what would it be? Why?

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The Life and Times of the Ant

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. The ant is not a _solitary_ insect; it is very social. **Solitary** means ____________.
   - A. pretty
   - B. busy
   - C. one who lives alone
   - D. one who lives with others

2. Ants somehow know that successful teams need effective _communication_. **Communication** means ____________.
   - A. sharing information
   - B. shouting
   - C. keeping secrets
   - D. whispering

3. As ants move dirt, they recycle _nutrients_ that growing plants use. **Nutrients** here refer to ____________.
   - A. stones and twigs
   - B. vitamins and minerals
   - C. bottles and cans
   - D. twine and weeds

4. Ants communicate using ____________.
   - A. queen bees
   - B. deep caves
   - C. four senses
   - D. messenger flies

5. What growth sequence does an adult ant follow?
   - A. Pupa, Larva, Egg, Adult
   - B. Egg, Pupa, Larva, Adult
   - C. Adult, Pupa, Larva, Egg
   - D. Egg, Larva, Pupa, Adult

6. Which words below best describe ants?
   - A. hardworking and organized
   - B. scattered and fast
   - C. cruel and selfish
   - D. lazy and alone
7. What does the time line tell you about the history of ants?
   - A. They have existed for over a thousand years.
   - B. They have existed for over 100 million years.
   - C. They are a lot like computer networks.
   - D. They killed off the dinosaurs.

B Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Why does the author describe anthills in such detail?

9. If you were an ant, which role would you want to have? Why?

10. What do you think is the most interesting thing about ants? Why?
Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. The Great Wall of Los Angeles linked people together. In this selection, linked means ______________.
   - A. brought people together
   - B. made people stand in one place
   - C. provided paint
   - D. supported

2. In working on the design of the mural, artists calculate the dimensions of the wall. Calculate means ______________.
   - A. estimate
   - B. determine by mathematical processes
   - C. guess
   - D. paint on the mural

3. Judy Baca began painting The Great Wall of Los Angeles in ______________.
   - A. 1984
   - B. the 1950s
   - C. 2001
   - D. 1974

4. The mural shows the history of ______________.
   - A. Mexican-Americans
   - B. Japanese-Americans
   - C. Native Americans
   - D. different groups of people

5. A mural is a ______________.
   - A. framed painting
   - B. large painting on a wall, ceiling, or building
   - C. type of sculpture
   - D. large canvas

6. Which statement is an example of a fact from this article?
   - A. The Great Wall of Los Angeles is the longest mural in the world.
   - B. The Great Wall mural is an exciting example of Hispanic art.
   - C. The Great Wall mural was painted by Judy Baca all by herself.
   - D. The section showing Olympic champions is the best part of the mural.
7. Money is being raised for the Great Wall mural so that ______________.
   ○ A. famous artists can redo the mural
   ○ B. the mural can be restored and expanded
   ○ C. guards can be hired to protect the mural
   ○ D. Judy Baca can finally be paid for her work

B) Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Do you think that creating podcasts about the Great Wall is a good idea? Why or why not?

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9. Imagine your class has been asked to help update and expand the mural. What people or events would you portray? Explain.

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10. Why does the author say that the Great Wall of Los Angeles is “more than just a mural”? Use details from the selection to support your answer.

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The Earth Dragon Awakes

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. During the earthquake the building trembles. Trembles means ________________.
   - A. breaks into pieces
   - B. splinters and breaks
   - C. shakes or shivers involuntarily
   - D. falls apart

2. Chin is trapped under the table when its legs collapse. To collapse is to ________________.
   - A. break down completely
   - B. pull apart
   - C. chip or cut
   - D. catch on fire

3. Which place is most affected by the earthquake?
   - A. Los Angeles
   - B. Nevada
   - C. Oregon
   - D. San Francisco

4. When Henry’s father calls for help on the telephone ________________.
   - A. the operator tells him help is on the way
   - B. a fire starts
   - C. he realizes the telephone lines are down
   - D. he gets a shock

5. After the earthquake, another great danger is ________________.
   - A. lightning
   - B. fire
   - C. snowstorms
   - D. tornados

6. Why had Chin and his father been planning to go to the Travises’ house?
   - A. His father works for the Travises.
   - B. Chin had promised to study with Henry.
   - C. The two boys wanted to go swimming.
   - D. His father was going to repair the roof.
7. When Chin is rescued, he immediately ______________.
   ○ A. thanks Ah Quon for pulling him out
   ○ B. tells Ah Quon that his father is still trapped
   ○ C. says he feels like a turnip
   ○ D. looks for Henry

(B) Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Henry’s dog Sawyer had been restless the previous night. What does this suggest about the dog?

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9. Why do neighbors form a “bucket brigade”? Use details from the story in your answer.

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10. Why does Mr. Travis say, “Trouble brings out the worst in some people”?

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My Brothers’ Flying Machine

A Fill in the bubble next to the best answer.

1. Orv and Will read newspapers with headlines about flying machines. Headlines are ____________.
   ○ A. titles
   ○ B. columns
   ○ C. margins
   ○ D. articles

2. The young brothers know that a bicycle without a rider is unstable. If a bicycle is unstable, it is ____________.
   ○ A. steady
   ○ B. left in a stable
   ○ C. unsteady
   ○ D. a small bike

3. Orv and Will feel that their success is assured. That means ____________.
   ○ A. they are unlikely to succeed
   ○ B. they are probably going to succeed
   ○ C. they will definitely succeed
   ○ D. they will definitely fail

4. When the boys receive their first model flying machine, they think it is a ____________.
   ○ A. wheel
   ○ B. bat
   ○ C. scale
   ○ D. clothespin

5. How can you tell that the brothers are handy builders?
   ○ A. They are able to write articles about machines.
   ○ B. They build kites and a printing press.
   ○ C. They enjoy working outside.
   ○ D. They make a lot of messes.

6. After the brothers run a print shop, they go on to ____________.
   ○ A. finish school
   ○ B. write speeches
   ○ C. grow mustaches
   ○ D. run a bike shop
7. Where do the Wright brothers test-fly their airplane, *Flyer*?
   ○ A. Dayton, Ohio
   ○ B. San Diego, California
   ○ C. Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
   ○ D. St. James, Florida

**B** Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

8. Who is the narrator? How does her voice contribute to the selection?

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9. How do the Wright brothers change the world?

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10. How are the narrator and the author different from each other?

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