

## Study Island: Main Ideas & Details

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**Directions:** Please read each passage and answer all of the comprehension questions. Place the correct answer on the line that's provided for you.

### Passage A

Last week, the National Center for Health Statistics, NCHS, said that Americans are living longer.

Life expectancy is how long a person can expect to live. Research found that most Americans can expect to live 77.6 years. Girls can expect to live about 81 years. Boys can expect to live 74.8 years.

Why do girls live longer than boys? Many scientists believe it is because of girls' hearts. Girls' hearts still pump strong as they get older. Boys' hearts lose 25 percent of their pumping power by the time they turn 70.

The NCHS also said Americans' life expectancy was most likely raised because of fewer deaths from different sicknesses. These include cancer, stroke, and heart disease.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1.) **Which title best summarizes the article above?**

- A. Boys Live 74.8 Years
  - B. Increasing Your Pumping Power
  - C. Americans Living Longer
  - D. Girls are Better than Boys
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### Passage B

Do you know where to find Italy on a map? Italy juts out from the European continent. It sticks out into the Mediterranean Sea. It is shaped like a high-heeled boot. The toe is pointed to the island of Sicily. Other important islands to its west are Sardinia, Corsica, and Elba. To the north are France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany. Some countries lie to the east. They are across the Adriatic Sea. Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina are found across the water.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2.) **Which sentence from the passage supports the idea that Italy is surrounded by water?**

- A. It sticks out into the Mediterranean Sea.
  - B. It is shaped like a high-heeled boot.
  - C. Do you know where to find Italy on a map?
  - D. The toe is pointed to the island of Sicily.
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## **Passage C**

It is very easy to grow seedlings. First, fill seed pots with finely sifted potting mix. Plant seeds 1/4 inch deep, one seed to a pot. Keep the pots in a warm, bright place to avoid tall, spindly seedlings, which don't transplant well. Keep the soil moist but not soaked. Spraying the top of the soil with a spray bottle works well. In three or four days, seedlings will sprout. When these seedlings have several leaves, they are ready to be planted outdoors.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3.) **What is this passage mostly about?**

- A. how to pick good pots
  - B. how to fill pots with soil
  - C. how to water plants
  - D. how to grow seedlings
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\_\_\_\_\_ 4.) **Which sentence supports the following main idea?**

**There are enough funny and strange holidays to fill each day of the year.**

- A. Teachers and students get to take time off from school for major holidays.
  - B. The best holiday is Thanksgiving because people eat good food and watch football.
  - C. April 5 is Rubber Eraser Day, while National Play-Doh Day is September 18.
  - D. I like to celebrate my birthday by going to play miniature golf with my friends.
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\_\_\_\_\_ 5.) **Which sentence supports the following main idea?**

**Comics have been popular sections of newspapers for a very long time.**

- A. I have three books of *Calvin and Hobbes* comics at my house.
  - B. Cartoons are like comics, but they are made for television.
  - C. Some people like to watch cartoons on Saturday mornings.
  - D. The first comic, called *The Yellow Kid*, was started in 1895.
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## **Passage D**

Sweat is made by very many—maybe several million—little sweat glands scattered around your skin. They are more tightly packed on the palms of your hands and the soles of your feet. When seen in a microscope, each gland looks like a coiled-up tube with an opening on the surface of the skin. Its job is to make sweat. Sweat evaporates from the skin and cools your body.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6.) **Which best describes the main idea of the passage?**

- A. the purpose of skin
  - B. the skin on feet and hands
  - C. how sweat glands work
  - D. how to use a microscope
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## **Passage E**

The ring you sometimes see around the sun or moon is called a halo. It is believed to be caused by the scattering of sunlight by tiny ice crystals very high in the sky. High clouds of ice crystals in the sky are called cirrus clouds or cirrostratus if they form a layer. These often form in front of warm fronts that bring rain. That means a halo around the sun or moon is often a warning that rain may come.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7.) **The passage is mainly about**

- A. how halos are formed.
  - B. warm fronts that bring rain.
  - C. a warning that rain may come.
  - D. the reasons the sun rises.
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## **Passage F**

Dear Consumer:

Thank you for taking part in this survey. By giving us information about this product, you are helping us develop better products. Only a few people are participating. We want your honest opinions about this product and its packaging. We think you will find the survey easy to fill out. We will send you \$10 as a thank you for your answers once we get them.

Sincerely,  
Upside Surveys

\_\_\_\_\_ 8.) **What is this letter mainly about?**

- A. filling out a product survey
  - B. surveying future voters
  - C. giving the rules for getting \$10
  - D. informing about a new product
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## **Passage G**

Jenna first helped her dad to put up the tent. Her dad let her hit the stakes into the ground. It was hard work! Jenna hit the stakes as hard as she could. After they put up the tent, Jenna and her dad got a campfire started. They roasted marshmallows with some other campers and told ghost stories. Jenna's dad told the scariest story. It was about a ghost that haunted little girls in the woods.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9.) **Which would be the best opening sentence for the paragraph above?**

- A. Jenna's dad always told scary ghost stories.
  - B. Camping is a hard and scary experience.
  - C. Jenna went camping with her dad one night.
  - D. Jenna practiced putting up a tent by herself.
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## **Passage H**

After "Revenge of the Sith," George Lucas will be done with *Star Wars*. *Star Wars* has been around for 30 years. There are six major films, TV specials, toys, books, and many other products. Lucas has no plans to continue the series after the sixth film is released.

Six movies make up *Star Wars*. They are split into 2 trilogies, which means three films as a set. The first *Star Wars* movie was released in the 1970s. It won much fanfare and praise.

Lucas has been reported saying many different things about the *Star Wars* movies. He said that it was supposed to be 9 parts long, and he wrote all the parts a long time ago. Other quotes from him say that the first trilogy was all that there was, but he wanted to do the second trilogy as a back story. The real truth is unknown. The only certain thing now is that "Revenge of the Sith" will be the last *Star Wars* movie.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10.) **Which of the following best tells what the article is about?**

- A. George Lucas is finished with the *Star Wars* series after "Revenge of the Sith."
  - B. George Lucas wrote all of the *Star Wars* movies including 3 parts that haven't been released.
  - C. The *Star Wars* series is divided up into 6 movies which are split into 2 trilogies.
  - D. The first *Star Wars* film was released in the 1970s, and many people loved it.
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## **Passage I**

Volcanoes are mountains or hills formed when matter explodes through an opening in Earth's surface. Very hot, melted rock called magma gathers under Earth's surface. The magma begins to move toward the surface of the earth. It moves like a balloon filled with helium rising into the air. Tiny drops of magma collect until large amounts of magma are moving toward the surface. When the magma reaches an opening in the Earth's crust, it rushes through. As it falls, the magma cools and hardens into rock. That rock forms the mountain or hill that we call a volcano.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11.) **What is this paragraph mostly about?**

- A. how volcanoes are formed
  - B. where magma is located
  - C. the temperatures of volcanoes
  - D. how helium balloons rise
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## **Passage J: *Have you experienced the thrill of Real Skate?***

Hey, video game players! It's time to ditch those cartoon games. Who wants to take baby steps when you can fly with the big boys? *Real Skate* takes you to the limits of your imagination. You will travel at speeds that will take your breath away. You will jump so high and so far you will feel like you can fly! When you've finished a round of *Real Skate*, you'll want two bottles of ice water—one to drink, and one to pour over your feet! You can own *Real Skate* today for only \$29.95.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12.) **What is this advertisement mostly about?**

- A. *Real Skate* is an action-packed video game that is fun to play.
  - B. The video game *Real Skate* is a bargain at only \$29.95.
  - C. *Real Skate* is a video game only for older video game players.
  - D. Playing the *Real Skate* video game will make you thirsty.
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\_\_\_\_\_ 13.) Which sentence supports the following main idea?

**Teen Read Week is an important event that encourages teens to read for fun.**

- A. There are a lot of good series written just for kids.
  - B. Funny books are the best kind of books to read.
  - C. Books help to pass the time during long road trips.
  - D. The event reminds teenagers that reading can be fun.
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### **Passage K**

Cactuses can live in dry places because of their parts. Most cactuses have waxy skin and thick, fleshy stems. The stems hold water, and the skin keeps the water from escaping. The stem can grow fat to hold more and more water. Cactuses also have long roots. The roots grow very close to the top of the ground. They spread wide around the plant. When it rains, the roots can also collect a lot of water.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14.) Which statement best describes the main idea of the passage?

- A. The roots grow very close to the top of the ground.
  - B. When it rains, the roots can also collect a lot of water.
  - C. The stem can grow fat to hold more and more water.
  - D. Cactuses can live in dry places because of their parts.
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### **Passage L**

Dear Mom and Dad,

I know you really don't think that I should have a kitten, but I would like to say that I think I should. I know I didn't take very good care of Sancho, the goldfish. But that was a long time ago. I was too young to take care of a pet by myself. Also, I didn't want a goldfish. I only brought Sancho home because Tommy was moving and couldn't take Sancho along. I really want a kitten, so I'm ready to do all the work to take care of it. I will feed it. I will clean its litter box. I will even help pay for its food with my allowance. My friend Denny's cat is having kittens, so I could have one for free. You can't beat a deal like that! I hope you will at least think about it.

Love,  
Seth

\_\_\_\_\_ 15.) What is the main idea of Seth's letter?

- A. He does not like goldfish anymore.
  - B. He is ready to take care of a kitten.
  - C. He will help pay for the cat's food.
  - D. His friend's cat is having kittens.
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