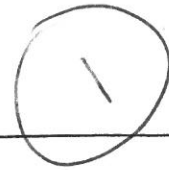


Active Reading**Section: Understanding Our Environment**

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The agricultural revolution allowed human populations to grow at an unprecedented rate. An area of land can support up to 500 times as many people by farming as it can by hunting and gathering. As populations grew, they began to concentrate in smaller areas. These changes placed increased pressure on local environments.

The agricultural revolution also changed the food we eat. The plants we grow and eat today are descended from wild plants. During harvest season, farmers collected seeds from plants that exhibited the qualities they desired. The seeds of plants with large kernels or sweet and nutritious flesh were planted and harvested again. Over the course of many generations, the domesticated plants became very different from their wild ancestors.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

Read the question and write the answer in the space provided.

1. Why did populations concentrate in smaller areas during the agricultural revolution?

In the space provided, write the letter of the term or phrase that best answers the question.

- _____ 2. Which of the following best describes the theme of the passage?
- a. The agricultural revolution changed human food preferences.
 - b. Some plants today are similar to their ancestors.
 - c. Farming replaced hunting and gathering.
 - d. Agricultural communities developed from hunter-gatherer communities, and the practice of agriculture introduced new environmental problems.

Active Reading *continued*

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

Read the question and write the answer in the space provided.

3. The root word *ager* means "field," and *cultivation* means "the act of tilling."
Using this information, define *agriculture*.

SEQUENCING INFORMATION

One reading skill is the ability to sequence information, or to logically place items or events in the order in which they occur.

In the space provided, write the term that best completes each sentence in the sequence of statements showing how the food we eat today has changed over time.

4. Step 1: Farmers collected _____ from plants they liked.
5. Step 2: The farmers' preferred plants were planted and _____.
6. Step 3: _____ plants became very different from their ancestors.

RECOGNIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

One reading skill is the ability to recognize similarities and differences between two phrases, ideas, or things. This is sometimes known as comparing and contrasting.

In the space provided, write the letter of the phrase that best completes the statement.

- _____ 7. Farms are to hunting and gathering as
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| a. cars are to airplanes. | c. fish hatcheries are to fishing. |
| b. anchors are to ships. | d. compact discs are to vinyl records. |

RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

8. In what two ways did the human population change as a result of the agricultural revolution?

9. What changes did humans make that affected local environments?

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Skills Worksheet

Active Reading

Section: The Environment and Society

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The decisions and actions of all people in the world affect our environment. But the unequal distribution of wealth and resources around the world influences the environmental problems that a society faces and the choices it can make. The United Nations generally classifies countries as either developed or developing. Developed countries have higher average incomes, slower population growth, diverse industrial economies, and stronger social support systems. They include the United States, Canada, Japan, and the countries of Western Europe. Developing countries have lower average incomes, simple and agriculture-based economies, and rapid population growth. In between are middle-income countries, such as Mexico, Brazil, and Malaysia.

IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS

One reading skill is the ability to identify the main idea of a passage. The main idea is the main focus or key idea. Frequently a main idea is accompanied by supporting information that offers detailed facts about main ideas.

Read each question and write the answer in the space provided.

1. What organization has classified countries as developing or developed?

2. List two developed countries.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

In the space provided, write the letter of the phrase that best completes each statement.

- _____ 3. Developed countries often
- a. have higher average incomes and faster population growth.
 - b. have higher average incomes and slower population growth.
 - c. have faster population growth and diverse industrial economies.
 - d. eventually become developing countries.

- _____ 4. Developing countries often
- a. have lower average incomes and slower population growth.
 - b. have middle incomes.
 - c. include Mexico and Brazil.
 - d. have lower average incomes and faster population growth.

Active Reading *continued*

RECOGNIZING SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

One reading skill is the ability to recognize similarities and differences between two phrases, ideas, or things. This is sometimes known as comparing and contrasting.

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

5. The suffix *-ed* forms the past participle of a verb: *work* becomes *worked*. The suffix *-ing* is used to form the present participle of a verb: *swim* becomes *swimming*. Using this information, define a developed country.

6. Define a developing country.

7. What type of economy does a developed country have?

8. What type of economy does a developing country have?

9. How do the social support systems of developed countries differ from those of developing countries?

RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT

One reading skill is the ability to recognize cause and effect.

Read the question and write your answer in the space provided.

10. What factor affects environmental problems and the number of choices a society can make?

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