Name: _____ Date: _____

6B- ____ Reading: Practice Reading & Multiple Choice

Directions: USE PENCIL and a highlighter. Circle the *best* choice to answer each question.

Strategies:

- **Preview the questions**.
- Scan titles, sub-titles, headings, boldfaced terms, images, captions, and glossary words; **predict** what the text is about.
- Try to determine the **genre** of the text (poem, short story, news article, editorial / column (opinion piece), informational pamphlet, advertisement, etc.).
- Try to figure out from whose **point of view** the text is presented to you.
- Consider the **author's craft**: How is the text **organized**? What is the author's **purpose**?
- During your reading, **highlight answers** as you see them.
- While answering the questions, **read *all* choices** before you select your answer.
- Use the **process of elimination**: Cross out the choices you know are wrong; choose from the remaining choices the answer that seems *best*.
- **Look back at the text to check your answers**.
- Try to figure out what might make a choice *wrong*, not what might make it correct.

Read this poem. Then answer the questions that follow it.

Ponies and donkeys were once used in mines to pull carts of ore—in the United States as well as Great Britain.

The Pit Ponies

by Leslie Norris

They come like the ghosts of horses, shyly,
To this summer field, this fresh green,
Which scares them.

They have been too long in the blind mine,
Their hooves have trodden only stones
And the soft, thick dust of fine coal,

And they do not understand the grass.
For over two years their sun
Has shone from an electric bulb

That has never set, and their walking
Has been along the one, monotonous
Track of the pulled coal-trucks.

They have bunched their muscles against
The harness and pulled, and hauled.
But now they have come out of the underworld

(over)

And are set down in the sun and real air,
Which are strange to them. They are humble
And modest, their heads are downcast, they

Do not expect to see very far. But one
Is attempting a clumsy gallop. It is
Something he could do when he was very young.

When he was a little foal a long time ago
And he could run fleetly on his long foal's legs,
And almost he can remember this. And look,

One rolls on her back with joy in the clean grass!
And they all, awkwardly and hesitantly, like
Clumsy old men, begin to run, and the field

Is full of happy thunder. They toss their heads,
Their manes fly, they are galloping in freedom.
The ponies have come above ground, they are galloping!

1. Why are the ponies scared in line 3?

A They are unable to see where they are headed.

B They are unfamiliar with the world above ground.

C They are uncomfortable being around other ponies.

D They are unsure why they are no longer in the mine.

2. What is the central theme of the poem?

A the appeal of discovering the unknown

B the thrill of newfound freedom

C the promise of a well-planned future

D the wonder and beauty of nature

3. In line 7, why don't the ponies "understand the grass"?

A They are sick from breathing in too much coal dust.

B They are too old to remember where they are going and why.

C They have injured legs from pulling heavy coal-trucks.

D They have lived most of their lives in a dark and stony space.

(next)

4. In line 1, what does the simile "like the ghosts of horses" suggest?

A Living in the mine has made the ponies fierce.

B The ponies are sick because of conditions in the mine.

C Working underground has changed the ponies.

D The ponies look dreadful covered with dust from the mine.

5. What is the importance of lines 19 through 24?

A They suggest that the ponies prefer playing to working.

B They show the feelings experienced by one unusual pony.

C They reveal what was once natural behavior for the ponies.

D They indicate that one pony is much smarter than the others.

6. In line 28, what is the "happy thunder"?

A the sound of a storm approaching

B the sound of the ponies running

C the sound of the trucks in the mine

D the sound of a pony rolling on the grass

Read this article. Then answer questions that follow it.

The Sea Turtle's Built- I n Compass

by Sudipta Bardhan

If you were bringing friends home to visit, you could show them the way. You know the landmarks—a big red house, a bus-stop sign, or even a pothole in the front of your driveway. But what if you were swimming in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, where everything looks almost the same? Could you find your way home?

5 A loggerhead sea turtle could. It's born with a magnetic sense that tells it how to find its way from any place on Earth.

These big turtles swim thousands of miles each year. But somehow, they know which way to turn to stay in warm waters where there is a lot of food.

(next)

Loggerheads also seem to have a good memory for places, even for places they have seen just once before. Each female will lay eggs only on the beach where she was born, even if she hasn't returned since she hatched. Each year, she goes back to the same beach. That means a baby loggerhead must figure out exactly where it is from the moment it hatches.

"We think that the loggerhead turtles have a global-positioning system of sorts," explains Dr. Ken Lohmann, "and that it is somehow based on Earth's magnetic field."

This global-positioning system, or magnetic sense, is important. It helps the turtles locate what they need to live—from the best spots for finding food to their home beaches. Understanding the turtles' magnetic sense will help researchers figure out which areas are important for the survival of this endangered species.

It isn't such a stretch to think that loggerheads may have a magnetic sense. Scientists already know of several animals that can detect magnetic fields. Whales, honeybees, birds, fish, and even some bacteria use Earth's magnetic field to find their way. Many of these animals, including loggerheads, have a substance called magnetite in their bodies. That's what may give them their magnetic sense.

A difference between other animals and loggerheads, though, is the way they learn to use their magnetic sense. Young whales, honeybees, and birds can learn from adults. Loggerheads are abandoned as eggs.

With no adults to learn from, how do hatchlings figure out how to use their magnetic sense? Lohmann thinks they use cues from the environment. One of the cues he tested was light on the horizon.

Baby loggerheads hatch only at night. However, a small amount of light reflects off the ocean. The light makes that region brighter than the rest of the sky. Heading toward the light helps loggerheads get quickly out to sea, where they can find food.

Turtles hatching in eastern Florida first swim east, since that is the direction of the light. Lohmann tested whether hatchlings use this light source to set their magnetic compasses.

"We outfitted each hatchling with a cloth bathing suit that was attached to a fishing line and set them free in the tank," says Lohmann. The fishing line was connected to a tracking system so a computer could record which way the turtles swam.

Around the tank, the scientists set up electrical coils to create a magnetic field that matched the Earth's. They set a dim light to either the "east" or the "west" of the magnetic field. Then they let the hatchlings go.

At first, the hatchlings swam toward the light, no matter where it was. After scientists turned off the light, the turtles that had seen the light in the "east" always swam toward "east." When the researchers reversed the magnetic field, these turtles turned around and swam toward the new "east." They had learned how to use their built-in compass.

(next)

Turtles that had seen the light in the "west" swam toward "west." In the wild, swimming west would take them the wrong way—away from the ocean. So the light helped set the built-in compass, even if it did give the wrong direction.

Turtles that had their first swim in total darkness swam in random directions.

These experiments showed that loggerheads use cues from the outside world to set their magnetic sense. Loggerheads can detect magnetic fields from birth, but at first they don't know what they mean. After they follow the cues from their surroundings, they remember the "correct" magnetic direction.

Lohmann's work has led others to protect the loggerheads' habitat. For example, if a turtle hatches on a beach with a bright boardwalk, the turtle may be confused about which lights to follow. If it turns the wrong way, its magnetic sense may be warped forever. That would make survival hard for the turtle.

Lohmann is working to find other factors that are important in helping sea turtles find their way around the world. Many questions about these beautiful ocean creatures have still not been answered, so researchers have a lot of ideas to study.

1. Which detail is most helpful for understanding the central idea of the article?

A Loggerhead turtles hatch in eastern Florida.

B Loggerhead turtles prefer to feed in warm waters.

C Scientists are interested in protecting animal habitats.

D Scientists have studied how different animals navigate.

2. Why are lines 9 through 13 important to the article?

A They show how the turtles hatch eggs.

B They show the types of beaches turtles prefer.

C They explain why the turtles travel long distances.

D They explain why the turtle's sense of direction is so important.

3. Why do loggerhead hatchlings have to learn differently from the way many other animals learn?

A They hatch when it is dark outside.

B They do not have adults to teach them.

C They do not live completely on land.

D They depend on their surroundings.

(over)

4. Scientists conducted experiments to track the movements of baby turtles because they

A wanted to study how quickly turtles learn new behavior

B were hoping to recreate turtle territories in a laboratory

C were hoping to discover where turtles hatch

D wanted to learn how turtles react to light

5. According to the article, how might humans threaten loggerhead turtles' survival in the wild?

A by creating artificial magnetic fields

B by building bright structures near the ocean

C by preventing turtles from returning to their eggs

D by removing baby turtles from their natural habitat

6. What is the author's main purpose for including Dr. Lohmann's work in the article?

A to explain to readers how turtles behave in captivity

B to show how Dr. Lohmann conducts his experiments

C to highlight the important role of environment on turtles

D to describe the influence Dr. Lohmann has on the scientific community

7. Which statement from the article best represents a central idea?

A "It's born with a magnetic sense that tells it how to find its way from any place on Earth." (lines 5 and 6)

B "Loggerheads also seem to have a good memory for places, even for places they have seen just once before." (lines 9 and 10)

C "In the wild, swimming west would take them the wrong way—away from the ocean." (lines 47 and 48)

D "Lohmann is working to find other factors that are important in helping sea turtles find their way around the world." (lines 59 and 60)