

6 All About Tea

Which country grows the most tea? The answer is India. It grows three times as much as China. Which country drinks the most tea? It's neither China nor Japan. It's Great Britain.

In the wild, tea plants may be 30 feet tall. But a plant grown for market is pruned. Pruning keeps the plant only three or four feet tall. This is an easy height for tea plucking. Only the two top leaves and bud of each new shoot are plucked. So to make money, tea plantations must be huge.

In general, there are two kinds of tea. Black tea and green tea. Black tea is fermented. In the process, the tea loses nearly all of its healthy qualities. Green tea is steamed right after the leaves are picked. Green tea retains its healthy qualities. For instance, it may prevent heart disease.

How did we get tea bags? The answer: by accident. Tea merchants used to send samples in tin boxes. This was costly. One merchant thought of a cheaper way. He sent samples in small silk bags. Customers would snip open the bag. They would brew the leaves as usual. One customer put the bag into a pot. Then he just poured hot water over it. And the tea bag was born.

Shen Nung was the first to drink tea. (Shen was a Chinese emperor.) This was about 2737 B.C. Shen had bad digestion. So he drank several cups of hot water daily. One day something happened. Leaves from a wild tea tree fell into the hot water pot. The next cup was poured. The water was now colored. Shen sipped it. He liked it. He drank it all. Shen was proud of his new drink. He served it to his guests. Word spread. People thought this way. Tea is good enough for the Emperor. So it must be good enough for the people. Tea became the drink of China.

Main Idea	1	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>		☒ M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>		☐ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>		☐ N	5

- a. Green tea and black tea are not made the same way. ☐ _____
- b. Tea is enjoyed by people all over the world. ☐ _____
- c. Tea was discovered centuries ago, but it is still grown and is drunk today. ☐ _____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

My 1!

- Subject Matter** 2 Another good title for this passage might be
- ☐ a. An Ancient Drink.
 - ☐ b. Green Tea.
 - ☐ c. A Favorite Drink for Centuries.
 - ☐ d. Tea Plant.

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- Supporting Details** 3 One difference between green and black tea is that green tea
- ☐ a. comes from a different plant.
 - ☐ b. has a better taste.
 - ☐ c. is grown on more tea plantations.
 - ☐ d. is healthier.

written

- Conclusion** 4 One can conclude from this passage that tea
- ☐ a. from India is the best.
 - ☐ b. is better for you than any other drink.
 - ☐ c. is popular in many countries.
 - ☐ d. only grows in warm climates.

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- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to
- ☐ a. convince you.
 - ☐ b. make you laugh.
 - ☐ c. tell you how to do something.
 - ☐ d. give you information.

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- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage retains means
- ☐ a. keeps.
 - ☐ b. makes.
 - ☐ c. brings forth.
 - ☐ d. loses.

it back to

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

Total
Score

7 The Pacific Salmon

Salmon are born in fresh water. But they spend their entire adult life in the salty sea. At sea, a salmon feeds on small creatures. These are a kind of tiny shrimp. The shrimp are called "pink feed." This feed probably gives color to the pink meat of a salmon.

The sea is filled with food. But it is filled with enemies too. Some of these are seals, sharks, and sea bass. Salmon make a tasty meal, so they're not safe anywhere. Down deep, the lamprey eels dwell. They gobble up many salmon. There's no safety at the surface either. Sea birds swoop down. They carry many salmon away.

All salmon are not alike. There are four main ones. One is the chinook. A big one weighs 100 or more pounds. A fish like this would snap your rod. Second, there's the sockeye. It weighs about five pounds. Its flesh is deep red. This is the most important commercial salmon. It yields the highest dollar value. Pink salmon are the smallest. They weigh about three to seven pounds. Most pinks are canned. They have a delicate flavor. Fourth is the coho. Its flesh is medium red. It weighs about nine pounds. Some that stay out at sea longer weigh more. They can be 25 pounds.

Salmon travel far. They may go thousands of miles. Most travel for three years. They were born in the headwaters of some stream. They were five inches long then. That's when they first poked their noses into the sea. But they have swum far away from their place of birth.

Now, here's the big mystery. The salmon turn back. Why do they do this? Some call it the "homing instinct." The salmon move back toward the fresh water in which their life began.

Main Idea

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Answer

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Mark the *main idea*

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Mark the statement that is *too broad*

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Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

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- Pacific salmon travel in the sea for about three years. ☐
- There are different types of salmon, but all spend a few years living in the sea. ☐
- All salmon follow a very specific life journey. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is about
- ☐ a. fish of the Pacific.
 - ☐ b. the salmon and its life.
 - ☐ c. the Chinook and coho salmon.
 - ☐ d. freshwater fish.

- Supporting Details** 3 The sockeye and the pink salmon are different because of their
- ☐ a. skin color.
 - ☐ b. length.
 - ☐ c. stay at sea.
 - ☐ d. strength.

- Conclusion** 4 We can assume that salmon
- ☐ a. attack other fish.
 - ☐ b. taste like shrimp.
 - ☐ c. like fresh water better than salt water.
 - ☐ d. are strong swimmers.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 The term "homing instinct" means
- ☐ a. a natural need to return home.
 - ☐ b. wanting to stay home.
 - ☐ c. a way of recognizing surroundings.
 - ☐ d. trying to go back home.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 The word yields, as used in the passage, means
- ☐ a. brings in.
 - ☐ b. catches.
 - ☐ c. stops.
 - ☐ d. spends.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here **Total**
and on the graph on page 211. **Score**

8 The Long Way Home

The "homing instinct" drives the salmon great distances. The fish may be a thousand miles from home. It is probably off the coast of Chile or Peru. Suddenly, it heads northward. It is looking for the freshwater stream where it was spawned. Hundreds of streams flow into the sea. All of them contain fresh water. All are very much like the stream where the salmon was born. But it passes all these. It swims day and night, mile after mile. But then it takes a right turn. There is no hesitation. "This is my home stream," it seems to think. "I can smell it." This is the mystery. The fish was five inches long when it left. It weighed about a pound. It was gone about three years. How does it know exactly where to go? Now a new vigor enters its body. Rapids and waterfalls cannot stop it. It leaps and swims against the current. It can leap ten feet. It can leap into a waterfall and with its powerful tail leap again. If it fails the first time, it tries over and over.

There are men on the banks with rods. The salmon ignores all bait and food. It has only one mission in mind. It swims to find the clear water of its birth. It will find it. Not by sight. But by taste and smell.

The salmon is now upstream. Here the water does not run so swiftly. The salmon is almost home. "Here is my side streamlet," it seems to think. The water is just a few feet deep. Finally the trip is over. But the salmon does not rest. Instead, it starts its nest. The nest is called a *redd*. The salmon's tail and body swish hard. Mud, plants, and stones are scattered by the movement. The salmon clears a spot five to six feet across. Now a "clean and dustless" nest can be built.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

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Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

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- The salmon is able to leap high into the air to get upstream.
- It is a mystery how salmon get back home.
- Salmon are able to find their way back to their original home to make a nest.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 Another good title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. How the Salmon Builds a Nest.
 - ☐ b. The Salmon's Homing Instinct.
 - ☐ c. A Great Fish.
 - ☐ d. Swimming Upstream.

- Supporting Details** 3 In the salmon's trip to get home it
- ☐ a. loses weight.
 - ☐ b. stops to smell fishermen's bait.
 - ☐ c. swims against the water's current.
 - ☐ d. can leap 20 feet in the air.

- Conclusion** 4 For the salmon, the trip home is
- ☐ a. exciting.
 - ☐ b. difficult.
 - ☐ c. lonely.
 - ☐ d. frightening.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 To make this passage interesting the author
- ☐ a. uses only facts.
 - ☐ b. tells a humorous story.
 - ☐ c. includes the fish's thoughts and feelings.
 - ☐ d. includes famous quotes.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage, spawned means
- ☐ a. spotted.
 - ☐ b. nesting.
 - ☐ c. caught.
 - ☐ d. born.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

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9 Completing the Life Cycle

On the trip home, the male salmon stays with his mate. They travel north together for thousands of miles. They jump the same rapids. They hurdle the same waterfalls. When she builds a new nest, he protects it. Other females are looking for a nesting spot. But the male keeps them away.

The female doesn't rest. She hovers over the nest. She contracts. The eggs come out. Dozens at a time form a stream. The nest is quickly covered by about 10,000 eggs. Also quickly, the male darts over the eggs. He gives off a milky mist called *milt*. This milt fertilizes the eggs.

Then a strange thing happens. The parents don't stay around. They're exhausted. They relax. They let themselves float downstream. Soon they die and are washed ashore. But this is not a waste. Hungry bears already line the shore. They eat and get fatter and fatter. Soon they will be ready for their winter's sleep.

What about the eggs? They will lay in the nest for about 2½ months. About that time, there will be a wiggle in the eggs. Then the young, called *fry*, burst forth. Each fry now has a yolk sac under its chin. This sac provides food. Now the fry hide among the reeds and weeds. They feed off the sac for a few weeks. Then, after about ten weeks, they look like fish. They stay in the fresh water a few months longer. Then the strong urge comes. The salmon are vigorous and lively. They are five inches long now. They are ready to leave the friendly fresh water. Its taste and smell will stay in their brains. The memories will be there for the salmon's whole life cycle. They will be there until the salmon becomes food for the bears lined up on the shore.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

Mark the *main idea*

☒ M

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Mark the statement that is *too broad*

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Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

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- Salmon lay eggs that will follow the same life cycle as their parents did.
- The male and female salmon leave their eggs and go downstream to die.
- Salmon life follows a pattern.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter

- 2 This passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. the behavior of male and female salmon.
 - ☐ b. fertilizing salmon eggs.
 - ☐ c. the beginning and end of a salmon's life.
 - ☐ d. the death of the salmon.

Supporting
Details

- 3 The "fry" stays alive because
- ☐ a. its parents provide it with food.
 - ☐ b. it feeds off weeds.
 - ☐ c. its yolk sac provides it with food.
 - ☐ d. it stays in the fresh water for a few months.

Conclusion

- 4 From this passage you can conclude that
- ☐ a. laying and fertilizing eggs takes a lot of effort.
 - ☐ b. most salmon are eaten by bears.
 - ☐ c. fish worry about what will happen to their young.
 - ☐ d. salmon stay in fresh water for a year.

Clarifying
Devices

- 5 In the final paragraph, "the strong urge" is to
- ☐ a. mate.
 - ☐ b. leave the fresh water.
 - ☐ c. lay eggs.
 - ☐ d. stay away from the bears.

Vocabulary
in Context

- 6 In this passage hovers means
- ☐ a. stays in one place.
 - ☐ b. cries.
 - ☐ c. returns.
 - ☐ d. stands off to the side.

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10 The Lone Eagle

Could you stay awake for 33½ hours? That's a long time. Not even a few seconds to doze are allowed. The "Lone Eagle" did it. Who is he? He is Charles A. Lindbergh.

It was spring 1927. The grassy field was soaked with rain. The tires were sinking into the turf. The plane was loaded with tons of gasoline. It was just enough to get to Paris.

The Lone Eagle gunned the engine to get maximum power. He knew the plane was heavy with gas. The soggy turf would make it hard to gain take-off speed.

The Lone Eagle waved a signal. The wheel blocks were jerked away. The plane lurched forward. The soggy turf did not let go easily. Would he gain enough speed? Would there be enough runway? The trees at the end were already close—too close.

It was too late to stop. He pulled the stick back hard. Luckily the plane lifted. The wheels skimmed the top leaves. Prayerful cheers of relief rose from the ground crew. The Lone Eagle quickly waved. He turned northward. First he crossed Long Island Sound. Then he headed to Labrador. The plane was to fly over land as long as possible. Just in case.

Then it was all water. He was over the North Atlantic. Ice formed on his wings. The Lone Eagle skimmed the waves. It was warmer there. The ice melted.

Thirty-three hours passed. He saw the lights of Paris. He circled. Over 100,000 people crowded the airstrip. He circled again. He found a clear airstrip. He landed. A battalion of police moved in. They had to keep the wild crowd at bay. Everyone wanted to see the hero. He was the first to fly across the ocean alone.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

Mark the *main idea*

☒ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☐ B

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Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

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- The "Lone Eagle" was Charles A. Lindbergh.
- Luck and endurance made the "Lone Eagle's" trip possible.
- The "Lone Eagle" made a memorable flight in 1927.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

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- Subject Matter** 2 This selection is mostly about the "Lone Eagle's"
- ☐ a. flight to Paris.
 - ☐ b. desire to be alone.
 - ☐ c. preparation for flying.
 - ☐ d. ability to stay awake.

- Supporting Details** 3 During Charles A. Lindbergh's flight to Paris
- ☐ a. he only flew over land.
 - ☐ b. the plane almost ran out of gas.
 - ☐ c. he flew over the Atlantic Ocean.
 - ☐ d. snow covered the plane.

- Conclusion** 4 We can assume from the passage that
- ☐ a. this was Lindbergh's first time in an airplane.
 - ☐ b. flying over large bodies of water was a challenge.
 - ☐ c. planes only flew over land until now.
 - ☐ d. the author witnessed this event.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 The writer develops suspense in the fourth paragraph by
- ☐ a. describing the plane.
 - ☐ b. asking questions.
 - ☐ c. using facts.
 - ☐ d. recalling people's descriptions.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage battalion means a
- ☐ a. small gathering.
 - ☐ b. large group.
 - ☐ c. parade.
 - ☐ d. department.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

Total
Score