Short Articles for Reading Comprehension 1 Midterm Test

Name: _____ **Score: _____**

Unit 1-10

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct word(s).

1. This new car comes with a repair _____ for a flat tire.

a. kit* b. mode c. man d. tire

2. Eat only _____ meat and stay healthy!

a. fatty b. lean* c. thin d. slim

3. Tom works in a gold _____, but he is very poor.

a. house b. room c. mine* d. cave

4. Butter, cheese, and milk are all _____ products.

a. cheap b. chemical c. industrial d. dairy*

5. Some bad people kill elephants to get their _____.

a. tusks* b. hides c. meat d. delight

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct word(s).

1. Jim has read _____ and learned so little.

a. so much* b. much c. so many d. many

2. We lost everything, but _____ nobody was hurt.

a. for the least b. least of all c. at least* d. in the least

3. The famous professor's lecture was _____ boring.

a. as b. kind of* c. kindly d. kind as

4. Paper is usually made _____ wood.

a. of b. in c. with d. from*

5. I intended to call _____ Mrs. Simpson on my way home.

a. up b. on* c. back d. down

C. Choose the best answer.

An endangered species is a species whose numbers are so small it is at risk of becoming extinct, or dying out. There are many reasons why the numbers of some species have become so small. Some species have been hunted and killed for food or parts of their bodies, such as elephant tusks for ivory. Other species lost their habitat because humans have built things where they live. Pollution has also cost a variety of species their lives.

A few species are also in danger because of disease. The Koala bear (which is not an actual bear, but a marsupial) is one of these. Other animals are in danger because the plants they like to eat cannot grow due to changes in the weather.

Two of the most endangered species are the Giant Panda from China, and the African Elephant. There are also some kinds of whale, such as the blue whale, that are now endangered. It is not only famous species we are losing, in fact, there are hundreds of mammals, birds, fish, and insects that will one day disappear from the planet if we do not begin to take more action to protect them.

1. Which is NOT a reason why some species are endangered?

   a. Being hunted and killed

   b. Losing their habitat

   c. Pollution

   d. A big food supply*

2. Which is a threat to endangered animals?

   a. Safe habitats

   b. Disease*

   c. Enough food

   d. A mild climate

3. Which is a marsupial?

   a. Koala*

   b. Giant panda

   c. Elephant

   d. Whale

4. Which is NOT the practical reason why some people kill animals?

   a. For food

   b. For ivory

   c. For hide

   d. For pleasure*

5. The phrase "one day disappear from the planet" in the passage means _____.

   a. to disappear from the planet in a single day

   b. to begin hiding from humans

   c. to become extinct in the future*

   d. to face danger of extinction

D. Choose the best answer.

Chocolate is one of the most popular treats in the world. People drink it, eat it as candy, or use it as an ingredient in puddings and cakes. It is a custom in many Western countries for men to give their wives or girlfriends boxes of chocolates as presents. Also, on special occasions, chocolate treats are usually shared among family and friends.

Chocolate comes from the cocoa bean, which grows on the tropical cocoa tree. Europeans first tasted chocolate in the early 1500s when the Spanish invaded Mexico. At this time, Mexico was part of the Aztec Empire. At first, Aztec emperor, Montezuma, welcomed the Spanish general, Cortez, with a chocolate drink. He called the drink "xocolatl", which means bitter water. Cortez and his men took some of these beans back to Spain with them. It was not long before the drink became popular throughout Europe.

The manufacturing of chocolate from the cocoa bean is a long process. The beans are dried and roasted, and he shells are cracked. The nib—or center of the bean—is separated from the shell, and it is from this that chocolate is made. Other ingredients usually added to chocolate are sugar and sometimes vanilla or milk. This is what makes it sweeter and less bitter.

1. Who first introduced chocolate to Europe?

   a. Rich merchants

   b. Cortez and his men*

   c. Montezuma

   d. Sailors on a merchant ship

2. How did the Aztecs use chocolate?

   a. They drank it.

   b. They ate it.

   c. They gave it as gifts.

   d. They used it as medicine.

3. Where do cocoa trees grow?

   a. All over the world

   b. Only in Europe

   c. In tropical areas*

   d. In cold areas

4. Which is NOT true about chocolate candies?

   a. They are made of cocoa and other ingredients.

   b. The ingredients include sugar and milk.

   c. The manufacturing chocolate is a long process.

   d. They are made of a single ingredient, cocoa.*

5. What purpose is chocolate suitable for?

   a. As a medicine for a sore throat

   b. As a gift for one’s wife or girlfriend*

   c. As a way of remembering Cortez

d. As a way of remembering Montezuma