

REX4: Unit 12 Lesson B THE THREAT FROM SPACE

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Which of the following places is NOT mentioned in the article?
 - a. the Gulf of Mexico
 - b. Siberia
 - c. Canada
 - d. Argentina
2. Why did scientists most likely name the asteroid Apophis?
 - a. because it looks like the head of a god
 - b. because it is dangerous
 - c. because of its large size
 - d. because the astronomer who discovered it was Egyptian
3. In paragraph D, what does *near misses* mean?
 - a. incidents people think about often
 - b. occasions where two objects almost collided
 - c. events involving hundreds of people
 - d. rocks that are exceptionally large
4. In the third sentence of paragraph D, what does *it* refer to?
 - a. a car
 - b. an object
 - c. the atmosphere
 - d. a trail
5. What is the main idea of paragraph E?
 - a. Massive comets or asteroids have struck Earth's surface before.
 - b. The force of a rock striking the Earth can release a massive amount of energy.
 - c. Craters on Earth are formed by comets or asteroids striking the surface.
 - d. A falling comet caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.
6. According to the article, what do scientists say would be the most effective way to stop a large asteroid from hitting Earth?
 - a. using a spaceship to pull the asteroid away
 - b. exploding a nuclear bomb near the asteroid
 - c. landing on the asteroid and pushing it away
 - d. hitting it with a spacecraft to send it off course
7. Which of the following people has been injured by a meteorite?
 - a. Ed Lu
 - b. Anne Hodges
 - c. David Tholen
 - d. the author
8. What is the meaning of the underlined analogy?

Every day, tons of dust from comets and pieces of asteroids the size of grains of sand burn up in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

- a. very tiny
- b. very large

9. What is the meaning of the underlined analogy?

Another giant rock called Titan - 10 kilometers in diameter - smashed into the Gulf of Mexico around 66 million years ago, unleashing thousands of times more energy than all the nuclear weapons on the planet combined.

- a. hardly any energy
- b. an enormous amount of energy

10. What is the meaning of the underlined analogy?

Few experts are giving this much thought, according to NASA astronomer David Morrison. "The number would roughly staff a couple of shifts at McDonald's," he says.

- a. not very many people
- b. a lot of people