MAIN IDEA QUIZ

Directions: Read each passage. Put a X in the correct box for numbers 1-5. Make sure to check your work before submitting.

1. Whales are some of the largest animals alive in the world. The blue whale is the largest of all living animals. It can grow to be a little longer than two school buses. It is found in most oceans of the world. Even though it is huge, the blue whale eats some of the smallest creatures alive. Its main food is krill, which are tiny animals like shrimp. A single blue whale eats millions of krill each day. It is easy to see why it is such a giant of the ocean.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. What whales eat.

B. The blue whale

C. The oceans of the world

D. What happens to whales.

2. Australia is an interesting country. It has wildlife you will never find in the U.S., such as kangaroos and koalas. There are waterfalls, cliffs, and beaches to explore. Some people like to go skiing in the mountains. If you like trains, you can take a ride on the Puffing Billy Steam Railway. You can even visit towns with interesting names like Mallacoota and Yarra Glen.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. Australia's Puffing Billy Steam Railway is fun

B. There are a lot of things to see and do in Australia

C. The mountains are the best place to ski in Australia

D. Australia's kangaroos and koalas are great animals.

3. There are many kinds of wild animals in the U.S. One type of animal is the bobcat. Bobcats are about twice the size of a housecat. Their fur is tan and orange combined. They have black spots on their bodies, but black stripes on their faces. The bobcats' coloring and spots help them to hide in the wild. People sometimes call a bobcat a bay lynx, but this is incorrect. A bobcat looks a lot like a lynx, but it is a totally different type of cat.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. Really large housecats

B. Wild animals in the U.S.

C. How to hide in the wild.

D. What bobcats look like

4. Many people live in places where there is limited space. They do not have big backyards. Now there is a way for these people to have a swimming pool. A company in New York is recycling trash dumpsters into swimming pools. The dumpsters are lined with thick plastic sheets and filled with treated water. The dumpster pools are five and half feet deep. They are slim enough to fit into cramped backyards. The company has made several of these pools in a Manhattan neighborhood. The company plans to sell and rent these pools to the public.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. Trash dumpsters are being turned into swimming pools.
B. People live in places where there is not a lot of room.
C. Manhattan is a nice place to live because of the pools.
D. New York company will make a lot of money off pools.

5. The tea plant comes from Asia. Tea is made from the dried leaves of this plant. It has been drunk in China for thousands of years. The Dutch brought tea to Europe in the early 1600s. England became a country of tea drinkers. Other countries in Europe drank coffee. Tea was brought to North America by early settlers. Then, it was taxed by the British. The tax was fought in 1773. This is when the Boston Tea Party took place. Today, tea is drunk by about half of the world's people. China, Japan, and India are some of the main makers of tea.

The main idea of the paragraph is:

A. Why tea tastes good.
B. Tea that came from China
C. The Boston Tea Party
D. The history of tea