Name: _____ Date: _____

4.5 Nonfiction Quiz

Directions: Read the article and answering the questions that follow.

From Pet to Threat

Imported pets become major menaces in the United States

1. Back in 2005, a wacky photo made headlines. It looked like a joke, but it was the real deal: A 13-foot Burmese python had burst open after trying to swallow a 6-foot alligator in Everglades National Park in Florida.

2. Thirty years ago, people never would have seen such a clash of predators (animals that capture and eat other animals). Burmese pythons are native to Asia. But over the last few decades, many pet snakes have escaped or been set free in Florida by owners who were tired of caring for them.

3. Todd Hardwick rounds up troublesome animals—both native and exotic. He runs Pesky Critters Wildlife Control, a business in southern Florida. At least once a week, Hardwick gets a call to catch a strange animal. Many of those animals started out as somebody's pets.

4. "When they're no longer the 'in thing,' people let them go, or they escape," Hardwick says. "For me, it seems like Miami is a large open-air zoo."

5. Hardwick has wrangled iguanas, lizards, hedgehogs, potbellied pigs, and plenty of pythons. Many imported animals thrive in Florida's tropical weather.

6. But the introduction of exotic animals into the wild isn't happening only in the South. A species of wild parrot native to Argentina now lives in New York City. Foreign fish have been dumped from aquariums into rivers and lakes across the United States.

7. Exotic creatures, such as pet tigers, can be dangerous to people. Many foreign animals damage the environment. Pythons, for example, dine on the local wildlife.

8. Keeping exotic pets isn't bad for just native animals; it's bad for the exotic animals too. Many of these pets are brought illegally from their home countries, to where they may be threatened in the wild.

9. Pet owners may not realize it, but wild pets are often illegal. About two dozen states ban some kinds of foreign pets. Python imports were banned in 2012. "Obviously," says Hardwick, "they don't belong here."

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Sick Pets, Sick People
Exotic pets can bring exotic diseases into your living room.

Prairie Dogs are cute, but they can carry monkeypox.

10. In 2003, a creepy-sounding disease popped up in six Midwestern states: monkeypox. The disease usually infects monkeys, but it can also spread to people, causing fever, headache, muscle pain, and blisters on the skin.

11. Monkeypox is normally found in Africa, halfway around the globe. How did it get to the United States? Pets.

12. Diseases that jump from animals to humans are called zoonoses (zo-AHN-uh-seez). About 70 people in the Midwest became infected with monkeypox after handling pet prairie dogs. Before those people bought their pets, the prairie dogs had been stored with a rat from Africa. The prairie dogs probably caught monkeypox from the rat.

13. The people who caught monkeypox recovered after being treated by doctors. But other zoonoses can be more serious. In some parts of the world, people who have had contact with birds have contracted bird flu, a deadly virus. So far, the disease hasn't shown up in the United States. But government officials are still preparing to protect us from new zoonoses.

1. After reading this article, a student asks the following question.

Why would owners set pet snakes free?

Which paragraph answers this question?

A. 1
B. 2
C. 5
D. 7

2. Which of the following statements best supports the idea that keeping exotic animals as pets is not a good idea?

A. Many imported animals thrive in the tropical weather in Florida.
B. Hardwick gets calls each week to catch a strange animal.
C. Some exotic creatures can be dangerous to people and can damage the environment.
D. After trying to swallow an alligator, a Burmese python burst open.

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3. If the author wanted to add a text feature to show similarities and differences between some of the diseases that come from exotic animals, what text feature would be best?

A. map
B. diagram
C. chart
D. heading

4. Label each of the following sentences from the article as *fact* or *opinion*.

Sentence from the article:	Fact or Opinion?
About two dozen states ban some kinds of foreign pets.	
About 70 people in the Midwest became infected with monkeypox after handling pet prairie dogs.	
Keeping exotic pets isn't bad for just native animals; it's bad for the exotic animals too.	
Monkeypox is normally found in Africa, halfway around the globe.	
Prairie Dogs are cute, but they can carry monkeypox.	
The people who caught monkeypox recovered after being treated by doctors.	

5. Look at the dictionary entry for the word free.

free
1. adjective. not costing anything
2. adjective. not fastened or caged; loose
3. adjective. not kept from acting or thinking as you please
4. verb. to let something loose

Which definition of free is used in paragraph 2?

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

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6. Based on what you know about zoos and the information found in the article, why did Todd Hardwick most likely describe Miami as a large open-air zoo?

   A. He has been to many zoos around the Miami area and has enjoyed visiting them.
   B. He doesn't think animals can survive in Miami because of the large open spaces with very few buildings.
   C. It costs zoos too much money to take care of exotic animals.
   D. Many animals that would normally be seen in zoos are being let free to survive in the wild.

7. Which of the following shows the word <u>illegally</u> divided correctly into prefix, root, and suffix?

   A. il-legal-ly
   B. illeg-al-ly
   C. il-le-gal-ly
   D. il-legall-y

8. Why did the author most likely include the picture and caption?

   A. to show readers how chubby prairie dogs can be
   B. to help readers understand that even though prairie dogs look like cute pets, they may not be a good pet choice
   C. to give readers additional information about prairie dogs not included in the text
   D. to show readers what prairie dogs eat

9. Complete the chart below, by selecting the answer choice that best fills the empty box.

   A. Monkeypox is a disease that was brought to the United States.
   B. Monkeypox can infect people.
   C. Doctors are able to treat Monkeypox symptoms.
   D. Monkeypox usually infects monkeys.

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10. Which of the following is the best summary of paragraphs 3-5?

A. People let their exotic pets go free when they no longer want them, so Miami has become a large open-air zoo.
B. Florida's tropical weather is a great place for animals to thrive, so people who have kept imported animals are letting them go.
C. Pesky Critters Wildlife Control is a business in southern Florida run by Todd Hardwick.
D. Since people let pets go free or they escape, Todd Hardwick runs a business in Florida that has received many calls to deal with the troublesome animals.

11. Why did the author most likely write this article?

A. to explain to readers how to get exotic animals to keep as pets.
B. to give readers information about why bringing animals from other countries and having exotic pets isn't always a good idea
C. to persuade readers to get dogs or cats instead of tigers, prairie dogs, monkeys, pythons, hedgehogs, or pot-bellied pigs
D. to inform readers about all the different types of diseases that come from animals

12. Which of the following questions is answered in the *Sick Pets, Sick People* section?

A. How many zoonoses have people in the United States been infected with?
B. How many pet prairie dogs were purchased by people in the Midwestern states?
C. What symptoms are caused by monkeypox?
D. In which states did monkeypox infect people?

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