Name: _____ Main Idea

Birthday with the Birds



1. Chris loved to watch birds. He had several birdfeeders in his yard. He spent hours listening to their chirps and watching them eat seeds. For his birthday, his grandfather signed him up for a bird watching tour. Chris couldn't wait. He was excited to see new species of birds. He hoped to learn more about his favorite bird, the woodpecker.

2. The day of the tour came and Chris and his grandfather got up early. They went to the *Oak Tree Wildlife Refuge*. Their tour guide, Stephanie, talked to the group as they walked along the trail.

3. "Everything in this ecosystem interacts with one another. All of the living organisms are interrelated. That means they depend on one another. For example, look at the woodpecker over in that tree." Chris raised his binoculars and looked at the woodpecker. "The woodpecker depends on the insects that live in the trees. It is a carnivore. It eats insects like ants and termites," explained Stephanie.

4. Chris opened his notebook and began to write notes. Stephanie continued talking, "If many trees were cut down, the insect population would decrease. Then the woodpecker would have trouble finding food in its habitat. Woodpeckers are important. Their niche is to control the insect population within ecosystems."

5. Chris wrote more notes and then asked a question. "How does a woodpecker not fall off of the tree? It's so high up."

6. "That's a good question, Chris. That's because of its structural adaptations," Stephanie replied. "Animals have physical adaptations. The adaptations help them live in their habitat. The woodpecker has a long neck and a heavy, pointed beak. It uses them to make holes in trees. The woodpecker uses its long tongue to reach the insects inside the wood. It has specially adapted feet to help it hang on to trees. Two toes face forward. The other two toes face backwards. Most birds only have three toes."

7. Another person in the tour group asked, "Do the woodpeckers migrate?"

8. "That's another good question. Migration is a behavioral adaptation many animals use to survive. Many birds migrate to find food or warmer weather. Some migrate to have babies. This woodpecker does not migrate though," said Stephanie.

9. Chris was learning a lot about the woodpecker. He had many notes written down. He thought of one more question. "Do the woodpeckers eat plants or seeds like the birds do in my backyard?"

10. "Plants are producers that make their own food," said Stephanie. The ants and termites that the woodpecker eats get their energy by eating wood from trees. The woodpecker then eats the ants and termites. This is called the food chain. It shows how energy flows from one living organism to another." Chris wrote down a few more notes.

Name: _____ Main Idea

11. "Let's continue walking and find some other birds," said Stephanie. We might see a Red-Tailed Hawk if we are lucky." Stephanie began walking on the trail, and the group followed.

12. Chris smiled at his grandfather. He was glad his grandfather gave him such a great birthday gift.

1. Which sentence tells what the passage is mostly about?

   A. Woodpeckers eat insects.
   B. A boy saw a bird in his backyard.
   C. A boy learns about birds for his birthday.
   D. Woodpeckers have structural adaptations.

2. A student wrote these notes about woodpeckers.

Woodpecker's Structural Adaptations
• long neck
• _____
• strong beak
• four toes

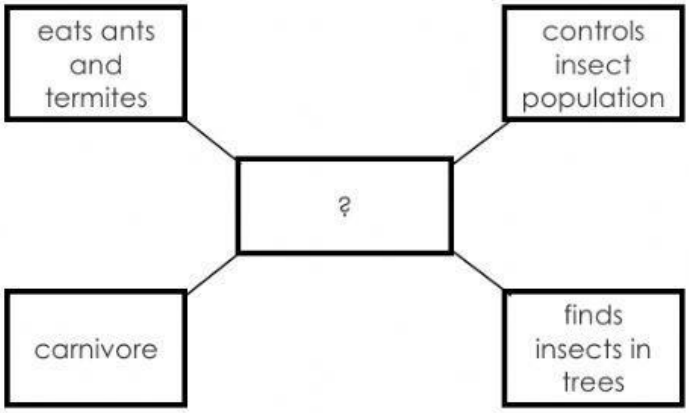
Which of the following completes the list?

   A. does not migrate
   B. long tongue
   C. eats insects
   D. carnivore

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 6?

   A. Woodpeckers are interesting birds.
   B. Woodpeckers help control insect populations.
   C. Woodpeckers have many adaptations.
   D. Chris learned a lot about woodpeckers.

4. Complete this web.



   A. A Woodpecker's Habitat
   B. The Diet of the Woodpecker
   C. Reasons a Woodpecker Migrates
   D. Structural Adaptations of the Woodpecker

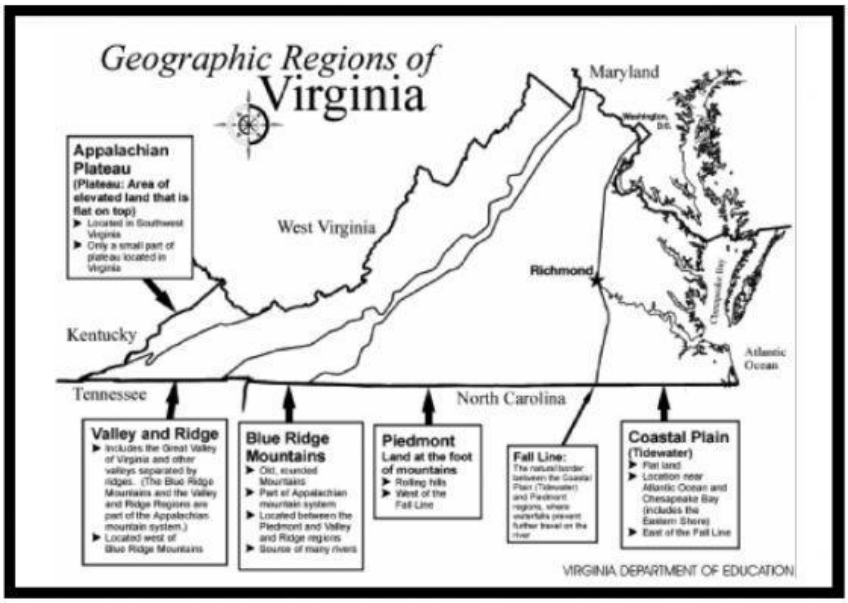
5. The author wrote paragraph 1 to tell you –

   A. what Chris learned about the woodpecker
   B. the animals in the *Oak Tree Wildlife Refuge*
   C. about the woodpeckers adaptations
   D. explain that Chris loved birds

Name: _____ Main Idea

American Indians of Virginia

1. Today, more than 8 million people live in Virginia. These people were not the first ones living in the state, though. Did you know that the American Indians were the first people who lived in Virginia? American Indians lived in all areas of the state. The American Indians in Virginia were divided into three language groups. They were the Algonquian, Siouan, and Iroquoian languages.



2. The Algonquian language was mainly spoken in the Coastal Plains. This area is near the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. The Powhatan tribe lived in this region. Powhatan Indians lived in long-houses made of wood and bark. They traveled the waterways in canoes dug out from trees. Settlers in Jamestown relied on the Powhatan to help them survive the winter. They taught them how to farm and hunt. Pocahontas was a girl who was famous for helping the settlers in Jamestown. She was the daughter of Chief Powhatan.

3. American Indians lived in the Piedmont Region as well. This region is located at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains. This area has rolling hills and is west of the James River. The Monacan tribe lived in this part of Virginia. They spoke the Siouan language. The area near the river was good for farming and trade. The Indians also hunted. They grew crops such as corn, tobacco, and squash. They also ate shellfish.

4. In the Appalachian Plateau Region, the Iroquoian language was used. It was spoken by the Cherokee Indians. This region is in southwestern Virginia. Part of a plateau is in this region. A plateau is a piece of elevated land that is flat on top. The Cherokee Indians hunted and farmed like the Powhatan and Monacan tribes.

5. Why were there so many American Indians living in Virginia? The main reason was the climate. The climate in Virginia is mild with four distinct seasons. The American Indians had access to a variety of vegetation throughout the four seasons. A variety of trees and forests covered most of Virginia as well. Due to the forests, the Virginia Indians are also referred to as the Eastern Woodland Indians.

6. The American Indians in Virginia used their environment to meet their basic needs. Their food, clothing, and shelter changed with the seasons and with what was available in the environment. In the winter, they hunted animals and lived off food they had stored. In spring, they hunted, fished, and picked berries. In the summer they grew crops such as beans, corn, or squash. When

fall came, they harvested crops and hunted animals to preserve and keep for the winter. Animal skins and fur were used for clothing. The American Indians used materials from nature to build shelters. Today, most American Indians live like other Americans. Their culture has changed over time.

7. When the settlers arrived in Virginia, it began to change the way of life of the first people living in Virginia; the American Indians. Settlements, such as Jamestown, caused American Indians to relocate to other places. The settlers spread disease and took land from the American Indians.

6. What is the passage mostly about?

A. Many American Indians were farmers and hunters.
B. The culture of American Indians has changed over time.
C. There were several groups of American Indians living in Virginia.
D. Pocahontas was a Powhatan girl who helped settlers.

7. A student wrote these notes about woodpeckers.

The Coastal Plains Indians
• lived near the ocean and bay
• _____
• traveled by canoe
• Algonquian language

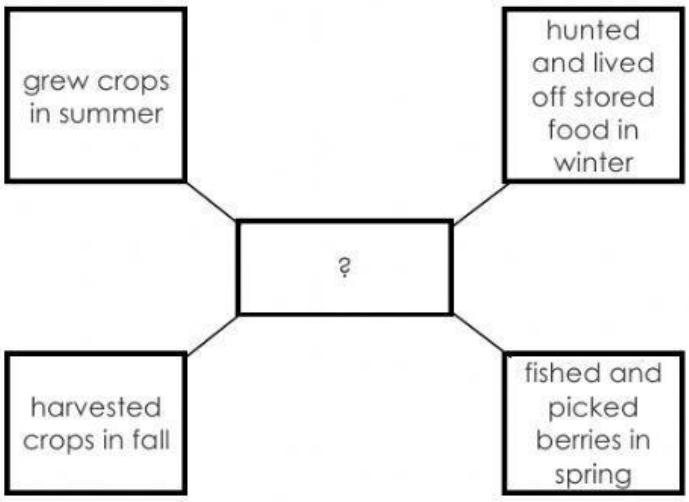
Which of the following completes the list?

A. lived in tepees
B. lived on a plateau
C. lived in long-houses made of wood
D. farmed at the base of the mountains

8. What is the main idea of paragraph 5?

A. The winters are very harsh in Virginia.
B. The Cherokee lived in the Appalachian Plateau Region.
C. The settlement of Virginia had a negative impact on the Indians.
D. The climate of Virginia made the area good for Indians to live in year round.

9. Complete this web.



A. The American Indians adapted to each season.
B. The American Indians hunted for food.
C. The American Indians used a variety of materials to build houses.
D. The American Indians were farmers.

10. The author wrote paragraph 1 -

A. to tell how settlers affected American Indians
B. to tell you who the first Americans in Virginia were
C. to tell you about the regions of Virginia
D. to tell you how the climate changes in Virginia