

Question 1

Here is a passage about some special insects. Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Snow Hopper

Take a walk in the woods on a sunny winter's day. You might find tiny insects, called snow fleas, hopping on snow.

Crowds of snow fleas travel together. They look like grains of pepper popping up and down. If you put your hand on the snow, some may hop on top. Lift your hand up and snow fleas jump off.

How do snow fleas hop? Each snow flea has two tiny tails. The tails bend under a snow flea's body, and are held by little hooks. When the hooks open, the tails spring out and the snow flea leaps up. Snow fleas are also called springtails.

In the winter, snow fleas chew dead leaves and plants buried beneath the snow. When they can't find enough food, they hop to someplace new.

A million snow fleas may move together. Some hop on top of the snow. Most crawl under leaves below the snow.

In a few days their journey is done. The tiny travelers may have moved 25 meters, about the length of a swimming pool. Then the huge group disappears. Where do all the snow fleas go? No one knows for certain.

Their snow-hopping days are done.

Read this sentence from the passage.

You might find *tiny* insects, called snow fleas, hopping on snow.

Which of these means the opposite of the word *tiny*?

- A growing
- B huge
- C small
- D unusual

Question 2

Here is an article about what it means to own a pet. Read the article. Then answer the questions.

Pets Aren't for Everyone

I like pets. My family and I have a cat of our own named Ginger. We really love Ginger, and there are many reasons why I might tell someone to get a pet. But I do not think that everyone should have a pet. Here are my reasons why.

Pets can cost a lot of money. It can cost thousands of dollars just to buy some breeds of dogs, some birds, or other animals. But even if you get a pet for free, it is still not really free. You must feed it. You have to make sure it has its shots and tags. You must take it to the vet when it gets sick. And sometimes pets will dig up your yard or chew up your shoes or scratch up your dining table. All those things can be expensive.

My mom says that we spend almost \$500 a year just to own a cat.

Pets need to be cared for. Twice a day we have to feed Ginger. We have to make sure she has water. We have to change her litter box and sometimes give her a bath. We have to let her in when it rains or is too cold. When we go on a trip, we have to make sure someone else takes care of her. All that is hard work. But there is more. For many pets, care also means friendship. Most pets do not like to be alone all day, just as most people do not like to sit by themselves all day. Many pets want you to look at them, to hold them, to pet them, to talk to them, to walk them, and to play with them. Spending time with your pet is part of caring for it.

My Uncle Mel loves dogs and wants to have one, but he is single and his job makes him travel a lot. He won't get a dog because he knows that he could not care for it himself. Pets cannot care for themselves. If you cannot care for a pet, you should not have one.

Those are the reasons why I think pets aren't for everyone.

Read these sentences from the article.

All those things can be *expensive*. My mom says that we spend almost \$500 a year just to own a cat.

As used in this sentence, the word *expensive* most nearly means

- A large
- B cheap
- C hard work
- D high-priced

Questions 3 to 6

3. I would **urge** you to do your best work on this project.

Choose the meaning of the underlined word.

Urge means _____.

- A crush
- B develop
- C encourage
- D block

4. Make and build both mean to **produce** something.

Find another word that means to produce something.

- A create
- B decide
- C imagine
- D permit

5. The cold wind made me **shiver**.

Choose the answer that means the same, or about the same, as the underlined word.

- A ill
- B sting
- C pale
- D tremble

6. The branch was **sturdy** enough to walk on.

Another word for **sturdy** is _____.

- A strong
- B low
- C thick
- D smooth