

FINDING THE TOPIC OF PARAGRAPHS

1

Mexico City is growing very fast. In 1970 the city had about nine million people. Now it has over 17 million. All these people are causing problems for the city. There are not enough jobs. Also, there is not enough housing. Large families have to live together in very small homes. Many homes do not have water. They also do not have bathrooms or electricity. The Mexican government is worried about all these problems. It is working hard to make life better in the city.

- a. Mexican government _____
- b. large cities _____
- c. Mexico City's problems _____

2

Why is Mexico City growing so fast? Where are all these people coming from? They are coming to the city from the country. Life is hard on the farms in Mexico. Most people on farms have to live a very simple life. They have no extra money for modern things. People think life in the city must be better. So they leave their farms and move to Mexico City.

- a. why people are moving to Mexico City _____
- b. how Mexicans live in the country _____
- c. life in Mexico today _____

3

All around the world large cities have the same problem. That problem is air pollution. Mexico City has very bad air. The air there is dirty and very unhealthy. Cars are one reason for the dirty air. Many Mexicans now own their own cars and drive in the city. The factories in the area also cause air pollution. These factories put a lot of smoke into the air. It is not easy to clean up the air in a large city. The government has to make new laws and everyone has to help.

- a. air pollution _____
- b. Mexico City's air pollution _____
- c. how factories cause air pollution _____

1

On American television there are many ads about kinds of soap. They show soap for washing clothes. They also show soap specially for washing dishes. Some ads show soap only for washing floors. Other ads are about soap for washing cars. Television ads show soap for washing people too. Often the ads tell about special soap for washing your hair. Other soap is just for taking care of little babies. American television seems very interested in cleaning!

- a. soap in the United States _____
- b. soap for washing in the house _____
- c. ads for soap on American TV _____

2

The evening news on television is very popular with many Americans. They like to find out what is happening in the world. On television they can see real people and places. They believe it is easier than reading the newspaper. Many people think television makes the news seem more real. They also think the news on television is more interesting. The television news reporters sometimes tell funny stories and even jokes. This makes the news about wars and crime seem less terrible.

- a. why news programs have funny stories _____
- b. why Americans like television news _____
- c. what is happening in the world _____

3

In the United States there are two kinds of television stations. One kind is commercial. About 841 of the television stations in the United States are commercial stations. These stations are businesses. They show ads to make money. The other kind of television station is public. These stations do not show any ads. They get some money from the government. They also get money from the people who watch public stations.

- a. the two kinds of television stations in the U.S. _____
- b. public television stations _____
- c. television in the United States _____

1

Some of the largest trees in the world are in California. These are called redwood trees. Redwood National Park is a large forest of redwood trees. Visitors in the park can walk and drive through the forest to look at the trees. Some redwoods are hundreds of years old. These old trees are very tall. They are also very wide at the bottom. One tree has a large hole in the bottom. The hole is so big you can drive a car through it.

- a. parks in California _____
- b. redwood trees in California _____
- c. the age of redwoods _____

2

In many hilly areas of Scotland there once were large forests. Over the years the forests became smaller. People cut down the trees to use the wood for heating or building. They used the land for farming. But after a while the land was not good for farming. It became rocky because the earth was washed away by the rain. There were no trees to hold the earth in place. Now the Scottish government is planting new trees. These new forests look nice and green. They also will help improve the earth for the future.

- a. the land in Scotland _____
- b. how trees hold earth in place _____
- c. forests in Scotland _____

3

Large forests are important to us in many ways. They give us wood for building and heating. They are a home for many kinds of plants and animals. And for many city people, forests are a place to go for a vacation. People can learn about nature there. They can breathe fresh air and sleep in a quiet place. But there is one more reason why forests are important for everyone. The leaves on the trees in a forest help clean the air. Dirty air is a problem in many parts of the world. Without our forests this problem might be much worse.

- a. the importance of forests _____
- b. taking vacations in forests _____
- c. large forests _____