Name_____

Levi Strauss

Levi Strauss was born in 1829 in Germany. The name Levi Strauss is now synonymous with jeans. However, it was not always so for the young, American immigrant.

When Strauss was seventeen, he moved from Germany to America. At this time, he supported himself by selling household goods to people who lived in nearby towns, but Strauss was looking to expand his opportunities. When people began moving to California hoping to find gold, Strauss decided to move too.

Levi Strauss would not make his fortune by finding gold. Instead, he would provide something the miners needed: a good pair of work pants. When he arrived in California, he began constructing his first pair of jeans. The pants did not look like the jeans you might find in a store today. They were made out of a brown canvas-like material. The pants were extremely popular, and before long, Levi ran out of material to make the jeans. It did not take him long to discover a new type of material that is like the fabric used today. Strauss dyed the fabric blue and dubbed the new name for his pants "blue jeans."

Text Questions

1. Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
   a. "A Young Immigrant"
   b. "The Dreamer"
   c. "Levi Strauss's Invention"
   d. "The History of Clothing"
2. Why did Levi Strauss most likely not attempt to make his fortune by panning for gold?
   a. He had been a salesman and saw a need for something he could sell to the people in the mining towns.
   b. He loved sewing more than looking for gold.
   c. He was afraid of failing.
   d. He did not have the equipment he needed to look for gold.
3. What does the word *immigrant* mean as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. someone who moves out of a country
   b. someone who moves into a country
   c. someone who only speaks a foreign language
   d. someone who constantly moves
4. Which question below could be answered using information from the text?
   a. How many siblings did Levi Strauss have?
   b. On what date did Levi Strauss invent his first pair of jeans?
   c. Why did Levi Strauss move to California?
   d. Why did Levi Strauss move from Germany to America?
5. Use the space below to answer the question you circled for question four.

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