Name: _____ **Points:** _____

READING QUIZ

Reading Explorer 2 Unit 1 Lesson B

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer for each question.

Food for the Future

[A] In 1845, a deadly disease struck the farms of Ireland, killing all the Lumper potato plants. The death of a single crop species might not seem so important. But in Ireland, in 1845, people depended almost solely on the potato for food. The death of one species caused a terrible famine. Now, some scientists are worried that such a famine could happen again - but on a much wider scale.

[B] Over the centuries, farmers have discovered thousands of different species of food crops. Each species has special qualities. Some can be grown in very hot or cold climates. Others are not affected by certain diseases. However, you won't find many of these species in your local supermarket. To feed the seven billion people on Earth, most farmers today are growing only species of plants that are easy to produce in large numbers. Meanwhile, thousands of other species are becoming extinct.

[C] For example, in the Philippines, there were once thousands of varieties of rice; now fewer than 100 are grown there. In China, 90 percent of the wheat varieties grown just a century ago have disappeared. Experts believe that over the past century, we have allowed more than half of the world's food varieties to disappear.

Saving the Seeds

[D] One solution to this problem is to collect and preserve the seeds of as many different plant varieties as we can before they disappear. This idea was first suggested by Russian scientist Nikolay Vavilov. In the 1920s and 1930s, he collected around 400,000 seeds from five continents. More recently, others have continued the work he began. There are now around 1,700 seed banks in countries around the world. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault - which preserves almost one million seed samples - has one of the largest collections.

[E] In the U.S. state of Iowa, Diane Ott Whealy and her husband founded Heritage Farm - a place where people can store and trade seeds. Initially, Ott Whealy wanted to preserve historic plant varieties, like the seeds her great-grandfather brought to the United States more than 100 years ago from Germany. But the people at Heritage Farm don't just store the seeds; they plant them. By doing this, they are reintroducing foods into the marketplace that haven't been grown for years. These food species are not just special in terms of appearance or flavor. They also offer farmers food solutions for the future, from the past.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

____ 1. What is the purpose of this passage?
a. to describe Heritage Farms
b. to show a problem and possible solution
c. to tell the story of the Irish potato famine
d. to give the history of farming over the past century

____ 2. Which sentence in paragraph B gives the reason why many crop species are becoming extinct?
a. Some can be grown in very hot or cold climates.
b. Others are not affected by certain diseases.
c. However, you won't find many of these species in your local supermarket.
d. ... most farmers today are growing only species of plants that are easy to produce in large numbers.

____ 3. What is paragraph C mainly about?
a. why there are so many different kinds of wheat in China
b. how farming has changed in the past 100 years
c. examples of how crop species are disappearing
d. how rice is grown in the Philippines

____ 4. What does ***others*** refer to in paragraph D?
a. plant varieties
b. continents
c. people
d. seeds

____ 5. According to the passage, which of the following is true?
a. Saving seeds from previous generations is a new idea.
b. Heritage Farm is a museum of farming tools.
c. It's not a big deal when a crop species dies.
d. Many crop species are disappearing.

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer for each question.

Super Food: The Benefits of Genetically Modified Foods

[A] You may have heard of genetically modified (GM) food, and you have probably even eaten it. However, do you know what it actually is? GM food is a type of food whose DNA has been changed by advanced scientific methods. It certainly sounds like an amazing technological development. However, an important question is: Is it good for us?

[B] In many parts of the world, the growing popularity of GM food has created a lot of debate. Some people have argued that we do not know enough about the long-term effects of GM food to trust it. Others have started a battle with governments over labeling.[1] They suggest that all GM food should be labeled with a clear mark so that buyers can have a choice between GM and non-GM products. While this type of labeling is already common across the European continent, it is not required in the United States.

[C] There is, however, another side to the GM food debate. Most scientists, for example, believe that GM food is extremely safe to eat. Some scientists even say that it is safer than other varieties within our normal food supply. This is because, unlike food that is 100 percent naturally produced, GM food must pass many health and safety tests before it can be sold on the market.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

[D] There are also many who believe that GM food can help solve some of the world's biggest problems. Eventually, different crops, such as corn and wheat, could be changed to help fight cancer. Rice and potatoes could be produced with extra vitamins to help provide a healthier diet to the poor. Shellfish like shrimps and oysters could be modified so that people who are allergic[2] to them can eat them. GM food could also be used to improve the health of crops. Some common crops such as fruit, which often die from disease, could be protected. This, of course, would also protect the jobs of farmers who grow them.

[E] In summary, there may be good reasons why some people are against the use of GM food. However, the incredible benefits that it could bring in the future should not be ignored. With the technology improving every year, GM food might give humans the chance to improve their crops as well as their own health.

1 A **label** is a tag placed on something to give information about it (e.g., low fat, halal)
2 To be **allergic** to something means that you cannot eat or touch it because your body does not accept it.

____ 6. What is this passage mainly about?
a. the science of GM food
b. the debate about GM food
c. the differences between GM food in the U.S. and in other countries

____ 7. In the first sentence of paragraph C, the word ***side*** is closest in meaning to _____.
a. team
b. point of view
c. problem

____ 8. Why does the author mention health and safety tests in paragraph C?
a. to explain why GM food is safer than other food
b. to explain that GM food is not 100 percent naturally produced
c. to show that scientists have been involved in the debate

____ 9. According to the author, which GM crops could include more nutrition in the future?
a. corn and wheat
b. rice and potatoes
c. shrimp and oysters

____ 10. Which statement would the author probably agree with?
a. Scientists will be able to make people believe in the benefits of GM food.
b. The debate over GM food will eventually end.
c. GM foods will continue to bring new benefits in the future.

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Choose the purpose of each paragraph.

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____ 11. **Paragraph A**

a. to explain how GM food is an amazing development

b. to introduce the reader to GM food

____ 12. **Paragraph B**

a. to explain how GM food labeling is different in the U.S. and Europe

b. to discuss doubts about GM food

____ 13. **Paragraph C**

a. to explain why scientists believe GM food is safe

b. to introduce all of the problems with GM food

____ 14. **Paragraph D**

a. to explain the challenges faced by GM food companies

b. to predict what benefits GM food might bring in the future

____ 15. **Paragraph E**

a. to explain how GM food technology continues to improve

b. to summarize the author's point of view

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DIRECTIONS: Select two or more choices for each sentence.

____ 16. There's a ***crop*** of ___ in that field.

a. potatoes
b. farmers
c. animals
d. corn

____ 17. Farmers plant ____ ***seeds***.

a. vegetable
b. bread
c. fruit
d. cow

____ 18. ___ is a ***continent***.

a. Africa
b. Mexico
c. Asia
d. North America

____ 19. The ***qualities*** of a vegetable include its ___.

a. cost
b. shape
c. color
d. sweetness

____ 20. You might use a ***scale*** to ___.

a. measure the temperature
b. help you eat something
c. make something move faster
d. see how heavy something is

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DIRECTIONS: Select the correct vocabulary word from the box to complete each sentence.

flavor	historic	produce	suggested	variety

21. When man landed on the moon, it was a/an _____ moment.

22. My drink has a fruity _____. I think it's a mix of strawberry and apple.

23. Janet went to the store to buy bread. There was such a wide _____ of breads, she didn't know which kind to buy.

24. Big farms usually grow foods that they can _____ in large amounts.

25. We weren't sure what food to order at the restaurant, so the waiter _____ we try the fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

21	22	23	24	25

Thanks!

LIVEWORKSHEETS