Name: _____ Quiz Point: _____

Unit1B:

Read the passage and choose the correct answer for each question.

Taking the Right Steps

Since ancient times, people have used Earth's natural resources to grow food. Farmers look for the best places to plant their crops. Yet, the land is not always right for farming. It can be too dry, too wet, or too rugged. If the land is not suited for farming, people change it. They reshape it. They build dams or cut down forests.

The Incas were expert farmers who changed their land. The Incas were an ancient people who lived in South America. They built a vast empire of 12 million people. These people lived among the snowy Andes mountains.

There was not a lot of flat land to farm on. Farming on a hillside was a bad idea. Water runs downhill when it rains. The water can cause erosion, or wearing away of the soil. When the soil is worn away, it takes valuable nutrients with it. Plants cannot grow.

To feed millions of people, the Incas had to create something new. So they invented a form of farming called terrace, or step, farming. The Incas changed their land by digging into it. They carved huge steps into the sides of the mountains. They stacked stones around each step to make a solid wall. Then they filled in the space behind the walls with soil. This made flat places to plant crops.

When flowing rainwater reached a terrace, it slowed down and soaked into the soil. The water helped crops grow. The walls in terrace farming also helped control erosion. The plants grew well. From far away, these terrace farms looked like a living staircase. The Incas grew corn, potatoes, and quinoa. Quinoa is a grain they used to make cereal, flour, and soups.

Today, people all over the world use terrace farming to grow crops. In Asia, rice grows in terraced fields called paddies. In Europe, grapes and olives grow on terrace farms.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions:

1. What is the passage mainly about?
   a. the culture of the Incas
   b. the history of the Incas
   c. a method of farming
   d. how to grow grain

2. In the first paragraph, what does the phrase *suited for* mean?
   a. to have the right conditions
   b. to use for another purpose
   c. to buy from someone else
   d. to not agree on something

3. In the passage, what is NOT mentioned about the Incas?
   a. They built a large empire.
   b. They were expert farmers.
   c. They lived in the Andes mountains.
   d. They ate only grains and vegetables.

4. In the passage, what is NOT mentioned about terrace farming?
   a. It provides flat spaces to grow crops.
   b. It is used to grow any kind of crop.
   c. It slows down rain water.
   d. It controls soil erosion.

5. Which paragraph gives other examples of places where terrace farming takes place?
   a. the first paragraph
   b. the second paragraph
   c. the fourth paragraph
   d. the final paragraph

1	2	3	4	5

LIVEWORKSHEETS

True/ False Statements

Write T for True, F for False and NG for Not Given to the following statements.

1. _____People have always used Earth's natural resources to grow food.
2. _____Farmers always plant their crops in the first place they find.
3. _____The Incas were skilled farmers who altered their environment.
4. _____The Incas will be remembered as the most advanced civilization in history.
5. _____Water does not cause erosion of the soil.
6. _____The Incas altered their land by excavating it.
7. _____The Incas only grew corn.
8. _____Terrace farming is a common practice worldwide for growing crops.
9. _____ Rice is the most popular crop in Asia.
10. _____Grapes and olives never grow on terrace farms in Europe.

Write your answers here.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Thanks!

LIVEWORKSHEETS