Passage 1: Canada - The Land of Maple Leaves and Diversity

Canada, the second-largest country in the world by total area, stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west, and northward into the Arctic Ocean. Known globally for its breathtaking natural landscapes, Canada is home to millions of lakes, towering mountains like the Rockies, and dense boreal forests. The maple leaf, prominently displayed on its national flag, serves as an enduring symbol of Canadian identity and pride.

One of Canada's most defining characteristics is its official bilingualism. Both English and French hold equal status in the federal government, courts, and Parliament, reflecting the country's historical roots as a colony shaped by both British and French settlers. While English is the primary language for the majority of Canadians, French is predominantly spoken in the province of Quebec, where vibrant European-style culture thrives alongside North American modernity.

Beyond its geography and languages, Canada is celebrated for its commitment to multiculturalism. Major cities like Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal are among the most diverse urban centers in the world, welcoming immigrants from every corner of the globe. Combined with a high standard of living, universal healthcare, and a reputation for politeness, Canada continues to attract visitors and newcomers seeking both adventure and stability.

Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D) for each question:

1. According to the passage, what is Canada's rank in the world in terms of total area?
A. The largest B. The second-largest C. The third-largest D. The fourth-largest
2.What symbol on the Canadian national flag represents the country's identity and pride? A. A rocky mountain B. A boreal forest C. A maple leaf D. A polar bear
3.Which two languages hold equal official status in Canada's federal government?
A. English and Spanish B. French and German
C. English and Indigenous D. English and French
4.In which Canadian province is French predominantly spoken?
A. Ontario B. Quebec C. British Columbia D. Alberta
5.Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a reason why Canada attracts newcomers?
A. Universal healthcare B. High standard of living
C. Low cost of housing D. Reputation for politeness

Passage 2: Scotland - A Land of Legends and Heritage

Located in the northern third of the island of Great Britain, Scotland is a country rich in dramatic scenery, ancient history, and fiercely proud traditions. From the rugged peaks of the Scottish Highlands to the tranquil waters of Loch Ness—famous for its mythical monster—Scotland offers a landscape that feels both wild and timeless. Its capital city, Edinburgh, is renowned for its medieval Old Town, historic castle perched on an extinct volcano, and the world-famous Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

While English is the main language spoken across Scotland, the country preserves its distinct linguistic heritage through Scots and Scottish Gaelic. Visitors can often hear the distinctive Scottish accent and local expressions such as *"aye"* (yes) and *"wee"* (small). Cultural traditions remain deeply woven into everyday life, symbolized by tartan kilts, the haunting sound of bagpipes, and traditional Highland games featuring feats of strength and dancing.

Despite its deep attachment to the past, modern Scotland is also a hub of innovation and education. Home to some of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities, such as the University of St Andrews and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland has produced groundbreaking thinkers, writers, and inventors—from economist Adam Smith to Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone.

Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D) for each question:

1. Where is Scotland located?
A. In the southern half of Great Britain B. In the northern third of Great Britain
B. C. On an island west of Ireland D. On the coast of mainland Europe
2. What is Loch Ness famous for according to the passage?
A. An extinct volcano B. A medieval castle C. A mythical monster D. A prestigious university
3.What does the local Scottish expression *"wee"* mean in standard English?
A. Yes B. Fast C. Old D. Small
4.Which of the following is mentioned as a traditional Scottish musical instrument?
A. Bagpipes B. Harp C. Violin D. Accordion

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5.Who is mentioned in the passage as a famous Scottish inventor?
A. Adam Smith B. Robert Burns C. Alexander Graham Bell D. James Watt

Passage 3: Alaska – The Last Frontier of the United States

Separated from the contiguous United States by Canada, Alaska is the largest and most sparsely populated U.S. state. Often referred to as "The Last Frontier," this vast northern region is a land of extremes, featuring massive glaciers, active volcanoes, and Denali—the highest mountain peak in North America. Because much of Alaska lies near or within the Arctic Circle, it experiences dramatic seasonal shifts, including the "Midnight Sun" in summer, when daylight lasts nearly 24 hours, and long, dark winters illuminated by the shimmering Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis).

English is the primary language used in government, business, and daily life in Alaska, though the state also officially recognizes over twenty Indigenous languages, including Inupiaq, Yup'ik, and Tlingit. These languages reflect the rich heritage of Alaska Natives, who have adapted to the harsh subarctic environment for thousands of years through sustainable fishing, hunting, and community traditions.

Today, Alaska's economy relies heavily on oil, natural gas, commercial fishing, and eco-tourism. Travelers from around the world visit Alaska to go whale watching, explore national parks like Glacier Bay, and witness the famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race—a grueling annual endurance race spanning nearly 1,000 miles across snow and ice.

Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D) for each question:

1. What separates Alaska from the contiguous United States?
A. The Arctic Ocean B. Canada C. Denali Mountain D. Glacier Bay
2.What is Alaska often called?
A. The Sunshine State B. The Great North C. The Last Frontier D. The Ice Kingdom
3.What happens during the "Midnight Sun" in Alaska?
A. Daylight lasts almost 24 hours B. The Northern Lights shine all day
C. Winters remain completely dark D. Snow melts within a single night
4.How many Indigenous languages are officially recognized in Alaska?
A. Fewer than ten B. Exactly fifteen C. Over twenty D. More than fifty
5.How long is the famous Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race?
A. Nearly 100 miles B. Nearly 500 miles C. Nearly 1,000 miles D. Nearly 2,000 miles

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