TEXT 1

One identifying characteristic of minerals is their relative hardness, which can be determined by scratching one mineral with another. In this type of test, a harder mineral can scratch a softer one, but a softer mineral is unable to scratch the harder one. The Mohs' hardness scale is used to rank minerals according to hardness. Ten minerals are listed in this scale, ranging from talc with a hardness of 1 to diamond with a hardness of 10. On this scale, quartz (number 7) is harder than feldspar (number 6) and is therefore able to scratch it; however, feldspar is unable to make on quartz.

Which of the following best states the topic the passage?
a) The hardness of diamonds
b) Identifying minerals by means of a scratch test
c) Feldspar on the Mohs' scale
d) Recognizing minerals in their natural state

The main idea of the passage is...
a) The hardness of a mineral can be determined by its ability to make a mark on other minerals
b) Diamonds, with a hardness of 10 on the Mohs' scale, can scratch all other minerals
c) A softer mineral cannot be scratched by a harder mineral
d) Talc is the first mineral listed on the Mohs' Scale

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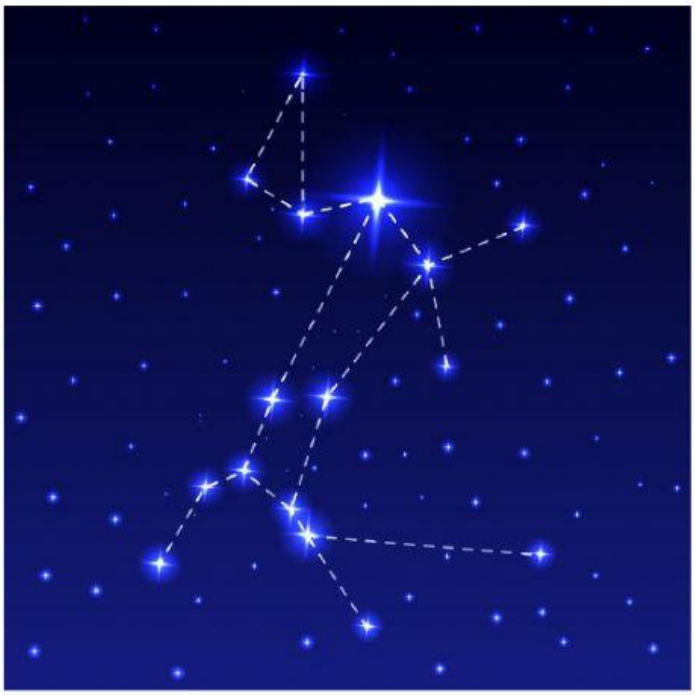
TEXT 2

The extremely hot and humid weather that occurs in the United States in July and August is commonly called the "dog days" of Summer. This name comes from the star Sirius, which is known as the Dog Star. Sirius is the brightest visible star. In the hot summer months, it rises in the east at approximately the same time as the Sun. As ancient people saw this star rising with the Sun when the weather was at its hottest, they believed that Sirius was the cause of the additional heat; they believed that this bright star added its heat to the heat of the Sun and that these two together made summer weather so unbearably hot.



The topic of this passage is...
a) How dogs like to play during the summer
b) The causes of hot and humid weather
c) Why the hot summer days are known as the "dog days"
d) The days that dogs prefer

The main idea of this passage is that...
a) The name for the summer days came from Sirius, the Dog Star
b) Dogs generally prefer hot summer days
c) The hottest days occur in the summer because of the movements of the Sun and Stars
d) Sirius rises at almost the same time as the Sun during the summer months

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TEXT 3

The term "primitive art" has been used in a variety of ways to describe work and styles of art. One way that this term has been used is to describe the early period within the development of a certain style of art. Another way that this term has been used is to describe artists who have received little professional training and who demonstrate a nontraditional naivete in their work.

A wonderful example of this second type of primitive artist is Grandma Moses, who spent all her life living on a farm and working at tasks normally associated with farm life. She did not begin painting untilshe reached the age of seventy-six, when she switched to painting from embroidery because the arthritis in her hands made embroidery too difficult. Totally without formal education in art, she began creating panoramic images of everyday life on the farm that have achieved international fame.

The subject of the passage is...
a) An example of one of the types of primitive art
b) Grandma Moses' life on the farm
c) How primitive art differs from formal art
d) Grandma Moses' primitive lifestyle

Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
a) Grandma Moses spent her life on a farm
b) Art critics cannot come to any agreement on a definition of primitive art
c) Grandma Moses is one type of primitive artist because of her lack of formal training.
d) Many artists receive little professional training.

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