The countryside of Britain is well known for its beauty and many contrasts: its bare mountains and moorland, its lakes, rivers and woods, and its long, often wild coastline. Many of the most beautiful areas are national parks and are protected from development. When British people think of the countryside they think of farmland, as well as open spaces. They imagine cows or sheep in green fields enclosed by hedges or stone walls, and fields of wheat and barley. Most farmland is privately owned but is crossed by a network of public footpaths.

Many people associate the countryside with peace and relaxation. They spend their free time walking or cycling there, or go to the country for a picnic or a pub lunch. In summer people go to fruit farms and pick strawberries and other fruit. Only a few people who live in the country work on farms. Many commute to work in towns. Many others dream of living in the country, where they believe they would have a better and healthier lifestyle.

The countryside faces many threats. Some are associated with modern farming practices, and the use of chemicals harmful to plants and wildlife. Land is also needed for new houses. The green belt, an area of land around many cities, is under increasing pressure. Plans to build new roads are strongly opposed by organizations trying to protect the countryside. Protesters set up camps to prevent or at least delay, the building work.

America has many areas of wild and beautiful scenery, and there are many areas, especially in the West in states like Montana and Wyoming, where few people live, in the New England states, such as Vermont and New Hampshire, it is common to see small farms surrounded by hills and green areas. In Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and other Midwestern states, fields of corn or wheat reach to the horizon and there are many miles between towns.

Only about 20% of Americans live outside cities and towns. Life may be difficult for people who live in the country. Services like hospitals and schools may be further away and going shopping can mean driving long distances. Some people even have to drive from their homes to the main road where their mail is left in a box. In spite of the disadvantages, many people who live in the country say that they like the safe, clean, attractive environment. But their children often move to a town or city as soon as they can. As in Britain, Americans like to go out to the country at weekends. Some people go on camping or fishing trips, others go hiking in national parks.

Question 1: We can see from the passage that in the countryside of Britain _____.

A. none of the areas faces the sea

B. only a few farms are publicly owned

C. most beautiful areas are not well preserved

D. it is difficult to travel from one farm to another

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 2: The word "enclosed" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.

A. rotated **B**. embraced **C**. blocked **D**. surrounded

Question 3: Which is NOT mentioned as an activity of relaxation in the countryside of Britain?

A. Going swimming **B**. Picking fruit **C**. Going for a walk **D**. Riding a bicycle

Question 4: What does the word "they" in paragraph 2 refer to?

A. Those who dream of living in the country

B. Those who go to fruit farms in summer

C. Those who go to the country for a picnic

D. Those who commute to work in towns

Question 5: Which of the following threatens the countryside in Britain?

A. Protests against the building work **B**. Modern farming practices

C. Plants and wildlife **D**. The green belt around cities

Question 6: The phrase "associated with" in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to _____.

A. supported by **B**. referred to **C**. separated from **D**. related to

Question 7: According to the passage, all of the following are true EXCEPT_____.

A. the use of chemicals harms the environment of the countryside

B. camps are set up by protesters to stop the construction work

C. the green belt is under pressure because of the need for land

D. all organizations strongly oppose plans for road construction

Question 8: The phrase "reach to the horizon" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.

A. are limited **B**. are endless **C**. are horizontal **D**. are varied

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Question 9: According to the passage, some Americans choose to live in the country because

A. their children enjoy country life

B. they enjoy the safe, clean, attractive environment there

C. life there may be easier for them

D. hospitals, schools and shops are conveniently located there

Question 10: Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

A. The majority of American people live in cities and towns.

B. Many British people think of the country as a place of peace and relaxation.

C. Towns in some Midwestern states in the US are separated by long distances.

D. Both British and American people are thinking of moving to the countryside.

LIVEWORKSHEETS