TOEFL READING PRACTICE.

Descriptive Texts.

Student's name: _____ Group: _____

I. Read the following paragraph and choose the best answer.

> Many kinds of newborn ocean animals learn to survive on their own. Mollusks, sea urchins, and starfish must fend for themselves from the moment they emerge from their eggs. Hatched from eggs left unattended, these babies receive no attention from their parents. Some fishes, such as salmon, may travel thousands of miles or kilometers to lay their eggs in certain streams. Then they leave the eggs, and the baby fishes that hatch must get along as best they can. Similarly, sea turtles abandon their eggs. **They** climb onto the beach to lay their eggs in the sand. Then they crawl right back into the sea, letting the young turtles develop by themselves. Most ocean animals do no more than lay their eggs in places where the young will be able to find food.

1. Which of the following is not mentioned as an animal that pays no attention to its young?
   a. Salmon
   b. mollusks
   c. sand dollars
   d. sea turtles
2. Look at the word "they" in line 6, choose the best option that this word refers to:
   a. Salmon
   b. mollusks
   c. sand dollars
   d. sea turtles
3. It can be inferred from the passage that…
   a. sea turtles spend all of their lives in the sand.
   b. there are some ocean animals whose parents don't ignore them.
   c. newborn ocean animals find food where they hatch.
   d. most ocean animals travel thousands of kilometers to lay their eggs.

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II. Read the following paragraph and choose the best answer.

> The armadillo is one of several small American mammals with bony plates in their upper body skin. Armadillos are found from Argentina northward to the south – central and southeastern parts of the United States. **a.____ They** usually eat insects, earhworms, spiders, and land snails. **b.____** The animal has strong claws, which are used to dig tunnels and **burrows** in the ground. **c._____** It uses its long, narrow tongue to **lick** insects. **d.____** Because the armadillo has only small teeth far back in its mouth, it cannot bite in self-defense.

4. Look at the word **"they"** in the fourth line of the paragraph, choose the best option that this word refers to:
   a. bony plates
   b. armadillos
   c. parts of the United States
   d. insects
5. Look at the word "lick" in line 6. This word is closest in meaning to:
   a. taste
   b. fail
   c. glob
   d. lose
6. Where would this phrase "***These chambers are then used as hiding places***" best fit into the text? Choose the best space to add the sentence to the paragraph.
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____
   d. _____
7. Look at the word **"burrows"** in the text below. The word could best be replaced by:
   a. insects
   b. traps
   c. shovels

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d. passages

III. Read the following paragraph and choose the best answer.

The milk snake is a type of kingsnake that farmers once believed took milk from cows. Today, scientists know that no snake is physically able to extract milk from a cow. However, any snake might drink milk from a pail because of water content in the milk. Like other kingsnakes, the milk snake eats lizards and rodents. Milk snakes often go into barnyards to hunt for rodents that nest there. They are valuable to farmers because they eat the mice that lie in and around farm buildings.

There are many subspecies of milk snakes. The best known is the eastern milk snake. The eastern milk snake may be 4 feet long. Some other types of kingsnakes grow to be 6 feet in length. Milk snakes found in the Western and Southern United States have a pattern of rings along the entire length of their body, making them easy to recognize.

8. What is the author's main purpose in writing this passage?
   a. To contrast milk snakes with other kingsnakes.
   b. To describe the behaviour and characteristics of milk snakes.
   c. To scientifically classify snakes and a subspecie of kingsnakes.
   d. To inform farmers of the benefits of milk snakes.
9. Which sentence in paragraph 1 explains how milk snakes got their name?
   a. Any snake might drink milk from a pail because of water content in the milk.
   b. The milk snake eats lizards and rodents.
   c. Milk snakes often go into barnyards to hunt for rodents that nest there.
   d. The milk snake is a type of kingsnake that farmers once believed took milk from cows.
10. According to the passage, why many milk snakes drink milk?
   a. For its calcium.
   b. For its taste.
   c. For the water.
   d. For the rodents nesting there.

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