Main Idea and Supporting Details Quiz

Catch the Breeze

By ReadWorks.org

1. Wind can help fly a kite, power a sailboat or spread seeds. Around the world, wind has also become an increasingly popular and inexpensive source of energy that is changed into electricity.

2. At the National Wind Technology Center in Colorado, scientists are working to advance wind-power technology. Wind is often considered an environmentally friendly source of power. Wind doesn't pollute the environment and is a renewable source of energy that can't be used up like fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

3. Collecting power from wind is nothing new. Some of the first windmills were used in Europe more than 5,000 years ago. Today, modern windmills, called turbines, resemble airplane propellers. They are grouped together in wind farms.

4. Despite the benefits, wind power is far from perfect. Opponents of wind farms say the biggest problem is unreliability—when the wind doesn't blow, there is no power. They also argue that wind turbines can be an eyesore and threaten birds and other wildlife that fly into the blades.

5. As of 2011, 38 states have wind farms. Those turbines provide enough power for more than a million homes.

1. Which statement best summarizes paragraphs 1-3.

A. Windmills have been used around the world for thousands of years.
B. The are benefits as well as disadvantages to using the wind to produce energy.
C. Wind turbines provide power for more than one million houses.
D. Wind power is an old form of energy that is good for the environment and becoming more and more popular.

2. The main idea of the article is -

A. Windmills are excellent sources of energy.
B. Using windmills to produce energy is good for the earth, but still has disadvantages.
C. Windmills can be used to produce electricity only when the wind is blowing.
D. Collecting power from the wind is not a new idea.

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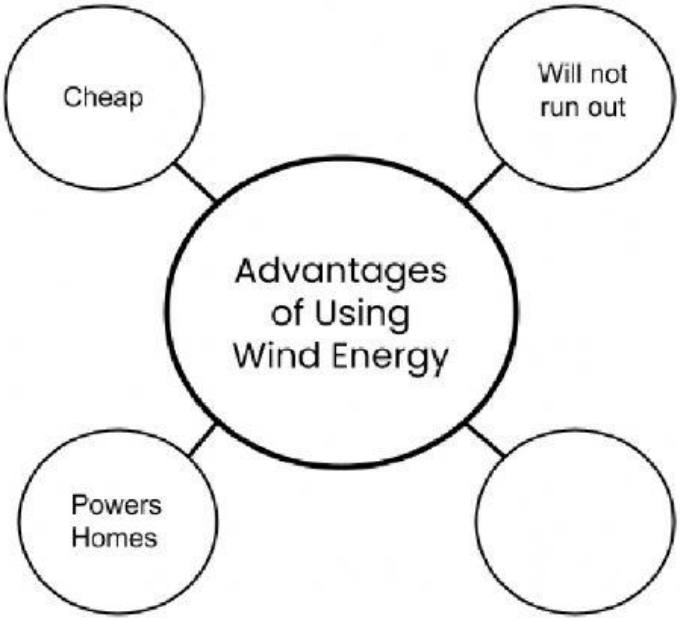
3. Complete the web.



not reliable

doesn't pollute

danger to birds

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Baking Bread Then and Now

By ReadWorks.org

1. Did you know that bread is one of the earliest human inventions? Bread is a food made of flour and water. Other ingredients and shape can vary. Scientists have learned that humans have been eating bread in some form or another for 30,000 years. Ancient Egyptians ate a lot of bread. In fact, because they had no potatoes or rice, bread was the most important carbohydrate source in the ancient Egyptian's diet.
2. Archaeologists have discovered illustrations of bakeries and loaves of bread in ancient Egyptian burial sites. Professional bakers and home-bakers used the same production techniques. Home-bakers, usually women, baked only the bread they would need for that day. Egyptians used a grain from emmer wheat for their bread. The grain was ground by hand on a millstone. This process cracked and crushed the grain into coarse flour. The flour was mixed with water and sometimes a little old dough. It was placed in a pot and baked in a clay oven.
3. This Egyptian bread was a flatbread. Indian naan and Middle Eastern pita are two examples of flatbreads eaten today. At the end of the ancient Egyptian period, however, around 300 B.C., Egyptian bakers added to their bread an important ingredient: yeast. Yeast is a microscopic fungus. It makes bread rise.
4. Today bread production is more complicated. Yes, you can still bake your own bread at home with store-bought flour and yeast. You can also buy bread made at small bakeries. But the fluffy bread you see in grocery stores in the United States today is made in large commercial facilities. These commercial facilities, or plants, have business contracts to bake many different bread brands.
5. Most breads today are made using four basic ingredients: flour, yeast, salt, and water. Farmers across the United States grow wheat in large quantities. Half of the wheat produced is used in the United States. The other half is exported to other countries. Grain is processed into flour by companies which then sell the flour to commercial bakeries. These bakeries produce the dough and bake the bread, then package it and arrange for its distribution to stores.

4. What is this passage mostly about?

A. making bread in the United States.
B. making bread throughout history
C. making bread at home.
D. making bread in Egypt

5. Paragraphs 2 and 3 tell mostly about -

A. how bread was made in Ancient Egypt.
B. the ingredients used to make bread today.
C. what Egyptian ovens were like.
D. why bread was flat in Egypt.

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6. Complete these notes and select TWO correct answers.

Bread in Ancient Egypt
• important carbohydrate
• flour mixed with water
•
•

Bread was baked in bakeries	**Made with flour, water, yeast, and salt**
Made in large commercial buildings	**Bread is baked in pots**

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A Little About Ants

By ReadWorks.org

1. There are lots of different kinds of ants: carpenter ants, leaf-cutter ants, sweet ants, fire ants, and many more. They are different colors, too. They can be red, or brown, or black. Some are very, very small, and some are rather big. Whatever their differences, though, all ants are social creatures. They live in large groups called colonies. Some ant colonies are big and have millions of ants. There are different types of ants in the colony, and they each have different jobs. The queen lays eggs. Soldier ants protect the queen and the colony. They also gather food and attack other colonies if they need new nesting space. Worker ants take care of babies, look for food, and build ant homes (anthills or mounds). Soldier and worker ants are female.

2. Ants are busy little insects. It's easy to see them moving quickly here and there. Sometimes you can see them carrying a small piece of something, or dragging part of a leaf somewhere. Sometimes you even see two ants helping each other carry the same crumb. But where are they going and what are they doing? Ants may seem to be just running around, but they are actually important parts of their ecosystem, their world under our feet.

3. One thing ants do to help their ecosystem is to keep soil healthy. By constantly digging through the soil, they create spaces in it. Soil needs space inside it for air and water. Without air and water in soil, the tiny creatures that live in soil would not survive.

4. Ants also help bring nutrients to soil. When they bring food particles to their nests, they add nutrients to soil because they don't eat everything they bring. Their leftovers stay in the soil and break down into nutrients for other creatures living in the soil.

7. Which sentence does NOT belong in a summary of the article?

A. Ants help each other carry crumbs.
B. Ants are social creatures and live in colonies.
C. Ants keep the soil healthy.
D. Ants work together in the colony.

8. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

A. Soldier and worker ants are female.
B. Worker ants take care of the colony.
C. All kinds of ants have jobs in the colony.
D. Ants keep the soil healthy.

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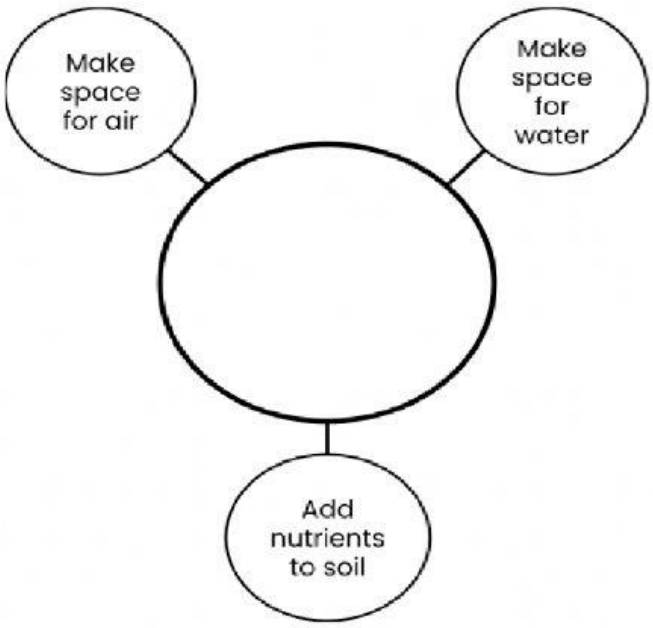
9. Complete the web.



Ants work together to build a colony

Ants help the soil

Tiny creatures live in the soil

Ants leave food in the soil

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Honey to the Bee

By ReadWorks.org

1. Bees are flying insects that feed on nectar and pollen. They are usually yellow and black and covered in fuzzy hair that makes collecting pollen easier. A bee's body is similar to that of other insects—for instance, an ant—with three major sections: the head, the middle section called the thorax, and the last section called the abdomen. The head of a bee has five eyes for seeing and two antennae for touching and smelling. Two sets of wings and three sets of legs can be found on a bee's thorax. Depending on the type of bee, the last set of legs might have little sacs that store the pollen that the bee has collected from flowers. Many types of bees have stingers. The bee stinger is the most feared part of a bee, and for good reason. Filled with poison, the stinger is a bee's protection from danger. The stingers are around 12 millimeters long. There are over 20,000 known bee species in the world. The best known is probably the honeybee.

2. Honeybees live in beehives, which have a distinct order that helps things run smoothly. At the bottom of the totem pole are the workers. Workers are young female bees. Some of their main duties include going out to find food (nectar and pollen), building the hive, and keeping it clean. Honeybees will travel up to eight miles if necessary to find nectar and pollen to bring back to the hive. Worker bees are actually the only bees that ever do any stinging. When this does happen, it is usually because they are trying to protect their hive from harm. A bee rarely stings when it is away from the hive, but it might sting if it senses danger. The lifespan of a worker bee is anywhere from 4 to 9 months.

3. The queen honeybee is the biggest bee in the hive. There is usually only one per hive, and her job is to grow the family by laying eggs that will become the next generation of honeybees. She lays over a thousand eggs per day and can live anywhere from 3 to 5 years. When the time comes for a new queen to take over, some larvae are placed in special chambers to grow queen bees. These larvae are fattened up with royal jelly, a nutritious substance that worker bees secrete. It usually takes about two weeks for a female larva to grow into a queen bee. The first female bee to become a queen bee kills the other potential queen bees.

4. Male honeybees are called drones. They don't have stingers, and they don't collect nectar or pollen. Their only purpose is to help the queen lay eggs. Several hundred drones can live in a hive at one time. As the winter months approach, the males are kicked out of the hive in order to make it easier for the queen and her workers to survive. Food needs to be saved as there are fewer flowers to collect pollen and nectar from. Less food means the drones are the first ones to go!

10. Which sentence is most important to include in a summary of paragraph 3?

A. Royal jelly is a nutritious substance that worker bees secrete.
B. It takes about two weeks for a female larva to grow into a queen bee.
C. The queen bee's job is to grow the family of bees by laying thousands of eggs per day.
D. The queen bee live for about three to five years.

11. The main idea of paragraph 2 is -

A. Worker bees help the hive by finding food, building the hive, and keeping it clean.
B. Worker bees sting when there is danger.
C. The queen helps the hive by laying eggs to produce new bees.
D. Bees have different jobs including the worker, the drone, and the queen.

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Directions: Select the **TWO** correct answers.

12. Which of these do **NOT** belong in a summary of the article?

In the winter, there are less flowers and less pollen and nectar to collect.
Bees are insects with three body parts, wings, and sometimes stingers.
Bees collect pollen and nectar from flowers.
Worker bees take care of the hive and collect food.
A honeybee's stinger is around 12 millimeters long.

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