Listen and fill in the blanks:

Ali wanted to get out and enjoy the (1)_____ holiday with his children. He decided to take them to visit a sugar (2)_____ so they could see how maple syrup is made. It is produced for only a few short weeks each spring when the temperature causes the sap in the trees to start (3)_____. The daytime temperatures must be above zero and the nighttime temperature must be below (4)_____. When this happens the sap begins to flow. Maple syrup producers (5)_____l holes into the trees and insert a small tube called a tap. We say they are tapping the trees. They hang buckets below the taps so they can collect the sap that (6)_____ out of the taps. Ali and his children dressed warmly because even though the temperature was above freezing, it was still (7)_____. They arrived at the sugar bush just in time to get on an open wagon pulled by two large work (8)_____. As they rode the cart into the woodlot they noticed buckets hanging on the trunks of trees around them. Everyone got off the wagon at a small building called the sugar (9)_____. The owner of the operation explained that he (10)_____ the sap from the buckets and takes it to the sugar shack. He pours the sap into a large kettle and (11)_____ it down to remove some of the water through evaporation. As the sap boils it becomes thicker and sweeter. The thin runny maple sap becomes maple (12)_____. It takes a lot of maple sap to make maple syrup. In fact you need about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. It's a long, slow (13)_____ but it's worth it. Ali's children

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were fascinated by the process of making maple syrup. They learned (14)_____the people of Canada's First Nations began collecting and using the sap many years ago. And they were (15)_____ when the owner of the woodlot poured some of the fresh, hot syrup onto some clean, cold snow and it (16)_____ into a maple candy that they could taste. He also explained why the colour of maple syrup (17)_____. The first sap which flows early in the sugaring season produces a light (18)_____ syrup and syrup from sap which is gathered toward the end of the season is a much (19)_____ colour. Ali bought a small tin of syrup to take home before he and his children left the sugar bush. Maple syrup is delicious to eat over ice cream or poured into (20)_____ yogurt. And some people like to bake with it. Every spring there are many maple syrup festivals where people celebrate spring and Mother (21)_____ sweet treat. Pancake breakfasts are an important part of these festivals. There is nothing tastier than a stack of piping hot pancakes with a pat of butter melting in the middle and fresh maple syrup (22)_____ over the whole thing.

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