

Name: _____

SCIENCE NEWS

DIRECTIONS: Read the “Science News” section on pages 2–7.
 Then test your knowledge, filling in the letters next to the correct answers.

1. What force, created when two surfaces rub together, makes it difficult to drag a large object across the ground?

- (A) gravity
- (B) friction
- (C) lift
- (D) drag

2. Which of the following do many scientists think caused the extinction of the dinosaurs?

- (A) an asteroid
- (B) freezing temperatures
- (C) wildfires
- (D) all of the above

3. All lobster shells contain _____, compounds that give lobsters their color.

- (A) melanin
- (B) DNA
- (C) pigments
- (D) dye

4. Nitrogen dioxide, a major air pollutant, is a gas produced mainly by _____.

- (A) cars
- (B) cow farts
- (C) factories
- (D) wildfire smoke

5. The most common cause of concussions among high school football players is _____.

- (A) contact with another player
- (B) hitting the ground
- (C) crashing into equipment
- (D) practicing too hard

6. _____ of the elements on the periodic table are found in nature.

- (A) 100%
- (B) Around 75%
- (C) About 50%
- (D) Less than 50%

7. Emeralds form when elements in _____ are heated and pressed together.

- (A) rocks
- (B) Earth’s crust
- (C) Earth’s core
- (D) lava

8. Lobsters usually have brown shells, but some can be different colors due to _____.

- (A) an adaptation
- (B) a mutation
- (C) an environmental factor
- (D) a change in pH

9. During which time of year is air pollution the highest in London?

- (A) Summer
- (B) Spring
- (C) Winter
- (D) Fall

10. Dinosaurs became extinct about _____ years ago.

- (A) 65 million
- (B) 6.5 billion
- (C) 65,000
- (D) 6,500

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PLASTIC OR THE PLANET? PAGE 8

DIRECTIONS: Match each item in the left column below with its definition in the right column.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. phytoplankton | a. smallest and most common type of phytoplankton on Earth |
| _____ 2. <i>Prochlorococcus</i> | b. substance made of large molecules organized in repeating units |
| _____ 3. photosynthetic | c. process by which the element carbon moves between the atmosphere, living organisms, rocks, and water |
| _____ 4. carbon cycle | d. marine microorganisms that make their own food using photosynthesis |
| _____ 5. gene | e. unit of hereditary material |
| _____ 6. polymer | f. large piece of plastic debris |
| _____ 7. biodegradable | g. community of living organisms that interact with one another and the nonliving environment around them |
| _____ 8. macroplastic | h. piece of plastic debris that is smaller than 5 millimeters in length |
| _____ 9. microplastic | i. able to make sugar using reactions that involve carbon dioxide, oxygen, and sunlight |
| _____ 10. ecosystem | j. able to be broken down in the environment |

SPICE IT UP! PAGE 14

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer for each of the questions below.

1. Which of the following BEST describes a compound?

- (A) a molecule made up of many atoms of one type of element bonded together
- (B) a molecule derived from natural materials like bark and seeds
- (C) a molecule made up of different elements that are chemically combined
- (D) a flavoring molecule

2. Which of the following statements about cinnamon is NOT true?

- (A) It has similar effects on your body as a chili pepper does when you eat it.
- (B) It is made from the bark of evergreen trees.
- (C) It contains a substance that can activate nerves in your mouth.
- (D) It causes the temperature on your tongue to rise when you eat it.

3. Which of the following actions would activate your trigeminal nerve?

- (A) sipping hot chocolate
- (B) grabbing a hot pan with your hand
- (C) rubbing a chili pepper on your arm
- (D) scratching the back of your head

4. How did allspice get its name?

- (A) It is made up of many different spices mixed together.
- (B) Its flavoring is similar to a combination of several other spices.
- (C) It contains all the same compounds as cinnamon.
- (D) The plant it is made from grows all over the world.

5. Infer why your dentist might give you an anesthetic before drilling into a tooth.

- (A) It blocks pain signals from being transmitted to your brain.
- (B) It activates the trigeminal nerve in your mouth so you don't feel pain.
- (C) It causes your mouth to feel warm so you don't feel pain.
- (D) It tastes sweet so you don't notice any pain.