

**Read this social-studies article about a natural disaster. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 through 12.**

### **The Great California Earthquake of 1906**

No one can predict when an earthquake will occur. Some earthquakes are barely felt and cause little damage. Others are disastrous and the damage is extensive. Today, buildings are constructed to withstand some of the force, and emergency crews can respond quickly. These actions help lessen the losses. Long ago, however, not much was known about earthquakes and as a result, people were less prepared. The damage caused by these awesome forces of nature was even more far-reaching.



*City Hall Tower, after the San Francisco earthquake*

In 1906, the early morning silence of April 18 was shattered at 5:12. At that very moment, an earthquake shook the city of San Francisco. Streets began to rise and fall like waves on an open sea. The first shock continued for 40 terrifying seconds. The next shock lasted only 15 seconds, but was no less frightening. In less than one minute, the nation's worst natural disaster forever changed thousands of lives.

The most serious destruction was not caused by the quake itself. It was caused by broken water lines and gas lines. Gas leaks triggered explosions and fires. There was no water to put out the fires, and over 490 city blocks burned to the ground. As one citizen described, ". . . flames were seething, and as I stood there, a five-story building half a block away fell with a crash . . ." The fires raged on for three days before burning out.

Once the smoke cleared, citizens were able to survey the damage. Many people were separated from family members during the fires. Over 500 lives were lost, and more than 250,000 people were left homeless.

The earthquake rocked the city, but it did not shake the strength of its citizens. As one woman described in a letter to a friend just weeks after the quake, "We have certainly had an awful time out here, but the fortitude of the people has been something wonderful." The people of San Francisco were able to rise from the ashes and restore their battered city.

### Finding Main Idea

1. What is the article mostly about?
- (A) major disasters of the twentieth century
  - (B) earthquakes that have occurred in the United States
  - (C) lifestyles of the early 1900s
  - (D) an earthquake that destroyed a major city

### Recognizing Cause and Effect

4. Fires could not be controlled because
- (A) there was no water.
  - (B) power lines were broken.
  - (C) the streets were too crowded.
  - (D) no one could get to them.

### Recalling Facts and Details

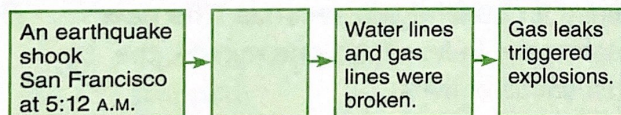
2. How long did the first shock last?
- (A) almost four days
  - (B) less than one minute
  - (C) only 15 seconds
  - (D) over two minutes

### Comparing and Contrasting

5. In the article, the rising and falling of the streets is compared to
- (A) raging flames.
  - (B) the nation's worst natural disaster.
  - (C) the rise and fall of the sun.
  - (D) the rise and fall of ocean waves.

### Understanding Sequence

3. The boxes tell about some of the events in the article.



Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- (A) Citizens worked together to rebuild their city.
- (B) The quake caused city streets to rise and fall.
- (C) Fires destroyed almost 500 city blocks.
- (D) Citizens were finally able to survey the damage.

### Making Predictions

6. Predict which of these would most likely occur if a similar earthquake were to strike San Francisco today.
- (A) Water lines and gas lines would remain undamaged.
  - (B) Streets would not require repair.
  - (C) Few citizens would lose their homes.
  - (D) Losses to life and property would not be as severe.

### Finding Word Meaning in Context

7. What is the meaning of the word *survey* in paragraph 4?
- (A) “poll”
  - (B) “inspect”
  - (C) “estimate”
  - (D) “deny”

### Identifying Author’s Purpose

10. The author’s purpose in the last paragraph is to
- (A) entertain readers with a quote from an old letter.
  - (B) explain the destructive power of an earthquake.
  - (C) describe the character of local citizens after the earthquake.
  - (D) share information about the city of San Francisco.

### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

8. You can conclude that
- (A) earthquakes today are more mild than those in the past.
  - (B) earthquakes usually occur in the early morning hours.
  - (C) earthquakes are as unpredictable today as they were in the past.
  - (D) earthquakes always last less than one minute.

### Interpreting Figurative Language

11. In the last paragraph, *rise from the ashes* describes how
- (A) the earthquake of 1906 caused the outbreak of fire.
  - (B) the people of San Francisco were able to put aside their sorrow.
  - (C) the city of San Francisco was leveled by a powerful earthquake.
  - (D) the people of San Francisco lost their city in less than one minute.

### Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

9. Which of these is an *opinion* from the article?
- (A) The most serious destruction to the city was not caused by the quake itself.
  - (B) Many people were separated from their families during the fires.
  - (C) After the earthquake, it took three days for the fires to burn out.
  - (D) The fortitude of the people has been something wonderful.

### Summarizing

12. Which of these is the best summary of the article?
- (A) The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 devastated the city, but could not destroy city dwellers’ spirits.
  - (B) People often don’t realize how much damage an earthquake can cause.
  - (C) Fires are a more destructive force than earthquakes.
  - (D) The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 was the worst disaster in the nation’s history.

Read this science article about plants. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 through 12.

## Plants— a Human Lifeline

Plants grow in almost every part of the world. They grow on mountaintops, in oceans, and in many desert and polar regions. You see plants such as flowers, grass, and trees nearly every day.

Since people could not live without air or food, there would be no human life on the earth without plants. Oxygen in the air we breathe comes from plants, as does much of the food we eat. The seeds of plants such as corn, rice, and wheat are the chief sources of food in most parts of the world. We eat bread and many other products made from these three grains. We eat the roots of plants when we eat beets, carrots, or sweet potatoes. We eat the leaves of cabbage, lettuce, and spinach plants; the stems of asparagus and celery plants; and the flower buds of broccoli and cauliflower plants. The fruits of many plants also provide us with food. They include apples, bananas, berries, and oranges, as well as some nuts. Coffee and tea also come from plants.

Scientists believe there are about 300,000 kinds of plants on the earth, but no one knows for sure. Some tiny plants that grow on the forest floor can barely be seen. Others tower over people and animals. Among the largest living plants on the earth are the sequoia trees of California.

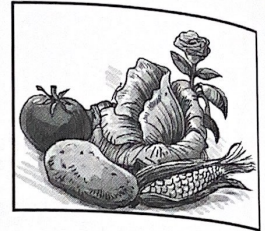
These giants stand over 290 feet high and are 30 feet wide.

Many of our most useful medicines are made from plants.

Some of these plants have been used as medicines for hundreds of years. More than 400 years ago, for example, some Indian tribes of South America used the bark of the cinchona tree to reduce fever. The bark is still used to make quinine, a drug used to treat malaria. Another drug, called digitalis, is used in treating heart disease. It is made from the dried leaves of the purple foxglove plant. The roots of the Mexican yam are used in producing cortisone. This drug is helpful in treating arthritis, a disease that causes painful joints.

Plants supply people with many important raw materials. Trees give us lumber for building homes and making furniture. Wood chips are used in manufacturing paper and paper products. Plants also provide an important source of fuel. In many parts of the world, people burn wood to heat their homes or to cook their food.

Besides being a source of food, medicine, and useful materials, plants add beauty and pleasure to our lives. Most people enjoy the smell of flowers, the sight of a field of waving grain, and the quiet within a forest.



<p><b>Finding Main Idea</b></p> <p>1. The first paragraph tells mainly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) why plants are important.</li><li>(B) where plants are found.</li><li>(C) how plants provide oxygen.</li><li>(D) which plants are used for food.</li></ul>	<p><b>Recognizing Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>4. What is one reason that the exact number of plants on the earth is not known?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) Some plants are too small to notice.</li><li>(B) Some plants grow under the ground.</li><li>(C) Some plants grow in polar regions.</li><li>(D) Some plants are invisible.</li></ul>
<p><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>2. Which of these foods comes from the root of a plant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) spinach</li><li>(B) oranges</li><li>(C) broccoli</li><li>(D) beets</li></ul>	<p><b>Comparing and Contrasting</b></p> <p>5. Grains are most like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) crops.</li><li>(B) seeds.</li><li>(C) bread.</li><li>(D) roots.</li></ul>
<p><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>3. Which of these happened over 400 years ago?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) Digitalis was used to treat heart disease.</li><li>(B) The bark of the cinchona tree was used to reduce fever.</li><li>(C) The Mexican yam was used to treat arthritis.</li><li>(D) A cure for malaria was first discovered.</li></ul>	<p><b>Making Predictions</b></p> <p>6. Predict what would happen if there were no plants on the earth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(A) People would build homes out of something other than wood.</li><li>(B) There would be no sources of fuel to heat homes.</li><li>(C) No human life could exist.</li><li>(D) There would be no food source for all animals.</li></ul>

### Finding Word Meaning in Context

7. In the article, *tower* means
- Ⓐ “a large building.”
  - Ⓑ “to stand very tall.”
  - Ⓒ “to grow quickly.”
  - Ⓓ “to be easily seen.”

### Identifying Author’s Purpose

10. The article was written mainly to
- Ⓐ describe the ways in which plants are used for food.
  - Ⓑ explain the importance of plants to human life on the earth.
  - Ⓒ convince readers that plants are more than just a source of beauty.
  - Ⓓ entertain readers with interesting facts about plants.

### Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

8. From the article, you can conclude that
- Ⓐ all medicines come from plants.
  - Ⓑ some nuts are considered fruits.
  - Ⓒ most plants are used by people for food.
  - Ⓓ there are more kinds of plants in the world than there are people.

### Interpreting Figurative Language

11. Which sentence from the article contains a metaphor?
- Ⓐ It is made from the dried leaves of the purple foxglove plant.
  - Ⓑ Some tiny plants that grow on the forest floor can barely be seen.
  - Ⓒ These giants stand over 290 feet high and are 30 feet wide.
  - Ⓓ Plants supply people with many important raw materials.

### Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion

9. Which statement expresses an *opinion*?
- Ⓐ The fruits of many plants also provide us with food.
  - Ⓑ Oxygen in the air we breathe comes from plants.
  - Ⓒ You see plants such as flowers, grass, and trees nearly every day.
  - Ⓓ Plants add beauty and pleasure to our lives.

### Summarizing

12. What is a good summary of the article?
- Ⓐ Plants provide us with oxygen and food.
  - Ⓑ Plants can be found almost everywhere on the earth.
  - Ⓒ No one knows for sure how many kinds of plants there are on the earth.
  - Ⓓ Plants provide us with oxygen, as well as food, medicine, lumber, and fuel.