

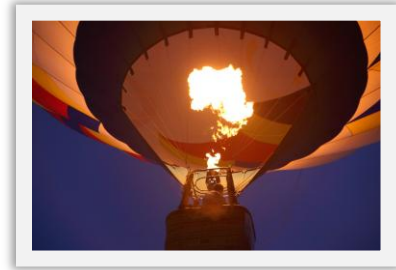
Name _____
 Date _____

• Reading Comprehension Assessment

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Full of Hot Air

Have you ever wondered what keeps a hot air balloon flying? The same principle that keeps food frozen in the open chest freezers at the grocery store allows hot air balloons to fly. It's a basic principle: Hot air rises and cold air falls. So while the super-cooled air in the grocery store freezer settles down around the food, the hot air in a hot air balloon pushes up, keeping the balloon floating above the ground. In order to understand more about how this principle works in hot air balloons, it helps to know more about hot air balloons themselves.



A hot air balloon has three major parts: the basket, the burner, and the envelope. The basket is where passengers ride. The basket is usually made of wicker. This ensures that it will be comfortable and add little extra weight. The burner is positioned above the passenger's heads and produces a huge flame to heat the air inside the envelope. The envelope is the colorful fabric balloon that holds the hot air. When the air inside the envelope is heated, the balloon rises.

The pilot can control the up-and-down movements of the hot air balloon by regulating the heat in the envelope. To **ascend**, the pilot heats the air in the envelope. When the pilot is ready to land, the air in the balloon is allowed to cool and the balloon becomes heavier than air. This makes the balloon **descend**.

Before the balloon is launched, the pilot knows which way the wind is blowing. This means that she has a general idea about which way the balloon will go. But sometimes the pilot can actually control the direction that the balloon flies while in flight. This is because the air above the ground is sectioned into layers in which the direction of the wind may be different. So even though the pilot can't steer the balloon, she can fly higher or lower into a different layer of air. Some days the difference between the direction of the wind between layers is **negligible**. But other days the difference is so strong that it can actually push the balloon in a completely different direction!

- 1) Using the information presented in paragraph 1, it can be understood that which of the following statements is FALSE?
 - A. Air goes up and out the top of a chimney when you light a fire.
 - B. **Cool air collects about the ceiling when you open a refrigerator.**
 - C. Smoke from a candle rises after you blow out the flame.
 - D. Cold air coming from an air conditioning vent settles about the floor.

- 2) According to the passage, wicker is
 - I. comfortable
 - II. lightweight
 - III. durable
 - A. I only
 - B. **I and II only**
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

- 3) According to the passage, the balloon pilot controls the balloon's altitude by
 - A. moving into a different layer of air
 - B. **regulating the air temperature inside the balloon**

GEOCACHING

KEY

Geocaching is an outdoor **(1) activity**, in which you must wander around in the countryside trying to find **(2) hidden** containers with small **(3) treasures** in them. The locations of these containers are posted on the Internet by people who have **(4) actually** been there.

In order to go geocaching on your own you need a GPS **(5) device** or a mobile phone app that tells you where you are. Type in the coordinates and **(6) navigate** your way to the cache.

There are many **(7) websites** that post information about the location of a geocache. They offer information on what kind of cache to look for, the geographical **(8) features** of the area or how difficult it is to find it.

Once you have found the cache you can **(9) sign** a logbook, that records your **(10) presence** and shows that you have located the geocache. If you decide to keep the treasure you must put something else in its **(11) place** so that other people can find it. Caches can contain a wide range of **(12) items** including badges, stickers, sweets or even money.

The geocache **(13) community** is growing every day. It is **(14) estimated** that there are about 3 million geocaches around the world, on all continents, even Antarctica.

TURKEY ALLOWS SCHOOLS TO TEACH KURDISH

KEY

Turkey's government is letting some schools teach Kurdish. Only two decades ago speaking Kurdish in public was a crime, but now the government is easing its **(1) restriction (RESTRICT)** on the language of the Kurds. The Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has stated that this is a **(2) historic (HISTORY)** step for Turkey's largest minority group. The Kurds form about 20% of the country's population, mainly in the south-eastern part of the country. But many have gone to Istanbul and other cities in search of **(3) employment (EMPLOY)** and a better life.

Kurds have been fighting for more rights and a certain degree of autonomy in Turkey. In the last decades thousands of people have been killed in **(4) hostilities (HOSTILE)** between the Turkish government and the Kurdish rebel group PKK.

For a long time Turkey has outlawed Kurdish because government **(5) officials (OFFICE)** are afraid that it would separate the country and **(6) strengthen (STRONG)** the PKK. In the latest statement Erdogan said that if a school has enough students who want to take Kurdish as an **(7) elective (ELECT)** subject a school is allowed to offer lessons. The Turkish government has found out that a **(8) solution (SOLVE)** to the Kurdish problem cannot be achieved through violence alone. Kurdish language and culture is spreading **(9) increasingly (INCREASE)** in Turkey, Iraq and Syria.

For Kurdish **(10) activists (ACTIVE)** the proposed measures do not go far enough. They demand the right to educate students in Kurdish in all subjects. The European Union has **(11) repeatedly (REPEAT)** put **(12) pressure (PRESS)** on Turkey to pass better laws for Kurdish citizens. It says that if Turkey wants to become a full member of the EU minority rights must be granted.

TEATIME

KEY

Tea is one of the world's **(1) most** popular beverages. According to a legend, it originated in China thousands of years **(2) ago**, when leaves from a tea bush fell **(3) into** a hot water pot of the Chinese emperor.

At first, only wealthy British families **(4) were** able to afford drinking tea, which was brought from India by merchants and traders. Some people even locked it up to prevent it from **(5) being** stolen.

There are many ways to drink tea. **(6) While** most people just drink their tea pure, others add milk or a lemon. The most common forms are black and green tea. Vanilla or fruit flavouring **(7) is** often added to tea to give it a special taste. Some people brew their tea in convenient tea bags, others pour boiling **(8) water** over crushed tea leaves.

Tea drinking has a long tradition in Britain. Every Briton **(9) drinks/consumes** about 5 cups of tea per day, or about 1,700 cups a year – the largest per capita consumption in the **(10) world**. Traditional afternoon teatime goes **(11) back** to the 19th century. Many families celebrate this custom in an exclusive way, with expensive china and silver spoons.

Tea has a stimulating effect **(12) on** your body, because it contains **(13) more** caffeine than coffee. It is great for those who are afraid of putting on too much **(14) weight** as it has only 4 calories per cup.

PERSONALITY ADJECTIVES

KEY

