

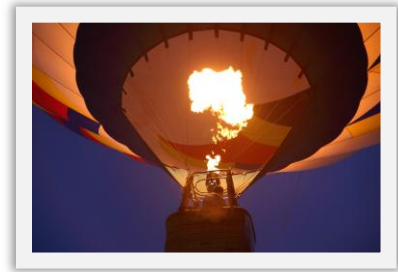
Name _____
 Date _____

• 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

- C. adjusting the amount of air in the envelope
- D. changing the amount of weight contained in the basket

4) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for **ascend**?

- A. move
- B. fly
- C. sink
- D. climb

5) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best antonym for **descend**?

- A. fall
- B. float
- C. rise
- D. drop

6) If the hot air balloon pilot wants to change directions during flight, what might he or she do to accomplish this?

- A. head toward a mountain peak
- B. wait for it to rain
- C. move into a cloud
- D. fly higher

7) Based on its use in paragraph 4, it can be understood that **negligible** belongs to which of the following word groups?

- A. solemn, grave, serious
- B. substantial, considerable, large
- C. exhilarating, thrilling, exciting
- D. insignificant, small, unnoticeable

8) Would you take a ride in a hot air balloon? Why or why not? What are some of the dangers involved? How might you prevent them?

Complete the text about geocaching with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.



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

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

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

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

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

activity
actually
community
device
estimated
features
found
hidden
items
location
navigate
place
presence
sign
treasures
websites

Use the word in brackets to form a new word that fits into each blank.

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) _____ (**RESTRICT**) on the language of the Kurds. The Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has stated that this is a (2) _____ (**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) _____ (**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) _____ (**HOSTILE**) between the Turkish government and the Kurdish rebel group PKK.

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

For Kurdish (10) _____ (**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) _____ (**REPEAT**) put (12) _____ (**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.

Read the text about tea, one of the world's favourite beverages. Think of ONE word that fits into each blank.



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

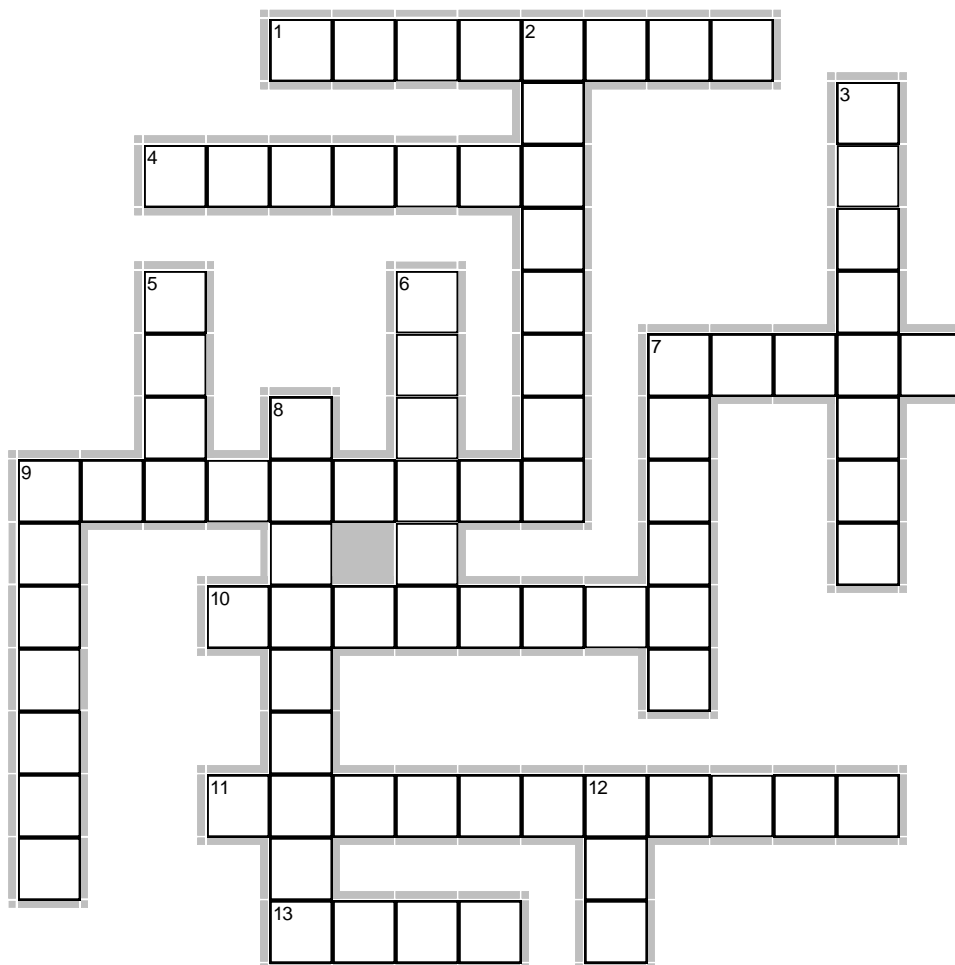
At first, only wealthy British families **(4)** _____ able to afford drinking tea, which was brought from India by merchants and traders. Some people even locked it up to prevent it from **(5)** _____ stolen.

There are many ways to drink tea. **(6)** _____ 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)** _____ often added to tea to give it a special taste. Some people brew their tea in convenient tea bags, others pour boiling **(8)** _____ over crushed tea leaves.

Tea drinking has a long tradition in Britain. Every Briton **(9)** _____ about 5 cups of tea per day, or about 1,700 cups a year – the largest per capita consumption in the **(10)** _____. Traditional afternoon teatime goes **(11)** _____ 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)** _____ your body, because it contains **(13)** _____ caffeine than coffee. It is great for those who are afraid of putting on too much **(14)** _____ as it has only 4 calories per cup.

Complete the crossword with adjectives about a person's personality.



Across

1. someone who gives money or time to people in order to help them
4. providing useful help to make something better or easier
7. if you always help and support your friends, your boss, your country etc...
9. easily offended or hurt by what others say to you
10. happy, or behaving in a way that shows you are happy
11. if you can be trusted to make good judgements and do the right things
13. someone who keeps their room, house etc.. clean and orderly

Down

2. if you can trust or depend on someone
3. someone who enjoys being with other people and goes out a lot
5. cruel; not kind
6. behaving towards others or speaking in a correct way
7. someone who is very active and has a lot of energy
8. not telling the truth or always cheating on people
9. caring only about yourself and not about others
12. nervous about meeting and speaking to other people, especially ones you don't know