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Reading: Connect and Clarify Main Ideas

Practice

When you **connect and clarify** main ideas, you understand the links between information from related topics.

A Read the passages. Then, answer the questions by writing the letter of the correct answer.

- A.** Born around 1765, Sequoya was a member of the Cherokee tribe. He was fascinated by the marks on paper that white people used to communicate. In 1809, he decided to create an alphabet for his people. He devoted 12 years of his life to the project. His 85-letter alphabet gave a symbol for each sound in the Cherokee language. In 1821, Sequoya showed the Cherokee leaders how his new alphabet worked. The wise men recognized the alphabet's great worth. Before long, the Cherokee were able to read and write their own language.
- B.** The Cherokee Phoenix was the first Native American newspaper in the United States. It was first printed in 1828 in New Echota, Georgia, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. The weekly paper had both Cherokee and English text. For the first time, Cherokees were able to read the news of their nation in their own language. The Cherokee tribes were scattered in far places such as Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and Texas. By printing news in the Cherokee language, the newspaper helped bring the tribes together as a single nation.

1. ____ Which topic is central to both passages?
 - A. Sequoya's devotion to his task
 - B. the written Cherokee language
 - C. the scattering of the Cherokee
 - D. matching symbols to sounds
2. ____ What statement from Passage A is best supported by the events in Passage B?
 - A. Born around 1765, Sequoya was a member of the Cherokee tribe.
 - B. The wise men recognized the alphabet's great worth.
 - C. His 85-letter alphabet gave a symbol for each sound in the Cherokee language.
 - D. In 1821, Sequoya showed the Cherokee leaders how his new alphabet worked
3. ____ Which source would be most likely to clarify ideas in both passages?
 - A. a map of the Cherokee Nation.
 - B. an encyclopedia entry for New Echota, Georgia
 - C. a book comparing alphabets of different nations
 - D. an article from the Cherokee *Phoenix*

Name:

Date:

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Assess

Read the passages. Then, answer the questions by writing the letter of the correct answer.

A. Our earth is very hot inside. Deep under the ground, melted rock, called magma, contains large amounts of hot gas and steam. The magma can build up great pressure and start pushing upward. When magma is thicker, gases get trapped inside and may burst forth with a tremendous force. The fierce pressure pushes the magma through a weak place in the earth's outer crust. When the magma breaks through the earth's surface, it is called lava. As the lava erupts high into the air, it may push up the ground, forming a mountain. If it breaks through the top of the ground or the mountain it has created, a volcano is formed. A sudden, forceful eruption can destroy anything in its path.

B. In March 1980, Mount St. Helens began to show signs that it might erupt again. Scientists from Vancouver, Washington, set up camp to observe its activity. On May 18, a scientist named David Johnston saw a huge landslide began on the mountain's north side. Johnston shouted in to his radio, "Vancouver, Vancouver, this is it!" The landslide left a giant hole in the side of the mountain. Seconds later, a sideways eruption blasted from the hole. Hot gases, broken rock, and ash rocketed away at speeds of up to 670 miles per hour. The eruption blew away 1,300 feet of the mountain's top, destroyed trees, and killed animals. Fifty-seven people were killed, including David Johnston.

1. ____ Which topic is central to both passages?

- A. the frequency of volcanic eruptions
- B. landslides caused by volcanoes
- C. the formation of volcanoes
- D. matching symbols to sounds

2. ____ What statement from Passage A is best supported by the events in Passage B?

- A. A sudden, forceful eruption can destroy anything in its path.
- B. When the magma breaks through the earth's surface, it is called lava.
- C. Our earth is very hot inside.
- D. Deep under the ground, melted rock, called magma, contains large amounts of hot gas and steam.

3. ____ Which source would be most likely to clarify ideas in both passages?

- A. a biography of David Johnston
- B. an atlas containing maps of Washington State
- C. a book of photographs of erupting volcanoes
- D. an encyclopedia entry for landslides