

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- inventions
- sap
- syrup

Native American Inventions

from *Scholastic News*



- 1 There are many different groups of Native Americans. Look at all the things they invented!

Native Americans Invented It!

- 2 Have you seen a coat like this before? It is a parka. It has a warm, furry hood. Native Americans were the first to make parkas. What else did they invent?

Maple Syrup

- 3 Native Americans were the first to get syrup from maple trees. They let the sap of the maple tree drip into pails. Then, they boiled the sap until it turned into syrup.





Hammocks

- 4 The Native Americans who invented hammocks lived on hot islands. It is easy to keep cool on a hammock.

Lacrosse


- 5 Have you ever seen people play lacrosse? Native Americans invented this sport. It is played all over the world. Players throw and catch a ball with special sticks.



Kayaks

- 6 The Native Americans who invented kayaks lived by the water. Kayaks are a great way to travel over water. Today, people love to race kayaks. It is even a sport in the Olympics!



 **Think** Use what you learned from reading “Native American Inventions” to answer the following questions.

1 What is paragraph 2 about?

- A** types of warm coats
- B** where Native Americans live
- C** how to invent things
- D** what a parka is

2 Reread paragraph 4 and look at the picture. Find clues for the meaning of the word “hammock.” What is a “hammock”?

- A** a sandy beach
- B** a straw mat
- C** a bed hung with ropes
- D** a pillow made from leaves

3 What is paragraph 5 **mostly** about?

- A** the rules of lacrosse
- B** what lacrosse is
- C** how lacrosse was invented
- D** the meaning of the word “lacrosse”

4 Paragraphs 2–6 are like each other in one important way. Which sentence **best** describes how they are alike?

- A** Each describes something made in America.
- B** Each describes a Native American invention.
- C** Each describes something used outdoors.
- D** Each describes how something is made.

5 This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Think about what the article tells about kayaks. What is a “kayak”?

Part B

Look at the answer you wrote for Part A. Write **two** details from the article that helped you figure out the meaning of the word “kayak.”

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Learning Target

How does knowing the main topic of a text and the key details of paragraphs help you better understand what you read?

