

Name:

Date:

Class:

Festival

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions.

Reading Passage 1

The Notting Hill Carnival

The Colorful Festival



The **roots** of the Notting Hill Carnival are said to have originated from Trinidad and Tobago, a small island country in the Caribbean. To produce the theme of the carnival each year, the organizers make

reference to the historical and cultural models that continue to come out of Africa and the Caribbean. The organizers say that they also want to show the **benefits** and **hardships** created by the influence of the traditions that Europeans brought to their native countries. They believe that this type of information **inspires** and makes the carnival **educational** as well as **entertaining**. From the Trinidadian's point of view, the carnival reflects the **social** and political experiences of Afro-Caribbean people in Britain.

Thousands of people **gather** along the sides of the streets and wait for the **parade** of rainbow-colored costumes to appear. From **feathers** to smiles, the performers in the festival have it all. Steel drums, **dancers**, and **singers** bring back the traditional ways of the ancestors as the people **celebrate** all night long. Stages, mimes, and costumes create **performances** for everyone to enjoy. The audience seeks a balance of **rhythm** and movement from the performers. If everything is right, a **bond** is established between **viewers** and the performers on stage.

The young and old come together to **recall** the traditional times. Food is a major part of the festival. Foods from West Africa to Asia mean that there is something for everyone to enjoy. The Notting Hill Carnival promises to be a place where ideas are translated into **designs**. **Balance**, colors, rhythms, and movements expose new themes to the people each year. The many cultural influences at the Notting Hill Carnival create a large base for understanding among the people of Britain. The carnival falls on the August Bank Holiday Monday.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

1. This passage is mainly about a carnival held in _____.
- (A) Trinidad and Tobago
 - (B) Africa
 - (C) the Caribbean
 - (D) the UK

Main Idea

2. The underlined word “bond” is closest in meaning to _____.
- (A) agreement
 - (B) performance
 - (C) connection
 - (D) exchange

Vocabulary

3. This passage does **NOT** cover _____.
- (A) the origins of the carnival
 - (B) recent changes of the carnival
 - (C) the organization of the carnival
 - (D) what happens at the carnival

Supporting Idea

4. Which of the following is **NOT** found at the carnival?
- (A) Parades.
 - (B) Mimes.
 - (C) Food.
 - (D) Speeches.

Detailed Information

5. How do the organizers make the carnival educational?
- (A) By keeping the same cultural themes each year.
 - (B) By showing the influence of Western traditions.
 - (C) By incorporating political issues into the shows.
 - (D) By holding parades with rainbow-colored costumes.

6. Where would this passage most likely appear?
- (A) In a tourist brochure.
 - (B) In a history book.
 - (C) In a government document.
 - (D) In a user’s manual.

Inference

Name:

Date:

Class:

Reading Passage 2

Oktoberfest

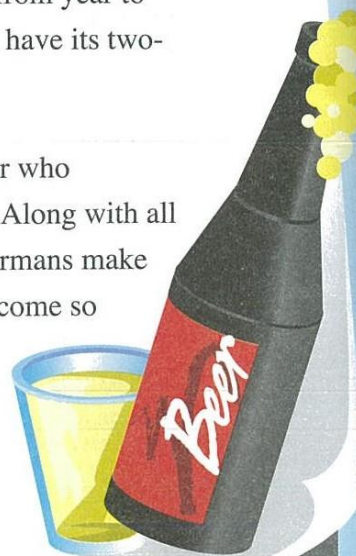
The October Pleasure

The Oktoberfest is a **joyful** festival that is celebrated in towns throughout Germany, but has its origins in Munich, which is located in the German state of Bavaria. **Beer** has a **vital** role not only in the Oktoberfest, but also in German culture, where it is often **related** to food. Brewers prepare an original beer for the occasion, which is darker in tone than Germany's famous white beers, and carries a higher than usual **alcohol content**. Along with this beer, festival participants enjoy the **prime** Bavarian food, including sausages and ox tails. Some locals complain that tourists have made the festival into a commercial event, but outside of popular tourist destinations the festival retains its authenticity.



Unlike other autumn festivals, the Oktoberfest does not celebrate the surplus of a **harvest**, but instead began as a celebration of a royal marriage. The original Oktoberfest began in mid-October, although the two-and-a-half week festival now **kicks off** in late September—a change that allows festival-goers to enjoy **pleasurable** Bavarian weather before the autumn **chill** sets in. The festival has also become **tied** to Germany's National **Unity** Day, and its **length** varies from year to year in order to conclude the day before this holiday. The festival will have its two-hundredth **anniversary** in 2010.

The main festival grounds **welcome** six million people each year who consume nearly one hundred oxen and nearly half a million chickens. Along with all of the **feasting** and drinking comes lots of music and dancing, and Germans make sure to wear their best traditional Bavarian clothing. The event has become so popular that it has spread not just to the far **reaches** of Germany, but beyond the country's **borders**. Towns throughout Europe and North America have started hosting their own, small-**scale** Oktoberfests, and Bavaria has started holding a similar festival in spring.



Name:

Date:

Class:

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
(A) Geographical information about the state of Bavaria.
(B) The background and some activities of Oktoberfest.
(C) A discussion of the past and future of Oktoberfest.
(D) The history of the beer industry in Bavaria, Germany.
2. Which of the following words means “more than is needed”?
(A) Destination.
(B) Brewer.
(C) Surplus.
(D) Participant.
3. Why is there complaint about tourist attending Oktoberfest?
(A) Tourists do not appreciate the tradition behind it.
(B) Tourists create too much confusion and litter.
(C) The tourists are engaging in commercial activities.
(D) Too many tourists result in traffic problems.
4. How is the Oktoberfest beer different from the white beer?
(A) It costs less and is lighter than the white beer.
(B) It costs more and takes much longer to make.
(C) It is darker and has a greater alcohol content.
(D) It is handmade and stronger than the white beer.
5. How long has the Oktoberfest been celebrated?
(A) Only since 1900.
(B) For at least 2,000 years.
(C) For at least 300 years.
(D) For more than 195 years.
6. What fact suggests that Oktoberfest is popular with tourists?
(A) Germans wear their traditional clothing.
(B) About six million visitors come each year.
(C) The length of Oktoberfest varies every year.
(D) Brewers prepare special beer for the festival.

Main Idea



Vocabulary



Supporting Idea



Detailed Information



Inference

