***UNIT 1***

***Practice Test***

The Long Journey of the Orange

Our language is haunted by the past. Behind many of our modern words are the ghosts of older words. Some of these ghosts talk to us in foreign languages. Some speak in older versions of our own language. Many words have stories to tell.

Take the word *orange*, for instance. Like the fruit, the word came to us from Spain; the Spanish word is *naranja*. The French liked the fruit, and soon *una naranja* became *une orange* in French. The English word for the fruit became *orange*.  
**Crossing the Sea**

That is not the whole story of the orange. Spain is famous for its oranges. Did you know the fruit is not native to Spain?

Oranges were actually brought from somewhere else. In the year AD 711, a great army from North Africa crossed the Mediterranean Sea and invaded Spain. The Spanish fought hard, but the country was soon conquered. Spain became part of the great Muslim Empire. This empire stretched from the Middle East across North Africa and into Spain. The first caliphs, or rulers, who headed this empire were Arab. They came from the city of Damascus in the Middle East.  
**The Journey of the Orange from the Middle East**

Orange trees were cultivated in most parts of the Middle East. The caliphs and their people loved oranges. People who had eaten oranges in Damascus did not want to live in places without oranges. So, when they traveled to other lands, they planted orange trees.

Spain’s first orange trees were planted in the eighth century. The trees grew well in the warm climate and dry soil. They were also valued because oranges are healthy to eat and can be stored for a long time without spoiling. The people of Spain quickly learned to love the fruit. Soon, Spain was famous for growing the finest oranges in the world.

The caliphs also brought their word for the delicious fruit. The Arabic word for orange is *naranj*.

Does this mean oranges originally came from the Middle East? Is Arabic the origin of the word *orange*? Nope. The story of the orange goes back even further.

**Out of India**

India lies 1,500 miles away from the Middle East. The majority of Indians speak a language called Hindi. In Hindi, the word for orange is *narangi*.

Hindi grew out of a much older Indian language called Sanskrit. Sanskrit is one of the oldest written languages in the world. Some Sanskrit writings date back as far as 1500 BC.

Oranges first grew in India before traveling west. There are still places in northern India where wild orange trees grow. The ancient Sanskrit word for orange is *naranga*.

This is where the trail ends. No one can say for sure how the fruit and the word traveled from northern India to the Middle East. Oranges probably made the journey west with traders along the Silk Road. This was a series of routes that connected India and China to the Middle East and moved into Europe.

Between 1000 BC and AD 1400, traders of silk, cotton, spices, and other precious items traveled along the Silk Road. It seems likely that long ago, one of those precious items carried out of India was a bag of *naranga* seeds.

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

**Part A**

Which sentence **best** states the main idea of the article?

****A. Most likely, the orange was first brought from India to the Middle East and then made its way to Spain.

****B.Most likely, the orange was first brought from the Middle East to France and then made its way to Spain.

****C.Most likely, the orange was first brought from China to India and then made its way to the Middle East.

****D.Most likely, the orange was first brought from France to Spain and then made its way to the Middle East.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A.“The French liked the fruit, and soon *una naranja* became *une orange* in French.” (paragraph 2)

****B.“Orange trees were cultivated in most parts of the Middle East.” (paragraph 5)

****C.“Spain’s first orange trees were planted in the eighth century.” (paragraph 6)

****D. “No one can say for sure how the fruit and the word traveled from northern India to the Middle East.” (paragraph 12)

Match each idea to the sentence from the article that **best** supports it.

* + **“Behind many of our modern words are the ghosts of older words.” (paragraph 1)**
  + **“Oranges probably made the journey west with traders along the Silk Road.” (paragraph 12)**
  + **“Soon, Spain was famous for growing the finest oranges in the world.” (paragraph 6)**
  + **“Oranges first grew in India before traveling west.” (paragraph 11)**
* **Spain is well known for its wonderful oranges.**

* **Many of our words come from other languages.**

* **Traders most likely brought the orange from India.**

* **The history of the orange can be traced back to India.**

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

**Part A**

The author organized the article by going through the history of how the orange traveled across the world. What is **most likely** the reason the author wrote the article this way?

****A.to show how the orange was first grown in India and China

****B.to show that the orange caused great battles to be fought throughout the world

****C.to show how different languages and cultures contributed to the history of the orange

* **Incorrect answer**

****D.to show how important the Silk Road was for bringing the orange to other parts of the world

**Part B**

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A. “Many words have stories to tell.” (paragraph 1)

****B.“The Spanish fought hard, but the country was soon conquered.” (paragraph 4)

****C.“Orange trees were cultivated in most parts of the Middle East.” (paragraph 5)

****D.“Oranges probably made the journey west with traders along the Silk Road.” (paragraph 12)

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

**Part A**

According to the article, why did people first start planting oranges in Spain?

****A.Traders from India brought oranges to Spain.

****B.Oranges were the only fruit that grew well in Spain.

****C. The Arab people who ruled over Spain loved oranges.

****D.The Spanish farmers wanted to sell oranges to France.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A.“The French liked the fruit, and soon *una naranja* became *une orange* in French.” (paragraph 2)

****B.“People who had eaten oranges in Damascus did not want to live in places without oranges.” (paragraph 5)

****C.“The trees grew well in the warm climate and dry soil.” (paragraph 6)

****D.“Oranges first grew in India before traveling west.” (paragraph 11)

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

### Part A

According to the article, what is the **most likely** reason that oranges were planted in so many parts of the world?

****A. Oranges can be grown almost anywhere.

****B.Oranges are good for people and last a long time.

****C. People feared that oranges might die out in the wild.

****D. People wanted to please the rulers of the Muslim Empire.

### Part B

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A. “The caliphs and their people loved oranges.” (paragraph 5)

****B. “The trees grew well in the warm climate and dry soil.” (paragraph 6)

****C. “They were also valued because oranges are healthy to eat and can be stored for a long time without spoiling.” (paragraph 6)

****D. “There are still places in northern India where wild orange trees grow.” (paragraph 11)

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

**Part A**

What is the meaning of the word *conquered* as it is used in paragraph 4 of the article?

****A.defeated

****B. extended

****C.invaded

****D.planted

**Part B**

Which sentence from paragraph 4 of the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A.“Oranges were actually brought from somewhere else.”

****B.“In the year AD 711, a great army from North Africa crossed the Mediterranean Sea and invaded Spain.”

****C.“Spain became part of the great Muslim Empire.”

****D. “This empire stretched from the Middle East across North Africa and into Spain.”

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

**Part A**

What can the reader conclude about the author’s point of view in this article?

****A. The author believes the history of oranges is worth tracing as far back in time as possible.

****B.The author believes the oranges grown in India taste better than the oranges grown in Spain.

****C.The author believes further research will prove whether oranges traveled along the Silk Road.

****D.The author believes the Sanskrit word for oranges was the first word that oranges were called by.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the article supports the answer to Part A?

****A.“Sanskrit is one of the oldest written languages in the world.” (paragraph 10)

****B.“There are still places in northern India where wild orange trees grow.” (paragraph 11)

****C. “This is where the trail ends.” (paragraph 12)

****D.“Oranges probably made the journey west with traders along the Silk Road.” (paragraph 12)

Foods from the Americas

**“American” Food**

**1** What are your favorite foods? Many Americans might answer that question with a familiar response. Pizza, hamburgers, hot dogs, tacos, and ice cream are foods most Americans enjoy. But these foods all have their origins in other countries. Pizza and ice cream were invented in Italy. The Germans were the first to make hamburgers and hot dogs. Tacos have been eaten in Mexico for hundreds of years. Immigrants from those countries brought all of these foods to the United States.

**2** There are other foods that were brought to Europe from the Americas. Europeans did not know these foods before they came to the Americas and experienced the food, including many foods that we eat today. Some of them are very common; it is hard to believe the Europeans did not have many of these foods.

**The Humble Potato**

**3** One of the foods Americans enjoy today is the potato. The plant is used to make French fries and potato chips. The Inca Indians of Peru, in South America, were the first to grow it. They grew and harvested potatoes ten thousand years ago. But Europeans did not taste them until 1536, when the Spanish Conquistadores conquered Peru. Potato farms had popped up along the coast of Spain by the end of the century. The potato was introduced to Ireland around the same time. Farmers soon found that potatoes were easier to grow than nearly any other crop. An acre of potatoes could feed far more people than an acre of wheat or oats could. With time, the potato became very important to Europeans. A potato famine in Ireland caused the country to lose a third of its people to starvation and immigration.

**Spaghetti Without Tomato Sauce?**

**4** Another vegetable Europeans did not have before they visited the Americas was the tomato. Today, pasta dishes such as spaghetti and lasagna are rarely eaten without tomato sauce. But tomatoes were not served with pasta until the late eighteenth century. This was more than two hundred years after they were first brought to Europe. Like potatoes, tomatoes were probably first grown by the Incas. The first tomatoes were not farmed. Instead, they were gathered from vines where they grew wild. Today, there are still wild tomatoes growing in the Andes Mountains in Peru.

**Fruit Cocktail**

**5** Early Europeans did not know many of the fruits that we eat today. The settlers who landed in Jamestown, Virginia, and Plymouth, Massachusetts, found blueberries and cranberries. The natives of the West Indies enjoyed a large, prickly fruit that puzzled the Spaniards. Its pinecone-like appearance led them to name it the “pineapple.” The avocado is one of the oldest foods of the Americas. The Conquistadores first found it growing around the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan. Today, it is still a popular ingredient used to make many types of “Tex-Mex” food.

**6** The next time you sit down to enjoy your favorite food, think about who brought it to us. Was it something the Europeans brought with them? Did it come from the West Indies or Peru? Or perhaps it was something that America first introduced to the world.

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

**Part A**

What does the word *ingredient* mean in paragraph 5 of “Foods from the Americas”?

****A.something many people like

****B.something that looks like something else

****C.something used to create something else

****D.something that has been around for a long time

**Part B**

Which words from paragraph 5 of the article provide a clue to the meaning of *ingredient*?

****A.“. . . pinecone-like appearance . . .”

****B.“. . . one of the oldest . . .”

****C.“. . . still a popular . . .”

****D. “. . . used to make . . .”

Three Waves of Immigration

### The First Irish-Americans

**1** In the late eighteenth century, the first wave of Irish immigrants came to the United States. The majority were farmers. At first they continued to work the land in their new home. But new factories soon opened in the cities. Canals and railroads were built that connected these cities. This led many Irish immigrants to move to the cities. There, they worked in the factories and helped build the canals and railroads. Over time, these people learned the unique ways of their new homeland.

### Escaping a Famine

**2** Getting used to American life was more difficult for later Irish immigrants than it had been for the first wave of them. In the first wave of immigration, immigrants had crossed the sea with the hope of escaping from unfair laws. But the second wave only wanted to survive. Thousands came to the United States in the 1840s to escape the hunger caused by Ireland’s great potato famine.

**3** Life was not easy for these immigrants. Many had been peasants and had lived in the countryside as farmers. However, they hoped to find homes in the cities and jobs in the large urban factories of New York and Boston. Their American neighbors did not welcome them. Many Americans believed foreigners would be dangerous to America’s growing democracy. The Irish were denied work in factories. Landlords refused to rent homes to them. Irish slums sprung up in several American cities.

### The Irish Golden Age

**4** The Irish were known for sticking together, and they always helped others in need. Over time, their independence and hard work helped them overcome their problems. By the twentieth century, the immigrants and their children had also conformed to American society. At the same time, conditions in Ireland had again become difficult. The island fought a civil war for its independence from Great Britain. The economy suffered as a result of this war. So the third wave of Irish immigration began. They wanted to prosper just as so many Americans of Irish heritage already had.

**5** Irish immigrants who had fled the potato famine had suffered from poverty and discrimination. However, less than a hundred years later, Al Smith, the grandson of these immigrants, became governor of New York State. Since then, other descendants of Irish immigrants have thrived and succeeded as important American citizens.

Match each article with the statement that **best** describes how the information in it is organized.

* **Problems are described first and then solutions after.**

* **Items are compared and contrasted to one another.**
  + **Items and their histories are described one at a time.**
  + **Events are described in the order they happened.**
* **"Foods from the Americas"**

* **"Three Waves of Immigration"**

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

**Part A**

What does the word *discrimination* mean in paragraph 5 of "Three Waves of Immigration"?

****A.hard work

****B.difficult travel

****C.unfair treatment

****D.dramatic change in lifestyle

**Part B**

Which sentences from paragraph 3 of the article provide a clue to the meaning of the word *discrimination*? Choose the **two** correct answers.

****A.“Life was not easy for these immigrants.”

****B.“Many had been peasants and had lived in the countryside as farmers.”

****C.“However, they hoped to find homes in the cities and jobs in the large urban factories of New York and Boston.”

****D.“The Irish were denied work in factories.”

Read the following passage. Then choose the word that would best fit in both of the blanks.

Today was a fantastic day! First I opened presents, and then I ate way \_\_\_\_ many pancakes! I then went to the zoo, and I ate ice cream, \_\_\_\_!

****A. to

****B. too

****C. two

****D. tue

Read the following sentence.

Because I studied for the test, I foresee a good grade in my future!

Which of the following is a synonym of foresee?

****A. predict

****B. hope for

****C. doubt

****D. need

Select the correct homophone to complete the following sentence:

Your aunt is coming to my house so make sure \_\_\_\_\_ coming, too!

****A. your'

****B. you're

****C. yore

****D. your

Which of the following sentences use possessive pronouns correctly? Choose the **two** correct answers.

****A. Shelby and her husband bought a cake for their party and mine.

****B. Sandy likes to wear her hair short, while Grace likes to wear her long.

****C. You need to remember to water my plants and theirs!

****D. Meika compared her test results with our.

****E. These are my papers, not your.