

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What was the effect of the potato blight in 1845?
 - Ⓐ Tenant farmers had to grow wheat instead.
 - Ⓑ Ireland's population increased by over 50 percent.
 - Ⓒ Tenant farmers had nothing to feed their families.
 - Ⓓ Ireland became known as the Emerald Isle.
2. What was the author's purpose for writing *The Great Hunger*?
 - Ⓐ to entertain
 - Ⓑ to inform
 - Ⓒ to persuade
 - Ⓓ all of the above
3. Wealthy British landowners had **tenant** farmers, which were _____.
 - Ⓐ people who rented land or a building from a landlord
 - Ⓑ people who moved away from one country to settle in another
 - Ⓒ people who rented land or a building to tenants
 - Ⓓ people who came to live in a new country
4. Which sentence helps readers know that ten-year-old Michael O'Kane mourned a deep family loss in the winter of 1848?
 - Ⓐ Over five million Irish people immigrated to the United States.
 - Ⓑ He did not have equal rights with the people of Britain.
 - Ⓒ His youngest sister, Bridget, died over the winter.
 - Ⓓ Men walked many miles to get any work they could find.

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5. What caused desperate families to live in workhouses?

- Ⓐ The landlords took the farmers' grain as payment for rent.
- Ⓑ Without potatoes, families had little to eat.
- Ⓒ Families had already sold their livestock, furniture, and clothes.
- Ⓓ All of the above

6. Which of the following is a supporting detail from the section titled "Going to America"?

- Ⓐ Some British people of the Protestant faith thought it was God's punishment on Irish Catholics.
- Ⓑ Families worked long hours for a ragged bed and a little food.
- Ⓒ Finally the long winter ended, and farmers eagerly waited for the new potato crop.
- Ⓓ It was a difficult journey because a ship took forty days to cross the Atlantic Ocean, even when the

weather was good.

7. What happened after the British Relief Association and the Society of Friends raised money?

- Ⓐ The government opened large workhouses.
- Ⓑ Soup kitchens opened and provided food to hungry people.
- Ⓒ The government started public works projects.
- Ⓓ Ireland's population increased to 8.5 million people.

8. Which of the following tells the meaning of **famine**?

- Ⓐ a major food shortage in a large area
- Ⓑ a person who rents land from a landlord
- Ⓒ the process of rotting or decomposing
- Ⓓ a disease that damages or destroys plants

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9. What happened after the potato blight was over?

- Ⓐ Soup kitchens opened to feed hungry people.
- Ⓑ Many Irish people continued to emigrate.
- Ⓒ The government bought Indian corn from America.
- Ⓓ Ireland became known as the Emerald Isle.

10. What was the effect in 1922 of the bitterness Irish people had against Britain?

- Ⓐ Many died, and many of those who survived arrived in America sick and weak.
- Ⓑ Despite the obvious need, many officials and landowners in Britain ignored all pleas for help or relief plans.
- Ⓒ A revolution was fueled, and the Independent Republic of Ireland was formed.
- Ⓓ The potato blight was over by 1852, but Ireland was changed forever.

11. **Extended Response:** Why did Ireland's population drop during the mid-1800s?

12. **Extended Response:** List at least three things Irish people did to survive the potato blight.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Great Hunger

Main Comprehension Skill: Cause and Effect

1. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
2. Ⓑ Author's Purpose
3. Ⓐ Vocabulary
4. Ⓒ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
5. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
6. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
7. Ⓑ Sequence Events
8. Ⓐ Vocabulary
9. Ⓑ Sequence Events
10. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
11. Answers will vary but should include examples such as the following: *people died of starvation, people died of diseases such as typhus and cholera, people emigrated to other countries such as Canada and the United States, people stopped having babies because they didn't have enough to feed their children or themselves, and so on.*
12. Answers will vary but should include examples such as: *people sold their livestock, furniture, and clothes to buy food; they lived in workhouses in exchange for work; they ground hard, dry kernels of Indian corn into cornmeal to eat; they walked many miles and stood in long lines to get government jobs building roads or bridges; they wrote pleas of help to family and friends in America; they stood in long lines for a bowl of soup and a piece of bread; they asked their landlords for some of the grain they grew before exporting it all; and so on.*