Name _____ Date _____

Context Clues, Main Idea and Key Details in Informational Text: Life Around a Tide Pool

Directions: Read the passage about tide pools. When a question asks about a word or phrase, find it in the passage, then read its sentence and the sentences around it. Use clues from the passage to answer every question.

Life Around a Tide Pool

Twice a day in most places, the ocean pulls back from the shore. As the water drops, more and more of the shore is uncovered. When the water is at its lowest, it is low tide. On a rocky shore, low tide leaves pools of seawater in the hollows of the rocks. These are tide pools, and many shelter small sea animals.

A rocky shore is a harsh home. At low tide, animals on the bare rocks are exposed. No water covers them. Sun and wind can dry them out. The water left in a pool is often shallow, so it can grow warm. Hungry birds can spot a meal. Hours later, the sea returns. Then waves batter the rocks, crashing into them again and again.

Many of the animals have ways to survive. A sea star grips the rock with rows of tiny tube feet. Even strong waves have trouble pulling it loose. Mussels crowd side by side on the rock in a group called a bed. When the tide drops away from a mussel, the mussel often seals its shell. With the two halves shut tight, the animal can stay wet inside. A shore crab can hide in a crevice, a narrow crack in the rock.

High tide also brings a gift. The returning seawater carries tiny bits of food, many too small to see. Once the tide rises over a mussel again, the mussel opens its shell and feeds.

1. What is "Life Around a Tide Pool" mostly about?
A. Animals around a tide pool face hard times each day, and many have ways to survive.
B. At low tide, shorebirds hunt for small animals in the pools.
C. Tide pools give small fish and shrimp a place to live when the ocean pulls back.
D. Animals in every part of the world must find food and stay safe.

2. Which choice tells what *batter* means here and gives a clue from the same sentence?
A. The waves hit the rocks hard. They knock pieces of rock loose.
B. The waves splash. They send water high above the rocks.
C. The waves stir up sand. They lift it off the sea floor.
D. The waves hit the rocks hard. They crash into the rocks again and again.

3. Strong waves could pull a small animal off the rocks. Which detail in the passage shows one animal's way of holding on?
A. A sea star grips the rock with rows of tiny tube feet.
B. A limpet clamps down on the rock with its strong foot.
C. A mussel fastens itself to the rock with tough threads.
D. A barnacle cements itself to the rock.

4. What does a mussel do when it *seals* its shell, and how does the passage say this helps?

A. It opens its shell a little, which can help it take in oxygen.
B. It grows a thicker shell, which can help protect it from crabs.
C. It closes its shell tightly, which can help keep predators out.
D. It closes its shell tightly, which helps it stay wet inside.

5. Match each word to the choice that gives its meaning and the detail from the passage. Four choices will be left over.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ hollows
2. _____ exposed
3. _____ bed
4. _____ crevice

A. low spots in the rocks where seawater is left behind
B. a narrow crack where a shore crab can hide
C. a group of mussels crowded side by side
D. left uncovered after sand washes off the rocks
E. a narrow crack where snails gather
F. low spots in the rocks where seaweed grows
G. a group of barnacles crowded side by side
H. left with no water covering them

6. What does *low tide* mean here, and where does the passage explain it?

A. The sea is as low as it will go before it rises again. Look just after the sentence about more of the shore being uncovered.
B. The sea is at its highest point. Look just after the sentence about a very high tide that covers the rocks.
C. The sea is as low as it will go before it rises again. Look just after the sentence about places with only one low tide a day.
D. The sea is still going down. Look just after the sentence about two low tides that reach different levels.

7. Which detail explains what the author means by saying that high tide "brings a gift"?

A. The rising water lets small fish swim in close to shore.
B. The seawater carries in sand that some animals dig into.
C. The seawater carries in tiny bits of food.
D. The seawater carries in strands of seaweed to hide under.