Name _____ Date _____

Compare and Contrast Text Structure and Main Idea: Telling a Frog from a Toad

Directions: Read the passage about frogs and toads. As you answer, look at how the passage is put together.

Telling a Frog from a Toad

A small animal hops across a wet lawn. Is it a frog or a toad? The two are easy to mix up, and for good reason. Both are amphibians. Many frogs and toads lay eggs in water, where tadpoles hatch and grow. Scientists even place toads inside the larger group of frogs.

Still, a few clues can help you tell them apart. Start with the skin. Many frogs have smooth, moist skin. Many toads, in contrast, have drier skin with lots of bumps.

Next, look at the back legs. Many frogs have long, strong back legs that help them push off and leap far. Many toads have shorter back legs and take smaller hops.

Where the animals live gives another clue. Many frogs stay in wet places, such as marshes, where their skin can stay moist. Many toads can live in drier places. In Brazil, one kind of toad has skin that slows water loss. That helps it stay moist in dry weather.

Even the eggs differ. Frog eggs are often found in clumps, but a toad's eggs usually form long strings.

So, back on that lawn, would bumps settle the question? Not by themselves. The gray treefrog is a frog with bumpy skin. The Panamanian golden frog is really a toad, and its back is smooth. A clue that works for one animal can fool you with the next. Use the clues together, and watch closely.

1. What is the main idea of "Telling a Frog from a Toad"?
   A. The way frogs and toads look and how their eggs are laid can help you tell them apart.
   B. Where frogs and toads live and how their eggs are laid can help you tell them apart.
   C. Where frogs and toads live and how they move can help you tell them apart.
   D. Frogs and toads may look alike, so use several clues together to tell them apart.

2. In what order does the passage present its three main parts?

A. ways the two animals differ, then ways they are alike, then a warning about the clues

B. a warning about the clues, then ways the two animals are alike, then ways they differ

C. a warning about the clues, then ways the two animals differ, then ways they are alike

D. ways the two animals are alike, then ways they differ, then a warning about the clues

3. How does the passage set out the ways that frogs and toads differ?

A. It takes one feature at a time and tells about the frog before the toad.

B. It tells all about the frog first and then tells all about the toad.

C. It takes one feature at a time and tells about the toad before the frog.

D. It tells all about the toad first and then tells all about the frog.

4. The words *in contrast* appear once in the passage. Which two things do they set against each other?

A. the wet places where many frogs stay and the drier places where many toads can live

B. the long strings of toad eggs and the clumps of frog eggs

C. the shorter back legs of a toad and the long back legs of a frog

D. the smooth, moist skin of many frogs and the drier, bumpy skin of many toads

5. Frogs and toads have a lot in common. Which detail from the passage supports this idea?

A. Many frogs and toads have eyes that stick out from their heads.

B. Frogs and toads both take in water through their skin.

C. Scientists place toads inside the larger group of frogs.

D. Insects, spiders and worms are food for most frogs and toads.

6. The writer gives an example of a toad that can keep from drying out. Which detail from the passage tells how this toad does it?

A. Some toads have skin that helps them hold on to water.

B. Some toads can store water in their bodies for later.

C. Some toads can soak up water through a patch of skin under their bodies.

D. Some toads hide under logs during the day.

7. The writer warns that one clue by itself can lead to a wrong guess. Which two details from the passage support that warning? Select two.

☐ A. Some toads have smooth skin.

☐ B. Some frogs can glide through the air.

☐ C. Some toads make their homes partly in streams.

☐ D. Some toads give birth to live young.

☐ E. Some frogs have bumpy skin.