Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the following passage. Use information from the passage to answer the questions.

**Home Sweet Home**

by Almira Astudillo Gilles

Long ago, there were no freeways or telephones, shopping malls or video games. Long ago, Native Americans were the only people in California.

Native Americans made many different kinds of homes, using materials that were easy to find. In the north, there were forests and plenty of wood for houses. The Miwok, a group that lived in Central California, had houses shaped like cones. Other houses, like those of the Chumash people of the south, were round. To build these round houses, poles made from branches were poked in the ground in a circle.

These poles were bent at the top, and smaller branches were put around them. On the outside, pieces of bushes were added. A hole in the top let air inside. When it rained, the hole was covered with animal skin.

Inside a Native American house, you might see grass mats on the floor. You might see money made of sea snail shells. You might find moccasins and clothes of animal skins. You might find a bow and arrow for hunting. For children, there might be dolls or spinning tops made of acorns.

Families lived together in one village.

Grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles all lived nearby. Villages could be small, with just a few families, or large, with many families. Each village had a chief who could be a man or woman.

Many Native Americans in California used acorns for food. Some groups, like the Wiyot, lived far from the oak forests. They moved their homes into the forest when it was harvest time. Men shook the oak trees to make acorns fall. Women and children picked them up.

The most important thing about a Native American home was the family inside it. Just like today, a home was a place to rest and spend time together. These houses were one big room. Families played games. Elders told stories. Adults talked about important events in the village.

Native American men sometimes built a sweathouse. The sweathouse was a place men went to heal. Inside the sweathouse there was a fire pit with stones.

With the fire burning, it became very hot inside. When the men became too sweaty, they ran outside and jumped into a cool creek.

**A sweathouse is made this way:**

**Step 1.** Make a frame out of long pieces of wood.

**Step 2.** Put branches across the frame.

**Step 3.** Put thick shrubs on top of the branches.

**Step 4.** Cover the roof with soil. The roof should be no more than five inches thick.

**Text-Based Comprehension**

Directions: Read the questions below and choose the best answer.

**1. Part A**

 What can you conclude about the Native Americans of California?

 A. Most lived in sweathouses.

 B. They made creative use of resources.

 C. They were good farmers.

 D. Their houses had many rooms.

 **Part B**

 Which detail in the passage helps you answer Part A?

 A. “For children, there might be dolls or spinning tops made of acorns.”

 B. “In the north, there were forests and plenty of wood for houses.”

 C. “You might find a bow and arrow for hunting.”

 D. “With the fire burning, it became very hot inside.”

**2. Part A**

 Which is a main idea of the passage?

 A. Native Americans did not have many natural resources.

 B. Native American families of long ago differed from today’s families.

 C. Long ago, Native Americans ate many foods that we eat today.

 D. In some ways, Native American homes were like homes today.

 **Part B**

 Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer to Part A?

 A. “Inside a Native American house, you might see grass mats on the floor.”

 B. “Just like today, a home was a place to rest and spend time together.”

 C. “To build these round houses, poles made from branches were poked in the

 ground in a circle.”

 D. “In the north, there were forests and plenty of wood for houses.”

**3. Part A**

 What is the author’s main purpose?

 A. to convince readers to use resources wisely

 B. to help readers make their own sweathouses

 C. to describe how Native Americans of California lived

 D. to explain why Native Americans of California ate acorns

 **Part B**

 Which sentence in the passage helps you answer Part A?

 A. “Men shook the oak trees to make acorns fall.”

 B. “Native American men sometimes built a sweathouse.”

 C. “Native Americans made many different kinds of homes, using materials that

 were easy to find.”

 D. “In the north, there were forests and plenty of wood for houses.”

**Vocabulary**

 **4. Part A**

 What are “moccasins” as used in the passage?

 A. something to play with

 B. tools for hunting

 C. something to wear

 D. tools for building

 **Part B**

 Which detail helps you figure out the meaning of “moccasins”?

 A. “and clothes of animal skins”

 B. “money made of sea snail shells”

 C. “there might be dolls or spinning tops”

 D. “might find a bow and arrow”

**5. Part A**

 What does “harvest” mean in the passage?

 A. planting

 B. hunting

 C. winter

 D. gathering

 **Part B**

 Which sentence most helps you answer Part A?

 A. “You might find a bow and arrow for hunting.”

 B. “Men shook the oak trees to make acorns fall.”

 C. “Many Native Americans in California used acorns for food.”

 D. “Some groups, like the Wiyot, lived far from the oak forests.”

**6. Part A**

 What is the meaning of “tops” in the passage?

 “For children, there might be dolls or spinning tops made of acorns.”

 A. highest points

 B. nuts

 C. toys

 D. goes above

 **Part B**

 Which word in the sentence does not give a clue about the meaning of “tops”?

 A. children

 B. dolls

 C. spinning

 D. acorns

**Writing — Constructed Response**

Describe a house you might have built if you were a Native American in California long ago. Describe the materials you would have used for each part of the house. Use details from the passage. Remember to check your writing for correct grammar and usage.