Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 14.

The Grand Canyon

Have you been to the Grand Canyon? Located in the state of Colorado, it is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Thousands of people go there every year. It is like a deep ditch, but it's a lot bigger than any other ditch. In fact, the Grand Canyon is more than a mile deep in some places.

The Grand Canyon is a tourist attraction. Do you know what that is? A tourist attraction is a place where people like to go, usually on vacation. People go to the Grand Canyon to take pictures of it, and they go there to hike on the trails. They also go to ride mules on the trails and to ride in boats on the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon.

The Grand Canyon is in Grand Canyon National Park, one of the oldest parks in the United States. The Grand Canyon was formed by the Colorado River. The river cut into the rock and made the canyon, which took millions of years. The canyon is over two hundred miles long. In some places it is four miles wide, and in other places it is eighteen miles wide.

The river has lots of fish in it. Tourists like to catch the fish when they visit the canyon. The river also has rapids which are called whitewater. Rapids are places where the water runs very fast. People like to go on the whitewater in boats. There is a dam on the river, too. The dam, called the Hoover Dam, makes electric power that is sent to many towns and cities.

There are lots of places to stay at the Grand Canyon. You can stay at a hotel or in cabins, and you can camp out in a tent, too. Some people like to hike the many trails. They can walk for miles and miles. Some of them even take sleeping bags with them and camp out at night under the stars.

Most people like to go to the rim, or the top, of the Grand Canyon. They like to stand and look over the miles of canyon below. They take lots of pictures up there. They ride mules down from the rim into the valley. The Grand Canyon mules are well known for being safe on the trails. If you don't want to ride a mule, you can ride the train.

If you have not been to the Grand Canyon, you should go if you get the chance!

1. The main idea of this passage is:
   A. There are lots of places to stay at the Grand Canyon.
   B. It is fun to hike in the Grand Canyon.
   C. The Grand Canyon offers a lot of activities.
   D. none of the above
The Grand Canyon

2. Which detail tells you about whitewater?
   A. It is a breaker at the beach.
   B. It moves slowly.
   C. It is the same as rapids.
   D. none of the above

3. According to the passage, what do some people do after they go to the top of the canyon?
   A. They take the helicopter down.
   B. They take food and have a picnic.
   C. They take pictures.
   D. none of the above

4. What is the difference between the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River?
   A. One is in Arizona, and the other is in Colorado.
   B. One is made from rock, and the other is water.
   C. One is a hole in the ground, and the other is a waterfall.
   D. none of the above

5. What caused the Grand Canyon to form?
   A. heat
   B. water
   C. electricity
   D. none of the above

6. What can you tell about the rim of the Grand Canyon?
   A. It is a long distance from the bottom of the canyon.
   B. It is “jumping-in” distance from the river.
   C. It is lower than the river in some places.
   D. none of the above

7. What can you conclude about the Colorado River from this passage?
   A. It offers fishing and boating and has a dam.
   B. It is not a safe place in which to swim.
   C. It is too deep for boating and fishing.
   D. none of the above

8. The passage reads, “Tourists like to catch fish . . .” What is a tourist?
   A. tour guide
   B. visitor
   C. people not from the U.S.
   D. none of the above
The Grand Canyon

9. Why did the author write the third paragraph?
   A. to explain the National Park System
   B. to tell how the Grand Canyon was formed
   C. to tell how many old parks there are
   D. none of the above

10. Which is the best summary of this passage?
    A. The Grand Canyon offers fun for everyone.
    B. The Grand Canyon has too many tourists.
    C. The Grand Canyon makes electric power for the nation.
    D. none of the above

11. Which is the BEST place to learn more about hiking?
    A. in a book about canyon rivers
    B. in a book entitled Hiking the Grand Canyon
    C. from tourists
    D. none of the above

12. What is another good title for this passage?
    A. Camping Out in the Grand Canyon
    B. All About the Grand Canyon
    C. Mule Rides in the Grand Canyon
    D. none of the above

13. How many years did it take to make the canyon?
    A. The passage doesn’t provide that information.
    B. The canyon has always existed.
    C. It took millions of years.
    D. none of the above

14. What happens after the Hoover Dam makes electric power?
    A. Sub-stations are created.
    B. The dam sends the energy to Arizona.
    C. The dam sends the energy to many towns and cities.
    D. none of the above
Our Sun is a Star

Do you know the closest star to Earth? We call it the sun. It has another name, too. That name is Sol. Earth and eight other planets are in orbit around the sun. They are held in orbit by the sun’s gravity. That keeps them from hitting each other. Lots of other things are in orbit around the sun, too, but they are not as large as planets. They include large chunks of rock and clouds of space dust.

Our sun is only one of millions of stars in our galaxy, which is called the Milky Way. In the Milky Way, there are lots of other suns. Many of them have planets and rocks and dust in orbit, too. The sun is shaped like a basketball, but it is not solid. It is made up of liquids and gases, and it is very hot.

The hottest stars are called blue stars. They are the newest stars. Our sun is not as hot as a blue star, but it is hot enough to burn anything that comes very close to it. Some stars are called red giants. They are older than blue stars and don’t put out as much heat. The very oldest and coolest stars are white dwarfs. Our sun is too old to be a blue star but not old enough to be a red giant.

We say the sun rises and sets, but it only looks that way. What happens is that the Earth spins slowly as it goes in orbit around the sun. Did you ever notice how the sun rises and sets in one place in the winter and another place in the summer? That is because the path it takes across the sky changes during the year. The shape of that path is in a figure eight. The path the sun takes is what makes our seasons change. When the sun rises and sets to the north in the United States, we have summer. When it rises and sets to the south in the U.S., we have winter.

Many people in ancient cultures thought the sun was a god. The Greeks thought it was the chariot of the Greek god Apollo. They thought his horses pulled the chariot across the sky every day to light the Earth. One Greek man did not agree. He said the sun was a giant flaming ball in the sky and not the chariot of Apollo. For saying this, he was put in prison and sentenced to die.

Looking directly at the sun is never a good idea, and looking directly at the sun during an eclipse is also dangerous. If the sky is partly cloudy at sunrise and sunset, looking directly at the sun for a short time may not cause eye damage. Always remember that if looking at the sun makes you blink, you should not stare at it. Looking directly at the sun for very long can cause eye problems, and looking at the midday sun with or without binoculars can cause blindness that will not go away.

15. What is the main topic of the third paragraph?
   A. colors
   B. stars
   C. suns
   D. none of the above
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16. According to the passage, who thought the sun was a chariot?
   A. the Greeks
   B. people in ancient cultures
   C. people in the Milky Way
   D. none of the above

17. What happens after the sun starts to rise and set in the north?
   A. Winter comes to the U.S.
   B. It begins to rain a lot.
   C. Summer comes to the U.S.
   D. none of the above

18. How is a red giant different from a white dwarf?
   A. A red giant is older than a white dwarf.
   B. A red giant is younger than a white dwarf.
   C. A red giant is cooler than a white dwarf.
   D. none of the above

19. What causes the Earth to be held in orbit by the sun?
   A. space dust
   B. gases
   C. gravity
   D. none of the above

20. From what you just read, is gravity important to the sun and planets?
   A. yes
   B. no
   C. there is not enough information provided to determine the answer
   D. none of the above

21. What can you conclude about seasons from this passage?
   A. Some of them are longer than others.
   B. Apollo's chariot makes them change.
   C. The sun causes the seasons to change.
   D. none of the above
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22. Based on its use in this passage, what is the meaning of the word ancient?
   A. in another place
   B. old
   C. young
   D. none of the above

23. Which is more important to the author of this passage?
   A. making the reader laugh
   B. scaring the reader
   C. educating the reader
   D. none of the above

24. What is the best summary of this passage?
   A. The sun has a lot of gravity.
   B. The sun brings heat to the Earth.
   C. The sun is a blue star.
   D. none of the above

25. Where would you look for more information about the sun?
   A. in a thesaurus
   B. in a story about Apollo
   C. in a science textbook
   D. none of the above

26. How are the sun and Sol different?
   A. They are two different words used to describe one object.
   B. One is a red giant, and the other is a blue star.
   C. They both orbit the Earth.
   D. none of the above

27. What causes the sun to look like it is rising and setting?
   A. the sun moving between the Earth and the moon
   B. the Earth spinning slowly in its orbit around the sun
   C. Apollo driving his chariot between the Earth and the moon
   D. none of the above

28. What can you tell about eye damage from the last paragraph?
   A. It is caused by using binoculars.
   B. It is caused by staring at the sun at midday.
   C. Eye damage is always caused when looking at the sun on cloudy days.
   D. none of the above
Moving Away

I have to go to a new school next semester, which I'm not really excited about. It's not because I am going on to the next grade, either. What's happening is that I will be living in a different neighborhood in another town because my dad got a new job, and we are moving away.

I have spent my whole life in this town where we live with my same friends. They have been my friends since we were all babies, and we went to kindergarten and started grade school together. We always talked about going to middle school together, and we always talked about going to high school together. Now that won't happen, and I am upset.

My big sister is upset, too. I have all the same teachers she used to have. She just started middle school and has had her same friends forever. Now, she has to make new friends, too. She wants to stay here with one of her friends, but my parents said she can't. If they had let her stay, I would have asked to stay, too. I know that's not really a possibility, though.

Anyway, what happened is not really my dad's fault. He got what's called a promotion and a transfer. That means his company gave him a better job and is sending him somewhere else. So, of course, they are sending his family, too. The new town is pretty far away. It's too far to drive back and forth to school. It's even too far to ride a bus back and forth to school, so I guess there is no way out of this.

My mom says it's a great chance for my dad in his work. He is what's called an engineer, but he does not drive a train. He's a chemical engineer, and he works in a lab. He works at a water plant that makes water safe for people to drink. The town where we are going has a big, famous river, and people in the area drink from the river. The water plant there needs my dad to make the water better. Right now, there is stuff in the water that makes it bad to drink, so my dad needs to work in the lab to fix that.

My sister and I are proud of our dad and his promotion. Of course, we really don't want to stay in this town if our parents are going to live somewhere else. It's just that we are worried about how things will be there. We know the schools will be different, and the kids will be different, too.

My mom says that because we make good grades here, we will make good grades there. She says we certainly can make new friends if we try. I know she is right, and my sister and I will try hard to fit into our new neighborhood and school. Still, I am happy that my mom says we can all come back to visit on some holidays and in the summer and that our friends from here can come and visit us there. My sister says she is definitely coming back here to go to the local college. That's pretty far in the future for me, but I'll be giving it a lot of thought!
29. This story is mostly about:
   A. being happy about moving
   B. not wanting to move
   C. a boy and his sister
   D. none of the above

30. Which detail BEST tells about why the family is moving?
   A. They are moving because they want to live in a new city.
   B. They are moving because the older sister changed schools.
   C. They are moving because the dad got a promotion.
   D. none of the above

31. According to the passage, when will the family move?
   A. after they pack everything
   B. after this school semester is over
   C. after they sell their house
   D. none of the above

32. How are the author’s feelings and the author’s sister’s feelings alike?
   A. They are both upset about the move.
   B. Neither cares one way or the other about the move.
   C. They are both happy about the move.
   D. none of the above

33. Why can’t the author ride the school bus to his old school after the move?
   A. His parents said he could not.
   B. It’s too close to ride a school bus.
   C. It’s too far to ride a bus to school.
   D. none of the above

34. What can you tell from the passage about the author?
   A. He doesn’t want to be happy at his new school.
   B. He’s not happy, but he’s willing to try to be happy.
   C. He doesn’t get along with his family.
   D. none of the above
35. What can you conclude from the second paragraph?
   A. The author has been in the town where he currently lives for two or three years.
   B. The author has been in the town where he currently lives for ten years.
   C. The author has been in the town where he currently lives all of his life.
   D. none of the above

36. What does transfer mean in this passage?
   A. a bus ticket
   B. to put somewhere else
   C. a raise in salary
   D. none of the above

37. Why did the author write the fifth paragraph?
   A. to tell about water problems in the town where they currently live
   B. to tell about the dad’s new job
   C. to tell about the famous river in the new town
   D. none of the above

38. Which is the best summary of this passage?
   A. Moving is always easy.
   B. Moving is fun for the whole family.
   C. Moving can be hard.
   D. all of the above

39. Between which two words would you find the word engineer in a dictionary?
   A. edge and egg
   B. either and euphoria
   C. engage and elect
   D. none of the above

40. From this passage you can tell:
   A. engineers who drive trains get promotions
   B. people who move have to sell their houses
   C. it’s best to come back home to go to college
   D. none of the above
Moving Away

41. The passage mentions a “water plant.” What is a water plant?
   A. It grows stuff using water.
   B. It makes energy from water.
   C. It makes water safe for people to drink.
   D. none of the above

42. What is a plot in a story?
   A. a bad person’s character
   B. a plan the author follows
   C. the beginning of the story
   D. none of the above

43. What is the BEST summary of the first paragraph?
   A. Some towns are different.
   B. The author is moving away.
   C. Some dads get new jobs.
   D. none of the above

44. Where would be the BEST place to find a map to a new school?
   A. in an atlas
   B. in a thesaurus
   C. in a math book
   D. none of the above