

Corn Ag Mag - Vocabulary

Using Context Clues to Determine Meaning

Directions: Read the paragraph. Find the word that fits best in each numbered blank.

Taken from *Corn* by Gail Gibbons

Corn is so good to eat. Corn is a grain that was _____ (1) thousands of years ago. The Aztecs also had a great _____ (2) and used corn in many ways to feed themselves and their animals. The _____ (3) peoples in what is now Canada and the United States also grew corn. In 1620 people sailed from England to the Americas and came _____ (4) at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were called Pilgrims. The Pilgrims held a great _____ (5) celebrating their bountiful harvest, known as the first Thanksgiving.

It is _____ (6) agreed that there are four different types of corn. Each type has many _____ (7). Sweet corn is the most _____ (8) corn that people eat.

1

- A Concerned
- B Opened
- C Cultivated
- D Accepted

2

- A Civilization
- B Method
- C Individuality
- D Accepted

3

- A Older
- B Native
- C Smart
- D Cold

4

- A Before
- B Ashore
- C Insect
- D Marching

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It is _____ (6) agreed that there are four different types of corn. Each type has many _____ (7). Sweet corn is the most _____ (8) corn that people eat.

5

- A Feast
- B Funeral
- C Punishment
- D Husk

6

- A Never
- B Sometimes
- C Generally
- D Always

7

- A Friends
- B Enemies
- C Choices
- D Varieties

8

- A Easy
- B Harvested
- C Hard
- D Common

Corn Ag Mag - Math

Comparing Fractions and Decimals

Directions: Choose the best answer.

1

Which of these is between .14 and .62 in value?

- A** .014
- B** .79
- C** .43
- D** .026

2

Which group of decimals is ordered from least to greatest?

- A** 1.982, 1.96, 0.424, 2.34
- B** 0.343, 0.62, 1.423, 6.25
- C** 0.62, 1.982, 2.34, 1.966
- D** 6.25, 2.345, 1.982, 0.343

3

Which of these is between $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$?

- A** .09
- B** .9
- C** 1.9
- D** .69

4

How many of the fractions listed are less than $\frac{5}{7}$?

$$\frac{3}{7}, \frac{4}{5}, \frac{2}{9}, \frac{6}{7}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}$$

- A** 4
- B** 3
- C** 2
- D** 1

Corn Ag Mag - Math

Comparing Fractions and Decimals

Directions: Choose the best answer.

5

Which decimal most closely equals $\frac{7}{9}$?

- A .07
- B .78
- C .08
- D .80

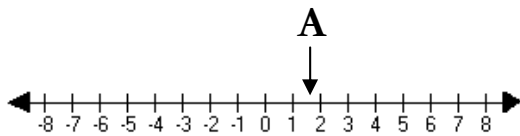
6

Which fraction most closely equals .40?

- A $\frac{2}{5}$
- B $\frac{3}{4}$
- C $\frac{9}{10}$
- D $\frac{2}{7}$

7

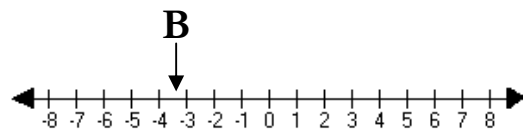
The letter A on the number line points most closely to which number?



- A $1 \frac{1}{2}$
- B $1 \frac{1}{3}$
- C $1 \frac{3}{4}$
- D $2 \frac{1}{4}$

8

The letter B on the number line points most closely to which decimal?



- A -3.94
- B -4.09
- C -3.72
- D -3.34

Corn Ag Mag - Reading Passage

“From Plants to Chemicals”

Taken from *Life Science* by Prentice Hall

Can you power a car with corn? Can you drink soda made from a bottle made from plants? Can you use a farmer’s corn crop to make chemicals strong enough to remove paint?

You can, thanks to scientists like Rathin Datta. Dr. Datta specializes in finding ways to get useful chemicals from plants. His discoveries will help make the environment cleaner for all of us.

Rathin is a chemical engineer at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. For years, he has been finding ways to make useful products from substances found naturally in plants. He’s helped find ways to turn corn into an automobile fuel called gasohol. He’s researched plants that can be used to produce powerful medicines. He even worked on a way to use corn to make a stretch fabric that athletes wear.

Chemicals that come from crop plants are called *agrochemicals*, meaning “chemicals from agriculture.” Many agrochemicals are much less dangerous to the environment than chemicals made from petroleum. For one thing, although some agrochemicals can be poisonous to humans, most are not.

Because agrochemicals are made from plant materials, nature usually recycles them just as it recycles dead plants. Think of what happens to a tree after it falls to the ground. Tiny microbes work on its leaves and branches until the tree has rotted completely away. Much the same thing happens to products made from agrochemicals. A bag made from corn-based chemicals will break down and disappear after only a few weeks of being buried. In contrast, a plastic bag made from petrochemicals—chemicals made from petroleum—can survive hundreds of years.

Corn Ag Mag - Reading Passage

Directions: Read each question and choose the best answer.

1

Chemicals that come from crop plants are called _____.

- A Petrochemicals
- B Carbohydrates
- C Bacteria
- D Agrochemicals

2

Corn can be turned into fuel called _____.

- A Gasoline
- B Gasohol
- C Petroleum
- D Agrochemicals

3

One benefit of using agrochemicals to create a corn plastic bag is that the bag _____.

- A Will survive for hundreds of years.
- B Will require petrochemicals to break it down.
- C Will break down weeks after being buried.
- D Will break down after a few years.

4

What product has Rathin used to make stretch fabric for clothing that athletes wear?

- A Cotton
- B Corn
- C Plastic
- D Wheat

Corn Ag Mag - Reading Passage

Directions: Read each question and choose the best answer.

5

_____ work to break down dead plant materials until they are completely recycled back into the soil.

- A Animals
- B Insects
- C Chemicals
- D Microbes

6

A chemical engineer _____.

- A Converts raw materials or chemicals.
- B Designs aircrafts and space crafts.
- C Constructs bridges and buildings.
- D Designs engines and equipment.

7

One reason agrochemicals are less dangerous to the environment is because _____.

- A They are carefully created in a lab.
- B They are made from plants.
- C They are tested for harmful contents.
- D They are made to disappear into thin air.

Extended Response—CORN

The topic of ethanol has become increasingly popular. What is ethanol? Why has its popularity skyrocketed in the past few years? What is its relationship to agriculture?