

Test Name: Mrs. Ward Nonfiction Main idea

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Section

Wind Cave National Park

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For many people visiting South Dakota, the first stop is Mount Rushmore. After that, many visitors wonder what else there is to do in the remote Black Hills. Sure, the landscape is absolutely beautiful. But what other kinds of interesting attractions are there to see? The answer to this question can actually be found hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth. The Black Hills are peppered with caverns both small and large. One of the most famous is Wind Cave. This cave is located about an hour south of Mount Rushmore, near the town of Hot Springs.

So why is this cave called Wind Cave? In 1880, two brothers named Jesse and Tom Bingham were riding their horses in this area. It was a calm day with a sea-blue sky and not even the slightest breeze. As they neared a hole in the ground, a sudden burst of wind blew out of it. It was so forceful that it flung Jesse's hat high into the air. An afternoon horseback ride turned into a great discovery. They had just found one of the natural entrances to "Wind Cave."

After that, people from all over began to come and visit. In order to protect the cave's beauty from all of these visitors, President Theodore Roosevelt made Wind Cave a national park on January 9, 1903. This was the very first cave that was ever made into a national park in United States history. Today, thousands of visitors tour the cave every year.

All caves have their own special and unique features. Wind Cave is known for a special geologic formation called boxwork. In fact, according to present knowledge, Wind Cave has the largest collection of boxwork of any cave on Earth. Boxwork is made of a material called calcite, which is also found in marble and in chalk. Calcite is generally dark gray or black. Boxwork looks like a twisted mat of twine or string. Some might even say it resembles spider webs or honeycombs.

Wind Cave also has geologic features called popcorn. These are made out of calcite too. Flowstone and dripstone are also found in the cave and are made out of calcite. All of these formations look exactly like their names sound. Popcorn looks like white, fluffy popcorn. Flowstone looks like rock that has flowed like a river. And dripstone looks like rock that has dripped into an icicle-like feature.

Wind Cave is the fifth-longest cave in the world. Cave explorers have mapped out more than 136 miles of passageways. Guided tours of the cave are available. Two of the most popular tours are the Candlelight Tour and the Wild Cave Tour. The visitor center at Wind Cave is open every day of the year except for certain federal holidays.

"Wind Cave National Park" property of the Florida Department of Education.

What are at least two main ideas of "Wind Cave National Park"? Write one paragraph identifying two main ideas and explaining how the key details from the passage support your answer.

1.

The New Year's Day Levees

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The first day of the New Year is a holiday when many people don't have to go to work or school. While some people enjoy spending time with their family and friends on this day, others prefer relaxing at home or experiencing the bustle of shopping. Even the President of the United States is usually able to enjoy the New Year holiday with his family; however, this was not always the case. In the past, the President spent New Year's Days at the White House, standing and shaking hands with the public. This tradition, or custom, was called the New Year's Day levees.

George Washington began the custom of a formal exchanging of well-wishes with the public while he was president. However, construction on the new President's Mansion, or White House as it is known today, was not complete during Washington's presidency. John Adams was the first president to greet visitors in the White House on New Year's Day in 1801. This first gathering was very formal. Both President Adams and First Lady Abigail Adams dressed in their best clothes and patiently greeted each guest. Then, visitors were led to another room where they were served refreshments.

Thomas Jefferson continued the New Year's Day custom of greeting the public the following year. Compared to John Adams, Thomas Jefferson's gathering was less formal. President Jefferson was the first president to shake hands with every person whom he met with

during the New Year's Day levees. Previously, the President would exchange bows with his guests, rather than shaking hands. Jefferson exchanged greetings with a variety of people, including foreign leaders who were dressed in their native clothes. Important leaders and common people stood together waiting for their moment with the President.

Each new president carried on the New Year's Day tradition. Even when the White House was burned by the British in 1814, President James Madison held the New Year's Day levee in a rented house. Eventually, the White House was rebuilt and the tradition returned there. Although the general setup of the custom remained the same, by 1818, the President held two gatherings for visitors. The first took place earlier in the day. It was for government officials and foreign leaders. After the first gathering was complete, the President received the general public into the White House.

Even during times of war, the New Year's Day levee was a time for the President to reconnect with the people of the United States. Throughout the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln continued the tradition even though it risked his personal safety and interfered in his presidential duties. In 1863, Lincoln met with people from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on New Year's Day. Then, he proceeded to his office where he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln commented that his hand was so sore and tired from shaking hands with people that he was concerned he would not be able to sign his name to the document without shaking.

The tradition of shaking hands with the President on New Year's Day lasted for over 130 years. In 1932, Herbert Hoover held the last New Year's Day gathering. The following year, Hoover went away for the holidays and did not open the White House to visitors. Since then, no President has restarted the tradition.

Shaking hands with the President on New Year's Day gave common citizens a chance to meet with their President. But more importantly, it gave the President a chance to connect with the people he served.

Which detail from "The New Year's Day Levees" BEST summarizes the passage?

2.

- A. "In the past, the President spent New Year's Days at the White House, standing and shaking hands with the public."
- B. "John Adams was the first president to greet visitors in the White House on New Year's Day in 1801."
- C. "Important leaders and common people stood together waiting for their moment with the President."
- D. "Throughout the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln continued the tradition even though it risked his personal safety and interfered in his presidential duties."

The Big Business of American Citrus

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Have you ever thought about where your food comes from? In this day and age, most of the food and drinks we consume come from various places throughout the world. There are some foods that can only grow in certain parts of the world. Citrus fruits are one of those foods. Luckily for us, the United States is one of the world's major producers of citrus fruits. And in particular, two states take the lead in producing them—Florida and California.

Citrus fruits did not always grow in the United States. Originally, they came from Asia. As travelers encountered the delicious, juicy fruits, they brought the trees and seeds back to their home countries. Eventually, citrus trees found their home in Africa, Europe, and North America. And although the first citrus trees were brought to North America at the end of the fifteenth-century, it wasn't until the nineteenth century that citrus fruits became an important industry in the United States.

Florida produces most of the citrus fruit that Americans eat. Citrus made its way to Florida in the 1500s, and it became an important part of Florida's economy in the early-1800s. Florida's warm, dry weather makes it the perfect place for citrus trees to grow and produce fruit.

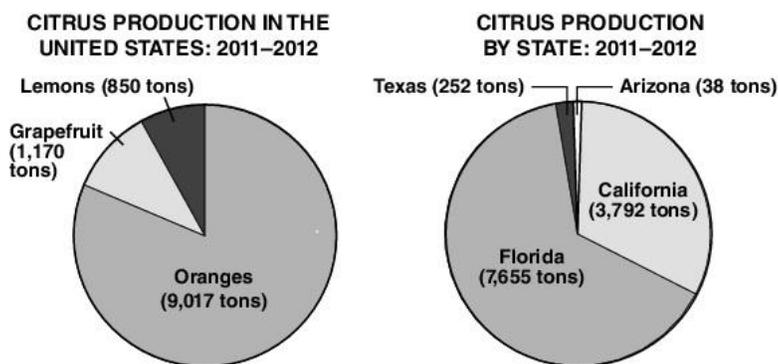
Citrus trees are very sensitive to temperature changes in the weather; any dip in the temperature can affect the trees. Even though Florida's weather is usually mild, there have been instances when the temperature has dropped to below freezing during the time when citrus trees are getting ready to produce fruit. If the temperature reaches below freezing, the trees' flower blossoms and fruit can be killed. There were several occasions when freezing temperatures in spring led to a terrible citrus harvest. One particular spring freeze damaged crops so badly that it took fifteen years for farmers to recover all of the crops that were destroyed.

California is another state that has a long history of growing citrus crops. The first citrus trees arrived in California sometime in the 1700s. However, like Florida, California did not experience an economic boom with selling citrus until the 1800s. Citrus became popular in California during the Gold Rush of 1849. At that time, masses of people came to California with the hopes of finding gold. In order to stay healthy, these people needed the vitamin C found in the fruits. And as a result, people began farming citrus. Thus, California's citrus economy was born!

Yet, it took another twenty years before California citrus truly took off. The development of the navel orange, which got its name because the end of the orange looked like a belly button, created a high demand for several different types of citrus fruits in California. This demand in citrus led to massive farming throughout the state. By the 1870s, citrus farming accounted for a large part of California's economic development. Today, California continues to profit from its production of oranges and lemons. It is the second highest producer of citrus fruits in the United States—following after Florida.

For now, citrus crops are an important part of the U.S. economy. Citrus production makes up over four billion dollars of income a year in

Florida. In California, citrus production makes over one billion dollars per year. And it doesn't look like citrus farms are slowing down. For the past several years, American farmers have increased their production of citrus. But this is a good thing—both for people's health and for the economy.



Citrus: A Family of Fruit

Citrus: A Family of Fruit

Have you ever wondered why oranges and lemons are both considered citrus fruits even though they are different foods? The answer is quite simple: both foods belong to a family of fruits that come from citrus trees. There are many different kinds of citrus trees, but they share common characteristics such as size and leaf shape. Citrus trees have a long history of producing some of the world's most popular fruits. Even today, these fruits continue to nourish and feed people throughout the world.

There are several types of citrus fruits—sixteen different kinds altogether. Some of the more popular fruits in this family are grapefruit, limes, oranges, and tangerines. Even though each kind of citrus is considered its own separate fruit, there are characteristics that all sixteen share. For example, lemons and limes are similar in size and shape. The flesh inside both fruits is divided into sections that contain seeds. And both fruits are juicy. However, their color and taste are different—lemons are yellow and sour while limes are green and tangy. There are other differences among citrus fruits that make each of them unique, or one of a kind. In addition to color and taste, major differences among citrus fruits can also include size and shape. But all fruits, when they are ripe, are juicy and mouth-wateringly good!

Citrus fruits grow in warm, sunny climates. Although places such as Florida and California are known for their citrus crops, these fruits were not originally found in North America. Citrus trees were first found in Southeast Asia. Different citrus trees were located in different parts of Asia. Sweet oranges grew in India, while mandarin oranges grew in China. For a long period of time, citrus trees were unknown in any other part of the world. Then, sometime around 4,000 B.C., explorers who were traveling through Asia brought citrus trees with them to Greece and Egypt. By 500 B.C., the golden fruit, citron, was brought to the Middle East from Egypt. The large, oval fruit was known for its strong smell and bumpy skin. Citron became an important part of many celebrations and feasts for the people who lived in the Middle East.

By 1100 A.D., Spanish soldiers, who were traveling to the Middle East, came into contact with the refreshing citrus fruits. These soldiers brought many different types of citrus trees back to Spain with them. The fruit had traveled half way around the world. But its journey was not finished yet!

Citrus fruits made their first appearance in North America at the end of the fifteenth-century. In 1493, Christopher Columbus brought lime seeds over to the New World. And over the next decades, different explorers carried various citrus seeds to North America. The warm, tropic climate of the Caribbean islands and Florida helped the explorers to establish groves of citrus trees.

Today, citrus trees are found throughout the world in warm climates. The once unknown fruit has become a major part of the world's food supply. In fact, citrus production plays an important part in the economies of places such as Florida and California. And since citrus fruits contain important vitamins that help people stay healthy, there will always be a reason to continue growing them.

The next time you feel hungry or thirsty, reach for your favorite citrus fruit. No matter which citrus fruit you choose to have for your morning breakfast, your taste buds will thank you for eating it. And in addition to being thankful for your fruit, be thankful for the explorers of long ago. Their wisdom in bringing citrus fruits to North America helped to secure the importance of this delicious and healthful food.

Which sentence BEST describes the main idea in both "Citrus: A Family of Fruit" and "The Big Business of American Citrus"?

3.

- A. Citrus production is a profitable activity.
- B. Citrus trees require special growing conditions.
- C. Citrus fruits should be included in a healthful diet.
- D. Citrus has a long history as a popular source of food.



You have reached the end of this section.