

PRACTICE TEST 53

Passage 2

Although great natural barriers hindered east-west development in Canada, this circumstance was mitigated by the mighty river and lake systems that provided avenues for the fur trader, missionary, soldier, and settler. Canada's rivers and lakes allowed and, indeed, invited venturesome pioneers to explore the interior of the continent and in spite of natural barriers, to tap its great wealth. The rivers and lakes were essential to the great fur empire; people in canoes brought furs from the farthest extremity of the Canadian Shield to Montreal for exportation to Europe. The first settlements spread along the rivers, since only the rivers provided transportation and communication. Militarily, rivers and lakes were of prime importance; whoever controlled the St. Lawrence and its entrance also controlled Canada.

1. What is the main subject of the passage?
(A) The barriers to east-west communication in Canada
(B) The role of rivers and lakes in Canadian development
(C) The adventures of Canadian settlers
(D) The development of the Canadian fur empire
2. Which would be an example of the type of barrier the author refers to in line 1 ?
(A) A military fort
(B) An ancient feud
(C) A political border
(D) A mountain range
3. According to the passage, rivers and lakes were important in the fur trade as
(A) habitats for fur-bearing animals
(B) sources of water
(C) transportation routes
(D) natural fortifications
4. In line 6, the word "extremity" means
(A) a limb of the body
(B) a severe measure
(C) the greatest degree
(D) the most distant part
5. According to the passage, what pattern of expansion did the first settlements follow?
(A) They moved directly from east to west.
(B) They advanced along the Canadian Shield.
(C) They followed the course of the rivers.
(D) They spread around the perimeter of lakes.
6. The author uses the example of the St. Lawrence mainly to illustrate the role of rivers and lakes in
(A) urban settlement
(B) economic development
(C) agricultural research
(D) military control
7. In the passage, the author pays LEAST attention to the work of
(A) traders
(B) missionaries
(C) soldiers
(D) settlers

Passage 3

Stars have been significant features in the design of many United States coins and their number has varied from one to forty-eight stars. Most of the coins issued from about 1799 to the early years of the twentieth century bore thirteen stars representing the thirteen original colonies.

Curiously enough, the first American silver coins, issued in, 1794, had fifteen stars because by that time Vermont and Kentucky had joined the Union. At that time it was apparently the intention of mint officials to add a star for each new state. Following the admission of Tennessee in 1796, for example, some varieties of half dimes, dimes, and half-dollars were produced with sixteen stars.

As more states were admitted to the Union, however, it quickly became apparent that this scheme would not prove practical and the coins from 1798 on were issued with only thirteen stars-one for each of the original colonies. Due to an error at the mint, one variety of the 1828 half cent was issued with only twelve stars. There is also a variety of the large cent with only 12 stars, but this is the result of a die break and is not a true error.

1. What is the main topic of the passage?
(A) The teaching of astronomy in state universities
(B) Stars on American coins
(C) Colonial stamps and coins
(D) The star as national symbol of the United States
2. The word "their" in line 1 refers to
(A) stars (B) features (C) coins (D) colonies
3. The word "bore" in line 3 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
(A) Carried (B) Drilled (C) Cost (D) Symbolized
4. The expression "Curiously enough" is used in line 5 because the author finds it strange that
(A) silver coins with fifteen stars appeared before coins with thirteen
(B) Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union in 1794
(C) no silver coins were issue until 1794
(D) Tennessee was the first state to use half dimes
5. Which of the following can be inferred about the order in which Kentucky, Tennessee, and Vermont joined the Union?
(A) Vermont and Kentucky joined at the same time.
(A) Kentucky joined before Tennessee and Vermont.
(C) Tennessee joined after Vermont and Kentucky.
(D) Vermont joined after Tennessee and Kentucky.
6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as the denomination of an American coin?
(A) Half cent (B) Half nickel (C) Half dime (D) Half- dollar
7. Why was a coin produced in 1828 with only twelve stars?
(A) There were twelve states at the time. (B) There was a change in design policy.
(C) Tennessee had left the Union. (D) The mint made a mistake.