46. Gimme Some Latitude! (and a little longitude wouldn’t hurt)
by Margaret Hockett

A 1Latitude and longitude lines are very useful for pinpointing locations. 2For instance, let’s say your “friends” run off to explore the world without you. 3So you set a private investigator on their trail and the P.I. gets the goods from an informant: the pair were last seen at 44° N, 10° E. 4So you know right where to go to give them a “Pisa” your mind.

B 5Here’s how it works: the lines divvy up the whole world into a grid. 6Latitude lines are parallel and run east and west. 7The first line is at 0° latitude, which is the equator. 8(Your P.I. could really be hot on the trail there!) 9The rest of the latitude lines are numbered from the equator and are labelled N or S according to which side of it they are on. 10The last latitude lines are really just points at the poles (90° S and 90° N). 11Longitude lines, or meridians, run north and south. 12The first, at 0° longitude, is called the Prime Meridian. 13The rest of the longitude lines are numbered from the Prime Meridian and are labelled E or W, according to the side of it on which they lie. 14At 180° longitude, on the side of the world opposite the Prime Meridian, is the International Dateline. 15When you cross this one, you are suddenly catapulted into a new hemisphere and a whole new day. 16(Hmm...if you can’t find your friends, at least you could get a new “date” here!)

C 17Back to our example. 18When you hear that your disloyal friends are at a winter tea party at 42° N 71° W, will you know to pack your warm clothes and head to Boston? 19Suppose they are spotted eating tropical fruits at 17° N 149° W; will you go bananas or go to Tahiti? 20What if they’re rumored to be in a large city with fertile soil at 30° N 31° E? 21Will you be in de “nile” as you head for Cairo?

D 22I think you get the hang of it. 23Now, with all this information, you can make up a really cool game to entertain your friends when they realize the error of their ways and come groveling back. 24In fact, they’ll never want to [city name]* again!

*city located at 42° N, 12° E
DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence presented in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support your answer.

1. The main purpose of the passage is to
   A. show the usefulness of latitude and longitude.
   B. show how to track someone down.
   C. describe the positions of geographical locations.
   D. convince you to solve problems.

   Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. ___

2. If you could walk along the Prime Meridian to the North Pole and beyond, that longitude line would become (Choose all that apply.)
   A. the International Dateline.
   B. the equator.
   C. 0° longitude.
   D. 180° longitude.

   Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. ___

3. Which of the following is NOT reasonable to conclude?
   A. The eastern and western hemispheres have different days.
   B. The day changes as you cross the International Dateline.
   C. It is a day earlier in the western hemisphere than in the eastern.
   D. The day changes as you cross the Prime Meridian.

4. Label the following as T for true or F for false.
   ___ 0° longitude is the equator.
   ___ 90° N is the North Pole.
   ___ 0°, 0° is where the equator crosses the International Dateline.
   ___ 30° N, 75° W is in Asia.

5. Explain why coordinates are given in place of the verb in sentence 24.

6. Label each of the following F for fact or O for opinion.
   ___ Tahiti is located at 17° N, 149° W.
   ___ The International Dateline and Prime Meridian separate the world into halves.
   ___ Latitude/longitude is the best system for locating people or things.
   ___ Cairo is on the Nile River.

7. Describe one way in which the lines of latitude and longitude are different and one way in which they are alike.
   Difference: ____________________________
   ____________________________
   Similarity: ____________________________
   ____________________________

8. The word groveling, as used in sentence 23, most likely means
   A. dancing.
   B. acting snobby.
   C. knowledgeably.
   D. acting humble.

9. The phrase “gets the goods,” as used in sentence 3, most likely means
   A. retrieves the couple.
   B. finds information.
   C. picks up packages.
   D. extracts a confession.