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When can one tree become a whole forest?

- 1 Thick rain forests made up of many different kinds of trees cover much of South Asia. Sometimes as many as 179 species grow in less than three acres. All these trees live and grow close together. Since they share the light and the nutrients in the soil, one tree can upset this balance. Once it gets a start in the forest, a banyan tree becomes a leafy “killer.”
- 2 No other tree in the world grows quite like the banyan. This fig tree needs the help of birds to start, but it does the rest by itself. Birds drop seeds from the banyan into the upper branches of other trees in the rain forest. After the seeds sprout, new banyan branches develop from the sprouts and begin to grow.
- 3 As the banyan branches grow, they send roots down toward the ground. When the roots take hold in the soil, the parts above the ground grow bigger. They become new trunks, called prop roots, from which more branches develop to send new roots down. Soon the tree that gave life to the banyan dies because the banyan’s trunks and roots strangle it. As the dead tree decomposes inside the banyan, the banyan gains a hollow core.
- 4 Meanwhile, the banyan continues to spread. New branches send down more roots that will become more new trunks. As the banyan moves through a forest, it continues to strangle other trees, earning the nickname “strangler fig.” The largest banyan tree ever “counted” was in Sri Lanka, off the coast of India. It had 350 large trunks and more than 3,000 smaller ones! Banyans live for a long time. In fact, a banyan in India is considered the oldest human-planted tree in the world; it was planted in 288 BC.



Circle the correct answers. Write your answer to question 6.

1. Banyan trees are spread by _____.

- A bees
- B birds
- C wind
- D water

2. What happens last in the formation of a banyan tree?

- A Banyan parts grow bigger and become new trunks.
- B Banyan branches send roots toward the ground.
- C Banyan branches develop from sprouts.
- D Banyan roots take hold in the soil.

3. Which word in paragraph 1 means "food necessary for growth"?

- A acres
- B species
- C balance
- D nutrients

4. Which paragraph tells how many kinds of trees can grow in just a small part of a rain forest?

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

5. You can conclude from the article that _____.

- A banyans are popular in greenhouses
- B trees are spread out in the rain forest
- C it takes a long time to count a banyan
- D banyans don't need help from other trees to grow

6. Write a one- or two-paragraph summary of the article you just read.

Details

Sequence

Context Clues

Details

Inference & Conclusion

What was the Great American Eclipse?

- 1 On August 21, 2017, the mainland United States experienced a total solar eclipse. It was the first time since 1918 that such an event had occurred in the US. The eclipse passed from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast. It gave millions of people a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- 2 A solar eclipse happens when the moon moves between the sun and Earth. The moon's shadow blocks the sun, leaving only a ring of light visible. The moment of totality is brief and can only be seen from certain places. Generally, the "Path of Totality," or the area in which people can see the total solar eclipse, is about 10,000 miles long but only about 100 miles wide. People outside that area only experience a partial eclipse.
- 3 The moment of totality lasts only a minute or two. Leading up to it, viewers can use special glasses to watch the moon move into place. The sky slowly darkens. It seems like twilight is falling in the middle of the day. When the moon moves completely into place, the sky becomes significantly darker. Then it is safe to look at the sun without special eyewear.
- 4 Total solar eclipses are always awe inspiring, but the Great American Eclipse was especially exciting. People traveled for hundreds of miles to get into the path of totality. Solar eclipses happen once or twice a year throughout the world, but they are not always visible from land. It can be hundreds or thousands of years before a solar eclipse can be seen from the same location twice. The 2017 eclipse was the first to happen in America in the technology age. Many people were aware of the event well before it happened. They made plans to view it, photograph it, and record their experiences. Even more importantly, it brought people together from across the country and around the globe.



Circle the correct answers. Write your answer to question 6.

1. *Passed* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 1.
 - A handed to
 - B chose not to
 - C moved along
 - D came to an end

2. You can infer from the article that _____.
 - A most people will see more than one total eclipse in their lifetime
 - B the Great American Eclipse was a popular news feature
 - C the total solar eclipse was visible from everywhere in the US
 - D many people knew about the 1918 eclipse ahead of time

3. Why did people travel far to see the eclipse?
 - A They may never have the opportunity to see one again.
 - B The moment of totality only lasts for a minute.
 - C The solar eclipse could be seen from the mainland United States.
 - D They needed special glasses to look at the eclipse.

4. Which paragraph tells what happens during the moment of totality?
 - A 1
 - B 2
 - C 3
 - D 4

5. What is the main idea of the article?
 - A A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth.
 - B People should only view a solar eclipse through special glasses.
 - C The Great American Eclipse happened in 2017.
 - D The Great American Eclipse was an exciting and unusual event.

6. Tell about a once-in-a-lifetime experience you have had. Or tell about something that you think would be very special to experience. Give details about the event.