Name ____________________________________________

Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the article “Wildfires.”

1. Which elements BEST show that this is a nonfiction article?
   A. interesting title and vivid description
   B. connections to Bambi and Smokey the Bear
   C. exciting stories of danger and heroes in action
   D. facts and photographs of real places and events

2. Read this sentence from the article.
   
   But by then, more than fifty smaller ones had started, most from new lightning strikes. The old fires continued to spread, while the small fires raced toward one another and merged into even bigger fires.

   Which word has nearly the same meaning as merged?
   
   F. crashed
   G. exploded
   H. joined
   I. melted

3. What caused the first fire that started in Yellowstone in 1988?
   
   A. wind and a campfire
   B. drought and lightning
   C. litter and a careless camper
   D. a large park and a small firefighting team

Go On
4. According to the article, when people work harder to fight natural fires, it causes an increase in
   - the number of birds.
   - the amount of wildlife.
   - the variety of wildflowers.
   - the number of dangerous fires.

5. What is the author’s view of Smokey the Bear’s warning? Include in your answer the facts and information the author uses to support his view.

   [Space for student response]

   [Space for student response]

   [Space for student response]

   [Space for student response]

   [Space for student response]
Based on the photographs and text, August 20 was MOST LIKELY known as Black Saturday because

A. thousands of firefighters were covered in soot.
B. fires covered a huge area and turned the skies black.
C. the fires were over and only blackened trees were left.
D. it was the day of hundreds of funerals for victims of the fires.

The fire did not burn the Old Faithful Inn because

F. firefighters hosed down the roof of the inn.
G. the wind changed and turned the fire away.
H. a plane flew over and dropped water on the flames.
I. firefighters dug a trench around the inn to protect it.

How long did the 1988 fires in Yellowstone last?

A. several days
B. almost a year
C. several months
D. about six weeks

With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?

F. Small fires do more harm than large fires.
G. Every forest fire should be left to burn naturally.
H. Every forest fire should be stopped to save wildlife.
I. Fires that start naturally help keep nature in balance.
How do fires help keep forests healthy? Include information and details from the article in your answer.
Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the article “Wildfires.”

1. Which elements BEST show that this is a nonfiction article?
   A. interesting title and vivid description
   B. connections to Bambi and Smokey the Bear
   C. exciting stories of danger and heroes in action
   D. facts and photographs of real places and events
   (LA.4.2.2.4)

2. Read this sentence from the article.
   But by then, more than fifty smaller ones had started, most from new lightning strikes. The old fires continued to spread, while the small fires raced toward one another and merged into even bigger fires.

   Which word has nearly the same meaning as merged?
   F. crashed
   G. exploded
   H. joined
   I. melted
   (LA.4.1.6.8)

3. What caused the first fire that started in Yellowstone in 1988?
   A. wind and a campfire
   B. drought and lightning
   C. litter and a careless camper
   D. a large park and a small firefighting team
   (LA.4.1.7.4)
4 According to the article, when people work harder to fight natural fires, it causes an increase in

F the number of birds.

G the amount of wildlife.

H the variety of wildflowers.

I the number of dangerous fires.

(LA.4.1.7.4)

5 What is the author’s view of Smokey the Bear’s warning? Include in your answer the facts and information the author uses to support his view.

Sample 2-point response: The author thinks that Smokey the Bear’s warning was more hurtful than helpful. It misled people and gave them the wrong idea about fires and forests. Saying “Only you can prevent forest fires” made people think that all fires were caused by people and all fires were enemies. That made it hard for the public to understand why some fires should be left to burn so that forests can stay healthy.

(LA.4.1.7.4)
Based on the photographs and text, August 20 was MOST LIKELY known as Black Saturday because

A. thousands of firefighters were covered in soot.
B. fires covered a huge area and turned the skies black.
C. the fires were over and only blackened trees were left.
D. it was the day of hundreds of funerals for victims of the fires.

(LA.4.2.2.1)

The fire did not burn the Old Faithful Inn because

F. firefighters hosed down the roof of the inn.
G. the wind changed and turned the fire away.
H. a plane flew over and dropped water on the flames.
I. firefighters dug a trench around the inn to protect it.

(LA.4.1.7.4)

How long did the 1988 fires in Yellowstone last?

A. several days
B. almost a year
C. several months
D. about six weeks

(LA.4.2.2.2)

With which statement would the author MOST LIKELY agree?

F. Small fires do more harm than large fires.
G. Every forest fire should be left to burn naturally.
H. Every forest fire should be stopped to save wildlife.
I. Fires that start naturally help keep nature in balance.

(LA.4.1.7.2)
How do fires help keep forests healthy? Include information and details from the article in your answer.

Sample 4-point response: Fires help keep forests healthy in several ways. They burn the dead lodgepole pines that have been killed by insects. This makes more space for young, healthy trees to grow. Many trees need fires to continue their life cycles. Some have seeds that only germinate after heat from a fire releases them. Other trees and shrubs grow fastest when the taller trees have burned to allow sunlight to the forest floor.

The fast-growing plants that fill in after a fire also provide food for many animals that might otherwise starve. Wildflowers, grasses, and insects feed in these open areas and then provide food for grazing animals and birds. Woodpeckers find insects under the bark of trees that fall during a fire. Hawks and owls like to hunt in the open areas left clear by fire. Fire beetles need burned logs for laying their eggs.

Natural fires also help control damage to the forest. A smaller fire burns the dried leaves, twigs, and bark on the ground and cleans up the forest floor. Without small fires, too much dried material builds up in the forest. Then when a fire finally starts, it has so much fuel that it gets out of control and becomes a harmful wildfire.

Extended-Response Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The answer shows that the student completely understands the task. The response is based on the text and is complete, correct, and provides needed examples and/or support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The answer shows that the student understands the task. The response is correct and based on the text, but the support and/or examples may not be complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The answer shows that the student partially understands the task. The response is based on the text and mostly correct, but the information may be incomplete, too general, or lack support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The answer shows that the student has limited understanding of the task. The response is incomplete, lacks support, and may not answer all parts of the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The answer shows that the student does not understand the task. The response is inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(LA.4.2.2.3)