

ΓΡΑΠΤΗ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΑ
ΑΓΓΛΙΚΑ

ΟΜΙΛΟΣ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΩΝ
ΒΙΩΜΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

Γυμνάσιο Χασιώτη

Στον χώρο της
ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗΣ ΣΧΟΛΗΣ

Όνομα:

Επίθετο:

ΑΓΓΛΙΚΑ

Βαθμός (ολογράφως):

Βαθμός (αριθμός 0-100):

PART I: Close Reading

[40 points]

1. The Mexican Axolotl Salamander (source: National Geographic Kids)

Mexican axolotl salamanders are amphibians that spend their whole lives underwater. They exist in the wild in only one place—the lake complex of Xochimilco, a network of artificial channels, small lakes, and temporary wetlands that help supply water to nearby Mexico City’s 18 million residents. Axolotls have long fascinated scientists for their ability to regenerate lost body parts and for their rare trait of neoteny, which means they retain larval features throughout life. Rather than undergoing typical metamorphosis, axolotls keep their youthful appearance. As they age, axolotls simply get bigger and bigger.



In rare cases, axolotls have matured past the larval stage and emerged onto land as adult salamanders. Neoteny doesn’t affect the axolotl’s ability to breed. Females mate with males and lay eggs underwater. Axolotls feast on a menu of mollusks, worms, insect larvae and some fish.

As Mexico City has grown, the lake complex has shrunk and parts have become contaminated, distressing the axolotl population. The introduction of large numbers of carp and tilapia fish, which compete with axolotls for food and also eat axolotl eggs, has further lowered their population. A 2009 survey suggests there are fewer than 1,200 axolotls in the Xochimilco Lake complex.

1. Where do Mexican axolotl salamanders primarily live?

- a) In natural lakes and rivers across Mexico
- b) In the lake complex of Xochimilco
- c) In underground caves
- d) In the forests of Mexico

2. What do axolotls primarily eat?

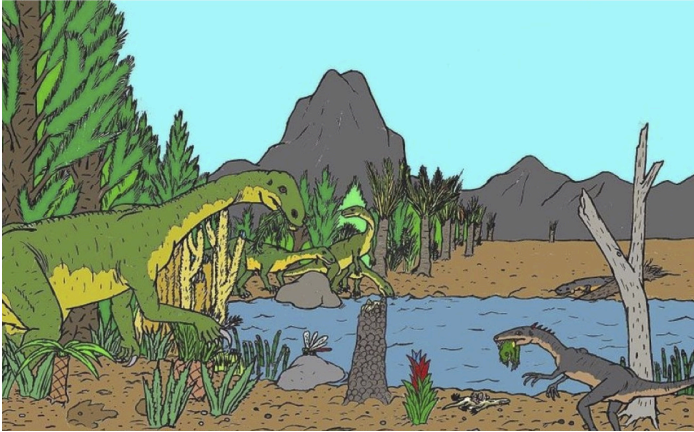
- a) Grass and leaves
- b) Other axolotls
- c) Mice and small rodents
- d) Mollusks, worms, insect larvae and some fish

3. What has contributed to the decline in the axolotl population in the Xochimilco Lake complex?

- a) Introduction of large numbers of carp and tilapia fish
- b) Introduction of more axolotls from other regions
- c) Increase in the size of the lake complex
- d) Decrease in water contamination

4. What is a unique trait of axolotls that fascinates scientists?

2. The History of Planet Earth (adapted from ReadWorks, 2013)



Our planet is no spring chicken. The history of the earth stretches over billions of years. In that time period, a lot has changed. Some of those changes took place over a very long time. Some changes, on the other hand, took place very quickly.

Water, wind and ice slowly shape the surface of the earth, constantly moving all around us. Activity just beneath the surface of the earth's crust creates rapid changes in the shape of the land -that's why we get volcanoes, landslides and earthquakes.

Erosion is an example of a slow process that changes the surface of the earth. Think of a windy beach, how sand from the beach is carried toward the **dunes*** or, depending on the behavior of the wind, how the sand from the dunes is carried further down the beach. We can see and feel the sand moving over the land and through the air, but the long-term effects of that movement won't be visible for years.

The earth's surface is also made up of very slowly moving parts, called tectonic plates. These plates fit like puzzle pieces and make up the outermost layer of the planet. When this layer moves around, it can cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It's very easy to spot these changes as they're happening!

Some earth-changing events occur naturally, but others come from us, from humans. It's important to remember that we have our own impact on the earth. In many cases, humans influence the earth's natural processes on purpose, speeding them up, slowing them down, or manipulating them in other ways to get something we want-usually a natural resource, like water or oil. Some of what we do to our planet is on purpose, and some of it is accidental. Cutting down forests, building new houses, bridges, office buildings and movie theaters, can lead to quickening natural events

*dunes : a hill of sand formed by the wind found on the beach

that might have taken much longer without humans' involvement.

You can walk outside any time you like and see the planet stir: wind moving particles of sand and rock, water dripping from one surface onto another, seasons changing each year. Everything you see on a walk around your neighborhood contributes to the earth's changing and maturing. It's interesting to think about how what we do and the forces that act on us affect who we become. The earth is like a big, changing organism, just like we are.

5. Two effects mentioned in this passage are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. What is their cause?

- a). wind that blows sand from one place to another
- b). water dripping from one surface onto another
- c). the construction of houses, movie theaters, and bridges
- d). the movement of the earth's outermost layer

6. What is an example of change on earth that people can see happening?

- a). glaciers changing the size and shape of earth's oceans
- b). sand blowing from one part of a beach to another
- c). tectonic plate movement changing the location and shape of earth's continents
- d). tectonic plate movement changing the location and shape of earth's oceans

7. What is this passage mainly about?

- a) glaciers and erosion
- b). landslides and earthquakes
- c). changes in the earth
- d). changes in the human body

8. How do humans influence the earth's natural processes?

3. A Wizard, a Hobbit and thirteen Dwarves

There once was a powerful wizard named Gandalf the Grey. Gandalf was travelling with a hobbit named Bilbo Baggins and thirteen dwarves. The group was tired and hungry when they reached Beorn's house. Beorn was a stingy man who would never accept fifteen strangers in his house. So, Gandalf came up with a clever plan.



In Beorn's garden, Gandalf began telling a tale, recounting a journey through daunting mountains with three friends. Beorn, noticing only Bilbo the hobbit, inquired about the others. Gandalf assured him there were more, and with a whistle, Thorin and Dori appeared. Beorn was surprised to see they were dwarves.

Gandalf shared their ordeal of seeking shelter in a cave during a fierce storm with Bilbo Baggins and several of the dwarves. Beorn commented that two dwarves are not *several*, so Gandalf whistled once more, bringing Nori and Ori. Beorn found it amusing and welcomed them all.

As Gandalf continued the tale, describing how his *party* had an encounter with goblins in that cave, the word *party* made Beorn wonder about their numbers once more. Gandalf whistled again, summoning Fili and Kili. With each interruption, more dwarves joined, bringing laughter to Beorn.

Bilbo Baggins saw then how clever Gandalf had been. The interruptions had made Beorn more interested in the story, and the story had kept him from sending the dwarves off at once. He never invited people into his house, if he could help it. He had very few friends and they lived far away; and he never invited more than a couple of these to his house at a time. Now he had a group of strangers sitting on his porch!

Impressed by Gandalf's storytelling, Beorn invited the growing party to share a meal. The fifteen of them eagerly accepted Beorn's invitation, grateful for the hospitality after their long journey. They all gathered around a table, enjoying a hearty meal.

Beorn declared Gandalf's story to be one of the finest he had heard, thanking them all for sharing it with him.

9. How does Gandalf trick Beorn into accepting "fifteen strangers" into his house?

10. Would you allow so many visitors into your home without notice? Why or why not?
