You know where North America is, and you might also know where South America is. But there is an important place between them that you might not know about. That place is called Central America. There are seven countries in Central America. In most of them, the people speak Spanish. That is because long ago, people from Spain explored there. And for many years, Central America belonged to Spain. But after many years of Spanish rule, those countries did not want to belong to Spain anymore. They saw that Mexico and the United States were free. They wanted the same thing for themselves. So in the early 1800s, those countries declared their independence. Today, each of those seven countries has its own government.

1. Why do most people in Central America speak Spanish?
   A. Many years ago, people from England explored there.
   B. Central America does not have many people.
   C. Central America is very close to Spain.
   D. For many years, Central America belonged to Spain.

2. Which is a good title for this text?
   A. All About Spain
   B. The History of Central America
   C. Where to Go in Mexico
   D. Let’s Visit the United States

3. Which word is a synonym for independent?
   A. free
   B. Spanish
   C. government
   D. central

4. What part of the adjective independent could be taken away to make its antonym?
   A. –endent
   B. indep–
   C. in–
   D. –ent

5. What is the meaning of declare?
   A. ask
   B. state
   C. grow
   D. run
Explores from Spain were not the first people to live in Central America. Another group of people was already living there when the Spanish came. They were the Mayans. The Mayans are a group of American Indians. They have lived in Central America for thousands of years. For a very long time, they had a strong empire. It stretched from southern Mexico to northern Colombia. The Mayans were the first American Indians to have their own written language. They were also very skilled at math. And they were especially skilled at astronomy. There is no longer a Mayan empire. But you can still see the ruins of many Mayan buildings, and there are still many Mayan people. They live in several places in Central America. They have their own language and their own culture.

1. Which statement is **not** true about the Mayans?
   - A. There are no more Mayans.
   - B. They are a group of American Indians.
   - C. They live in several places in Central America.
   - D. They have their own language and culture.

2. Which event happened first?
   - A. The Spanish came to Central America.
   - B. You can see ruins of Mayan buildings.
   - C. The Mayans created a strong empire.
   - D. The Mayan empire disappeared.

3. Which word is a synonym for *skilled*?
   - A. afraid
   - B. unable
   - C. unknown
   - D. talented

4. What does the noun *ruins* tell readers?
   - A. There are no ruins of Mayan buildings.
   - B. People still live in those Mayan buildings.
   - C. People no longer live in those Mayan buildings.
   - D. Mayan buildings are brand new.

5. What is the tone of the text?
   - A. informative
   - B. humorous
   - C. persuasive
   - D. inspirational
Because Central America is close to the equator, it has a tropical climate. Most of Central America has two seasons, a rainy season and a dry season. The rainy season usually lasts from May to November. Central America has two coasts. On the east are the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. On the west is the Pacific Ocean. Some parts are so narrow that going from coast to coast takes very little time. For example, Panama is one country in Central America. In some parts of Panama, there are only 30 miles between coasts! There isn’t much flat land in Central America. Most of the land is hilly, and there are many mountains. In fact, Central America has several active volcanoes. The weather is sometimes very hot and humid on the coasts. But in the mountains, it is cooler. Central America has several rainforests. Many animals and plants live there.

1. Why does Central America have a tropical climate?
   - A It is very narrow.
   - B It is very far from the equator.
   - C It is very large.
   - D It is near the equator.

2. Which statement is true about Central America?
   - A It has very few animals or plants.
   - B It is mostly a large desert.
   - C It is very hilly, and there are many mountains.
   - D The weather is very cold most of the year.

3. Which word is an antonym of narrow?
   - A wide
   - B watery
   - C wild
   - D windy

4. The adjective tropical describes which word?
   - A Central America’s climate
   - B time
   - C miles
   - D volcanoes

5. What is the tone of the text?
   - A informative
   - B silly
   - C persuasive
   - D serious

Score: 
1. Y N
2. Y N
3. Y N
4. Y N
5. Y N

Total: ___ / 5
WELCOME TO HONDURAS!

Do you enjoy seeing all kinds of different animals? Would you like to visit a place where you can swim in the sea and hike in the mountains? Then, you would probably enjoy a trip to Honduras. The country of Honduras is located in the middle of Central America. Many years ago, it was part of the Mayan empire. Then, it belonged to Spain until 1821. It was even a part of Mexico for a time. That is why the people of Honduras speak Spanish. But since 1838, Honduras has been an independent country. Most of the country is mountainous, so the climate tends to be cooler. But along the Caribbean coast, the land is flat; there, the climate is warm and humid and the beaches are beautiful.

There are many things to do and see in Honduras. You can visit beautiful Mayan ruins and see how the people lived thousands of years ago. You can take a hike through a rainforest. There, you will see hundreds of different kinds of plants and animals. You can even go diving from a coral reef off the Caribbean coast. You can take a beach vacation, and go swimming and snorkeling. You can see a professional soccer game, too. Hondurans love soccer, and there are many teams.

Honduras has several cities. Its capital is Tegucigalpa (tay-goo-see-GAL-pah). That city is in the mountains. Another very popular city is La Ceiba (la SAY-bah). La Ceiba is on the beach. It is a very popular vacation place. Every year in May, the people of La Ceiba have a carnival with parades, dances, and lots of good food. During the carnival, the city also holds a Milk Fair, which is a lot like a farmer’s market. People from rural areas bring in their animals and crops to the Milk Fair to show and sell.

No matter what you decide to do in Honduras, you won’t be bored!
Read “Welcome to Honduras!” and then answer the questions.

1. Who might be interested in reading this text?
   - A a person who likes mountain ranges
   - B a person who wants to travel to Honduras
   - C a person who likes plants
   - D a person who speaks Spanish

2. Knowing where Central America is located helps the reader understand
   - A where to find Honduras.
   - B what the Milk Fair is.
   - C how to go snorkeling.
   - D how to play soccer.

3. How does the author likely feel about Honduras?
   - A The author does not know about it.
   - B The author dislikes it.
   - C The author is afraid of it.
   - D The author likes it.

4. How does the climate of Tegucigalpa likely compare to the climate of La Ceiba?
   - A It is much warmer.
   - B It is cooler.
   - C It is the same.
   - D It is much drier.

5. If Honduras belonged to France instead of Spain, which language would people probably speak?
   - A English
   - B Spanish
   - C French
   - D Dutch

6. Why might La Ceiba be popular for vacations?
   - A It has a very cool, rainy climate.
   - B It has beautiful beaches.
   - C It is high up in the mountains.
   - D It is very close to New York City.

7. Where is the country of Honduras located?
   - A the western part of Central America
   - B the middle of Central America
   - C the eastern part of Central America
   - D the southern part of Central America

8. What is a word or phrase that summarizes the author’s opinion about Honduras?
   - A small
   - B very cold
   - C fun for visitors
   - D remote
Imagine you are going to Honduras. What kind of vacation would you want? Write about your Honduras vacation.