

Name _____
Date _____

Vacation Opinions

In this passage, two students give their opinions about vacations.

Tandy's Opinion

The beach is the best place to take a vacation. At the beach, there are many things to do. People can go swimming in the ocean, walk along the shore, or play in the sand. There are lots of kids to play with at the beach. The scenery there is also very beautiful. The brown sand and the crystal blue water are very pretty. Sometimes you can even see dolphins jumping on the horizon. It is also nice to listen to waves crashing on the shore. That's what is so great about the beach.



Dion's Opinion

Going to the mountains is the best vacation. In the mountains, there are a lot of different activities that people can do. Going hiking, climbing, swimming, or telling stories around the campfire are just a few. The scenery in the mountains is far more beautiful than anywhere else. The tall mountains, the green trees, and the views are the best! In nature, you can see many types of plants and animals too. The mountains are also quiet. You can have time to be by yourself, because it is not very populated. It is more relaxing to take a vacation in a place like this. The mountains are the best place to go on vacation.

1) Which of the following sentences best summarizes Tandy's opinion?

- A. For its many activities and beautiful setting, the beach is the best place to go for a vacation.
- B. Even though the mountains are very calm, the beach is a quiet place to visit.
- C. The beach is the best place to go on vacation, because it is much warmer than anywhere else.
- D. Because of the many different types of animals that you can see, the beach is the best place to vacation.

2) Which of these reasons is/are used by BOTH Tandy and Dion to support their opinions?

- I. There are lots of kids to play with.
 - II. The landscape is nice.
 - III. There are many things to do.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

3) According to Tandy, what is pretty at the beach?

- I. brown sand
- II. crystal blue water
- III. colorful sunsets

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

4) As used by Dion, the word **populated** most nearly means

- A. noisy
- B. crowded
- C. quiet
- D. popular

5) Tandy and Dion are most likely responding to which of these questions?

- A. Why would someone want to vacation in the mountains?
- B. Where do you want to live when you grow up and why?
- C. What is the best place to take a vacation and why?
- D. Why is the beach the best place to take a vacation?

6) Do you agree more with Tandy or Dion? Why?

Answers and Explanations

1) A

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Tandy writes about how “there are many things to do” at the beach, before listing several activities possible there. Next, Tandy writes about how beautiful it is at the beach, noting that “The brown sand and the crystal blue water are very pretty.” Since Tandy focuses on the activities and beautiful setting at the beach we can tell that the sentence that best summarizes Tandy’s opinion is: “For its many activities and beautiful setting, the beach is the best place to go for a vacation.” This means **(A)** is correct.

Tandy does not mention the mountains, but Dion does, so we can tell that the sentence “Even though the mountains are very quiet, the coast is a more fun place to visit” does not best summarize Tandy’s opinion. In addition, Tandy does not say that the beach is quiet. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

Tandy does not mention anything about the temperature at the coast when giving her opinion about why she likes to vacation there. This lets us know that the sentence “The beach is the best place to go on vacation because it is much warmer than anywhere else” does not best summarize Tandy’s opinion. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

Tandy mentions seeing “dolphins jumping on the horizon,” but this is the only type of animal she writes about. This lets us know that the sentence “Because of the many different types of animals that you can see, the beach is the best place to vacation” does not best summarize Tandy’s opinion. This is because she does not mention multiple animals at the beach. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

2) C

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

Tandy says, “There are lots of kids to play with.” This lets us know that Tandy thinks the beach is better, because there are lots of kids to play with. Dion says that at the mountains, “You can have time to be by yourself.” This lets us know that Dion does not like the mountains better because there are lots of kids to play with. Since both Tandy and Dion do not use this reason, we can eliminate **option (I)**.

Tandy mentions how beautiful the beach is, noting the “The brown sand and the crystal blue water are very pretty.” This lets us know that Tandy thinks the landscape at the beach is nice. Dion writes, “The tall mountains, the green trees, and the views are the best!” This lets us know that Dion thinks the landscape at the mountains is nice. This means that both Tandy and Dion use the reason that the landscape is nice. This supports **option (II)**.

Tandy writes, “At the coast, there are many things to do.” Dion writes, “In the mountains, there are a lot of different activities that people can do.” This lets us know that both Tandy and Dion use the reason that there are many things to do, which supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

3) BCore Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses Tandy's opinion in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the heading of each paragraph, since it will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The first heading is: "Tandy's Opinion." This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in this paragraph.

Tandy writes that at the beach, "The brown sand and the crystal blue water are very pretty." Since she mentions the brown sand as being pretty, we can tell that according to Tandy, the brown sand is pretty at the beach. This supports **option (I)**.

Tandy writes that at the beach, "The brown sand and the crystal blue water are very pretty." Since she mentions the crystal blue water as being pretty, we can tell that according to Tandy, the crystal blue water at the beach is pretty. This supports **option (II)**.

Tandy never mentions anything about colorful sunsets at the beach. This eliminates **option (III)**.

Therefore **(B)** is correct.

4) BCore Standard: **Craft and Structure****populated** (*adjective*): settled by people; inhabited.

Dion writes, "You can have time to be by yourself, because it is not very populated." We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what scenery most nearly means. Since you can "be by yourself" in an area that is not very populated, we can tell that in a populated area you would not necessarily be able to be by yourself. If this is not possible, we can tell that the area must be crowded or full of people. This lets us know that populated must mean something like crowded or full of people. Using this information, we can tell that as used by Dion, populated most nearly means crowded. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Using the above information, we can tell that populated must mean something like crowded or full of people. Noisy does not necessarily mean crowded or full of people. While crowded situations might sometimes be noisy, certain things that are not crowded, or full of people—like a woodpecker alone in the woods—might be noisy. This lets us know that populated does not most nearly mean noisy, and **(A)** is incorrect.