



“Flags”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

The first flags were probably in China. People flew flags in China over 4,000 years ago. Each part of the army had its own flag so the soldiers could see their leaders. Early flags were sticks of wood. They had pictures cut into the wood.

Iran had metal flags about 3,000 years ago. Old Greek coins show pictures of flags. People in Rome also used flags over 2,000 years ago. People first made flags of **cloth** about 2,000 years ago. Those flags looked like today’s flags.

Flags are important at sea. Most **ships** fly their own country’s flag and the flag of the country they are visiting. When a ship flies only its own flag, it is ready to fight.

Every country now has a flag. Every U.S. state has a flag. Clubs, teams, and schools have flags. The Olympics has a flag. The Olympics flag has five rings of five colors. Each ring stands for, or **represents**, a continent. It means that people from five **continents** – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America – come to play.

Railways also have flags. Railway flags tell the trains what to do. For example, a red flag tells the train to stop, just like a stop sign. A blue, white, or green flag tells the train to go. A blue flag on the side of a train means someone is working on the train. It means nobody can move the train.

Questions:

1) The first flags were made of...

- A. wood
- B. cloth
- C. rings
- D. metal

2) How many flags do most ships fly?

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 3

3) The Olympics flag has...

- A. five rings
- B. five colors
- C. five countries
- D. Both A and B are correct.



4) A white flag tells a train that...

- A. it can go.
- B. it should stop.
- C. it has to be careful.
- D. nobody can move the train.

5) People flew the first flags...

- A. less than 2,000 years ago.
- B. about 2,000 years ago.
- C. about 3,000 years ago
- D. more than 4,000 years ago.

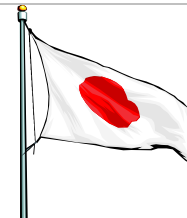
Vocabulary:

1) Another word for **cloth** is...

- A. color.
- B. fabric.
- C. metal.
- D. wood.

2) **Ships** are...

- A. boats.
- B. coins.
- C. flags.
- D. teams.



3) Another way to say **represents** is...

- A. flies.
- B. visits.
- C. works on.
- D. stands for.

4) **Continents** are...

- A. countries.
- B. kinds of games.
- C. large pieces of land.
- D. pictures cut in wood.

5) **Railways** are...

- A. rings.
- B. signs.
- C. sides of trains.
- D. train companies.