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QUEST HOMEWORK - Due _____

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Levi Strauss

ON JANUARY 24, 1848, a man working in northern California found a piece of yellowish rock at a place called Sutter's Mill. Within a year, 300,000 prospectors, soon called "forty-miners," since that's the year most of them arrived, were searching in California to find riches beyond their wildest dreams in what came to be known as the Gold Rush.

Living conditions, however, were not easy. Most men—women who searched for gold were rare—lived in tents in the hills or near rivers. They struggled every day to find the vein of gold that would make them millionaires. Not many did, though. Most of them left poor and tired. However, a few men made their fortunes because of the Gold Rush anyway.

Samuel Brannan supplied the forty-miners with everything they needed to search for gold: horses, shovels, axes, food, and general supplies. In one month, his store sold over \$150,000 worth of mining goods. Philip Armour made enough money in the gold fields to begin his Armour Meat Packing company. James Lick sold chocolate to prospectors, made a fortune in land sales, and when he died, he was the richest

man in California. While you may not have heard of these men, you probably do know Levi Strauss.

Strauss became part of the Gold Rush when he was twenty years old. The Strauss family owned a store in San Francisco that sold clothing, umbrellas, fabric, and other goods to miners. This **venture** made him a little extra money, but it wasn't until 1872 that the company really expanded. The weakest parts of the pants Levi Strauss was making were the pockets. Carrying anything heavy made the seams come undone, so Strauss and a new partner began putting metal rivets in the corners of all the pants pockets. A business legend was born that continues today. When Levi Strauss died in 1902, he left his family a company worth \$6,000,000.

In the twentieth century, many famous people began wearing jeans, and Levi's benefited from this popularity. In 2011, a pair of genuine antique Levi's sold for \$150,000, and that year, Levi's, those simple blue denim jeans, the invention of an immigrant and his partner, grossed over two billion dollars. It is now an international company, but is based in America, and still produces jeans with rivets in them. ●

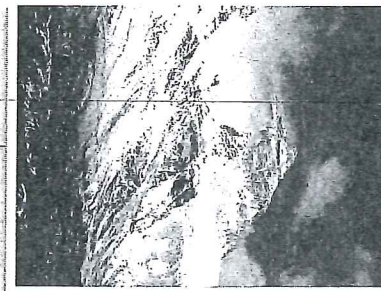
QUESTIONS

- What is the purpose of the final paragraph?
 - to encourage people to sell their antique jeans for lots of money
 - to show how famous celebrities can influence what people buy
 - to show how a small company grew into a large, successful one
 - to detail how any small business can grow into an international business
 - As used in the passage, **venture** most likely means
 - a deal.
 - business.
 - adventure.
 - attempt.
 - What were the people who searched for gold nicknamed?
 - forty-miners
 - miners
 - gold rushers
 - Levi's
 - According to the passage, which statement about the pockets of jeans is correct?
 - They became torn because of the sharp tools the miners used.
 - They were not deep enough to hold the tools miners needed.
 - Gold fell through them, so the pockets were made thicker.
 - The seams ripped due to things the miners carried in them.
 - What is the main purpose of the paragraph that mentions the men who did get rich during the Gold Rush?
 - to show that three men made huge fortunes in California in that time
 - to show that fortunes were not all made from prospecting for gold
 - to show how one person increased his wealth by selling chocolate
 - to show the three men as being very much wiser than the miners were
6. Answer the following question using complete sentences:
The first three paragraphs are about very different topics than the final two are. Explain why you think that might be.

Tenzing Norgay: Man of Everest

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO SURVIVE on top of Mount Everest? Because the mountain is over 29,000 feet high, people weren't sure that a human being would have enough oxygen to breathe at that altitude. No one really knew the answer to that question—until Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealand climber, reached the summit in 1953.

Tenzing Norgay grew up in a valley near Mount Everest, which is located on the border between Nepal and



Tibet in Asia. He was born a Sherpa, a Tibetan tribe that lives in the Himalayas and is well known for providing support for mountain climbing expeditions. Sherpas carry supplies and serve as guides. Norgay was originally named Namgyal Wangdi, but his name was changed when his family took him to visit a Buddhist monastery, and a monk said his name should be changed to Tenzing Norgay, which means "Wealthy Fortunate Follower of Religion."

Norgay always had a fascination with Mount Everest, and by the time he was 39, he had been a part of six expeditions that tried, but never **ascended** to the peak of the world's highest mountain.

In the spring of 1953, he joined a new expedition funded by the British.

The climbers spent many weeks on the mountain getting used to the altitude. They would stay at one camp for

a week or two, move higher, stay there, then climb to an even higher elevation. When they reached the last camp, at over 25,000 feet above sea level, they camped for the final time.

After a severe snowstorm, Norgay and Hillary set off for the summit, stopping now and then to clear ice from the breathing tubes on the oxygen tanks they carried. After overcoming freezing temperatures and fierce winds, they at last reached the summit, where Hillary took photos of Norgay. When questioned later about why Norgay didn't take photos of him, he explained that Tenzing did not know how to operate the camera, and the conditions were too severe for a lesson.

The news of Norgay and Hillary's success made them enormously famous. Although he never learned to write, Norgay could speak several languages and later worked with a writer on a book about his life called *Man of Everest*. Tenzing Norgay died in 1986. ●

QUESTIONS

1. The passage mentions that both Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary reached the summit of Mount Everest. However, the focus is on Norgay. Which statement best describes the author's reason for not including more about Hillary?
 - A. Norgay was more important than Hillary in making the expedition successful.
 - B. Hillary's picture was not taken at the top, so some think he didn't really make it.
 - C. The purpose of the passage is to tell about Tenzing Norgay, not Sir Edmund Hillary.
 - D. Norgay was a stronger climber than Hillary and reached the top first.
2. As used in the passage, what does **ascended** most nearly mean?
 - A. conquered; fought
 - B. moved higher; rose
 - C. investigated; discovered
 - D. dreamt of; imagined
3. Based on the passage, which of the following is true about Norgay?
 - A. He was a Buddhist.
 - B. He was English.
 - C. He died young.
 - D. He had several children.
4. Which of the following can be inferred about Norgay, based on the passage?
 - A. He converted to Christianity in later life.
 - B. He originally wanted to become a farmer.
 - C. He was quite strong and physically fit.
 - D. He studied Buddhist writings at night.
5. Which statement best describes why the author includes the detail about Norgay and Hillary clearing ice from the breathing tubes on the oxygen tanks they carried?
 - A. to show the difficult conditions the two endured on their climb
 - B. to emphasize the importance of oxygen tanks in reaching the top
 - C. to lessen their accomplishment because they had to use oxygen
 - D. to emphasize the weight the two had to carry on their journey
6. Answer the following question using complete sentences:
The passage mentions that Norgay could speak several languages. Based on this fact, what else do you think can be assumed about Norgay?