Port of Call: Cozumel, Mexico

Cozumel, Mexico, is one of the most visited and popular ports of call in the Caribbean! 113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in January 2012! It is Mexico’s largest Caribbean Island and is shown on the picture to the right. Cozumel belongs to the state of Quintana Roo, one of the three Mexican states located on the Yucatan Peninsula.

The island of Cozumel is about 34 miles long and a little less than 11 miles wide. Its largest city, San Miguel de Cozumel, which is shown in the picture above, has a population of about 77,000 people. It is about 12 miles from the mainland (Yucatan Peninsula.) The nearest city on the mainland is Playa del Carmen. From there you can take tours to many nearby attractions, such as the Maya ruins of Tulum, Coba and Muyil. Ferry boats take tourists from Cozumel to Playa del Carmen.
Use the information on page 1 to answer the questions below:

1. Cozumel, Mexico, is one of the most visited and popular ports of call in the Caribbean! 113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in January 2012.

   After reading page one, Carmen wondered how many cruise ships visit Cozumel in one year. She knew there are twelve months in a year. She worked with her study group to estimate the number of ships that visit in a year. Each of her study group members made an estimate and explained their reasoning. Which of the following is the most precise estimate of the number of cruise ships that visit Cozumel in a year? A precise estimate means it is closest to what the actual answer would be.

   A. Maria’s estimate: “I know that 113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in January. I will round 113 to the nearest hundred, which is100 because 113 is closer to 100 than 200. There are 12 months in a year, so I will multiply 100 ships per month X 12 months. My estimate is that 1,200 cruise ships visit Cozumel in a year.”

   B. Shakiya’s estimate: “I know that 113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in a year. I will round 113 to 110 because 113 is closer to 110 than it is to 120. 12 can be expressed as 10 + 2, which makes it easier to estimate. I will multiply 110 X 10 which is 1,100. Next, I will multiply 110 X 2, which is 220. Finally, I will add 1,100 + 220, which is 1,320. My estimate is that about 1,320 ships visit Cozumel in 1 year.

   C. Beth’s estimate: “I know that 113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in January. I will round 12 months to 10 months because 12 is closer to 10 than to 20. Next, I will multiply 10 months X 113 ships per month, which is 1,130. My estimate is that about 1,130 cruise ships visit Cozumel in a year.”

Which estimate is the most precise? _______________________________________

Prove that this estimate is the most precise in the space below:
2. Cozumel is the largest of Mexico’s Caribbean islands. The island of Cozumel is about 34 miles long and a little less than 11 miles wide. Imagine that Cozumel is a rectangle. Draw Cozumel as a rectangle. Label its length and width. Calculate the area of Cozumel. Show all of your work.

3. Cozumel is about 12 miles from the mainland (Yucatan Peninsula.) The nearest city on the mainland is Playa del Carmen. Ferry boats take tourists from Cozumel to Playa del Carmen. A round trip on a ferry boat is from Cozumel Island to Playa del Carmen and back.

How many miles is one round trip from Cozumel to Playa del Carmen?

How many miles would a ferry boat travel if it made 6 round trips a day between Cozumel and Playa del Carmen? (Show two different ways to solve this problem in the space below!)

Use a table to solve:  My other way to solve this problem is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Trips</th>
<th>Miles Traveled round trip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Archeologists believe that the ancient Maya settled on Cozumel about 2,000 years ago. Archeologists have discovered 24 different small Maya ruins on Cozumel. These are short, square buildings. Archeologists have found evidence that Cozumel was a very important stop on Maya sailors’ trade routes. The island produced honey which was used by the ancient Maya because they didn’t have sugar.

Today, all food and many other kinds of products are shipped to Cozumel from mainland Mexico. Cozumel does not have enough land for farmers to raise food to feed the tourists who visit and the people who live there. At the International Pier, you can see very large **ferry boats** unloading trucks full of food and other products. The picture below shows a large truck driving out of a ferry boat. The front of the boat has doors which open. Cars, trucks and vans drive out of the ferry boat on to wide docks. From there, they take food and products to businesses on Cozumel Island.
Cozumel, like many other islands, does not have many sources of freshwater such as lakes and rivers. There are three desalinization plants on the island which make fresh water for the island. **Desalination** means that ocean water, or salt water, is changed into freshwater for people to use for drinking, bathing, watering plants and other uses.

**How Did Cozumel Get Its Name?**

The ancient Maya believed in many different gods and goddesses. They told a story, or myth, about how Cozumel got its name. The goddess Ixchel was honored by the ancient Maya who lived on Cozumel. The ancient Maya built temples in her honor. Because she was pleased with the temples they built, she sent them her favorite bird, the swallow. For this reason, the island was named Cozumel, which means the “Land of the Swallows.”

Directions: Use the information on pages 4 & 5 to figure out the most important ideas on these pages. Write an idea and supporting details that prove it is important on the sticky notes below:
Cozumel’s First Settlers

The Maya people first settled in Cozumel about 2,000 years ago, in 12 A.D. About 300 years later, the island of Cozumel became very important in the Maya world! During this time many Maya people made trips to Cozumel because it was an important religious spot. They believed that the goddess Ixchel lived on the island. There was a shrine to her which can be seen today in the ruins called San Gervaisio. A shrine is a building that is made to honor a god or goddess. Maya people came to the island to pray to the goddess Ixchel and ask her to let them have healthy children. It became a custom for all Maya people to go there at least once during their lifetime. A custom is a practice, or a way of doing something that everyone in a place does in the same way.

Maya Traders on Cozumel

By about 1200 AD, or 900 years ago, the island of Cozumel became a very important stop for the Maya on their trade routes. A trade route is a “road” people travel on to get to different places where they would stop and trade things. Traders knew different villages and towns where they could stop on the route. Some routes were on the land and some were on the ocean. They would travel from the mainland to different islands and back to the mainland. To reach Cozumel, the ancient Maya needed to travel on the sea from the mainland. Traders brought goods to Cozumel from many different places in Mesoamerica. The Maya traded many things, or goods, with each other such as: vanilla, honey, salt, wax, precious and useful stones, shells, pottery, fish and dried meat. The Maya people on Cozumel stored, or kept, these goods on their island for a short time. The goods were then loaded into canoes and sent to other places so that
they could be traded or sold to people who needed or wanted them. Therefore, you could look at Cozumel as a “warehouse of long ago”.

Today, a warehouse is a big building where goods are stored for a short time after they are made, or collected for sale. The picture to the right shows the interior, or inside, of a warehouse where goods are stored in boxes. Semi-trucks and other types of transportation are used to pick up the goods and take them to stores where they are sold to customers.

It is interesting that Cozumel was an important place for Maya traders, because today many of the people on Cozumel make their living selling things to tourists. This is one way that Cozumel is the same today as it was long ago. Ancient Maya “tourists” came to Cozumel long ago to see the shrine of Ixchel. Today, tourists still visit this shrine and others on the island. This is another way that Cozumel was the same long ago as it is today!

Directions: Authors organize text in different ways to help readers best understand the information they are writing about. Text can be organized using these structures: chronological (in time order), compare/contrast; cause/effect, or problem/solution.

A. Decide how the author has organized the text on pages 6 and 7.
B. Next, answer the questions below and on the next page:

1. In what two ways has the author organized the text on pages 6 and 7?

2. How do you know?
3. What is the most important thing that the author wants you to know about Cozumel on pages 6 and 7?

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4. Explain how Cozumel was like a warehouse for Maya traders of long ago:

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5. Why do you think that trade routes were important for the ancient Maya? Use details from text to support your answer.

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6. Why did it become a custom for all Maya people to go to Cozumel at least once in their lifetime? Use details from the text to support your answer.

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Spanish Explorers Come to Cozumel

Early in the 1500’s people from Spain came to Cuba and settled there. **Diego Velasquez** came to the “New World” or the Americas, with Christopher Columbus on his second journey from Spain in 1493. He stayed behind and settled on the Island of Hispaniola, which today is made up of the two countries of **Haiti** and the **Dominican Republic** (Santo Dominigo).

In 1511, Velasquez conquered **Cuba**. The word **conquered** means that he fought with the people who lived there and took over the island. After this, Velasquez helped build three big cities there: Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba and Havana. By 1515, he became the governor of Cuba.

In 1517, Velasquez sent **Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba** to explore lands to the west of Cuba. Hernandez de Cordoba “discovered” the **Yucatan Peninsula**, and most likely landed on **Cozumel** during that journey. Cordoba and his men fought with some of the people living in the Yucatan peninsula. Cordoba was badly injured in the fight. He sailed back to Cuba and died ten days later. Governor Velazquez was interested with the discoveries Hernandez de Cordoba had made on his journey. He wanted to find out more about these places.
Next, he sent his nephew, Juan de Grijalva, with a fleet of four ships and 300 men to explore the Yucatan Peninsula and part of the Southeast coast of Mexico.

On April 8, 1518, **Juan de Grijalva** (gree-hal-ba) started his journey. 18 days later, the fleet reached the island of Cozumel. Grijalva’s fleet stopped there and was welcomed by the Maya ruler of the island. Grijalva named the island, Isla de la Santa Cruz, or Island of the Holy Cross, because he landed there on May 3, Holy Cross Day. He also **claimed** that the island belonged to the King and Queen of Spain because he had “discovered” it. Grijalva sailed on and explored the Yucatan peninsula.

**Hernan Cortes** was the next explorer to come to the island. He arrived in 1519 with his army. The Maya ruler treated him peacefully, even when Cortes destroyed some of the temples on the island. The Maya people helped the Spanish get food and water for their ships so they could continue their journey. About 10,000 Maya lived on the island at this time.

In 1520, when the next Spanish explorer, **Panfilo Narvaez** stopped at the island, some of his men were sick with small pox. People who had small pox had fevers and got infected bumps all over their bodies. Many people died from small pox. The Maya became sick and thousands of them died from the disease. By 1570, only 358 Maya people were left alive on Cozumel.
Directions: The information on pages 9 & 10 is organized in **chronological**, or time-order. A **time line** is used to show the most important events that happen in chronological order. Use the information to create a **timeline**. Write the most **important event** that happened for **each year** in its box. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Diego Velasquez sailed from Spain to the New World with Columbus. He stayed behind and settled on the island of Hispaniola.
1. Imagine you are a Spanish Explorer. Reread the article on pages 9 & 10. Write how you feel and what you think about the Spanish Explorers coming to Cozumel and the Yucatan Peninsula. Use evidence from the text to support your point of view: (Use the back of the sheet for more room).

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**Point of view** is how someone feels about information, or an event that has happened based on what they know or have experienced. **History is usually written from the point of view of the group of people the author belongs to.** For example, the Mayans and the Spanish might have very different points of view about the Spanish Explorers who came to Cozumel, Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula.

**Directions:**
1. Work with a partner. Choose who will be the Spanish Explorer and who will be the native person living in Cuba, Cozumel or the Yucatan Peninsula.
2. Discuss the article together from each point of view using evidence from the text.
3. One partner will do Task 1 and the other will do Task 2.
2. Imagine you are a **person living on Cozumel, Cuba, or the Yucatan Peninsula when the Spanish explorers came.** Reread the article on pages 9 & 10. Write how you feel and what you think about the Spanish Explorers coming to Cozumel and the Yucatan Peninsula. Use evidence from the text to support your point of view.

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Pirate Port to Port of Call!

The next people to come to Cozumel were pirates. From the 1600s to the 1800s pirates used Cozumel as a “base.” Henry Morgan and Jean Lafitte were two of the most famous pirates that are said to have used Cozumel as a base. Pirates attacked ships that sailed from other places near the island.

In 1848, people returned to Cozumel and began to settle there again. They came to the island to be safe from wars that were occurring on the mainland of Mexico. Cozumel once again became an important port.

During the Second World War, the United States built an airport on Cozumel. They used the airport to send troops to Cozumel so that they could search for submarines that might be in the ocean near America. Navy divers came back to the United States and told about the beautiful clear waters and the colorful coral reefs that were in them.

Finally, in 1960, the famous diver, Jacques Cousteau (Jock Coo-stow) discovered the beauty of the coral reefs around Cozumel. He told the world about how wonderful these were. By 1970, Cozumel became a famous place to go diving and its population started to grow. People started building hotels, restaurants and shops for the tourists who came there to dive. They also made a much bigger and more modern, or up-to-date, airport than Cozumel had in the past. When this happened, many more tourists were able to come to Cozumel.

In the 1990’s, a deep water pier was built so that cruise ships could dock there. Cozumel became a popular stop for cruise ships. Today about 80,000 people live on the island and it is one of the most important ports of call in the world!
Directions: Use the information on page 14 to figure out the most important ideas on this page. Write an idea and supporting details that prove it is important on the sticky notes below. On the last sticky note, tell the main idea of page 14. Explain why you chose this as the main idea.

Important Idea

Supporting details

Important Idea

Supporting details

Important Idea

Supporting details

Important Idea

Supporting details

Main Idea

Why I chose this as the main idea:
## Vocabulary Work Page

Name: __________________________

Directions: Use pages 1-14 to fill in the charts below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition Given by Author in Text, or the meaning I figured out</th>
<th>My Picture Showing What the Word Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desalination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Route</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custom</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word</td>
<td>Definition Given by Author in Text, or the meaning I figured out</td>
<td>My Picture Showing What the Word Means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conquered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small pox</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:** 4a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
Answer Keys:

Pages 2 & 3: Math Problems:

1. Cruise ships per year estimate:
   Which estimate is the **most precise**? Shakiya’s Estimate of 1,320 cruise ships per year

   **Prove** that this estimate is the **most precise** in the space below:

   113 cruise ships visited Cozumel in January. If the same number visit each of 12 months, there would be 113 X 12 cruise ships per year. 113 X 12 = 1,356
   Shakiya estimates 1,320. This is closer to the actual answer than 1,200 or 1,130.

2. Cozumel is the largest of Mexico’s Caribbean islands. The island of Cozumel is about 34 miles long and a little less than 11 miles wide. Imagine that Cozumel is a rectangle. Draw Cozumel as a rectangle. Label its length and width. Calculate the area of Cozumel. Show all of your work.

   \[ 34 \times 11 = 374 \]
   OR…..
   \[ 34 \times 10 = 340 \]
   \[ 34 \times 1 = 34 \]
   \[ 340 + 34 = 374 \text{ square miles} \]

3. How many miles is one round trip from Cozumel to Playa del Carmen?
   \[ 12 + 12 = 24 \]

   How many miles would a ferry boat travel if it made 6 round trips a day between Cozumel and Playa del Carmen? (Show two different ways to solve this problem in the space below!)

   **Use a table to solve:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Trips</th>
<th>Miles Traveled round trip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   **My other way to solve this problem is:**
   \[ 24 \times 6 = 144 \quad \text{or} \quad 20 \times 6 = 120, 4 \times 6 = 24 \]
   \[ 120 + 24 = 144 \]
Page 5: Nonfiction: Key Ideas and details: (Answers will vary)
Suggested answers:
1. **Important Idea:** Archeologists believe the ancient Maya settled on Cozumel about 2,000 years ago.
   **Supporting details:** Scientists have discovered 24 small Maya ruins on the island. Cozumel was an important stop on sailor’s trade routes.
2. **Important Idea:** All food and many other products are shipped to Cozumel from the mainland.
   **Supporting details:** Not enough land to raise enough food to feed all people. Ferry boats bring large trucks full of food and products.
3. **Important Idea:** Desalination plants are needed to make freshwater on the island.
   **Supporting details:** There are 3 desalination plants on the island. Cozumel doesn’t have sources of freshwater: rivers, lakes
4. **Important Idea:** The Maya told a myth about how Cozumel got its name
   **Supporting details:** They built temples to honor Ixchel. She sent them her favorite bird - a swallow. They named the island Cozumel – land of the swallows.

Page 7 and 8: Nonfiction: Craft and Structure; Key Ideas and details: (Answers will vary)

1. **In what two ways has the author organized the text on pages 6 and 7?**
   **Answer:** The text is organized in chronological order and also using compare/contrast.

2. **How do you know? Answer:** The text starts at 12 AD and continues to present day Cozumel. The author compares Cozumel of long ago to Cozumel today. Therefore the text is organized in chronological order, and also by compare/contrast.

3. **What is the most important thing that the author wants you to know about Cozumel on pages 6 and 7?**
   **Answer:** Cozumel of long ago and Cozumel today are alike in two important ways: People make their living selling things to other people (tourists) and tourists came to Cozumel long ago and still visit there today.

4. **Explain how Cozumel was a like a warehouse for Maya traders of long ago:**
   **Answer:** A warehouse is a place where things to be sold are gathered together and stored until they can be sent to businesses and stores that will sell them to customers. The Maya stored things to be traded on Cozumel and then shipped them off to other places in canoes so they could be traded for other valuable items, or things.

5. **Why do you think that trade routes were important for the ancient Maya? Use details from text to support your answer. **
   **Answer:** Trade routes were like roads that the ancient Maya traveled on both land and sea. There were towns or villages that traders stopped at to trade things with each other along the way. “Traders brought goods to Cozumel from many different places in Mesoamerica. The Maya traded many
things, or goods, with each other such as: vanilla, honey, salt, wax, precious and useful stones, shells, pottery, fish and dried meat.” People in different places needed and wanted things they didn’t have in the place where they lived, so trade routes were important.

6. Why did it become a custom for all Maya people to go to Cozumel at least once in their lifetime? Use details from the text to support your answer. Answer: The ancient Maya believed that the goddess Ixchel lived on Cozumel. They believed that if they prayed to the goddess Ixchel, they would have healthy children. They traveled to Cozumel so they could pray to her because having healthy children was important to them.

Page 11: Nonfiction: Craft and Structure; Key Ideas and details: (Answers will vary)

1493
Diego Velasquez sailed from Spain to the New World with Columbus. He stayed behind and settled on the island of Hispaniola.

1511
Diego Velasquez conquered Cuba.

1515
Diego Velasquez became the governor of Cuba. He helped build three important cities on the island.

1517
He sent Hernando de Cordoba to explore the lands west of Cuba. Hernandez de Cordoba “discovered” the Yucatan Peninsula, and most likely landed on Cozumel.

1518
Juan de Grijalva sailed from Cuba with a fleet of four ships. He “discovered” Cozumel, named it Isla de la Santa Cruz, and claimed it belonged to the King and Queen of Spain.

1519
Hernan Cortez came to island with is army and destroyed some of the Maya temples there. They treated him well and even helped him by giving him food and water so he could continue his journey.

1520
Panfilo Narvaez stopped at the island with his men. Some were sick with small pox. The Maya caught the disease and many died. The population went from 10,000 people to 358 by 1570.
Page 15: Non-fiction Text: Key Ideas and Details

1. **Important Idea:** From the 1600s to the 1800s pirates used Cozumel as a “base.”
   **Supporting details:** They attacked ships they came near the island. Henry Morgan and Jean Lafitte were two important pirates they say used Cozumel as a base.

2. **Important Idea:** In 1848, people returned to Cozumel and began to settle there again.
   **Supporting details:** People came there to get away from wars in Mexico. Cozumel became an important port again.

3. **Important Idea:** The United States built an airport during World War II.
   **Supporting details:** Sent troops there to look for submarines, divers practiced there

4. **Important Idea:** Jacques Cousteau came to Cozumel in 1960 to dive the coral reefs and told everyone how beautiful they were.
   **Supporting details:** Divers came to Cozumel to see the coral reefs. Cozumel built a better airport. Tourists came to Cozumel.

5. **Important Idea:** In the 1990s they built a deep water pier.
   **Supporting details:** Cruise ships came to Cozumel. It became a world-famous port of call. 80,000 people live on the island today.

6. **Main Idea:** Over time many different people came to Cozumel and each group helped it become a world famous port of call today.
   **Why I chose this as the main idea:** Each group of people did something different to help make Cozumel important.