

Informational Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about “The History of the Candle.”

1. This passage is *mostly* about:
- a. the use of candles to provide heat
 - b. the modern usage of candles
 - c. the ways ancient people made candles**
 - d. the best ways of making candles

2. How were rushlights different from candles?

Rushlights looked like flaming torches, and they weren't coated in wax.

3. Fill in the chart with the substances used to make early candles in each area.

Egypt	reeds and animal fat
Rome	papyrus, beeswax, and tallow
China	rice paper, insects, seeds
Japan	tree nuts
India	fruit of cinnamon trees
Europe	beeswax and tallow

4. What is a likely reason why people in different places used different materials for making candles?

People in different parts of the world used resources that were available in their local area.

5. What were three problems with tallow candles?

1. **Tallow smelled bad.**
2. **Tallow candles made lots of smoke.**
3. **Tallow candles melted quickly.**

6. Choose two ways modern candles have improved from candles of the past.

- They smell good.
- They provide light.
- They burn cleanly.
- They are festive.

7. Read the sentence from paragraph 4.

Interestingly, traditional beeswax candles are still popular and have stood the test of time.

Using the information from the entire passage, what does the phrase “stood the test of time” mean in this context?

The phrase “stood the test of time” means that beeswax candles have stayed in use for many, many years.

8. Which of the following text features would best support the information detailed in the text?

- a. a timeline of lighting inventions
- b. a graph of the most popular candle scents
- c. a diagram of an Egyptian rushlight
- d. a map showing different resources used for candles**

9. Light plays an important part in many ceremonies, often through the use of candles, lamps, or fire. Name some ceremonies or celebrations you know of where light plays an important role. **Answers will vary.**

The carrying of the Olympic torch, birthday candles, Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Lunar New Year