Name: Date: Score: / 6

Hot Air Balloons: Reading Comprehension

Nonfiction: Science · about 145 words

Read the passage. Then answer each question. Circle the best answer or write your answer on the lines.

Hot Air Balloons

A hot air balloon floats because hot air is lighter than cool air. The big cloth bag at the top is called the envelope. Under it hangs a basket where the pilot and passengers ride. Between them is a burner that shoots out a powerful flame.

When the pilot turns on the burner, it heats the air inside the envelope. The hot air rises and lifts the balloon off the ground. To come down, the pilot lets the air cool or opens a vent at the top to let some hot air escape.

A balloon cannot be steered like an airplane. It goes wherever the wind blows. But wind moves in different directions at different heights. A skilled pilot rises or sinks to find the wind going the right way. Every October, hundreds of balloons fill the sky at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in New Mexico.

1. **Main idea:** What is this passage mostly about?
   A. how to sew cloth B. how hot air balloons work C. the weather in New Mexico
   D. how airplanes are steered

2. **Detail:** Why does a hot air balloon float?
   A. It is filled with water. B. It has wings. C. Hot air is lighter than cool air. D. It is pulled by a rope.

3. **Vocabulary:** The envelope of a balloon is...
   A. a letter B. the big cloth bag at the top C. the basket D. the burner

4. **Detail:** How does the pilot bring the balloon down?
   A. adds more fire B. turns the wheel C. lets the air cool or opens a vent D. jumps out

5. **Inference:** How does a pilot choose which way the balloon goes?
   A. by flapping the envelope B. by using a steering wheel C. by asking passengers to paddle
   D. by rising or sinking to find wind moving the right way

6. **Detail:** Where is a famous balloon festival held every October?

ANSWER KEY

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