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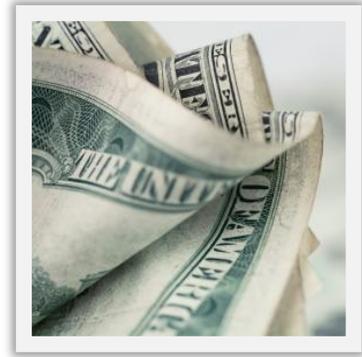
• Reading Comprehension Assessment

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

“Paper” Money

If you were to look in your wallet right now, you might be lucky enough to find some money. Even though credit and debit cards are more popular than ever, most people still carry around a few bills with them. Paper money is something we are all familiar with, but is it really made out of paper?

Regular paper is made out of wood cellulose, which is a product that comes from trees. Paper-makers mix chemicals with the wood to break it down into cellulose fibers. Machines then press these fibers together and roll them into thin sheets to create the material we call paper. When paper gets wet, the cellulose fibers become very weak. This can cause most paper to completely fall apart when it is wet.



Paper money is not made out of this material. Think about the last time you found a dollar in the pocket of pants that went through the washing machine. The dollar was probably a bit wrinkled, but it did not completely fall apart because it got wet.

Money is not made from the same paper that you write on. It is made out of something called “rag paper.” Rag paper is a mixture of 75% cotton and 25% linen. Cotton and linen fibers do not become weak when they get wet. They are much stronger than cellulose fibers. Unlike regular paper, money can be folded many times without causing serious damage to the bill. According to a U.S. Government blog, “it takes about 4,000 double folds (first forward and then backwards) before a paper bill will tear.” The material that money is made out of is much stronger and much more **durable** than regular paper.

1) According to the passage, if money were made of regular paper, it would

- I. fall apart when it got wet
- II. tear easily when it was folded
- III. be made out of wood cellulose

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

2) According to the passage, rag paper

- A. falls apart when it is wet
- B. comes from trees
- C. is mostly made of cotton
- D. is not very different than the paper you write on

- 3) The author's main purpose for including the quotation from the U.S. Government blog in the last paragraph is most likely to
- A. show how much stronger money is than regular paper
 - B. explain the correct way to fold money
 - C. describe what happens when money gets wet
 - D. convince readers to be more careful with their money
- 4) As used in the final paragraph the word **durable** most nearly belongs to which of the following word groups?
- A. expensive, costly, pricey
 - B. tough, long-lasting, sturdy
 - C. cheap, low-cost, inexpensive
 - D. safe, harmless, not dangerous
- 5) Based on the information in the passage, explain the difference between regular paper and rag paper in your own words.

- 6) How do you feel about "paper" money in general? Do you like how it looks and feels? Do you prefer coins or plastic cards? Why? Explain your feelings below.

1) D

Question Type: Global

In paragraph 2, the author says that regular paper is made out of cellulose fibers. The author explains that “when paper gets wet, the cellulose fibers become very weak. This can cause most paper to completely fall apart when it is wet.” Therefore, if money were made out of regular paper, it would fall apart when it got wet. This supports **option (I)**. In the final paragraph, the author says that “unlike regular paper, money can be folded many times without causing serious damage to the bill.” The author then presents evidence that money can be folded 4,000 times before it will tear. The material that money is made out of can be folded without tearing. Therefore, if money were made out of regular paper, it would tear easily when it was folded. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 2, the author says that regular paper is “made out of wood cellulose, which is a product that comes from trees.” The author explains that paper makers use machines to turn the wood cellulose into paper. Regular paper is made from wood cellulose. Therefore, if money were made out of regular paper, it would also be made out of wood cellulose. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

2) C

Question Type: Detail

In the final paragraph, the author says: “money is not made from the same paper that you write on. It is made out of something called ‘rag paper.’ Rag paper is a mixture of 75% cotton and 25% linen.” Since 75% of rag paper is cotton, we can see that rag paper is mostly cotton. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In the final paragraph, the author states that “cotton and linen fibers do not become weak when they get wet.” Since rag paper is made out of cotton and linen, it does not fall apart when it gets wet. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author says that regular paper is “made out of wood cellulose, which is a product that comes from trees.” Money is not made out of regular paper. Money is made out of rag paper, which is made out of cotton and linen. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author says: “money is not made from the same paper that you write on.” Money is made from rag paper, which is 75% cotton and 25% linen. Regular paper is made out of wood cellulose. Rag paper is much stronger than regular paper. They are different materials. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) A

Question Type: Inference

In the last paragraph, the author says that paper bills are made from cotton and linen, which are “much stronger than cellulose fibers.” Because cotton and linen are strong, “money can be folded many times without causing serious damage to the bill.” The author then provides a quotation from a U.S. Government blog that says: “it takes about 4,000 double folds (first forward and then backwards) before a paper bill will tear.” Because you can fold a bill 4,000 times before it tears, money is stronger than regular paper. Thus, this quotation shows that money is stronger than regular paper. Therefore, **(A)** is correct. Although the quotation does discuss folding money, it does not try to teach readers the correct way to fold money. The quotation does not actually mention any specific way to fold money. Based on the above information, we can see that the quotation is used to show how much stronger money is than regular paper. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. Although the final paragraph does discuss what happens to money when it gets wet, the quotation from the U.S. Government blog is not about what happens to money when it gets wet. Based on the above information, we can see that the quotation is used to show how much stronger money is than regular paper. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The quotation does not try to convince people to be more careful with their money. In fact, the quotation shows that money is fairly strong, as it can be folded 4,000 times without tearing. Based on the above information, we can see that the quotation is used to show how much stronger money is than regular paper. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

4) B

Question Type: Vocabulary

durable (*adjective*): able to withstand damage, pain, or pressure; sturdy or long-lasting; hardy; tough.

In the final paragraph, the author writes: “the material that money is made out of is much stronger and much more durable than regular paper.” We can use context clues—hints from known words or phrases around the unknown word or phrase—to help us figure out what the word durable most nearly means. The author says that the material money is made of is stronger than regular paper. In the final paragraph, the author tells us that money is made out of cotton and linen, which are “much stronger” than the “cellulose fibers” that make up regular paper. Rag paper can get wet without being destroyed and can be folded without tearing. The material money is made out of is stronger and lasts longer than regular paper. Based on this information, we can see that we are looking for words that mean tough or long-lasting. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Based on the above information, we can see that we are looking for words that mean tough or long-lasting. Expensive, costly, and pricey do not mean tough or long-lasting. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Based on the above information, we can see that we are looking for words that mean tough or long-lasting. Cheap, low-cost, and inexpensive do not mean tough or long-lasting. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. Based on the above information, we can see that we are looking for words that mean tough or long-lasting. Safe, harmless, and not dangerous do not mean tough or long-lasting. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.