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## *Soldiers in Stirrups*

- 1 A long time ago, soldiers fought wars on foot. Then they began to ride horses to battle. Until the invention of the stirrup, though, men could not fight well with swords or spears while on horseback.
- 2 Without stirrups, soldiers had no place to put their feet. They could not stand up to use their swords without falling off their horses. They could throw spears only with the force of their arms.
- 3 Using stirrups, a soldier could stand up in his saddle. He could put a spear under the top part of his arm and charge with the force

of his horse. He could use force when fighting with a sword. And he could win most fights against soldiers who did not use stirrups.

- 4 The first stirrups were made in India. Because the weather was warm, people did not wear shoes. The Indian stirrup was made of rope. It fit around the big toes. Later, the Chinese made a foot stirrup of wood. Because the Chinese lived in a colder country, the stirrup had to fit around shoes. Still later, around A.D. 700, soldiers in Asia used strong iron foot stirrups.

1. Stirrups were first made in
  - a. China.
  - b. Japan.
  - c. India.
  - d. Korea.
2. The word in paragraph 3 that means *to attack* or *to rush into battle* is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The words “made of rope” in paragraph 4 tell about the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The story does not say so, but it makes you think that stirrups were invented before
  - a. saddles.
  - b. guns.
  - c. rope.
5. Around A.D. 700, the soldiers in Asia used stirrups made of
  - a. wood.
  - b. rope.
  - c. shoes.
  - d. iron.
6. Wars were first fought on horseback.  
Yes                      No                      Does not say
7. On the whole, this story is about
  - a. the soldiers in warm and cold countries.
  - b. an invention that changed man’s way of fighting wars.
  - c. how to throw a spear.
8. How did the stirrup help soldiers fight better? (Check the story again.)
  - a. They could now stand in their saddles to throw spears.
  - b. They looked better when they were using stirrups.
  - c. Horses were safer.
9. Which of these sentences do you think is right?
  - a. There were no wars 2,000 years ago.
  - b. Men were fighting 2,000 years ago.
  - c. War is something new.

## *A Different Kind of Beauty*

- 1 Japan is made up of a chain of islands that lie off the coast of Asia. People came to live in Japan from the nearby countries of China and Korea. From these older countries, the Japanese borrowed ideas, inventions, and habits.
- 2 For many years, the Japanese built buildings like those in China. They dressed like the Chinese. From China came their way of writing and their habit of drinking tea.
- 3 In more recent times, the Japanese have borrowed from the United States. They have a government like ours. They do much work in science, as we do. Baseball is a favorite sport in Japan, just as it is here.
- 4 Things change when they come to Japan. The Japanese improve on almost everything they borrow. The art of garden-making came from Korea or China, but Japanese gardens are special. Each garden has a waterfall, a pond, and small bridges. There are few flowers in Japanese gardens. But the gardens are green during all seasons because they have many evergreens. Japanese gardens have a different kind of beauty.

1. The Japanese borrowed ideas from
  - a. South America.
  - b. Canada.
  - c. England.
  - d. China.
2. The word in paragraph 4 that means *to make better* is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The words “green during all seasons” in paragraph 4 describe the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The story does not say so, but it makes you think that
  - a. Japanese gardens are different from Chinese gardens.
  - b. Japan is older than China.
  - c. the Japanese cannot grow crops because their soil is poor.
5. Each Japanese garden has
  - a. many flowers.
  - b. few evergreens.
  - c. a pond.
  - d. vegetables.
6. Things change when they come to Japan.
 

Yes	No	Does not say
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7. On the whole, this story is about
  - a. the Japanese.
  - b. tea.
  - c. clothing.
8. Why do the Japanese change the things that they borrow? (Check the story again.)
  - a. They don't like them the way they are.
  - b. They try to make them better.
  - c. They want visitors to like their changes.
9. Which of these sentences do you think is right?
  - a. There are few gardens in Japan.
  - b. Peoples from many countries came to live in Japan.
  - c. The Japanese invented the habit of drinking tea.