

**EXERCISE 2**

*Context Clues* 

**Directions.** Scan the definitions in Column A. Then, think about how the boldface words are used in the sentences in Column B. To complete the exercise, match each definition in Column A with the correct Vocabulary Word from Column B. Write the letter of your choice on the line provided. Finally, write the Vocabulary Word on the line before the definition.

**COLUMN A**

**COLUMN B**

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* likely to be true or to happen

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* without pity; cruel; hardhearted

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* a sudden, widespread outbreak, usually of an infectious disease; *adj.* breaking out and spreading quickly

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*n.* an indefinitely great or vast number; *adj.* countless, innumerable

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* causing horror, shock, or dismay

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* having to do with love or adventure; appealing to the imagination; fanciful and unrealistic; *n.* a person who demonstrates these qualities

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* high in rank or reputation; distinguished; outstanding or noteworthy

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* suggesting a picture; strikingly vivid; charming or quaint to look at

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* done on purpose; deliberate

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. word: \_\_\_\_\_

*adj.* easily spread from person to person

(A) In California, the native peoples escaped the worst of the great **epidemics** of 1781 and 1837, which swept from the eastern seaboard to the Rocky Mountains.

(B) For the **romantic**, California offered a fanciful, ideal view of American Indians. There, peoples who spoke perhaps twenty different dialects lived mostly in peace.

(C) A **myriad** of sources fed their needs. Seafood was plentiful, as were game, edible plants, and nuts.

(D) Before the explorers came, it is **probable** that the population of California totalled as many as 350,000 people.

(E) Yet, by about 1839, there was an **appalling**, or shocking, decline in the population. By that time, only approximately 20,000 people remained.

(F) Despite outbreaks of malaria, a disease that spreads quickly, many of the dead were not victims of **contagious** illnesses.

(G) Many American Indians were the victims of the **ruthless**, or hardhearted, greed that swept in with the gold rush.

(H) Gold seekers knowingly killed many. These **intentional** murders allowed the prospectors to claim any lands they wanted.

(I) The **eminent** anthropologist Theodora Kroeber wrote a book about Ishi, the last of the Yana people. Many people have read her book *Ishi in Two Worlds*.

(J) The book is a **picturesque** portrait of a survivor of a lost culture. Scenes from the book linger in one's mind.

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8th Grade

**EXERCISE 3**

*Like Meanings and Opposite Meanings* 

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the same, or about the same, as the boldface word.

**21. epidemic unhappiness**

- (A) widespread
- (B) foolish
- (C) youthful
- (D) out-of-date

**24. myriad stars**

- (A) sparkling
- (B) countless
- (C) far away
- (D) brilliant

**22. contagious ideas**

- (A) catching
- (B) brilliant
- (C) impractical
- (D) interesting

**25. that picturesque scene**

- (A) country
- (B) charming
- (C) historic
- (D) ancient

**23. romantic ideas**

- (A) musical
- (B) comic
- (C) adventurous
- (D) serious

**Directions.** For each item below, circle the letter of the choice that means the opposite, or about the opposite, of the boldface word.

**26. ruthless attitude**

- (A) plentiful
- (B) negative
- (C) hardhearted
- (D) merciful

**29. the eminent historian**

- (A) skillful
- (B) young
- (C) unknown
- (D) famous

**27. probable cause**

- (A) chief
- (B) usual
- (C) unlikely
- (D) only

**30. appalling news**

- (A) surprising
- (B) expected
- (C) sad
- (D) delightful

**28. their intentional act**

- (A) cruel
- (B) accidental
- (C) kind
- (D) official