

6: Berries in the Bog

Are cranberries a fruit? The red, tart **orbs** are definitely berries, but they are raised more like fish. Confused? Don't be. Cranberries grow in bogs in northern parts of the United States and in Canada. Bogs are natural or artificial areas that flood and drain on a regular basis. Cranberry farmers have learned how to **manipulate** the amount of water to get the best **yields** of this seasonal treat.

Cranberries are similar to blueberries in some ways. They grow on plants that have woody stems, and they both like acidic, sandy soil. Cranberries are also similar to strawberries. Both strawberries and cranberries send out stems along the ground. These stems are called runners. The next year, branches grow out from the runners, which bud and produce the tart fruit.

Cranberries are all alone when it comes to living in a bog. Farmers pump out extra water from the bog when it rains **excessively**. However, when winter is on its way, cranberry growers add water. Because the thick water cover doesn't freeze completely, it **insulates** the plants lying on the bottom of the bog from harsh weather. In the springtime, farmers pump the water back out.

Farmers also flood the bogs with about six inches of water to make the fall harvest easier. The fruit floats to the top. Mechanical harvesters scoop up the fruit without damaging it. Without water, the berries would bruise. In fact, water is so important to raising cranberries that only fish growers need more water to farm!

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Context Clues (1.B)

1. What does the word **orbs** mean?

- A Fish
- B Spheres
- C Runners
- D Bogs

Synonyms/Antonyms (1.D)

2. Which of the following words is a **SYNONYM** for **manipulate**?

- A Drain
- B Remove
- C Control
- D Pump

Multiple-Meaning Words (1.C)

3. In this passage, the word **yields** means—

- A gives in
- B grants
- C crop returns
- D submits

Context Clues (1.B)

4. What does the word **excessively** mean?

- A Gently
- B Completely
- C In springtime
- D Too much

Context Clues (1.B)

5. In this passage, the word **insulates** means—

- A protects from the cold
- B completely freezes
- C pumps out
- D scoops out

Facts/Details (II.A)

6. The stems that cranberry plants send out along the ground are known as—
- A buds
 - B branches
 - C insulators
 - D runners

Main Idea (III.A)

7. This passage is mostly about—
- A why people enjoy eating cranberries
 - B how cranberries are raised and harvested
 - C how farmers change water levels in cranberry bogs
 - D why cranberries must be harvested in the springtime

Cause/Effect (IV.A)

8. Farmers flood the cranberry bogs during the harvest so the cranberries—
- A retain their red color
 - B stay fresh
 - C will not be bruised
 - D will not get too cold

Connect/Compare/Contrast (IV.C)

9. The author states that growing cranberries is like raising fish because—
- A cranberry farmers change the water level in bogs
 - B both cranberry farming and fishing take place in the northern U.S. and in Canada
 - C both processes require a great deal of water
 - D both cranberries and fish are raised in bogs

Inferences (V.A)

10. What would probably happen if farmers did not change the water level in the cranberry bogs?
- A The cranberry plants would become too big.
 - B The cranberries would float on top of the water.
 - C The cranberry plants would not produce as much fruit.
 - D The cranberry plants would only grown in the springtime.

Author's Point of View (VI.C)

11. Based on the information about cranberries included in this passage, the author seems to be—
- A uninterested
 - B uninformed
 - C ignorant
 - D knowledgeable

Facts/Details (II.A)

12. Complete the diagram below by listing facts and details from the passage that support the main idea written in the circle.



