Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Elephants

**Directions:** *Read the following passage and annotated key points and make comments in the margin about how the different points relate to each other and what inference one can make from the article. Underline or circle or cross out material, which ever method works best for you. Make sure you have marked at least nine areas. Put the number of the question that the material will help you answer.*

*The passage below is followed by questions based on its content. Answer the questions on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.*

In the early morning light, the large gray forms moved slowly, deliberately, and nearly silently along a well-worn path amongst lava boulders and small thorny Balanite trees. They walked in single file with a large female with upcurved tusks at the lead, many calves of varying sizes and ages along with more adult females at the rear. Behind them rose the overwhelmingly dominant feature of the landscape—the 19,340-foot snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro. The elephants headed north, away from the mountain; they walked without stopping to rest or feed, as if they had an appointment at a prearranged place.

Eventually they emerged into a habitat of open pan with no trees and little other vegetation. Here the quiet *sluff*, *sluff* of their feet kicked up the fine alkaline dust and their outlines became hazy. They did not linger here either, but continued on until abruptly dry, bare ground gave way to lush, green vegetation interspersed with open water dotted with and surrounded by myriad water birds: ducks, geese, ibises, herons, cranes, plovers, jacanas, and many more. Other animals gathered along the edge of the swamp: zebras, wildebeests, reedbucks, waterbucks, and buffaloes. The elephants kept on their course, ignoring these smaller species, who stepped discreetly out of the way.

On reaching the swamp, the elephants spread out. Some began to feed immediately while still walking, snatching up large mouthfuls of the dark, green *Cynodon dactylon* grass, others continued on a straight course, and all arrived together at a channel of clear running water. Each of the adult females dipped the tip of her trunk into the stream, sucked the water up into her trunk, lifted her head up and back, placed the trunk in her mouth, and let the water flow back down her trunk and down her throat while swallowing at the same time. Most of the calves used the same technique, but one young calf was not yet adept with his trunk, and he knelt down and drank with his mouth.

When they finished drinking some went on into the swamp and started feeding in earnest, while others walked over to a depression where a mud wallow had formed. The adults splashed themselves with the dark, glutinous mud by first picking it up in the curve of their trunks and then flinging it onto their chest, back, sides, and heads. The mud hitting their bodies made a slapping sound. Soon they turned from a light gray to a mostly glistening black. The calves, showing less restraint, waded right into the wallow and flopped down on their sides and them writhed and wriggled in the mud until one side, including head, ears, and eyes, was completely covered in mud. Then they sat up and flopped over to the other side. Young calves took the opportunity to climb on the older ones as soon as they were down, and in the process, got covered in mud themselves. Eventually there was a great heap of youngsters completely filling the mud wallow. Slowly they disentangled themselves and struggled out of the mud wallow, slipping and sliding up the small bank.

1. In line 10 “habitat most nearly means

(A) house

(B) habitual

(C) characteristic

(D) environment

(E) abode

2. In line 14, “interspersed” most nearly means

(A) scattered

(B) intruded

(C) uninvited

(D) covered

(E) occurred

3. In line 14, “myriad” most nearly means

(A) countless

(B) few

(C) mosaic

(D) variety

(E) wild

4. The primary focus of the passage is on the

(A) survival of elephants

(B) journey of an elephant family

(C) watering habits of elephants

(D) life of the African elephant

(E) geographical features of Kilimanjaro

5. According to the passage, the peak of Kilimanjaro

(A) overshadows the Balanites trees

(B) was the elephants’ destination

(C) was one stop along the elephants’ journey

(D) dominates the landscape

(E) is rich with lush vegetation

6. It can be inferred from the passage that the technique of drinking water is

(A) known by elephant calves at birth

(B) practiced differently by male and female elephants

(C) practiced by the young elephant calves

(D) only enjoyed by the adult elephants

(E) know only by the adults

7. It can be inferred from the passage that the author

(A) is bewildered by the behavior of the elephants

(B) has observed the habits and habitat of the elephants

(C) traveled in Africa

(D) is enthusiastic about her subject matter

(E) fears elephants

8. In line 30, “glutinous” most nearly means

(A) glutton

(B) humid

(C) messy

(D) adhesive

(E) dreary

9. The fourth paragraph is characteristic of the passage’s tone, which can be described as

(A) carefully observant

(B) mildly suspicious

(C) playfully enthusiastic

(D) coldly scientific

(E) slightly ironic

***Directions:*** *Write 3 adverb clause sentences and 3 participial phrase sentences about the article on the elephants.*

1. Adverb clause:

2. Adverb clause:

3. Adverb clause:

1. Participial phrase:

2. Participial phrase:

3. Participial phrase: