Beginning in the late 1800s, many Jews left Russia seeking freedom. They went to Palestine. That was the homeland of the Jewish people from long ago. The Jews from Russia were poor but full of hope.

In 1909, some young Jews started a farm at a place called Degania. It was next to the Sea of Galilee. They owned and worked the land together. They decided things as a group. They all took care of one another. Degania became the first kibbutz, or group-owned farm. At first, only adults lived on the kibbutz. They cleared the land and planted crops.

Over the next few decades, the kibbutz movement grew in Palestine. Children were born. Schools had to be built. Because all adults were equal, both men and women worked in the fields. This meant that day-care centers were built for the young children. All children slept together in children’s houses.

On the kibbutz, everyone acted like one big family. People ate together. They took hikes and played music together. It was a wonderful way of life!

Today, there are over 250 kibbutzim in Israel. Although the basic beliefs are the same, life on a kibbutz today is sadly much different from in the past. Children live at home with their parents. Most families stay at home for entertainment rather than do things, like folk dancing, with the rest of the group. Farming is no longer the most important thing on a kibbutz.

In the old days, everyone on a kibbutz was equal. Today, the sense of being equal has been lost.
1. The author of this passage told about the Jews who left Russia because he wanted to _________.
   A) compare Russia with Palestine
   B) explain how Palestine became Israel
   C) describe their farms in Russia
   D) explain how the first kibbutz began

2. The author’s main purpose in writing this passage was to _________.
   A) describe the sights and sounds of a kibbutz
   B) give a brief history of the kibbutz
   C) persuade people to live on a kibbutz
   D) tell a made-up story about a child on a kibbutz

3. At the end of the passage, the author gives information about life on a kibbutz today to show that _________.
   A) all the people still do everything together
   B) everyone who lives on a kibbutz is happy
   C) things have changed a lot since the first kibbutz
   D) the people of Israel are very friendly

4. How does the author of this passage seem to feel about having the children on a kibbutz sleep together in children’s houses? Give a detail from the passage to support your answer.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. Write a clue from the passage that suggests the author thinks the old way of life on a kibbutz was better than the new way.
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Name ________________________________ Date ________________