

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Wrangle Your Brain: A 6th Grade Memory and Cognition Puzzler

Sensory input, long-term storage, and retrieval cues—strengthening the mental pathways used to organize and recall information in daily life.

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**1. Imagine you are trying to remember a secret code by imagining the numbers written in giant clouds in the sky. What part of the memory process are you using?**

**Answer:** B) Encoding

Encoding is the first step in memory where you change information into a form (like a mental picture) that your brain can store.

**2. True or False: Your 'Working Memory' is like a mental sticky note that holds onto information for a very long time, even years.**

**Answer:** B) False

Working memory is short-term; it only holds information briefly while you are using it. Long-term memory is what stores information for years.

**3. When you use a catchy rhyme like 'In fourteen-hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue' to remember a date, you are using a memory tool called a \_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** A) Mnemonic

Mnemonics are patterns of letters, ideas, or associations (like rhymes) that help us remember information more easily.

**4. You walk into the school cafeteria and suddenly remember you forgot your lunch at home. The smell of the food acted as a:**

**Answer:** C) Retrieval cue

A retrieval cue is a prompt or trigger (like a smell or sound) that helps you pull a specific memory out of storage.

**5. True or False: 'Cognition' is a broad term that refers to all the mental activities related to thinking, knowing, and remembering.**

**Answer:** A) True

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Cognition covers all the 'behind-the-scenes' work your brain does to process information and solve problems.

**6. To remember a long grocery list, Sarah groups the items into categories like 'Fruits' and 'Dairy.' This cognitive strategy is known as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Chunking

Chunking is a method of organizing information into familiar, manageable units or groups to make it easier to remember.

**7. Which of the following is an example of 'Procedural Memory'—the part of the brain that remembers how to do physical tasks?**

**Answer:** C) Knowing how to ride a bicycle

Procedural memory is specifically for skills and habits, such as riding a bike or typing, which eventually become automatic.

**8. A mental shortcut that allows people to solve problems quickly (like 'trial and error') rather than following a long list of rules is called a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** D) Heuristic

Heuristics are 'rules of thumb' or simple strategies we use to make quick decisions or solve problems efficiently.

**9. When you pay close attention to where your teacher says the homework is located, you are helping your brain move that information into:**

**Answer:** A) Storage

Storage is the process of maintaining information specifically so it can be used later.

**10. True or False: Sensory memory lasts for several minutes, giving you plenty of time to decide if you want to remember something.**

**Answer:** B) False

Sensory memory is extremely brief, lasting only a fraction of a second to a few seconds (like a quick snapshot or an echo).