

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.

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).