Lamai (lah-MY) is a girl who lives in Thailand. The following article describes her visit to a floating market.

A DAY AT THE FLOATING MARKET
by Jerry Bridgens

City life in Thailand is much like city life in the United States. People live in tall buildings or in houses close together. They travel in cars and buses and buy what they need in stores. But outside the cities, life is different. People usually live on farms far apart from one another. Many of these farms do not have electricity for lights or refrigerators. Therefore, people grow their own food or buy it fresh almost every day at the market. But the market is not in a building. It is a floating market located on a river. People travel in their boats on the river, buying and selling almost anything.

Lamai and her family live on a farm. They grow fruits and vegetables and sell them at the market each day. The family’s day starts about 3:00 A.M. Long before the sun comes up, Lamai and her brother help their parents. They pick out fruits and vegetables and clean them. Then they load everything into a long boat called a ruilla pais.

Their boat is ready by about 6:00 A.M. Lamai’s father and brother stay on the farm to work while Lamai and her mother row to the closest floating market. On the way the water is still and peaceful. Lamai sees the bright sun beginning to shine.

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Soon the peace and calm are gone. Lamai hears laughing and yelling in the distance. Then the sounds grow louder. Her mother rows the boat around a corner. Suddenly they are at the floating market. Hundreds of boats are gathered at a wide place in the river.

Merchants call out what they have to sell. Lamai’s mother is selling bananas and ripe tomatoes today. Lamai sees baskets of yellow rambutan and sour star fruit in other boats. She hopes her mother will buy some star fruit later. It’s Lamai’s favorite. People go from one seller to another in their boats. Many of the long boats are parked right next to one another. Other boats float a little farther out in the river. People can buy sweet reddish-brown mangosteens at one boat and fresh bread at another.

For Lamai a trip to the market is more than just a chance to sell or buy something. It is a chance for her to talk to her friends. Today Lamai sees her friend Suki. He is helping his mother prepare meals in their boat. Lamai loves the smell of the fried bananas Suki’s mother is making. Lamai’s mother rows over to buy a late breakfast. As Lamai eats, she and Suki talk about their summer plans.

Lamai waves good-bye to her friend as she and her mother move away to sell the rest of their food. Lamai sees some people on the walkway beside the river. Many boats stop next to the walkway to sell things to the tourists. Some of these visitors buy food from the boats, but most of them go to the boats that have souvenirs for sale. They buy the T-shirts, pencils, statues, and colorful purses sold on these boats.

Around 11:00 A.M. people begin to go home. Lamai is glad. She is drowsy from waking up so early. Her mother has sold most of what they brought to the market. They will leave the market with less food in their boat but with more money for Lamai’s family. Lamai’s mother makes one last stop so Lamai can buy some star fruit. Then they row home. Tomorrow the work will begin again.
1. What is a *ruilla pais*?
   A. A market
   B. A fruit
   C. A vegetable
   D. A boat

2. The reader can tell that Lamai’s family probably —
   F. doesn’t have electricity
   G. doesn’t like tomatoes
   H. has many boats
   J. eats only bread
3 Look at the chart below. Use it to answer the question.

**Things Lamai and Her Mother Do at the Market**

- Sell bananas and tomatoes
- Buy star fruit
- Visit with friends
- [ ]

Which idea belongs in the empty box?

A. Clean the fruit  
B. Load the boat  
C. Fry bananas  
D. See tourists

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4 Why do Lamai and her family start the day at 3:00 A.M.?

F. They must find boats to carry their fruit.  
G. It’s safest to travel in the dark when the water is calm.  
H. They must arrive at the market before anyone else.  
J. They must get the food ready for the market.

5 What is this article mainly about?

A. How people get to a floating market  
B. Why there are floating markets in Thailand  
C. The people who sell the food at floating markets  
D. A morning at a floating market

6 Why do Lamai and her mother go to the floating market?

F. To have breakfast  
G. To make money  
H. To visit with friends  
J. To see tourists
7 Tourists most likely stay on the walkway to shop because —
   A the freshest fruits are near the walkway
   B they do not buy food from the boats
   C it is easier for them to see what they want to buy
   D they do not have their own boats

8 In paragraph 5, merchants are people who —
   F like to yell
   G sell something
   H live in a city
   J buy vegetables at the market

9 Why would tourists probably want to buy T-shirts at the floating market?
   A The T-shirts will help them remember their trip.
   B The best T-shirts are sold at the market.
   C Lamai’s family makes the T-shirts for tourists.
   D They would rather buy T-shirts than fruit.

10 What is paragraph 5 mainly about?
   F What people sell at the market
   G What Lamai’s favorite fruit is at the market
   H What Lamai’s mother sells at the market
   J Why people call out at the market

11 What will Lamai probably do when she gets home from the market?
   A Load the boat
   B Visit her friend Suki
   C Lie down to rest
   D Clean tomatoes

12 Why do Lamai and her mother use a boat to go to the market?
   F The market is in the city nearest their home.
   G The market floats on the water.
   H They like to spend time on the water.
   J Their fruit fits inside a boat better than inside a car.