

Read and Analyze

Earth's geography has changed greatly over time. Geologists believe that a land bridge once connected Asia and North America. Historians don't agree on the date this bridge was formed.

Which boldfaced word shows possession or ownership? _____

Which boldfaced word is a combination of two words? _____

To form the **possessive** of a singular noun, add an **apostrophe** and **-s** (*girl's shoe*). For plural nouns that end in **-s**, add an apostrophe (*birds' nests*). For plural nouns that do not end in **-s**, add an apostrophe and **-s** (*children's boots*). **Apostrophes** are also used in **contractions**, two words that have been shortened and combined.

See Handbook Sections 7, 24, 26, and 28

Practice

Circle the correct word in parentheses. If the answer is a possessive, write *possessive*. If the answer is a contraction, write the two words the contraction was made from.

1. (Archaeologists'/Archaeologist's) studies show that human beings were living in North America by about 11,000 B.C. _____
2. These hunters and gatherers (didn't/did'nt) have fancy tools or weapons. _____
3. Prehistoric (hunter's/hunters') prey included mammoths, ground sloths, and other giants of the Ice Age. _____
4. A (hunter's/hunters') tools included stone points, spears, and knives. _____
5. Historians think that the crude stone weapons found at hunting sites (weren't/were'nt) strong enough to pierce the thick hides of the mammoth. _____
6. They believe that early (peoples/peoples') hunting methods more commonly included forcing herds of animals off cliffs. _____
7. Early North Americans (did'nt/didn't) rely on big game for their survival. _____
8. Seeds, plants, snails, and rabbits were also part of a prehistoric (families/ family's) diet. _____
9. The West (Coast's/Coasts') first inhabitants probably relied on gathering fruits and seeds instead of hunting. _____

Apply

Rewrite these sentences. Replace boldfaced words with possessives or contractions.

10. The **oldest shoe in the world** was discovered in a cave in Oregon. _____

11. It is woven of shredded rope made of **sagebrush**. _____

12. The **dry climate of the cave** preserved this sandal for more than 9,000 years! _____

13. The first Americans **did not** have knowledge of pottery making, metalworking, or agriculture. _____

14. The **early inhabitants of North America** would not develop these skills for thousands of years. _____

Reinforce

Circle the six hidden words in the puzzle. Write the possessive form of each noun and the contraction of each verb and negative word.

Q	P	Q	F	I	D	W	Q	S	K	R
Z	E	F	K	S	H	E	L	T	E	R
W	O	M	E	N	Q	R	K	D	L	P
T	P	G	L	O	M	E	R	X	Z	M
Q	L	H	Z	T	B	N	T	G	X	N
R	E	J	X	C	V	O	Y	H	C	B
S	C	A	N	N	O	T	K	J	V	V

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____