

Name: _____

Read the following article. Circle any words that you're not totally familiar with (write those words on the left).

<p>Iron Chef, BCE Edition: Roman Appetites <i>Milk-fed Snails Fried in Oil with Boiled Tree Fungi; YUM!</i></p>	<p>New Words</p>
<p>Roman banquets are a thing of legend, but that's kind of the problem – what exactly is fact versus fiction in the ancient reports about these insane parties? Actually, most banquets probably weren't that extravagant. But if he <i>really</i> wanted to show off, a powerful Roman man demonstrated his wealth and generosity by serving dishes with exotic ingredients from all over the world, including a number of items that strike us as positively bizarre.</p> <p>For an appetizer, try milk-fed snails or sea urchins fried in oil with boiled tree fungi, served with pepper and fish sauce. If that doesn't tickle your fancy, you might like dormice – yes, mice – fattened in clay jars that basically kept them immobile (think “mouse veal”). Or how about jellyfish stuffed with eggs? If all else fails, you'll surely go for pig uterus, ovaries, and udder with leeks, pepper, and cumin. Thus endeth the appetizers.</p> <p>For an over-the-top first course, you might have chicken drowned in red wine, crane, boiled ostrich with sweet sauce, roast parrot, peacock, pig kidneys, puppies, rabbit fetuses, seahorse, swan, or boiled flamingo served with spiced date sauce. To honor the goddess Minerva, one Roman emperor served a concoction made of pike liver, pheasant brains, peacock brains, flamingo tongues, and lamprey roe. Uh . . . yum?</p> <p>Overall, the goal was to amaze your guests with the sheer variety and exotic nature of the foods. In fact, one of the most famous Roman chefs, Apicus, boasted that if a host followed his recipes, “No one at the table will know what he is eating.” To spice things up, the food sometimes concealed non edible party favors such as gold, pearls, amber, and jewels.</p>	

1. What is the “problem” mentioned in the first paragraph?

2. What is the purpose of the two middle paragraphs?

3. What word in the third paragraph lets the reader know the writer is just about done with the article?

4. What was the purpose of this article?
