

In the United States, industries that generate hazardous wastes want to dispose of them as cheaply as legally possible. Private disposal companies recycle, treat, or dump hazardous wastes in landfills, competing with each other to offer the lowest prices. Government agencies come in at the end, requiring disposal firms to meet minimum safety standards before they are licensed to operate.

The (1) for those companies generating, handling, and disposing of waste is to save money, (2) to guarantee safety. Companies that generate waste usually send it to landfills because that is cheaper than recycling or incineration. Disposal firms must cut corners to lower costs and (3) business. At the same time, relatively (4) is done to reduce the volume of waste generated, because disposal costs (5) relatively modest.

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|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) | a. solution
b. license | c. importance
d. incentive |
| (2) | a. not
b. just | c. besides
d. something |
| (3) | a. survive
b. efficient | c. gain
d. prosper |
| (4) | a. nothing
b. this | c. recycling
d. little |
| (5) | a. still
b. become | c. remain
d. cheap |

6. "Does John know who broke into his home?"
"No, the thief escaped without ____."
a. was seen
b. seeing
c. to see
d. being seen
7. "Have John and Mary left the hotel yet?"
"Yes, they checked ____ two hours ago."
a. through
b. away
c. out
d. off
8. "In the last century, only the wealthy went to university."
"Yes, students without money had ____ chance to go."
a. almost any
b. no any
c. almost no
d. almost none
9. "Why are Mr. and Mrs. Jones unhappy?"
"Their children have not visited them for ____ long time."
a. such a
b. very
c. too
d. a so
10. "Did you learn a foreign language in school?"
"No, but I wish I ____."
a. would
b. did have
c. had
d. could
11. "How are your neighbors?"
"They seem nice, ____ I don't know them well yet."
a. in spite of
b. despite
c. even
d. although
12. "What is the latest information about the Jones case?"
"The evidence has led the investigators ____ that the defendant is lying."
a. believe
b. believing
c. to belief
d. to believe
13. "Was he sorry for his crime?"
"No, he seemed ____ in the courtroom."
a. shameful
b. shamefully
c. shameless
d. shamelessly
14. "What's in the room?"
"____ a couch and some chairs."
a. It's
b. There's
c. Is
d. They are
15. "Where's John?"
"He's ____ his office desk."
a. in
b. on
c. to
d. at

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16. George always is greedy.
a. is healthy
b. wants more
c. is ashamed
d. likes parties
17. Can that be utilized?
a. used
b. grown
c. made
d. measured
18. He assimilated a lot of facts.
a. gathered
b. searched for
c. studied
d. compared
19. The clouds look ominous.
a. lovely
b. distant
c. threatening
d. soft
20. The team played five home games in succession.
a. too many
b. very well
c. without winning
d. in a row
21. The car was completely _____ in the accident.
a. wounded
b. wrecked
c. revoked
d. impaired
22. As a good host, Bob treated his guests very _____.
a. graciously
b. callously
c. cynically
d. magnetically
23. Jones has _____ his job and will no longer be working here.
a. abstained
b. disclosed
c. expired
d. resigned
24. He preferred a _____ life as an artist to a secure job in a bank.
a. precarious
b. cordial
c. complementary
d. precise
25. Planning a meal for 500 people is no _____ matter.
a. unanimous
b. trivial
c. dimensional
d. obstinate

Seeds buried for centuries in the permafrost of the arctic tundra could help save plant varieties threatened by extinction and provide living fossils to study plant evolution.

It's a logical environment to look for very old seeds that are viable, since the permafrost soil buries the seeds, insulates them, and keeps them frozen where no bacteria, predators, or fungi can get at them.

For the past two summers, biologists have carefully used picks and shovels to dig a trench through a five-foot layer of clay, called a lobe, to reach the seed-bearing layer of organic material in the delicate tundra.

The soil samples were put in plastic bags, kept frozen in large coolers, and shipped to a lab where ideal germinating conditions were created: they were transferred to dozens of trays, watered, and kept under lights 20 hours a day to simulate the arctic summer. This is the most efficient way to look for seeds because they're so small and hard to find.

Once the plants sprout, the seed cover is removed and its age is determined through carbon dating--measuring the amount of naturally radioactive carbon remaining in the material. These "living fossils" are then used to compare the structure, growth rates, and other characteristics of plants grown from old seeds and those existing on the tundra.

Seeds from the early 1800's have yielded grass-like reeds and rushes which are genetically different from the modern day seed. The biologists are eager to see what grows in soil estimated to be between 1500 and 2000 years old, uncovered during their latest dig, and to measure the evolutionary development of these even more ancient seeds.

26. What does the permafrost do to the seeds? It . . .
 - a. keeps them alive and safe from other organisms.
 - b. allows them to develop free from bacteria and predators.
 - c. slows down their genetic development.
 - d. protects them from the cold.
27. What happens to the material after it is dug up?
 - a. Radioactivity remaining in the soil is measured.
 - b. It is kept frozen and transported to a lab.
 - c. It is transported carefully in trays so as not to damage the delicate tundra.
 - d. The seeds are separated and sprouted.
28. Why do the scientists put lights on the soil for 20 hours?
 - a. the seeds are quite old and need lots of light
 - b. the soil is cold and takes time to warm up
 - c. to encourage natural germination of the seeds
 - d. to compare the seeds' growth rate with newer seeds
29. How do the scientists discover the age of the seeds?
 - a. by studying the seed cover
 - b. by measuring radioactivity in the soil
 - c. by comparing the plants grown from the seeds
 - d. by examining genetic differences in the plants
30. Why are scientists interested in the "living fossils?"
 - a. to understand why the seeds did not die
 - b. to produce plants that now are all extinct
 - c. because the plants are more developed than modern ones
 - d. so they can study how plants have changed genetically

