

# Answer Key

## Let's Graft

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1. *Why do walnut farmers graft their trees?* **Native black walnut trees are hearty and more disease and pest resistant than walnut trees that are introduced to California. The English walnut from Ancient Persia has larger fruit and a thinner shell making it easier for consumers to enjoy. Therefore, by grafting these two species of trees, farmers are able to get hearty trees and better fruit.**
2. *Why do you think native plants are better at fighting diseases and pests than non-native plants?* **Native plants evolved with the other native plants and wildlife, therefore they are best suited to meet the needs within their ecosystem. Overall, native plants are better adapted to the environmental conditions where they originated.**
3. *What time of year is best for planting the seeds of walnuts?* **winter**
  - a. summer
  - b. fall
  - c. winter
  - d. spring
4. *How long does a walnut seedling grow before it is ready to be grafted?* **12 months**
  - a. 3 months
  - b. 6 months
  - c. 9 months
  - d. 12 months
5. *Why do farmers paint the rootstock of walnut trees white when they are young?* **To keep the rootstock from getting sunburned**
  - a. the nutrients help them grow
  - b. to keep the rootstock warm in the winter
  - c. to keep the rootstock from getting sunburned
  - d. to mark the plants that have been grafted
6. *A scion is:* **the shoot of a plant with the desired genes for growth**
  - a. a small piece of rootstock
  - b. the hard exterior of a nut
  - c. the shoot of a plant with the desired genes for growth
  - d. a young tree
7. There are many different kinds of propagation methods that walnut farmers utilize in order to produce more walnut trees for their farms. Research this website and compare two kinds of propagation—June budding and grafting: <http://fruitandnuteducation.ucdavis.edu/education/fruitnutproduction/Walnut/WalnutPropagation/> In the space provided below, write a paragraph stating which kind of propagation method you would choose and why.