



Name/Date _____

Directions: After reading “Giveaways: An ABC Book on Loanwords from the Americas” by Linda Boyden try to guess the meanings of the underlined words. Use the words around each to help you guess.

1. After the eulachon fish are netted, most are buried, allowed to ripen, then they are boiled to render them into a nutritious type of oil.

The word render means _____

2. Thousands of years ago the Native people of South America experimented with a poisonous plant called *yuca*. Though we may never know exactly how they figured out the process of detoxifying it, their methods were passed along trade routes to the Caribbean Islands then to around the world.

The word detoxifying means _____

3. The Inca people did not capture vicuñas, one of the planet’s wildest animals, for food. Instead every few years they would come together and hold a chacu. Today, in many places the custom is being revived: hundreds of people join hands and sing the vicuñas into corrals. Then their valuable wool is sheared and the animals are released.

The word chacu means: _____

4. Some people refer to the pogonip as the “white death.” If caught in such a storm you could breathe in the pogonip’s tiny needles of ice and damage your lungs.

The word pogonip means _____

5. The populations of abalone sea snails have been decreasing for many reasons, warming ocean waters, diseases, and predators such as sea otters and humans that overfish.

However, an alternative to overfishing might be aquaculture where abalones are raised on underwater farms.

The word aquaculture means _____

Answer Sheet

Answers will vary. Please accept all reasonable ones. Here are my suggestions:

1. The word render means to turn into; or the process of separating fat from meat.
2. The word detoxifying means to remove a poison from something.
3. The word chacu means the Inca custom of many people holding hands and singing in order to capture vicuñas so their precious wool can be sheared.
4. The word pogonip means a blizzard of tiny ice crystals.
5. The word aquaculture means the underwater farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and aquatic plants.