Roast Pork

War elephants were the tanks of their time. Their tough hides were nearly impervious to arrows, and their giant size made them perfect for trampling through enemy lines. In 331 BCE, Alexander the Great was so nervous about the Persian army's **pachyderms** that he made a sacrifice to the God of Fear the night before battle. The mighty elephants' reputation only grew when, in 218 BCE, Hannibal set out to storm Rome with an armada of ferocious beasts. The "elephantry" seemed invincible.

If elephants were the world's first tanks, flaming pigs—slathered in tar, lit on fire, and set loose to wreak havoc—were the world's first anti-tank missiles. According to Roman scholar Pliny the Elder, the weapon worked because "elephants are scared by the smallest squeal of the hog."

When flaming pigs succeeded, they were brilliant. In 266 BCE, the Greek city of Megara fended off the Macedonian conqueror Antigonus II Gonatas using pigs doused in resin. Antigonus's elephants fled in terror from the bacon brigade. Most battles, however, highlighted the serious drawbacks of tactical barbecue. Since the lifespan of flaming pigs is short, their range was well under 400 feet. That meant the enemy pretty much had to be on top of you before the hogs would have any effect. The **porcine** missiles also lacked a guidance system, which made them woefully inaccurate. Even when directed toward enemy lines, they often ran wherever they pleased, starting fires on their own side.

(from: http://mentalfloss.com/article/30669/9-weapons-failed-spectacularly)

Answer the following questions based on the above text:

_____ 1. Using the context clues provided in the first paragraph, the word 'pachyderm' most likely means a(n):

a. elephant
b. tank
c. gods of war and fear
d. Armies

_____ 2. The word *elephantry* is put into quotation marks in the first paragraph because the author is:

a. quoting someone
b. not really meaning that word
c. emphasizing the importance of that word

d. making a pun on infantry

_____ 3. The author most likely quotes from Pliny the Elder in order to:
a. be respectful to his elders
b. to cite his sources
c. to give the essay more credibility
d. the wording of the quote is vital to the essay

_____ 4. The word “porcine” as used in the third paragraph most likely means:
a. elephant related
b. pig related
c. war related
d. tank related

_____ 5. What is a drawback to using a flaming pig as a weapon that most likely led to discontinuing the use of flaming pigs in battle?
a. it violates animal rights laws
b. they often did not go in the direction needed
c. pigs cost too much
d. all the enemy needed to combat them was a bucket of water

_____ 6. The tone of the author of this essay is:
a. humorous
b. serious
c. indifferent
d. jingoistic