

NAME:

COURSE:

*One day some wise men, who were going about the country trying to find answers to some of the great questions of their time, came to Nasreddin's district and asked to see the wisest man in the place. Nasreddin was brought forward, and a big crowd **gathered** to listen.*

The first wise man began by asking, "Where is the exact centre of the world?"

*"It is under my right **heel**," answered Nasreddin.*

"How can you prove that?" asked the first wise man.

*"If you don't believe me," answered Nasreddin, "**measure** and see."*

The first wise man had nothing to answer to that, so the second wise man asked his question.

"How many stars are there in the sky?" he said.

"As many as there are hairs on my donkey," answered Nasreddin.

*"What **proof** have you got of that?" asked the second wise man.*

"If you don't believe me," answered Nasreddin, "count the hairs on my donkey and you will see."

*"That's **foolish talk**," said the other. "How can one count the hairs on a donkey?"*

"Well," answered Nasreddin, "how can one count the stars in the sky? If one is foolish talk, so is the other." The second wise man was silent.

*The third wise man was becoming annoyed with Nasreddin and his answers, so he said, "You seem to know a lot about your donkey, so can you tell me how many hairs there are in its **tail**?"*

"Yes," answered Nasreddin. "There are exactly as many hairs in its tail as there are in your beard."

"How ca you prove that?" said the other.

"I can prove it very easily," answered Nasreddin. "You can pull one hair out of my donkey's tail for everyone I pull out of your beard. If the hairs on my donkey's tail do not come to an end at exactly the same time as the hairs in your beard, I will admit that I was wrong."

Of course, the third wise man was not willing to do this, so the crowd declared Nasreddin the winner of the day's arguments.

QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points)

a. Who was Nasreddin?

b. How many people were present at the discussion?

2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact words. (1.5 points)

a. The wise men double-checked that the centre of the world was exactly under Nasreddin's right heel:

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b. The stars in the sky are calculated using a donkey's measure:

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c. Nasreddin and the wise men had a donkey:

