**Words from West Virginia and Appalachia**

Match the following words with the meanings they have for some speakers in the Mountain State and the Appalachian region.

1. Cackleberry
   1. Another name for a hen’s egg
   2. A poisonous berry
   3. A colloquial term for laughing gas
   4. A type of manure
2. Cat’s head
   1. An actual cat head
   2. Cat whiskers used to make stitches
   3. A Large biscuit
   4. A funny word or phrase
3. Hippoes
   1. Another name for catfish
   2. Imaginary or pretend ailments
   3. Cows that have been fattened up
   4. A name for large trucks
4. Peart
   1. Shampoo in a green bottle
   2. Briskly, quickly; in a lively or agreeable way
   3. A type of jewelry
   4. A juicy, round fruit, often red, green, or brown in color
5. Pie Supper
6. Event where pies are brought in and auctioned off
7. A person who eats more than their share of pie
8. An enormous meat pie often eaten as a meal
9. A picnic where different types of pie are served
10. Plague
11. Buildup on teeth that a dental hygienist removes
12. An exclamation or mild oath
13. The flu or other serious illnesses
14. When the 17 year cicadas come out
15. Poke
16. An annoying jab
17. Only one button on a shirt
18. A small bag or sack
19. A person moving very slowly
20. Pone
21. Crooked bone
22. A red whip mark
23. Swelling or lump
24. Groan
25. Skiff
26. A skiing move
27. A joke
28. The term for a stiff back after a long drive
29. A light covering of snow
30. Warsh
    1. A type of salt water marsh
    2. To wash
    3. A civil war term
    4. A type of tree
31. Red in the comb
    1. A rooster
    2. Red head’s hairbrush
    3. Eager to get married
    4. Extremely angry
32. Drug
    1. Past tense of the verb to drag
    2. Harmful substance
    3. Medicine
    4. A word used to describe someone who is sleepy
33. Reckon
    1. An old building that is beginning to fall in
    2. Another way of saying “I guess”
    3. A car wreck
    4. Action of taking a wrecking ball to a building
34. Whistlepig
35. Another name for a groundhog
36. Another name for a pig squeal
37. The name of the call used to call pigs to dinner
38. A whistle made from a pig bone

Key

1. A. **Cackleberry** is another word for a hen’s egg. This word was used in West Virginia in the 1930s and is still in use today. Example: “Cook me up a couple of **cackleberries** for breakfast.”
2. C. A **cat’s head** is another name for a large biscuit. This word was used in the 1930’s in WV and is still used today. Example: “The large and flaky **cat’s heads** were the best part of my mom’s home cooking.”
3. B. **Hippoes** are imaginary or pretend ailments. This is a shortening of the word hypochondria. It was documented in the mid 1900s and can still be seen today. Example: “They’re **hippoes**. I bet they aren’t even really sick.”
4. B. **Peart** means quickly, lively or in an agreeable way. This word can be used as an adjective or adverb and was active in West Virginia throughout the 20th century. Here is a written ballad from West Virginia that uses **peart**. <http://www.appalachianhistory.net/2010/07/patrick-gainer-and-the-devils-questions.html>
5. A. A **pie supper** is an event where pies are brought in and auctioned off to raise money. This word was documented in 1965 in West Virginia. Example: “Mary always brings in couple of pies to auction off during the **pie supper** to raise money for the event next year.”
6. B. **Plague** is used as a mild oath or exclamation in West Virginia. It can be used as: plague on\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and plague take\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It was documented in WV around 1965. Example: “**Plague** on Rick! He borrowed my dictionary and never returned it.”
7. C. **Poke** can mean a small bag or sack in West Virginia. This was documented in 1944 and is still used by many members of the older generation in West Virginia today. Example: “The grocer put the apples I bought in a brown paper **poke**.”
8. C. A **pone** is a swelling or a lump (usually on a finger). This word was documented in West Virginia in 1968. It is used to refer to a swelling that seems to come from deep under your skin. Example: “After breaking her finger, she constantly had a large **pone** over her knuckle.”
9. D. A **skiff** (or skift) means a light covering or a thin layer of snow. This word was documented in West Virginia in the 1930s. Example: “There was a **skiff** of snow after last night’s flurry.”
10. B. **Warsh** is just another pronunciation of the word “wash”. In some Appalachian dialects, the letter “r” can sometimes be inserted into words such as warsh (wash), hursh (hush), and mursh (mush). This particular word was noted in the early 1900s, and the word warsh is still in use in southern West Virginia and Kentucky. Example: “I need to **warsh** the car.”
11. C. **Red in the comb** actually means that someone is ready to get married. This comes from the reddening of a rooster’s comb when it is on the prowl for a mate. This is documented in the early to mid 1900’s but it can still be heard today from older generations. Example: “The old widower seemed to be getting **red in the comb** when he started courting many young women.”
12. A. **Drug** is another past tense form of the word “drag”. Other past tense forms are drug, drugged, and dragged. This form has been documented in Appalachia since 1913. Example: “I **drug** him out of his seat and to safety before the car exploded.”
13. B. **Reckon** is another way of saying I guess, I think, I believe, and I suppose. It was documented in the Appalachian region in the 1980s and can still be heard today. Example: “I **reckon** he hasn’t been to the store in a while since he’s all out of food.”
14. A. A **whistlepig** is another name for a groundhog (woodchuck, marmot). It comes from the whistling sound that they make and because they grow really fat before hibernation. Example: “There’s a whistlepig living under the barn.”