

AMERICAN REVOLUTION Reading Comprehension

The first battle of the American Revolution occurred at Lexington, Massachusetts, in 1775. The American colonists were angry about numerous taxes issued by the British king. In 1776, the colonists issued the Declaration of Independence, a document written by Thomas Jefferson that outlined America's intention to become a new country separate from England. England wanted to maintain control of America and vowed to fight the colonists. The war lasted eight long years. The Americans won many important battles such as those at Saratoga and Yorktown. Many American heroes emerged such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. Finally, in 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, and a new nation was born two years later.

1.) The first battle of the American Revolution occurred at _____, Massachusetts.

2.) Why did the war happen?

- a.) Colonists were angry about their bad living conditions.
- b.) England attacked the colonists.
- c.) Colonists were angry about having to pay so many taxes.
- d.) Colonists wanted to have more land.

3.) Which of the following was not true about the Declaration of Independence?

- a.) It said that the colonists wanted their own country.
- b.) It said that England wanted a separate country.
- c.) It said the colonists wanted to be separate from England.
- d.) It was written by Thomas Jefferson.

4.) The Revolutionary War lasted _____ years.

5.) Which of the following was NOT an important battle won by the colonists?

- a.) Yorktown
- b.) Saratoga
- c.) Washington

6.) Which of the following was not an American hero who emerged from the war?

- a.) Thomas Jefferson
- b.) George Washington
- c.) Benjamin Franklin
- d.) Abraham Lincoln

7.) What happened first?

- a.) The Declaration of Independence
- b.) The Revolutionary War
- c.) 1783
- d.) Many taxes were issued against the colonists.

8.) What happened last?

- a.) The Battle of Lexington
- b.) The Declaration of Independence
- c.) Many taxes were issued against the colonists.
- d.) The Americans won important battles at Saratoga and Yorktown.

9.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The British surrendered at Saratoga in 1783.
- b.) The British vowed to fight the colonists.
- c.) Colonists won important battles at Yorktown and Saratoga.
- d.) In 1783, a new nation was born.

10.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The British were defeated in the war against the colonists.
- b.) The first battle of the American Revolution occurred before the Declaration of Independence was written.
- c.) The first battle occurred at Lexington in 1776.
- d.) The Declaration of Independence was written before 1783.

In 1948, Eero Saarinen won a contest to build a special monument to the spirit of westward expansion in St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis was the perfect place for such a monument. It was the starting point of the 1804 Lewis and Clark journey. On this journey, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis explored the American west.

Saarinen drew up plans for a 630-foot-tall steel arch on the banks of the Mississippi River, which flows through St. Louis. On October 28, 1965, 17 years after the project started, and four years after Saarinen himself died, the arch was completed.

Today, the Gateway Arch is one of America's most famous symbols. It is also America's tallest monument and the world's tallest arch. Four million people visit the arch each year.

1. Why was St. Louis a good place for the Gateway Arch?

- A. It was the home of Eero Saarinen
- B. The Arch would be built on the river
- C. St. Louis is a city important in westward expansion
- D. Four million people visit it each year

2. What is NOT true about the Gateway Arch?

- A. It is 630 feet tall
- B. Four million people visit it every year
- C. It is the tallest monument in the world
- D. Eero Saarinen died four years after the arch was completed

3. If an answer is "four million people visit each year," what could the question be?

- A. Why was the Gateway Arch built on the Mississippi River?
- B. How do you know that people think the arch is important?
- C. How many people did it take to build the Gateway Arch?
- D. How many people live in St. Louis?

4. What did Lewis and Clark have to do with westward expansion?

- A. They were from St. Louis
- B. They explored land that would be involved in westward expansion
- C. They explored the land in which the Gateway Arch would be built on
- D. They built a monument to the spirit of westward expansion

In the 1700s and 1800s women did not have the same advantages as men. Most women could not own property or go to college. Women were not even allowed to vote until 1920! Elizabeth Blackwell, however, helped bring about change.

When Elizabeth was young, she decided that she would never rely on a husband for money or for happiness and that she would find success on her own. After serving as a teacher for slaves in the American South, Elizabeth became interested in medicine when a dying friend told her she wished her doctor was a woman. Elizabeth saved her money, borrowed medical books, and applied to medical school. Every school rejected her because she was a woman except one – Geneva Medical College in New York. Elizabeth studied hard and graduated first in her class in 1849, becoming the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States.

1. What changed in 1920?

- A. Women could become doctors
- B. Women could own property
- C. Women could apply to medical school
- D. Women could vote

2. Why did Elizabeth decide to become a doctor?

- A. Her dying friend told her that she should become a doctor
- B. Her dying friend told her she wished her doctor was a woman
- C. She knew it would be a challenge
- D. She knew women could not vote

3. Which was NOT true about Elizabeth Blackwell?

- A. She taught slaves in American North
- B. She was rejected from most medical schools she applied to
- C. She graduated first in her class
- D. She graduated in 1849

4. How did Elizabeth Blackwell BEST bring about change?

- A. She applied to medical school
- B. She was a great teacher
- C. She showed the world that women could become doctors
- D. She showed the world that she did not need a husband

Boston Tea Party

Name _____

The Boston Tea Party was not a party, but one of the most famous examples of protest in American history. The leaders of the "tea party" were known as the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty and many of the citizens of Boston were angry at the British government. They were angry because the British government had taken steps to hurt the American tea business. It had given a British company control over the American tea business. This put American merchants out of business.

So what did the Sons of Liberty do? They planned to show the British government how angry they were. On December 16, 1773, they dressed up as Indians and boarded three British ships in Boston Harbor that were delivering tea. They took all 342 chests of tea and heaved them into the harbor, destroying the entire load. The event was first known as "The Destruction of the Tea" and only became known as the Boston Tea Party in the 1800s.

1. Why were the Sons of Liberty angry?

- A. They wanted more tea
- B. The British tea merchants were out of business
- C. American tea merchants had been put out of business
- D. American tea was more expensive than British tea

2. How did the Sons of Liberty protest?

- A. They destroyed the British government
- B. They destroyed British tea in Boston Harbor
- C. They controlled the British tea business
- D. They dressed up as Indians

3. Which is NOT true about the Boston Tea Party?

- A. It was a form of protest
- B. The Sons of Liberty heaved chests of tea into Boston Harbor
- C. It happened in December
- D. It was always called the Boston Tea Party

4. What was the point of the Boston Tea Party?

- A. To express anger at the British government
- B. To drink a lot of tea
- C. To have a party that involved tea
- D. To dress up as Indians

BUFFALO HUNTERS Reading Comprehension

The great herds of buffalo that roamed the plains were essential for all parts of Sioux life and society. For most Sioux villages, "home" was wherever the herds of buffalo roamed.

Before the introduction of the horse, Sioux warriors would hunt the buffalo by dressing up as wolves and tricking them into running off of cliffs and ledges. They would also dress up in buffalo skins and make crying sounds like a baby buffalo. When an adult buffalo went to investigate, the warriors would kill it with spears and arrows.

The Sioux Indians used the entire buffalo following a kill. The buffalo hide was used for making tepees, clothes, moccasins, and robes. The hair was used to make rope, and the horns were used as cups and dishes. Children fashioned sleds out of buffalo ribs, and buffalo fat was used as glue. Most importantly, buffalo meat provided food for the entire village. Much of the buffalo meat that was collected was cooked, dried, and pounded into pemmican (sort of like modern-day beef jerky).

1.) Buffalo hair was used to make _____.

2.) Buffalo ribs were used to make _____.

3.) Buffalo meat was not...

- a.) fried.
- b.) dried.
- c.) pounded.
- d.) cooked.

4.) Which of the following statements is true?

- a.) The Sioux Indians were somewhat dependent on the buffalo.
- b.) The Sioux Indians were not dependent on the buffalo.
- c.) The Sioux Indians were fairly dependent on the buffalo.
- d.) The Sioux Indians were totally dependent on the buffalo.

5.) What likely changed after the Sioux became familiar with the horse?

- a.) Buffalo as the main source of food for the Sioux
- b.) The way in which the buffalo was used for clothing
- c.) How buffalo meat was cooked and prepared
- d.) Hunting techniques

6.) Buffalo hides were not used for...

- a.) tepees
- b.) robes
- c.) moccasins
- d.) cups

7.) A Sioux hunter dressing up as a wolf in an attempt to scare a buffalo is an example of...

- a.) selfishness
- b.) imitation

- c.) worship
- d.) selflessness

8.) The introduction of the horse probably made the Sioux more _____.

- a.) mobile
- b.) efficient at hunting
- c.) effective in battle
- d.) all of the above

9.) Which of the following best describes the hunting techniques of the Sioux before the introduction of the horse?

- a.) resourceful
- b.) selfish
- c.) strange
- d.) ravenous

10.) In which of the following places would you be likely to find a buffalo herd?

- a.) open field
- b.) swamp
- c.) forest
- d.) beach

BUTTERFLIES Reading Comprehension

Butterflies are some of the most interesting insects on the planet Earth. There are more than 17,000 different kinds of butterflies! Butterflies come in all shapes and sizes.

Butterflies go through four main stages of life. The first stage is the egg stage, followed by the larva stage. As a larva, or caterpillar, the future butterfly eats as much as possible. As it grows, it sheds its outer skin, or exoskeleton. This may happen four or five times. After a few weeks, the caterpillar enters the next stage of its life, the chrysalis stage. In the chrysalis stage, the caterpillar will liquefy into a soup of living cells. Then, it will reorganize into a butterfly, and the metamorphosis is complete. In later parts of the chrysalis stage, you can see the forming butterfly through the chrysalis.

When the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis, it pumps its wings to send blood through them so that it can fly. Most butterflies only live a couple of weeks—just enough time to drink flower nectar and to mate. Some, like the monarch butterfly, however, may live many months.

1.) Why does the caterpillar shed its skin?

- a.) The butterfly is coming.
- b.) It is hungry.
- c.) To defend itself against predators.
- d.) It is growing.

2.) Which is true?

- a.) There are about a thousand different kinds of butterflies in the world.
- b.) There are more than a thousand different kinds of butterflies in the world.
- c.) There is only one kind of butterfly in the world.
- d.) There are less than a thousand different kinds of butterflies in the world.

3.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Butterflies must wait until blood drains into their wings before flying.
- b.) The butterfly may shed its skin eight or nine times.
- c.) Caterpillars turn into a liquid in the chrysalis.
- d.) Most butterflies live a short time.

4.) What is the second stage of life for a butterfly?

- a.) larva
- b.) butterfly
- c.) egg
- d.) chrysalis

5.) What is the third stage of life for a butterfly?

- a.) butterfly
- b.) chrysalis
- c.) egg
- d.) larva

6.) In what stage does the metamorphosis happen?

- a.) butterfly
- b.) egg
- c.) chrysalis
- d.) caterpillar

7.) How many stages of life does a butterfly go through? _____

8.) Select ALL of the things that a butterfly does.

- a.) Goes through metamorphosis
- b.) Sheds its skin
- c.) Drinks nectar from flowers
- d.) Mates

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS Reading Comprehension

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. While spending most of his early years at sea, Columbus began to believe that he could find a shortcut to the Indies by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately, the king of Portugal refused to finance such a trip, and Columbus was forced to present his idea to the king and queen of Spain. In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to pay for his trip. They gave him a crew and three ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. Columbus sailed about the Santa Maria.

The trip was long and hard. Many sailors grew restless and wanted to turn around. After two months at sea, land was finally sighted. The ships docked on the island of Hispaniola. Columbus named the native people he saw “Indians” because he believed he had found the shortcut he was looking for. In actuality, Columbus found North America, a brand new continent at that time. Columbus, however, couldn’t be convinced. He died with the belief he had found the shortcut to the Indies. Soon, however, other explorers and nations understood the importance of his discoveries. Columbus’s discoveries set the stage for the Age of Exploration—one of the most fascinating and exciting times in world history.

1.) Where was Christopher Columbus born?

- a.) The New World
- b.) Portugal
- c.) Spain
- d.) Italy

2.) Columbus believed he could find a shortcut to the _____.

3.) The king of _____ refused to finance his trip.

4.) In the year _____, Columbus set sail.

5.) Which is NOT true?

- a.) Columbus was born in Italy.
- b.) Columbus received three ships and a crew from the king and queen of Spain.
- c.) Columbus found a shortcut to the Indies.
- d.) The journey across the Atlantic took two months.

6.) What did Columbus name the native people he saw?

7.) Which of the following was NOT one of his ships?

- a.) Nina
- b.) Isabella
- c.) Pinta
- d.) Santa Maria

8.) Why was Christopher Columbus very important?

- a.) He believed he found a shortcut to the Indies.
- b.) He first used the word "Indians".
- c.) He discovered a whole new continent.
- d.) He was one of the bravest explorers of all time.

The United States Constitution

Name _____

A constitution is a set of laws and principles that govern a nation. The United States Constitution is the oldest constitution in the world. It was written in 1787. It was designed after the Revolutionary War so that the colonies would join together under a single government. By 1791, all thirteen of the original colonies agreed to the Constitution, and thus, became states.

The United States Constitution has a preamble, seven articles, and 27 amendments. The preamble is a paragraph that explains the purpose of the Constitution. It begins with the famous words: *We the People*. The articles of the Constitution explain the branches of the government and the amendments are changes to the Constitution. The first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights explains rights of individuals under the Constitution.

1. Why was the Constitution written?

- A. So the colonies could have one government
- B. So the colonies could become different countries
- C. So the Bill of Rights could be written
- D. So people could have individual rights

2. What is not true about the Constitution? (Circle all)

- A. It has 27 articles
- B. It has seven amendments
- C. It has a Bill of Rights
- D. It was written before the Revolutionary War

3. Where would I find how the branches of the government work?

- A. Amendments
- B. Articles
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Preamble

4. Where would I find the purpose of the Constitution?

- A. Amendments
- B. Articles
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Preamble



DALLAS COWBOYS Reading Comprehension

The Dallas Cowboys have been an NFL team since 1960. They are one of two teams that play professional football in the state of Texas. It took the Cowboys eleven years before they made the Super Bowl, the NFL championship game. They lost that game to the Baltimore Colts by a score of 16 to 13. The Cowboys soon got much better! In the 1970s, they played in five Super Bowls and won two of them. After they defeated the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 12, people started calling them America's Team!

Although the Cowboys failed to make any Super Bowls in the 1980s, they played in three Super Bowls in the 1990s and won all three of them, including two in a row against the Buffalo Bills and one against their big rival, the Pittsburgh Steelers. It was during this time that quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith, and wide receiver Michael Irvin all became big stars. All three would eventually become members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Cowboys won their last Super Bowl in 1995 and haven't made it back since. That hasn't discouraged owner Jerry Jones from spending big bucks, though. In 2009, Cowboys Stadium opened. It can hold over 110,000 people, making it the largest domed stadium in the world. It cost over one billion dollars to build!

1.) What does the word “rival” mean in the following sentence?

Although the Cowboys failed to make any Super Bowls in the 1980s, they played in three Super Bowls in the 1990s and won all three of them, including two in a row against the Buffalo Bills and one against their big **rival**, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

- a.) friend
- b.) team
- c.) victory
- d.) important opponent

2.) Which of the following is true about the Dallas Cowboys?

- a.) They were recently in a Super Bowl.
- b.) They recently won a Super Bowl.
- c.) They have been in three total Super Bowls.
- d.) They have won five Super Bowls.

3.) The Cowboys defeated the _____ in two Super Bowls in a row.

- a.) Steelers
- b.) Bills
- c.) Colts
- d.) Broncos

4.) Who is the owner of the Dallas Cowboys?

- a.) Michael Irvin
- b.) Jerry Jones
- c.) Troy Aikman
- d.) Emmitt Smith

5.) The Dallas Cowboys played the _____ in their first Super Bowl.

- a.) Colts
- b.) Bills
- c.) Steelers
- d.) Broncos

6.) The Dallas Cowboys played in their highest number of Super Bowls in the...

- a.) 1960s.
- b.) 1970s.
- c.) 1980s.
- d.) 1990s.

7.) The Dallas Cowboys defeated the _____ in Super Bowl 12.

- a.) Steelers
- b.) Colts
- c.) Bills
- d.) Broncos

8.) How many NFL teams play in Texas?

- a.) 1
- b.) 2
- c.) 3
- d.) 4

CRICKETS Reading Comprehension

Description: The adult house cricket is about two centimeters in length. The body is usually light brown with black markings about the head and thorax. The female is told from the male by the presence of an ovipositor, a long extension attached to the end of the abdomen, used for depositing eggs in the soil. House crickets have conspicuous jumping legs and have two pairs of wings, of which only the back pair are used for flight.

Habitat: House crickets can be found in a variety of habitats including woodlands, suburbs, urban areas, buildings, ducts, siding, restaurants, and anywhere else there happens to be a food supply and warm air. Although many crickets die off in the colder months, those that manage to find their way indoors can stay alive year-round.

Reproduction: Crickets reach sexual maturity between eight and twelve weeks after birth. Males attract mates by rubbing their wings together to produce a noise sometimes referred to as "chirping". Technically, this process is called stridulation. Interestingly enough, the rate in which a cricket "chirps" is determined by the temperature outside. When it is warmer, crickets chirp faster. Scientists can actually tell the exact outdoor temperature by timing the rate of cricket "chirpings". After the male mates with the female, the female will lay between 50 and 100 eggs in the ground or another soft surface. The eggs hatch in about two weeks.

Life Cycle: Incomplete Metamorphosis: egg -> nymph -> adult

Diet: House crickets will eat just about anything including soft plant matter, insects, young crickets, and decomposing matter.

1.) What determines how fast a cricket "chirps"?

- a.) the number of females around
- b.) food supply
- c.) temperature
- d.) the number of predators around

2.) Which of the following do you think is about the size of a cricket (2 centimeters)?

- a.) A hot dog
- b.) A flea
- c.) A match
- d.) A dragonfly

3.) How long does it take cricket eggs to hatch?

- a.) 21 days
- b.) 4 days
- c.) 7 days
- d.) 14 days

4.) In which of the following months would it be unlikely to see a cricket outdoors?

- a.) January
- b.) May
- c.) July
- d.) September

5.) Which of the following shows the cricket's correct life cycle?

- a.) egg -> nymph -> adult
- b.) adult -> nymph -> egg
- c.) nymph -> adult -> egg
- d.) egg -> adult -> nymph

6.) Where would you probably NOT find a cricket?

- a.) restaurant
- b.) house
- c.) woodlands
- d.) ocean

7.) What organ is used for depositing eggs into the soil?

- a.) head
- b.) legs
- c.) thorax
- d.) ovipositor

8.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Some crickets survive during the cold months.
- b.) Crickets have two sets of wings.
- c.) Males and females have ovipositors.
- d.) Crickets can reproduce after 12 weeks.

9.) Which of the following is probably NOT part of a cricket's typical diet?

- a.) wood
- b.) other crickets
- c.) plant material
- d.) insects

10.) What do male crickets rub together to make their "chirping" noise?

- a.) spiracles
- b.) wings
- c.) legs
- d.) antennae

United States Currency



George Washington is on the \$1 bill. He was America's first president and hero of the Revolutionary War. Our capital city, Washington, is named in his honor.



Thomas Jefferson is on the \$2 bill. He wrote the Declaration of Independence and was the third president of the United States. He was also an inventor, scientist, architect, and writer. He lived in a famous house in Virginia called Monticello. Unlike the other bills on this list, the \$2 bill is not often used.



Abraham Lincoln is on the \$5 bill. He was president during the American Civil War. His choices during the war saved the country and enabled it to get rid of slavery for ever.



Alexander Hamilton is on the \$10 bill. He fought in the Revolutionary War and helped to establish America's government and economy. He recently was the subject of a very popular Broadway show named Hamilton.



Benjamin Franklin is on the \$100 bill. He was an important publisher, scientist, inventor, diplomat, and Patriot. It was Benjamin Franklin who convinced France to help America fight England in the Revolutionary War.

1. What dollar bill is not used very much?

- A. \$1
- B. \$2
- C. \$10
- D. \$100

2. Who convinced France to help America in the Revolutionary War?

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. Alexander Hamilton
- C. George Washington
- D. Thomas Jefferson

3. Circle the people below who were not presidents. There are more than one.

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Alexander Hamilton
- C. Benjamin Franklin
- D. George Washington

4. What dollar bill has the man who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A. \$1
- B. \$2
- C. \$10
- D. \$100

5. What dollar bill has the man who was president during the American Civil War?

- A. \$1
- B. \$2
- C. \$5
- D. \$10

Dunkin Donuts Reading Comprehension Name _____

William Rosenberg was one of four children growing up in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a grocery store owner. Because of the family's money problems, William left school in the eighth grade to help his father at his store. In his teenage years, he worked many different jobs and got a lot of experience in the food industry. When he started his own food truck service, he was surprised that about half of his sales came from coffee and donuts. William had a plan!

In 1948, William opened a coffee and donut shop which he named "Open Kettle" in Quincy, Massachusetts. A coffee was ten cents and a donut was five cents. At the time, that was very expensive, but his customers loved his products and the store was a big success. William, however, was unhappy with the name "Open Kettle" and decided to make a change. He noticed that customers often dunked their donuts into their coffee. Thus, the name "Dunkin Donuts" was born.

1. Why did William leave school in eighth grade?

- A. To start a donut shop
- B. He didn't like school
- C. To help his father
- D. To make a plan

2. What observation did William make when he started his own food truck service?

- A. He noticed that people dunked donuts in their coffee
- B. He noticed there were no coffee shops
- C. He noticed half of sales came from coffee and donuts
- D. He noticed only kids liked donuts

3. The coffee and donuts at Open Kettle was...

- A. famous.
- B. expensive.
- C. interesting.
- D. changing.

4. What is NOT TRUE about Open Kettle?

- A. It went out of business
- B. It became Dunkin Donuts
- C. It opened in 1948
- D. It opened in Quincy, Massachusetts

Amelia Earhart Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Amelia Earhart was one of the most famous celebrities of her time. She was one of the world's first female pilots and certainly its most famous. She made daring flights and broke many flight records. She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean by herself. She broke the record for flying across the Atlantic Ocean in the shortest amount of time. She also flew higher in the sky than any other woman pilot of her time. She did all of this in the 1920s and 1930s - when women were expected to be in the house and take care of children. Women were rarely in the public spotlight.

Flying Around the World

In 1937, Amelia decided to fly around the world. It was a very risky flight that had never been completed by a female pilot. Amelia, however, was fearless. Her flight left California on June 1, 1937. Amelia and her airplane made stops throughout South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. She was tired and sick during much of the flight, but carried on. At each stop she was greeted by admirers. On July 2, 1937, Amelia left New Guinea. She had to cross the Pacific Ocean to complete the flight. Amelia was supposed to land on tiny Howland Island for fuel. She couldn't find it and never made it.

What Happened?

U.S. ships searched for her for over a week but could not find her. People were devastated. They assumed she had crashed somewhere in the huge ocean. Amelia would never be found. To this day, no one knows for sure what happened to Amelia Earhart.

1. What is NOT true about Amelia Earhart?

- A. Unlike most women of the time, she was in the public spotlight
- B. She flew higher in the sky than other female pilots of the time
- C. She was the first female pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean
- D. She completed an around the world flight

2. What was an obstacle that Amelia faced in her around the world flight?

- A. She had so many admirers
- B. She was fearless
- C. She was sick and tired for much of it
- D. She was a female pilot

3. What happened to Amelia Earhart?

- A. She crashed in the Pacific Ocean
- B. She was found by U.S. ships
- C. She flew around the world
- D. No one knows

4. What can be inferred from the following sentence?

In 1937, Amelia decided to fly around the world. It was a very risky flight that had never been completed by a female pilot.

- A. Flying around the world was very risky
- B. The flight around the world had been completed by a male pilot or male pilots.
- C. Amelia made a bad decision in trying to fly around the world
- D. A flight around the world would never be made by a female pilot



Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most important Americans in history. In the early part of his life, Franklin was a business person and inventor. He ran the Pennsylvania Gazette (newspaper) and also published Poor Richard's Almanac. Poor Richard's Almanac was very popular because it made predictions about the future and had wise sayings. Ben Franklin also invented the Franklin stove, lightning rod, bifocals (eyeglasses), and started America's first library. He is probably best known for his kite experiment which proved electricity could be harnessed from lightning.

In the later part of his life, Franklin became interested in politics. He spent many years in England before coming back to America. In 1776, Franklin helped Thomas Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence. Two years later, he went to France and convinced the French to help America in the war against England. After the war, Franklin joined the Continental Congress and signed the Constitution. He died in 1790. Today, Ben Franklin is honored on the \$100 dollar bill. His name is honored on highways, schools, and businesses across America.

1.) Which of the following is something invented by Ben Franklin?

- A. Headphones
- B. Electricity
- C. Bifocals
- D. Kites

2.) Which is something that may have been found in Poor Richard's Almanac?

- A. Directions for operating a soda machine.
- B. The score of a football game.
- C. "A penny saved is a penny earned".
- D. People's phone numbers.

3.) Ben Franklin started America's first _____.

4.) Ben Franklin proved electricity could be harnessed from _____.

5.) In the later part of his life, Franklin became interested in _____.

6.) Which of the following did Ben Franklin not do?

- A. Become President
- B. Sign the Constitution
- C. Help with the Declaration of Independence
- D. Travel to England

7.) What happened first?

- A. Franklin goes to France.
- B. 1776.
- C. Franklin signs the Constitution.
- D. Franklin goes to England.

8.) Today, Ben Franklin is honored on the _____ dollar bill

Galileo

Galileo was a polymath who lived in the 1500s and 1600s. A polymath is a person who is an expert in several subjects. Galileo was an expert in several kinds of math and science. He was the first to describe several of Jupiter's moons and Saturn's rings.

Galileo may be best known for his view that the sun was the center of the solar system and that all planets rotated around it. This view was first described by a scientist named Nicholas Copernicus. This view, however, was rejected by the Pope. The Pope was a powerful man in charge of the Catholic Church. He wanted the people to believe that the planets and sun rotated around the Earth. The Pope punished Galileo and made him admit his views were wrong.

1. Galileo...

- A. discovered Jupiter.
- B. agreed with the Pope.
- C. believed the Earth rotated around the sun.
- D. believed the sun rotated around the Earth.

2. Galileo was the first to...

- A. be punished by the Catholic Church.
- B. be an expert in math and science
- C. admit he was wrong.
- D. describe Saturn's rings.

3. Who was the first to claim the Earth rotated around the sun?

- A. Nicholas Copernicus
- B. Galileo
- C. The Pope
- D. The Catholic Church

4. What do you find out in the second paragraph?

- A. What was the Pope in charge of?
- B. How did Galileo get punished?
- C. What was Galileo an expert in?
- D. When did Nicholas Copernicus live?

The Grand Canyon, located in northwestern Arizona, is one of the world's most dazzling sites. Carved over millions of years by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, and between four and eighteen miles wide. In some places, the canyon is more than one mile deep. It is one of the world's most photographed places and has been captured on countless photographs, posters, and post cards. Millions of people visit it each year.

The Grand Canyon was first discovered by explorers searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in an expedition led by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

1. What formed the Grand Canyon?

- A. Northwestern Arizona
- B. The Colorado River
- C. People
- D. Francisco Coronado

2. What sentence tells the reader that people like to see the Grand Canyon?

- A. In some places, the canyon is more than one mile deep.
- B. Carved over millions of years by the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, and between four and eighteen miles wide.
- C. Millions of people visit it each year.
- D. The Grand Canyon was first discovered by explorers searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in an expedition led by Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540.

3. Which is an opinion?

- A. The Grand Canyon is more than a mile deep in places
- B. Millions of people visit the Grand Canyon every year
- C. It was discovered on the Coronado expedition
- D. It is one of the most dazzling sites in the world

4. Which is not discussed?

- A. The size of the Grand Canyon
- B. The discovery of the Grand Canyon
- C. Places to visit near the Grand Canyon
- D. The history of the Grand Canyon

Ice Cream Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Did you know that ice cream has been around for thousands of years? Of course, in its very early history it was nothing like our ice cream today. In fact, ice cream was simply snow mixed with honey and fruit!

As time went on, ice cream became more like it is today. With new technology such as electricity and new inventions such as the freezer, ice cream became much easier to make. In 1904, an ice cream salesman at the World's Fair used a rolled up waffle to hold ice cream when he ran out of cups. Thus, the ice cream cone was invented. Soon, new ice cream products like the sundae, ice cream soda, and root beer floats were invented.

Today, 90 percent of all Americans have some kind of ice cream in their freezers. You probably do too. The only question is; how many flavors do you have?

1. Which was not in early ice cream?

- A. snow
- B. honey
- C. fruit
- D. sugar

2. How did ice cream become easier to make?

- A. There were lots of new flavors
- B. The freezer was invented
- C. Ice became easier to find
- D. The ice cream cone was invented

3. What happened in 1904?

- A. The ice cream cone was invented
- B. The waffle was invented
- C. The root beer float was invented
- D. The sundae was invented

4. What is the "only question" in the last sentence?

- A. Do you have ice cream in your freezer?
- B. When was ice cream invented?
- C. How old is the ice cream in your freezer?
- D. What flavors of ice cream are in your freezer?

Indigo in South Carolina

In the 1600s and 1700s, Charleston, South Carolina, was an important port for the trading of rice, tobacco, and indigo. While most people could easily explain the first two products, most have no idea what indigo is, other than a dark blue color.

Indigo is a dark blue dye that can be made from the "peas" of certain tropical plants. Indigo was used to dye clothes blue. It was very valuable to plantation owners and farmers in South Carolina because it could grow on land that was not suited for tobacco or rice. Indigo would prove to be South Carolina's second most valuable crop. Some called it "blue gold." Over time, however, indigo production in South Carolina declined. After the Revolutionary War, English merchants started getting indigo from India. South Carolina farmers, however, weren't too sad. They soon turned their attention to growing a far more valuable crop --- cotton.

1. Which was not a crop grown in South Carolina?

- A. tobacco
- B. corn
- C. cotton
- D. rice

2. Why do you think indigo was called "blue gold"?

- A. Because it has blues and gold in it
- B. Because there were different kinds of plants that could be used to make indigo
- C. Because it was blue; and valuable like gold
- D. Because English merchants began getting it from India

3. Why was indigo such a valuable crop to farmers?

- A. Because it could only be grown on land with tobacco
- B. Because it could only be grown on land in which tobacco and rice were already being grown
- C. Because it could be grown on land that tobacco and rice could not be grown on
- D. Because people in India wanted it

4. Which is true?

- A. South Carolina farmers were upset that English merchants began getting indigo from India
- B. Indigo was less valuable as a crop to South Carolina farmers than tobacco and cotton
- C. After the Revolutionary War, English merchants began buying cotton in India
- D. South Carolina merchants turned to growing cotton after English merchants began getting indigo from India.

Jackie Robinson

In 1997, Major League Baseball retired Jackie Robinson's number 42. "Retiring" a number is an honor and means it can no longer be used. No player on any team can wear the number 42 because Jackie Robinson wore 42 when he played baseball in the 1940s and 1950s.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American man to play in Major League Baseball. In the 1940s and 1950s, African Americans were not welcomed in some places. As Jackie traveled to different cities, people would call him names just because of the color of his skin. Jackie carried on and showed incredible bravery through it all. He became a hall-of-fame player and even led his team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, to a World Series Championship. Jackie's courage made it so other African Americans could play in the Major Leagues.

1. Why was number "42" retired?

- A. Because Jackie Robinson was a Hall-of-Fame baseball player
- B. Because Jackie Robinson was sometimes treated badly when he played baseball
- C. Because Jackie Robinson was African American
- D. To honor Jackie Robinson and the courage he showed

2. Who can wear number 42 in baseball today?

- A. All-star players
- B. African American Players
- C. No one
- D. Players that show courage

3. Because of Jackie Robinson...

- A. other baseball players can wear number 42 proudly.
- B. other African Americans could play Major League baseball.
- C. bravery is honored in Major League baseball.
- D. the Baseball Hall-of-Fame opened.

4. Why did people call Jackie Robinson names?

- A. They did not think he was a good baseball player
- B. They did not like him because he wore number 42
- C. They did not like him because of the color of his skin
- D. They did not like him because he was on the Brooklyn Dodgers

Dr. King

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for the rights of African-American people. In 1963, he gave his most famous speech to over 250,000 people in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It became known as the “I have a Dream” speech. In his speech, he called for an end to discrimination. Discrimination is the practice of treating people differently or unfairly because of their color, religion, age, gender, culture, or beliefs. King’s “dream” was that all people would be treated equally and that all people would come together as Americans.

- 1. What was Martin Luther King’s “dream”?**
 - A. He would give a speech at the Lincoln Memorial
 - B. That people were being treated unfairly
 - C. That all people would be treated equally
 - D. That discrimination was unfair
- 2. What would be an example of discrimination?**
 - A. Your teacher telling you that you need to study harder
 - B. Somebody telling you they don’t like a kind of food in your lunch
 - C. Somebody telling you they don’t like you because of your hair color
 - D. Somebody telling you they don’t they don’t like your pet
- 3. What is NOT true about the “I have a Dream” Speech?**
 - A. Few people actually came to hear it
 - B. It was given in 1963
 - C. It was given at the Lincoln Memorial
 - D. It was King’s most famous speech
- 4. What question is not answered in the paragraph above?**
 - A. When was Dr. King born?
 - B. What is discrimination?
 - C. Why did Dr. King give the speech?
 - D. Can people be discriminated about because of their age?

Abraham Lincoln was America's 16th president. He was president during one of the hardest times in America's history. During this time, eleven southern states had broken away from the United States to form their own country. The new country was called the Confederate States of America. The states broke away because Lincoln wanted to end slavery. The southern states were dependent on slavery to tend to cotton and tobacco fields. The southern states believed the government did not have the power to end slavery. The war that followed was called the Civil War.

The Civil War lasted four long years. It was, by far, the deadliest war in American history. It was a very hard time for Lincoln. For much of the war, it seemed that the Confederate States of America would win. There was a lot of pressure on Lincoln. Some in the United States felt he was a poor leader. During this time, one of Lincoln's sons died and his wife, Mary Todd, became depressed. Lincoln, however, stayed focused. His goal was to keep America together, and eventually, to indeed, end slavery. In 1865, the Confederate States of America surrendered and the United States, without slavery, would be one country again. Lincoln accomplished both of his goals and is remembered as one of the greatest figures in American history.

1. Why did the eleven states try to form their own country?

- A. They wanted to be the Confederate States of America
- B. They wanted to start the Civil War
- C. They wanted to keep slavery
- D. They wanted to keep growing crops

2. What was Lincoln's first goal?

- A. To keep the nation together
- B. To end slavery
- C. To punish the southern states
- D. To become famous

3. Which is NOT true about the Civil War?

- A. It lasted four years
- B. The Confederate States won the war
- C. It was the deadliest war in American history
- D. The war happened because the southern states wanted to keep slavery

4. Why was the Civil War so hard on Lincoln?

- A. His son died during the war
- B. His wife was depressed after the death of her son
- C. Many believed he was a poor leader
- D. All of the above

Massachusetts Reading Comprehension

Name _____

While Massachusetts may be one of America's smallest state by size, it's certainly one of America's most important states in history. Many of America's "firsts" occurred in the Bay State. When the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth in 1620, they wrote the Mayflower Compact. A compact is another word for "agreement." The Mayflower Compact was the first example of a self-government in America. This means that the Pilgrims would make their own government.

Did you know America's first college, Harvard, was founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1636? America's first public school, the Boston Latin School, was built in Boston, Massachusetts, a year earlier. Even America's first public park, Boston Common, was established in 1634. In 1704, America's first newspaper was published in Boston.

- 1. According to the passage, Massachusetts is ...**
 - A. a large state in size and important in history.
 - B. a large state in size but not that important in history.
 - C. a small state in size and important in history.
 - D. a small state in size and not that important in history.

- 2. What first did NOT occur in Massachusetts?**
 - A. College
 - B. Public School
 - C. Newspaper
 - D. Colony

3. Why was the Mayflower Compact important?

- A. It was the first example of people being ruled by a king in America
- B. It was the first example of people ruling themselves in America
- C. It was the first colony in America
- D. It was the first compact in America

4. What happened in 1635?

- A. The Boston Latin School was founded
- B. Harvard College was founded
- C. Boston Common was founded
- D. The Mayflower Compact was written



Mount Rushmore

Did you know that there are faces in the cliffs of South Dakota? These faces are carved on Mt. Rushmore, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Midwest. The giant carvings were built to honor four great American presidents as well as to bring tourists to the state.

Mt. Rushmore was sculpted by Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln Borglum. Construction began on October 4, 1927, and finished fourteen years later, on October 21, 1941. Borglum, his son, and 400 workers worked to carve these huge sculptures.

Mt. Rushmore features the faces of four of America's Presidents: George Washington (#1), Thomas Jefferson (#3), Abraham Lincoln (#16), and Theodore Roosevelt (#26). The 60 foot-tall sculpture is carved completely from granite. Each of the President's eyes is 11 feet wide!

Over two million people travel to the hills of South Dakota to marvel at the giant faces each year.

1. Who is NOT on Mt. Rushmore?

- A. George Washington
- B. Gutzon Borglum
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

2. How many people worked on Mt. Rushmore?

- A. More than 400
- B. 400
- C. Less than 400
- D. 1,100

3. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. Who is on Mt. Rushmore?
- B. When did construction end on Mt. Rushmore?
- C. Why was Mt. Rushmore built?
- D. How many people visit Mt. Rushmore each year?

4. Mt. Rushmore is NOT located ...

- A. in America
- B. in South Dakota
- C. in the Midwest
- D. in New York

5. Why is there an exclamation mark at the end of this sentence?

“Each of the President’s eyes is 11 feet wide!”

- A. The author wants to know something
- B. Because eyes that are 11 feet wide are really big
- C. The sentence is at the end of a paragraph
- D. It is the end of a thought

The state of New Mexico is located in the southwestern part of the United States. It is the fifth largest state in America but only the 36th largest state in terms of how many people live there. It is also part of the “four corners.” Here, the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah all meet. New Mexico also touches the states of Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the nation of Mexico.

Although much of New Mexico is desert, it has many interesting places to visit. Its capital city, Santa Fe, is the second oldest city in America and has the nation’s oldest church. Carlsbad Caverns is New Mexico’s only national park. Visitors to the park can explore its network of beautiful caves and underground chambers. These chambers have interesting names such as “King’s Palace,” “Halloween Hall,” and the “Underground Lunchroom,” among others.

1. How many states touch New Mexico?
 - A. 3
 - B. 4
 - C. 5
 - D. 6

2. What is the second paragraph about?
 - A. States that touch New Mexico
 - B. The size of New Mexico
 - C. Where New Mexico is in the United States
 - D. Places to visit in New Mexico

3. Which is true?
 - A. New Mexico is a very large state with a lot of people
 - B. New Mexico is a small state with a lot of people
 - C. New Mexico is a large state with few people
 - D. New Mexico is a small state with few people

4. Where is King’s Palace?
 - A. Arizona
 - B. New Mexico’s only national park
 - C. Santa Fe
 - D. Halloween Hall

The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world. It is so large that all of the land on Earth could fit inside of it. In addition, it contains more than fifty percent of the world's water - more water than all of the lakes, rivers, and other oceans combined. Finally, this vast ocean also contains the world's deepest point, the Marianas Trench (35,979 feet).

The Pacific Ocean was named by explorer Ferdinand Magellan who called it "mar pacifico" or, the peaceful sea. As he sailed through terrible sea storms on his way to Asia, he realized he gave the huge ocean the wrong name!

1. All the land on Earth...

- A. is the deepest part of the ocean.
- B. is larger than the Pacific Ocean.
- C. is the same size as the Pacific Ocean.
- D. can fit inside the Pacific Ocean.

2. Why did Ferdinand Magellan name the ocean "Pacific"?

- A. Because when first sailing into the ocean, it seemed peaceful
- B. Because he realized he had made a great discovery
- C. Because of the terrible storms he sailed through
- D. The passage does not tell

3. Which is NOT true about the Pacific Ocean?

- A. It contains more than 50% of the world's water
- B. It contains the world's deepest point
- C. It has more water than all other lakes, oceans, and rivers combined
- D. It is the world's most peaceful ocean.

4. What is the author's purpose in the first paragraph?

- A. To describe the Marianas Trench
- B. To describe how large the Pacific Ocean is
- C. To describe the lakes and rivers on Earth
- D. To describe how the Pacific Ocean got its name

Have you ever heard of Pac-Man? Pac-Man was different than video games today. Its graphics and sounds weren't as advanced, it didn't look as realistic, but it sure was fun! Pac-Man is one of the most important and popular video games of all time. Some credit Pac-Man as one of the reasons video games are so popular today.

Pac-Man is simple enough. The object is to eat all the dots on each board to move on to the next board. The four ghosts: Blinky, Inky, Pinky, and Clyde chase Pac-Man. If a ghost catches Pac-Man, he or she loses one of three lives. Pac-Man, in turn, eat the ghosts if he eats a power pellet and then catches one. Pac-Man players can score extra points by eating the floating fruits that appear every round. If player eats every dot on the board, he or she moves on to the next round. There are 256 total rounds! The game ends when all three lives are gone.

1. Compared to newer games, Pac-Man...

- A. was less fun
- B. was more realistic
- C. had better sounds
- D. had less advanced graphics

2. How do you move to a new board on Pac-Man?

- A. By eating all of the dots
- B. By eating all of the ghosts
- C. By eating all of the fruit
- D. By eating all of the power pellets

3. What does the word object mean in the following sentence?

The object is to eat all the dots on each board to move on to the next board.

- A. thing
- B. goal
- C. reason
- D. feeling

4. What PROBABLY happens after the 256th board?

- A. There is a 257th board
- B. There are more ghosts
- C. The player wins the game and it ends
- D. The player eats all of the dots

Deep within the tangled grasses and winding waterways of the Florida Everglades lives a secretive predator known as the Florida panther. This endangered big cat is a close relative of the more common mountain lion of the western part of North America. There are thought to be 230 Florida panthers left in the wild.

Florida panthers are slightly smaller than their western counterparts. The average Florida panther weighs about 100 pounds, but the largest males can grow to 160 pounds. They hunt prey as small as mice and prey as large as deer, pigs, cats, storks, herons, and even alligators. In turn, they are sometimes preyed upon by large alligators. Humans, however, are by far the biggest threat to Florida panthers. Habitat destruction and collisions with vehicles have taken a major toll on the population.

1. Which of the following is accurate?

- A. The mountain lion and Florida panther are both common in their habitats
- B. The mountain lion less is much less common than the Florida panther
- C. The Florida panther is somewhat less common than the Florida panther
- D. The Florida panther is far less common than the mountain lion

2. Which of the following would be the worst threat to the Florida panther population?

- A. A new housing developing with roads
- B. An increase in alligators
- C. An increase in the number of deer in the area
- D. Hikers

3. Which is not true?

- A. Florida panthers are usually found in the wetlands of Florida
- B. Florida panthers can be both predators and prey of alligators
- C. A normal Florida panther weighs about 160 pounds
- D. Mountain lions are usually larger than Florida panthers

4. Which of the following would be unlikely?

- A. Watching a Florida panther hunting an alligator
- B. Watching a Florida panther eat leaves from a tree
- C. Seeing a Florida panther along a highway in the Florida Everglades
- D. Seeing a Florida panther that weighs 105 pounds

Pepperoni Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Pepperoni

Pepperoni is one of the most popular pizza toppings. It is actually a type of cured sausage made from pork mixed with beef. “Cured” means it is salted to protect against bacteria harmful to people. Pepperoni is mixed with pepper, paprika or other spices and takes on a reddish color. It is typically sliced in small, thin circles.

The word “pepperoni” means “big peppers” in Italian, though pepperoni has little to do with peppers or Italy. Its history is unclear, however, it was almost certainly invented in America, likely in one of the original pizzerias in New York City. What is clear however, is that pepperoni is America’s favorite pizza topping. Approximately 36% of pizzas produced in the United States are topped with pepperoni.

1. Why is pepperoni cured?

- A. To protect against harmful bacteria
- B. To make it red
- C. To make it salty
- D. To make it circular

2. What is unclear about pepperoni?

- A. How it is made
- B. Its actual history
- C. Why people like it
- D. Whether it was invented in the United States

3. Why did the author include the last sentence?

- A. To explain something about pepperoni’s history
- B. To show how popular pepperoni is
- C. To show how popular other toppings are
- D. To explain how pepperoni is made

4. What is not true about pepperoni?

- A. The name pepperoni means “big peppers”
- B. It is actually a type of sausage
- C. It was invented in Italy
- D. It is made from pork and beef

Roadrunner

If you live in the southwestern United States, you've likely seen a roadrunner. These common birds are ground-dwelling members of the cuckoo family. They are found in the American southwest and Mexico. Roadrunners are starting to spread to the central United States as well.

A roadrunner can grow to two feet in length. It is mostly brown with white markings. The roadrunner has a large crest and a very long tail. In addition, it has long legs for chasing its favorite prey - lizards, scorpions, and rodents. Roadrunners can reach speeds of more than 20 miles per hour and would rather run away from threats than fly. Roadrunner sometimes show up in backyards and gardens!

1. How would a roadrunner most likely escape from a predator?

- A. It was run away
- B. It would fly away
- C. It would hide in the bushes
- D. It would try to attack

2. Which is not true about the roadrunner?

- A. They are cuckoos
- B. You can find them in Mexico
- C. They eat scorpions
- D. They live in the southeastern United States

3. What could be a title for this story?

- A. The Roadrunner's Diet
- B. The Basics About Roadrunners
- C. Birds of America
- D. Cuckoos

4. Why do Roadrunners have long legs?

- A. To chase their prey
- B. To stay cool in the desert
- C. To blend in to their environment
- D. Because they don't like to fly.



SILK ROAD Reading Comprehension

In 1274, Italian explorers Marco and Niccolo Polo set out on a 24-year journey in which they traveled the famous Silk Road from Italy, through brutal deserts and towering mountains, to eastern China. They traveled over 4,000 miles in all. Marco and Niccolo were among the very first Europeans to explore the fabled empire of China. In China, Marco Polo even worked for ruler Kublai Khan. Polo detailed his experiences and findings in China by writing a book. Polo described materials and inventions never before seen in Europe. Paper money, a printing press, porcelain, gunpowder, and coal were among the products he wrote about. He also described the vast wealth of Kublai Khan, as well as the geography of northern and southern China. European rulers were very interested in the products Polo described. However, trading for them along the Silk Road was dangerous, expensive, and impractical. European rulers began to wonder if there was a sea route to the east to get the products they wanted at a reasonable price.

1.) How many years did Marco Polo's journey to China last? _____

2.) Marco Polo traveled over _____ miles in his travels to China.

3.) In China, Marco Polo worked for _____, the ruler of China.

4.) Marco Polo came to China from what country?

- a.) Europe
- b.) China
- c.) Italy
- d.) England

5.) While traveling in China, Marco Polo observed many new discoveries. Which of the following is not one of the discoveries?

- a.) cigarettes
- b.) gunpowder
- c.) paper money
- d.) coal

6.) Marco Polo traveled to China with _____ Polo.

7.) What word below best captures the meaning of "impractical" in the sentence:

However, trading for them along the Silk Road was dangerous, expensive, and impractical.

- a.) not funny
- b.) ridiculous
- c.) too difficult
- d.) positive

8.) Because of the difficulties in traveling the Silk Road, European rulers began wondering if there was a _____ route to the east.



Spiders

Did you know that spiders are not insects? They are actually called Arachnids, a group of animals related to insects that have eight legs and that have venom. There are many different kinds of spiders. They live all over the world and can be found in just about every habitat. Most like dark places, which may include your home, closets, or basement!

Spiders are very interesting. Some spin silk webs to catch and eat prey, while others attack their prey. Some spiders, like tarantulas, are large enough to eat lizards and mice! Many people are afraid of spiders because they bite. Most spiders, however, will only bite if they think they are danger and most are harmless. Spiders are actually helpful to people because many eat insect pests like cockroaches and mosquitoes.

1.) Spiders have _____ legs.

2.) Which is NOT true about spiders?

- A. Some spiders attack their prey.
- B. All spiders are dangerous.
- C. Spiders like dark places.
- D. Spiders are actually helpful to people.

3.) Spiders are....

- A. related to insects
- B. tarantulas
- C. all harmful
- D. insects

4.) Why are spiders helpful to people?

- A. They live all over the world.
- B. They eat insect pests.
- C. Some eat lizards.
- D. They have eight legs.

5.) What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. Where would I find a spider?
- B. How long do spiders live?
- C. How many legs do spiders have?
- D. What do spiders eat?



National Anthem

The Star Spangled Banner was a poem written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. This war was fought between the United States and England over 200 years ago! Francis Scott Key was in Baltimore, Maryland, when the city was attacked by England. He watched as English navy ships attacked the city and a large fort in Baltimore Harbor called Fort McHenry. As the fort was attacked, Key wrote a poem on the back of an envelope. The attack continued through the night. In the morning, the smoke cleared and the sun shone on the fort. The American soldiers noticed that their flag remained! It was a symbol that the United States could not be defeated and would remain a free country.

The poem that Francis Scott Key began with the famous words, "Oh say can you see...." Do you know the rest of the poem? It became known as the Star-Spangled Banner, America's National Anthem.

1. The War between America and England happened....

- A. recently
- B. in the future
- C. a long time ago
- D. about a hundred years ago

2. Who was Francis Scott Key?

- A. A soldier
- B. The author of the Star-Spangled Banner
- C. A president
- D. The passage doesn't say

3. Which is NOT true?

- A. The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and England
- B. Francis Scott Key wrote the Star-Spangled Banner
- C. Francis Scott Key watched the attack of Fort McHenry
- D. The attack on Fort McHenry stopped at night

4. What happened in the morning?

- A. The American flag was still flying
- B. The American flag had come down
- C. The Americans were defeated
- D. The English had won

5. Which of the following words is NOT important in how the Star Spangled Banner was written?

- A. Envelope
- B. War
- C. Parade
- D. Baltimore

Teddy Bear Reading Comprehension Name _____

Did you know the teddy bear was named after Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th president? According to legend, he was invited on a bear hunt in Mississippi with several other men, including the state's governor. Roosevelt, unlike the other hunters in the group, had not located a single bear. Some of his assistants, however, found and trapped a black bear, especially for Roosevelt. Roosevelt decided against shooting the bear, calling it unsportsmanlike. Roosevelt's experiences bear hunting in Mississippi made the newspapers. He was known to love hunting and his refusal to shoot the bear surprised many people.

Morris Michtom was a stuffed animal maker who lived in Brooklyn, New York. When he read the article, he decided to dedicate a stuffed toy bear to Roosevelt. He called it "Teddy's Bear." Teddy is often the name used by men named Theodore. "Teddy" Roosevelt granted permission for Michtom to use his name in producing the bears. "Teddy bears" became so popular, that Morris and his wife, Rose, were able to build an entire toy company!

1. Which is NOT true about Theodore Roosevelt?

- A. He thought shooting a bear that was already captured was unsportsmanlike
- B. He did not like hunting
- C. He was the 26th President
- D. He was invited on a bear hunt in Mississippi

2. The Teddy bear...

- A. was named after Theodore Roosevelt.
- B. was invented before Roosevelt's hunting trip.
- C. was invented by Theodore Roosevelt.
- D. was not very popular at first.

3. Because Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot the bear...

- A. The teddy bear was born.
- B. Morris Michtom became a stuffed animal maker.
- C. Morris Michtom was able to get permission to use Theodore Roosevelt's name.
- D. stuffed animals were invented.

4. What is suggested in the following sentence?

According to legend, he was invited on a bear hunt in Mississippi with several other men, including the state's governor. Roosevelt, unlike the other hunters in the group, had not located a single bear.

- A. There weren't many bears in Mississippi
- B. Theodore Roosevelt has shot several bears
- C. The other hunters in the group has been successful in finding bears
- D. Bears were hiding from Theodore Roosevelt

TYRANNOSAURUS REX Reading Comprehension

The Tyrannosaurus rex, also known as T. rex, was one of the largest land predators to have ever lived. The T. rex could grow to 40 feet in length (a little longer than a school bus) and could stand 13 feet tall at the hips (about three feet taller than a basketball hoop). It lived in what is now western North America and may have even been partly covered in feathers.

The Tyrannosaurus rex was a fearsome predator with strong jaws and up to 60 teeth. Some of these teeth could grow to be almost a foot long. The T. rex was a strict carnivore (meat eater) and hunted other dinosaurs. Scientists aren't sure how fast the T. rex could run, or if it could even run at all.

In 1990, a fossil hunter found the most complete skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus rex ever found! It was sold to a museum for eight million dollars, the highest amount ever paid for dinosaur fossils.

1.) Compared to a basketball hoop, the Tyrannosaurus rex was...

- a.) shorter.
- b.) longer.
- c.) taller.
- d.) lighter.

2.) Compared to a school bus, the Tyrannosaurus rex was...

- a.) taller.
- b.) longer.
- c.) shorter.
- d.) stronger.

3.) Which of the following might also be described as a fearsome hunter?

- a.) A sparrow
- b.) Your pet hermit crab
- c.) A tiger
- d.) A baby seal

4.) What are scientists not sure of?

- a.) If the Tyrannosaurus rex ate plants
- b.) If the Tyrannosaurus rex could run
- c.) If the Tyrannosaurus rex had 60 teeth
- d.) Where the Tyrannosaurus rex lived

5.) Which is NOT true about the Tyrannosaurus rex?

- a.) It ate other dinosaurs.
- b.) Some of its teeth were a foot long.
- c.) A skeleton sold for eight million dollars.
- d.) Compared to other land predators, it was actually small.

6.) Which of the paragraphs discusses the diet of the T. rex?

- a.) first
- b.) second
- c.) third
- d.) none of them

7.) The author seems to think the T. rex skeleton was _____.

- a.) expensive
- b.) fake
- c.) boring
- d.) broken

8.) Which of the following statements indicates the author is not sure about a fact?

- a.) The T. rex lived in what is now western North America.
- b.) The T. rex was a carnivore.
- c.) The T. rex may have been partly covered by feathers.
- d.) The T. rex could grow to 13 feet tall at the hips.

HARRIET TUBMAN Reading Comprehension

Harriet Tubman was born a slave. In the 1800s, slaves were African-American people who were forced to work. They were “owned” by their masters and had no rights. They could be bought and sold, and ripped away from their families forever. Harriet Tubman wanted a better life. She ran away from her “owners” on what came to be known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was not really underground and it was not really a railroad. It was a series of long paths through the woods that led to freedom for slaves in the northern United States. It was very dangerous and very long, but Harriet Tubman made it to freedom!

After Harriet became free, she helped her family members and other slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Southern slave owners were very angry with Harriet and offered large rewards for anyone who could capture her. Harriet, however, was never captured. In all, she helped over 300 slaves to freedom in the North. Former slaves called her “Moses.” That is one reason why Harriet will be known forever as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad.

1.) Slaves...

- a.) were not forced to work.
- b.) had a lot of rights.
- c.) had no rights.
- d.) were never sold.

2.) Which of the following questions is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) How old was Harriet when she ran away?
- b.) Did Harriet help other slaves to freedom?
- c.) What was the Underground Railroad?
- d.) Was Harriet Tubman a slave?

3.) Which of the following would probably NOT be a title for this passage?

- a.) Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
- b.) The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman
- c.) The Life of a Southern Slave Owner
- d.) Harriet Tubman: The Conductor

4.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Harriet Tubman would never be captured.
- b.) Harriet Tubman ran away to get a better life.
- c.) Southern slave owners were angry with Harriet.
- d.) Harriet Tubman owned slaves.

5.) Which of the following best describes Harriet Tubman?

- a.) A woman who was captured trying to bring others to freedom.
- b.) A woman who helped as many as 300 slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
- c.) A woman who was scared of trying to become free.
- d.) A woman who was against slavery.

6.) The Underground Railroad was...

- a.) in the woods.
- b.) a train.
- c.) underground.
- d.) in the air.

7.) How did Southern slave owners feel about Harriet Tubman?

- a.) They liked her.
- b.) They wanted her captured.
- c.) They didn't really care.
- d.) They thought she should be free.

8.) What did Harriet Tubman do after she became free?

- a.) She built the Underground Railroad.
- b.) She started helping other slaves to freedom.
- c.) She got a job.
- d.) She made people call her "Moses".



The United States

The United States is a large country. It is the third largest in the whole world! It is located in a continent called North America. Parts of the United States touch three different oceans. The United States has tall mountains, wide plains, deserts, hills, rivers, lakes, volcanoes, and even rainforests! People from all over the world have come to live in the United States.

There are 50 states in the United States. The newest states, Alaska and Hawaii, are not connected to the other states. Alaska is the largest state and Hawaii is a chain of islands in the Pacific Ocean.

1.) The United States is the _____ country in the world.

- A.) smallest
- B.) third largest
- C.) second largest
- D.) largest

2.) Parts of the United States touch _____ different oceans.

- A.) three
- B.) two
- C.) four
- D.) five

3.) Alaska is _____ and Hawaii is _____.

- A.) connected to other states; a chain of islands
- B.) a chain of islands; the largest state
- C.) the largest state; a chain of islands
- D.) not connected to other states; the largest state

4.) The United States does not have _____.

- A.) 50 states
- B.) mountains
- C.) volcanoes
- D.) continents

5.) What continent is the United States a part of?

Utah Reading Comprehension for Grades 1-3

Utah is a state in the western part of America. It is part of the “four corners” of America, which also includes Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Here, you can step in all four states at once! Utah touches the states of Nevada and Idaho as well. One of Utah’s most famous places is called the Great Salt Lake. The Great Salt Lake is much saltier than the ocean. Utah’s capital city, Salt Lake City, is located on the shores of the lake. Salt Lake City is the largest city in Utah and even has its own professional basketball team, the Utah Jazz. Utah is also well known for its great ski resorts and its five beautiful national parks.

1. What is NOT true about Utah?

- A. It is part of the “four corners”
- B. It touches Nevada
- C. It has a professional basketball team
- D. Utah is in the eastern part of America

2. Which of the states below is not in the “four corners?”

- A. Idaho
- B. Utah
- C. Colorado
- D. Arizona

3. Which of the following people would probably like to visit Utah?

- A. Doctor
- B. Skier
- C. Tennis player
- D. Bus Driver

4. The Great Salt Lake is...

- A. about as salty as the ocean.
- B. saltier than the ocean.
- C. less salty than the ocean.
- D. not really in Utah.

Viruses in People

In people, a virus is a tiny molecule that attacks, multiplies or copies itself once it is inside the body. When your immune system attacks these invaders, you feel sick. Usually, your immune system can destroy the virus and eventually you feel better. People can take certain medicines to help themselves feel better when they have a virus. Viruses can easily be spread from person to person.

Viruses in Computers

In a computer, a virus is made up of lines of code that cause a computer or computers to function in ways that are harmful. Just like in people, computers sometimes show signs of having a virus. Sometimes they work very slowly or sometimes screens and pictures pop up that aren't supposed to. Other times, however, people don't know their computers have viruses and these viruses can steal passwords and other important information. Certain viruses can spread from computer to computer. When a computer has a virus, programs can be used to find and destroy the virus. These programs, however, don't always work.

1. Why do people begin to feel sick when they have viruses?

- A. The virus has multiplied
- B. The immune system has failed
- C. The immune system has begun attacking the virus
- D. They have begun to take medicine to feel better

2. What happens when a computer has a virus?

- A. Sometimes it works slowly
- B. Sometimes strange screens and pictures appear
- C. Sometimes nothing happens and the person doesn't know about the virus
- D. All of the above

3. Programs used to destroy computer viruses...

- A. always work.
- B. never work.
- C. sometimes work.
- D. are not real.

4. What is NOT true about viruses?

- A. Sometimes people don't know their computers have viruses.
- B. A person's immune system can usually destroy a virus
- C. They can be spread from computer to computer
- D. They cannot be spread from person to person

George Washington

Name _____

In 1776, America and England were at war. George Washington was made leader of the new American army, which was called the Continental Army. The Continental Army, however, had no fighting experience and few supplies. Throughout the war, Washington's army suffered from food and clothing shortages. Some soldiers, many of whom were just teenagers, lacked shoes or blankets to sleep with at night. Soldiers in the army were often freezing cold, sick, and suffering from disease.

Despite the many problems and setbacks, and after six long years of fighting, Washington led the Continental Army to victory over the English and America became a free nation. It seemed an impossible fight. The English army was considered the most powerful in the world, but Washington had somehow led his army to victory.

America would be forever grateful to George Washington. He'd be called "father of our country." He'd be America's first president and would have cities, a state, monuments, colleges, highways, and parks named after him. His face is on our one-dollar bill and quarter.

1. The Continental Army...

- A. seemed like a powerful fighting force.
- B. seemed like it had no chance against the English army.
- C. was usually healthy and had plenty of food.
- D. was considered the most powerful army in the world.

2. After six long years...

- A. Washington led the English army to victory and American became free.
- B. Washington led the Continental Army to victory and America became free.
- C. Washington would have lots of things named after him.
- D. the English army became the most powerful in the world.

3. Which of the following best describes the first paragraph?

- A. It explains how the Continental Army won the war
- B. It explains how famous George Washington was
- C. It explains how the Continental Army was in bad shape
- D. It explains how powerful the English army was

4. Why was Washington called the “father of our country?”

- A. He was thought to be a great father
- B. He fought against the English
- C. He helped make America its own country
- D. He became very famous in America

Saber-tooth Tiger Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Around twelve thousand years ago, during the end of the Ice Age, the legendary saber-tooth tiger, became extinct. Saber tooth tigers are first thought to have existed around 55 million years ago. They lived in both North and South America, and lived alongside wholly mammoths and other creatures that are also extinct today.

Though this prehistoric mammal has “tiger” in its name, it actually was nothing like tigers today, and therefore is not classified in the same family. In fact, it may have been bear-like in build than cat-like! The “saber tooth” part of the name came from their elongated canine teeth, which could grow to eight inches long. Their long teeth were visible even when their mouths were closed. These massive cats, which could weigh up to 650 pounds, probably preyed upon bison, deer, and camels. They lived in forests or grasslands and could live up to forty years.

Scientists disagree concerning why saber-tooth tigers became extinct. Some attribute their extinction to climate change, as they went extinct around the end of the Ice Age. Others believe that people hunted them to extinction.

1. According to the passage...

- A. saber tooth tigers were similar to today’s tigers.
- B. saber tooth tigers were more closely related to lions.
- C. saber-tooth tigers were unrelated to today’s tigers.
- D. saber-tooth tigers were similar in appearance to today’s tigers.

2. Which of the following IS NOT true?

- A. Saber-tooth tigers lived alongside dinosaurs
- B. Saber-tooth tigers lived alongside wholly mammoths
- C. Saber-tooth tigers lived in North America
- D. Saber-tooth tigers became extinct during the last ice age.

3. Which of the following facts does the author find especially interesting?

- A. That saber-tooth tigers could weigh up to 650 pounds
- B. That saber-tooth tigers were found in both North and South America
- C. That saber-tooth tigers preyed on large animals
- D. That saber-tooth tigers may have looked more like bears than tigers

4. Why did the saber-tooth tiger become extinct?

- A. People hunted them
- B. Climate change
- C. Because of the ice age
- D. Scientists aren't sure