

ABIGAIL ADAMS Reading Comprehension

Abigail Adams was born on November 22, 1744. Adams was both the wife and mother of two American presidents. She married John Adams, the second president of the United States, on October 25, 1764. John and Abigail Adams had six children together. One of their sons, John Quincy Adams, would later become the sixth president of the United States.

Abigail Adams is most remembered for the letters that she wrote back and forth to her husband while he was working with the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. John Adams would frequently write to her and ask for her advice on both social and political issues of the time. The letters of Abigail Adams to her husband, John Adams, are now part of the American Revolutionary War period of history because they serve as a firsthand eyewitness account of political life during this time.

Abigail Adams is also known as the first First Lady to live in the White House, which became the official residence of the presidential family after the nation's capital was relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1800. The First Lady enjoyed life at the newly built White House mansion, even though it was still under construction when the First Family moved in.

When Thomas Jefferson defeated Adams in the presidential election of 1800, Abigail and her family moved back to Quincy, Massachusetts. After leaving the White House, Abigail Adams continued to write letters to famous Americans of the time like Thomas Jefferson. She also followed John Quincy's political career with great interest. Abigail Adams died from typhoid fever at the age of 73 on October 28, 1818. Both John and Abigail are buried together in a family crypt in Quincy, Massachusetts.

_____ 1.) **Abigail Adams was not...**

- a.) a first lady.
- b.) the mother of a president.
- c.) a member of Congress.
- d.) the first woman to live in the White House.

_____ 2.) **What happened first in the passage?**

- a.) 1818
- b.) John Adams became president.
- c.) The Adams family returned to Quincy, Massachusetts.
- d.) Abigail Adams moved into the White House in Washington, D.C.

_____ 3.) **Which question can be answered in the third paragraph?**

- a.) When was Abigail Adams married to John Adams?
- b.) Which son later became America's sixth president?
- c.) Who was the first First Lady to live in the White House when the capital was relocated to Washington, D.C.?
- d.) When did Abigail Adams die?

_____ 4.) **Which of the following is not true?**

- a.) Abigail Adams wrote letters to her husband while he was in Philadelphia, PA.
- b.) Abigail's son became the second president of the United States.
- c.) Abigail Adams was the wife of an American president.
- d.) Abigail wrote letters to Thomas Jefferson.

_____ 5.) **What does the word "crypt" mean in the last paragraph?**

- a.) house
- b.) earth
- c.) tomb
- d.) water

_____ 6.) **Abigail Adams is famous for being a First Lady and _____.**

- a.) for becoming a president herself
- b.) for the letters that she wrote back and forth to an American president
- c.) for living during the Revolutionary War
- d.) for having six children

_____ 7.) **What is implied by the following sentence:**

Abigail Adams is also known as the first First Lady to live in the White House, which became the official residence of the presidential family after the nation's capital was relocated to Washington D.C. in 1800.

- a.) The nation's capital was always located in Washington, D.C.
- b.) Abigail Adams was the last First Lady to live in the White House.
- c.) Abigail Adams was the second First Lady to live in the White House.
- d.) The nation's capital was in a different location before it was in Washington, D.C.

_____ 8.) **Who won the presidential election of 1800?**

- a.) Abigail Adams
- b.) John Adams
- c.) John Quincy Adams
- d.) Thomas Jefferson

_____ 9.) **Which question is NOT answered in the passage?**

- a.) How did John Adams die?
- b.) How did Abigail Adams die?
- c.) What did Abigail Adams do after she left the White House?
- d.) Why are the letters between Abigail and John Adams important?

_____ 10.) **Why were the letters of Abigail Adams so important?**

- a.) They describe why John Adams should have won the election of 1800.
- b.) They describe the politics of the American Revolution era.
- c.) They describe the Adams family.
- d.) They describe how John Quincy Adams will eventually become president.

The Birth of a Patriot

John Adams was born in 1735 to Henry and Susanna Boylston Adams. Adams graduated from Harvard University in 1755 and became an attorney in 1758. From an early age, Adams developed intense feelings for political causes. He wrote powerful speeches against the Stamp Act of 1765 but also defended British soldiers charged with murder after the Boston Massacre. In 1764, he married Abigail Smith. Together they would have five children, including future president John Quincy Adams. Their marriage would provide a source of comfort for John during his years away from her negotiating in Europe.

Political Life and Presidential Years

In 1771, Adams was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and later, to the Continental Congress in 1774. Adams carried great influence among the members of Congress and strongly favored separation from England. Adams also assisted in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Massachusetts Constitution. He quickly became a vocal leader in the quest for independence and gained a reputation for being incorruptible, stubborn, and fiery. After spending several years negotiating business treaties with European powers at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, Adams was elected as the second president of the United States (he lost to George Washington previously and served two terms as his vice president). His presidency, however, was marred by the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts, controversy within his Federalist Party regarding foreign policy, and a general feeling that Federalists relied more on the ideas of Alexander Hamilton than his. Adams was defeated by Thomas Jefferson in 1800 in his bid for a second term in the presidency.

Later Life and Relationship with Thomas Jefferson

After completing his term as president, Adams became depressed and moved back to his home, called Peacefield, near Quincy, Massachusetts. He completely dropped out of politics. In 1812, however, he began corresponding with Thomas Jefferson, and the two former presidents sent letters to each other for fourteen years about politics, government, and philosophy. In 1825, his son, John Quincy Adams, was elected as America's sixth president. On July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams died at his home. Ironically, his friend and fellow Founding Father Thomas Jefferson died the same day, only hours before him.

Legacy as a Founding Father

Today, John Adams is remembered as one of the Founding Fathers. For much of history, however, he was overshadowed by the likes of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin (whom Adams detested). Recently, however, Adams has been brought back into significance with the famous David McCullough novel called John Adams, which was turned into a popular seven-part film.

1. Which of the following reveals that John Adams was more concerned with justice than politics?

- A. He wrote powerful speeches against the Stamp Act
- B. He defended British soldiers charged with murder in the Boston Massacre
- C. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives
- D. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence

2. John Adams is often called “incorruptible”. Which is the following illustrates someone who is “incorruptible?”

- A. Someone who signs the Declaration of Independence
- B. Someone who gives away government secrets
- C. Someone who fought against the British
- D. Someone who refuses to do something against the law, even if it helps him or her

3. In contrast to his political life during the Revolution, the John Adams presidency was...

- A. very successful.
- B. somewhat successful.
- C. unsuccessful.
- D. uneventful.

4. What happened in the life of John Adams between 1801 and 1812?

- A. John Adams was president
- B. John Adams was out of politics
- C. John Quincy Adams became president
- D. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams sent letters to each other

5. What does “corresponding” mean in the following sentence?

In 1812, however, he began corresponding with Thomas Jefferson, and the two former presidents sent letters to each other for fourteen years about politics, government, and philosophy.

- A. building
- B. protesting
- C. visiting
- D. communicating

6. What was ironic about the day John Adams died?

- A. It was also the day Thomas Jefferson died
- B. It was the day that John Quincy Adams became president
- C. It was the day Thomas Jefferson died and the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence
- D. Thomas Jefferson died just hours after him.

7. Which of the following best describes John Adams?

- A. He has always been regarded as one of America's great founding fathers
- B. Because he had major disagreements with other founding fathers such as Benjamin Franklin, he was long considered a villain in American history
- C. Because of the novel written by David McCullough, John Adams is no longer considered a founding father
- D. Because of the novel written by David McCullough, John Adams is once again considered one of America's great founding fathers

AGE OF EXPLORATION Reading Comprehension

The Age of Exploration started in the 1400s. Europeans were desperate to get spices from Asia. Spices were used to preserve foods and keep them from spoiling. Spices, however, were expensive and dangerous to get. European rulers began to pay for explorations to find a sea route to Asia so they could get spices cheaper.

Portugal was the first country that sent explorers to search for the sea route to Asia. After Bartholomew Dias and his crew made it to Africa's Cape of Good Hope, Vasco da Gama and his crew became the first to sail around Africa and through the Indian Ocean to India in 1497. Spain, however, would soon take over the lead in exploration. When Portugal refused to finance Christopher Columbus's idea to sail west to find the shortcut to the Indies, Columbus convinced Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to finance it. On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus and his crew reached the island of Hispaniola. Although Columbus believed he had reached Asia, he had actually discovered the entire continent of North America and claimed it for Spain.

Spain quickly colonized North America. Ponce de Leon discovered Florida, and the first European settlement in the New World was later established at St. Augustine. Hernando Cortes crushed the Aztec empire in Mexico and claimed it for Spain. Francisco Pizarro did the same to the Incan Empire in South America. Other explorers such as Francisco Coronado and Hernando de Soto claimed other portions of North America for Spain. Vasco Nunez de Balboa even claimed the entire Pacific Ocean for Spain. As the Spanish empire grew, explorers forced native populations into slavery and made them convert to Christianity. Meanwhile, France began to explore North America. Explorations by Giovanni Verrazano and Jacques Cartier resulted in French claims of much of Canada and the north Atlantic coast. England would soon attempt to make its presence known by financing pirates such as Francis Drake to plunder Spanish settlements and steal gold from Spanish sea vessels. England also established a settlement in North Carolina in 1587. Territorial disputes and constant pirating resulted in a series of major wars between the competing nations. In 1588, the British Army defeated the vaunted Spanish Armada. The British victory proved a serious blow to Spanish influence in the New World.

Although Spain still controlled much of the New World after defeat, England and France were able to accelerate their colonization. England soon established successful colonies throughout the eastern portions of the United States, and France had colonies in Canada and the middle portions of the United States. By the mid 1700s, new territorial disputes between England and France eventually resulted in England gaining control over much of North America after the French and Indian War. English colonies flourished in North America until 1776 when the colonists declared their independence. The Revolutionary War ensued and resulted in independence for the colonists. The United States of America was formed.

1.) Which country was the first to send explorers to search for a sea route to Asia?

- a.) Spain
- b.) England
- c.) Portugal
- d.) France

2.) Who was the first explorer to sail through the Indian Ocean to India?

- a.) Christopher Columbus
- b.) Vasco Nunez de Balboa
- c.) Vasco da Gama
- d.) Hernando Cortes

3.) Christopher Columbus believed he had reached _____.

4.) Select all of the following that were claimed by Spain.

- a.) Florida
- b.) Pacific Ocean
- c.) Canada
- d.) Parts of South America

5.) What country established the first permanent European settlement in the New World?

- a.) Spain
- b.) England
- c.) France
- d.) Portugal

6.) What happened first?

- a.) October 12, 1492
- b.) Vasco da Gama sails to India.
- c.) Ponce de Leon discovers Florida.
- d.) Vasco Nunez de Balboa claims the Pacific Ocean for Spain.

7.) What happened last?

- a.) 1588
- b.) The English establish a settlement in North Carolina.
- c.) The Revolutionary War
- d.) Vasco Nunez de Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean.

8.) Which of the following best describes why the Age of Exploration occurred?

- a.) England and Spain wanted to expand their empires.
- b.) Spain had claimed North and South America.
- c.) European rulers wanted to find a cheaper way to obtain spices from Asia.
- d.) The English defeated the Spanish Armada.

9.) Select all of the following that are true.

- a.) The English defeated the Spanish Armada in 1587.
- b.) Vasco da Gama claimed the Pacific Ocean for Spain.
- c.) Hernando Cortes conquered the Incan Empire in South America.
- d.) Explorations by Giovanni Verrazano and Jacques Cartier resulted in French claims of much of Canada.

10.) Select all of the following that are not true.

- a.) Sir Francis Drake was an English pirate.
- b.) Spain was the first country to search for a sea route to Asia.
- c.) Spices were used to preserve food.
- d.) Vasco da Gama sailed for Spain.

Introduction

Muhammad Ali was one of America's greatest 20th-century boxers and athletes. Muhammad Ali was born Cassius Clay in Louisville, Kentucky. He started fighting at the age of 12 after his bicycle was stolen. Under the guidance of Joe Martin, Clay became an explosive boxer and won six Kentucky Gold Gloves during high school. In 1960, Clay won a gold medal in the Olympics at Rome, Italy.

The Louisville Lip

Clay then turned professional under the guidance of Angelo Dundee and became famous for his unorthodox style. Ali tirelessly promoted himself and earned the nickname the "Louisville Lip" for statements such as "I am the Greatest," and "I'm young, I'm pretty, I'm fast, and no one can beat me." From 1960–1963, Cassius Clay was 19–0 with 15 knockouts. On February 25, 1964, Clay defeated Sonny Liston and won the World Heavyweight Championship.

A Boxing Immortal Changes his Name

In 1965, Clay joined the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali. Ali defended his championship for the next several years, winning many matches with a breathtaking combination of speed and power. In 1967, however Ali was stripped of his championship for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War. Ali immediately became a controversial figure and was the subject of outrage for many Americans. Although Ali lost his title to Joe Frazier in 1971, he cemented his title as "The Greatest" by outdueling George Foreman in 1974 in "The Rumble in the Jungle." In 1975, Ali defeated Joe Frazier in "The Thrilla in Manila." In one of the best fights in boxing history, Ali won by TKO after the 14th round. In 1981, Ali retired with a career record of 56–5 with 37 knockouts.

After Boxing

In 1984, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which would eventually confine him to a wheelchair and make it hard for him to communicate. Ali died on June 3, 2016.

1. Which is NOT true about Muhammad Ali?

- A. He changed his name to Cassius Clay
- B. He won a gold medal in the Olympics
- C. He started boxing after his bike was stolen
- D. He was born in Kentucky

- 2. To which of the following questions would Joe Martin be the answer?**
- A. Who taught Muhammad Ali as a professional boxer?
 - B. Who taught Cassius Clay to be an explosive boxer?
 - C. Who guided Cassius Clay as a professional boxer?
 - D. Who taught Muhammad Ali to be an explosive boxer?

- 3. What was Muhammad Ali called “the Louisville Lip?”**
- A. Because he was from Louisville and had a prominent lip
 - B. Because he was from Louisville and trained under Angelo Dundee
 - C. Because he was from Louisville and went undefeated
 - D. Because he was from Louisville and liked to talk about himself

- 4. What does “unorthodox” mean in the following sentence?**

Clay then turned professional under the guidance of Angelo Dundee and became famous for his unorthodox style.

- A. powerful
- B. unusual
- C. illegal
- D. objectionable

- 5. Why did many people become outraged with Ali?**

- A. He refused to fight in the Vietnam War
- B. He changed his name from Cassius Clay to Muhammad Ali
- C. He lost his title to Joe Frazier
- D. He was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease

- 6. Which of the following is true?**

- A. Ali defeated Joe Frazier in “the Rumble in the Jungle.”
- B. Ali defeated George Foreman in “the Thrilla in Manila.”
- C. The “Thrilla in Manila” lasted 14 rounds before Ali won.
- D. Ali retired in 1984.

- 7. Which of the following best describes Muhammad Ali?**

- A. An incredible boxer who only won a lot of fights, but who rarely knocked out his opponents.
- B. An incredible boxer who was not afraid to make unpopular political statements
- C. An incredible boxer who largely stayed out of politics and who was loved by all
- D. An incredible boxer and humble man who let his boxing do the “talking.”

The Presidency of Andrew Jackson

In 1828, Andrew Jackson won the presidential election by a landslide and became the nation's seventh president. He was seen as the people's president. He received 178 electoral votes to John Quincy Adams's 83. Jackson wasted no time in putting his mark on the presidency. Jackson claimed that the old corrupt politicians had to go. He removed almost the entire old regime and replaced them with people he chose. In 1828, however, his wife Rachel died and Jackson became depressed.

Jackson believed in the national government and its ability to impose tariffs (taxes on imports or exports). South Carolina attempted to nullify the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 that the federal government imposed. South Carolina, like much of the south, was angry that the tariffs would result in higher prices on goods that weren't manufactured in the south. Jackson, in his typical style, threatened to send in federal troops to enforce compliance with the law. Henry Clay's Compromise of 1833 prevented final confrontation.

In 1832, Andrew Jackson took measures to take away the federal charter of the Second Bank of the United States. Jackson believed the bank was unconstitutional, too powerful, exposed the nation's finances to foreign interests, favored northeastern states, and was corrupt. Eventually, Jackson succeeded in this endeavor, and the bank's charter was revoked. Hundreds of state and local banks took over the national bank's lending functions.

Andrew Jackson is perhaps best known for his Indian removal programs. In 1830, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which authorized Congress to purchase Indian lands in the east in exchange for unsettled land in the west. Jackson's actions were particularly popular in the south, as gold had been discovered on Cherokee lands in Georgia. Jackson pressured Cherokee leaders to sign a removal treaty (known as the Treaty of New Echota) that was surely rejected by most Cherokee people. The treaty, which was enforced by Martin Van Buren (the next president), resulted in the removal of the Cherokee Indians from their native lands via the Trail of Tears. The Cherokee were forced to walk hundreds of miles from Georgia to present-day Oklahoma. Thousands died along the way. In all, more than 45,000 Indians were "removed" during Jackson's administration.

Andrew Jackson retired to his mansion in Tennessee after his second term. He died on June 8, 1845, at the Hermitage.

- 1. Andrew Jackson won the presidential election of 1828 by a landslide. Which of the following would be another way to state this?**
 - A. Andrew Jackson barely won the election of 1828.
 - B. Andrew Jackson won the election of 1828.
 - C. Andrew Jackson easily won the election of 1828.

D. Andrew Jackson was lucky to win the election of 1828.

2. Jackson believed...

- A. in the second Bank of the United States.
- B. that South Carolina should be able to nullify tariffs.
- C. in the government's power to issue tariffs.
- D. in bringing the war back to England.

3. Why did South Carolina try to nullify the tariffs?

- A. Goods produced in the South were taxed
- B. Goods produced outside of the South became more expensive
- C. Goods produced outside of the South became less expensive
- D. Andrew Jackson threatened to send troops to South Carolina

4. What could be the title of the third paragraph?

- A. The History of the Second Bank of the United States
- B. Jackson Takes on the Big Bank
- C. 1832
- D. The Two Terms of Andrew Jackson

5. Which of the following WAS NOT true about Andrew Jackson's Indian removal programs?

- A. They were popular in the South
- B. They resulted in the "removal" of the Cherokee
- C. Tens of thousands of Indians were moved from their native lands
- D. The Treaty of New Echota was likely accepted by most Cherokee people

6. Who enforced the Treaty of New Echota?

- A. Andrew Jackson
- B. The president after Andrew Jackson
- C. The Cherokee Nation
- D. Georgia

7. The passage above does not include...

- A. information about Jackson's childhood
- B. information about the Election of 1828
- C. information about how Jackson revoked the charter of the Second Bank of New York
- D. information about Jackson's response to the attempted nullification of tariffs by South Carolina.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY Reading Comprehension

Susan Brownell Anthony was an American civil rights leader who was instrumental in the quest to grant woman the right to vote (suffrage).

Susan was born the daughter of Quaker parents on February 15, 1820. The family soon moved to New York State where Susan received her education at a school her father ran. It was here where she developed political inclinations and took a strong stance against slavery.

In 1854, Anthony devoted herself to the rights of women and advocated complete equality between men and women. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton published the weekly paper, "The Revolution," which contained equality literature and other political messages. She became vice-president-at-large of the National Woman's Suffrage Association (NWSA) from 1869 until 1892, when she became president. On November 5, 1872, Anthony asserted her 14th Amendment right (to vote) and voted for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election. At the time, it was illegal for women to vote, and Anthony was arrested. In 1878, women's suffrage was introduced to Congress, but the idea floundered for many years. In the meantime, Anthony and several other women published the "History of Woman Suffrage" in 1884. It wasn't until 1920 that the 19th Amendment (allowing women to vote) was ratified in Congress—14 years after her death. Susan B. Anthony was honored on the U.S. dollar coin minted in 1979.

1.) Which of the following is the best definition for "suffrage"?

- a.) Right to not suffer
- b.) Right to protest
- c.) Right to run for office
- d.) Right to vote

2.) Why was Susan B. Anthony arrested?

- a.) No one knows.
- b.) She refused to leave the scene of a crime.
- c.) She voted illegally.
- d.) Laws at the time made it illegal for women to run for president.

3.) Susan B. Anthony was mainly interested in...

- a.) the rights of women to vote.
- b.) the rights of slaves.
- c.) the rights of women to work.
- d.) the rights of women to practice religion.

4.) Which of the following is NOT true about Susan B. Anthony?

- a.) She helped Elizabeth Cady Stanton publish a weekly newspaper.
- b.) She became president of the NWSA in 1869.
- c.) She lived in New York State.
- d.) She was educated by her father.

5.) Susan B. Anthony was _____ slavery.

- a.) against
- b.) indifferent toward
- c.) allowed
- d.) for

6.) Which of the following books would most likely feature literature on Susan B. Anthony?

- a.) The History of Quaker Celebrations in America
- b.) The Biography of Ulysses S. Grant
- c.) Women in Congress
- d.) The Struggle for the 19th Amendment

7.) When suffrage was introduced to Congress in 1878...

- a.) Congress did not approve it.
- b.) Congress immediately approved it.
- c.) Congress would never approve it.
- d.) Congress approved it two years later.

8.) Susan B. Anthony was NOT a(n)...

- a.) abolitionist (a person against slavery).
- b.) member of Congress.
- c.) president of an organization.
- d.) author.

9.) During Susan B. Anthony's lifetime...

- a.) The 19th Amendment was passed.
- b.) Susan B. Anthony was honored on her own coin.
- c.) Women would not be granted the right to vote.
- d.) Women would be granted the right to vote.

10.) Which event happened last?

- a.) Susan B. Anthony died.
- b.) Susan B. Anthony attempted to vote.
- c.) 1921
- d.) The passage of the 19th Amendment



Benedict Arnold: The Ultimate Antagonist

An antagonist is a character in literature, a movie, or in real life who is considered the “villain.” In American history, Benedict Arnold remains one of the most infamous antagonists. In 1780, he offered to give away the Patriot military fortress at West Point, New York for a large sum of money. When his plan was discovered, he quickly swore allegiance to the British. Arnold was bitter toward the Continental Congress because he was felt he was not given the credit he deserved in several battles.

One of the most common themes in literature is good versus evil, where there is a clear antagonist and a clear protagonist (good character). In the spirit of Benedict Arnold, draw your favorite antagonist from literature below and describe how and why your antagonist is so evil.

Your Antagonists name:	How and why is your antagonist so evil?

Crispus Attucks

Name _____

Crispus Attucks was thought to be the first person of African-American descent to be killed in the American Revolution. He died on March 5, 1770, during the Boston Massacre.

Crispus Attucks was born sometime in 1723 in or near Framingham, Massachusetts. His cultural heritage is the subject of much debate. Some historians believe Attucks was of African and Native American descent. Although his mother was a slave, it is not clear whether Attucks was considered a free black man, or, was a runaway slave himself. Although details of his life are largely unknown, Attucks spent many years as a sailor and working the docks of various colonial ports. Historians who claim he was a runaway slave believe he used the name "Michael Johnson" to elude capture.

Following the 1768 issuance of the Townshend Act, and the subsequent unrest in Boston, British soldiers patrolled Boston's streets, leading to resentment and bitterness among the citizens. On the night of March 5, 1770, tensions finally boiled over when a British soldier assaulted a Boston man who was harassing him. Tensions quickly escalated as a mob of Bostonians gathered with ice chunks, bottles, and other objects. Several British soldiers were cornered. When someone within the mob hurled a club at a soldier, gunshots rang out. When the mob finally dispersed, five Bostonians were left dead including Crispus Attucks, who was thought to be the first killed.

While Attucks and the other dead were hailed as heroes in Boston, future president John Adams thought otherwise. Adams blamed Attucks for trying to be the "hero of the night" and by helping to fan the flames of the riot with his "mad behavior." Adams defended the British soldiers in the ensuing trial and most were acquitted of wrongdoing, having acted in self-defense. Attucks was buried with the four others who died during the Boston Massacre in the Granary Burying Ground, where many other Boston heroes such as Samuel Adams and John Hancock are buried.

Long after his death, Crispus Attucks remains a hero and symbol of freedom. Schools, parks, roads, and theaters across America bear his name.

1. What is DEFINITELY known about Crispus Attucks?

- A. He was a runaway slave
- B. He was of African and Native descent
- C. His exact birthdate
- D. His mother was a slave

2. Why may have Crispus Attucks used a different name?

- A. Because he was of Native descent
- B. Because he may have been eluding capture
- C. Because he was trying to fit into Boston society
- D. Because details of his life are largely unknown

3. Which of the following best describes the Boston Massacre?

- A. The Boston Massacre was a situation that quickly escalated until the cornered Bostonians fired at British soldiers
- B. The Boston Massacre was a situation in which five British soldiers were killed
- C. The Boston Massacre was an instance in which the British fired into an innocent and unarmed mob of Bostonians
- D. The Boston Massacre was a situation that quickly escalated until the cornered soldiers fired at the Bostonians

4. What event happened first?

- A. Crispus Attucks was killed
- B. A club was hurled at a British soldier
- C. The mob of Bostonians dispersed
- D. March 4, 1770

5. Which of the following best describes the mood of the third paragraph?

- A. tense
- B. celebratory
- C. uncertain
- D. historic

6. John Adams... (circle all that are true)

- A. did not view Crispus Attucks as a hero.
- B. defended British soldiers charged in the Boston Massacre.
- C. would eventually become a president.
- D. defended members of the Boston mob charged in the Boston Massacre.

7. To which of the following questions would “ after a British soldier assaulted a Bostonian” be the answer?

- A. What happened after the club was hurled at a British soldier?
- B. When did the mob disperse?
- C. How did the Boston Massacre start?
- D. Why was a Bostonian harassing a British soldier?

John James Audubon was an ornithologist, painter, and naturalist. He was born in 1785 as an illegitimate child in what is now the nation of Haiti. He was raised in France by his stepmother. John, who at the time was called Jean Rabin, showed an interest in birds from an early age. At the age of twelve, however, Jean Rabin was sent to military school and gained experience on ships. Jean Rabin showed little interest or skill in military matters and endeavored to study birds.

In 1803, Audubon's father arranged for him to travel to the United States to avoid being drafted in the Napoleonic Wars. Upon arrival, Jean Rabin changed his name to John James, learned English in a Quaker boarding home, and married his neighbor, Lucy Bakewell five years later. Audubon tended to a family farm near Philadelphia where he became the first person in North America to band birds. He learned that birds return to the same nesting place each year by tying yarn to the legs of an eastern phoebe. He also began to paint birds.

After business ventures failed, Audubon decided to pursue his love of painting birds. He traveled down the Mississippi River and shot birds so he could paint them. He used wires to prop them in natural positions to make the paintings as realistic as possible. Audubon apparently shot prodigious numbers of birds and angered contemporaries such as Alexander Wilson. Audubon had no success selling pictures in America but became an instant success in London, where the English saw him as the "American Woodsman." Audubon raised enough money to publish his now legendary *Birds of America* in 1827. Audubon soon published more books and returned to America, where he bought an estate on the Hudson River. In 1842, *Birds of America* was published in the United States. He also had a home in Key West, Florida. The Audubon Society was dedicated and named in his honor in 1896.

- 1. When did Jean Rabin Audubon change his name to John James Audubon?**
 - A. Upon his arrival in the United States
 - B. 1785
 - C. After he got married to Lucy Bakewell
 - D. When he started banding birds
- 2. What did Audubon learn from banding birds?**
 - A. He learned how to tend to a farm
 - B. He learned how to shoot birds and paint them
 - C. He learned that birds return to the same nesting spots year after year
 - D. He learned how to paint realistically

- 3. Why were some artists angered by Audubon's work?**
- A. They believed the methods he used to paint birds were unnatural
 - B. They were jealous that he had so much success
 - C. They disapproved of his business practices
 - D. They didn't think paintings of birds should be published in books
- 4. How did the reaction of people in Europe to Audubon's work contrast with the reaction of people in America?**
- A. He was much more successful selling paintings in America
 - B. He was initially successful in selling paintings in both American and England
 - C. While his artwork was not immediately accepted in America or England, it eventually became popular in England
 - D. His work was instantly well-received in England and much less successful in America
- 5. By 1845...**
- A. Audubon returned to England, published *Birds of America*, and bought an estate.
 - B. Audubon returned to America, published *Birds of America*, and had a society named after him.
 - C. Audubon returned to America, built an estate, and published *Birds of America*.
 - D. Audubon returned to England, published *Birds of America*, and had a society named after him.
- 6. What are "contemporaries" as used in the following sentence?**
- Audubon apparently shot prodigious numbers of birds and angered contemporaries such as Alexander Wilson.
- A. enemies
 - B. fellow painters
 - C. friends
 - D. leaders
- 7. What was Audubon unsuccessful in?**
- A. Painting certain kinds of birds
 - B. Banding birds such as the eastern phoebe
 - C. Selling his artwork in England
 - D. Business

Austin is "Batty"

Name _____

Austin, Texas, is known as one of the most dynamic cities in the southern United States. Not only is it the Lone Star State's capital, but it is home to the University of Texas, and is one of the nation's top centers for computer technology. One of its mottos is "Keep Austin Weird," for its many eclectic attractions, neighborhoods, and people.

One of Austin's top tourist attractions, however, has nothing to do with its people. Living within the eaves and crevices of the Ann W. Richards Congress Street Bridge is the world's largest urban bat colony. An estimated 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats live underneath the bridge in downtown Austin. Hundreds of spectators gather in the summer and early fall each night to watch the incredible horde of bats take flight in the dim evening light to feed. The Austin bats are thought to consume an incredible ten to twenty thousand pounds of insects every night, including many that are considered agricultural pests such as moths and grasshoppers. The bats also consume a prodigious amount of mosquitoes. The bats, which can reach speeds of sixty miles per hour in flight, typically feed for about an hour. The colony of bats roughly doubles in size in June, when female bats give birth to a single pup. Within six weeks, the pups learn to fly and feed on their own, which gives rise to even more incredible emergencies. In October or early November, when the weather turns colder, the bats migrate south.

The bats have become such an iconic symbol of Austin, that the city built the Statesman Bat Observation Center to give visitors a dedicated place to observe the incredible scene. Over 100,000 people visit the observation center each year, which pumps more than ten million dollars into the local economy. In this way, the city of Austin has successfully turned a wonder of nature into an economic asset.

1. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about Austin?

- A. It is the capital of Texas
- B. It is one of the most dynamic cities in the northern United States.
- C. It is home to the University of Texas
- D. One of its mottos is "Keep Austin Weird"

- 2. Which of the following would be the best time to see the bats?**
- A. January 15 at about 5:00 P.M.
 - B. March 4 at 7:00 P.M.
 - C. June 22 at 2:00 P.M.
 - D. July 19 at 8:15 P.M.
- 3. Where are the bats in December?**
- A. In downtown Austin
 - B. Under the Ann W. Richards Congress Street Bridge
 - C. Somewhere south of Austin
 - D. They migrate to locations west of Austin
- 4. Circle all of the reasons that the bats benefit the city of Austin?**
- A. They help control insect populations
 - B. They help control rodent populations
 - C. They attract tourists who spend money in Austin
 - D. They can reach speeds of over 60 miles per hour
- 5. What word could replace “prodigious” in the following sentence?**
- A. incredible
 - B. helpful
 - C. helpless
 - D. moderate
- 6. The Mexican free-tailed bat colony of Austin...**
- A. spends the whole year in Austin.
 - B. is the world’s largest colony of bats.
 - C. feeds for several hours each night.
 - D. is the world’s largest colony of bats that lives in a city.
- 7. What question IS NOT answered in the second paragraph?**
- A. How long does it take pups to learn to feed on their own?
 - B. How many people visit the observation center each year?
 - C. What happens to the colony in June?
 - D. What kinds of insects do the bats consume?

Thomas Jefferson and the Barbary Pirates Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Most people know that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence and was America's third president. Some people know that he was responsible for America doubling its size through the Louisiana Purchase. Very few people know, however, that Thomas Jefferson sent America into its first overseas war - against pirates!

In 1801, the United States joined with several European countries in a war against the Barbary Pirates. The Barbary Pirates operated in the Mediterranean Sea, from ports in the north African countries of Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria. The pirates demanded a payment called a tribute from foreign governments in exchange for the safe passage of their ships in the Mediterranean Sea. If no tribute was paid, the pirates would attack and capture the crews of foreign ships and sell them for a ransom or force them into slavery.

When Thomas Jefferson became president, the pirates increased the cost of the tribute and Jefferson refused to pay it. Instead, he sent United States warships to the Mediterranean Sea, which eventually began bombarding the pirate bases. The pirates surrendered in 1805 in what came to be known as the First Barbary War. Although the pirates were finished for the time being, they'd start capturing American ships again in 1807. This led to the Second Barbary War where the pirates were defeated for a second time.

1. Which is not true about Thomas Jefferson?

- A. He wrote the Declaration of Independence
- B. He was the third president of the United States
- C. He sent American into a war against pirates
- D. Thomas Jefferson agreed to pay the increase tribute to the pirates

2. Why did Thomas Jefferson declare war on the Barbary Pirates?

- A. The pirates were threatening to attack in the United States
- B. The pirates increased the cost for the United States ships to sail safely in the Pacific Ocean
- C. The pirates increased the cost for the United States ships to sail safely in the Mediterranean Sea
- D. Because he knew there would be a second Barbary War.

3. The Barbary Pirates...

- A. were defeated forever in 1805.
- B. attacked the crews of foreign ships unless a tribute was paid
- C. operated from ports in Europe
- D. defeated America in the the Second Barbary War.

4. Which of the following is not answered in the passage?

- A. How many Barbary Wars were there?
- B. Did Thomas Jefferson agree to pay the increased tribute?
- C. What countries did the Barbary Pirates operate from?
- D. Who was president during the Second Barbary War?

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL Reading Comprehension

Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 3, 1847. When he was only eleven years old, he invented a machine that could clean wheat. Graham studied anatomy and physiology at the University of London but moved with his family to Quebec, Canada, in 1870.

Bell soon moved to Boston, Massachusetts. In 1871, he began working with deaf people and published the system of Visible Speech that was developed by his father. Visible Speech illustrated how the tongue, lips, and throat are used to produce vocal sounds. In 1872, Bell founded a school for the deaf, which soon became part of Boston University.

Alexander Graham Bell is best known for his invention of the telephone. While trying to discover the secret of transmitting multiple messages on a single wire, Bell heard the sound of a plucked string along some of the electrical wire. One of Bell's assistants, Thomas A. Watson, was trying to reactivate a telephone transmitter. After hearing the sound, Bell believed he could send the sound of a human voice over the wire. After receiving a patent on March 7, 1876, for transmitting sound along a single wire, he successfully transmitted human speech on March 10. Bell's telephone patent was one of the most valuable patents ever issued. He started the Bell Telephone Company in 1877.

Bell went on to invent a precursor to the modern-day air conditioner and a device called a "photophone" that enabled sound to be transmitted on a beam of light. Today's fiber optic and laser communication systems are based on Bell's photophone research. In 1898, Alexander Graham Bell and his son-in-law took over the National Geographic Society and built it into one of the most recognized magazines in the world. Bell also helped found Science Magazine, one of the most respected research journals in the world.

Alexander Graham Bell died August 2, 1922. On the day of his burial, in honor of Bell, all telephone services in the United States were stopped for one minute.

1.) Where was Alexander Graham Bell born?

- a.) England
- b.) Quebec
- c.) Scotland
- d.) Boston

2.) What did Alexander Graham Bell do in 1872?

- a.) Invent a machine for cleaning wheat
- b.) Start a school for deaf people
- c.) Invent the telephone
- d.) Study at the University of London

3.) What happened FIRST?

- a.) Bell invented the telephone.
- b.) Bell moved to Canada.
- c.) Bell published the Visible Speech system.
- d.) Bell moved to Massachusetts.

4.) What was Thomas A. Watson doing when Alexander Graham Bell heard the sound of a plucked string over electric wire?

- a.) Transmitting multiple messages over a single wire
- b.) Transmitting the human voice over a single wire
- c.) Starting the Bell Telephone Company
- d.) Reactivating a telephone transmitter

5.) What is the best definition for "transmit" in this passage?

- a.) to block by stopping
- b.) to send
- c.) to make larger
- d.) to disturb

6.) Which of the following was Alexander Graham Bell NOT involved with?

- a.) National Geographic Magazine
- b.) Science Magazine
- c.) photophone
- d.) teaching blind people

7.) What is a photophone?

- a.) A device that can transmit a message on a sound wave.
- b.) A device that can transmit a message on a wire.
- c.) A device that can transmit a message on a beam of light.
- d.) A device that can transmit a message on a telephone.

8.) The photophone was most important to what industry?

- a.) fiber optics and laser communication systems
- b.) telephone
- c.) air conditioning
- d.) publishing

9.) On the day of his funeral, American telephone services were disabled for how many minutes?

Edward Teach “Blackbeard” Reading Comprehension

Introduction

Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, was an English pirate during the Golden Age of Piracy. After serving as a privateer in the British navy, he, like many other privateers, turned to a life of piracy when the War of Spanish Succession ended in 1713.

Plunder!

In a few short years, Blackbeard gained a notorious reputation as he and his crew attacked settlements in the Caribbean Sea and along the Atlantic Coast of North America. Blackbeard would plunder merchant ships, board them, and steal all of the gold, jewels, coins, food, liquor, and weapons. It was said that Blackbeard’s appearance alone was enough to cause the enemy to surrender. According to legend, Blackbeard would often tie burning fuses to the end of his beard when the enemy was in his presence. Despite his reputation, there are no accounts of Blackbeard killing or torturing anyone.

Blockade of Charleston Harbor

Blackbeard is perhaps most famous for his legendary blockade of Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. In 1718, Blackbeard entered Charleston Harbor in his ship known as *Queen Anne’s Revenge* with three smaller ships. He proceeded to plunder five merchant ships entering or leaving the harbor. Shipping traffic in the harbor came to a standstill in fear of the pirates. In one of the vessels, Blackbeard took a group of prominent Charleston citizens as hostages, who were later ransomed (without their clothes) for a chest full of medicine. Then, Blackbeard escaped north, where he ran three of the ships aground and marooned most of his crew. Many believe Blackbeard marooned his crew so he could keep a greater portion of the treasure acquired from Charleston. Nevertheless, Blackbeard escaped to North Carolina and accepted a pardon under the royal Act of Grace.

The Dreadful End

Blackbeard finally met his end in November of 1718 after the governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, had placed a bounty on his head. He was killed in a naval battle off the coast of North Carolina by Robert Maynard. Maynard cut off Blackbeard’s head and hung it on his ship.

In Popular Culture

Today, Blackbeard is perhaps the most well-known of all the pirates. He is referenced in many works of literature including Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*, as well as in numerous video games, theme park rides, cartoons, comics, and movies.

- 1. What happened in 1713?**
 - A. The War of Spanish Succession started
 - B. Blackbeard blockaded Charleston Harbor
 - C. Blackbeard was born
 - D. Many privateers turned to a life of piracy

- 2. According to the passage, how long did it take Blackbeard to gain a notorious reputation?**
 - A. He gained his reputation quickly
 - B. He gained his reputation over many long years
 - C. He gained his reputation when he died
 - D. The passage doesn't tell

- 3. Which of the following might be considered surprising in consideration of Blackbeard's reputation?**
 - A. He is referenced in famous novels, video games, cartoons, and more.
 - B. He never killed or tortured anyone
 - C. He would try to scare enemies by lighting his beard on fire
 - D. He stole countless amounts of food, weapons, liquor, and coins

- 4. To which of the following questions would "to keep more of the treasure" be the answer?**
 - A. Why did Blackbeard blockade Charleston Harbor?
 - B. Why did Blackbeard plunder ships and steal gold and weapons?
 - C. Why did Blackbeard accept a pardon?
 - D. Why did Blackbeard supposedly maroon most of his crew?

- 5. What happened first?**
 - A. Blackbeard blockaded Charleston Harbor
 - B. Blackbeard accepted a royal pardon
 - C. Blackbeard gained a fearsome reputation
 - D. The War of Spanish Succession ended

- 6. Which question is NOT answered in the passage?**
 - A. Who placed a bounty on Blackbeard's head?
 - B. Who wrote Treasure Island?
 - C. Who killed Blackbeard?
 - D. When did Blackbeard surrender?

- 7. What does "marooned" mean in the following sentence?**
 - A. killed
 - B. kidnapped
 - C. stranded
 - D. enslaved

Muggsy Bogues Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Tyrone “Muggsy” Bogues was the shortest player in the history of the National Basketball Association (NBA). At 5’3” Bogues was noticeably shorter than even the shortest players. Spud Webb was the second shortest player in the NBA during Bogues’s career, and he was 5’7”.

Muggsy Bogues grew up in inner-city Baltimore, Maryland. Although his parents called him “Apple,” he earned the nickname “Muggsy” because of the toughness and leadership he showed during pick-up basketball games on the outdoor courts in Baltimore. His high school team, the Dunbar Poets, was arguably one of the best of all-time. Including Bogues, Dunbar’s 1981-1982 team featured four future NBA players. During his senior season, Dunbar went 31-0. Bogues earned a scholarship to Wake Forest University, where he would become the school’s star point guard. Bogues left Wake Forest as the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) career leader in steals and assists. The Washington Bullets drafted him 12th overall in the 1987 NBA draft. Interestingly, he was on the same team as Manute Bol – the tallest player in NBA history. Bol was two feet and four inches taller than Bogues.

Bogues had a successful and notable NBA career that spanned 13 years, ten of which were spent with the Charlotte Hornets. He was known for his incredible speed, passing ability, quickness, and knack for stealing the ball from opponents. Bogues holds several Hornets records including career steals and assists. In the 1993-1994 season, he averaged 10.8 points per game and 10.7 assists! Despite his lack of height, he managed to block 39 shots, including a shot attempted by 7’0” center Patrick Ewing. Bogues was said to have a 44-inch vertical leap and could nearly dunk a basketball on a ten-foot hoop. Bogues retired after the 2000-2001 season as a Toronto Raptor. During his career, he played for four teams: The Washington Bullets, Charlotte Hornets, Golden State Warriors, and Toronto Raptors.

Since his retirement from the NBA, Bogues has coached basketball, worked in the real estate industry, and made appearances in various movies and television shows.

1. Why does the author mention Spud Webb in the first paragraph?

- A. To emphasize that short players could be successful in the NBA
- B. To emphasize that Muggsy Bogues was shorter than the shortest NBA players
- C. To emphasize that Muggsy Bogues was a great player
- D. To compare his career to that of another short player.

2. What can be inferred from the passage?

- A. Muggsy Bogues had his most successful seasons with the Charlotte Hornets
- B. Muggsy Bogues was one of the best players in NBA history
- C. His most successful season was likely with the Toronto Raptors
- D. Muggsy Bogues was probably much taller than 5'3"

3. Muggsy Bogues was not...

- A. quick and fast.
- B. a great passer.
- C. a great scorer.
- D. great at stealing the ball.

4. What does “arguably” mean in the following sentence?

His high school team, the Dunbar Poets, was arguably one of the best of all-time.

- A. It means people from Dunbar High School often argue
- B. It means Bogues’s high school team was unquestionably the best of all-time.
- C. It means Bogues’s high school team was good, but probably not the best of all-time
- D. It means Bogues’s high school team may have been the best of all-time, although some might consider other teams the best of all-time

5. What question is answered in the third paragraph?

- A. How high could Muggsy Bogues jump?
- B. What did Muggsy Bogues do after he retired?
- C. Who was Manute Bol?
- D. How many season did Muggsy Bogues play with the Toronto Raptors?

6. Which is NOT true about Muggsy Bogues?

- A. He went to Wake Forest University
- B. He was originally drafted by the Charlotte Hornets
- C. His parents gave him a different nickname than Muggsy
- D. He once blocked a shot by someone who was seven feet tall

7. Which word in the third paragraph means “skill?”

- A. knack
- B. notable
- C. records
- D. incredible

Known as Cleopatra of the Secession, Belle Boyd was a hotel operator and Confederate spy. She was born in Martinsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia) in May of 1843 or 1844. She was considered a very well educated woman for her time and graduated from the Mt. Washington Female College in Baltimore, MD in 1861. Her career as a spy began that same year when Union soldiers in Front Royal allegedly tore down the Confederate flag that flew over her mother's boarding house and replaced it with a Union flag. When the Union soldier insulted, or perhaps, pushed her mother, Boyd shot him dead. She was acquitted of any wrong doing.

Later that year, Boyd became a courier for Generals Beauregard and Jackson. She obtained information by charming Union soldiers and officers passing through the area and relayed the information to Confederate Generals. The information was supposedly relayed via Boyd's servant, Eliza Hopewell, in a hollowed-out watch case to escape detection. Once, Boyd learned valuable information about Union troop positions and formations, after the boarding house was seized by Union forces. She rode 15 miles through the wilderness and battle lines to relay the information personally to General Jackson. On the way, a bullet tore through her skirt. To show his appreciation, Jackson made the 17 year-old girl a Captain and Honorary Aide-de-Camp.

During the Civil War, Belle Boyd was arrested six times and imprisoned twice. After the war, she published a famous book about her life and became an actress. She died in Wisconsin in 1900 of an apparent heart attack. Today, the Belle Boyd House and Museum is located in Martinsburg, West Virginia and her birthday is celebrated there every third weekend of May.

1.) When did Belle Boyd's career as a spy begin?

- A. In 1843
- B. In 1860
- C. When Union soldiers tore down the Confederate flag flying over her mother's boarding house
- D. When she rode 15 miles through the wilderness to deliver a message to Stonewall Jackson.

2.) Which question is answered in the first paragraph?

- A. Did Belle Boyd ever kill anyone?
- B. Did Belle Boyd own any slaves?
- C. Who was Eliza Hopewell?
- D. Did Belle Boyd ever get shot?

3.) Belle Boyd....

- A. gained information by charming Confederate soldiers
- B. was not found guilty of murder
- C. used a hollowed out watch case to pass information to Union Generals
- D. used her servant to help relay information to Confederate generals.

4.) Which of the following best describes Belle Boyd?

- A. interesting
- B. deceitful
- C. shy
- D. merciful

5.) Read the following sentence, what is a "courier?"

Later that year, Boyd became a courier for Generals Beauregard and Jackson.

- A.) cannon
- B.) slave
- C.) messenger
- D.) soldier

6.) How did Belle Boyd obtain information?

- A. by charming Union officers in the area
- B. by forcing her servant to spy on Union officers
- C. While in jail
- D. By riding around to Union positions of her horse.

7.) Which of the following is NOT true about Belle Boyd?

- A. She went to jail several times
- B. Her birthday is celebrated in West Virginia today
- C. She was seriously injured by a bullet
- D. She met Stonewall Jackson

8.) Which of the following would make an appropriate title for this passage?

- A. The Role of Servants in the Civil War
- B. Women who died during the Civil War
- C. The Story of a Confederate Spy
- D. The Civil of War

9.) Which event happened last?

- A. The Civil war ended
- B. Belle Boyd was made an honorary Aide-de-Camp
- C. Belle Boyd killed the Union soldier
- D. Belle Boyd wrote a book

10.) According to the passage, Belle Boyd

-
- A. owned a boarding house
 - B. had a servant
 - C. owned a museum
 - D. owned a plantation

Boston Tea Party and Intolerable Acts

Despite the peace that temporarily reigned in Boston, the Sons of Liberty were continually trying to find ways to keep Parliament's power over them in check. Furthermore, the tax on tea became more and more irritating.

In 1773, Parliament authorized the Tea Act. Within the Tea Act, Parliament granted the East India Company a monopoly (the only business in a specific trade or product) over the American tea trade. Although the monopoly decreased the price of tea, Americans realized that Parliament was only regulating American trade and had the power to interfere in American business whenever it suited them. Public protest of the Tea Act grew quickly through the colonies. Fearing a revolt, several ships carrying tea destined for New York and Philadelphia returned to England without unloading tea.

On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty, led by Samuel Adams, planned to show Parliament how they felt about the Tea Act. They boarded the British ship Dartmouth docked in Boston Harbor, dressed up as Indians, and dumped the entire load of tea into the water. This event came to be known as the Boston Tea Party.

The historical significance of the Boston Tea Party is recognized more in the British response than in the event itself. As a result of the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the following laws designed to punish the Americans.

- 1.) The Boston Harbor Bill: This bill closed the harbor to all commercial traffic until Americans paid for the tea they dumped.
- 2.) The Administration of Justice Act: This act required the extradition (transfer) of all royal officials charged with capital crimes in America to courts in Great Britain.
- 3.) Massachusetts Government Act: This act ended self-rule in the colonies and made all elected officers in America subject to British appointment.
- 4.) Quartering Act: This was simply a new version of the 1765 Quartering Act which required Americans to provide accommodations (housing , food, clothing, etc.) to British soldiers if necessary.
- 5.) Quebec Act: This act extended the Canadian border (British territory) into the Ohio River Valley and eliminated lands that were claimed by Massachusetts, Virginia, and Connecticut.

These acts were called the Intolerable Acts in America and resulted in the formation of the Continental Congress.

1.) Why did Americans oppose the Tea Act?

- a.) It made tea more expensive.
- b.) It made tea cheaper.
- c.) It showed that parliament could interfere with American trade.
- d.) The quality of tea had decreased.

2.) What is a monopoly?

- a.) When all the tea is gone
- b.) When there is only one business in a specific trade
- c.) The Sons of Liberty
- d.) When all businesses fail

3.) What does "authorized" mean in the following sentence:

In 1773, Parliament authorized the Tea Act.

- a.) Found an author for
- b.) Passed or allowed
- c.) Wrote
- d.) Defended

4.) In which of the following sentences is the word "authorized" used correctly?

- a.) The league authorized several new rules for the upcoming season.
- b.) Many writers authorized their books in the form of a journal.
- c.) I authorized my little brother when he was picked on.
- d.) The winter will be authorized soon.

5.) Why did tea destined for New York and Philadelphia return to England?

- a.) The tea tax was too high.
- b.) People refused to drink the tea.
- c.) A revolt was possible.
- d.) The ports were closed.

6.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The Sons of Liberty dressed up as Indians and threw the entire load of tea aboard the Dartmouth into Boston Harbor.
- b.) The Boston Tea Party resulted in the passage of the Intolerable Acts.
- c.) The Intolerable Acts resulted in the cancellation of the Continental Congress.

7.) Which of the following reflects the Quartering Act?

- a.) This act closed Boston Harbor to all commercial traffic.
- b.) This act required all royal officials charged with crimes in America to be judged for those crimes in Great Britain.
- c.) This act required American citizens to open their homes to British soldiers.
- d.) This act eliminated American land claims in the Ohio River Valley.

8.) Which of the following reflects the Quebec Act?

- a.) This act closed Boston Harbor to all commercial traffic.
- b.) This act required all royal officials charged with crimes in America to be judged for those crimes in Great Britain.
- c.) This act required American citizens to open their homes to British soldiers.
- d.) This act eliminated American land claims in the Ohio River Valley.

9.) What happened second?

- a.) Parliament authorized the Tea Act.
- b.) The Intolerable Act
- c.) The Boston Tea Party
- d.) The Formation of the Continental Congress

10.) What happened third?

- a.) Parliament authorized the Tea Act.
- b.) The Intolerable Acts
- c.) The Boston Tea Party
- d.) The Formation of the Continental Congress

Yellowstone Caldera Reading Comprehension

Name _____

A caldera is formed during an explosive volcanic eruption. During an explosive volcanic eruption, the magma within the magma chamber is violently ejected, leaving an empty space in the Earth's crust where it used to be. The empty space can no longer support the surrounding structure, which causes the volcano to collapse in on itself. What remains is a circular depression in the ground. This process is how the Yellowstone Caldera was formed which is approximately 34 miles by 45 miles in size.

The Yellowstone Caldera in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming is the result of three supervolcanic eruptions 640,000 years ago, 1.3 million years ago, and 2.1 million years ago. Supervolcanoes are volcanoes that have erupted more than 240 cubic miles of material at some point in their lives. The largest eruption at Yellowstone emitted 588 cubic miles of material when it erupted 2.1 million years ago. When Yellowstone erupts again it could emit enough material to cover half of the United States if not more. Fortunately this is not expected to happen any time soon if at all.

Supervolcanoes can change the earth's climate and environment, and are extremely catastrophic events. They are so catastrophic in fact that they can put the earth into a "nuclear winter" and drop global temperatures. The supervolcanoes at Yellowstone are currently forming on top of a hotspot. A hotspot is a location in the earth's crust where magma is rising up through the crust and coming out at the earth's surface. A hotspot will remain in place while the crust moves on top of it.

1. In the formation of a caldera, why does the volcano collapse in on itself?

- a. Because of the extremely hot temperatures
- b. Because of the power of the eruption
- c. Because of the empty space left by the magma
- d. Because of the hotspot under the surface

2. Which of the following IS NOT explained?

- a. What is a supervolcano?
- b. What is a nuclear winter?
- c. How many eruptions formed the Yellowstone Caldera?
- d. What are effects of supervolcanoes?

3. Supervolcanoes are determined by...

- a. age.
- b. the frequency of eruption.
- c. the amount of material in the eruption.
- d. the amount of magma ejected.

4. When was the largest eruption at Yellowstone?

- a. 2.1 million years ago
- b. 1.3 million years ago
- c. 640,000 years ago
- d. The passage doesn't say

5. Which is NOT true about hotspots?

- a. Supervolcanoes can grow over hotspots
- b. If the crust moves over a hotspot it will disintegrate
- c. A hotspot is located in the Earth's crust
- d. Magma rises up through a hotspot

6. What does "emit" mean in the following sentence?

When Yellowstone erupts again it could emit enough material to cover half of the United States if not more.

- a. occur
- b. release
- c. prevent
- d. cause

7. What does the author seem relieved about?

- a. That a modern-day supervolcanic eruption will not likely result in a nuclear winter
- b. That the last supervolcanic eruption at Yellowstone occurred 640,000 years ago
- c. That the supervolcanoes of Yellowstone are still forming
- d. That a supervolcanic eruption is unlikely to occur anytime soon

Suez Canal

The Suez Canal is a 120-mile-long waterway through Egypt that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea - which empties into the Indian Ocean. It was built so that ships could reach the Indian Ocean without having to sail around the southern tip of Africa. For ships that sail through the Suez Canal, the journey to the Indian Ocean is reduced by about 4,300 miles.

The Suez Canal took ten years to complete and tens of thousands of laborers, many of whom were forced to work on the canal by the Egyptian government with little more than picks and shovels. Eventually, heavy machinery was used, which accelerated the rate of progress in completion of the canal. Nevertheless, many workers died of epidemics such as cholera while the canal was built. The Suez Canal officially opened on November 17, 1869. It had a major effect on world trade. Not only did it drastically reduce the time it took to send and receive trade goods, but it also resulted in the colonization of Africa by European nations.

Today, thousands of ships pass through the Suez Canal each year at an average cost of \$465,000! It takes between 11 and 16 hours for a ship to pass through the canal.

Panama Canal

The Panama Canal is a 48-mile long passageway that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the isthmus of Panama. For ships that sail through the Panama Canal, the trip between the oceans is reduced by nearly 8,000 miles. Before the Panama Canal, ships making the same journey would have to travel through the southern tip of South America at the treacherous Strait of Magellan.

France originally won the contract to build the canal, but ultimately failed because of corruption, disease, and construction problems. The United States took over the job and completed it within ten years. The canal opened on August 15, 1914. Nearly 45,000 workers dug through Panama's mountains and jungles to complete the canal. Similar to construction of the Suez Canal, thousands of workers died of disease. Mudslides, falling rocks, and poisonous snakes also presented deadly dangers. Unlike the Suez, massive locks were built to lift and lower boats through the canal. A giant dam also had to be built that created an artificial lake through the middle of Panama. The United States controlled the dam for 100 years until ownership was transferred to Panama in 1999.

Today, over 12,000 ships travel through the canal each year. Costs of sailing through the canal depend on the weight of the ship. The average cost is \$150,000. Most ships can cross the canal in 8-10 hours compared to two weeks if they sailed through the southern tip of South America.

1. Which of the following is a similarity between the two canals?

- A. They both cost the same amount to sail through
- B. Thousands of workers died while both canals were being constructed
- C. It takes the same amount of time to sail through both canals
- D. Both canals required the constructions of locks

2. Construction of the Suez Canal...

- A. allowed for reduced travel time from the Mediterranean Sea to Pacific Ocean.
- B. allowed for reduced travel time from the Atlantic Ocean to Pacific Ocean.
- C. allowed for reduced travel time from the Pacific Ocean to Indian Ocean.
- D. allowed for reduced travel time from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean.

3. To which of the following questions would “Strait of Magellan” be the answer?

- A. What was the way to travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean before the Panama Canal?
- B. What was the way to travel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean before the Suez Canal?
- C. What was the name of the passageway at the southern tip of North America?
- D. Where was the Panama Canal built?

4. Which of the following is true about the Panama Canal?

- A. It was supposed to be built by France
- B. In 1999, ownership of the Canal was transferred to the United States
- C. Construction of the canal was wrought with dangers such as disease, tornadoes, and hurricanes
- D. The journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean is reduced by 4,300 miles through the Panama Canal.

5. Which is something explained about the Suez Canal that is not explained about the Panama Canal?

- A. The date the canal opened
- B. The effect the canal had on world trade
- C. The length of the canal
- D. The distance reduced as a result of the canal

6. What does “accelerated” mean in the following sentence?

Eventually, heavy machinery was used, which accelerated the rate of progress in completion the canal.

- A. Supplied
- B. Sped up
- C. Slowed
- D. Started

7. How would ships estimate their costs for sailing through the Panama Canal?

- A. The price is calculated based on distance traveled
- B. The price is calculated based on how many people are board
- C. The price is the same for all ships
- D. The price is calculated based on the weight of the ship

Candy Corn

Name _____



What popular Halloween candy is triangular with a white tip, orange middle, and broad, yellow end? Of course, it is the age-old, impossibly sweet, candy corn. Candy corns have been filling up the Halloween bags of lucky trick-or-treaters for decades. Little do most people know that its history began well before trick-or-treating became a mainstay of Halloween.

The candy corn was first invented in the 1880s by a man named George Renninger of the Wunderlee Candy Company. Renninger wanted to make a candy that resembled actual kernels of corn. His creation was a big hit with farmers and in 1900, the Goelitz Company began producing candy corn and distributing it to the masses. At the time, they called it “chicken feed” and it came in small boxes with a rooster and the tagline “something worth crowing for.” Candy corn quickly became so popular that the Goelitz Company couldn’t produce enough to meet demand for the product. Following World War II, however, it employed the use of 12 factories to crank out as much candy corn as possible. When candy corn became advertised as a Halloween candy, its popularity exploded. Today, the company still makes candy corn, although its name has long since been changed to the Jelly Belly Candy Company. In honor of its roots, the Jelly Belly Candy Company now makes a candy corn flavored jellybean.

According to the American Confectioners 35 million pounds of candy corn is sold every year. That amounts to over nine billion individual pieces! New variants of candy corn have emerged such as the “Indian corn” variety with a white tip, orange middle, and dark brown end. The “reindeer corn” variety has a white tip, red middle and green end.

While candy corn is full of sugar it is actually one of the more “healthy” Halloween candies. A handful of the tri-colored candies contains a mere 140 calories and are totally fat free.

1. The history of candy corn...

- A. began after kids started trick-or-treating for Halloween.
- B. began in 1900.
- C. began well before kids started trick-or-treating for Halloween.
- D. began when the Goelitz Company started producing it.

2. Why was candy corn once called “chicken feed?”

- A. Because it was very popular with farmers
- B. Because it was popular with chickens
- C. Because it could be eaten by chickens or people
- D. Because the Goelitz Company couldn't produce enough of it to meet demand

3. Based on how the word “mainstay” is used in the following sentence, which of the choices below would qualify?

Little do most people know that its history began well before trick-or-treating became a mainstay of Halloween.

- A. Turkey as a mainstay of Thanksgiving
- B. Notebooks as a mainstay of paper
- C. Glasses as a mainstay of teachers
- D. Marshmallows as a mainstay of hot chocolate

4. What happened after World War II? (Select all that apply)

- A. The Goelitz company increased production of candy corn
- B. The Goelitz Company decreased production of candy corn
- C. The Goelitz company became the Jelly Belly Candy Company
- D. The Goelitz Company began distributing candy corn to the masses

5. What is NOT covered in the passage?

- A. Does the Goelitz Company still make candy corn?
- B. Are there different kinds of candy corn?
- C. How is candy corn made?
- D. How much candy corn is sold every year?

6. To what question would “to honor its past” be the answer?

- A. Keene's actions made her one of the most famous people in American history
- B. Keene's actions served as a strange episode in a national tragedy
- C. Keene's actions served to comfort the nation during a horrible event
- D. Why did the Jelly Belly Company produce a candy corn jellybean?

7. “Reindoor corn” would be considered a _____ of candy corn.

- A. healthier version

- B. variant
- C. replacement
- D. better kind

Real-life Antagonists: Al Capone

Name _____

Al Capone, also known as Scarface, was one of America's most infamous and violent crime bosses. He was born in New York in 1899. He dropped out of school in sixth grade after hitting a teacher and began working a series of odd jobs at places including a bowling alley, candy store, and ammunition plant. Capone paired these jobs with life in a "kid gang"—a group of young troublemakers engaging in vandalism and petty crime on the New York streets. Capone also became a member of the James Street Boys Gang, led by Johnny Torrio.

Capone earned his notorious nickname at the Harvard Inn before turning twenty-one. While bartending at the Inn, Capone uttered a demeaning comment about the sister of a man named Frank Galluccio. Galluccio immediately took offense and stuck Capone's left cheek with a knife. The incident resulted in Capone's iconic nickname - Scarface.

In 1920, Capone traveled from New York to Chicago with Torrio and became the city's crime leader in 1925 after Torrio went back to Italy. As leader, Capone engaged in numerous illegal activities in Chicago including gambling and fighting. Capone's reign coincided with a significant time period in American history—Prohibition, an era in which the production, sale, and consumption of alcohol were all considered against the law. Capone acted in direct opposition to Prohibition by engaging in bootlegging, or illegal selling of alcohol. He ruled by force and intimidation. Businesses that refused to buy alcohol from him were often destroyed or bombed. Business owners were sometimes tortured or killed. His unlawful actions led to him accumulating a large sum of "dirty" money, and by 1927, his fortune was estimated at 100 million dollars. Because he had made deals with the city's mayor and police force, the violent and criminal activities propagated by Capone and his gang when unchecked for nearly seven years.

In 1927, Capone was finally brought to court, but not for his actions with the gang—for 22 counts of income tax evasion. Capone had been ducking out of paying his taxes, and it cost him dearly. He was eventually also charged for his role in bootlegging and violating Prohibition laws. He was sentenced to eleven years in prison and was ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000. After eight years in prison, Capone was released after contracting a severe illness; he returned to Florida and died of cardiac arrest in 1947, having fallen significantly from his criminal heyday.

- 1. How did Capone establish his reputation as a prominent gang figure at an early age?**
 - a. By dropping out of high school
 - b. By becoming the leader of the James Street Boys Gang in New York
 - c. By becoming a member of several gangs early in his life
 - d. By working jobs at many different places
- 2. Which of the following is not a state that Capone traveled to during his lifetime?**
 - a. New York
 - b. California
 - c. Illinois
 - d. Florida

- 3. Which inference is the best possible explanation for why Capone's nickname "Scarface" stuck?**
- It made Capone seem more intimidating to other gangs and gang members over time.
 - It was a way to humiliate Capone for what happened at the inn.
 - Capone preferred the nickname to his own birth name.
 - Capone gave scars to rival gang members that he disliked.
- 4. How did Capone use the Prohibition era to his economic advantage?**
- By arresting individuals who violated Prohibition laws and collecting their bounty.
 - By buying large quantities of illegal alcohol for personal use.
 - By becoming a middleman between the government and the alcohol business.
 - By intimidating business owners into buying alcohol from him.
- 5. What is most ironic about the manner in which Capone was finally brought to justice?**
- He did not serve his entire prison sentence.
 - He was jailed for evading taxes instead of for murder and violence.
 - His entire gang was not jailed with him.
 - Members of the gang were the ones who turned Capone in.
- 6. Why might Capone have been released prior to completing his full prison sentence?**
- Treatment for his illness required access to fresh air.
 - It was unethical to keep a terminally ill person in prison.
 - His gang petitioned for his release.
 - He needed medicine from Florida to treat his illness.
- 7. Which of the following would be another appropriate title for this passage?**
- "Al Capone's Most Notorious Deeds"
 - "The Rise and Fall of Scarface"
 - "Alcatraz: Capone's Prison Life"
 - "Capone and Torrio: A Lifelong Friendship"

Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension: Freezing Rain, Hail, and Sleet
Name _____

Hail is large ice particles formed during violent thunderstorms. During a strong thunderstorm, water droplets are violently lifted high up into the cool atmosphere where they change to ice. The faster this “updraft” occurs, the larger the hail stones (as they are called) can be. A typical hailstone is the size of a marble or a pea, but sometimes they can be the sizes of baseballs and softballs where they cause significant damage. Hail typically occurs in warm weather.

Sleet is defined as frozen raindrops that bounce upon impact with the ground. Sleet can only form from snow. When the snow falls from the sky and through a layer of warmer air, it partially melts. As it falls, the partially melted snow then re-enters cold air and re-freezes forming an ice pellet.

Freezing Rain occurs when liquid rain falls and freezes upon contact with the ground because of ground temperatures below freezing. Freezing rain causes dangerous conditions for drivers when it accumulates on roads as drivers can easily lose control of vehicles, especially when trying to brake or slow down. Freezing rain can also accumulate on and down trees and telephone wires.

1. Which of the following do hail, sleet, and freezing rain have in common? Circle all that are true.

- A. Each is frozen
- B. Each occurs during a storm
- C. Each is typically the size of a marble or pea
- D. Each is formed during an updraft

- 2. What form of precipitation partially melts when it falls through warm air and freezes again before it hits the ground?**
- A. Freezing rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 3. Which of the following can form during warm summer months?**
- A. Freezing rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 4. Circle all of the following that can cause damage to property.**
- A. Freezing Rain
 - B. Sleet
 - C. Hail
 - D. None of the Above
- 5. What determines the size of a hailstone?**
- A. The season
 - B. The speed of an updraft
 - C. The location of the storm
 - D. The temperature

HISTORY OF POTATO CHIPS Reading Comprehension

Peru's Inca Indians first grew potatoes in the Andes Mountains in about 200 BC. Spanish conquistadors brought potatoes to Europe, and colonists brought them to America. Potatoes are fourth on the list of the world's food staples—after wheat, corn, and rice. Today, Americans consume about 140 pounds of potatoes per person every year, while Europeans eat twice as many.

One of our favorite ways to eat potatoes is in the form of potato chips. While Benjamin Franklin was the American ambassador to France, he went to a banquet where potatoes were prepared in 20 different ways. Thomas Jefferson, who succeeded Franklin as our French ambassador, brought the recipe for thick-cut, French-fried potatoes to America. He served French fries to guests at the White House in 1802 and at his home, Monticello.

A Native American chef named George Crum created the first potato chips on August 24, 1853, at Moon Lake Lodge in Saratoga, New York. He became angry when a diner complained that his French fries were too thick, so he sliced the potatoes as thinly as possible, making them too thin and crisp to eat with a fork. The diner loved them, and potato chips were born. In 1860, Chef Crum opened his own restaurant and offered a basket of potato chips on every table.

Joe "Spud" Murphy and Seamus Burke produced the world's first seasoned crisps, cheese & onion and salt & vinegar chips, in the 1950s in Ireland. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, crisps are what we, in the United States, call potato chips, while their chips refer to our French fries. Ketchup-flavored chips are popular in the Middle East and Canada. Seaweed-flavored chips are popular in Asia, and chicken-flavored chips are popular in Mexico. Other flavors from around the world include: paprika, pickled onion, béarnaise, meat pie, chili crab, salmon teriyaki, borscht, Caesar salad, roasted sausage, firecracker lobster, roast ox, haggis and black pepper, olive, and spaghetti.

About 27 pounds of potato chips are produced from 100 pounds of potatoes. Americans consume 2–4 billion pounds of potato chips every year and spend more than \$7 billion a year on them.

1.) What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- a.) When were salt & vinegar chips invented?
- b.) Who invented the potato chip?
- c.) How many pounds of potatoes are eaten per person in America each year?
- d.) Who served French fries in the White House?

2.) Based on the passage, it can be inferred that potatoes are _____ foods in the world.

- a.) fun
- b.) unimportant
- c.) important
- d.) average

3.) Potato chips are called _____ in the United Kingdom.

- a.) chips
- b.) potatoes
- c.) crisps
- d.) fries

4.) Europeans eat _____ potatoes than Americans.

- a.) about the same amount
- b.) more
- c.) less
- d.) the passage doesn't say

5.) Which of the following is a true statement?

- a.) Ketchup-flavored potato chips are most popular in America.
- b.) Potato chips are not really eaten very much in Asia.
- c.) Potato chips are only popular in America.
- d.) Different flavored potato chips are popular in different parts of the world.

6.) Who was Seamus Burke?

- a.) One of the French ambassadors
- b.) One of the people who invented the French fry
- c.) One of the people who invented seasoned potato chips
- d.) The customer who made George Crum angry

7.) Which happened last?

- a.) Thomas Jefferson served potato chips at Monticello.
- b.) Benjamin Franklin saw how potatoes were served in different ways while in France.
- c.) Europeans brought potatoes to America.
- d.) Conquistadors brought potatoes to Europe.

8.) The first potato chips were made in...

- a.) Europe
- b.) New York
- c.) China
- d.) France

9.) What does the word "consume" mean in the following statement:

Today, Americans consume about 140 pounds of potatoes per person every year.

- a.) store
- b.) play with
- c.) buy
- d.) eat

10.) What happened in 1950?

- a.) The world's first seasoned French fries were produced.
- b.) The world's first French fries were produced.
- c.) The world's first potato chips were produced.
- d.) The world's first seasoned potato chips were produced

Claustrophobia Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Everybody experiences fear sometimes. You might experience fear before you get a shot at the doctor's office, or, before you give a speech to a crowd of people. Phobias, however, are irrational fears of objects or situations. Such fears can be so serious that they disrupt the lives of those who suffer from them. The most common phobias are those of heights (acrophobia), social situations (agoraphobia), and small spaces (claustrophobia). Some people have phobias of specific animals such as spiders or snakes, or any other kind of animal. Phobias are thought to affect between six and eight percent of all people.

One of the most common phobias is called claustrophobia. Claustrophobia is the extreme fear of being in small, enclosed spaces, or, being trapped. Those who suffer from claustrophobia report elevators, small cars, airplanes, tunnels, crowded rooms, and even tight-fitting clothes can trigger strong fear responses. Sometimes, the fear becomes so overwhelming, that those with claustrophobia believe they are suffocating and experience panic attacks.

Most psychologists believe claustrophobia is caused by past, traumatic experiences such as being locked in a dark room or closet, falling into a pool and not being able to swim to safety, or, being separated from parents in a large crowd. Another theory posits that claustrophobia, and other phobias, are caused by the dysfunction of part of the brain called the amygdala. Children who grew up with a claustrophobic parent are more likely to develop it themselves.

Claustrophobia is usually treated by psychologists who use behavioral therapies. One therapy is called "exposure theory." In exposure therapy, a patient is put in a safe environment where he or she confronts the fear and learns strategies to overcome the fear.

1. Phobias affect...

- A. a large portion of the population.
- B. everyone.
- C. only people who are afraid of a lot of things.
- D. a small portion of the population.

2. A fear of sharks...

- A. is not real.
- B. is not of the most common phobias.
- C. is one of the most common phobias.
- D. is not serious.

3. Which of the following situations could trigger a fear response from someone who suffers from claustrophobia?

- A. Being high up on a building
- B. Seeing spider webs
- C. Being on an underground subway car
- D. Running a race on an outdoor track

4. Which of the following situations could trigger a fear response from someone who suffers from agoraphobia?

- A. Taking an elevator to the 29th floor
- B. Being in a small room when the power goes out
- C. Being at a party with unfamiliar people
- D. Seeing an animal such as a snake or spider

5. Read the sentence below in which the word “affect” is used. Which of the sentences uses the word “affect” incorrectly?

Phobias are thought to affect between six and eight percent of all people.

- A. Does sleeping for six hours affect concentration?
- B. What is the affect of drinking three cups of coffee on energy levels?
- C. Poor sleeping habits affect 40% of the population
- D. How will your poor test scores affect your grade?

6. What would be an example of “exposure therapy?”

- A. Finding strategies for someone with agoraphobia
- B. Giving proper medicines to someone with acrophobia
- C. Addressing fears with a person suffering from claustrophobia in an elevator
- D. Engaging in discussions with people suffering from different phobias

7. Read the sentence below in which the word “irrational” is used. What could be a synonym for the antonym of “irrational?”

Phobias, however, are irrational fears of objects or situations.

- A. grateful
- B. confusing
- C. silent
- D. expected

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.

Compare and Contrast: King Penguins and Emperor Penguins

Name: _____



King or Emperor?

King Penguin – The king penguin is the world’s second largest penguin species, reaching over three feet in height and weighing up to 35 pounds. King penguins are very powerful swimmers and can easily reach depths of over 700 feet.

The king penguin looks somewhat like a smaller version of the emperor penguin. It has a black head, neck, back, tail, and black wings (flippers). It has white underparts with varying amounts of gold or yellow toward the top of the breast. In addition, it has bright orange patches at the ears. Like all penguins, the king penguin has waterproof feathers and multiple layers of down feathers that act as insulation. In addition, it has a special gland that acts as a salt filter, which allows the penguin to drink salt water.

King penguins breed on islands that surround Antarctica. They occur with other species of penguins and are easily distinguished from such penguins by their much larger size. There are thought to be nearly two and a half million pairs of breeding king penguins. Unlike other penguins of the Southern Ocean, king penguins feed mostly on fish and squid rather than krill and crustaceans. Lanternfish are thought to comprise most of the king penguin’s fish diet.

Emperor Penguin – The emperor penguin is the world’s largest and tallest penguin. It is also the heaviest penguin, with some individuals recorded at nearly 100 pounds. Adults have a black head, back, tail, and black wings. The bill is also black with an orange lower mandible. The underparts are dingy white. The sides of the neck are marked with a large golden or yellow stripe. In addition, there is a varying amount of gold on the upper breast.

The emperor penguin is found throughout the Antarctic perimeter. It is the only species of penguin to breed during the Antarctic winter. Breeding takes place about 60 miles from the coast in the Antarctic interior, where temperatures regularly drop to -40 degrees celsius. The trek from the Antarctic coastline to the breeding grounds was the inspiration for “March of the Penguins”. The male will incubate the egg for up to 65 days! During this time, he will not eat a single meal. On particularly cold days, hundreds of male penguins may gather together in a compact huddle to warm themselves in the pounding Antarctic winds. In about two months, the female returns and locates her mate and chick by sound. She regurgitates food stored in her stomach to feed the growing chick. The male then takes his turn feeding in the ocean and returns after about a month, at which point both parents tend to the chick by regurgitating food and keeping it off the ice. Once the chick is about seven weeks old, it joins other chicks in a crèche (huddle) to keep warm.

1. Which of the following is true?

- A. The king penguin is the world's largest penguin
- B. The king penguin is larger than the emperor penguin
- C. The emperor penguin is larger than the king penguin
- D. The king penguin is the only penguin to breed in the Antarctic interior

2. All penguins...

- A. live in Antarctica.
- B. have waterproof feathers.
- C. breed during the winter.
- D. feed mostly on fish and squid.

3. Which of the following is answered for the king penguin but not for the emperor penguin?

- A. How much can it weigh?
- B. What does it eat?
- C. Where does it breed?
- D. What color is its head?

4. Both the emperor and king penguin have...

- A. varying amounts of gold feathers on the breast.
- B. bright orange patches toward the ears.
- C. orange upper mandibles.
- D. a golden stripe on each side of the neck.

5. What question is not answered?

- A. When do emperor penguins breed?
- B. For how long does the male emperor penguin incubate the egg?
- C. When does an emperor penguin chick join the crèche?
- D. How many emperor penguins are there?

CALIFORNIA CONDOR Reading Comprehension

Description: The massive California condor is one of America's largest and rarest birds. The adult is mostly black with large white wing patches and a featherless head. The color of the head can vary from white, to pink, to orange, depending on the condor's emotional state. The male condor has a tuft of black feathers extending from the base of the neck. The condor's wingspan can exceed nine feet, and the average adult weighs in excess of 20 pounds.

Diet: The California condor eats carrion. It actually has no sense of smell and finds dead animals by observing the movements of vultures and eagles. They prefer to eat large mammals such as deer, goats, horses, sheep, and even bears. The huge condor dominates other birds at carcasses, except the golden eagle. Condors in the wild can go days or weeks without eating before gorging themselves on several pounds of dead animal.

Reproduction: The California condor's notoriously slow rate of reproduction has undoubtedly contributed to its population decline. Females become reproductively mature at age six and choose a mate for life. The simple nest is built in a cave or upon a cliff, and the female lays one or two eggs every other February or March. After about eight weeks, the eggs hatch. The young condor(s) can fly after about six months.

Range/Habitat: The California condor once roamed the entire American Southwest from Texas to California and into parts of northern Mexico. Today, it is restricted to designated habitats in Arizona (such as the Grand Canyon) and Southern California. California condors prefer dry, mountainous habitats with large trees and scrub growth.

Status: The California condor is one of America's most critically endangered animals. Today, there are about 300 individuals in existence, which is actually a significant improvement over the 22 individuals that were confirmed in existence in 1987. All 22 of those birds were captured and cared for in captivity that year for the purpose of saving the species from certain extinction. Although the condor was never common, populations of condors plummeted because of habitat destruction, pesticides, lead shot (which would contaminate carcasses), and electrical towers (which the birds would collide with). In a landmark effort, biologists from the San Diego Zoo initiated a captive breeding program with the condors and successfully increased their numbers to the point where some individuals could be re-released into the wild. Scientists took advantage of the condor's tendency to double clutch, or lay another egg, if the first is lost or destroyed. Newly released condors have been trained to avoid electrical towers and people. In 2003, the first young condor fledged in the wild since 1981. Furthermore, a female condor recently laid an egg in Mexico, marking the first time a condor has nested in Mexico since the 1930s.

- _____ 1.) The wingspan of the California condor exceeds _____ feet.
- a.) nine
 - b.) eight
 - c.) ten
 - d.) eleven
- _____ 2.) How does the California condor find carrion?
- a.) its strong sense of smell
 - b.) its strong sense of hearing
 - c.) by following herds of deer and sheep
 - d.) by following other vultures
- _____ 3.) Which of the following is unlikely?
- a.) A California condor feeding on a bear carcass.
 - b.) A California condor nesting on Valentine's Day.
 - c.) A California condor that hasn't eaten in three days.
 - d.) A California condor feeding on a squirrel carcass.
- _____ 4.) In which of the following places would there probably have never been populations of California condors?
- a.) Alaska
 - b.) Texas
 - c.) Arizona
 - d.) Mexico
- _____ 5.) In which of the following habitats would it be unlikely to find a California condor?
- a.) swamplands
 - b.) dry canyons
 - c.) high mountains
 - d.) scrublands
- _____ 6.) How many California condors exist today?
- a.) It's hard to say.
 - b.) 22
 - c.) About 300
 - d.) They are extinct.
- _____ 7.) Select all of the following that have contributed to the condor's decline.
- a.) lead shot
 - b.) wolves
 - c.) habitat destruction
 - d.) electrical towers
- _____ 8.) Select the statement below that is true. Select only *one*.
- a.) California condors will not lay another egg if the first egg is lost or destroyed.
 - b.) In 1987, all 300 California condors were taken from the wilderness.
 - c.) At some points in the last 100 years, the California condor was common.
 - d.) A, B, and C are all untrue.

The Connecticut Colony

Connecticut was originally settled by Dutch fur traders in 1614. They sailed up the Connecticut River and built a fort near present-day Hartford.

The first English settlers were Puritans from the Massachusetts Bay Colony who arrived in Connecticut in 1633 under the leadership of Reverend Thomas Hooker. After their arrival, several colonies were established including the Colony of Connecticut, Old Saybrooke, Windsor, Hartford, and New Haven. Hartford quickly became an important center of government and trade.

Much of the land settled by the colonists was purchased from the Mohegan Indians. The Pequot tribe, however, wanted the land. Soon, violence erupted between settlers and the Pequots in 1637. In what came to be known as the Pequot War, the Pequots were systematically massacred by not only the settlers, but by Mohegan and Naragansett Indians that had previously warred against them. Pequot lands were subsequently divided among the settlers and other tribes. After the Pequot War, Thomas Hooker led in the drafting of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639. The document was a plan for government and is sometimes called America's first Constitution. John Haynes was then chosen as Connecticut's first governor. Finally, in 1662, Connecticut was issued a royal charter, which gave the colony a legal basis and approval from the King.

1.) Connecticut was originally a(n) _____ colony.

- A. English
- B. French
- C. American
- D. Dutch

2.) Based on the first paragraph of the passage, what can we infer about Connecticut?

- A. There was a lot of gold there
- B. There was a lot of furry animals there
- C. There were a lot of settlers there
- D. It was extremely cold

3.) Where did the first English settlers in Connecticut come from?

- A. England
- B. Massachusetts
- C. Dutch Territory
- D. France

4.) How did the Connecticut Colony grow?

- A. Landowners received their land grants from the King of England
- B. Land was purchased from the Mohegan Indians
- C. Connecticut took land from neighboring colonies
- D. The passage doesn't say

5.) What happened to the Pequot lands?

- A. The land was taken by the settlers
- B. The land was taken by other tribes.
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A or B

6.) Which of the following questions is NOT answered in the last paragraph?

- A. What happened to the Pequot lands?
- B. What was the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut?
- C. Who was Connecticut's first governor?
- D. How did Hartford grow as a center of trade and government?

7.) The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut....

- A. was drafted by Thomas Hooker
- B. is sometimes called America's first Constitution
- C. was a plan of government for the Connecticut colony
- D. all of the above

8.) Which of the following is TRUE about the relationships in the Connecticut colony?

- A. The Connecticut colony and the Pequots were allies
- B. The Mohegans and Connecticut settlers were enemies
- C. The Mohegans and the Pequots were allies
- D. The Mohegans and Pequots were enemies

9.) Who was Connecticut's first governor?

- A. John Haynes
- B. Thomas Hooker
- C. The King of England
- D. The passage does not say

10.) Which of the following questions would likely be answered by the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut?

- A. The location of various Indian tribes
- B. When the first settlers came to Connecticut
- C. How the leaders of Connecticut would be chosen
- D. What crops would be harvested in Spring

The History of Cracker Jack

Cracker Jack was invented by Frederick Reuckheim, a successful popcorn salesman in Chicago, Illinois. Reuckheim wanted to stand out from the many other popcorn salesmen so he invented a product that included molasses-covered popcorn and peanuts. He named it Cracker Jack after one of his salesman exclaimed “that’s a Cracker Jack!” – which meant it was of excellent quality. Reuckheim packaged Cracker Jack in easy-to-sell wax-sealed cardboard boxes.

Reuckheim, however, got his big break when an actor named Jack Norworth published the famous song “*Take me out to the Ballgame*,” with its famous lyrics “buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack” in 1908. This forever linked Reuckheim’s product and the popular sport of baseball. Ironically, Norworth had never even been to a baseball game.

In 1910, Reuckheim made the decision to include coupons within Cracker Jack boxes that could be redeemed for things like sewing machines or sets of silverware. Reuckheim’s best decision, however, came in 1912, when he replaced the coupons with packaged prizes that appealed to kids. Baseball cards, figurines, whistles, and puzzles were among the many prizes included over the years. Original Cracker Jack baseball cards sell for tens of thousands of dollars today! In 2016, it was announced that special QR codes would replace the traditional packaged prizes in future boxes of Cracker Jack.

1. How was Cracker Jack named?

- A. It was named after product
- B. It was named after a song
- C. It was named after something someone said about it
- D. It was named after crackers

2. What was ironic about the creation of “Take me out to the Ball Game?”

- A. It was about baseball
- B. It had a major effect on Cracker Jack
- C. It linked Cracker Jack with baseball
- D. It was written by someone who’d never been to a baseball game

3. What question is answered in the third paragraph?

- A. What can you get from the Cracker Jack QR codes?
- B. How much do original Cracker Jack puzzles sell for?
- C. How did Reuckheim make Cracker Jack appeal to kids?
- D. Who was Jack Norworth?

4. What is a “big break” as described below?

Reuckheim, however, got his big break when an actor named Jack Norworth published the famous song “*Take me out to the Ballgame*,” with its famous lyrics “buy me some peanuts and cracker jack.”

- A. opportunity
- B. something that breaks
- C. warning
- D. final chance

5. Which of the following happened last?

- A. Cracker Jack was packaged in wax-sealed cardboard boxes
- B. 1912
- C. Coupons were added to Cracker Jack boxes
- D. Cracker Jack was included in “*Take me out to the Ballgame*”

6. Why did Frederick Reuckheim want to stand out?

- A. Because he knew Cracker Jack would be very popular
- B. Because he thought he could find a way to make his product popular with kids
- C. Because it was tough to earn money in Chicago
- D. Because there were a lot of popcorn salesmen

7. Which of the following IS NOT true about the traditional packaged prizes found within Cracker Jack boxes?

- A. Some are very valuable today
- B. Before there were packaged prizes there were QR codes
- C. Kids like them
- D. Whistles, puzzles, and baseball cards were among the different prizes that could be found in Cracker Jack boxes.

Crazy Horse

Crazy Horse was born somewhere near present-day Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1840. Because his mother died when he was young, Crazy Horse was raised by his father and his mother's sister. From an early age, he showed signs of greatness and bravery. He was said to have conducted a horse-stealing raid on Crow lands before the age of 13 and led his first war party before turning 20. In the 1860s, Crazy Horse participated in Red Cloud's War and helped to destroy a US military brigade at Fort Kearney in 1867.

Crazy Horse is probably best known for his determination in preserving the Lakota (Sioux) way of life. In 1876, after the tribes of the northern plains were ordered to reservations by the US government, the Lakota, Cheyenne, and other tribes resisted. After repelling a surprise attack under General George Crook at Rosebud Creek, Crazy Horse and his Lakota warriors converged upon the 7th Cavalry under General George Custer at Little Big Horn Creek, Montana. Here, he joined forces with Sitting Bull and Chief Gall. Together, the Indian forces massacred Custer and his men in what came to be known as "Custer's Last Stand." All 253 American soldiers died in the battle. The battle is probably the most famous battle in American history between Native Americans and the US military. Following Little Big Horn, Crazy Horse and his warriors battled the US Military in the Battle of Slim Buttes and the Battle of Wolf Mountain. Both battles resulted in significant casualties for the Lakota people. After the Battle of Wolf Mountain, Crazy Horse surrendered on May 5, 1877. He was subsequently detained at Camp Robinson in Nebraska. Although details of his experience at Camp Robinson are not well-known, Crazy Horse was apparently killed after attempting to escape his captors on September 5, 1877.

Crazy Horse remains one of the most important and mysterious figures in American history. There are no confirmed photographs of Crazy Horse in existence, though there are several photos that may or may not be of the legendary Lakota chief. Today, the Crazy Horse Memorial is under construction in the Black Hills of South Dakota. When completed, it will feature a sculpture of Crazy Horse that measures 641 feet wide and 563 feet high.

1. Before the age of 13...

- A. Crazy Horse was forced to surrender to the United States military.
- B. defeated American military forces at the Battle of Little Bighorn.
- C. participated in Red Cloud's War.
- D. Crazy Horse conducted a horse-stealing raid.

2. When did Crazy Horse join forces with Sitting Bull?

- A. Red Cloud's War
- B. Battle of Little Big Horn Creek
- C. Battle of Slim Buttes
- D. At Fort Kearney

3. What does "converged" mean as used in the following sentence?

After repelling a surprise attack under General George Crook at Rosebud Creek, Crazy Horse and his Lakota warriors converged upon the 7th Cavalry under General George Custer at Little Big Horn Creek, Montana.

- A. united
- B. battled
- C. surprised
- D. traveled

4. What is implied in the following sentences?

Following Little Big Horn, Crazy Horse and his warriors battled the US Military in the Battle of Slim Buttes and the Battle of Wolf Mountain. Both battles resulted in significant casualties for the Lakota people.

- A. Crazy Horse and the Lakota won both battles
- B. The United States military likely surrendered to Crazy Horse and the Lakota
- C. The battles had no real effect on Crazy Horse and the Lakota
- D. The battles were unsuccessful for Crazy Horse and the Lakota

5. What happened first?

- A. The Battle of Wolf Mountain
- B. Crazy Horse surrendered
- C. September 5, 1877
- D. Custer's Last Stand

6. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. There are no confirmed photographs of Crazy Horse
- B. The Crazy Horse Memorial is currently under construction in South Dakota
- C. Crazy Horse was killed in the same year he was forced to surrender
- D. Crazy Horse's experiences in Camp Robinson are detailed and well-documented

7. What is Crazy Horse probably best known for?

- A. Trying to escape from Camp Robinson
- B. Leading a raid before the age of 13
- C. Trying to preserve the Lakota way of life
- D. His participation at the Battle of Wolf Mountain

New Haven, Connecticut

New Haven was founded in 1638 by a group of about 500 Puritans who left the Massachusetts Bay Colony in search of a more "perfect" place to worship. The town was originally named Quinnipiac, after the Indians who lived in the region, but was renamed New Haven in 1640. In 1664, New Haven became part of the Connecticut Colony, and was made co-capital in 1701 (it maintained this status until 1873). In 1716, Yale University moved from Old Saybrook to New Haven. Today, it is one of the nation's most prestigious universities.

On April 23, 1775, the Governor's foot guard, a division of the Connecticut militia under the command of future traitor Benedict Arnold, demanded the keys to the Powder House (a place where guns and ammunition were stored) to arm themselves before marching to Cambridge, Massachusetts. Word of the Battles of Lexington and Concord had just reached Connecticut, and the soldiers wanted to join the budding revolution. The event is still celebrated as Powder House Day in New Haven.

In 1792, Yale graduate Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in New Haven – which made cotton processing 50 times more productive but also increased the demand for slaves.

1. What happened last?

- A. The capital of Connecticut was moved from New Haven
- B. Yale University moved to New Haven
- C. The Cotton Gin was invented
- D. The Governor's Foot Guard demanded keys to the Powder House

2. What question is not answered in the first paragraph?

- A. Where was Yale University located before it was moved to New Haven?
- B. Why was Quinnipiac renamed?
- C. When was New Haven made co-capital?
- D. Why did settlers come to New Haven?

3. Why did the Puritans settle New Haven?

- A. Because the land was fertile
- B. To be close to Yale University
- C. To find a better place to worship
- D. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was dangerous for them

4. What would be a synonym for “prestigious” as used in the sentence below?

In 1716, Yale University moved from Old Saybrook to New Haven. Today, it one of the nation’s most prestigious universities.

- A. Honored
- B. Expensive
- C. Friendly
- D. Lovely

5. What was the effect of the invention of the Cotton Gin?

- A. People needed better ways to pick cotton
- B. Eli Whitney was a great inventor
- C. The demand for slaves increased
- D. It was invented in New Haven

6. What is missing from the passage?

- A. Information about New Haven’s early history
- B. Information about New Haven’s modern history
- C. Information about when the Cotton Gin was invented
- D. Information about the Governor’s Foot Guard

7. Which is NOT true about New Haven?

- A. New Haven was not the town’s original name
- B. Eli Whitney’s famous invention was made in New Haven
- C. Powder House Day used to be celebrated in New Haven
- D. New Haven became part of the Connecticut Colony in 1664

DALLAS COWBOYS Reading Comprehension

The Dallas Cowboys were formed on January 28, 1960. Dallas would become the first city south of Washington DC to have a football team. According to legend, the formation of a team south of Washington DC was met with resistance from the owners of Washington's NFL team (the Redskins). The Redskins finally agreed to allow Dallas to host an NFL team after Dallas officials bought the rights to the Redskins' official team song, "Hail to the Redskins." Cowboys officials refused to let the Redskins use the song until they agreed to allow for a team in Dallas, which they eventually did.

Before the team was called the Cowboys, they were known as the Steers and then the Rangers. When the Cowboys' first owner, Clint Murchison, Jr., finally settled on the "Cowboys," he hired Tom Landry as the team's first coach.

Being a new team in the NFL was hard. The Cowboys failed to win an NFL game until the beginning of their second season, when they defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers. It took six seasons before the Cowboys finally had a winning season. In 1966, however, the Cowboys would begin a streak of twenty consecutive winning seasons, which is still an NFL record today. In 1969, after the rival Dallas Texans of the AFL (a competing football league) left for Kansas City, the Cowboys began work on Texas Stadium in nearby Irving, Texas. It was completed in 1971 and could hold over 65,000 fans. That same year, the Dallas Cowboys made it to their first Super Bowl, Super Bowl V. Although they were defeated by the Baltimore Colts 16–13, the future looked bright for the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys, however, struggled in their new stadium. Halfway through the 1971 season, Coach Tom Landry decided to replace starting quarterback Craig Morton with Navy graduate Roger Staubach. The move proved to be brilliant. Staubach led the Cowboys to ten consecutive victories including their first Super Bowl victory over the Miami Dolphins on January 16, 1972. Roger Staubach would be named MVP of the Super Bowl. Staubach also led the Cowboys to Super Bowls X and XIII, both of which proved to be tightly contested losses to the Pittsburgh Steelers and their famed "Steel Curtain" defense. He also led the Cowboys to victory in Super Bowl XII, 27–10 over the Denver Broncos. After this victory, Dallas became known as "America's Team." After the 1979 season, Roger Staubach retired. In all, Staubach led the Cowboys to four Super Bowls in the 1970s.

Although the Cowboys made the playoffs five times in the 1980s, they failed to make the Super Bowl. A major turning point for the Cowboys occurred in 1989 when Arkansas businessman Jerry Jones purchased the team. Jones immediately fired Coach Tom Landry, who had been the only head coach in Cowboys history to that

point. He hired University of Miami Head Coach Jimmy Johnson. They also traded star running back Herschel Walker and drafted UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman with the first pick of the NFL draft. The 1989 season, however, would prove to be one of the worst in Cowboy history. That year they won only one game and lost fifteen. Things would soon get better. In 1990, the Cowboys drafted University of Florida running back Emmitt Smith with their first round pick. With the combination of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and University of Miami wide receiver Michael Irvin, the Cowboys would soon become one of the most exciting teams in the NFL. By 1991, the Cowboys were back in the playoffs, and by 1992, they were back at the Super Bowl, defeating the Buffalo Bills 52–17, in the second most lopsided Super Bowl score in history. Coach Jimmy Johnson became the first coach to win the Super Bowl and an NCAA Championship. The following year, the Cowboys once again dominated their competition and defeated the Buffalo Bills for a second time, 30–13. During the 1992 season, eleven Dallas Cowboys were named to the Pro Bowl, a new NFL record. The Cowboys would also win Super Bowl XXX (30) against the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1995, by the score of 27–17.

Although the Cowboys have failed to make it back to the Super Bowl since their 1995 victory, the team remains the NFL's most valuable, worth an estimated \$1.1 billion. Troy Aikman, Michael Irvin, and Emmitt Smith have all been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Emmitt Smith holds the NFL rushing record for most yards from scrimmage in a career. In 2009, the new Cowboys stadium was unveiled with a capacity of over 110,000 people. It is the largest domed stadium in the world and hosted the 2011 Super Bowl.

- 1.) **In which two decades did the Cowboys fail to make it to the Super Bowl?**
 - a.) 1970s and 1980s
 - b.) 1960s and 1970s
 - c.) 1960s and 1980s
 - d.) 1990s and 2000s

- 2.) **Who holds the NFL rushing record?**
 - a.) Troy Aikman
 - b.) Emmitt Smith
 - c.) Roger Staubach
 - d.) Michael Irvin

- 3.) **Why did the Washington Redskins allow a team to be located in Dallas?**
 - a.) Because it was good for business
 - b.) Because Dallas had purchased the rights to the Redskins' stadium
 - c.) Because Dallas had purchased the rights to the Redskins' fight song
 - d.) Because they knew Tom Landry would be named coach

- 4.) **How many Super Bowls did Tom Landry WIN as coach of the Dallas Cowboys?**
 - a.) 1
 - b.) 2
 - c.) 3
 - d.) 4

- 5.) **What happened in 1989?**
 - a.) The Cowboys traded Herschel Walker.
 - b.) The Cowboys drafted Troy Aikman.
 - c.) The Cowboys lost 15 games.
 - d.) All of the above

- 6.) **The Dallas Cowboys defeated the _____ in two consecutive Super Bowls.**
 - a.) Pittsburgh Steelers
 - b.) Buffalo Bills
 - c.) Washington Redskins
 - d.) Denver Broncos

- 7.) **The Dallas Cowboys were...**
 - a.) the first team to win a Super Bowl.
 - b.) originally the Washington Redskins.
 - c.) the first team to be located south of Washington DC.
 - d.) the NFL's first team.

8.) One win and two losses would describe the record of the Dallas Cowboys vs. the _____ in Super Bowls.

- a.) Pittsburgh Steelers
- b.) Buffalo Bills
- c.) Washington Redskins
- d.) Denver Broncos

9.) When did the Cowboys become known as "America's Team"?

- a.) In 1966
- b.) After their first Super Bowl victory.
- c.) After their second Super Bowl victory.
- d.) When Jerry Jones bought the team.

10.) Which of the following is NOT true about Roger Staubach?

- a.) He attended Navy.
- b.) He led the Cowboys to ten straight victories in 1971–1972.
- c.) He led the Cowboys to two Super Bowl victories.
- d.) As quarterback of the Cowboys, he never lost a Super Bowl.



Washington, D.C.

Located on the Potomac River, between Maryland and Virginia, Washington, D.C., has been the capitol of the United States since 1800. It is full of historical landmarks and places to see, especially if you like presidents!

One of the most popular attractions is the White House, located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Completed in 1800, the White House would forever serve as the home of the president and his immediate family. John Adams, not George Washington, would become the first president to live in it. Believe it or not, the White House is a great place for kids to live. It has a movie theater and a bowling alley!

Washington also features three famous monuments to former presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. The Washington Monument is a large obelisk that rises 555 feet into the sky. It is named after George Washington, who always referred to the city named after him as "Federal City". Construction of the monument was completed in 1884, 36 years after it started. The Washington Monument was the world's tallest structure until 1889, when the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, was completed.

The Jefferson Memorial is dedicated to the author of the Declaration of Independence and 3rd president, Thomas Jefferson. The Jefferson Memorial was completed in 1943. A 10,000 pound bronze statue of Jefferson lies inside. The walls are inscribed with passages from several of his famous documents. Nearly two and half million people visit the Jefferson Memorial every year.

The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, president of the United States during the Civil War. The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated by President Warren G. Harding in 1922 and was influenced by the Temple of Zeus in Greece. Inside the memorial is a huge sculpture of a seated Lincoln. The Gettysburg Address and the speech from his second inauguration are inscribed in the walls. It was here, in front of 250,000 people, that Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I have a Dream Speech" in 1963.

1.) George Washington referred to the capital city as _____ city.

2.) Who was the first president to live in the White House?

- A. George Washington
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. John Adams
- D. The passage doesn't say

3.) Which of the following is FALSE about the White House?

- A. It was completed in 1800
- B. It has a bowling alley
- C. It has a movie theater
- D. It is located on Maryland Avenue

4.) Where is Washington, D.C., located?

- A. In Virginia
- B. On the Potomac River between Pennsylvania and Maryland
- C. On the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia
- D. In Maryland

5.) The Washington Monument is _____ hundred feet high.

6.) In front of which monument did Martin Luther King, Jr. give his famous "I Have a Dream" speech?

- A. Washington Monument
- B. Lincoln Memorial
- C. Jefferson Memorial
- D. White House

7.) What would be a good title for this passage?

- A. Washington Architecture
- B. The Lincoln Memorial
- C. Museums of Washington
- D. Presidential Places of Washington

8.) What memorial was influenced by the Temple of Zeus in Greece?

- A. White House
- B. Lincoln Memorial
- C. Jefferson Memorial
- D. Washington Monument

9.) What monument was completed second?

- A. Washington Monument
- B. White House
- C. Lincoln Memorial
- D. Jefferson Memorial

10.) Which monument is dedicated to the author of the Declaration of Independence?

- A. Lincoln Memorial
- B. Jefferson Memorial
- C. White House
- D. Washington Monument

DELAWARE COLONY Reading Comprehension

The Dutch first settled Delaware in 1631, although all of the original settlers were killed in a disagreement with local Indians. Seven years later, the Swedes set up a colony and trading post at Fort Christina in the northern part of Delaware. Today, Fort Christina is called Wilmington. In 1651, the Dutch reclaimed the area and built a fort near present-day New Castle. By 1655, the Dutch had forcibly removed the Swedes from the area and reincorporated Delaware into their empire. In 1664, however, the British removed the Dutch from the East Coast.

After William Penn was granted the land that became Pennsylvania in 1682, he persuaded the Duke of York to lease him the western shore of Delaware Bay so that his colony could have an outlet to the sea. The Duke agreed and henceforth, Penn's original charter included the northern sections of present-day Delaware, which became known as "The Lower Counties on the Delaware."

The decision by the Duke angered Lord Baltimore, the first proprietary governor of Maryland, who believed he had the rights to it. A lengthy and occasionally violent 100-year conflict between Penn's heirs and Baltimore's heirs was finally settled when Delaware's border was defined in 1750 and when the Maryland/Pennsylvania and Maryland/Delaware borders were defined as part of the Mason-Dixon line in 1768.

Shortly after the incorporation of the "Lower Counties" into Pennsylvania, the sparsely populated region grew isolated from the bustling city of Philadelphia and began holding their own legislative assemblies, though they remained subjects of the Pennsylvania governor. It wasn't until 1776, however, that Delaware had a government completely independent from Pennsylvania. In 1787, Delaware became the first colony to ratify the U.S. Constitution, and hence became America's first state.

1.) The original settlers of Delaware...

- a.) returned to England.
- b.) established a permanent colony.
- c.) were killed by Indians.
- d.) emigrated to Pennsylvania.

2.) The Swedes...

- a.) set up a colony after the Dutch.
- b.) set up their colony after the British.
- c.) never set up a colony.
- d.) set up a colony before the Dutch.

3.) Wilmington, Delaware, used to be known as _____.

- a.) Maryland
- b.) New Castle
- c.) Baltimore
- d.) Fort Christina

4.) Which of the following is the correct timeline for ownership of Delaware?

- a.) Dutch > Swedes > Dutch > English
- b.) Swedes > Dutch > Swedes > English
- c.) Dutch > English > Swedes > English
- d.) Dutch > English > Dutch > Swedes

5.) Why did William Penn want the western shore of Delaware Bay?

- a.) So that settlers could be guaranteed the right to practice their religion
- b.) So his colony had a way to get to the sea
- c.) So his colony could trade with Indians in the region
- d.) So his colony had more land

6.) Disagreements concerning the borders of Delaware resulted in hostilities between...

- a.) The governor of Delaware and Lord Baltimore
- b.) the British and French
- c.) heirs of William Penn and heirs of Lord Baltimore
- d.) William Penn and Lord Baltimore

7.) The Mason-Dixon line defined borders between what states? Select all that are true.

- a.) Delaware and Pennsylvania
- b.) Maryland and Delaware
- c.) Maryland and Virginia
- d.) Pennsylvania and New York

8.) In 1776...

- a.) Delaware became part of Pennsylvania.
- b.) Delaware rejected the Mason-Dixon line.
- c.) Delaware established a government independent of Pennsylvania.
- d.) Philadelphia absorbed Delaware.

9.) Delaware became the _____ state to ratify the Constitution.

- a.) second
- b.) first
- c.) third
- d.) fourth

10.) What question is answered in the last paragraph?

- a.) What was the capital of Delaware?
- b.) Who was Lord Baltimore?
- c.) What states border Delaware?
- d.) When did Delaware ratify the Constitution?

JUAN PONCE DE LEON Reading Comprehension

Juan Ponce de Leon was born in 1460 in Santeveras, Spain. De Leon was an explorer and fighter from an early age. He helped fight the Muslims in southern Spain in the early 1490s. He was on board Christopher Columbus's second expedition to the Americas in 1493. Rather than returning to Spain, the adventurer remained at an island called Santo Domingo (now called the Dominican Republic).

De Leon was soon appointed as the governor of the Higüey region of Santo Domingo. Like many Spanish explorers, he was bloodthirsty for gold. When he heard rumors that a nearby island called Borinquen (now Puerto Rico) was full of gold, he invaded the island and brutally conquered the natives. He was soon appointed governor of the island but lost his title in 1511 because of his extreme brutality towards the natives.

De Leon's misfortunes as governor did not stop him from looking for gold and the Fountain of Youth. During his search, he conquered many islands, including Bimini. After returning to Puerto Rico, de Leon took three ships and 200 men on a mission to explore lands to the north. De Leon hoped to find the Fountain of Youth, a mythical spring that was said to make anyone who drank its water young forever. After making several stops at Caribbean islands, de Leon and his men reached the east coast of Florida (St. Augustine) on April 2, 1513. He named the land "Pascua de Florida," or Feast of Flowers because he discovered it on Palm Sunday. He claimed all of the land for Spain.

On April 8, 1513, de Leon and his men left northern Florida and sailed south along the Gulf Stream. After a fight between his men and natives in southern Florida, he sailed to Cuba. He tried to sail back to Bimini but could not find it. De Leon soon returned to Puerto Rico, where he sacked a rebellion of natives against Spanish rule. After returning to Spain, he was named Captain General by the king on September 27, 1514.

De Leon did not return to the New World until 1521 when he once again tried to find the island of Bimini. Instead, de Leon and his men landed on the Gulf Coast of Florida where they were met by hostile Indians who shot his men with arrows. De Leon himself was wounded and died a short time after sailing to Havana, Cuba, in July of 1521.

1.) When was Ponce de Leon born?

2.) Where was Ponce de Leon in 1493?

- a.) Spain
- b.) America
- c.) Europe
- d.) Dominican Republic

3.) Select all of the following that describe Ponce de Leon.

- a.) fighter
- b.) explorer
- c.) governor
- d.) president

4.) What does “bloodthirsty” mean?

- a.) He or she is scared of something
- b.) He or she would do anything to have it
- c.) He or she is worried
- d.) He or she wants it

5.) The Fountain of Youth was supposed to make those who drank from it _____ forever.

- a.) beautiful
- b.) tough
- c.) young
- d.) healthy

6.) What word best describes the Fountain of Youth?

- a.) faraway
- b.) mythical
- c.) nonfiction
- d.) believable

7.) What did Ponce de Leon discover?

- a.) The Fountain of Youth
- b.) North America
- c.) Spain
- d.) Florida

8.) When was Ponce de Leon named Captain General by the king of Spain?

- a.) before April 2, 1513
- b.) before April 8, 1513
- c.) before 1521
- d.) after 1521

9.) Where did Ponce de Leon die?

- a.) Cuba
- b.) Spain
- c.) Bimini
- d.) Florida

10.) What happened last?

- a.) The discovery of Florida
- b.) Ponce de Leon is named Captain General in Spain.
- c.) De Leon loses his title as governor for his brutality toward natives.
- d.) 1515

Diamond Formation Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Diamonds are among nature's hardest materials. They can scratch a sheet of glass, and are used on machines to cut through big pieces of rock and other hard surfaces. Diamonds are also used as symbols of "love" and "forever." They are very expensive and are often seen on rings, necklaces, bracelets, and other kinds of jewelry.

It's amazing that humans have put so much value and meaning into one of the most unstable crystals that exists on Earth. In fact, diamonds are so unstable that under certain conditions they will convert back into graphite, which is used in pencils. Believe it or not, diamonds and your pencil led are incredibly similar. In fact, if your pencil led had exploded out of the Earth's mantle to its surface, it could have been a diamond!

Diamonds were formed in very high temperature and pressure environments. This type of environment does not exist on the earth's surface, and can only be found in specific zones deep within the earth's mantle about 100 miles under the surface. It is believed that diamonds formed in these parts of the mantle and then were delivered to the surface of the Earth by very rapid, violent, and powerful volcanic eruptions millions or even billions of years ago. According to scientists, such eruptions have not occurred in modern times. The important part of these eruptions was speed. If the eruptions had happened slowly, the diamonds would have turned into graphite on their way up, but because the eruptions happened so quickly, the diamonds were "locked" into their crystal structure.

Graphite and diamonds are both crystallized forms of carbon. The difference between the two is how their atoms are arranged and the types of bonds holding them together. Diamonds have stronger bonds than graphite.

1. Where are diamonds formed?

- a. Outer Space
- b. On Earth's surface
- c. Beneath the Earth's surface
- d. In slow volcanic eruptions

2. What is implied in the second paragraph?

- a. All of the world's diamonds have likely been found and mined
- b. Diamonds may have formed in eruptions that occurred above the surface of the Earth
- c. Diamonds can form in conditions of extreme heat and pressure
- d. In current conditions, new diamonds cannot form

3. Diamonds are not...

- a. symbols of love.
- b. very expensive.
- c. commonly found today.
- d. unstable crystals.

4. According to the passage, which of the following is the best description of the relationship between graphite and diamonds?

- a. They are identical
- b. They are very similar. The only difference is the location in the Earth that each is formed in
- c. They are very similar. The only difference is how their atoms are arranged and the bonds that hold them together
- d. They are very similar. The only difference is how they look

5. In which of the following conditions COULD diamonds form?

- a. Slow volcanic eruptions near the surface of the Earth
- b. Fast volcanic eruptions near the surface of the Earth
- c. Slow volcanic eruptions deep within the Earth
- d. Fast volcanic eruptions deep within the Earth

6. Which of the following is NOT explained in the passage?

- a. Under what conditions will diamonds become graphite?
- b. What kinds of symbols do people attach to diamonds?
- c. What are diamonds used for apart from jewelry?
- d. What was the most important factor in determining whether diamonds or graphite would be formed?

7. What does author seem surprised about?

- a. The length of time it takes to form a diamond
- b. That people consider diamonds so valuable
- c. That diamonds are so unstable
- d. That diamonds are among the hardest materials on Earth

Declaration of Independence Reading Comprehension

The main purpose of America's Declaration of Independence was to explain to foreign nations why the colonies had chosen to separate themselves from Great Britain. The Revolutionary War had already begun, and several major battles had already taken place. The American colonies had already cut most major ties to England and had established their own congress, currency, army, and post office. On June 7, 1776, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Richard Henry Lee voiced a resolution that the United States should be completely free of England's influence, and that all political ties between the two countries should be dissolved. Congress agreed and began plans to publish a formal declaration of independence and appointed a committee of five members to draft the declaration.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen to draft the letter, which he did in a single day. Four other members—Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams—were part of the committee to help Jefferson. In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson explained that a body of people has a right to change governments if that government becomes oppressive (unfair and controlling). He further explained that governments fail when they no longer have the consent of the governed. Since Parliament clearly lacked the consent of the American colonists to govern them, it was no longer legitimate.

The Declaration was presented to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 2, 1776. It was approved with a few minor changes. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock, of Massachusetts, was the first.

1.) Why was the Declaration of Independence written?

- a.) For the colonists
- b.) For the British
- c.) For the kings
- d.) For other nations

2.) Which of the following HAD NOT taken place before the Declaration of Independence was written?

- a.) Battles
- b.) America had named a president.
- c.) The Revolutionary War
- d.) American had cut most ties with England.

3.) In the following sentence, what does the word "influence" mean:

Richard Henry Lee voiced a resolution that the United States ought to be completely free of England's **influence**.

- a.) battle
- b.) royal family
- c.) under the effect of
- d.) money

4.) Which of the following is an accurate description of what Thomas Jefferson described in the Declaration?

- a.) That the King of England owes the colonists money.
- b.) That America will win the war against England.
- c.) People have the right to fair government.
- d.) The colonists have no rights.

5.) According to Jefferson, when do governments fail?

- a.) When they no longer have the consent of the people.
- b.) When they fight wars.
- c.) When they issue taxes.
- d.) When they owe money.

6.) Which of the following is NOT a reason the Declaration of Independence was written?

- a.) Parliament lacked consent of the American people.
- b.) Parliament was unfair.
- c.) Parliament taxed the Americans.
- d.) Parliament had failed the American people.

7.) The Continental Congress...

- a.) agreed to the Declaration with a few changes.
- b.) totally and completely agreed with the Declaration.
- c.) disagreed with the Declaration.
- d.) agreed with the Declaration but made major changes.

8.) Which of the following describes an illegitimate government according to the Declaration?

- a.) A government that taxes its people.
- b.) A government that oppresses its people.
- c.) A government that has the consent of its people.
- d.) A government run by the people.

9.) The British were...

- a.) likely to agree to the Declaration.
- b.) likely to disagree to the Declaration.
- c.) likely to agree to the Declaration with a few minor changes.
- d.) likely to agree to the Declaration with a few major changes.

10.) Which of the following is FALSE?

- a.) Congress established a taxing system before the Declaration of Independence.
- b.) Congress established a post office before the Declaration of Independence.
- c.) Congress established an army before the Declaration of Independence.
- d.) Richard Henry Lee voiced the resolution that American should dissolve its ties to England.

Abner Doubleday

Abner Doubleday was a military general who was thought to have fired the first shot in the Civil War at Fort Sumter in 1861. He was also a Union general at the Battle of Gettysburg. Despite his actions in the Civil War, Doubleday is most famous for “inventing” baseball. Doubleday was said to have invented the game in a cow pasture in Cooperstown, New York, in 1839 according to the Mills Commission - a group of business executives who convened for the purposes of discovering the true roots of baseball. Despite the weak and circumstantial evidence that pointed to Doubleday as the inventor of baseball, their “findings” were generally accepted by the American public. Doubleday, in fact, never claimed to have anything to do with the invention of baseball and was unsure why it was attributed to him. According to records, when Doubleday died, he left no mention of himself as the inventor of baseball in his detailed records or papers. Furthermore, in his formal obituary published in the *New York Times*, there was no mention of baseball.

Reality

Baseball more likely evolved in the streets and ball yards of the eastern United States and was probably influenced by the English sports of rounders and cricket. Rounders was a game similar to baseball in which players hit a ball with a paddle and ran bases. In 1845, a group of New Yorkers founded the New York Knickerbockers Baseball Club. One of its founding members, Alexander Joy Cartwright, is credited with establishing rules that began to shape baseball into the game we know today. Cartwright designed the diamond-shaped field, invented the three-strike rule, and set the lines for fair and foul balls. The first game governed by his rules was played in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1846. Under Cartwright’s rules, players could no longer throw the baseball directly at players to get them out.

In 1857, several baseball clubs from the east coast convened to establish official rules for baseball. Known as the “Laws of Base Ball,” the 12-page document is the first known account of a baseball rule book. Among other things, the book established the nine-inning game, the 90-foot distances between bases and that each team was to field nine starting players. The original “Laws of Base Ball” document recently sold at auction for more than \$3,000,000.

Civil War and Beyond

Baseball quickly grew in popularity. During the Civil War, it was introduced to soldiers from the western and southern parts of the country, who in turn, brought it back to their hometowns after the war. Soldiers often played baseball at their encampments as did prisoners of war who played in front of spectators and guards. Following the Civil War, the Cincinnati Red Stockings became the first professional baseball team with full-time players who were paid for their services. The Red Stockings played their first game on May 4, 1869, against the Cincinnati Great Westerns. They won 45-9. The Red Stockings would end their first season with 65 wins and zero losses – the only perfect season in baseball history.

- 1. Abner Doubleday...**
 - A. was proven to be the inventor of baseball.
 - B. tried to convince people he was the inventor of baseball.
 - C. invented baseball while fighting in the Civil War.
 - D. wasn't sure why people thought he invented baseball.

- 2. Why does the author use quotes for the words "findings" and "invented"?**
 - A. Because these were the words that were actually used
 - B. To emphasize that the actual use of these words would probably be inaccurate
 - C. To ensure the reader understands the words
 - D. To make sure the reader actually reads the words

- 3. Which of the following best describes the early history of baseball?**
 - A. It was invented by the New York Knickerbockers Club in 1845
 - B. The game was influenced by English games before it was shaped into the game we know in the 1840s
 - C. Baseball was invented by Abner Doubleday in 1839 and was shaped into modern baseball over the course of the many years
 - D. Baseball evolved into the game we know after the three-strike rule and the nine-innings rules were implemented

- 4. What happened first?**
 - A. The first game governed by Cartwright's rules was played in Hoboken, New Jersey
 - B. The New York Knickerbockers Baseball Club was formed
 - C. The Battle of Fort Sumter was fought
 - D. December, 1844

- 5. Which of the following best describes the evidence the Mills Commission used to establish Abner Doubleday as the inventor of baseball?**
 - A. Very weak
 - B. Strong
 - C. Very Strong
 - D. Allowed

6. Which is NOT a rule of baseball?

- A. There are 90 feet between bases
- B. There are nine innings per game
- C. Runners are considered out when hit with a thrown ball
- D. Teams have nine starting players

7. Which could be a title for the first paragraph?

- A. Doubleday: A Case of Mistaken Identity
- B. Doubleday: The True Inventor of Baseball
- C. Doubleday: An American Fraud
- D. Doubleday: The Death of American Legend

HISTORY OF DOUGHNUTS Reading Comprehension

Fried dough has been made all around the world. Dutch settlers who brought apple and cream pies, cookies, and cobbler to the New World also introduced doughnuts. Their doughnuts were called “olykoeks,” or oily cakes—sweet dough balls fried in pork fat. Early doughnuts were often filled with apples, prunes, or raisins. The name “doughnut” may refer to the nuts put in the middle of the dough ball to prevent an uncooked center or possibly to “dough knots”—another popular shape for the olykoeks. Today, “doughnut” and “donut” are used interchangeably.

There are three stories about why doughnuts have holes in the center. In 1847, Elizabeth Gregory was known for making a very fine olykoek with a hint of nutmeg and a filling of hazelnuts or walnuts. Her son, Hanson Crockett Gregory, was a 16-year-old sailor who invented the doughnut hole.

One story says that on June 22, 1847, Captain Gregory’s ship hit a sudden storm. He impaled the doughnut as a spoke on the steering wheel to keep his hands free. The spoke drove a hole through the raw center of the doughnut. Captain Gregory liked the doughnuts better that way, and the doughnut hole was born.

In the second story, he didn't like nuts, so he poked them out and ordered the ship's cook to remove the centers from doughnuts.

The third version comes from an interview with Captain Gregory in the Washington Post. Gregory didn't like the greasiness of doughnuts twisted into various shapes, or the raw center of regular doughnuts. He suddenly had the idea to punch a hole with the ship's tin pepper box. When he got home, he taught this new doughnut trick to his mother.

Making a hole increased the surface area exposed to the hot oil and eliminated the uncooked center.

Here's part of the interview with 85-year-old Captain Gregory:

"Now in them days we used to cut the doughnuts into diamond shapes, and also into long strips, bent in half, and then twisted. I don't think we called them doughnuts then—they was just 'fried cakes' and 'twisters.'

Well, sir, they used to fry all right around the edges, but when you had the edges done the insides was all raw dough. And the twisters used to sop up all the grease just where they bent, and they were tough on the digestion.

Well, I says to myself, 'Why wouldn't a space inside solve the difficulty?' I thought at first I'd take one of the strips and roll it around, then I got an inspiration, a great inspiration. I took the cover off the ship's tin pepper box, and—I cut into the middle of that doughnut the first hole ever seen by mortal eyes!

Well, sir, them doughnuts was the finest I ever tasted. No more indigestion—no more greasy sinkers—but just well-done, fried-through doughnuts.”

1.) What could be a title for this passage?

- a.) Donuts Around the World
- b.) How the Donut Changed Over Time
- c.) Nicknames for Donuts
- d.) The First Bakery

2.) Why do you think the Washington Post interviewed Captain Gregory?

- a.) They wanted to know the places he had sailed to.
- b.) They believed someone else invented the doughnut hole.
- c.) They wanted to know how the doughnut hole came into being.
- d.) They were interested in why doughnuts were so greasy.

3.) Captain Gregory...

- a.) improved the doughnut.
- b.) invented the doughnut.
- c.) added filling to the doughnut.
- d.) brought the donut to America.

4.) What inspired Captain Gregory?

- a.) He wanted to think of a new name for doughnuts.
- b.) The idea of starting a bakery.
- c.) The idea that he could put filling in the doughnut.
- d.) The idea of cutting a hole into the center of the doughnut.

5.) The first doughnuts brought to America by the Dutch were...

- a.) yellow
- b.) bitter
- c.) oily
- d.) sour

6.) Which of the following items was not introduced by the Dutch?

- a.) cream pies
- b.) ice cream
- c.) cookies
- d.) cobbler

7.) Doughnuts were originally made with nuts in the center to...

- a.) make the doughnuts less oily.
- b.) make the doughnuts easier to fry.
- c.) make sure the center was fully cooked.
- d.) make the doughnuts taste less doughy.

8.) Which of the following was NOT a nickname for doughnuts as described by Captain Gregory?

- a.) greasy sinkers
- b.) olykoeks
- c.) twisters
- d.) fried cakes

9.) What does the word "introduced" mean in the following sentence:

Fried dough has been made all around the world. Dutch settlers who brought apple and cream pies, cookies, and cobbler to the New World also **introduced** doughnuts.

- a.) made
- b.) discovered
- c.) brought to a new place
- d.) fought

10.) Which of the following is definitely TRUE about doughnut holes?

- a.) The doughnut hole was invented inside a pepper box.
- b.) The doughnut hole was invented as a result of a bad storm at sea.
- c.) The doughnut hole was invented by a sailor.
- d.) The doughnut hole was invented to make it taste better.

AMELIA EARHART Reading Comprehension

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897, in Atchison, Kansas, at her grandparents' house. Soon after her birth, her parents separated. Nevertheless, Amelia's sister, Muriel, was born two years later. Amelia's early years were spent with her wealthy grandparents. The two girls lived with their grandparents until Amelia was 10. Amelia's father, Edwin, eventually took an executive job with Rock Island Railroad in Des Moines, Iowa, and reunited with the girls' mother, Amy. The Earhart family quickly climbed the social ladder, but it was short lived. Edwin began to drink heavily. In 1914, his drinking drove Amy to take the two girls to live with friends in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1917, Amelia entered a nursing school and witnessed the horrors of war. She served as a voluntary aid detachment nurse at a military hospital until the Armistice in November 1918. She would later say:

“There, for the first time, I realized what the World War meant. Instead of new uniforms and brass bands, I saw only the result of four years' desperate struggle: men without arms and legs, men who were paralyzed, and men who were blind.”

In the fall of 1919, Amelia enrolled as a pre-med student at Columbia University. In 1920, her parents had reunited in California. She decided to leave Columbia and join them. Her love for aviation was born when her father took her to an aerial show, in which she got to ride in an open-cockpit flight over Los Angeles.

Amelia started taking flight lessons with Anita Snook at Kinner Field near Long Beach, California. She caught on quickly and soon became an excellent pilot. In July of 1920, Amelia purchased her first plane. It was a bright yellow Kinner airplane. She named it “The Canary.” In October of 1922, just a few years after taking up flying, she began attempting to break records. She first broke the altitude record of 14,000 feet. As aviation became more and more popular, records were constantly broken as pilots pushed the limits of aviation.

In 1925, Amelia took a position at Denison House in Boston as a social worker. While there, Amelia got a call that would change her life forever. On April 27th, 1926, Captain Hilton Railey called her to take part in a flight across the Atlantic Ocean. She would only be a passenger. Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon flew the plane, but Amelia became the first woman to make the trip across the Atlantic. Although she believed the attention she

received was unwarranted, she was more determined than ever to make the trip herself. While in London and back in the United States, Amelia toured the countries, giving lectures and speeches.

On May 20, 1932, five years after Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic, Amelia began her journey to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Despite eventually veering off course, she broke several records on the historic flight. Not only did she become the first woman to fly the Atlantic solo and the only person to do it twice, she also broke the records for the longest flight by a woman and for crossing the Atlantic Ocean in the shortest time. During this time, Amelia had made many important friends. She had agreed to marry millionaire publisher George Putnam, and had even taken First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on a flight.

In 1935, Amelia started planning for an around-the-world flight. On her first attempt, she crashed during takeoff. Amelia would have to wait until her plane was repaired to try again. On June 1, 1937, Amelia Earhart and copilot Fred Noonan again set off to fly around the world. They first flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and then eastward toward Africa. Amelia and Fred flew to the Red Sea; to Karachi, Pakistan; and to Calcutta, India. They continued to Rangoon, Bangkok, and Singapore. At Port Darwin, Australia, Amelia and Fred were able to make crucial repairs to their airplane. Amelia reached Lae, New Guinea, on June 29. They had flown 22,000 miles and had 7,000 left to go. Amelia had become an international hero, and the world was captivated by her determination. However, trouble lurked for Amelia and Fred. Shortly after she left New Guinea on July 2, she sent several distress calls. Amelia and Fred were off course and lost over the vast Pacific Ocean. They did not have enough gas to reach their target—The Howland Islands. Amelia and Fred would never be seen or heard from again. President Roosevelt sent 9 naval ships and 66 aircraft to search the area. On July 18, the search was called off.

To this day, there are many theories concerning the disappearance of Amelia Earhart. Some say her plane crashed in the ocean and she drowned. Others say her plane crashed but she was taken prisoner by the Japanese, who occupied many of the Pacific Islands. Still others believe Amelia made an anonymous return to the States and lived as a housewife in New Jersey.

The world will probably never know what happened to Amelia Earhart. Nevertheless, she remains a hero and inspiration to millions across the world today.

1.) When was Amelia Earhart born?

- a.) before 1800
- b.) before 1900
- c.) after 1900
- d.) when her sister was two

2.) Which of the following places did Amelia Earhart NOT live?

- a.) Kansas
- b.) Illinois
- c.) California
- d.) North Carolina

3.) When was Amelia's love for aviation born?

- a.) Before she left Columbia University
- b.) Before her parents reunited in California
- c.) When she lived in Illinois with her grandparents
- d.) After she left Columbia University

4.) Amelia named her first airplane The _____.

5.) Which of the following did Amelia Earhart NOT do?

- a.) Break an altitude record
- b.) Fly around the world
- c.) Fly across the Atlantic Ocean
- d.) Break the distance record for female pilots

6.) Which of the following people did Amelia Earhart NOT fly with?

- a.) President Roosevelt
- b.) Eleanor Roosevelt
- c.) Fred Noonan
- d.) Anita Snook

7.) What happened second?

- a.) Amelia took flying lessons with Anita Snook.
- b.) Amelia became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- c.) Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean.
- d.) Amelia Earhart became a social worker in Boston.

8.) Where were Amelia and Fred Noonan able to make crucial repairs to their airplane during their historic attempt to fly around the world?

- a.) New Guinea
- b.) Singapore
- c.) Australia
- d.) Howland Islands

9.) What happened to Amelia Earhart?

- a.) She was taken prisoner by the Japanese.
- b.) Her plane crashed into the ocean.
- c.) She secretly moved to New Jersey.
- d.) No one knows.

10.) What word best describes Amelia Earhart?

- a.) disappointment
- b.) delicate
- c.) inspirational
- d.) insignificant

Nikumaroro – Amelia Earhart’s Grave?

Name _____

The mystery surrounding the fate of Amelia Earhart has endured for over eighty years. In her attempt to circumnavigate the Earth by air, Earhart disappeared on July 2, 1937, somewhere in the Pacific Ocean amidst the thousands of tiny islands known as Oceania. We know she was trying to find tiny Howland Island to refuel but may have been hundreds of miles off-course. Attempts at radio communication between the U.S. Coast Guard ship stationed at Howland Island and Earhart’s aircraft proved unsuccessful in what is thought to be the plane’s final hours. Many hypotheses have emerged over the years, including one that suggests Earhart and her co-pilot, Fred Noonan may have either landed or crash-landed on Nikumaroro, then called Gardner Island.

The Gardner Island Theory

According to the Gardner Island Theory, Amelia and Noonan would have flown south after failing to find Howland. The theory posits that before they ran out of gas, they would have flown over Gardner Island, one of a group of islands known as the Phoenix Islands, which are part of the Republic of Kiribati today. A week after Earhart’s disappearance, U.S. Navy planes searched the island. Although they found signs of recent habitation, they found no signs of Earhart or Noonan. In 1941, however British researchers on Gardner Island found a skeleton. They determined, however, that it belonged to a 5’5” male. Unfortunately, the bones have since been lost. In 1998, scientists analyzing the original measurement data from the 1941 skeleton, found that it more likely belonged to a tall, white female of European ancestry, raising the possibility that the lost skeleton could have been Earhart. In 2015, another study refuted the 1998 findings and concluded that the original analysis was more likely to be accurate. In 2018, however, an additional study conducted by forensic anthropologist Richard Jantz determined that Earhart’s bone measurements more closely matched those from the Gardner Island skeleton than 99% percent of people who would have lived during Earhart’s time. It’s important to note that these findings are based on estimations taken from photographs rather than from the actual bones.

TIGHAR

The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) has sent several expeditions to Nikumaroro in the last few decades. They hypothesized that Earhart and Noonan landed on a coral reef and died on the island. TIGHAR scientists and anthropologists have discovered numerous artifacts including tools, metal scraps and parts which may have been from an aircraft, and a curious fragment of Plexiglas that is said to be similar to the Plexiglas used in Earhart’s Electra aircraft. Despite the compelling findings, all evidence remains circumstantial and no “smoking gun” has been discovered.

- 1. Which of the following is a fact about the disappearance of Amelia Earhart?**
 - A. Her skeleton was found on Gardner Island
 - B. Her aircraft crash-landed on some island in the Pacific Ocean
 - C. The skeleton found on Gardner Island belonged to a tall woman
 - D. Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were supposed to land on Howland Island

- 2. Which of the following best describes descriptions of the Gardner Island skeleton?**
 - A. It has been proven that it belonged to a man
 - B. It has been proven that it belonged to a woman
 - C. The gender of the Gardner Island skeleton remains uncertain
 - D. The measurements of the Gardner Island skeleton are based on the actual bones

- 3. Which of the following is a hypothesis?**
 - A. Fred Noonan served as Amelia Earhart's co-pilot
 - B. Fred Noonan and Amelia Earhart crash-landed on Gardner Island
 - C. Comprehensive investigations into the fate of Amelia Earhart have been largely unsuccessful
 - D. Scientists from TIGHAR have found compelling artifacts on Nikumaroro that warrant further study

- 4. Which two terms are used interchangeably?**
 - A. Fred Noonan and Amelia Earhart
 - B. Nikumaroro and Gardner Island
 - C. TIGHAR and Richard Jantz
 - D. Male and female

- 5. Why is it difficult to make determinations about the 1941 skeleton of Gardner Island?**
 - A. The skeleton is very old
 - B. The skeleton no longer exists
 - C. Scientists have failed to agree about its gender
 - D. It was impossible to tell how tall Amelia Earhart was

- 6. Which of the following best describes the role of anthropologists in the disappearance of Amelia Earhart?**
 - A. To help piece together American history
 - B. To help discover and find meaning in ancient fossils
 - C. To see if information can be learned from the discovery and study of artifacts
 - D. To learn more about Nikumaroro and its inhabitants

- 7. Which of the following would serve as a "smoking gun" in this case?**
 - A. A scrap of metal that matched common aircrafts in the 1930s
 - B. A glass bottle that was known to have been produced in America
 - C. Hair samples that were traced to the DNA of Fred Noonan
 - D. Samples of rusted engine parts that may have come from Earhart's plane or similar planes

Fort Sumter Reading Comprehension

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War. After seven Southern states ratified their declarations of succession, the state of South Carolina demanded that federal (United States) troops stationed at Fort Moultrie (in Charleston Harbor) abandon the fort. On December 26, 1860, however, Union Major General Richard Anderson moved his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter because he thought Fort Sumter was more easily defended. South Carolina subsequently seized all other federal forts in South Carolina except for Fort Sumter. About two weeks later, US president at the time James Buchanan authorized the delivery of reinforcements to Fort Sumter. The ship carrying the reinforcements was fired upon by batteries from the South Carolina shore, and the reinforcements never made it.

Over the course of the next few months, Confederate forces strengthened batteries around Fort Sumter. Furthermore, the new president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, appointed his first military officer, P.G. T. Beauregard, to command forces in Charleston. Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends, and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

Inside the fort, Anderson and his troops were running short on food and supplies as a siege began to form. New president Abraham Lincoln again tried to resupply the fort and notified South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens that he was sending in ships. In response, Confederate forces demanded the immediate surrender of the fort. After General Anderson refused the demand, Confederate forces began bombarding Fort Sumter at 4:30 in the morning on April 12, 1861.

Confederate forces firing on Fort Sumter quickly took their toll. Badly outgunned and outmanned, Anderson's forces inside the fort initially returned fire but were soon overwhelmed. After 34 hours, Major General Anderson agreed to evacuate the fort. No Union or Confederate soldiers were killed during the battle, though two Union soldiers would die as a result of a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14.

Both the North and the South became galvanized in their war efforts after Fort Sumter. President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of 75,000 additional troops prompted the secession of four other states.

1.) Fort Sumter...

- a.) marked the last exchange of fire in the war.
- b.) marked the first exchange of fire in the war.
- c.) resulted in major loss of life for the Union.
- d.) resulted in major loss of life for the Confederacy.

2.) Why did Major General Anderson move his troops to Fort Sumter?

- a.) Fort Sumter was in a better position to attack the Confederates.
- b.) Fort Sumter was in better condition than Fort Moultrie.
- c.) Fort Moultrie was harder to defend than Fort Sumter.
- d.) He was ordered to move by President Buchanan.

3.) Who was Jefferson Davis?

- a.) President before Buchanan
- b.) President before Lincoln
- c.) The first military officer of the Confederacy.
- d.) President of the Confederacy

4.) Why could no reinforcements make it to Fort Sumter?

- a.) Ships carrying reinforcements were fired upon by Confederate forces.
- b.) The waters around the fort were too dangerous.
- c.) The Union did not have the resources to send reinforcements.
- d.) Confederate forces sunk any ships attempting to supply Fort Sumter.

5.) Which of the following was true about the relationship between Beauregard and Anderson?

- a.) Anderson worked for Beauregard.
- b.) Beauregard worked for Anderson.
- c.) They were archenemies.
- d.) They had never met.

6.) Why is the following sentence ironic?

Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends, and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

- a.) Because Beauregard would become the Confederacy's first military officer.
- b.) Because West Point was located in Union territory.
- c.) Because these two friends were battling each other in the war's first battle.
- d.) Because no one died at Fort Sumter.

7.) What was the most likely reaction Francis Pickens had to Lincoln's notification that he was sending reinforcements?

- a.) anger
- b.) indifference
- c.) joy
- d.) sadness

8.) Who won the Battle of Fort Sumter?

- a.) The Confederacy
- b.) The Union
- c.) Neither side
- d.) The battle was inconclusive.

9.) What did the North and the South have in common after Fort Sumter?

- a.) They both wanted to stop the war from escalating.
- b.) They wanted peace.
- c.) They expected no additional battles.
- d.) Both sides resolved to take steps to win the war.

10.) What does the word "mobilization" mean in the following sentence:

President Lincoln's request for the **mobilization** of 75,000 additional troops prompted the secession of four other states.

- a.) transport
- b.) transfer
- c.) preparation for action
- d.) military action

FRANCE Reading Comprehension

Versailles is the site of the Palace of Versailles, one of the most storied buildings in the history of France. It was originally built as a hunting chateau by King Louis VIII in 1624. In 1669, King Louis XIV began searching for a grand site where he could conduct the affairs of France and control the government. He settled on the hunting palace and expanded it into the world's largest palace. In addition, the king hoped to build a governmental center apart from Paris.

The palace took 36,000 workers 50 years to build. The palace is spread out over 280 acres and can house 20,000 people! The palace features over 700 rooms and 67 staircases. There are dozens of unique rooms, features, gardens, and halls. One of the most renowned rooms of the Palace of Versailles is the Hall of Mirrors. Recently restored, the Hall of Mirrors is the centerpiece of the dazzling building. Originally added to the palace in 1684, the Hall of Mirrors was built to be a dazzling display of the power and wealth of the French monarchy. The hall, which measures 73 meters in length, features 357 gold-coated stucco mirrors, ornate paintings, crystal chandeliers, marble fixtures, a parquet floor, and ceilings with colorful murals painted by artist Charles Le Brun. The Hall of Mirrors has also played a prominent role in history. Both the Proclamation of the German Empire in 1871, after the Franco-Prussian War, and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles that formally ended World War I, were signed there.

1.) When was the Palace of Versailles originally built?

- a.) 1684
- b.) 1786
- c.) 1624
- d.) 1669

2.) Why did King Louis XIV want a grand palace?

- a.) He wanted to impress his wife.
- b.) As a hunting chateau
- c.) As a place to conduct his nation's business
- d.) So he and his queen could retire comfortably.

3.) How many palaces were larger than the Palace of Versailles after it was built?

- a.) 0
- b.) 1
- c.) 3
- d.) 2

4.) The Palace took _____ workers _____ years to build.

- a.) 50; 36,000
- b.) 280; 20,000
- c.) 36,000; 50
- d.) 20,000; 280

5.) The Palace of Versailles can hold _____ people.

- a.) 280
- b.) 20,000
- c.) 700
- d.) 50,000

6.) What would you NOT find at the Palace of Versailles?

- a.) beaches
- b.) stairwells
- c.) gardens
- d.) mirrors

7.) The Hall of Mirrors contains _____ mirrors.

- a.) 573
- b.) 357
- c.) 375
- d.) 280

8.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The Hall of Mirrors has not been restored since 1684.
- b.) The Hall of Mirrors features a parquet floor.
- c.) The Hall of Mirrors is considered the centerpiece of the Palace of Versailles.
- d.) Two major treaties were signed in the Hall of Mirrors.

9.) Which of the following is not mentioned as a feature of the Hall of Mirrors?

- a.) ornate paintings
- b.) bronze moldings
- c.) crystal chandeliers
- d.) marble fixtures

10.) Which of the following could be an appropriate title for this passage?

- a.) The Ceilings of the Hall of Mirrors
- b.) Louis XIV and the Palace of Versailles
- c.) A History of France
- d.) The Amazing Palace of Versailles

With members as influential as Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Mark Twain, it is easy to see how Freemasonry came to be the most significant fraternal organization in the world. Freemasonry was thought to have originated from stonemasons who built castles in medieval Europe. The early history of freemasonry is recorded in mysterious and cryptic manuscripts which date back to 1425. The first document, known as the Regius Poem, recounts how the art of masonry came to England. It also contains instructions, rules, and warnings for craftsmen and for worksite construction. Later manuscripts contain additions and amendments to the Regius Poem. Records show that the first Grand Lodge, which is a governing body of the freemasons, was established in 1717 in London. Many other lodges exist worldwide, which serve as places for Freemasons to gather.

Freemasonry is not affiliated with politics or religion, although some religions consider freemasonry a cult or secret society incompatible with religious doctrine. That said, Freemasonry prides itself on its devotion to many charitable causes and gathering together men of good moral character. The organization donates more than \$38 million per year to different global, community, and individual organizations. Requirements of becoming a Freemason include being of sound reputation and character, being at least eighteen years old, and believing in God. Also, since it is a fraternal organization, women are prohibited from joiningj however, an order of women Freemasons now exists.

Participation in freemasonry involves attending meetings and ceremonies. Ceremonies take place for inducting new members, as well as when existing members fulfill the requirements for the three “degrees.” Each degree signifies a new step to achieving higher knowledge. The three degrees are: Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason. The Masonic square and compass is the symbol of the Freemasons. These represent architectural tools and are used as emblems to teach symbolic lessons.

While Freemasonry has its roots in England, there is significant membership within the United States. In fact, fourteen US presidents have been members of the organization! Though membership has gone down significantly, there are still over one million American members, largely based out of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

1. Which of the following was described in the Regius Poem?

- a. Rules for determining who would be excluded from freemasonry
- b. Where the governing bodies would be located
- c. How masonry would spread from England
- d. How masonry came to England

2. Which is NOT true about freemasonry?

- a. It has political affiliations
- b. Some religions consider it a secret society or cult
- c. Members must be at least eighteen years of age
- d. Members must acknowledge the existence of God

3. Which best describes the recorded history of freemasonry prior to 1717?

- a. Detailed records present a very clear history
- b. There are no records of freemasonry before 1717
- c. The history of freemasonry before 1717 is unclear and confusing
- d. Freemasonry dates back thousands of years before 1717

4. Which best describes membership in freemasonry over time?

- a. It has increased significantly
- b. It has increased slightly
- c. It has decreased significantly
- d. It has decreased slightly

5. What are “amendments” as used in the following sentence?

Later manuscripts contain additions and amendments to the Regius Poem.

- a. changes
- b. conditions
- c. placeholders
- d. notes

6. Which of the following might be used as evidence by freemasons against those who claim freemasonry is “incompatible with religious doctrine”?

- a. Fourteen presidents were freemasons
- b. Belief in God is required for membership
- c. George Washington was a freemason
- d. Freemasons have to achieve three degrees to complete membership

7. To which of the following questions would “fellowcraft” be the answer?

- a. What is the highest “degree” of achievement amongst freemasons?
- b. What is the first “degree” of achievement amongst freemasons?
- c. What is one of the three “degrees” of achievement amongst freemasons?
- d. What does the Masonic square and compass represent?

Friday the 13th is considered a day in which bad things occur. It is a superstition. A superstition is a belief of something ominous without actual reason. The origin of this superstition is unclear. Both Friday and the number 13 have been considered unlucky for hundreds of years. Bad luck associated with the number 13 may have biblical roots. Some believe Eve bit the apple from the Tree of Knowledge on the 13th day. Others point to the idea that there were 13 people present for Jesus's Last Supper, the day before Good Friday. The number 13 was considered so unlucky, that many hotels and buildings were built without a 13th floor! It wasn't until the 20th century, however, that Friday and "13" were paired together in bad luck. In 1907, author Thomas Lawson wrote *Friday, the Thirteenth*. The book was about a stock broker who purposely caused the stock market to crash on that day.

The Friday the 13th superstition, however, gained serious traction with the *Friday the 13th* horror film series. Originally released in 1980, the story centers around the "ghost" of Jason Voorhees. In the movie, Jason, with his iconic hockey mask, hunts the hapless characters who come to vacation at Crystal Lake – the lake he drowned in as a child. Twelve movies later, the *Friday the 13th* series remains one of the most successful horror film franchises in history.

Is Friday the 13th actually unlucky compared to other days? Not really. There is no actual evidence to suggest that events that have occurred on Friday the 13th throughout history are worse than events that have occurred on other days. Some studies have shown that Friday the 13th is actually safer than other days, because people are more anxious and attentive. People may actually find Friday the 13th to be lucky. It is thought that air travel is cheaper and booking a wedding is much cheaper on Friday the 13th than other days. It is clear, however, that Friday the 13th will be around for a long time. Over the next 4,800 months, the 13th will occur on Friday more than any other day!

1. Which of the following is a superstition?

- A. Eating a lot of fatty foods can lead to heart problems
- B. Stepping on a sidewalk crack can cause injury to someone far away
- C. Sleeping less than eight hours per night can lead to poor health outcomes
- D. Texting and driving can be very dangerous to others on the road

2. When were Friday and the number 13 first paired together in bad luck?

- A. In the Bible
- B. When Eve bit the apple
- C. The Last Supper
- D. The 20th century

3. What does “traction” mean in the following sentence?

The Friday the 13th superstition, however, gained serious traction with the *Friday the 13th* horror film series.

- A. fiction
- B. popularity
- C. disbelief
- D. excitement

4. What is implied in the final sentence of the second paragraph?

- A. People really believed that Jason Voorhees was real
- B. People were really entertained by the Friday the 13th movies
- C. People really believe that Friday the 13th is an unlucky day
- D. All of the above

5. Evidence suggests...

- A. Friday the 13th is no more dangerous or unlucky than other days
- B. Friday the 13th is more dangerous and unlucky than other days
- C. Friday the 13th is the most dangerous day of the year
- D. Friday the 13th is actually less safe than other days that fall on the 13th

6. Why might flights be cheaper on Friday the 13th?

- A. Because pilots don't like to fly on Friday the 13th
- B. It is harder for airlines to sell tickets on Friday the 13th
- C. Airlines are trying to get people to stop believing in superstitions
- D. Evidence has shown that more airline crashes occur on Friday the 13th

7. If the answer to a question is “because people are more anxious or attentive,” what might the question be?

- A. Why is Friday the 13th so scary to people?
- B. What evidence is there to show Friday the 13th is more dangerous than other days?
- C. Why do more people crash their cars on Friday the 13th?
- D. Why might Friday the 13th actually prove safer than other days?

Galileo

Galileo was born in Pisa, in the Tuscany region of Italy, in 1564. He was homeschooled through his early years and later attended the University of Pisa. Galileo soon became bored with his studies and eventually dropped out of the university. Nevertheless, he was offered a position as a mathematics professor there in 1589 after giving an impressive lecture.

While teaching at Pisa, Galileo conducted a legendary experiment in which he challenged Aristotle's law that states that heavier objects fall at a faster rate than lighter objects. According to legend, Galileo went to the top of the Tower of Pisa and dropped various balls of different material, size, and weight from the top. When they all hit the ground at the same time, Galileo had proven Aristotle wrong.

Galileo next taught geometry, mechanics, and astronomy at the University of Padua. It was at Padua where he made many of his amazing discoveries. In 1596, Galileo invented a military compass that could be used to properly aim cannonballs. In 1609, he learned that a Dutch spectacle-maker had invented a device called a spyglass. The spyglass (later called a telescope) made distant objects appear much closer. Before the Dutch inventor could secure a patent, Galileo quickly constructed his own 3-power telescope, and then a 10-power telescope to present to the senate in Venice. Galileo then used his telescope to document the surface of the moon, which he described as bumpy, cratered, and uneven. Galileo next created a 30-power telescope and observed Jupiter and three of its moons that seemed to rotate around the giant planet. Based on these observations, Galileo wrote a short book called *The Starry Messenger* in which he upheld the theory that the Earth and planets rotated around the sun. The book caused quite a stir among powerful members of the Catholic Church, who believed the solar system rotated around the earth. Galileo was prohibited from teaching the theory.

Galileo soon began taking up other scientific interests. In one particular paper he published, Galileo explained theories on ocean tides by using three characters engaging in a "dialogue." One character supported Galileo's views, another character was open-minded, and the last was stubborn and foolish and represented Galileo's enemies. He then wrote a similar book about the Earth rotating around the sun. Although the "dialogues" were very popular with the Italian public, the Pope believed that he was the model for the stubborn and foolish enemy of Galileo. The Pope ordered all of the "dialogues" banned and demanded that Galileo be tried for teaching

the theory. Galileo was sentenced to house arrest and forced to confess that his views were flawed. He died in Florence in 1642.

1. What happened in 1589?

- A. Galileo dropped out of school
- B. Galileo invented a telescope
- C. Galileo was offered a teaching position
- D. Galileo invented a military compass

2. According to Aristotle's Law...

- A. heavier objects hit the ground after lighter objects.
- B. heavier objects and lighter objects hit the ground at the same time.
- C. heavier objects hit the ground before lighter objects.
- D. It is impossible to determine whether heavier objects are lighter objects will hit the ground first.

3. What did the *Starry Messenger* claim?

- A. The Earth was the center of the solar system
- B. The sun rotated around the Earth
- C. The solar system rotated around the Earth
- D. The planets rotated around the sun

4. Galileo wrote the *Starry Messenger*...

- A. based on observations of Jupiter and its moons using his 10-power telescope.
- B. based on observations of the sun using his 10-power telescope.
- C. based on observations of Jupiter and its moons from his 30-power telescope.
- D. based on his description of the moon using his 10-power telescope.

5. The Pope believed...

- A. Galileo's dialogues were great ways to teach science.
- B. the public disliked Galileo's dialogues.
- C. he played a foolish enemy in Galileo's dialogues.
- D. the sun was the center of the solar system.

6. What was the short-term effect of the Pope's punishment of Galileo?

- A. Galileo refused to confess his ideas were wrong
- B. Galileo became one of the most important scientists in history
- C. The truth about solar system was suppressed
- D. Galileo believed his theories were correct

7. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Galileo and the Catholic Church?

- A. Harmonious. The Catholic Church accepted and celebrated his ideas
- B. Controversial. The Catholic Church rejected his ideas and punished him

- C. Irrelevant. Galileo continued to discuss his theories, even when the Catholic Church punished him
- D. Respectful. Galileo and the Catholic Church were willing to compromise

BILL GATES Reading Comprehension

William Henry Gates III (Bill) was born on October 28, 1955, in Seattle, Washington. Bill was the second of three children in an upper-middle class family. He enjoyed playing games with the family and was very competitive. He also loved to read. Bill became bored in public school, so his family sent him to Lakeside School, a private school, where he excelled in math and science and did well in drama and English.

Gates became interested in computer programming when he was 13, during the era of giant mainframe computers. His school held a fund-raiser to purchase a teletype terminal so students could use computer time that was donated by General Electric. Using this time, Gates wrote a tic-tac-toe program using BASIC, one of the first computer languages. Later he created a computer version of Risk, a board game he liked in which the goal is world domination. At Lakeside, Bill met Paul Allen, who shared his interest in computers. Gates and Allen and two other students hacked into a computer belonging to Computer Center Corporation (CCC) to get free computer time but were caught. After a period of probation, they were allowed back in the computer lab when they offered to fix glitches in CCC's software. At age 17, Gates and Allen were paid \$20,000 for a program called Traf-O-Data that was used to count traffic.

In early 1973, Bill Gates served as a congressional page in the U.S. House of Representatives. He scored 1590 out of 1600 on the SAT and was accepted by Harvard University. Steve Ballmer, who became CEO of Microsoft after Bill retired, was also a Harvard student. Meanwhile, Paul Allen dropped out of Washington College to work on computers at Honeywell Corporation and convinced Gates to drop out of Harvard and join him in starting a new software company in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They called it Micro-Soft. This was soon changed to Microsoft, and they moved their company to Bellevue, Washington.

In 1980, IBM, one of the largest technology companies of the era, asked Microsoft to write software to run their new personal computer, the IBM PC. Microsoft kept the licensing rights for the operating system (MS-DOS) so that they earned money for every computer sold first by IBM, and later by all the other companies that made PC computers. Microsoft grew quickly from 25 employees in 1978 to over 90,000 today. Over the years, Microsoft developed many new technologies and some of the world's most popular software and products such as Word and PowerPoint. Although some have criticized Gates for using questionable business practices, he built Microsoft into one of the largest companies in the world. He has been described as brilliant but childlike, driven, competitive, intense, fun, but lacking in empathy.

Bill Gates is one of the richest men in the world. In 2012, his \$61 billion in assets made him the world's second-richest man according to Forbes Magazine. In 2006, Gates announced that he would cut back his involvement at Microsoft to spend more time on philanthropy and his foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supports many causes including the quest to eradicate polio, fighting AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; providing vaccinations for children; and even reinventing the toilet, among many other things.

1.) The second to last paragraph describes...

- a.) how Microsoft became a bigger company than IBM.
- b.) the technical details of MS-DOS.
- c.) how Bill Gates became a billionaire.
- d.) how Microsoft rose to a major corporation.

2.) Where was Steve Ballmer a student?

- a.) Harvard University
- b.) Albuquerque, New Mexico
- c.) Washington College
- d.) The passage doesn't say.

3.) Microsoft earned money every time...

- a.) Traf-O-Data was used
- b.) IBM built a computer.
- c.) IBM sold a computer running MS-DOS.
- d.) CCC used its software.

4.) What question is answered in the second-to-last paragraph?

- a.) How rich is Bill Gates?
- b.) How many people work for Microsoft today?
- c.) What does empathy mean?
- d.) What new technologies, besides MS-DOS, did Microsoft develop?

5.) What does the word "philanthropy" mean in the last paragraph?

- a.) computer technology
- b.) charity
- c.) wealth
- d.) business

6.) If the entire passage was limited to the last paragraph, what would an appropriate name for the passage be?

- a.) Microsoft and its Billionaires
- b.) Microsoft and its Software
- c.) The Rise of Microsoft
- d.) The Business Practices of Microsoft

7.) In which of the following ways were Bill Gates and Paul Allen NOT alike?

- a.) They both went to the same college.
- b.) They both liked computers.
- c.) They both dropped out of college.
- d.) They went to the same school.

8.) Which is NOT true about Bill Gates in the first paragraph?

- a.) He was competitive.
- b.) He was born in Seattle, Washington.
- c.) He enjoyed public school.
- d.) He was involved in drama.

9.) Which of the following was the EFFECT of Bill hacking into the CCC computer?

- a.) They were allowed back on the computer eventually.
- b.) He lost computer privileges.
- c.) He wrote a tic-tac-toe program.
- d.) He met Paul Allen.

10.) Which of the following WAS NOT a program written by Bill Gates or Paul Allen?

- a.) A computerized version of Risk
- b.) Traf-o-Data
- c.) A computerized version of tic-tac-toe
- d.) BASIC

GEORGE WASHINGTON Reading Comprehension

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, although he grew up near Fredericksburg. In his childhood and adolescence, he studied math and surveying. When he was 16, he went to live with his brother, Lawrence, in Mount Vernon.

George was scarred with smallpox before the age of 20 but inherited his brother's land (including Mount Vernon) when Lawrence died in 1752.

Washington's military career began in 1753, when he was sent into Ohio country. In 1754, he battled the French and was forced to surrender Fort Necessity (near present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). He continued as an officer in Ohio country and served under the British general Edward Braddock when their army was ambushed by the French in 1755. Once again, Washington tasted defeat after their surrender of Fort Duquesne to French forces. Washington helped take Fort Duquesne back in 1758.

Washington was married to Martha Custis in 1759. Washington managed the family and estate until he took command of the Virginia troops just before the American Revolution. He was made commander of the Continental Army on June 15, 1775.

Washington proved himself an excellent leader and won several decisive battles during the Revolution. As an advocate of a federal government, Washington became chairman of the Constitutional Convention and helped in getting the Constitution ratified. In 1789, he was inaugurated as America's first president.

Washington was re-elected in 1792, but refused a third term. On December 14, 1799, 17 days before the new century, Washington died of acute laryngitis.

1.) When was George Washington born?

- a.) after February 24
- b.) before February 20
- c.) after February 26
- d.) before February 23

2.) George Washington couldn't be scarred with smallpox at which age?

- a.) 16
- b.) 17
- c.) 19
- d.) 21

3.) In which of the following years was George Washington successful in battle?

- a.) 1750
- b.) 1753
- c.) 1758
- d.) 1755

4.) George Washington married Martha _____.

5.) What happened first?

- a.) George Washington inherited his brother's land.
- b.) Washington's military career began.
- c.) Washington was married.
- d.) He went to live with Lawrence.

6.) What does advocate mean?

- a.) opponent
- b.) supporter
- c.) creator
- d.) player

7.) Which of the following was George Washington not involved in?

- a.) Surrender of Fort Duquense
- b.) Constitutional Convention
- c.) Revolutionary War
- d.) Boston Tea Party

8.) Washington became chairman of what?

- a.) Constitutional Convention
- b.) American Revolution
- c.) Virginia
- d.) French forces

9.) What happened last?

- a.) Washington was inaugurated as first president.
- b.) Washington refused a third term.
- c.) 1794
- d.) The new century

10.) Which of the following is not true?

- a.) Washington was an excellent leader.
- b.) Washington won several decisive battles during the American Revolution.
- c.) Washington died after the new century.
- d.) Washington died before the new century.

GEORGIA COLONY Reading Comprehension

The colony of Georgia, located directly in between the English colony of South Carolina and the Spanish colony of Florida, was the subject of frequent military invasions by both sides until the Yamasee War (1715–1716) left the area devoid of people.

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a royal charter for the Province of Georgia. It was named after King George I. Oglethorpe imagined the area as a refuge for England's poor people, who were crowded together in debtors' prisons. In 1733, 116 settlers arrived in modern-day Savannah aboard the HMS Anne. Georgia would become the last of the English colonies in the New World. Soon, immigrants throughout the world came to Georgia in the hopes of being awarded generous land grants, and Georgia quickly became a major center for the export of rice, indigo, beef, and pork.

In 1742, British forces, under James Oglethorpe, attacked a garrison of Spanish soldiers near present-day St. Simon's Island in what came to be known as the Battle of Bloody Run. After about an hour, the Spanish were defeated and permanently abandoned their attempts to invade Georgia.

- 1.) **Why was Georgia the subject of many military invasions?**
- a.) It was near the sea.
 - b.) There were different Native tribes in the region.
 - c.) The land was thought to have a lot of gold.
 - d.) it was in between Spanish and English territory.

- 2.) **What does the word "devoid" mean as used in the first paragraph?**
- a.) empty
 - b.) a few
 - c.) filled
 - d.) totally

- 3.) **What happened in 1732?**
- a.) Settlers arrived in Georgia
 - b.) The Yamasee War
 - c.) Georgians under Oglethorpe attacked the Spanish
 - d.) A royal charter for Georgia was granted

- 4.) **At first, James Oglethorpe imagined Georgia as a place for...**
- a.) slaves
 - b.) plantation owners
 - c.) farmers
 - d.) debtors

- 5.) **Georgia was the _____ of the English colonies in the New World.**
- A. richest
 - B. first
 - C. poorest
 - D. last

- 6.) **Why did so many people come to Georgia?**
- a.) Other colonies were too crowded
 - b.) To practice religion freely
 - c.) They hoped they would receive land
 - d.) A lot of people were in debt

- 7.) **Georgia was NOT a center of _____ production.**
- a.) wheat
 - b.) beef
 - c.) indigo
 - d.) rice

- 8.) **Which question is answered in the third paragraph?**
- a.) When did Spain colonize Georgia?
 - b.) When was Savannah established?
 - c.) When did Spain abandon attempts to colonize Georgia?
 - d.) When did England colonize Georgia?

- 9.) **What happened last?**
- a.) The attack near St. Simon's Island
 - b.) 1743
 - c.) Yamasee War
 - d.) HMS Anne arrives in Georgia

- 10.) **Which of the following assumptions IS NOT supported in the text?**
- a.) There seemed to be a lot of fighting and violence in Georgia's early history.
 - b.) Savannah is probably one of the oldest settlements in Georgia.
 - c.) Georgia seemed to become prosperous after immigrants came.
 - d.) Georgia was a bad choice of location if you were a debtor.

Groundhog's Day Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Groundhog's Day occurs every February 2nd in the United States. According to tradition, when a groundhog comes out of its burrow on this day and sees that it is cloudy, spring will come early. If the groundhog comes out of its burrow and it is sunny, and thus sees its shadow, winter will persist for six more weeks and the groundhog will return to its burrow.

While Groundhog's Day may have first been celebrated in Pennsylvania Dutch country in the early 1800s, it was first celebrated as a holiday in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, in 1886. The following year, the town crowned "Phil" as the official groundhog of Groundhog's Day. Phil would henceforth be known as Punxsutawney Phil. There have been many "Phils" over the years, but according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club website, Phil is 131 years old and counting! He has been able to live so long because he drinks a special formula called "Groundhog's Punch."

You might think that such a special rodent would have special prediction abilities. According to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, this is not the case. Phil's recorded predictions over the years have only yielded an accuracy rate of about 39%. Furthermore, in the 103 years in which Phil's predictions have been recorded, he has only predicted the coming of an early spring 17 times! Phil's poor predictive abilities, however, have not seemed to impact the importance of Groundhog's Day. Thousands of people descend upon Punxsutawney every February to help the city celebrate.

1. According to tradition, winter will last six more weeks if...

- A. Phil sees that it is cloudy and does not see his shadow.
- B. Phil sees that it is cloudy and sees his shadow.
- C. Phil sees that it is sunny and does not see his shadow.
- D. Phil sees that it is sunny and sees his shadow.

2. How many “Phils” have served as Punxsutawney Phil over the years?

- A. One
- B. 103
- C. 17
- D. The passage doesn't tell

3. Which of the following IS NOT true about Groundhog's Day?

- A. It originated in Pennsylvania Dutch country
- B. It was first celebrated in Punxsutawney in 1886
- C. It is celebrated each year in February
- D. Phil's Groundhog's Day predictions are usually correct

4. What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- A. What's in Groundhog's Punch?
- B. How many “Phils” have there been over the years?
- C. When was the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club founded?
- D. When did Punxsutawney crown Phil as the official groundhog?

5. Phil usually...

- A. predicts six more weeks of winter.
- B. predicts an early spring.
- C. predicts correctly.
- D. sees that it is cloudy and returns to his burrow.

6. What has the same meaning as “henceforth” in the following sentence?

Phil would henceforth be known as Punxsutawney Phil.

- A. sometimes
- B. occasionally
- C. from this point on
- D. interestingly

7. Which of the following is an example of hyperbole?

- A. Thousands of people visit Punxsutawney each year to help celebrate Groundhog's Day
- B. Phil has only predicted an early spring 17 times
- C. Phil is 131 years old and counting
- D. Phil does not really have prediction abilities

The Wonders of Greenland Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Most people imagine islands to be full of tall green trees, hot beaches, and the noisy cacophony of birds and monkeys. Greenland, the largest island in the world, is far from the tropics. In fact, Greenland is so far north that it nearly reaches the North Pole.

Greenland's extreme location causes its natural features to be dominated by its cold and icy climate. Most of the island's southern coast is lined with mountainous areas that reach temperatures above freezing only in the summertime. These areas are the only places humans, both from Europe and North America, have been able to settle. The northernmost part of Greenland is very cold, but the ground is bare because the air is too dry to produce snow. The inner portion of the island is dominated by an immense ice cap. Ice caps are massive areas of land that are covered in dense ice. This particular ice cap has been in the middle of Greenland since the end of the last ice age 11,000 years ago. Little life exists on this enormous expanse of ice, but that does not mean the ice cap is not important. The ice cap in Greenland stores incredible amounts of fresh water in solid form. If released into the oceans, the Greenland ice cap could cause sea levels to rise all around the world.

Some pieces of the ice cap enter the ocean through the Ilulissat Icefjord. This is an area on the coast where fast-moving glaciers jut out into the sea as they move away from the ice cap. Glaciers are enormous mobile mounds of ice that can carve through the land as they travel. At the Icefjord, the glaciers move violently into the ocean so quickly that the sounds of the ice sliding and creaking can be heard from far away. Chunks of ice periodically crack off of the glaciers and fall into the water with deafening crashes. This process is called calving and can create massive waves as tall as a house.

For all of its wild glacial beauty, Greenland is also home to one of the most beloved sights of northern skies: the aurora borealis, or northern lights. The aurora borealis occurs in extreme northern latitudes due to interactions of light particles with the magnetic field of the nearby North Pole. Because Greenland is so remote, there is little light pollution to distract from the brilliance of this colorful light display. Despite its isolated location, the unique wonders of Greenland have attracted scientists and adventurers for many years.

1.) Based on the following sentence, what could be the meaning of the word “cacophony”?

Most people imagine islands to be full of tall green trees, hot beaches, and the noisy cacophony of birds and monkeys

- a.) a loud chorus of noises
- b.) movements between trees
- c.) a large group of animals
- d.) a time of day in which animals are very active

2.) Which is not a feature of Greenland’s landscape?

- a.) It is entirely flat
- b.) A large icecap in the center of the island
- c.) Bare ground in the northernmost part of the island
- d.) Glaciers at the Ilulissat Icefjord

3.) Which is TRUE about the icecap?

- a.) This is the last area in the world where ice age animals can live
- b.) Many animals call this part of Greenland home
- c.) The ice cap is a source of the fresh water you can buy in bottles in grocery stores
- d.) The ice cap holds so much water that sea levels would rise if the water were released

4.) What happens at the Ilulissat Icefjord?

- a.) Ice from the sea freezes and joins the ice cap
- b.) Fast-moving glaciers slide towards the ice cap in the center of the island
- c.) Glaciers jut out into the sea and blocks of ice calve off
- d.) Massive waves cut pieces of ice off of glaciers

5. In the following sentence, which adverb could be used to replace “violently” to keep the meaning of the sentence the same?

At the Icefjord, the glaciers move violently into the ocean so quickly that the sounds of the ice sliding and creaking can be heard from far away

- a.) harmfully
- b.) eagerly
- c.) forcefully
- d.) effortlessly

6. Based on the following sentence, what could be the meaning of the word "periodically"?

Chunks of ice periodically crack off of the glaciers and fall into the water with deafening crashes

- a.) slowly
- b.) loudly
- c.) smoothly
- d.) regularly

7. Which of the following is not a "Wonder of Greenland"?

- a.) The Greenland ice cap
- b.) Unique plants and animals of the ice cap
- c.) The calving of ice at the Ilulissat Icefjord
- d.) The aurora borealis

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, straddling the mountainous borders of Tennessee and North Carolina, is America's most visited national park, attracting over 11,000,000 people annually. Established in 1934, Great Smoky Mountains National Park was the second national park established east of the Mississippi River.

Located at the southern end of the Appalachian range, the Smoky Mountains are named for the bluish fog that hovers over its peaks and valleys. The Cherokees called the region Shaconage, or, "place of the blue smoke." Great Smoky Mountain National Park features many of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Range, including Clingman's Dome, which rises to 6,643 feet, making it the second highest peak east of the Mississippi River. A total of 16 peaks in the park rise to 6,000 feet or higher.

Because of its varying elevations, the park is home to a wide range of wildlife including thousands of plant species, over 200 species of birds, 50 species of fish and 43 species of amphibians. The park is also inhabited by at least 1,500 black bears. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a wonderland for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts and features more than 850 miles of trails and unpaved roads.

1. Great Smoky National Park ...

- A. was the first national park established east of the Mississippi River
- B. is located in two states
- C. is located at the northern end of the Appalachian Range
- D. has one peak above 6,000 feet in height

2. What does the following sentence suggest?

Great Smoky Mountain National Park features many of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Range, including Clingman's Dome, which rises to 6,643 feet, making it the second highest peak east of the Mississippi River.

- A. That Clingman's Dome is the highest peak in the Appalachians
- B. That Clingman's Dome is not located in Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- C. That the Mississippi River has many tall peaks
- D. That there are probably higher mountains west of the Mississippi River

3. What does “varying” mean in the following sentence?

Because of its varying elevations, the park is home to a wide range of wildlife including thousands of plant species, over 200 species of birds, 50 species of fish and 43 species of amphibians.

- A. Changing
- B. High
- C. Strong
- D. Uncertain

4. What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. Are there fish in the park?
- B. How were the Great Smoky Mountains named?
- C. How many peaks are there in the park?
- D. Where is the park located?

5. What is an “enthusiast” as used in the final sentence?

- A. Somebody who enjoys something
- B. Someone who is used to hard work
- C. Someone who tries things
- D. Someone who had a lot of wisdom

6. What is NOT explained about Clingman’s Dome?

- A. Its rankings in terms of height among North American mountains
- B. How high it rises
- C. Whether or not it is within Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- D. Where it is located relative to the Mississippi River

7. “Shaconage” could be the answer to what question?

- A. What does its name mean?
- B. What was the original name of the park?
- C. What native group lived in the region?
- D. What was the region called by the Cherokee?

The Story of Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale was born in Coventry, Connecticut, on June 6, 1755. At age 14, he enrolled at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. While at Yale, he became close friends with Benjamin Tallmadge, a fellow Yale student who would later become George Washington's head of intelligence during the Revolutionary War. Hale graduated from Yale with honors and became a schoolteacher in nearby East Haddam and later in New London. When the war began, he joined the Connecticut militia and became a first sergeant. In 1776, he was promoted to captain in the Continental Army's 7th Connecticut Regiment.

In August and September of 1776, during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights, Hale volunteered to spy on British troop movements. Disguised as a schoolteacher, he was captured by British forces near present-day Queens following the torching of New York City. British officials, suspicious of Hale's schoolteacher facade, pretended to be Patriots and succeeded in convincing him to reveal his espionage (spy) activities. He was then questioned by British General William Howe. After interrogating Hale, Howe felt he had uncovered enough evidence and Hale was hanged the following day. According to eyewitness accounts, Hale's composure in the moments before his execution was astounding. His final words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," have been immortalized forever. Today, statues of Nathan Hale can be seen at the Nathan Hale Homestead, Yale University, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Andover Academy in Massachusetts.

1. Which of the following was NOT true about Nathan Hale?

- A. He went to Yale University
- B. He would become George Washington's head of intelligence
- C. He was a schoolteacher
- D. He was in the Continental Army's 7th Connecticut Regiment

2. Nathan Hale agreed to...

- A. spy on the Patriots during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights
- B. convince the British he was a spy for the Patriots
- C. convince the Patriots he as a spy for the British
- D. spy on the British during the Battle of Brooklyn Heights

3. What does interrogating mean in the following sentence?

After **interrogating** Hale, Howe felt he had uncovered enough evidence and Hale was hanged the following day.

- A. Destroying
- B. Questioning
- C. Lying about
- D. Tricking

4. Which of the following best mirrors Hale's famous quote?

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,"

- A. I wish I have never been a spy
- B. I wish more people lost their lives for their country
- C. I wish I had more than one life I could fight with
- D. I wish I did not decide to lose my life for my country

5. Why were people astounded before Hale was executed?

- A. They were so sad
- B. Nathan Hale was so calm
- C. They did not believe he was a spy
- D. There was no evidence against him

6. What is the main difference between the first and second paragraphs?

- A. The first paragraph tells about Hale's childhood and the second paragraph tells about his adult life
- B. The first paragraph describes his childhood and the second paragraph describes how he was captured as a spy
- C. The first paragraph tells about how he became involved in the Revolutionary War and the second paragraph tells how he was captured as a spy.
- D. The first paragraph tells about the history of Yale University and the second paragraph tells about how he was captured as a spy.

7. Which question is NOT answered in the story above?

- A. Where did Nathan Hale serve as a schoolteacher?
- B. Who decided there was enough evidence against Nathan Hale?
- C. Were there people who witnessed the execution?
- D. Who recorded Hale's famous last words?

John Hancock Reading Comprehension

John Hancock was raised by his uncle in Boston, Massachusetts. His uncle sent him to Harvard University and made him a partner in his shipping company. When his uncle died in 1764, John became one of Boston's most wealthy citizens.

In 1765, John was elected to the office of Boston Selectmen. He quickly joined Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty and became a strong opponent of the Stamp Act, a tax levied against the colonists by Great Britain. In 1768, John was appointed as a representative of the Massachusetts legislature. He soon gained the reputation as a strong advocate of American independence. In fact, it was John's shipping company that enabled the financing and smuggling of goods that supported the region's resistance to the British. In 1774, one year after Great Britain levied the Intolerable (Coercive) Acts against the colonists, John was elected president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, a new Massachusetts legislature which had the authority to call for troops in the wake of a British threat. The British subsequently charged Hancock with treason. In 1775, British troops would march to Lexington with the orders to capture John Hancock. It was during this march that the first shots of the American Revolution were fired. John, along with Samuel Adams, ultimately escaped.

Later in 1775, John was appointed president of the Second Continental Congress. It was John Hancock who commissioned George Washington as commander in chief of the Continental Army. On July 4, 1776, John Hancock became the first American to sign the Declaration of Independence. His large, flamboyant signature was by far the most visible of all signatures. According to legend, Hancock signed the document in such a way so that King George III of England could see the signature without his eyeglasses.

Throughout the Revolution, the Americans relied on John's ability to raise funds and supplies for the Continental Army. In 1780, he was elected governor of Massachusetts, a post he held for nine terms. John died in 1793. Today, counties in ten different states are named in his honor. In addition, the tallest building in Boston is named the John Hancock Building.

1.) How does the passage imply that John Hancock became wealthy?

- a.) He made good investments.
- b.) He inherited his uncle's shipping company.
- c.) He owned a lot of land.
- d.) He went to Harvard University.

2.) Which of the following was not true about John Hancock?

- a.) He used his shipping company to smuggle goods to help the rebels.
- b.) He supported the Stamp Act.
- c.) He was a member of the Sons of Liberty.
- d.) He supported independence.

3.) What happened in 1768?

- a.) John's uncle died.
- b.) John was elected as Boston Selectmen.
- c.) John was elected president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress.
- d.) John was elected as a representative in the Massachusetts legislature.

4.) Why was John Hancock charged with treason?

- a.) Because he spoke out against the Intolerable Acts.
- b.) Because he was elected president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress.
- c.) Because he was elected as Boston Selectman.
- d.) Because he supported the Stamp Act.

5.) John Hancock was charged with treason by the British. Treason can be defined as an act of disloyalty toward the government. Which of the following is an act of treason?

- a.) Fighting in a war against another country.
- b.) Making laws that aren't popular with the people.
- c.) Charging someone with a crime they didn't commit.
- d.) Taking steps to disrupt the functioning of the government.

6.) If John Hancock were to write a list of his life accomplishments, which of the following would NOT be on the list?

- a.) President of the United States
- b.) President of the Second Continental Congress
- c.) President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress
- d.) Representative of the Massachusetts of legislature

7.) Why is John Hancock's signature so large on the Declaration of Independence?

- a.) Because he had poor eyesight.
- b.) Because he had poor handwriting.
- c.) Because he wanted the King of England to see his signature clearly.
- d.) He was in a hurry.

8.) What does the word "subsequent" mean in the following sentence:

The British subsequently charged Hancock with treason.

- a.) Unfairly
- b.) Next or then
- c.) Surely
- d.) Quietly

9.) Why was John Hancock important to the American cause?

- a.) He was a great general who won many battles.
- b.) He signed the Declaration of Independence.
- c.) He escaped from the British after the Battles of Lexington and Concord.
- d.) He helped raise funds for the Continental Army and used his shipping business as a way to get supplies.

10.) Which of the following statements could NOT be applied to John Hancock?

- a.) A man dedicated to the Patriot cause.
- b.) A man who served in the governments of the state of Massachusetts and the United States.
- c.) A man who has buildings, cities, and states named in his honor.
- d.) A man who signed the Declaration of Independence with a signature larger than anyone else.

The “Happy Meal” has served as a beam of sunshine in the childhoods of millions of kids around the world for nearly forty years. The original idea for the Happy Meal may have been born in the Central American nation of Guatemala when a McDonalds operator named Yolanda Fernandez de Cofiño began offering combinations of products which she called a “Menu Ronald.” She came up with the idea to allow a more efficient way for parents to feed their children. A “Menu Ronald” included a hamburger, french fries, and a sundae. It was, of course, named after the iconic symbol of McDonald’s - Ronald McDonald. De Cofiño’s innovative idea eventually made its way to product developer Bob Bernstein who turned the Happy Meal into a McDonald’s staple and worldwide sensation.

The first Happy Meal was released in 1979. The box was themed after a circus wagon. It came with a cheeseburger or hamburger, french fries, a drink, a bag of cookies, and of course, a surprise toy. The box included jokes, mazes, comics, and word games. McDonald’s quickly learned, however, that it wasn’t the food that drove sales – it was the prize. At first, the prizes were limited to spinning tops, stencils, magic tricks, and other trinkets. In the 1980s, however, McDonald’s began forging strategic partnerships with toy and motion picture companies to include better prizes, and more importantly, prizes that were part of larger collections. In this way, for kids to collect an entire set of prizes, parents would have to repeatedly visit McDonalds and continue to buy Happy Meals so their children could collect them all. Soon, Star Trek, Hot Wheels, and Barbie Doll prizes came with Happy Meals. In the 1990s, McDonald’s began offering Beanie Babies in Happy Meals, which launched a new generation of Happy Meal lovers – both children and adults! Today, such Beanie Babies packaged in McDonald’s Happy Meals enjoy a cult following and can sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Happy Meals began to fall out of favor in the early 2000s as people began demanding healthier food options for their children. No longer would people ignore the fact that the food within Happy Meals was unhealthy just so they could score a precious collectible. McDonald’s responded by offering low-fat milk or apple juice instead of soft drinks, and apple slices instead of cookies. McDonald’s efforts to make healthier food for children seems to have paid off. It recently struck a deal with Disney to include one of eight different action figures from the *Incredibles 2* movie in its Happy Meals.

1. Who was Bob Bernstein?

- A. The first person to think of packaging foods together for kids
- B. The first person to experiment with adding toys to kids’ meals
- C. The person that made the Happy Meal popular
- D. The person who decided that the first Happy Meal box would be themed after a circus wagon

- 2. Why did McDonald's form partnerships with toy and motion picture companies?**
- A. To make Happy Meals include healthier food options
 - B. To make Happy Meals more appealing to adults
 - C. To ensure that parents would come back to McDonald's and buy more Happy Meals
 - D. To make Happy Meals more expensive
- 3. Which of the following is not true?**
- A. The original idea for Happy Meals originated in Central America
 - B. The original Happy Meal was modeled after a circus train
 - C. Some Happy Meals toys have become expensive collectibles for adults
 - D. McDonald's stopped producing Happy Meals after parents demanded healthier food options
- 4. For which of the following questions would "By offering collectibles in Happy Meals" be the answer?**
- A. Why did Disney partner with McDonald's to include toys from *Incredibles 2* in Happy Meals?
 - B. How did Happy Meals change in the early 2000s?
 - C. What are examples of prizes that come in Happy Meals?
 - D. How did McDonald's succeed in getting parents to repeatedly visit restaurants and purchase Happy Meals?
- 5. How did parent demands for healthier food affect the history of Happy Meals?**
- A. McDonald's stopped including toys in Happy Meals
 - B. McDonald's was forced to offer new kinds of foods and drinks in Happy Meals
 - C. McDonald's stopped producing Happy Meals
 - D. McDonald's was forced to include toys of higher quality in Happy Meals
- 6. What word in the first paragraph could be replaced by "productive?"**
- A. efficient
 - B. eventually
 - C. innovative
 - D. included
- 7. What could be a title for the final paragraph?**
- A. McDonald's and the History of Happy Meals
 - B. Happy Meals: Changing for the Better in the New Century
 - C. Happy Meals: Now Offering Apple Juice!
 - D. Happy Meals: A Partnership Between Disney and McDonald's

Hot Springs National Park

Do you ever have any aches, pains, or illnesses that need relief? If so, perhaps you should head to America's first resort, Hot Springs National Park, located in Hot Springs, Arkansas! The springs were frequently visited by Native Americans thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived, but it was President Thomas Jefferson who sent a couple of scientists to explore the Ouachita Mountains and find out more about the famous springs. Word spread, and by 1820 thousands of visitors traveled to Hot Springs to soak in what they believed were the healing waters found there. There are people today who still believe naturally heated water can cure many different ailments!

By the late 1800's, luxurious hotels and bathhouses became popular in Hot Springs. The notorious Jesse James and his brother Frank would often visit. They would gamble as well as soak in the spas. Some believe that their hidden treasures of gold and silver coins can still be found around the Hot Springs area today.

1. Why did people visit the Hot Springs?

- A. They liked to go swimming
- B. They liked bathing in the hot water
- C. They thought the natural water could cure ailments
- D. To visit the notorious outlaws

2. What word could replace "outlaws" in the following sentence?

The 1920's brought other notorious outlaws to the resort, including Al Capone, Frank Nash, and Lucky Luciano, who all enjoyed soaking in the soothing waters of Hot Springs.

- A. criminals
- B. employees
- C. guests
- D. workers

3. Which of the following is not true?

- A. Frank and Jesse James once visited the hot springs
- B. Hot Springs is in Arkansas
- C. Some believe that gold and silver coins could be found around hot springs
- D. Few if any people still believe the hot springs can cure ailments

4. What could be a title of this passage?

- A. The Woodlands of Arkansas
- B. Jesse and Frank James
- C. Treasures in Arkansas
- D. A Brief History of the Arkansas Hot Springs

5. What question is NOT answered in this passage?

- A. What outlaws visited the hot springs?
- B. When were gold and silver coins discovered around hot springs?
- C. Who sent explorers to discover more information about the hot springs?
- D. When did luxurious hotels and bathhouses become popular at the hot springs?

HURRICANES Reading Comprehension

A hurricane, also called a tropical cyclone, is the most powerful storm that forms on Earth. A hurricane forms over warm ocean water. As it grows in size and intensity, its powerful winds begin rotating around a center, like water going down a drain. Because of the physics phenomenon known as the Coriolis effect, hurricanes that form in the Northern Hemisphere feature winds that move counterclockwise, while those that form in the Southern Hemisphere feature winds that move clockwise. In the center of a powerful hurricane (called the eye), air may sink rather than rise, which suppresses cloud formation, leading to calm skies and wind. The eye of a hurricane can be up to 240 miles in diameter but is normally between 20 and 40 miles in diameter. The clouds on the edge of the eye form the eyewall of the hurricane, which typically feature the hurricane's strongest winds, highest clouds, and fiercest precipitation.

When its winds reach 39 miles per hour, it becomes a tropical storm, and as the storm continues to expand and its winds reach 74 miles per hour, it is a hurricane or tropical cyclone where it will receive a name (like Hurricane Katrina). By this time, the massive storm is 50,000 feet high and 125 miles across. Winds from the hurricane can extend hundreds of miles from the center or "eye" of the hurricane, which itself may be 30 miles across. The most powerful hurricanes can sustain winds of over 156 miles per hour. When hurricanes hit land, they cause massive damage, storm surges, major wind damage, rogue waves, and flooding. Once they hit land, however, they quickly weaken as they are no longer being powered by warm ocean water.

1.) Which is NOT true about a hurricane?

- a.) The eye of a hurricane can be up to 240 miles in diameter.
- b.) A hurricane is the most powerful storm on Earth.
- c.) Hurricane winds in the Northern Hemisphere rotate clockwise.
- d.) The eye of a hurricane usually has calm skies.

2.) What is the author's purpose in writing the following sentence:

As it grows in size and intensity, its powerful winds begin rotating around a center, like water going down a drain.

- a.) The author is telling the cause of a hurricane.
- b.) The author is telling the effect of the hurricane.
- c.) The author is embellishing a hurricane.
- d.) The author is making an analogy so the reader understands the idea.

3.) The hurricane's most damaging winds and precipitation occur in...

- a.) the eyewall.
- b.) the passage doesn't say.
- c.) the eye.
- d.) the outer bands.

4.) What does "suppresses" mean in the following sentence:

In the center of a powerful hurricane (called the eye), air may sink rather than rise, which suppresses cloud formation, leading to calm skies and wind.

- a.) increase
- b.) hold back
- c.) heightens
- d.) circle

5.) When hurricanes hit land...

- a.) they return to the ocean.
- b.) they strengthen.
- c.) they turn into tornadoes.
- d.) they quickly weaken.

6.) Which of the following could be considered the THEME of the second paragraph?

- a.) When tornadoes strike
- b.) The science behind hurricane formation
- c.) The power of a hurricane
- d.) Flooding caused by hurricanes

7.) When do hurricanes receive names?

- a.) After they hit land.
- b.) When all of the damage is assessed.
- c.) When winds reach 74 miles per hour.
- d.) When winds reach 39 miles per hour.

8.) Which question is NOT answered in the passage?

- a.) How wide can a hurricane's eye be?
- b.) Why do hurricanes weaken?
- c.) How high does a hurricane get?
- d.) Where did Hurricane Katrina hit?

9.) Because of the Coriolis effect, winds from a hurricane...

- a.) move in one direction.
- b.) move in different directions depending on the season.
- c.) move in different directions depending on the hemisphere.
- d.) are very powerful.

10.) Which of the following could be a title for the passage?

- a.) Wind Speeds of Hurricanes
- b.) Hurricane Katrina
- c.) Why Hurricanes Weaken
- d.) The Basics About Hurricanes

Ice Cream Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Ice cream, in some form, has been around for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks mixed snow with honey and fruit as early as 500 B.C. Marco Polo, in his travels to China, is said to have brought back a recipe for something close to sherbet. “Cream Ice,” as it was originally called in England, seems to have been a royal luxury, possibly available only to aristocrats. It wasn’t until 1660 that all Europeans could enjoy ice cream.

By the 1700s, ice cream had made it to America. Records show that both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson enjoyed ice cream. Thomas Jefferson even crafted his own recipe for vanilla ice cream. Dolly Madison served strawberry ice cream at her husband’s second inaugural banquet at the White House.

In the middle and late 1800s, ice cream production in the United States increased due to technological advancements such as electricity, freezing, refrigeration, and new milk homogenization techniques.

In 1904, an ice cream merchant at the St. Louis World Fair invented the ice cream cone. When he ran out of dishes to serve his ice cream, he used one of his zalabis – crisp, rolled up waffles, to hold the ice cream. His customers loved it and hence, the ice cream cone was born.

As ice cream fountain shops proliferated in the early 1900s, new ice cream products such as ice cream soda, sundaes, and root beer floats came into being. The word “sundae” was used rather than “sunday” to remove any connection to the Sabbath, observed on Sunday.

Ice cream production and popularity continued to increase through World War II and into the 1950s and 1960s. Eventually, however, ice cream fountain shops disappeared, as ice cream became staples at fast food restaurants and in super markets. Furthermore, specialty ice cream parlors such as Baskin-Robbins and more recently, Ben & Jerry’s, offered ice cream in every conceivable style and flavor.

Today, ice cream remains one of America’s favorite desserts. Americans consume almost 1.6 billion gallons of ice cream per year. Nearly 90% of American households have ice cream in their freezers at any given time.

1. “Cream ice” was available to...

- A. everyone
- B. the public
- C. aristocrats in England
- D. Marco Polo

2. Which of the following is NOT true about ice cream in its early history?

- A. Marco Polo brought back a recipe that was similar to sherbet
- B. The ancient Greeks mixed snow with honey and fruit
- C. Ice Cream became available to everyone in Europe by 1500
- D. By the 1700s, ice cream appeared in America

3. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?

- A. Ice Cream came to America
- B. Founding fathers were aware of and enjoyed ice cream
- C. Ice Cream played an important part of American history
- D. Dolly Madison served ice cream at the White House

4. What was the main reason ice cream production increased in America?

- A. Technology improved
- B. The ice cream cone was invented
- C. It was easy to make
- D. The founding fathers loved it

5. What could be a synonym for the word “proliferated” in the following sentence?

As ice cream fountain shops proliferated in the early 1900s, new ice cream products such as ice cream soda, sundaes, and root beer floats came into being.

- A. decreased
- B. disappeared
- C. profited
- D. increased

6. What effect did specialty ice cream parlors have on ice cream fountain shops?

- A. They helped them
- B. There was no real effect
- C. They caused them to disappear
- D. People started buying more ice cream from super markets

7. “Chronologically” could be the answer to what question?

- A. How is this story organized?
- B. What would be a good title for this story?
- C. How did ice cream make it to America?
- D. How did ice cream become so popular today?



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Steve Irwin Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Steve Irwin was born on February 22, 1962, in Essendon, Australia. From an early age he was surrounded by animals. His parents were wildlife enthusiasts and ran the Queensland Reptile and Fauna Park. It was here where Steve acquired his fondness for crocodiles. By the age of six, Steve had a six-foot pet python, and by the age of nine, he was handling the park's crocodiles. Steve soon learned to wrestle crocodiles and helped capture over 100 of them to be relocated to areas away from people, or, to be housed in his family's park.

At the age of 29, Irwin became manager of the park. That same year, he met Terri Raines, an ecologist from Oregon. Four months later, they were married. Steve and Terri would have two children – Bindi and Bob. Steve and Terri had a lot in common. Not surprisingly, the couple spent their honeymoon capturing crocodiles rather than vacationing on a beach or at a resort! Interestingly, it was footage from their honeymoon that inspired the blockbuster TV series *The Crocodile Hunter*, starring Steve and Terri. The show debuted in Australia in 1996 and became a smash hit around the world. From 1997 to 2004, the show aired on Animal Planet, reaching millions of people. Steve's enthusiastic style, Australian accent, infectious love of wildlife, fearlessness, and trademark "Crikey!" exclamations, endeared him to millions of fans. Steve even made ecological history. In 1997, he discovered a new species of turtle while fishing off the coast of Queensland. It was named Irwin's turtle and is an endangered species.

Following his work on the *Crocodile Hunter*, Irwin starred in *The Ten Deadliest Snakes* while continuing to manage and grow the reptile park, which was renamed the Australia Zoo. He also established Wildlife Warriors and the International Crocodile Rescue. These organizations were designed to promote and raise money for environmental causes. Above all, Steve considered conservation his most important cause. In his own words - "I consider myself a wildlife warrior. My mission is to save the world's endangered species."

In 2006, Irwin was participating in the filming of the *Oceans Deadliest* documentary when he was "stung" by a sting ray while trying to film it. The sting ray's barb was deadly and despite attempts to revive him, Irwin died. Irwin's death was one of only a few human deaths ever documented to be caused by a sting ray. A public memorial for Irwin was televised on September 20, 2006. An estimated 300 million people tuned in to pay their respects.

1. **What was most unique about Steve’s childhood?**
 - A. He and his family loved animals
 - B. He acquired a love of reptiles
 - C. He learned to wrestle crocodiles at age nine
 - D. His family helped to relocate crocodiles that ventured too close to people

2. **Which of the following is not discussed?**
 - A. What did Steve learn as a teenager?
 - B. When did Steve get married?
 - C. When did the first episode of *The Crocodile Hunter* air?
 - D. What was *Wildlife Warriors*?

3. **Which of the following best supports the fact that Steve and his wife were passionate about wildlife?**
 - A. Steve and Terri had a lot in common
 - B. Steve discovered a new species of turtle while fishing off the coast of Queensland
 - C. Steve and Terri had millions of fans
 - D. Steve and Terri spent their honeymoon capturing crocodiles instead of vacationing

4. **Based on the passage, which quote most likely describes how Steve Irwin would want to be remembered?**
 - A. “I was the star of *the Crocodile Hunter* and an international celebrity”
 - B. “I made ecological history by discovering the endangered Irwin’s turtle”
 - C. “I helped to save endangered species through my television shows and charitable organizations”
 - D. “My greatest work was my last work – filming *Oceans Deadliest*.”

5. **Which question is answered in the following sentence?**

Steve’s enthusiastic style, Australian accent, infectious love of wildlife, fearlessness, and trademark “Crikey!” exclamations endeared him to millions of fans.

- A. Who was Steve Irwin?
- B. What did Steve Irwin hope to accomplish?
- C. What made Steve Irwin so unusual?
- D. Why did people love Steve Irwin?

6. According to the passage, what happened in 1999?

- A. Steve discovered a new species of turtle
- B. Steve became manager of his family's animal park
- C. Steve and Terri went on their honeymoon
- D. *The Crocodile Hunter* was airing on Animal Planet

7. Which of the following adjectives used in the second paragraph best describes a person's ability to get other people excited about something?

- A. fearless
- B. infectious
- C. enthusiastic
- D. trademark

JACKIE ROBINSON Reading Comprehension

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California, after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

In 1941, however, Jackie left college because of financial difficulties and joined the U.S. Army. Robinson became first lieutenant of the 761st Tank Battalion, a group of black soldiers. By federal law, black soldiers were not allowed to fight alongside white soldiers. Robinson, however, never accompanied the battalion in combat. He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges.

In 1944, Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League. He was soon noticed by a baseball scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although there was no law against signing black baseball players in the Major Leagues, there was an "unwritten rule" against it. Attempts to sign players from the Negro Leagues had been rebuffed in the past. Nevertheless, the Dodgers owner, Branch Rickey, had begun a secret mission to sign the top players from the Negro Leagues. In 1946, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Major League contract and designated him for assignment on the Dodgers minor league team in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). While Robinson was welcomed in Canada, the situation in the United States was less than cordial. On April 15, 1947, amidst incredible fanfare and controversy, Jackie Robinson was called up to the Major Leagues. He became the first black player in 57 years to play in a Major League baseball game.

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance. Some of his teammates even threatened to stop playing rather than have Jackie as a teammate. Nevertheless, Branch Rickey and several of the Dodgers players supported Jackie. Despite the obstacles that stood in his way, Jackie proved his integrity and strength as a person. He went on to have a stellar baseball career. He led the Major Leagues in stolen bases in 1947 and became the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP). That year, he had 203 hits and belted 16 home runs. He also knocked in 124 runs and stole 37 bases. He batted .342. After five more stellar years, Jackie Robinson led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their only World Series victory in 1955. They won the championship in seven games over the rival New York Yankees (although when the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles they won several more titles). In 1956, Jackie Robinson chose to end his baseball career after eight seasons at the age of 37. He ended his career with a .311 lifetime average. Furthermore, Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times. To this day, no other player since the World War II era has stolen home as many times. He was an all-star 6 times in his short career.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He died on October 24, 1972. On the 50th anniversary of his Major League debut (April 15, 1947), Major League Baseball retired his number, 42. It will never be worn again by any major league player on any team. April 15 was also named Jackie Robinson Day. To this day, Jackie Robinson remains a hero. He was a pioneer in breaking the "Color Barrier" in professional sports and paved the way for thousands of African-American athletes in dozens of sports. On October 29, 2003, United States Congress honored him (after his death) with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can give.

1.) **How many children were in the Robinson family?**

- a.) 4
- b.) 2
- c.) 3
- d.) 5

2.) **Which of the following did Jackie Robinson NOT play at UCLA?**

- a.) basketball
- b.) football
- c.) baseball
- d.) soccer

3.) **Which of the following best describes the phrase "unwritten rule"?**

- a.) An official rule
- b.) A rule that can be broken
- c.) A rule that is not written down
- d.) A rule that is understood but not official

4.) **In which of the following places did Jackie Robinson play for the Dodgers minor league team?**

- a.) Montreal
- b.) UCLA
- c.) Kansas City
- d.) Brooklyn

5.) **What does the word "endured" mean as it written in this passage:**

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance.

- a.) understood
- b.) claimed
- c.) experienced
- d.) tried

6.) **Which of the following happened first?**

- a.) Jackie became the first black baseball player to play in the Major Leagues in 57 years.
- b.) Jackie played for the Dodgers' minor league team in Montreal.
- c.) April 16, 1947
- d.) Jackie played for the Kansas City Monarchs.

7.) **Which of the following did Jackie Robinson likely not experience very much during his first year in the Major Leagues?**

- a.) taunting
- b.) racism
- c.) intolerance
- d.) respect

8.) Which of the following is false?

- a.) Jackie Robinson stole home more than any other player since the World War II era.
- b.) Jackie Robinson was born in California.
- c.) Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times.
- d.) Jackie Robinson retired at age 37.

9.) Select all that are true.

- a.) Jackie Robinson's number was retired by all Major League baseball teams in 1947.
- b.) Jackie Robinson played in 6 all-star games.
- c.) Jackie led the New York Yankees to the World Series in 1955.
- d.) Jackie Robinson became a Hall-of-Fame member before his baseball career was over.

10.) Which of the following BEST explains why Jackie Robinson was so important

- a.) He had a Hall-of-Fame baseball career.
- b.) He paved the way for black athletes to compete in professional sports.
- c.) He showed dignity and strength as a person.
- d.) His number was retired by Major League baseball.

Steve Jobs

Name _____

Steve Jobs was the founder and chief executive of the Apple Computer company. He was born in 1955 and given up for adoption by his parents, both graduate students at the University of Wisconsin. Jobs was then adopted by Clara and Paul Jobs; he grew up in Mountain View, California, an area that would later become Silicon Valley.

At a young age, Jobs was fascinated by electronics. His father, Paul, showed him how to take apart and put together different electronic appliances, fostering Jobs' interest in the subject. While Jobs showed intellectual potential as a child, his personality did not fit well with a rigid and formal schooling model; he constantly played pranks in school and his fourth grade teacher had to bribe him to study. After high school, Jobs began studying at Reed College in Oregon, but dropped out after six months. He nevertheless stayed at Reed and went to some classes that interested him, slept on the floors of friends' rooms, and got meals at a Hare Krishna temple. He later became a Buddhist. Calligraphy was one class that he enjoyed, and he said that it influenced his interest in design and the use of elegant fonts on Apple computers.

In 1976, Jobs got together with Steve Wozniak, a friend from high school, and started the Apple Computer company in Jobs' family garage. Jobs wanted to make computers more compact, affordable, and efficient for everyday consumers. Wozniak focused on the technical aspect of building computers while Jobs was in charge of marketing and design. The first Apple computer was priced at 666.66 dollars. Apple's second model, however, the Apple II proved very popular with the public and sales increased by 700 percent. It was the first computer capable of displaying color graphics. As sales continued to increase, the company grew in size and in staff. Apple's first logo had a picture of Sir Isaac Newton sitting under an apple tree. Next came the rainbow-striped apple with a bite taken out on the side. The colored stripes represented the fact that the Apple II could create graphics in color. In 1997, it was simplified to a single color that has changed over time.

Apple released the Macintosh computer in 1984, but Jobs left the company in 1985 after the company's board of directors decided it needed new leadership. Even though he was co-founder of the company, he had no official title, making his position at the company vulnerable. Jobs instead bought what would eventually become Pixar Animation Studios from George Lucas and founded a new company called NeXt Inc. Coincidentally, Apple bought NeXt Inc. in 1996, and by 1997, Jobs was chief executive officer (CEO) of Apple once again. Jobs' return is said to have reinvigorated the company and brought it back to its original level of innovation and appeal.

After Jobs' return to Apple, he continued pushing the company's vision forward with his ideas for sleek design, branding, and intuitive tech. The release of the Macbook Air, iPod, iPhone, and iPad left other companies scrambling to replicate Apple's formula for success. According to Jobs, "In 1984, Apple introduced the first Macintosh. It didn't just change Apple. It changed the whole computer industry. In 2001, we introduced the first iPod. It didn't just change the way we all listen to music. It changed the entire music industry."

Jobs turned his CEO position over to Tim Cook in August 2011 and passed away a few months later due to pancreatic cancer, but his visionary mind lives on in the company he created.

- 1. Jobs' personality was incompatible with...**
 - A. traditional school models.
 - B. electronics.
 - C. his adoptive parents.
 - D. Steve Wozniak.

- 2. Although he only studied at Reed College for six months, his experience there...**
 - A. helped him in understanding the technical approach to working with computers.
 - B. led him to meet his future partner Steve Wozniak.
 - C. had some influence in how he would approach design at Apple.
 - D. had relatively no influence on his future work at Apple.

- 3. Which best describes the roles of Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in the early stages of Apple?**
 - A. Jobs was the marketer and Wozniak was the designer
 - B. Jobs was the technician and Wozniak was the designer
 - C. Jobs was the designer and Wozniak was the marketer
 - D. Jobs was the designer and Wozniak was the technician

- 4. Which was NOT true about the Apple II?**
 - A. It was very popular with the public
 - B. It was Apple's first personal computer
 - C. It propelled sales to the highest level in company history to that point
 - D. It was the first personal computer with colorful graphics

- 5. What did Steve Jobs prove after he left Apple?**
 - A. The company could not survive without him
 - B. He could be successful running other companies apart from Apple
 - C. Computers were the wave of the future
 - D. He would change the entire computer industry with the release of the Macintosh

- 6. What question is NOT answered in the passage?**
 - A. What products did NeXt Inc. make?
 - B. When did Steve Jobs become chief executive officer (CEO) at Apple for the second time?
 - C. Who would become CEO at Apple after Steve Jobs?
 - D. From whom did Jobs purchase Pixar Animation Studio?

7. What was the effect of Steve Jobs' return as CEO at Apple?

- A. He made sure that Apple purchased NeXt Inc. in 1996
- B. He made sure Macintosh computer changed the entire computer industry
- C. He helped Apple become one of the world's most innovative companies
- D. He ensured that Apple would become not only a computer and technology company, but a music company as well

Michael Jordan was born on February 17, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York. Soon after he was born, his parents moved the family to Wilmington, North Carolina. Michael excelled at sports from an early age. Although he was cut from the Laney High School varsity basketball team his sophomore year in high school, he grew four inches over the summer and averaged 25 points per game as a junior. During his senior year, he became the only player in high school basketball history to average a triple-double (at least 10 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists per game). That year, 1982, he was named a McDonald's High School All-American and received a scholarship to play basketball at the University of North Carolina. Michael quickly became a star. During his freshman year, he hit the game-winning shot against Georgetown University that resulted in a national championship. After his junior year, Jordan decided to leave North Carolina to enter the NBA draft.

In the draft, the Chicago Bulls picked Jordan third overall. Jordan's impact on the NBA (National Basketball Association) was legendary. During his rookie season with the Bulls, he scored 40 points or more seven times. In addition, Jordan made the NBA All-Star team and won the Rookie of the Year award. After sitting out much of the 1985–1986 season because of a foot injury, Jordan's exploits on the basketball court continued to astound fans, coaches, and fellow players. In the 1986–1987 season, he averaged an unheard of 37.1 points per game, which was the highest of his career.

From making spectacularly unimaginable shots, to winning slam-dunk contents, the high-flying, tongue-wagging Jordan soon became the most popular athlete in the world. Intimidating and extremely competitive, he had a knack for hitting game-winning shots and playing tenacious defense. He established marketing deals with some of the world's largest companies such as Nike, Haines, Gatorade, McDonald's, Wheaties, and MCI. Nike's Air Jordan shoe line became one of the most popular of all time. One Gatorade commercial that featured Jordan and the song "If I Could be Like Mike," is one of the most recognizable commercials involving a professional athlete in TV history. He even starred in the Disney film "Space Jam."

Despite his success both on the court and off, Jordan and the Chicago Bulls failed to make the NBA Finals until 1991, when they finally defeated the rival Detroit Pistons in the Eastern Conference Semifinals. That year, they defeated the Los Angeles Lakers to win the NBA championship and Michael Jordan was named MVP. Jordan and his Chicago Bulls teammates went on to win three consecutive championships from 1991–1993. Michael won the Most Valuable Player in the NBA finals each time. He also won an Olympic gold medal (actually, his second) as one of the captains of America's "Dream Team" in 1992.

In 1994, however, Jordan announced his (first) retirement from basketball to pursue his dream of playing baseball. He played for the Birmingham Barons, a minor league affiliate of the Chicago White Sox. Michael was less than successful in baseball. He only batted .203 and was never called up to the Major Leagues. In 1995, Michael Jordan decided to come back to the NBA and briefly wore the number "45" because "23" had already been retired by the Bulls. He would go on to lead the Bulls to three more NBA championships. Once again, he was selected as the MVP of the NBA Finals each time. On January 13, 1999, with seemingly nothing more to prove or accomplish, Michael Jordan retired for a second time. Despite his retirement, Jordan could not let go of his competitive urges. In 2001–2002, after serving as an executive for the Washington Wizards, Jordan returned to the court as a guard for them. Although his skills had declined, he averaged 22.9 points per game. On February 21, 2003, he became the first 40-year-old player to score 40 points in a game. On April 16, 2003, Jordan played his very last game in the NBA against the Philadelphia 76ers. The normally harsh Philadelphia fans gave him a three-minute standing ovation. In addition, the Miami Heat retired the number "23," even though Jordan had never played for them. Jordan retired forever after the 2003 season. He ended his career as the NBA's third all-time leading scorer with 32,292 total points. He led the NBA in scoring ten times during his career and made the NBA all-defensive team nine times.

Today, Michael Jordan is still involved with the NBA as the owner of the Charlotte Bobcats.

- 1. What happened between Michael's sophomore and junior years in high school?**
 - A. He scored 25 points per game as a junior
 - B. He averaged a triple-double per game
 - C. He grew four inches
 - D. He was offered a scholarship to Georgetown University

- 2. Which of the following was true about Michael's college career?**
 - A. He was part of a team that won a national championship
 - B. He left college after his junior year to enter into the NBA draft
 - C. He attended the University of North Carolina
 - D. All of the Above

- 3. Which of the following statements best describes how Jordan's NBA career started?**
 - A. He had growing pains
 - B. He fizzled out early in his career
 - C. He was an immediate star
 - D. His first two years were the best two years of his career

- 4. If the answer to a question is "1986-1987," what could be the question?**
 - A. In what season was Jordan drafted?
 - B. In what season did Jordan suffer a series foot injury?
 - C. In what season did Jordan have the highest scoring average in his career?
 - D. In what season did the Bulls make its first NBA finals?

- 5. Which is NOT true about Michael Jordan?**
 - A. He also enjoyed a successful baseball career
 - B. He starred in a Disney film
 - C. He was on teams that won six combined NBA championships
 - D. He won two Olympic medals

- 6. Why did Michael Jordan retire for the second time?**
 - A. He was getting old
 - B. He was injured
 - C. He had nothing left to accomplish
 - D. He felt his days of winning NBA championships were over

- 7. Which of the following best supports the notion that Jordan was one of the most respected athletes of all time?**
 - A. He averaged 22.9 points per game with the Washington Wizards
 - B. He became the first player to score 40 points in a game at age 40
 - C. Even the harsh fans in Philadelphia gave him a standing ovation
 - D. He is now the owner of the Charlotte Bobcats

“Air” vs “King”



Michael Jordan



LeBron James

Both Michael Jordan and LeBron James are considered among the greatest professional basketball players to have ever lived, although they never played head-to-head, as Jordan retired just before James played his first game. Both players were incredible scorers, amazing defenders, bloodthirsty competitors, and trend-setting icons of the NBA. Michael Jordan was voted into the professional basketball Hall-of-Fame in 2009 and LeBron James will be voted in as soon he is eligible. At the time this article was written (in 2018), LeBron James was still considered the best player in the NBA. The question is: Who was better – “Air” Jordan or “King” James?

For Jordan – This is an easy argument. Michael Jordan was clearly the better player. First and foremost, he won all six NBA championships he played in. Furthermore, he was named MVP in all six! Even though LeBron has played in seven NBA Finals, he has only been victorious three times. That means LeBron and his team lost four NBA championships. Winning championships is the easiest way to judge a player’s greatness.

Jordan’s accolades are endless. He won the NBA scoring title ten times (compared to just one scoring title for James) and was named the NBA’s most valuable player a mind-blowing five times! Jordan was so good at basketball, that after this third NBA championship, he took a year off to play baseball. When he came back to the NBA, he promptly won three consecutive championships all over again with the Bulls. I know LeBron is great, but no one can compare to Jordan.

Rebuttal For James – Jordan may have won all six championships he played in, but James has already played in seven and has several more years to play. Championships aren’t necessarily the best way to measure how great a player is, although three is nothing to “sneeze” at.

At the age of 34, LeBron James already has more career assists, rebounds, and three-point baskets made than Jordan had in his entire career. If he plays to 40, (like Jordan did) he’ll easily surpass him on the NBA’s all-time points scored list. LeBron is the most versatile player the NBA has ever seen and can play point guard, shooting guard, and both forward positions. Obviously Jordan was a great player, but Jordan couldn’t play four positions.

1. Which of the following makes it difficult to judge who was better?

- A. Michael Jordan played baseball for a year
- B. LeBron James is still playing professional basketball
- C. Jordan and James played in different cities
- D. Both Jordan and James played in a lot of NBA championships

2. The first author believes...

- A. a player's greatness can be judged by how many points he scores.
- B. a player's greatness can be judged by how many championships he participates in.
- C. a player's greatness can be judged by how many championships he wins.
- D. a player's greatness can be judged by how many All-star games he plays in.

3. What does the second author suggest?

- A. If LeBron James plays as long as Michael Jordan, he may win more championships and pass him on the all-time scoring list
- B. If LeBron James plays as long as Michael Jordan, he might become a more versatile player
- C. If LeBron James plays as long as Michael Jordan, he might accumulate more assists and rebounds than Jordan
- D. Being is seven total championships is better than winning six.

4. What does "versatile" mean as used in the following sentence?

LeBron is the most versatile player the NBA has even seen and can play point guard, shooting guard, and both forward positions.

- A. Multitalented
- B. Complicated
- C. Similar
- D. Abundant

5. What do Jordan and James have in common?

- A. They have been in the same number of NBA championships
- B. They were both great defenders
- C. They are both currently in the Professional Basketball Hall-of-Fame
- D. They both played at the same time

Jackie Robinson – Details Focus

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California, after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

In 1941, however, Jackie left college because of financial difficulties and joined the U.S. Army. Robinson became first lieutenant of the 761st Tank Battalion, a group of black soldiers. By federal law, black soldiers were not allowed to fight alongside white soldiers. Robinson, however, never accompanied the battalion in combat. He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges.

In 1944, Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Baseball League. He was soon noticed by a baseball scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Although there was no law against signing black baseball players in the Major Leagues, there was an "unwritten rule" against it. Attempts to sign players from the Negro Leagues had been rebuffed in the past. Nevertheless, the Dodgers owner, Branch Rickey, had begun a secret mission to sign the top players from the Negro Leagues. In 1946, Rickey signed Jackie Robinson to a Major League contract and designated him for assignment on the Dodgers minor league team in Montreal, Quebec (Canada). While Robinson was welcomed in Canada, the situation in the United States was less than cordial. On April 15, 1947, amidst incredible fanfare and controversy, Jackie Robinson was called up to the Major Leagues. He became the first black player in 57 years to play in a Major League baseball game.

During Robinson's first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance. Some of his teammates even threatened to stop playing rather than have Jackie as a teammate. Nevertheless, Branch Rickey and several of the Dodgers players supported Jackie. Despite the obstacles that stood in his way, Jackie proved his integrity and strength as a person. He went on to have a stellar baseball career. He led the Major Leagues in stolen bases in 1947 and became the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP). That year, he had 203 hits and belted 16 home runs. He also knocked in 124 runs and stole 37 bases. He batted .342. After five more stellar years, Jackie Robinson led the Brooklyn Dodgers to their only World Series victory in 1955. They won the championship in seven games over the rival New York Yankees (although when the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, they won several more titles). In 1956, Jackie Robinson chose to end his baseball career after eight seasons at the age of 37. He ended his career with a .311 lifetime average. Furthermore, Jackie Robinson stole home 19 times. To this day, no other player since the World War II era has stolen home as many times. He was an all-star 6 times in his short career.

In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He died on October 24, 1972. On the 50th anniversary of his Major League debut (April 15, 1997), Major League Baseball retired his number, 42. It will never be worn again by any major league player on any team. April 15 was also named Jackie Robinson Day. To this day, Jackie Robinson remains a hero. He was a pioneer in breaking the "Color Barrier" in professional sports and paved the way for thousands of African-American athletes in dozens of sports. On October 29, 2003, United States Congress honored him (after his death) with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can give.

1.) How many hits did Jackie Robinson have in 1949?

- a.) 124
- b.) 342
- c.) 203
- d.) 19

2.) In what year did the Brooklyn Dodgers win the World Series?

- a.) 1947
- b.) 1955
- c.) 1949
- d.) 1956

3.) Which of the following sports was Jackie Robinson NOT involved with at UCLA?

- a.) football
- b.) track
- c.) basketball
- d.) soccer

4.) Today, _____ can wear Jackie Robinson's number "42."

- a.) only African-Americans
- b.) no one
- c.) all Major League baseball players
- d.) no Major League baseball players

5.) Jackie Robinson stole home _____ times during his baseball career.

- a.) 311
- b.) 37
- c.) 19
- d.) 27

Jackie Robinson – Main Idea Focus

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

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In 1962, Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. He died on October 24, 1972. On the 50th anniversary of his Major League debut (April 15, 1997), Major League Baseball retired his number, 42. It will never be worn again by any major league player on any team. April 15 was also named Jackie Robinson Day. To this day, Jackie Robinson remains a hero. He was a pioneer in breaking the "Color Barrier" in professional sports and paved the way for thousands of African-American athletes in dozens of sports. On October 29, 2003, United States Congress honored him (after his death) with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest honor Congress can give.

1.) Which of the following is answered in the third paragraph?

- a.) How did Jackie Robinson perform in his first Major League game?
- b.) When was Jackie Robinson called up for his first game in the Major Leagues?
- c.) When was Jackie Robinson elected to the Hall of Fame?
- d.) Which of Jackie's teammates supported him?

2.) The final paragraph of the passage discusses...

- a.) Jackie Robinson's athletic accomplishments
- b.) Jackie Robinson's impact on sports and culture
- c.) Jackie Robinson's fight against racism
- d.) The circumstances of Jackie Robinson's death

3.) The second paragraph describes how Jackie Robinson reacted to

_____.

- a.) playing baseball
- b.) military orders
- c.) racist laws
- d.) white soldiers

4.) Which of the following titles would best describe the life of Jackie Robinson?

- a.) Jackie Robinson: A Great Baseball Player
- b.) Jackie Robinson: National Champion Long Jumper
- c.) Jackie Robinson: Overcoming Racism to Become an American Legend
- d.) Jackie Robinson: Stealing Home 19 Times

5.) What can be learned in the first paragraph?

- a.) Why Jackie joined the Army
- b.) Jackie's favorite sport
- c.) Jackie excelled in different sports
- d.) Why Jackie's father deserted them

Jackie Robinson – Sequencing Focus

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California, after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

In 1941, however, Jackie left college because of financial difficulties and joined the U.S. Army. Robinson became first lieutenant of the 761st Tank Battalion, a group of black soldiers. By federal law, black soldiers were not allowed to fight alongside white soldiers. Robinson, however, never accompanied the battalion in combat. He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted of the charges.

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1.) What happened last?

- a.) Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.
- b.) Jackie's number 42 was retired forever.
- c.) 1972
- d.) Jackie won the Congressional Gold Medal.

2.) In what year did Jackie help the Brooklyn Dodgers win the World Series?

- a.) 1955
- b.) 1949
- c.) 1954
- d.) 1956

3.) What happened first?

- a.) Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs.
- b.) Jackie left college and joined the Army.
- c.) Jackie's mother moved the family to Pasadena, California.
- d.) Jackie played sports at UCLA.

4.) What happened second?

- a.) Jackie joined the Kansas City Monarchs.
- b.) Jackie left college and joined the Army.
- c.) Jackie's mother moved the family to Pasadena, California.
- d.) Jackie played sports at UCLA.

5.) Which of the following occurred before 1947?

- a.) Jackie became the Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year.
- b.) Jackie became the National League Most Valuable Player.
- c.) Jackie made his Major League Baseball debut.
- d.) Jackie played baseball on Montreal, Quebec.

Jackie Robinson – Contextual Vocabulary Focus

Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. Just a year after his birth, his mother moved him and his four siblings to Pasadena, California, after Jackie's father deserted them. Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles). He would become the first person in the history of UCLA to earn varsity letters in four different sports. He excelled in all four sports and led the Pacific Coast Conference (now the Pac-12) in scoring as a basketball player. Furthermore, he was a national champion long jumper.

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1.) Jackie had a passion for sports at an early age and played football, baseball, basketball, and track for UCLA (the University of California at Los Angeles).

What does “passion” mean in the sentence above?

- a.) skill
- b.) problem
- c.) relationship
- d.) love

2.) During Robinson’s first year he endured racism, taunting, and intolerance.

What does “taunting” mean in the sentence above?

- a.) impatience
- b.) acceptance
- c.) thoughtfulness
- d.) name-calling

3.) Despite the obstacles that stood in his way, Jackie proved his integrity and strength as a person.

Which of the following might have been such an obstacle?

- a.) pain
- b.) talent
- c.) racism
- d.) competition

4.) He was court-martialed for refusing an order from a bus driver to move to the back of the bus. He was eventually acquitted.

What does “acquitted” mean in the sentence above?

- a.) found innocent
- b.) lost
- c.) removed
- d.) accused

5.) While Robinson was welcomed in Canada, the situation in the United States was less than cordial.

What does “cordial” mean in the sentence above?

- a.) intelligent
- b.) friendly
- c.) mean
- d.) perfect

Jupiter

What does it look like?

Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun, is the largest planet in the solar system. It is the first of the “gas giants” and has no surface, though it may have a rocky core. Although it is only 1/1000th as massive as the sun, it is more than double as massive as all of the other planets in the solar system combined. Jupiter’s atmosphere is separated into different bands and gives the planet the appearance of having whitish and reddish layers with various spots, swirls and bubbles. Jupiter’s most notable feature, other than its size, is the great red spot, a football shaped area of intense storms. Three Earths could fit inside the great red spot. The spot, which is a high pressure, stable storm with winds that gust over 400 miles per hour, is said to be somewhat similar to a hurricane. Recent studies have shown that the spot has actually shrunk and that the storm may be weakening. Scientists still don’t have an explanation for why the spot looks red. In addition, Jupiter also has a faint set of rings (probably made of dust) that wrap around the planet horizontally.

What is its atmosphere like?

The atmosphere of Jupiter is about 86 percent hydrogen and 14 percent helium. Methane, water vapor and ammonia exist in trace amounts. The interior of Jupiter is denser, with about 71 percent hydrogen, 24 percent helium and five percent other elements. Occasionally, flashes of lightning are detected in the atmosphere of Jupiter. These electrical discharges are said to be at least 1,000 times as powerful as the typical lightning strike on Earth.

What is the temperature like?

The average temperature in the cloud tops of planet Jupiter is -234 F, but if you were to descend from the cloud tops, closer to the interior of the planet (where the atmospheric pressure becomes about ten times what it is on Earth) the temperatures would actually be around 55 degrees F. If you were to descend farther, the temperatures would become incredibly hot.

1. What is Jupiter's surface like?

- A. It is cold
- B. It is rocky
- C. Scientists are not sure
- D. There is no surface

2. Jupiter is...

- A. the largest planet by far.
- B. about the size of the sun.
- C. a little larger than Saturn.
- D. the last of the "Gas Giants."

3. Which of the following is NOT true about the Great Red Spot?

- A. It is full of storms that seem to be strengthening
- B. Three Earths could fit inside it
- C. It is shaped like a football
- D. Winds within the storm may gust to over 400 miles per hour

4. Why is the Great Red Spot red?

- A. Because of the swirling storms
- B. Because of the high wind gusts
- C. Because of the gas in Jupiter's atmosphere
- D. Scientists aren't sure

5. What could be a synonym for the word "descend" in the following sentence?

If you were to descend farther, the temperatures would become incredibly hot.

- A. Rise
- B. Fall
- C. Travel
- D. Race

6. Which of the following is the best summary of the temperature and atmosphere sections on Jupiter in this story?

- A. The atmosphere is mostly made of hydrogen and the temperature is very hot.
- B. The atmosphere is made of hydrogen and the temperature varies greatly from the clouds to the core.
- C. The atmosphere is mostly made of hydrogen and the temperature varies a little bit from the clouds to the core.
- D. The atmosphere is made mostly of hydrogen and helium and the temperature varies greatly from the clouds to the core.

7. Where on Jupiter might the temperature be similar to a temperature on Earth?

- A. In its atmosphere
- B. Close to its interior
- C. In its core
- D. On one of its moons

Dr. King

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. King graduated from Morehouse College in 1948 and then from the Crozer Theological Seminary with a Bachelor's in Divinity in 1951. He received a Ph.D. in Systematic theology in 1955 from Boston University.

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama where he led the bus boycott after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in King being arrested. Despite his arrest, the boycott ultimately resulted in the Supreme Court outlawing discrimination on intrastate buses.

After the boycott, King helped in the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) which advocated the peaceful protest of Black churches concerning Civil Rights (especially in the American south). Primarily inspired by the non-violent protests conducted by Mahatma Gandhi in India, King was instrumental in helping his cause gain national attention through the media. Because of his efforts, civil rights became the top political issue of the early 1960's.

In 1963, King delivered the immortal speech "*I have a Dream*" in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington. Over 250,000 people gathered around the National Mall in support. King's speech electrified the crowd and is considered one of the greatest speeches in American history. King later led protests and gave speeches for the African American right to vote, desegregation, and fair hiring. In 1964, King's hopes were realized when congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and then, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On October 14, 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in non-violent protest.

In 1968, while he was organizing a march to protest the working conditions of black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, King was assassinated by James Earl Ray at the Lorraine Hotel. Following his assassination, major riots erupted in more than 100 American cities, including in Washington D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland. King was buried on April 9, 1968. 300,000 people attended his funeral. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a national day of mourning.

Today, numerous schools, buildings, and highways are named for Martin Luther King Jr. In 1986, a U.S. national holiday was established in his honor on the third Monday of January each year, around the time of his birthday. On January 18, 1993, for the first time, Martin Luther King Day was officially observed in all 50 U.S. states.

1. What was the main effect of King's bus boycott?

- A. Rosa Parks became famous
- B. It led to the "I have a Dream speech"
- C. It led to King's arrest
- D. It led to an outlaw on discrimination on intrastate buses

2. What does “instrumental” mean in the following sentence?

King was instrumental in helping his cause gain national attention through the media.

- A. helpless
- B. very helpful
- C. musical
- D. unsuccessful

3. What inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- C. Boycotts
- D. Boston University

4. Which of the following was the culminating effect of Dr. King’s efforts?

- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964
- B. The “I Have a Dream” speech
- C. Non-violent protests
- D. The founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

5. Which is NOT true about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

- A. He won the Nobel Peace Prize
- B. He gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial
- C. He was assassinated by James Earl Ray
- D. By 1986, all states had declared Martin Luther King Day a national holiday

6. Which of the following details supports the fact that people were enraged after the assassination of Dr. King?

- A. 300,000 people attended his funeral
- B. Riots broke out in over 100 cities following his assassination
- C. A national holiday was named in his honor
- D. President Johnson declared a national day of mourning following his death

7. The final paragraph describes the...

- A. death of Dr. King.
- B. legacy of Dr. King.
- C. schools named in his honor.
- D. memorial built in his honor in Washington, D.C.

Komodo Dragon

Description: The prehistoric looking Komodo dragon is the world's largest living lizard, reaching a maximum length of ten feet, half of which is the tail, and a maximum weight of 350 pounds. Most, however, are much smaller and the average dragon is about 150 pounds. Dragons are entirely grayish with powerful arms and legs with huge, curved claws and a yellow, forked tongue used for smelling. The saliva of this massive reptile is full of bacteria because its gums are nearly always lacerated and sliced open when it feeds. Although it has a poor sense of hearing, the Komodo dragon has excellent day vision and an incredible sense of smell that is thought to be able to detect carrion more than two miles away! It also has extra sensory scales around the ears, lips, chin, and soles of the feet.

Diet: The Komodo dragon is a strict carnivore and feeds on deer, pigs, monkeys, birds, other medium-sized mammals, and carrion. Prey is usually swallowed whole, sometimes after it has been rammed against a tree to make it more compact. After a meal, the dragon regurgitates a huge pellet made of bones, fur, and other indigestible matter. Dragons have extremely slow metabolic rates and may only eat once or twice every month. Prey is ambushed and killed outright or is left to die over a period of days from the dragon's toxic saliva. After biting a large animal, the dragon can follow its scent to find its place of death.

Habitat/Range: The Komodo dragon prefers dry savannas, grasslands and tropical forests and is sometimes observed sleeping in burrows and spends much of its time inactive during the heat of the summer. It is endemic to several Indonesian islands.

Status: The Komodo dragon is a threatened species because of its small population, narrow distribution, and the looming possibility of a natural disaster destroying the entire population. Poaching, habitat loss, and fires have also negatively impacted this species. Furthermore, this species does relatively poorly in captivity and only a couple of zoos have been successful in breeding them. To conserve this unusual reptile, the nation of Indonesia established Komodo National Park in 1980.

1. How long is the komodo dragon tail?

- A. Half of the length of its body
- B. 10 feet long
- C. 300 pounds
- D. 5 feet long

2. Which of the komodo dragon's parts is used for a different sense than most animals?

- A. arms
- B. teeth
- C. tail
- D. tongue

3. What does "lacerated" mean in the following sentence?

The saliva of this massive reptile is full of bacteria because its gums are nearly always lacerated and sliced open when it feeds.

- A. useless
- B. cut
- C. clean
- D. retreating

4. Compared to a person, how often does a komodo dragon eat?

- A. Very often
- B. Never
- C. Daily
- D. Very infrequently

5. Where would it be unlikely to find a komodo dragon?

- A. A tropical rainforest
- B. A dry grassland
- C. A snowy mountain
- D. A burrow

6. Why is the komodo dragon population vulnerable?

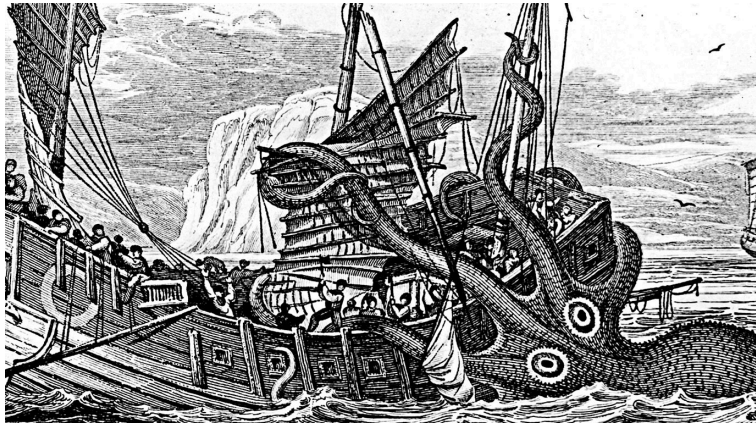
- A. They have lots of predators
- B. The whole population lives on a few small islands
- C. They are found in many different habitats
- D. Their diet includes few animals

7. Komodo dragons...

- A. have proved difficult to breed in zoos.
- B. have low metabolic rates.
- C. spend much of their time active in the summer heat.
- D. chew up their prey with sharp teeth.

The Kraken

Name _____



In the Age of Exploration, the world's oceans were mysterious and endless. Sailors told stories of boiling salt water near the equator and fearsome sea life. As these stories were told again and again, the subjects became even more terrible and unimaginable. One such legend came from the wide bays and icy waters of Scandinavia. It is a legend that still lives among our movies, novels, video games, and maybe even in our deepest fears of the open ocean - the legend of the kraken.

The legend of this colossal, crew-eating, ship-sinking, monster was likely based on a real creature - the giant squid. It was first described as such in Erik Pontoppidan's *The First Attempt at a Natural History of Norway* (1752). Here, however, Pontoppidan claims the Kraken was so large that it was sometimes mistaken for an island. He further writes that the Kraken was less dangerous as a predator of sailors than as a hazard that generated a frothing whirlpool in its wake that could sink ships. Pontoppidan does, however, concede that the given the length of the Kraken's arms, it could easily force the largest war ships down to the bottom of the ocean.

Pontoppidan's description of the kraken undoubtedly inspired a new generation of authors to craft hyperbolic scenes involving the kraken. In the classic ocean tale, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, the author, Jules Verne, describes a scene where Captain Nemo must save his submarine from an attacking kraken. In the story he describes the kraken as a monster that "could entangle a ship of five thousand tons and bury it into the abyss of the ocean." In *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, the kraken is an agent for Davy Jones, ruler of the sea. Jones would summon the kraken by using a giant hammer that would send shockwaves through the ocean. The kraken would overtake ships ensuring that Jones had a steady supply of sailors to use as slaves aboard his own vessel.

1. **Which question is not answered in the story?**
 - A. How has the kraken been depicted in literature?
 - B. When was the first time a real kraken was captured?
 - C. Where did the legend of the kraken originate?
 - D. What are ways in which the kraken could supposedly prove dangerous to ships and sailors?

2. **Which of the following best describes how the kraken came to be such a terrible sea monster?**
 - A. It was portrayed as such in movies and novels
 - B. It was discovered that the beast could sink gigantic ships to the bottom of the ocean
 - C. As stories were retold over generations, the kraken became more and more terrible
 - D. The ocean was thought of as mysterious, endless, and full of dangers

3. **Why was *The First Attempt at a Natural History of Norway (1752)* important in the history of the kraken?**
 - A. It influenced depictions of the kraken in literature and movies
 - B. It made people realize that there are sea monsters lurking under the surface
 - C. It made people realize that the ocean is a dangerous place
 - D. It made people realize that, in deed, the kraken was a figment of a sailor's imagination

4. **Which is NOT true about the kraken?**
 - A. It could produce a deadly whirlpool according to Erik Pontoppidan.
 - B. *In Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, the kraken gains control of Davy Jones.
 - C. *In Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, the kraken attacks a submarine and is described as a monster that could bring a large ship to the "abyss" of the ocean.
 - D. Its legend seems to have originated in Scandinavia.

5. **What word could replace "hyperbolic" in the following sentence?**

Pontoppidan's description of the kraken undoubtedly inspired a new generation of authors to craft hyperbolic scenes involving the kraken.

- A. impossible
- B. aggressive
- C. interesting
- D. exaggerated

- 6. Why does the author claim that the legend of the kraken still exists today?**
- A. Probably because krakens are still sighted in the ocean.
 - B. Probably because the kraken still appears in modern video games and movies
 - C. Probably because people constantly imagine what a kraken looks like
 - D. Probably because the oceans are still very dangerous today
- 7. What could be a title for the second paragraph?**
- A. The Kraken Through the Eyes of Erik Pontoppidan
 - B. The History of the Kraken in Pop Culture
 - C. A Biography on Erik Pontoppidan
 - D. A Complete History of the Kraken

Labrador Duck Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Labrador duck, sometimes known as the pied duck or sand shoal duck, was a species of sea duck that went extinct in the 1800s. It was the first North American bird species to go extinct; the last duck was seen in New York in the 1870s. The duck was rare even before it went extinct, and because of this, we have little information about the duck and why it may have disappeared.

Male Labrador ducks were black and white with white wings, and females were mostly gray. The ducks' bills were almost as long as their heads, and they had a refined beak shape—a wide, flat tip—that was tailored for a strict diet of mollusks. The Labrador duck was unique among North American ducks in that its breeding range was confined to the North Atlantic regions of Canada, although it wintered as far south as New York and New Jersey. No other North American duck breeds exclusively in this area, as all others that breed in the North Atlantic breed in other locales as well. Having a narrow breeding and wintering ranges likely made the Labrador duck more vulnerable to changes in its habitat than other ducks.

There are various theories for why these sea ducks may have gone extinct. While they were killed and sold in New York and Baltimore markets for their meat, they were poorly regarded for taste. Overhunting alone cannot explain the ducks' extinction, but overharvest of the birds and their eggs in breeding grounds might have been a contributing factor. They were also hunted for feathers. In addition, the birds may have struggled to find food in the winter; mussel and shellfish populations declined as a result of human population growth on the coast, leading to less food for the ducks during the winter months.

Fifty-five old specimens of the Labrador duck are preserved today in museums around the world. Even though our information about the species is incomplete, the extinction of this beautiful duck can serve as a reminder of how delicate our ecosystems are.

1. Which best describes the Labrador duck?

- A duck that was once common but became extinct because of overhunting
- A duck that was never common but became extinct for various reasons
- A duck that was once common but became extinct for various reasons
- A duck that was never common but became extinct because of overhunting

- 2. Where would you be least likely to see a Labrador duck when it existed?**
- In the ocean
 - In the North Atlantic
 - In the Pacific Ocean
 - New York
- 3. What is not explained in the passage?**
- What was the effect of the extinction of the Labrador duck?
 - How did the Labrador Duck differ from other ducks?
 - What are some theories behind the extinction of the Labrador duck?
 - How may have a narrow breeding range affected the Labrador duck?
- 4. Which of the following represented an adaptation discussed in this passage?**
- The bill of the Labrador duck
 - The coloring of the Labrador duck
 - The breeding range of the Labrador duck
 - The feathers of the Labrador duck
- 5. According to the author, what was the major difference between male and female Labrador ducks?**
- coloration
 - size
 - bill shape
 - wintering range
- 6. What could be a title for the third paragraph?**
- The Effect of Hunting on the Labrador Duck
 - The Labrador Duck: The Story of a North American Bird
 - A Complete History of the Labrador Duck
 - The Mystery of a Lost Species: What Happened to the Labrador Duck?
- 7. Which of the following does not qualify as a cause and effect relationship?**
- As a result of overhunting, Labrador duck populations declined
 - As a result of the narrow breeding and wintering range of the Labrador duck, the mollusks that it preyed upon likely became scarce
 - As a result of human population growth, Labrador duck populations declined
 - As a result of the harvest of its eggs, Labrador duck populations declined

The Louisiana Purchase has been described as the “greatest real estate deal in history.” In 1803, The United States government purchased the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon I of France for 60 million Francs, or, about \$15,000,000. \$11,250,000 was paid directly and the remainder was covered by French debt to U.S. citizens.

The Louisiana Purchase was consummated in order to secure free navigation of the Mississippi River. President Jefferson sent two negotiators – James Monroe and Robert Livingston to France to convince Napoleon I to sell the city of New Orleans. Time was of the essence because many viewed Napoleon’s acquisition of the Louisiana Territory as a means to invade the United States. Surprisingly, Napoleon offered not only New Orleans, but the entire Louisiana Territory for sale. Because a constitutional amendment authorizing the acquisition would take too long, and because Napoleon wanted the deal finalized quickly, Jefferson held the issue to a vote. Americans overwhelmingly voted in favor of purchasing the Louisiana Territory. Its 800,000 square mile area quickly doubled the size of the United States. Soon after the acquisition, Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an expedition through the new lands in which hundreds of new animals were discovered as well as Native American tribes and a route to the Pacific Ocean.

1. What was surprising about the Louisiana Purchase?

- A. Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore it
- B. Napoleon offered New Orleans and the entire Louisiana Territory
- C. Americans overwhelmingly supported the purchase
- D. It was called the “greatest real estate deal in history”

2. Which of the following was not true?

- A. The Louisiana Territory doubled the size of America
- B. The Louisiana Purchase was made so that America could secure free navigation to the Pacific Ocean
- C. The United States government purchased the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million.
- D. Thomas Jefferson believed a constitutional amendment would take too long.

3. What are “negotiators” as used in the following sentence?

President Jefferson sent two negotiators – James Monroe and Robert Livingston to France to convince Napoleon I to sell the city of New Orleans.

- A. People who are sent to other countries
- B. People who bring gifts to the leaders of other countries
- C. People who serve in the military
- D. People who try to make the best deals possible

4. What was the effect of the Louisiana Purchase? Circle all that apply.

- A. Lewis and Clark documented the Native Americans and wildlife of the region
- B. The United States became a much larger country
- C. Napoleon Bonaparte wanted the deal to be finalized quickly
- D. A constitutional amendment was eventually made

5. What was the timing of the Louisiana Purchase so important?

- A. Some believed that Napoleon would invade the United States through the Louisiana Territory
- B. It was important that Lewis and Clark begin their journey
- C. The United States needed to find a way to the Pacific Ocean as soon as possible
- D. The French debt to American citizens was growing

6. Why did the Americans originally want to purchase New Orleans?

- A. To find a path to the Pacific Ocean
- B. They preferred not to negotiate with Napoleon
- C. To have full navigation of the Mississippi River
- D. So that Lewis and Clark could explore the Louisiana Territory

7. Why is the Louisiana Purchase sometimes called the “greatest real estate deal in history?”

- A. Because the United States acquired a lot of land for a big price
- B. Because the United States acquired a small amount of land for a big price
- C. Because the United States acquired a small amount of land for a little price
- D. Because the United States acquired a lot of land for a little price

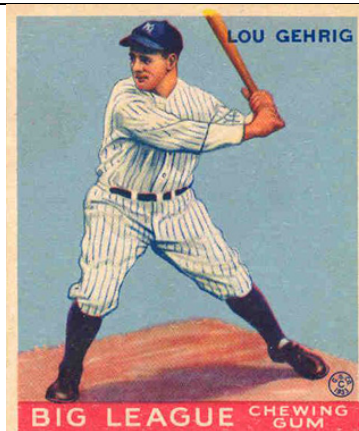
Monument Park at Yankee Stadium

Name _____

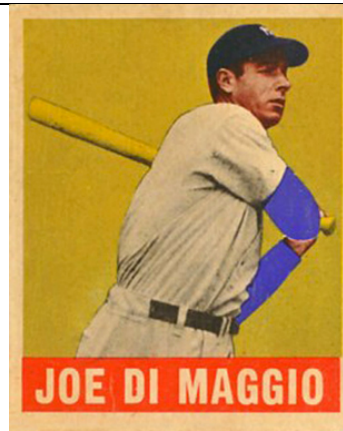
The Legends of Monument Park



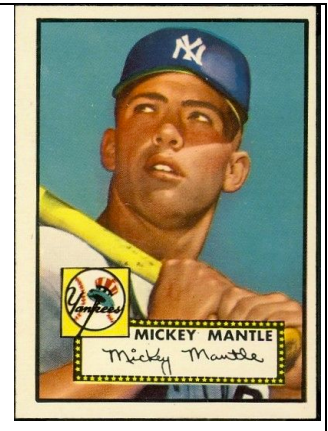
3 – Babe Ruth



4 – Lou Gehrig



5 – Joe DiMaggio



7 –Mickey Mantle

The New York Yankees are the most storied team in Major League Baseball. As of 2018, the Yankees have participated in 40 World Series and won 27 – by far the most among any team in history. Many of the most famous players in baseball history played for the Yankees, including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and Mickey Mantle. Each of these legends is enshrined in the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame and at Monument Park in Yankee Stadium.

Babe Ruth is arguably the most famous player in baseball history and was the most famous celebrity of his time. He played for the Boston Red Sox before being sold to the Yankees. Nicknamed “the Sultan of Swat,” and “The Great Bambino,” Ruth hit 714 career home runs and knocked in over 2,200 runs.

Lou Gehrig played first base for the New York Yankees for his entire 16-year career from 1923 to 1939. Nicknamed “the Iron Horse,” Gehrig played in 2,130 consecutive games! Gehrig played for six World Series championship teams and won the Triple Crown in 1934. This means he led the American League in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average.

Joe DiMaggio played his entire 13-year career with the New York Yankees. Nicknamed “Joltin’ Joe” and the “Yankee Clipper,” he is most famous for achieving at least one hit in 56 consecutive games – a record that still stands today. He played for nine World Championship teams and won the American League Most Valuable Player award three times. He was an all-star in all thirteen of his seasons.

Mickey Mantle played his entire 17-year career with the New York Yankees. Nicknamed “the Mick,” Mantle is considered the greatest switch-hitter and center-fielder in baseball history. This means he batted both left-handed and right-handed. Like Lou Gehrig, Mantle won the Triple Crown. He ended his career with 536 home runs and still holds the World Series record for the most home runs, runs batted in, total bases, runs scored, and walks.

- 1. The New York Yankees... (circle all that are true)**
 - A. have played in 27 World Series.
 - B. have had some of the greatest baseball players in the sport's history.
 - C. have Monument Park in Yankee stadium.
 - D. have played for forty seasons.

- 2. Which of the following differentiates Babe Ruth from the other Yankees in the chart?**
 - A. He won the triple crown more than once
 - B. He played on a team other than the Yankees
 - C. He is enshrined in both the Major League Baseball Hall-of-Fame and Monument Park
 - D. He has multiple nicknames

- 3. What differentiates Mickey Mantle from the other Yankees in the chart?**
 - A. His career lasted more than ten years
 - B. He played his entire career with the New York Yankees
 - C. He was on teams that won multiple World Series
 - D. He was a switch hitter

- 4. Which of the following statistics is a record that still stands today?**
 - A. The Sultan of Swat's 714 home runs
 - B. Joltin' Joe's 56-game consecutive hit streak
 - C. The Iron Horse's 2,130-game streak
 - D. None of the above

- 5. What is NOT true about the Triple Crown?**
 - A. It was achieved by Mickey Mantle
 - B. The Triple Crown is won when a player leads his league in home runs, runs batted in, and batting average
 - C. It was achieved by Joe DiMaggio
 - D. It was achieved by Lou Gehrig

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER Reading Comprehension

Lightning is a streak of electricity that occurs in every thunderstorm. You see lightning before you hear thunder because light travels faster than sound. Lightning is caused when the negative charge of electricity in the rain clouds meets the positive charge of electricity in the falling raindrops. Most lightning occurs from cloud to cloud, but some lightning occurs from cloud to ground, where it can start fires, melt metal, or be deadly to people. Although 90 percent of people survive lightning strikes, they can cause major internal injuries, burns, and hearing loss. 240,000 people are struck by lightning or are injured as a result of lightning every year.

Thunder is caused by the rapid expansion of air and temperature inside and around a lightning strike. Such an expansion of air is known as a sonic shock wave. Did you know you can calculate the distance of lightning from its thunder? Thunder occurs after lightning because the light travels much more quickly than sound. In normal circumstances, lightning is 0.2 miles distance from a given location for every second that passes between the lightning and its thunder. Thus, if you see lightning in the sky and hear thunder five seconds later, the lightning is about one mile from your location.

1.) Lightning occurs...

- a.) in every thunderstorm.
- b.) in a few thunderstorms.
- c.) in some thunderstorms.
- d.) in most thunderstorms.

2.) Why do you see lightning before you hear thunder?

- a.) Because lightning comes before thunder
- b.) Because light travels faster than sound
- c.) Because lightning causes thunder
- d.) Because thunder causes lightning

3.) Most lightning...

- a.) occurs from cloud to ground.
- b.) melts metal.
- c.) occurs between clouds.
- d.) occurs from ground to cloud.

4.) What can you infer from this sentence:

Although 90 percent of people survive lightning strikes, they can cause major internal injuries, burns, and hearing loss.

- a.) Lightning is not that dangerous.
- b.) Although most people survive lightning strikes, some do not.
- c.) Lightning can cause major burns.

5.) Which of the following is NOT a possible outcome of lightning?

- a.) injury
- b.) electricity
- c.) death
- d.) burns

6.) Which of the following IS NOT true about thunder?

- a.) If you see lightning and hear thunder five seconds later, the lightning is five miles away.
- b.) Thunder occurs because of the rapid expansion of air and temperature inside and around a lightning strike.
- c.) You hear thunder after lightning because light travels faster than sound.
- d.) Air expansion that results in thunder is called a sonic shock wave.

7.) What do the paragraphs have in common?

- a.) They describe lightning and thunder in popular culture.
- b.) They describe the discovery of lightning and thunder.
- c.) They describe why lightning and thunder occur.
- d.) They describe specific instances of lightning and thunder.

8.) What is a major difference between the two paragraphs?

- a.) The first paragraph describes an effect and the second does not.
- b.) The second describes an effect and the first does not.
- c.) The second paragraph describes a cause and the first does not.
- d.) The first paragraph describes a cause and the second does not.

9.) What word could be a synonym for “circumstances” as used in the following sentence:

In normal circumstances, lightning is 0.2 miles distant from a given location for every second that passes between the lightning and its thunder.

- a.) ways
- b.) situations
- c.) averages
- d.) problems

10.) Which of the following sentences contains an approximation?

- a.) Thus, if you see lightning in the sky and hear thunder five seconds later, the lightning is about one mile from your location.
- b.) Such an expansion of air is known as a sonic shock wave.
- c.) You see lightning before you hear thunder because light travels faster than sound.
- d.) Did you know you can calculate the distance of lightning from its thunder?

Lyme Disease Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Lyme disease is an illness caused by bacteria and spread by ticks. It can be challenging to diagnose and is not contagious, but can be treated with two to four weeks of antibiotics.

Lyme disease is named for the town in Connecticut where its root cause was discovered: spirochetal bacteria. Spirochetal is actually a category of bacteria characterized by spiral-shaped cells, common in tick hosts such as deer and mice. When ticks feed on these animals, they spread Lyme disease to their future hosts. If an infected tick latches onto a human, and is undetected for 36 hours or more, it can transmit the dreaded illness. Only a small percentage of tick bites actually lead to Lyme disease.

Initial symptoms of Lyme disease might manifest as a circular or bulls-eye-shaped rash at the location of the tick bite, but not always. Once the disease spreads, other symptoms may arise, including dizziness, fever, arthritis in the joints, or heart palpitations. Some people develop chronic Lyme disease, which can result in long-term, debilitating symptoms. The wide variety of symptoms associated with Lyme disease make it challenging for doctors to effectively diagnose it. Blood tests designed to screen for Lyme disease are known to be unreliable and those that have the disease often test negative for it and those that don't have the disease can test positive for it. Because of the unreliability associated with Lyme disease tests, doctors will often prescribe antibiotics for tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease if a person presents with typical Lyme disease symptoms even if they test negative for it.

Treatment for Lyme disease with antibiotics can lead to speedy recovery, especially with an early diagnosis. Preventative methods to from getting Lyme disease in the first place can be equally as helpful. Tying up long hair, wearing long-sleeved clothing and closed-toed shoes, and using insect repellent are all good ways to avoid tick bites when outside. Ticks tend to collect in moist, shady areas or places with tall grass or shrubs, so remaining vigilant when outdoors is a good practice towards avoiding Lyme completely.

1. Which word or phrase best describes the first paragraph?

- Detailed
- Complicated
- Comprehensive
- General

2. You likely do NOT have Lyme disease if...

- a. you have a bulls-eye shaped rash.
- b. you have a fever and sore joints.
- c. you removed a tick from your leg that had been there for a few hours.
- d. you need antibiotics for a fever.

3. Which of the following is NOT true about Lyme disease?

- a. A high percentage of tick bites results in Lyme disease
- b. There are many ways to avoid being bitten by ticks
- c. Lyme disease may lead to chronic symptoms
- d. Treatment for Lyme Disease can work quickly

4. Which of the following best describes the tests used to diagnose Lyme disease?

- a. Lyme disease tests are almost always correct
- b. While Lyme disease tests can be helpful in diagnosing the illness, they are hardly ever correct
- c. Lyme disease tests usually result in people testing negative
- d. While Lyme disease tests can be helpful in diagnosing the illness, they are sometime inaccurate

5. What word could replace “debilitating” in the following sentence?

Some people develop chronic Lyme disease, which can result in long-term, debilitating symptoms.

- a. ideal
- b. painful
- c. frustrating
- d. unfriendly

6. What is implied in the following sentence?

Because of the unreliability associated with Lyme disease tests rate, doctors will often prescribe antibiotics for tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease if a person presents with typical Lyme disease symptoms even if they test negative for it.

- a. Tests for Lyme disease are actually more accurate than previously thought
- b. Everybody should get antibiotics if they have seen a tick
- c. There are other diseases transmitted by ticks besides Lyme disease
- d. Most people test negatively for Lyme disease

7. Which question is NOT answered in the passage?

- a. What percentage of tick bites prove positive for Lyme disease?
- b. Can Lyme disease be spread from one person to another?
- c. If a person tests positive for Lyme disease, how long will he or she be on antibiotics for?
- d. Why is an early diagnosis for Lyme disease advantageous?

John Madden Reading Comprehension

Name _____

John Madden was born on April 10th, 1936, in Austin, Minnesota, but lived most of his childhood in California. Madden was an outstanding high school football player and ultimately played in college at California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Although he was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles, a knee injury destroyed any chance of a professional career in football.

Madden, who majored in education, quickly took to coaching. He served various coaching roles at Allen Hancock College and San Diego State, before being hired as linebacker coach for the Oakland Raiders. When the Raiders head coach resigned in 1969, Madden was promoted to head coach. At the time, the 32-year-old Madden was the youngest person to be hired as head coach in NFL history. Madden proved one of the greatest coaches in Raiders history, leading them to their first Super Bowl Championship in 1977 with a 32-14 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. He retired from coaching the following year. As of 2018, he is still the youngest coach in NFL history to reach 100 wins.

Following his coaching career, Madden became a popular broadcaster and was widely considered the sport's most knowledgeable and entertaining commentator. For over 30 years, Madden appeared on NBC, CBS, Fox Sports, and Monday Night Football and called eleven super bowls. Madden's exclamatory style, invented words and phrases, and use of the telestrator contributed to his popularity. A telestrator is a tool that allowed him to draw diagrams on the screen which would help people understand the details of NFL plays. In 1984, he introduced the "All-Madden Team" which comprised the players he deemed to be toughest. Interestingly, John Madden was terrified of flying airplanes and traveled from city-to-city by train or custom-built "Madden cruiser" bus. Madden was elected to the Professional Football Hall-of-Fame in 2006. In 2009, Super Bowl XLIII, in which the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals.

Today's youth know John Madden from the popular John Madden's Football video game series. Popularly known simply as "Madden," John Madden has lent his voice, personality, and insights to the game since 1988. Since it was first released, it has sold over 120 million copies. Despite its enormous popularity, Madden is most proud of how it teaches people about the detailed nature of football. According to him, it serves as a "way to for people to learn the game at a pretty sophisticated level."

1. What happened last?

- A. Madden became the youngest head coach in NFL history (at the time).
- B. Madden coached at Allan Hancock College and San Diego State
- C. Madden became linebacker coach for the Oakland Raiders
- D. 1970

2. When did John Madden win his first Super Bowl?

- A. Early in his coaching career with the Raiders
- B. Late in his coaching career with the Raiders
- C. 1969
- D. When he was a linebacker coach

3. Which of the following is NOT answered?

- A. Why was John Madden a popular broadcaster?
- B. How many games did John Madden win in total with the Oakland Raiders?
- C. What different jobs did John Madden work after it was clear he could not play professional football?
- D. How many super bowls did John Madden call?

4. What does “custom-built” mean in the following sentence?

Interestingly, John Madden was terrified of flying airplanes and traveled from city-to-city by train or custom-built "Madden cruiser" bus.

- A. expensive
- B. built to John Madden's specifications
- C. built to hold lots of people
- D. built to ride smoothly on highways

5. Why did people enjoy Madden's use of the telestrator?

- A. The telestrator made watching football more interesting
- B. People liked to hear John Madden's voice
- C. People enjoyed watching Madden draw lines on the screen
- D. It helped people understand complex plays

6. Which of the following would most likely reflect the of a sixth grade student?

- A. I know who John Madden is because he coached the Oakland Raiders to their first Super Bowl victory
- B. I know who John Madden is because his name is on my favorite video game
- C. I know who John Madden is because he called eleven super bowls
- D. I know who John Madden is because my favorite player made the "All-Madden Team"

7. To which of the following questions would “fear of flying” be the answer?

- A. How did John Madden travel from city to city?
- B. Why did John Madden retire from coaching?
- C. Why did John Madden travel by train or bus?
- D. Why is John Madden so proud of his video game?



Bernie Madoff: Ponzi Scheme Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Bernie Madoff was born in Queens, New York, in 1938. He met and began dating his future wife, Ruth, in his teenage years. Madoff's father started a sporting goods store which promptly went out of business during the Korean War. His father's failure served as a motivating factor for Madoff and made him determined to obtain the success his father never could. At age 22, he started his own company: Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. He convinced family and friends to invest in his company, but when the stock market shifted in 1962, his father-in-law had to lend him money to prevent from closing. After this initial roadblock, Madoff tried to change with the times. He and his brother Peter developed electronic trading capabilities for the company, adding a more modern and technological component. This digitization made the company more promising and boosted overall business significantly. By the late 1980s, Madoff was making close to 100 million dollars per year. Little did his investors know it was all a scheme – a Ponzi scheme.

In most Ponzi schemes, the perpetrator promises his or her clients a large amount of profit, with little to no risk—ideal for attracting investors. Madoff himself used the money coming in from new investors to pay back older investors that wanted to cash out. Much of the money that should have been kept in the business was used to fund his family's lavish lifestyle. Madoff would even make up fake earnings reports to satisfy his customers. As long as money continues to flow from new investors, a Ponzi scheme can endure. When the market turns, however, and large numbers of investors want to cash out at the same time, the scheme implodes, leaving countless investors empty-handed. Madoff's scheme cheated investors and nonprofit organizations out of tens of billions of dollars over at least seventeen years. Organizations such as Hadassah, a women's charity, and the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Peace, were almost completely wiped out by Madoff's criminal Ponzi scheme. Many lost their life savings.

In late 2008, the market dropped, and Madoff's luck finally ran out. Unable to keep his fraud going, he confessed his dealings to his sons, who immediately turned him into the authorities. Madoff pleaded guilty to eleven federal felony charges in 2009, including wire fraud, perjury, money laundering, and securities fraud. He was sentenced to 150 years in prison and ordered to give away 170 million dollars in assets to make reparations. Some of the investors he'd initially paid back had to deposit some of their money into a victim's fund to help pay back the investors left penniless after Madoff's elaborate fraud operation.

1. How did Madoff's father's situation affect Madoff's own life motivations?

- a. Madoff developed a passion for entrepreneurship from his father.
- b. Madoff's father taught him how to persevere and be determined.
- c. Madoff grew up not wanting to make the mistakes his father made.
- d. Madoff lost his passion for starting a sporting goods store.

- 2. Which of the following highlights Madoff's adaptability when it came to business?**
 - a. Madoff started an investment company instead of a sporting goods company.
 - b. Madoff made close to 100 million dollars a year by the late 1980s.
 - c. Madoff added a digital aspect to his company to make it more applicable to modern times.
 - d. Madoff tried to make even more money despite already having enough to support his family.

- 3. Which of the following inferences might help explain why Madoff created the Ponzi scheme despite not even needing the extra money?**
 - a. Madoff's father wanted him to make more money to support him.
 - b. Madoff got greedy for success and didn't realize when he had gone too far.
 - c. Madoff's passion for business made him want to try something new.
 - d. Madoff wanted to see how long he could go without getting caught.

- 4. Why is a Ponzi scheme not sustainable for an unlimited period of time?**
 - a. Without an actual money flowing in, it is impossible to pay all the investors back with only money from new ones.
 - b. Nonprofit organizations will lose all of their money and sue the investors for fraud.
 - c. There is a lot of risk for the investors, but very little profit gain.
 - d. The creator of the scheme eventually grows tired of maintaining it, but is unable to get out of it.

- 5. What is the best possible explanation for why Madoff's sons immediately turned him into the authorities?**
 - a. They were hoping to profit off of the business their father had created.
 - b. Even though he was their father, they had to hold him accountable for his crimes.
 - c. They were worried that their father would not be able to pay back his initial investors.
 - d. They wanted their father to start over with a more profitable business.

- 6. Which of the following groups were not negatively affected by Madoff's Ponzi scheme?**
 - a. Hadassah
 - b. New investors in the business
 - c. His father's sporting goods company
 - d. The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Peace

- 7. Which of the following best describes the process of cleaning up the financial mess Madoff created with his Ponzi scheme?**
 - a. It was completed within a matter of months.
 - b. Madoff had to personally oversee the cleanup operation.
 - c. It pulled money solely from Madoff's bank account.
 - d. It required old and new investors to come together and help each other.

FLORIDA MANATEES Reading Comprehension

The unmistakable Florida manatee is mostly grayish or brown, oftentimes with algae growing on its thick, wrinkled skin. It is perfectly adapted for life in tropical waters. The body of the Florida manatee is similar to that of a seal, and its face resembles the face of a walrus without the tusks. Manatees have specialized forelimb flippers that enable them to move through the water with great agility. The manatee's flippers also enable it to grasp food and bring it to the mouth. Manatees have nostrils located at the tops of their heads for easy breathing. Nostrils also have tight-fitting flaps that keep water out when they're underwater. Manatees have incredible lung capacity and can stay underwater for as long as 15 minutes. Their presence is often revealed by powerful gusts of air (breaths) at the surface of the water. Their powerful, flat tails help propel their massive bodies through the water. Florida manatees are typically ten feet in length and weigh over 1,000 pounds.

The Florida manatee is actually a subspecies of the more widespread West Indian manatee. The Florida manatee summers through much of the East and Gulf Coasts. Individuals may wander as far north as Virginia and as far west as Louisiana in both fresh and salt water. In winter, manatees migrate to warm waters off the coasts of Florida and Georgia. Hundreds of manatees may congregate in winter near large cities such as Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Manatees rarely survive in water that dips below 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Manatees are known as "gentle giants" and are purely herbivorous. Manatees eat vast amounts of aquatic plants. A manatee may eat as much as 15 percent of its body weight per day.

Manatees are slow-moving animals. They are even slower to reproduce. Females become mature after five to nine years and have calves every two to five years. Young manatees nurse their young underwater and stay with their mothers for about two years.

Manatee populations have plummeted in America over the last few decades. While natural causes such as disease, red tide, and stress brought on by cold water have certainly had an impact on population, much of the manatee's decline can be attributed to human activity. The destruction of the manatee's wetland habitats for housing developments has been the primary cause of the animal's decline. As humans populated southern Florida at an astonishing rate in the last few decades, they increasingly came into contact with manatees. Collisions with boats and lacerations inflicted by boat propellers resulted in the deaths of thousands of manatees. Pollution of coastal waters and the careless disposal of fishing lines and other objects into manatee waters exacerbated the problem. Today, however, strict laws have been implemented, making those who interfere with manatees subject to fines and even imprisonment. Many organizations have launched programs aimed at saving manatees and educating the public.

1.) What often grows on the skin of a manatee?

- a.) insects
- b.) algae
- c.) snails
- d.) barnacles

2.) What enables the manatee to move through the water with great agility?

- a.) fins
- b.) legs
- c.) arms
- d.) forelimb flippers

3.) What best describes the word “agility”?

- a.) Being able to move slowly
- b.) Being able to move quickly
- c.) Being able to move between obstacles
- d.) Being able to move silently

4.) Which of the following is not true about manatees?

- a.) They usually weigh over 1,000 pounds.
- b.) They can hold their breath for 15 minutes.
- c.) They live as far south as Virginia.
- d.) They don't survive in water under 68 degrees.

5.) Manatees are...

- a.) herbivores
- b.) carnivores
- c.) meat eaters
- d.) omnivores

6.) Select all of the following that are reasons why the manatee has declined in recent years.

- a.) red tide
- b.) human activity
- c.) hurricanes
- d.) boats

7.) Select all of the following that are not true.

- a.) Manatees have babies every year.
- b.) A manatee may have a baby every three years.
- c.) Manatees are slow to reproduce.
- d.) Manatees stay with their mother for 5 to 9 years.

8.) What does exacerbate mean?

- a.) Make better
- b.) Make worse
- c.) To involve
- d.) To recommend

9.) Which of the following do manatees not do?

- a.) Migrate
- b.) Hibernate
- c.) Eat 15 percent of their body weight per day
- d.) Grasp food with their flippers

10.) Where would you not find a manatee?

- a.) river
- b.) ocean
- c.) Louisiana
- d.) Michigan

Super Mario Brothers was a video game released in 1985 as a sequel to the popular Mario Brothers. It was designed and produced by Shigeru Miyamoto. It came with the purchase of the original Nintendo Entertainment System and was one of the first side-scrolling games. In such games, players are able to view and play the game from a continuous side view rather than from a single screen that changes as the player progresses. Super Mario Brothers remains one of the most popular video games of all time. Its theme music, known as "Ground Theme" is one the most recognizable music themes in video game history.

In Super Mario Brothers, players take on the role of a jump-happy plumber named Mario with help from his brother, Luigi. The goal of the game is to progress through the Mushroom Kingdom and to eventually save Princess Toadstool from the grips of the game's antagonist turtle, Bowser. Bowser has imprisoned Princess Toadstool because only she has the power to reverse Bowser's evil spells, which have caused the inhabitants of the Mushroom Kingdom to become inanimate objects such as bricks.

As Mario, players must progress through eight worlds, each of which features a boss at the end, with the ultimate goal of defeating Bowser. Along the way, the player must defeat koopa troopas, goombas, and other enemies. Most are dispatched when Mario jumps on top of them. Enemies may also be defeated when Mario jumps and hits the bricks they are standing on from underneath them.

As the player moves on, he or she can also collect coins and jump to hit mystery bricks. Mystery bricks may contain additional coins or secret objects like red and yellow mushrooms, which makes Mario twice his size. Players may gain additional lives by collecting 100 coins, or by finding 1-up mushrooms, among other ways. If Mario collects a "starman," he becomes temporarily invincible. In addition, the game is full of secret areas where the player can collect extra coins. There are even "warp pipes" that allow players to "warp" to different stages of the game.

1. What is a side-scrolling game?

- A. A game where you can see everything from above
- B. A game where the view is continuous as the player moves from left to right
- C. A game where there is just one screen that changes
- D. A game where the view is three-dimensional

2. What is an antagonist?

- A. The villain
- B. The good guy
- C. A minor enemy
- D. The main character

3. What role does Luigi play in the game?

- A. He is one of the main characters
- B. He plays an important role
- C. The passage only reveals that he helps Mario
- D. He gives Mario the tools he needs to dispatch the enemies

4. Which of the following is accurate?

- A. The first paragraph tells background about the game and the second paragraph tells about the story
- B. The second paragraph tells about the story and the third paragraph tells about how to earn coins.
- C. The final paragraph tells about how to earn coins and the first paragraph gives biographical information about the author.
- D. The third paragraph tells about what Goombas look like and the second paragraph tells about the story.

5. "Starman" could be the answer to what question?

- A. What is the final character Mario can turn into?
- B. As what character can Mario not be defeated?
- C. What does Mario become when he defeats Bowser?
- D. What can Luigi turn into?

6. What is NOT TRUE about Super Mario Brothers?

- A. It has recognizable theme music
- B. The goal is to save Princess Toadstool
- C. Mario can become twice his size by finding 1-up mushrooms
- D. Bowser has turned inhabitants of the Mushroom Kingdom into inanimate objects

7. Why did Bowser cast a spell on the Mushroom Kingdom?

- A. To give the goombas and koopas more power
- B. To trick Mario and Luigi

- C. To get revenge on Princess Toadstool
- D. The passage doesn't say

PLANET MARS Reading Comprehension

What does this planet look like?

Mars, commonly referred to as the “red planet,” is the fourth planet from the sun. Its reddish color comes from the high amounts of iron oxide on its surface. Mars has surface features similar to those found on the moon and on Earth. It has mountain ranges, volcanic fields, valleys, ice caps, canyons, and deserts. It has numerous impact craters including one discovered in 2008 that measures more than 6,000 miles in length and nearly 5,000 miles in width. It is, by far, the largest impact crater ever discovered. Mars is also home to Olympus Mons, the highest discovered mountain in the solar system. A person standing on the surface of Mars (in any location in which the mountain was visible) would have no chance of viewing the top. With the peak at 88,600 feet, Olympus Mons is about three times as high as Mount Everest, the highest peak on Earth. Mars' Valles Marineris is the solar system's largest canyon, measuring more than seven miles deep.

How big is this planet?

Mars is much smaller than the Earth. Its surface area occupies 28 percent of Earth's, its mass is only 10 percent of Earth's, and its volume is about 15 percent of Earth's.

How long does it take to orbit the sun?

687 days

What is its gravity like?

Gravity on Mars is 38 percent that of the Earth. A 100-pound earthling would weigh 38 pounds on Mars.

How far is it from the sun? From the Earth?

On average, Mars is located 138,000,000 miles from the sun. When Mars and Earth are on the same side of the sun, the two planets may come within 35,000,000 miles of each other. When they are on opposite sides of the sun, they may be as far as 399,000,000 miles apart.

What is its atmosphere like?

Mars has an extremely thin atmosphere. 95 percent of it is carbon dioxide, 3 percent is nitrogen, 1.6 percent is argon, and the remainder consists of traces of oxygen and water.

What's the temperature like?

Of all the planets, Mars' temperatures are most similar to those on Earth. Temperatures can range from about -220 Fahrenheit during a Mars (Martian) winter to a temperate 68 degrees Fahrenheit in summer, though on average the temperature is about -80 Fahrenheit. Unlike Earth, however, the thin atmosphere gives rise to fearsome dust storms that may envelop the entire planet and cause overall temperatures to rise.

How many moons does it have?

Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos. Both are small and irregularly shaped and may be former asteroids. Interestingly, Phobos orbits Mars at a distance of only about 5,500 miles away from its center, the closest any moon orbits its parent planet. In fact, if a person were to stand on Phobos and look toward Mars, Mars would look approximately 6,400 times larger than the full moon appears from Earth—taking up almost a quarter of the celestial hemisphere. Because Phobos has a particularly low orbit, scientists believe it will eventually crash into Mars or break up into pieces, possibly forming rings around the planet.

Interesting facts:

*There has long been speculation concerning the possibility of life and/or liquid water on Mars. However, the planet's thin atmosphere prevents water from accumulating for any time over significant portions of the planet. Some evidence on the planet's surface suggests the presence of liquid water at some point in history, but scientists think this water would be too salty or acidic to support life as we know it. Furthermore, fierce solar winds and poor heat transfer across its surface would make sustained life virtually impossible. There is compelling evidence, however, that Mars was once much more habitable to life than it is today.

*Many spacecrafts have attempted to visit Mars, the most notable of which was NASA's Mariner 4, the first to visit in a fly-by in 1965. In 1976, Viking 1 and 2 became the first spacecrafts to conduct successful and sustained landings on Mars. They provided the first color photographs of the "red planet." In May of 2008, the NASA Phoenix Mars Lander touched down on the north polar region of Mars to study surface features. By December, however, NASA had lost contact with the lander and the mission was declared over.

1.) Scientists believe ___ will eventually crash into Mars.

- a.) the sun
- b.) the moon Phobos
- c.) the moon Deimos
- d.) Earth

2.) The thin atmosphere of Mars can cause scary _____.

- a.) thunderstorms
- b.) hurricanes
- c.) dust storms
- d.) blizzards

3.) _____ was the first spacecraft to visit Mars.

- a.) Viking 2
- b.) Viking 1
- c.) Phoenix
- d.) Mariner 4

4.) The red color of Mars comes from the ___ on its surface.

- a.) iron oxide
- b.) oxygen
- c.) sand
- d.) ice

5.) Scientists think any water that could possibly be found on Mars would be too _____.

- a.) contaminated
- b.) cold
- c.) salty
- d.) hot

6.) Mars is _____ the sun than Earth.

- a.) about the same distance from
- b.) farther away from
- c.) closer to

7.) The atmosphere of Mars is dominated by _____.

- a.) carbon dioxide
- b.) oxygen
- c.) argon
- d.) nitrogen

8.) Select all of the following that are true.

- a.) There is no evidence that water ever existed on the surface of Mars.
- b.) The moons of Mars may have once been asteroids.
- c.) Scientists believe that Mars is more habitable today than it was in its past.
- d.) Temperatures on Mars can be similar to those on Earth.

9.) Mars is home to _____, the largest mountain in the solar system.

- a.) Phobos
- b.) Mount Everest
- c.) Olympus Mons
- d.) Valles Marineris

10.) Which of the following IS NOT true?

- a.) It takes Mars much longer to orbit the sun (the length of one year) than it does Earth.
- b.) Gravity is significantly less on Mars than on Earth.
- c.) The average temperature on Mars is similar to the average temperature on Earth.
- d.) Earth is substantially larger than Mars.

Purple Martins Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The purple martin is the largest swallow in North America. Being the largest species of swallow, however, doesn't mean its large compared to other birds. At about seven inches in length, the purple martin is a little smaller than a cardinal. Males are entirely glossy blue or purple and appear black unless viewed up close. Males attain their purple plumage after their second year. Females are dusky grayish purple with white underparts. Both males and females have slightly forked tails. These birds are powerful and prolific flyers and spiral in all directions in pursuit of flying insects such as moths and dragonflies. Hunting martins engage in spectacular aerial maneuvers that delight those who are lucky enough to host them. They often chatter, squeak, and squawk in flight.

Purple martins are colonial nesters, which means they nest together in groups. In the eastern United States, these birds are entirely dependent on a dedicated group of "landlords" who erect and care for purple martin houses or sets of gourds, which are placed atop poles or networks of poles. These landlords often work tirelessly to care for their colonies and take measures to remove invasive pests such as house sparrows and starlings; and use pole guards and decoys to deter native predators such as snakes, hawks, and owls from raiding their colonies. Some colonies may include hundreds of nesting pairs, while others may have only a few. Purple martins are very picky about habitat, and will only "move in" if the environmental conditions are just right. Martin houses should be erected in an open space with few or no trees in the immediate vicinity of the house. A nearby river, lake, or shore, is ideal but not required for martins. Telephone wires, fences, and even houses or buildings provide perches. Interestingly, in the western United States, martins nest in tree cavities rather than "houses."

In the later summer and early fall, purple martins migrate south. During migration, they may gather in great numbers to travel together. These birds travel all the way to South America to spend the winter. During this time, "landlords" have time to clean their martin houses so they'll be ready in March or April when their beloved martins return. Martins are "loyal" to their landlords. If they are successful in raising young, they will faithfully return to the same houses each year.

- 1. Which of the following birds would a birdwatcher most likely mistake a purple martin for?**
 - A. Bluebird
 - B. Goldfinch
 - C. Cardinal
 - D. Blackbird

2. What do male and female purple martins have in common?

- A. They both have deeply forked tails
- B. They are both totally purple
- C. They both have slightly forked tails
- D. They are both a little larger than a cardinal

3. Which question is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. What is the ideal habitat for nesting purple martins?
- B. How large are purple martins?
- C. What do second-year male purple martins look like?
- D. Where do purple martins spend the winter?

4. Which of the following statements is UNTRUE?

- A. Purple martins are silent in flight
- B. Purple martins return to the same nesting spot each year if they are successful in raising young
- C. Purple martins winter in South America
- D. Purple martins in the western United States do not nest in man-made martin houses.

5. Which of the following is least likely?

- A. Watching a purple martin capture a dragonfly in midair
- B. Seeing a martin perched on a leafy branch in the middle of a forest
- C. Seeing thousands of martins together on telephone wires in the fall
- D. Seeing a martin on the west coast nesting in a tree cavity

6. Which word in the following sentence means “discourage?”

These landlords often work tirelessly to care for their colonies and take measures to remove invasive pests such as house sparrows and starlings; and use pole guards and decoys to deter native predators such as snakes, hawks, and owls from raiding their colonies.

- A. tirelessly
- B. deter
- C. raiding
- D. invasive

7. In September, martins are likely...

- A. arriving at their nesting grounds.
- B. in South America.
- C. migrating south.
- D. feeding baby martins.

MARYLAND COLONY Reading Comprehension

Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord of Baltimore, founded Maryland in 1632. Cecil's father, George Calvert, had received a royal charter for the land from King Charles I. The new colony was named after Henrietta Maria, the wife of the king. In November of 1633, about 200 Catholic settlers led by Cecil's younger brother boarded the ships Ark and Dove and set sail for Marie's Land (later Maryland).

By 1634, Maryland became one of the few territories of England to be predominately Catholic. The Catholic settlement became known as St. Mary's and is currently the fourth-oldest permanent British settlement in America.

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act was passed, which guaranteed religious tolerance to settlers as long as the religion was a sect of Christianity. After England's "Glorious Revolution" of 1688, which established the Protestant faith in England, Catholicism was outlawed in Maryland until after the Revolutionary War. The Puritan government of Maryland at the time burned down all of southern Maryland's original Catholic churches.

By the 1700s, Maryland and Virginia became plantation economies and grew tobacco as the cash crop. Up to 40 percent of Maryland's population were slaves or convicts who worked in the tobacco fields. Soon, Baltimore, a large port on the Chesapeake Bay, became an important center for tobacco export.

1.) Who was the colony of Maryland named after?

- a.) The wife of the king
- b.) Cecil Calvert
- c.) Mary Calvert
- d.) George Calvert

2.) Who were the first settlers of Maryland?

- a.) Catholics
- b.) People from different religions
- c.) Quakers
- d.) Puritans

3.) Who received the royal charter for Maryland?

- a.) Puritans
- b.) Mary Calvert
- c.) Cecil Calvert
- d.) George Calvert

4.) What made Maryland unique among colonies?

- a.) It was given a royal charter before it was settled.
- b.) Most of its settlers were Catholic.
- c.) 200 settlers were sent to make a colony there.
- d.) It was founded in 1632.

5.) What question is not answered in the first paragraph?

- a.) What were the names of the ships that brought settlers to Maryland?
- b.) What was the name of the first settlement in Maryland?
- c.) How many settlers arrived in Maryland?
- d.) All of the above questions are answered.

6.) What did the Maryland Toleration Act guarantee?

- a.) freedom of religion
- b.) freedom of expression
- c.) freedom of religion for Christians
- d.) land for Catholics

7.) St. Mary's is the _____ settlement in America.

- a.) oldest settlement
- b.) fourth-oldest permanent British settlement
- c.) fourth-oldest permanent settlement
- d.) fourth-oldest settlement

8.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- a.) Maryland eventually became part of Virginia.
- b.) The Catholics would always control Maryland.
- c.) Eventually, the Puritans came to control Maryland.
- d.) Slavery would be outlawed in Maryland.

9.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) If you were to visit parts of Maryland today, you could visit some of the nation's original Catholic churches.
- b.) Baltimore would become an important port for tobacco shipping.
- c.) Tobacco was grown as a cash crop in Maryland.
- d.) All of the above are true.

10.) What does the word "convicts" mean in the following sentence:

Up to 40 percent of Maryland's population were slaves or **convicts** who worked in the tobacco fields.

- a.) farmers
- b.) servants
- c.) miners
- d.) criminals

MAYA LIN Reading Comprehension

Maya Lin was born in Athens, Ohio, on October 5, 1959. In 1949, her parents fled communism in China and came to the United States. In 1958, they moved to Athens, home of Ohio University, where they were professors. Her mother wrote poetry and taught literature; her father was a ceramic artist and became dean of the College of Fine Arts.

As a child, Maya Lin liked to hike, read, watch birds, work in her father's ceramics studio, and build miniature towns. She loved to think and solve problems. In high school, she was an excellent math student who took college-level courses and worked at McDonald's. She thought she was kind of nerdy because she never dated or wore makeup.

Maya went to Yale University to study architecture. While she was 21 and still a student, she entered a blind contest to submit a design for the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. According to contest rules, the memorial had to fit in with the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, include the names of all the dead and missing from the war, and refrain from making political statements. Maya's simple but elegant design featured a pair of two-hundred-foot-long polished black granite walls. The monument was V-shaped, with one side pointing to the Lincoln Memorial and the other to the Washington Monument. The wall had the carved names of 58,195 men and women who were killed or missing in the war listed according to the dates they were reported killed or missing, instead of in alphabetical order. Her design was chosen over 1,441 others. Maya believed her design would not have been chosen if the judges had known she was Chinese-American. Some people harassed her after her family background and age became known.

Today, Maya Lin continues to work on sculpture and architecture. Some of her other projects include the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; Wave Field at the University of Michigan; and the Confluence Project along the Columbia and Snake Rivers in Washington and Oregon. She has also written several books and is interested in sustainable energy use. In 2009, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.

- 1.) **Which question is answered in the second paragraph?**
 - a.) Why did Maya decide to enter the contest to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
 - b.) What did Maya major in in college?
 - c.) Why did Maya believe she was nerdy?
 - d.) What math courses did Maya take in high school?

- 2.) **Which of the following is NOT true about Maya Lin?**
 - a.) She liked to watch birds.
 - b.) She wanted to be a ceramics artist.
 - c.) She was good at math.
 - d.) Her parents were professors.

- 3.) **Maya Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was...**
 - a.) very complicated
 - b.) simple
 - c.) controversial
 - d.) elaborate

- 4.) **Which of the following best describes Maya Lin in high school?**
 - a.) average
 - b.) bored
 - c.) hardworking
 - d.) glamorous

- 5.) **Maya went to Yale University to study...**
 - a.) problem-solving
 - b.) math
 - c.) fine arts
 - d.) architecture

- 6.) **Based on your understanding of the passage, what is a "blind" contest?**
 - a.) One in which the judges decide exactly what the design of the memorial must look like.
 - b.) One in which only blind people can enter.
 - c.) One in which the personal identity of a design's author is not known to the judges.
 - d.) One in which only architects invited to submit their design can enter.

- 7.) **Maya Lin was born in...**
 - a.) China
 - b.) Washington DC
 - c.) The passage doesn't say.
 - d.) Ohio

8.) Maya Lin believed...

- a.) her design was definitely the best.
- b.) that her design may not have been chosen if the judges knew her background.
- c.) that the names of the dead or missing should be listed alphabetically.
- d.) that both sides of the monument should be pointed toward the Lincoln Memorial.

9.) Which of the following is not answered in the third paragraph?

- a.) How are the names of the missing or dead arranged on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?
- b.) What was Maya's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial contest?
- c.) Who were the judges who chose Maya Lin's design over 1,441 other designs?
- d.) How many names are carved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

10.) If the entire passage only included the final paragraph, what would be an appropriate title?

- a.) How Maya Lin Became Famous
- b.) Chinese-Americans in Architecture
- c.) Construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- d.) Maya Lin: Projects After the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Mexico

The country of Mexico is the third largest nation in terms of land area, and second largest nation in terms of population in North America. As of 2006, Mexico's population was well over 100,000,000 people. Mexico is located south of the United States and north of the nations of Belize and Guatemala. The Rio Bravo (called Rio Grande in America) forms much of the border between the United States and Mexico. Spanish is the official language of Mexico. Did you know that many of our words such as tornado, tomato, taco, armadillo, and banana come from the Spanish language? In fact, much of our land came from Mexico too. The states of Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, California, and Arizona were all part of Mexico before the Mexican War.

Mexico is a land full of contrasts. Northern parts of Mexico are dominated by the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts. The Sonoran Desert is the world's most biologically diverse desert and contains the world's entire supply of Saguaro Cacti. The central portion of Mexico is dominated by the mountainous Mexican Plateau. The southern parts are characterized by rainforests. Mexico's rainforests are high in biodiversity and feature animals such as jaguars, cougars, and exotic parrots. Mexico features high mountain ridges on its Pacific Coast and on its eastern sides. Its highest point is known as Pico de Orizaba, located near the city of Puebla. Pico de Orizaba rises 18,701 feet above sea level. It is the third highest mountain in North America, as well as the continent's highest volcano. Pico de Orizaba is classified as a dormant volcano, as it last erupted in 1846.

Mexico is well known as a popular tourist destination. People from all over the world come to bask on its beautiful beaches in Cancun and Acapulco. In addition, Mexico has dozens of important archaeological sites that preserve ancient Mayan ruins. The most famous site is Chichen Itza, a major Mayan City that lasted over 600 years on the Yucatan Peninsula.

As you can tell, there is a lot to do in Mexico and a lot of really neat things to see. For more information, stop by your local library and check out a book on Mexico, or, visit one of hundreds of websites dedicated to illustrating all that is wonderful about Mexico.

1.) Where does Mexico rank among North American nations in terms of size?

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 4th

2.) Which of the following words is probably NOT derived from the Spanish language?

- A. tomato
- B. ketchup
- C. banana
- D. armadillo

3.) Circle all of the following states that used to be part of Mexico.

- A. Colorado
- B. Wisconsin
- C. Arizona
- D. Illinois

4.) Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. The Sonoran Desert is located in northern Mexico.
- B. The Chihuahuan Desert contains all of the world's Saguaro Cacti
- C. There are rainforests in southern Mexico.
- D. Central Mexico is dominated by the Mexican Plateau.

5.) Which of the following forms the border between Mexico and the United States?

- A. Rio Grande
- B. Rio Bravo
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the Above

6.) Which of the following IS NOT true about Pico de Orizaba?

- A. It is the highest mountain in Mexico
- B. It is the highest volcano in North America
- C. It is the third highest mountain in North America
- D. It is the third highest volcano in North America

7.) Where is Chichen Itza?

- A. Guatemala
- B. northern Mexico
- C. Yucatan Peninsula
- D. Near Puebla

8.) Which of the following would be most unlikely?

- A. Finding a jaguar in a Mexican rainforest.
- B. Finding groves of Saguaro cacti in the Sonoran Desert.
- C. Watching a volcanic eruption from Pico de Orizaba.
- D. Watching people sunbathing in Acapulco.

9.) Which nation DOES not border Mexico?

- A. United States
- B. Canada
- C. Guatemala
- D. Belize

10.) What would be a good title for this passage?

- A. The story of Pico de Orizaba
- B. The Mexican people
- C. Mayan Ruins
- D. An Introduction to Mexico

Following the winter and spring at their encampment at Valley Forge, the Continental Army was trained and refreshed. Commander-in-Chief of Continental forces, George Washington, had learned that British forces had planned to evacuate Philadelphia and return to New York in fear of a naval blockade. The 100-mile march from Philadelphia to New York would occur largely through the state of New Jersey. Washington saw the evacuation as a perfect opportunity to strike at the British to prevent them from reaching New York.

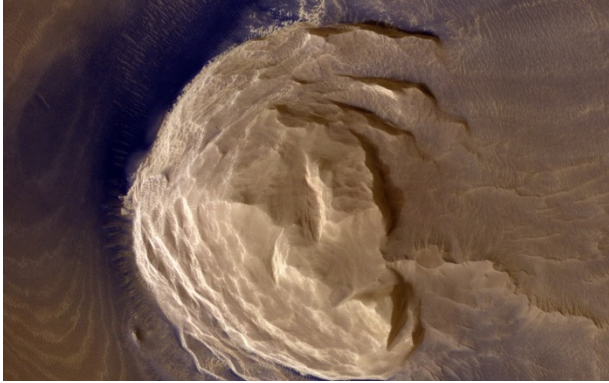
On the blistering afternoon of June 28, 1778, Washington ordered a detachment of 5,000 men to strike at the British rear guard as they departed Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey, on their way to New York. The strike was initiated to delay the British until the main American force could engage them. Patriot General Charles Lee was in charge of the initial attack, which failed miserably and resulted in a disorganized retreat. An enraged General Washington reportedly reprimanded Lee before taking command of the retreating soldiers. Placing himself in the line of fire among the retreating Continentals, Washington rallied the soldiers who regrouped and held the British in check until the main American force could arrive. The battle raged throughout the entire day with neither side gaining a decisive advantage. Only the arrival of dusk silenced the muskets and cannon. Although Washington wanted to resume the battle in the darkness, British forces had withdrawn from the area to continue their march to New York City. Patriot forces suffered approximately 500 casualties in the battle while British forces suffered as many as 1,000. Dozens, if not, hundreds of soldiers died of heat stroke rather than from combat. The battle is historically seen as a tactical draw, although the Patriots did not stop the British march to New York. The Patriots, did however, prove they could successfully battle the British in open combat.

Monmouth was the last major battle waged in the Northern Theater. British forces would soon turn their attention to the Loyalist-friendly southern colonies.

1. Why were British forces marching to New York?

- A. To escape the Continental Army
- B. To attack and capture New York
- C. To sail back to England
- D. They feared a naval blockade in Philadelphia

- 2. Why did Washington make the decision to strike at the rear guard of the British army?**
- A. He wanted to surprise them
 - B. He thought he could attack the British where they were weakest
 - C. He put Charles Lee in charge of initiating the attack
 - D. He wanted to delay the British so that the main part of his army could attack them
- 3. Which of the following is not true about Washington's initial attack?**
- A. It involved a detachment of 5,000 soldiers
 - B. It would occur in New York
 - C. It would be led by Charles Lee
 - D. The attack failed miserably and resulted in retreat
- 4. As the day moved on, which of the following best describes the scene?**
- A. The Americans gained the advantage
 - B. The British gained the advantage
 - C. Neither side gained an advantage
 - D. The British began to retreat
- 5. What was Washington's main objective at Monmouth Courthouse?**
- A. To prevent the British from marching to New York
 - B. To prove his army could succeed in a fight against the British
 - C. To save his soldiers from heat stroke
 - D. To withdraw from the battlefield and continue the fight for a second day
- 6. What is not true about Monmouth Courthouse?**
- A. It was last major battle to occur in the north during the Revolutionary War
 - B. During the battle, George Washington placed himself in the line of fire to rally the retreating Continentals
 - C. The battle raged on through the night and only the coming of the morning silenced the guns and cannons
 - D. The battle is historically seen as a draw
- 7. Why did the British change strategies after Monmouth Courthouse?**
- A. They thought they would have better luck in New York
 - B. They thought they would have better luck in the southern colonies
 - C. They thought they had already defeated the Patriots in the Northern Theater
 - D. They wanted to get away from George Washington and the newly trained Continental Army



Olympus Mons



Mt. Everest

Olympus Mons

Olympus Mons is a huge volcano on the surface of Mars. It is thought to be at least 13.6 miles high or 72,000 feet. It is the tallest planetary mountain in the solar system. Olympus Mons is a shield volcano. This means it was formed from liquid lava flows and resembles a warrior's shield lying on the ground. The massive volcano is said to be similar to the Hawaiian volcanoes Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. Because of the shape and slope of Olympus Mons, a hypothetical visitor to Mars would be unable to see the entire profile, even from a great distance. Similarly, because the slope of the great volcano is so wide, an observer near the summit of the volcano would not realize he or she is at the top of a high mountain.

Mt. Everest

Mt. Everest is the highest mountain on the surface of the Earth. It is located on the border between the Asian nations of Nepal and China in the Himalayas Range. The peak of Mt. Everest rises to an elevation of 29,029 feet. Mt. Everest attracts experienced mountain climbers who face altitude sickness, blinding snowstorms, freezing cold temperatures, and avalanches as obstacles.

1. What do Mt. Everest and Olympus Mons have in common?

- A. They are both popular with climbers
- B. They are both volcanoes
- C. They are both the tallest mountains on their respective planets
- D. They are both over 70,000 feet high

2. Which of the following is likely true?

- A. Mt. Everest is a shield volcano
- B. Hawaiian volcanoes are likely shield volcanoes
- C. The Earth does not have shield volcanoes
- D. Olympus Mons is similar to Mt. Everest

3. Which of the following is an accurate comparison of the heights of Olympus Mons versus Mt. Everest?

- A. Olympus Mons is significantly taller than Mt. Everest
- B. Mt. Everest is significantly taller than Olympus Mons
- C. Olympus Mons is slightly taller than Mt. Everest
- D. Mt. Everest is significantly taller than Olympus Mons

4. From the surface of Mars...

- A. the peak of Olympus Mons would be visible through the clouds.
- B. the peak of Olympus Mons would sometimes be visible.
- C. the peak of Olympus Mons would not be visible.
- D. the peak of Olympus Mons would appear far away.

5. Which of the following analogies is correct?

Mt. Everest : Olympus Mons :: _____ : _____

- A. Cat; Dog
- B. Cat; Giraffe
- C. Horse; Pony
- D. Cat; Tiger

MOUNT VESUVIUS Reading Comprehension

Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano located just east of Naples, Italy. It is the only volcano on the continent of Europe to have erupted in the last 100 years, though other volcanoes have erupted on islands in the Mediterranean Sea. In 1631, approximately 3,000 people were killed by an eruption from Mount Vesuvius. Since 1631, the 4,200-foot-high volcano has erupted at least 21 times. Mount Vesuvius is considered particularly dangerous because today, nearly 3 million people live in the direct path of a potential future eruption.

Mount Vesuvius is most famous for its landmark eruption in the year 79 AD, which buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in layers of burning ash. The only account of the eruption that survives is from Pliny the Younger. From his dramatic account, scientists believe the cloud of ash he witnessed that descended upon Pompeii was 20 miles high. The city of Pompeii was completely buried. It was rediscovered in 1748, more than 1,600 years after the eruption. The people of Pompeii were found buried under 12 layers of soil. Many of the buildings were amazingly well preserved, as were the bodies of those who were just going about their daily routines when the eruption occurred. The ruins at Pompeii have provided archaeologists with valuable information about how people in the Roman Empire lived. Today, Pompeii is one of the most visited sites in Italy.

1.) Which of the following best SPECIFIES the location of Mount Vesuvius?

- a.) Italy
- b.) Just east of Naples, Italy
- c.) Southern Italy
- d.) Europe

2.) Why is Mount Vesuvius considered very dangerous?

- a.) Because many people live in the path of a possible eruption
- b.) It is a very high volcano.
- c.) Because it has erupted before
- d.) Because it buried Pompeii in the year 79 AD

3.) How many volcanoes have erupted in mainland Europe in the past 100 years?

- a.) More volcanoes have erupted in mainland Europe than on islands in the Mediterranean Sea.
- b.) 0
- c.) It's impossible to say.
- d.) 1

4.) What does the word "descended" mean in the following sentence:

From his dramatic account, scientists believe the cloud of ash he witnessed that descended upon Pompeii was 20 miles high.

- a.) cover
- b.) destroy
- c.) hang on
- d.) fall down on

5.) Why do you think Pompeii is one of the most visited sites in Italy?

- a.) Because people can see the well-preserved bodies of people who were caught in the eruption
- b.) Because people can see the well-preserved ruins of ancient buildings
- c.) Because people can see Mt. Vesuvius
- d.) All of the above

6.) What word probably would not describe the eruption of Mount Vesuvius?

- a.) contagious
- b.) destructive
- c.) violent
- d.) devastating

7.) What happened second?

- a.) The eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.
- b.) 1631
- c.) The account of the eruption was recorded by Pliny the Younger.
- d.) Pompeii was rediscovered.

8.) Scientists believe the cloud of ash Pliny the Younger witnessed descend upon _____ was _____ miles high.

- a.) Pompeii; 12
- b.) Herculaneum; 20
- c.) Pompeii; 20
- d.) Herculaneum; 12

9.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) The ruins at Pompeii have provided archaeologists with valuable information about how people in the Greek Empire lived.
- b.) Pompeii remained buried under the soil for over 1,600 years.
- c.) Three million people live in the path of a possible Mount Vesuvius eruption.
- d.) Mount Vesuvius has erupted 21 times since 1631.

10.) Which of the following would best represent an appropriate title for this passage?

- a.) The Eruptions of Mount Vesuvius
- b.) The History of Herculaneum
- c.) Pompeii's Role in the Roman Empire
- d.) Volcanoes of the World

Malware

Malware refers to a group of computer programs designed to work against the requirements of a user's computer for the purposes of causing harm. Those who spread malware are called "hackers." There are several different classes of malware. Malware is a significant problem throughout the world resulting in billions of dollars in damages to individuals and businesses every year. Below is a summary of some of the most common forms of malware.

Viruses – These are computer programs that replicate and modify other programs by inserting code. Viruses typically target individual computers.

Worm – A worm is a malicious program that replicates itself in order to spread to other computers, often in a single network. Worms target groups of connected computers on a network.

Trojan Horse – A Trojan horse is a malicious program designed to trick a user about its true intent. Trojan horses typically show up in e-mail attachments or drive-by downloads. They often create "backdoors" which allows the creator unauthorized access to a user's computer.

Ransomware – Ransomware is a malicious program that encrypts the files on a user's computer so they are unreadable. These files can only be retrieved if the user agrees to pay a ransom (usually in Bitcoin) within a specified amount of time to obtain a decryption key. Decryption without the key is impossible.

Spyware – Spyware is a type of malicious program covertly installed on a user's computer to collect important information such as credit card numbers or passwords.

Scareware – Scareware is a type of malicious program designed to scare people into buying unwanted programs such as anti-virus software. Scareware typically comes in the form of warnings or alerts that the user's computer is infected with a virus and the purchase of software is the only way to save the computer.

- 1. Which of the following malware programs is designed to spread from computer to computer on the same network?**
 - A. Trojan horse
 - B. Worm
 - C. Spyware
 - D. Virus

- 2. What is a “backdoor?”**
 - A. A program that shows the user false alerts
 - B. A program that demands payment
 - C. A method for a hacker to retain access to a user’s computer
 - D. A program that replicates itself and causes harm to a computer

- 3. What does a decryption key do?**
 - A. Allows a user to read his or her files again
 - B. Makes files unreadable
 - C. Allows a user to find the identity of a hacker
 - D. Collects information about users that can be seen by hackers

- 4. I got a message on my computer that reads “Your computer is infected! Purchase Tom’s Anti-Virus right now for \$69.99 to clean your computer.” I probably have:**
 - A. A backdoor
 - B. A worm
 - C. Scareware
 - D. Ransomware

- 5. I got an e-mail with the message “Download attachment to redeem \$5,000!” If I click, I would likely install a _____ on my computer.**
 - A. Trojan Horse
 - B. A worm
 - C. Scareware
 - D. Spyware

- 6. What is not true about ransomware?**
 - A. Files can sometimes be decrypted without a key
 - B. Hackers usually demand bitcoin payments
 - C. Users typically must pay within a certain time frame
 - D. Ransomware makes files unreadable

7. Juan found some suspicious charges on his credit card. Which of the following malware programs could be the culprit?

- A. Worm
- B. Trojan Horse
- C. Scareware
- D. Spyware

NEW JERSEY COLONY Reading Comprehension

New Jersey's early colonial history is similar to New York's. Like New York, the area was first colonized by Dutch settlers around 1613. The colony was called New Netherland and included parts of modern-day New York and New Jersey. In 1660, the town of Bergen became the first established town in the New Jersey portion of New Netherland. Today, it is a large city named Jersey City.

By 1664, the British had claimed the entire region and had driven the Dutch out. New Netherland was renamed New Jersey and New Amsterdam was renamed New York. Although King Charles originally gave the region to his brother, the Duke of York, eventually, he decided to divide the region and gave the land between the Hudson and Delaware River (New Jersey) to two of his friends, Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley of Stratton.

Carteret and Berkeley began attracting people to the area by offering land and guaranteeing religious freedom. In return for the land, the settlers were supposed to pay a yearly tax called a quitrent. The quitrents proved hard to collect, which prompted the sale of the land to the Quakers in 1673. Upon the sale, New Jersey was divided into West Jersey and East Jersey. However, by 1702, the two divisions were united as the royal colony of New Jersey.

1.) How was the founding of the colony of New Jersey similar to the founding of New York?

- a.) They were both originally Dutch.
- b.) They were both founded by the Puritans.
- c.) They were both founded within five years of each other.
- d.) They were both originally English.

2.) _____ is the modern name of the first established town in New Jersey.

- a.) New York
- b.) New Netherland
- c.) Jersey City
- d.) Bergen

3.) After the British took over the region...

- a.) New Netherland was renamed New York, and New Amsterdam was renamed New Jersey.
- b.) Both New Netherland and New Amsterdam were renamed New York.
- c.) New Netherland was renamed New Jersey, and New Amsterdam was renamed New York.
- d.) The Dutch remained in control of New Netherland.

4.) New Jersey was considered the land in between...

- a.) New Amsterdam and New Netherland.
- b.) The Delaware River and the Hudson River.
- c.) The Hudson River and the Jersey River.
- d.) The Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean.

5.) Who did the king give TEMPORARY possession of the land to that would become New York and New Jersey?

- a.) King Charles
- b.) Lord Berkeley
- c.) The Duke of York
- d.) George Cateret

6.) What question is answered in the second paragraph?

- a.) Why did King Charles decide to divide the region?
- b.) What country eliminated the Dutch from New Netherland and New Amsterdam?
- c.) How much profit did Lord Stratton make?
- d.) How did the Duke of York feel about King Charles's decision?

7.) Which of the following WAS NOT true of the New Jersey colony?

- a.) New Jersey eventually became a royal colony.
- b.) It offered religious freedom.
- c.) New Jersey was eventually sold to the Quakers.
- d.) Settlers were not required to pay taxes.

8.) What was a quitrent?

- A. A tax
- B. A parcel of land
- C. A weapon
- D. A contract

9.) Why was New Jersey sold to the Quakers?

- A. New Jersey had become unmanageable.
- B. England was waging a war.
- C. Taxes were hard to collect.
- D. The Quakers offered a high price.

10.) East and West New Jersey...

- A. would eventually be united.
- B. would be dissolved.
- C. would never be united.
- D. would become different states.

Truth or Consequences

Cities in the United States are named after many things. Some are named after people, others are named for ancient places, and still others are named for land features, Native American terms, or even animals. Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, however, is a different story. Known throughout New Mexico as "T or C," the town of Truth or Consequences got its name from the popular 1950's radio show. In the show Truth or Consequences, contestants would have two seconds to answer a difficult trivia question before having to perform an embarrassing stunt. In 1950, the host of the show, Ralph Edwards, announced that he would broadcast the program from a town that agreed to rename itself after the show. The town, originally called Hot Springs, for its naturally hot mineral baths, saw an opportunity to market itself to the entire nation. The residents overwhelmingly voted to change the town's name to Truth or Consequences. Truth or Consequences suddenly received attention from across the nation, but since it was announced on April 1, many assumed it was an April fools joke!

It was no joke, however. According to Ralph Edwards, the town was chosen because it "demonstrated a real friendliness for people and a desire to help mankind." Until his death in 2005, Edwards returned to the town every year in honor of its name change during a city-wide celebration known as "Fiesta." "Fiesta," usually held during the first week of May, celebrates the life of Ralph Edwards and features a parade, a beauty contest and a stage show.

- 1. How did Truth or Consequences get its name?**
 - A. The town of Hot Springs named itself after a radio show.
 - B. It was named after the mineral baths in the area
 - C. It was named after a parade
 - D. It was named after Ralph Edwards
- 2. How did the people of Hot Springs feel about their city's named change?**
 - A. Most of them seemed to disagree with it
 - B. The townspeople seemed to support it strongly
 - C. Some agreed with it, but some disagreed
 - D. The passage does not say
- 3. Why did Hot Springs change its name to Truth or Consequences?**
 - A. To make sure that people came to "Fiesta."
 - B. To make sure Ralph Edwards would visit the town

- C. It was opportunity to get people to visit from around the country
- D. Because there was not a radio show called Hot Springs

4. Which is not true about Truth or Consequences?

- A. It is known as T or C throughout New Mexico
- B. Its city-wide parade, known as “Fiesta” occurs at the end of May each year
- C. “Fiesta” includes a beauty contest
- D. Ralph Edwards visited the town every year while he was alive

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

- A. Who was Ralph Edwards?
- B. What was Truth or Consequences?
- C. When was Hot Springs founded?
- D. Why did the show Truth or Consequences choose Hot Springs?

6. The story of how Truth or Consequences got its name is

_____.

- A. typical
- B. boring
- C. unusual
- D. normal

7. What is the main difference between the first and second paragraphs?

- A. The first paragraph tells how Hot Springs was founded and the second paragraph tells about Truth or Consequences today.
- B. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph tells about a notable event in Truth or Consequences.
- C. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph elaborates on how it got its name.
- D. The first paragraph tells about how Truth or Consequences got its name and the second paragraph provides a short biography on Ralph Edwards.

NEW YORK COLONY Reading Comprehension

The area that first became New Amsterdam, and eventually New York City, was first referred to as “Man-A-Hat-Ta” by the local Indians. The name meant "heavenly land." It was first visited by the French explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano in 1524. Verrazzano explored much of America's northeast coast, including the waters around New York City and Long Island. Today, one of the world's longest bridges, the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge, in New York City, is named for him.

The first people to settle the area were the Dutch. Henry Hudson explored the region and named the world's largest tidal river, the Hudson River, after himself. Hudson's explorations, from Albany to New York City, provided the impetus for the Dutch to colonize the region. The Dutch quickly built a settlement and a network of roads. Some of the roads, such as Broadway and Pearl Street, are still in use today.

Peter Minuet arrived the following year and bought Man-A-Hat-Ta from the local Indians for about 24 dollars' worth of beads and trinkets. Man-A-Hat-Ta itself was not inhabited by Indians. Nevertheless, Man-A-Hat-Ta became known as New Amsterdam and Minuet became its first governor. New Amsterdam's geographic location made it a popular destination for many. It welcomed settlers from all cultures and religions. The first Jewish synagogue in the New World was built at New Amsterdam in 1640. Dutch colonists soon spread out to areas surrounding New Amsterdam such as Long Island and parts of current upstate New York. Rapid growth and burgeoning populations resulted in widespread chaos throughout New Amsterdam. In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant was elected governor. Stuyvesant ruled the city in a stern manner for seventeen years, which quelled the chaos and brought much success.

Soon, English Puritans emigrated from New England to New Amsterdam. The industrious Puritans quickly gained political and economic power and imposed strict rules upon the population, including fines for singing and public whippings for more serious "offenses." After a series of natural disasters and phenomena struck such as a meteor, an earthquake, and unusually warm weather through the winter of 1663, the Dutch handed New Amsterdam over to the British when Charles II declared that all lands between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers belonged to his brother James, the Duke of York. The Dutch, totally unprepared for war, immediately surrendered (by signing the Anglo-Dutch Treaty) when the English fleet entered the harbor to take the city. New Amsterdam, henceforth, became New York.

1.) **New Amsterdam was first...**

- a.) English
- b.) Man-A-Hat-Ta
- c.) French
- d.) Dutch

2.) **The Verrazzano Narrows Bridge is named after a(n) _____ explorer.**

- a.) Dutch
- b.) Indian
- c.) French
- d.) English

3.) **Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the Dutch?**

- a.) Henry Hudson led Dutch explorations of the regions.
- b.) They were the first Europeans to settle the area.
- c.) The Dutch refused to allow settlers from other countries and religions to settle in New Amsterdam.
- d.) They named streets still in existence today such as Pearl Street and Broadway.

4.) **Who was New York's first governor?**

- a.) Peter Stuyvesant
- b.) Giovanni da Verrazzano
- c.) Peter Minuet
- d.) Henry Hudson

5.) **What was New Amsterdam like in 1647?**

- a.) peaceful
- b.) deserted
- c.) cooperative
- d.) chaotic

6.) **How was Peter Stuyvesant's method of governing the city different from Peter Minuet's?**

- a.) He was less strict.
- b.) He was nicer.
- c.) It wasn't different.
- d.) He was more strict.

7.) **Stuyvesant's _____ manner of governing New Amsterdam resulted in the _____ of the colony.**

- a.) strict; success
- b.) strict; failure
- c.) relaxed; failure
- d.) relaxed; success

8.) **What does the word "industrious" mean in the following phrase?**

The **industrious** Puritans quickly gained political and economic power...

- a.) poor
- b.) hardworking
- c.) powerful
- d.) wealthy

9.) **What happened last?**

- a.) The Dutch surrendered.
- b.) The Puritans took control of New Amsterdam.
- c.) An earthquake
- d.) New Amsterdam was renamed New York.

10.) **Which of the following would likely be a serious "offense" punishable by fines or public whipping under Puritan rule?**

- a.) Trading with the English
- b.) Cutting down trees
- c.) Growing different crops
- d.) Forming a chorus

NORTH CAROLINA COLONY Reading Comprehension

North Carolina was first settled in 1587. 121 settlers led by John White landed on present-day Roanoke Island on July 22, 1587. It was the first English settlement in the New World. On August 18, 1587, White's daughter gave birth to Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the New World. By 1590, however, all of the colonists on the island had disappeared. To this day, no one knows what happened to them, though some believe they integrated with and were absorbed by one of the local tribes. Today, the colony is referred to as the "Lost Colony."

The first permanent English settlement in North Carolina occurred in 1655 when Nathaniel Batts, a Virginia farmer, migrated to an area just south of Virginia with the hopes of finding suitable farmland.

In 1663, King Charles II awarded eight noblemen, called the Lords Proprietors, the Province of Carolina (named after the king) in appreciation of their efforts in helping him regain the throne of England. At the time, the Province of Carolina included both present-day North and South Carolina.

In 1665, Sir John Yeamans established a second permanent colony in North Carolina on the Cape Fear River near present-day Wilmington. In 1670, a settlement near present-day Charleston, South Carolina (Charles Town), was established. This settlement grew quickly because it had a natural harbor that allowed easy access to trade with the West Indies. Charles Town soon became the principal seat of government for the entire region. Because of the distance between Charles Town and points in the northern part of the colony, the terms "North Carolina" and "South Carolina" came into use.

In 1729, the Lords Proprietors sold their interests in the Carolina colony back to the English Crown, and North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies.

- 1.) **The colony at Roanoke Island was...**
- a.) the first English settlement in the New World.
 - b.) washed away by a hurricane.
 - c.) the last English settlement in the New World.
 - d.) permanent.

- 2.) **What definitely happened at Roanoke Island?**
- a.) The first English child in the New World was born.
 - b.) They were killed by a hurricane.
 - c.) Everyone had disappeared by 1587.
 - d.) The settlers integrated with a local tribe.

- 3.) **Why did King Charles II award the Lords Proprietors the Province of Carolina?**
- a.) He was grateful to them.
 - b.) He was afraid of them.
 - c.) He wanted to take over the New World.
 - d.) He was interested in making a lot of money.

- 4.) **Who was the first person to establish a permanent settlement in North Carolina?**
- a.) John White
 - b.) Nathaniel Batts
 - c.) The Lords Proprietors
 - d.) John Yeamans

- 5.) **What question is answered in the second paragraph?**
- a.) Who was John White?
 - b.) How successful was Nathaniel Batts?
 - c.) Why did Nathaniel Batts migrate to North Carolina?
 - d.) Why was Nathaniel Batts a farmer?

- 6.) **Where was North Carolina's second permanent settlement?**
- a.) the Lost Colony
 - b.) Charles Town
 - c.) Roanoke Island
 - d.) on the Cape Fear River

- 7.) **Why did Charles Town grow quickly?**
- a.) Its harbor was close to the West Indies.
 - b.) Its harbor was close to inland river ports.
 - c.) People were given large land grants.
 - d.) It was warm and sunny.

- 8.) **What does the word "principal" mean in the following sentence?**

Charles Town soon became the principal seat of government for the entire region.

- a.) main
- b.) strong
- c.) large
- d.) federal

- 9.) **Which of the following do you KNOW about Sir John Yeamans from the passage?**

- a.) The location of his birth
- b.) The location of his residence before founding the settlement
- c.) The date in which he left the settlement he founded
- d.) The location of the settlement he founded

- 10.) **The EFFECT of the establishment of Charles Town was...**

- a.) the terms "North Carolina" and "South Carolina" came into use
- b.) it had a great natural harbor.
- c.) the Lords Proprietors sold Carolina back to the king.
- d.) it was close to the West Indies.

The Green Bay Packers is a professional football team in the National Football League (NFL). It is in the National Football Conference (NFC) north division with the Detroit Lions, Minnesota Vikings, and Chicago Bears. The Packers play their games at Lambeau Field, which opened in 1957 and is the oldest continuously operating football stadium in the NFL.

The Packers were founded in 1919 by Curly Lambeau and George Whitney Calhoun. Lambeau obtained the money to pay for uniforms from his employer, the Indian Packing Company – a meat packing company with facilities in several locations, including Green Bay, Wisconsin. The company agreed to pay for the uniforms if Lambeau named the team the “Packers.” At first, the Packers functioned more like a club team and played other teams in Wisconsin and Michigan. In 1921, the Packers joined the newly formed American Professional Football Association. The franchise was revoked, however, when it was discovered that the Packers used college players in a game, which was illegal. The transgression was reported by Chicago Staleys head coach George Halas, giving birth to the timeless rivalry between the Packers and what would soon become the Chicago Bears. The Packers were soon reinstated with new investors, who formed the Green Bay Football Corporation. The Green Bay Football Corporation, which still runs the team today, is the only publicly-owned, non-profit franchise in American professional sports. A non-profit corporation is a company that uses its profits to further its mission rather than paying shareholders. Currently, there are over 360,000 Packers shareholders. Furthermore, Green Bay, Wisconsin, is the smallest American city home to a professional franchise.

As of 2018, the Packers have won 13 league championships, including four super bowls. The Packers are frequently cited as one of America’s most popular sports franchises. It is the only franchise in the NFL with a yellow helmet.

1. What is NOT true about the Green Bay Packers?

- A. The team plays in the oldest continuously operating football stadium in the NFL
- B. The team is in the NFC North Division
- C. It joined the American Professional Football Association in 1919
- D. It once had its franchise revoked for cheating

- 2. What was the effect of George Halas reporting the Packers?**
- A. The Packers became one of the most successful sports franchises
 - B. The Packers were forced to move from Green Bay
 - C. A rivalry between the Packers and Bears was born
 - D. The Packers built Lambeau Field

- 3. Which best describes the structure of this passage?**
- A. Cause and effect
 - B. Main idea with details
 - C. Compare and contrast
 - D. Chronological

- 4. Which of the following would be an example of the operations of a non-profit corporation?**

- A. A company that pays its shareholders
- B. A company that invests its money in other companies
- C. A company that invests its money in its mission
- D. A company that seeks to purchase other companies

- 5. What is a “transgression” as used in the sentence below?**

The transgression was reported by Chicago Staleys head coach George Halas, giving birth to the timeless rivalry between the Packers and what would soon become the Chicago Bears.

- A. Disappointment
- B. An action against rules
- C. A crime
- D. An unfortunate event

- 6. The Green Bay Packers are a unique professional sports team for several reasons. In which of the following ways are the Packers not unique?**

- A. The Packers play in Green Bay, Wisconsin
- B. The Packers play in the NFC north division
- C. The Packers are a publicly owned sports franchise
- D. The Packers have yellow helmets

7. What is implied in the sentence below?

The Packers play their games at Lambeau Field, which opened in 1957 and is the oldest football stadium continuously operating football stadium in the NFL.

- A. The Packers have been playing since 1957
- B. The Packers have the oldest stadium in the NFL
- C. Lambeau Field was probably named after Curly Lambeau
- D. There may be older stadiums that are no longer operating

Pac-Man was a video game created in 1980 by Japanese game designer Toru Iwatani. In the game, the player weaves through a maze of dots while being chased by four ghosts: Blinky, Inky, Pinky, and Clyde. Each dot is worth ten points. On the four corners of the board, the player can eat a “power pellet” which temporarily makes the ghosts edible and a flashing blue color. Eating a single ghost results in 200 points, eating two ghosts results in 400 points, three ghosts nets 800 points, and the fourth ghost gives the player 1600 points. During each round, a different fruit floats through the screen resulting in additional points for the player if he or she can eat them. These fruits range from worth 100 points to up to 5,000 points depending on the round.

The player has three “lives.” Life is lost if the player is caught by a ghost. If a player earns 10,000 points, however, he or she earns a bonus life. The player moves on to the next round by eating all of the dots on the board. Each round is progressively harder as the ghosts move faster and more aggressively. There are said to be 256 total rounds, although few have ever gotten that far. The 256th round is said to be flawed and causes the game to badly malfunction.

Pac-Man was released to the public in 1980 and quickly became a worldwide sensation. It was a departure of the typical games of the time which mostly involved shooting things like aliens. It was one of the first video games that propelled significant sales of merchandise and toys and is credited with helping to usher in the Golden Age of Video Arcade Games. Not only did it become the subject of a popular cartoon, but its derivatives, such as Ms. Pac-Man, became immensely popular video games as well. It is estimated that Pac-Man itself is the second highest selling video game of all time, with over 2.5 billion dollars in sales (close to eight billion dollars in sales adjusted for inflation today).

1. How much are the fruits worth?

- A. 100 points
- B. 5,000 points
- C. It depends on the round the player is on
- D. 10,000 points

2. What does “progressively harder” mean as used in the following sentence?

Each round is progressively harder as the ghosts move faster and more aggressively.

- A. Each round is harder than the round after it
- B. Each round is very difficult
- C. The earlier rounds are very easy
- D. Each round is harder than the round before it

3. How many points would a player earn for eating “Blinky”?

- A. 400
- B. 800
- C. 1600
- D. It depends on when Binky is eaten compared to the other ghosts

4. Which is not answered?

- A. What kind of fruits can Pac-Man eat?
- B. Who created Pac-Man?
- C. How does a player move to the next round?
- D. How does a player earn a bonus life?

5. Pac-Man...

- A. was less popular than Ms. Pac-Man.
- B. was similar to the kinds of games that were popular before it was created.
- C. was so popular it helped usher in a new age of video games.
- D. was only popular in America.

6. What is suggested in the last sentence?

- A. That Pac-Man is more popular today than it was in 1980.
- B. That total sales of Pac-Man in the 1980s were worth less than they would be today.
- C. That Pac-Man was not really the second best selling video game of all time
- D. That Pac-Man is no longer making money today

7. Which of the following might a player say when reaching round 256?

- A. Look at all of these ghosts!
- B. I have won the game!
- C. I need to eat that floating fruit!
- D. This doesn't look right. What's wrong with this game?

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Name _____

Faced with a broad horizon and wide blue seas, Captain Charles Moore set off in 1997 to cross the Pacific Ocean from Hawaii to California. This trip was expected to be unremarkable for the experienced seaman, a man of fifty with a grizzled beard and piercing blue eyes. But as Moore sailed through this remote area of the South Pacific, something unusual caught his eye.

“As I gazed from the deck at the surface of what ought to have been a pristine ocean, I was confronted, as far as the eye could see, with the sight of plastic. [...] No matter what time of day I looked, plastic debris was floating everywhere: bottles, bottle caps, wrappers, fragments”.

Entirely on accident, Moore had run right into the undiscovered Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Just as a tornado sweeps trash and debris in a dizzying vortex, the ocean currents that meet in this spot of the Pacific swirl water and floating trash together in what is known as a gyre formation. The center of the gyre is full of calm, still ocean water that collects the trash that is spun into of the vortex.

In the swirling waters of the gyre, trash can sit for decades while it slowly gets broken down into smaller pieces by the sun and waves. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, by some estimates, is at least occupies an area of more than one and a half times the size of the United States. Most of the trash is made of plastic - it is sturdy, widely used, and light enough to float on water. Plastic is so durable that it never truly disappears. It simply breaks into smaller and smaller chunks. Instead of being a solid island of trash, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is actually made primarily of miniscule particles of plastic that sit on or just under the ocean surface.

It's the small size of the plastic that makes it so problematic. Sea birds such as gulls, terns, and albatrosses mistake the plastic for food and feed it to their chicks. From the waters underneath the Patch, fish, turtles, and other marine animals ingest plastic waste when they mistake it for small fish or plankton.

Since Moore's initial observations, solutions for the clean-up of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch have been at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation. Sometimes the best solutions can come from unexpected places. When he was just 17 years old, a Dutch teenager named Boyan Slat invented of a new method to clean up the plastic trash using a floating collection system. With a flurry of interest from across the world and funding for his cleanup project, Boyan gained the support he needed to put his plan into action. In the summer of 2018, Boyan launched the first test of his collection system in the waters of the Pacific. If the prototype is successful, a larger scale system will soon be launched. Even with the promising future of this collection system, the root cause of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is still unresolved. It is the responsibility of everyone- from individuals to governments to companies and industries- to reduce the amount of plastic destined for waste piles like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

1. Which of the options below is most likely to be the reason why no one had discovered the Great Pacific Garbage Patch before 1997?

- a.) Captain Moore was an experienced sailor and noticed things no one else could
- b.) The Great Pacific Garbage Patch was too small to be discovered
- c.) The Garbage Patch was located in a remote part of the Pacific Ocean
- d.) Fish and other marine animals were eating all of the plastic

2. Which “ingredient” is necessary to create a gyre?

- a.) currents
- b.) a tornado
- c.) trash
- d.) boats

3. Which of the following is not a reason why plastic is the most common material in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

- a.) Plastic is durable
- b.) Plastic can float
- c.) Plastic is commonly used
- d.) Plastic never loses its shape

4. The structure of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is most similar to:

- a.) A boat that floats on water
- b.) An island that rises up from the sea floor
- c.) A bowl of milk with floating pieces of cereal
- d.) A bowl of chocolate pudding

5. Which would be the best title for the final paragraph?

- a.) "Young Inventor Plans Patch Clean-Up"
- b.) "A Citizen's Responsibility"
- c.) "Floating Trash Poisons Sea Life"
- d.) "Cause of Garbage Patch Resolved"

6. Why did Boyan Slat first launch a prototype before attempting full-scale collection system?

- a.) To save money
- b.) To gain interest and funding from around the world
- c.) To test if the system would be successful
- d.) To acclimate marine animals to the device

7. According to the reading, why can't Boyan Slat's invention completely fix the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?

- a.) The device is incapable of cleaning up all of the trash in the Garbage Patch
- b.) Excessive waste continues to be produced
- c.) It is unclear whether or not the prototype will be successful
- d.) Boyan Slat needs more funding from individuals, companies, and governments to deploy his full-scale collection system

Rosa Louise McCauley was born February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. Her father was a carpenter, and her mother was a teacher. When she was two, her parents separated. Her family moved to her grandparents' farm in Pine Level, Alabama. Both her grandparents were former slaves. Pine Level supported the idea of separate but equal. White children rode a bus to their newly built school while African-American children had to walk to a one-room schoolhouse that didn't have enough desks or supplies. Rosa quit high school when she was a junior to help take care of her grandmother. Afterwards, she worked as a seamstress in a shirt factory in Montgomery. In 1932, Rosa married Raymond Parks. He was a barber who was actively involved in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

On December 1, 1955, a bus driver asked Rosa to give her seat on a bus to a white male passenger. She refused. She was arrested and fined \$10 plus court costs (\$4) for violating a city ordinance that said the bus driver could assign seats. The Montgomery Women's Political Council printed and circulated a flyer throughout Montgomery's black community which read as follows:

"Another woman has been arrested and thrown in jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus for a white person ... This has to be stopped. Negroes have rights too, for if Negroes did not ride the buses, they could not operate. Three-fourths of the riders are Negro ... We are ... asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial."

This non-violent protest was successful. Dr. Martin Luther King led the Montgomery Improvement Association. They advertised at black churches and asked people to continue the boycott. Ninety percent of Montgomery's black citizens, estimated to be around 42,000 protesters, walked, carpooled or took cabs. In the beginning, the boycotters were willing to accept a compromise that was consistent with separate but equal rather than asking for complete integration. They asked for courteous treatment by bus operators, first-come, first-served seating on buses, and employment of African American bus drivers. The boycott lasted 381 days. The bus company lost a lot of money. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the Montgomery segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses. The bus boycott demonstrated the power of nonviolent mass protest and brought Dr. Martin Luther King to national attention as one of the leaders of the cause. The civil rights movement led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – which made it illegal to refuse employment to an individual on the basis of race and made segregation at any public facility against the law.

Rosa wrote four books, *Rosa Parks: My Story*, *Quiet Strength*, *Dear Mrs. Parks: A Dialogue with Today's Youth* and *I Am Rosa Parks*. At the ceremony where President Bill Clinton presented Mrs. Parks with the Medal of Freedom, she was called "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement". Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century. She died October 24, 2005.

1. How did Rosa Parks experience segregation at an early age?

- A. She refused to give up her seat on the bus
- B. Both her grandparents were former slaves
- C. She went to a different school than White children
- D. She married a man associated with the NAACP

- 2. How did the Montgomery Women's Political Council react to Rosa's arrest?**
- A. It appealed to the President to take action
 - B. It urged African-Americans to leave Montgomery
 - C. It urged African-Americans to take over Montgomery's buses
 - D. It urged African-Americans to stay off Montgomery's buses as a means of protest
- 3. What was Dr. Martin Luther King's role in the Montgomery protests?**
- A. He rose to prominence as a result of the boycott
 - B. He led the peaceful protests and bus boycott in Montgomery
 - C. He decided how long the boycott would last
 - D. He helped Rosa Parks write her books
- 4. What was the impact of the Montgomery Bus Boycott?**
- A. The companies that operated Montgomery's buses lost a lot of money
 - B. African-American bus riders asked for the drivers to treat them courteously
 - C. Rosa Parks would eventually be called the "First Lady of Civil Rights."
 - D. The African-American bus riders eventually accepted a compromise
- 5. Which of the following is the correct chain of events that occurred?**
- A. Rosa Parks was arrested >> Montgomery buses were ordered to desegregate >> the bus boycott ended
 - B. Rosa Parks was arrested >> the bus boycott was started >> the Supreme Court ruled Montgomery's segregation laws were unconstitutional
 - C. Rosa Parks was arrested >> the Civil Right Act of 1964 was passed >> the Supreme Court ruled Montgomery's segregation laws were unconstitutional
 - D. Rosa Parks was arrested >> Montgomery was ordered to desegregate buses >> African-Americans of Montgomery asked for courteous treatment from bus drivers
- 6. Which is NOT true about Rosa Parks?**
- A. She was called the "mother of the freedom movement"
 - B. Time Magazine called her one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century
 - C. She wrote four books
 - D. She dropped out of college when she was a junior
- 7. Which of the following best describes the LOGIC within the third paragraph?**
- A. We have the power. If we stop riding buses, the laws will have to change
 - B. The segregation laws are unfair. We should work to change them
 - C. Because $\frac{3}{4}$ of bus riders are African-American, the laws will never change
 - D. To change the laws, we should only stop riding the bus on Monday

PENNSYLVANIA COLONY Reading Comprehension

The land that is now Pennsylvania was first claimed by the Swedes under Peter Minuit in 1638. Minuit had agreed to help them establish a colony after having a falling-out with Dutch officials. Although the Swedes did colonize the region on the west banks of the Delaware River, known at the time as Nya Sverige, or New Sweden, they were attacked and displaced by the Dutch in 1655. In turn, the British would dispatch the Dutch from the region in 1664.

Pennsylvania was founded in 1681 by William Penn. Penn was issued a land grant by King Charles II largely because of a significant debt owed to his father, Admiral Penn. At the time, the grant was one of the largest in terms of area ever known. It was named Pennsylvania, which means Penn's Woods, after Admiral Penn.

Penn quickly established a government based on religious freedom for the Quakers. Quakers did not believe in the strict rules imposed by the Puritan Church. They believed that people could have a direct relation with God, rather than one mediated by a minister. The colony's religious tolerance soon attracted German and Scottish immigrants and promoted more peaceful relations with local Indians. Furthermore, it helped Philadelphia grow into the most important city in the thirteen colonies, and it helped establish the Pennsylvania Dutch Country, where German "Deutsch" political and religious refugees formed farming communities.

1.) The land that became Pennsylvania was first claimed by the ___ in 1638.

- a.) English
- b.) Germans
- c.) Dutch
- d.) Swedes

2.) The _____ attacked the Swedes and took over their colony.

- a.) Germans
- b.) Dutch
- c.) French
- d.) English

3.) The _____ were the last to control the region when they gained control in 1664.

- a.) Dutch
- b.) Germans
- c.) Swedes
- d.) English

4.) What does the word “dispatch” mean in the following sentence:

In turn, the British would dispatch the Dutch from the region in 1664.

- a.) send away
- b.) allow
- c.) care for
- d.) control

5.) Pennsylvania was founded by:

- a.) Puritans
- b.) William Penn
- c.) King Charles
- d.) Admiral Penn

6.) King Charles agreed to the land grant that would become Pennsylvania...

- a.) to repay a debt.
- b.) to make history.
- c.) because he thought it would bring him glory.
- d.) to spread religion.

7.) Which of the following best describes William Penn’s ideas about religion?

- a.) He did not believe in religious freedom.
- b.) He believed strongly in religious freedom.
- c.) He did not believe in religion.
- d.) He believed only one religion should exist.

8.) Which of the following is NOT true about the Quakers?

- a.) Their religious tolerance helped attract settlers from other countries.
- b.) They believed people needed ministers to talk to God.
- c.) They weren’t as strict as the Puritans.
- d.) They had peaceful relations with the local Indians.

9.) What happened last?

- a.) The Dutch took control of the land that would be Pennsylvania.
- b.) Admiral Penn received the land grant.
- c.) The English took control of the land that would be Pennsylvania.
- d.) 1680

10.) Which of the following WAS NOT a result of Pennsylvania’s religious tolerance?

- a.) Philadelphia became an important city.
- b.) Immigrants came to the region.
- c.) German political refugees formed farming communities.
- d.) The land grant was received by William Penn.

PENNY DEBATE Reading Comprehension

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to “retire” the penny or take it out of circulation. This movement has been countered by people passionate about preserving the penny. There are compelling reasons to eliminate the penny and to preserve it. What do you think?

ELIMINATE THE PENNY

According to the U.S. Mint, it costs 2.4 cents to produce one penny. In other words, the cost of making a penny is more than double its value. Since the United States Mint produced \$50 million worth of pennies in 2010 at a cost of \$120 million dollars, \$70 million was wasted.

Advocates of “retiring” the penny claim the coin is obsolete and virtually worthless. Nothing can realistically be bought for a penny anymore. In addition, simply handling pennies reduces the efficiency of the United States economy. Studies have shown that handling pennies adds at least two seconds to transactions at convenience and department stores. With over 107 billion cash transactions that occur in the United States per year, handling pennies wastes 120 million work hours per year, costing the economy over two billion dollars.

PRESERVE THE PENNY

Supporters of the penny believe its elimination would cause prices to rise as the prices of items would be rounded up to the nearest nickel (which, incidentally, costs eight cents to produce). Poor people, who tend to make smaller purchases and who are more likely to use pennies, would suffer the most. Penny supporters also believe that organizations that rely on pennies as charity would be adversely affected. Many people who give money to organizations do so in the form of jars of pennies. Finally, the penny honors Abraham Lincoln, perhaps the most cherished figure in American history (although Lincoln is also on the United States five dollar bill).

- 1.) Those who support eliminating the penny believe...**
- a.) making pennies is a waste of money.
 - b.) nickels should be eliminated too.
 - c.) pennies can still buy things today.
 - d.) pennies make the economy more efficient.
- 2.) Which of the following IS NOT a reason that supporters believe the penny should be preserved?**
- a.) To honor Abraham Lincoln.
 - b.) Charities would be impacted.
 - c.) They believe eliminating the penny will have the greatest effect on poor people.
 - d.) Prices would fall.
- 3.) It costs...**
- a.) more money to produce a penny than a nickel.
 - b.) less money to produce a penny than it is actually worth.
 - c.) more money to produce a penny than it is actually worth.
 - d.) the same amount of money to produce a nickel as it costs to produce a penny.
- 4.) What would those who support eliminating the penny most likely say in response to the following point:**
- We should keep the penny because it honors Abraham Lincoln.
- a.) Abraham Lincoln wasn't even that great of a president.
 - b.) Abraham Lincoln is already honored on the five dollar bill.
 - c.) Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president.
 - d.) We can find other ways to honor Abraham Lincoln.
- 5.) Why does the author include this line:**
- In other words, the cost of making a penny is more than double its value.
- a.) To explain what was meant in the previous sentence.
 - b.) To make the argument longer.
 - c.) To question why people would want to eliminate the penny.
 - d.) To question why the penny is still in circulation.
- 6.) Which of the following might be said by someone who supports eliminating the penny?**
- a.) Eliminating the penny will make cash transactions occur more quickly.
 - b.) Eliminating the penny will enable more people to get jobs.
 - c.) Eliminating the penny will make people give more to charity.
 - d.) Eliminating the penny will make it so people use more cash.

7.) What would be a synonym for "adversely" in the following sentence:

Penny supporters also believe that organizations that rely on pennies as charity would be adversely affected.

- a.) slowly
- b.) happily
- c.) possibly
- d.) negatively

8.) What is the author's purpose for writing the article?

- a.) To explain how the penny affects the economy.
- b.) To explain why the penny should be eliminated.
- c.) To explain the reasons behind both sides of the penny debate.
- d.) To explain why honoring Abraham Lincoln is important.

9.) Besides pennies, the passage also gives information on...

- a.) the number of cash transactions made each year.
- b.) the amount of pennies saved each year.
- c.) the health of the economy.
- d.) the cost of making dimes and quarters.

10.) What is a transaction?

- a.) The exchange of money for an item.
- b.) The production of coins.
- c.) The amount of money spent on making pennies.
- d.) When prices rise.

Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was born on October 13, 1744, in a town near Trenton, New Jersey. She later moved to Pennsylvania. When she was only a young teenager, she married William Hayes, a barber. Hayes would join the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Mary McCauly is best known today for the role that she played in the 1778 Battle of Monmouth (N.J.) as a Continental Army camp follower and original “Molly Pitcher”. Like many women of the day she carried pitchers of waters for thirsty soldiers or for their smoldering cannons. She probably earned the nickname from soldiers on the battlefield shouting “Molly! Pitcher!” Molly was a common nickname for women named Mary.

Mary earned her legendary status during the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse. After her husband collapsed from the 100-degree heat, or from being wounded, Mary bravely took over as the gunner and continued to fire the cannon herself throughout the scorching day. According to legend, a British cannonball flew between her legs and tore her skirt, to which she responded, “well, that could have been worse.”

After the Revolutionary War came to a close, both William and Mary settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. After William Hayes’ death, Mary married Revolutionary War veteran John McCauly. In 1822, Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauly was awarded a Revolutionary War pension by the Pennsylvania State Legislature for her service at the Battle of Monmouth. “Molly Pitcher” died on January 22, 1832, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. In 1876, a special marker was laid on her grave commemorating her service as “Molly Pitcher” in the Revolutionary War. Mary’s story may or may not be partly folklore. Some historians believe her story is the composite of several “Molly’s” who helped on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War.

1. Which of the following is not true about Molly Pitcher?

- A. Her real name was not Molly
- B. She was married as a teenager
- C. She was married twice
- D. She was wounded at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse

2. The story of Molly Pitcher...

- A. Is definitely about Mary McCauly
- B. is probably all folklore
- C. may partly be folklore
- D. has been proven to be completely true

3. Which of the following the passage suggest about the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse?

- A. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was a victory for the Continental Army
- B. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse occurred on a very hot day
- C. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse was a defeat for the Continental Army
- D. Most of the soldiers on the battlefield were women

4. When did “Molly” move to Carlisle Pennsylvania?

- A. Toward the beginning of the Revolutionary War
- B. Toward the end of the Revolutionary War
- C. In 1822
- D. After the death of William Hayes

5. What is another way to write the sentence below without losing meaning?

Some historians believe her story is the composite of several “Molly’s” who helped on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War.

- A. It is most likely that Molly Pitcher’s story was made to inspire other women to help on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War
- B. Some historians believe that Molly Pitcher’s story is actually the combined story of multiple “Molly Pitchers” during the Revolutionary War
- C. Some historians believe Molly Pitcher and Mary McCauly were different people
- D. Some historians believe Molly Pitcher helped on many battlefields

6. What question is answered in the final paragraph?

- A. Who was Molly’s second husband?
- B. How did Molly show bravery in the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse?
- C. When did John McCauly die?
- D. Where was Molly Pitcher buried?

7. Which of the following best describes how Mary got her nickname?

- A. It was most likely because Mary was nearly hit by a cannonball
- B. It was most likely because Mary showed bravery on the battlefield
- C. It was most likely from the shouts of soldiers who needed water
- D. It was because those who were named Mary were nicknamed Molly

History of Pizza Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Pizza

The story of modern pizza as we know began in Naples, Italy, in the late 1800s. Baker Raffaele Esposito is usually given credit for baking the first pizzas with tomato sauce, cheese, and toppings. According to legend, pizza was popularized when Esposito was asked to make a pizza for Italian King Umberto I and Queen Margherita when the royal pair visited Naples in 1889. Esposito allegedly baked three different pizzas. The Queen's favorite was the one in which Esposito had designed in honor of Italy's red, white, and green flag. It had basil, mozzarella cheese, and tomato sauce. Esposito named it Pizza Margherita in her honor.

Pizza, however, failed to immediately take hold in Italy. As Italian immigrants came to the United States, however, pizza came with them. In 1905, the first United States pizzeria was established in New York City. The pizzeria, called Lombardi's, still operates today. Soon, other pizzerias in New York City and beyond appeared. By World War II, pizza was one of America's most popular foods. In the 1950s, the Totino family, of Minnesota, was thought to have produced the first frozen pizzas.

In 1958, Frank and Dan Carney borrowed \$600 from their parents and opened a pizzeria in Wichita, Kansas. They called their restaurant Pizza Hut because they didn't have space for additional letters on their first sign. Pizza Hut became very popular and soon the brothers opened new restaurants and hence, the first pizza franchise was born. Today, there are more than 10,000 Pizza Hut restaurants. Similarly, Domino's was established by two brothers who borrowed \$900 to purchase a pizzeria called Dominick's in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In 1984, John Schnatter founded Papa John's in Indiana.

Today, Americans spend over 33 billion dollars each year on pizza. In 2016, there are over 77,000 restaurants in America that serve pizza.

1. Why is Raffaele Esposito important in the history of Pizza?

- A. He brought pizza to America
- B. He is credited for baking the first modern pizzas
- C. He helped to establish the first pizza franchise
- D. He is said to have known the King and Queen of Italy

2. What is implied in the first paragraph?

- A. Modern-day pizza was likely born in Naples, Italy
- B. Pizza Margherita is modeled after the Italian flag
- C. Raffaele Esposito is credited with making pizzas for the King and Queen of Italy
- D. Esposito's story may or may not be true

3. When did pizza become one of America's most popular foods?

- A. 1905
- B. 1958
- C. by World War II
- D. 1951

4. After Esposito created Pizza Margherita...

- A. pizza became instantly popular in Italy.
- B. pizza became instantly popular in the United States.
- C. the first pizzeria was established in Naples.
- D. the first pizzeria was established in New York City.

5. What did Pizza Hut and Domino's have in common?

- A. They were both founded by wealthy brothers
- B. They were both founded in Kansas
- C. They were both founded by brothers who needed to borrow money
- D. Pizza Hut and Domino's both had different original names

6. What does "allegedly" mean in the following sentence?

Esposito allegedly baked three different pizzas.

- A. Certainly
- B. According to legend
- C. Doubtfully
- D. Accurately

7. What is the purpose of the final paragraph?

- A. To complete the story about pizza
- B. To illustrate how far the pizza industry has come from its humble beginnings
- C. To illustrate how successful Domino's and Pizza Hut are today
- D. To illustrate how pizza has become so popular throughout the world

The Future of the Polar Bear Reading Comprehension

Name _____

With their huge paws, fluffy white fur, and dark, expressive eyes, polar bears can appear to be cute and friendly creatures - from afar. Up close however, it is easy to see why polar bears are fearsome apex predators in their arctic homes. These enormous animals are outfitted with strong, sharp claws and a keen nose to help them detect and catch seals that swim to holes in the ice to breathe. During cold arctic winters, polar bears enjoy prime hunting season. Other arctic animals like the arctic fox depend on the leftovers from polar bear kills to sustain them throughout the harsh winter. In this way, polar bears fill an important niche, or role, in arctic ecosystems by controlling populations of seals while also providing food to scavengers.

Unfortunately, polar bears face a perilous future. In previous years, the biggest threat to polar bear populations was hunting by humans. While careful regulations helped to control this threat, polar bears are still not safe. Today polar bears are most threatened by the effects of a warming arctic climate. Polar bears depend on the expansive sheets of ice that form during cold winters to hunt seals. When ice forms later in the fall and thaws earlier in the spring, polar bears have less time to fatten up during their most vital feeding season. This is especially dangerous for polar bear mothers and their cubs. Mothers fast for long periods of time while their cubs are very young. With a shortened hunting season, polar bear mothers can be particularly challenged in finding enough food to replenish fat stores. Sea ice is also vital for the long migration routes polar bears follow annually. The bears can get stranded when warm weather prevents the sea from freezing.

Hungry bears that are stuck in the wrong place at the wrong time can be a big problem for humans. With their routes across the ice unavailable, polar bears are unable to move north and may venture towards towns to try to find food in garbage dumps and backyards. This is dangerous for humans and bears and creates a perception that bear populations are increasing. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to survey, or count, the number of polar bears accurately. The remote habitat that polar bears occupy can be hazardous for humans to access. On top of that, polar bears have large ranges and can be spread over long distances. Even heat-seeking cameras don't make the job any easier. Polar bear fur is such effective insulation that bears give off almost no detectable body heat. Without accurate measurements of polar bear populations, it is difficult to make informed plans to protect this precious predator of the north.

1.) Based on the following sentence, what could be the definition of “apex predator”?

Up close however, it is easy to see why polar bears are fearsome apex predators in their arctic home

- a.) a predator that lives in the arctic
- b.) a predator who occupies the highest spot in the food chain
- c.) a predator that humans like to hunt
- d.) a predator that plays an important role in the food chain

2.) Based on the information in the passage, if polar bear populations decline, what could you expect to happen to arctic foxes?

- a.) Arctic fox populations might increase because they will not be hunted as much
- b.) Arctic foxes might be able to have larger territories
- c.) Arctic fox populations will probably stay the same
- d.) Arctic fox populations might decline

3.) According to the passage, why could shortened winters be particularly dangerous to female polar bears?

- a.) Female polar bears need more food to stay warm
- b.) Female polar bears have to spend some of wintertime taking care of cubs instead of hunting
- c.) Female polar bears overheat more easily than male polar bears
- d.) Female polar bears have to spend more time traveling during the wintertime than male polar bears

4.) Why could it be important to have accurate counts of polar bear populations?

- a.) Scientists need to know how many polar bears there are to be able to feed bears enough food
- b.) Citizens need to know if they should be practicing bear safety when in polar bear habitat
- c.) To know how polar bear populations change year after year
- d.) It is important to know if polar bears will hunt too many seals

5.) What could be an appropriate title for the second paragraph?

- a.) "Threats to Polar Bears, Past and Present"
- b.) "The Effect of Hunting on Polar Bears"
- c.) "Winter Survival Techniques"
- d.) "Yearly Polar Bear Migration"

6.) What could be the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- a.) To persuade
- b.) To inform
- c.) To entertain
- d.) To frighten

7.) Which of the following is not a challenge to polar bear conservation?

- a.) Not much is known about the lifestyle of polar bears
- b.) It is difficult to survey polar bear populations
- c.) Increased contact with humans means that some people believe polar bear populations are increasing
- d.) Polar bears have large ranges and can be hard to find

HISTORY OF POPCORN Reading Comprehension

Popcorn, also known as popping corn, is a special variety of corn (*Zea mays everta*). Each kernel contains a tiny drop of water. When it is heated, the water expands, causing the kernel to explode and flip inside out. Most U.S. popcorn is grown in Nebraska and Indiana, and increasingly in Texas.

Native Americans first discovered popcorn thousands of years ago in Guatemala or Mexico. It was popped in China during the Song Dynasty (960–279) as well as in Sumatra and India long before Columbus reached the Americas.

In 1519, when he invaded Mexico, Spanish Conquistador Hernando Cortes first saw popcorn when he met the Aztecs. Popcorn was important to the Aztecs as food, as decoration for ceremonial headdresses and necklaces, and as ornaments on statues of their gods. Around 1612, French explorers around the Great Lakes met Iroquois who used heated sand in a pottery vessel to make popcorn. There is an unproven theory that an Indian named Quadequina brought a deerskin bag of popped corn for the first Thanksgiving feast on October 15, 1621. In 1948 and 1950, anthropologist Herbert Dick and botanist Earle Smith discovered ears of popcorn in the Bat Cave of west central New Mexico. The ears measured from smaller than a penny to about two inches. They were determined to be about 5,600 years old.

Colonial housewives served popcorn with sugar and cream for breakfast. Some colonists used a cylinder of thin sheet iron that revolved on an axle in front of the fireplace to make popped corn.

In 1885, Charles Cretors of Chicago, Illinois, invented the first popcorn machine. Street vendors were soon pushing steam or gas-powered poppers through fairs, parks, and expositions.

Today much of the popcorn you buy at movies and fairs is popped in machines manufactured by the Cretors family.

In 1914, in Sioux City, Iowa, Clويد H. Smith created America's first branded popcorn (Jolly Time), and for the first time, popcorn was available in grocery stores.

Americans eat more than 17 billion quarts of popcorn a year, an average of 60 quarts per person per year. As the result of an elementary school project, popcorn became the official state snack food of Illinois. January 19 is National Popcorn Day, and October is National Popcorn Month.

1.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- a.) You should only buy Jolly Time Popcorn.
- b.) Movies are not fun unless you have popcorn.
- c.) Schools are closed on National Popcorn Day.
- d.) Americans eat a lot of popcorn every year.

2.) Popcorn is the official snack of _____.

- a.) the state of Illinois
- b.) the Aztec Indians
- c.) America
- d.) grocery stores

3.) Popcorn is...

- a.) a newer invention.
- b.) thousands of years old.
- c.) hundreds of years old.
- d.) about 50 years old.

4.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Popcorn was popped at the first Thanksgiving.
- b.) The Popcorn machine was invented by Charles Cretors.
- c.) Popcorn was popped by Colonial housewives.
- d.) Popcorn has been available in grocery stores for hundreds of years.

5.) The Aztec Indians used popcorn as...

Select all that are true.

- a.) decorations
- b.) food
- c.) a weapon against enemies
- d.) ornaments for jewelry

6.) Each kernel of popcorn contains _____.

- a.) corn
- b.) a drop of water
- c.) heat
- d.) milk

7.) What could be a title for the second paragraph?

- a.) How Popcorn is Made Today
- b.) How Past Cultures Made and Used Popcorn
- c.) Popcorn in America!
- d.) How Popcorn Changed World History

8.) Which question is answered in the first paragraph?

- a.) Where was popcorn first popped?
- b.) What is the right temperature to cook popcorn?
- c.) Who likes popcorn?
- d.) How does a kernel of corn turn into popcorn?

9.) What happened first?

- a.) Jolly Time Popcorn became the first brand of popcorn.
- b.) The popcorn machine was invented.
- c.) Ears of popcorn over 5,600 years old were discovered in a New Mexico cave.
- d.) October became National Popcorn Month.

10.) According to the passage...

- a.) Popcorn may have been served at the first Thanksgiving.
- b.) Ears of popcorn 3,000 years old were found in a New Mexico cave.
- c.) The popcorn machine was invented by the Aztec Indians.
- d.) Colonial housewives served popcorn for dinner with sugar and cream.

PYRAMIDS Reading Comprehension

The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the world's most amazing landmarks. Rising high above the Sahara Desert in the Giza region of northern Egypt, the Great Pyramid stands some 450 feet into the burning desert sky and occupies an area of 13 acres. The rough climate of the Sahara has actually caused the pyramid to shrink 30 feet from its original height. The pyramid was such an amazing feat of engineering that it remained the tallest structure in the world for over 3,800 years! The entire pyramid was originally faced with polished limestone to make it shine brilliantly in the sun.

Most Egyptologists, scientists who study ancient Egypt, agree that the Great Pyramid was built around 2560 BC, a little more than 4,500 years ago. It took tens of thousands of workers twenty years to build. The pyramid contains over two million stone blocks. Although most of the blocks weigh two or three tons, some weigh up to eighty tons!

The Great Pyramid of Giza was ordered built by the Pharaoh Khufu as a magnificent tomb. His vizier (advisor), Hemon, is credited with being the pyramid's architect. Khufu's pyramid is actually part of a complex of pyramids that includes the Pyramid of Khafre, the smaller Pyramid of Menkaure, a variety of smaller pyramids and structures, and the Great Sphinx. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the last remaining of the Seven Wonders of the World.

1.) Where is the Great Pyramid NOT located?

- a.) Giza
- b.) Southern Egypt
- c.) Sahara Desert
- d.) Northern Egypt

2.) The Great Pyramid was built a little more than _____ years ago.

3.) How many stone blocks make up the pyramid?

- a.) More than two million
- b.) 3,800
- c.) 4,500
- d.) 2,560

4.) Most of the blocks in the pyramid weigh about _____ tons.

- a.) 5
- b.) 2 or 3
- c.) 4,500
- d.) 80

5.) The Great Pyramid of Giza has shrunk about _____ feet.

6.) Egyptians used polished _____ to make the pyramid shine in the sun.

7.) The Pharaoh _____ ordered the pyramid to be built as his _____.

- a.) Hemon; tomb
- b.) Khufu; wonder of the world
- c.) vizier; tomb
- d.) Khufu; tomb

8.) Which of the following definitions best describes the meaning of "complex" in the passage?

- a.) group or set
- b.) pyramid
- c.) materials
- d.) army

9.) Which is NOT part of the complex of pyramids?

- a.) The Sphinx
- b.) The Pyramid of Khafre
- c.) The Tomb of King Tut
- d.) The Great Pyramid of Giza

10.) Which of the following is FALSE?

- a.) Khufu was Hemon's vizier and architect.
- b.) Hemon was Khufu's vizier and architect.
- c.) The pyramid took tens of thousands of workers about twenty years to complete.
- d.) The Great Pyramid is the last of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Religion in the 13 Colonies – Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension

Name _____

New England Colonies – The New England colonies were dominated by the Puritans, reformers seeking to “purify” Christianity, who came over from England to practice religion without persecution. Puritans followed strict rules and were intolerant of other religions, eventually absorbing the separatist Pilgrims in Massachusetts by 1629. Life in New England was dominated by church, and there were severe consequences for those who failed to attend, or, those who spoke out against the Puritan ways. Singing and celebrating holidays were among things prohibited in Puritan New England.

Middle Colonies – Religion in the Middle Colonies was varied as no single religion seemed to dominate the entire region. Religious tolerance attracted immigrants from a wide-range of foreign countries who practiced many different religions. Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans and Presbyterians were among those religious groups that had significant numbers in the middle colonies.

Southern Colonies – Most people in the Southern Colonies were Anglican (Baptist or Presbyterian), though most of the original settlers from the Maryland colony were Catholic, as Lord Baltimore founded it as a refuge for English Catholics. Religion did not have the same impact on communities as in the New England colonies or the Mid-Atlantic colonies because people lived on plantations that were often distant and spread out from one another.

- 1. Which of the following was intolerant of other religions?**
 - A. Middle
 - B. Southern
 - C. New England
 - D. None of the above

2. Which of the following regions attracted people from many different religions?

- A. Southern
- B. Middle
- C. New England
- D. None of the above

3. Which was NOT true about the Southern Colonies?

- A. Lord Baltimore founded Maryland as a Catholic colony
- B. People lived on large plantations
- C. Most people in the Southern Colonies were Catholics
- D. Religion had less of an impact on people from the Southern Colonies

4. Read the passage below. What region is most likely described?

Today, I spent all day at church. Our pastor preached that those who failed to attend church would face severe consequences. He also said that poor Amos would receive 20 lashes for singing hymns in public.

- A. New England
- B. Middle
- C. Southern Colonies
- D. None of the above

5. What was the major religious group in the Middle Colonies?

- A. Catholics
- B. Quakers
- C. Jews
- D. None of the above

RHODE ISLAND COLONY Reading Comprehension

Like many English Puritans, Roger Williams came to Massachusetts as part of the “Great Migration,” the Puritan departure from England and arrival in the New World. When Williams arrived, however, he realized that the Puritan Church had not severed all of its ties with the Church of England, and hence, was not pure enough. For this reason, he refused to fill the position of minister in the church of Boston. Williams became even more controversial when he declared the colony's charter, or land grant, invalid because it was not issued by the true owners of the land—the Indians. Williams soon moved to Salem and generated even more controversy by preaching against the taxes that paid church expenses and laws that made attending church mandatory.

Despite his Puritan ties, Williams' own intolerance of the rules, laws, and customs of the Puritans caused him, incidentally, to preach for religious tolerance. He argued against the Puritans' laws that controlled the populations. He was one of the first to call for the separation of church and state—a law which now forbids the government to use any religion to influence the people.

The intolerant Puritans often made a point to suppress individuals with divergent views. They feared people like Roger Williams could influence the people and ultimately threaten the church. In the fall of 1635, they voted to banish him. Before the henchmen reached his home, however, Williams ventured off himself toward Narragansett Bay in January of 1636. After many weeks of traveling through the wilderness of New England, Williams purchased land from the local Indians and founded the town of Providence. Williams devised a compact that allowed all residents to vote regardless of their religion. Furthermore, he encouraged religious sects unpopular with the church to settle in Providence. In March of 1644, Williams did receive a charter from the English Parliament. Under his charter of 1647, Providence, Newport, Warwick, and Portsmouth united to eventually form the colony of Rhode Island.

1.) Roger Williams believed...

- a.) that the Puritan church was not pure enough.
- b.) in religious freedom.
- c.) that land grants, as they were, were invalid.
- d.) all of the above.

2.) Who did Roger Williams believe the true owners of the land were?

- a.) the British Crown
- b.) any settlers
- c.) the Puritans
- d.) the Indians

3.) Which of the following DID Roger Williams believe in?

- a.) Intolerance toward other religions
- b.) People should pay taxes to support the church
- c.) Separation of church and state
- d.) Mandatory church attendance

4.) Which of the following is a violation of the idea of separation between church and state?

- a.) A church that supports religious freedom
- b.) A government that taxes the settlers
- c.) A church that opposes religious freedom
- d.) A government that opposes religious freedom

5.) The Puritans were _____ toward different viewpoints.

- a.) sometimes tolerant
- b.) tolerant
- c.) intolerant
- d.) indifferent

6.) Why were the Puritans afraid of Roger Williams?

- a.) They believed he would ally with French traders.
- b.) They believed he would stir the Indians to attack settlements.
- c.) They believed he might influence the people against them.
- d.) They believed he would start a war.

7.) What does the word "banish" mean in the following sentence:

In the fall of 1635, they voted to banish him.

- a.) remove
- b.) imprison
- c.) kill
- d.) injure

8.) Roger Williams eventually founded _____.

- a.) Massachusetts
- b.) Warwick
- c.) Providence
- d.) Boston

9.) Who could settle in Providence?

- a.) Only Puritans
- b.) Only people who belong to some branch of Christianity
- c.) People of all religions
- d.) Only people who were part of religious groups unpopular with the church

10.) What did the English Crown do about Roger Williams?

- a.) Attacked his settlement
- b.) Attempted to capture him
- c.) Attempted to punish him
- d.) Gave him a charter

The “Lost Colony at Roanoke” was a settlement of 117 men, women and children that landed on Roanoke Island in 1587. It was the first English colony in the New World. The colony was funded by Sir Walter Raleigh and led by his friend John White. Raleigh had received a charter from Queen Elizabeth I. The main purpose of the expedition was to find riches in the New World. A secondary purpose of the colony was to establish a base for which the queen’s privateers could attack Spanish treasure galleons. The colonists who settled Roanoke may have first believed their settlement was to be established on the Chesapeake Bay to the north.

Soon after arrival, the first English child in the New World was born, White’s granddaughter, Virginia Dare. It quickly became apparent, however, that the colony needed additional supplies to survive. The settlers convinced John White to return to England to garner the necessary supplies. White, however, was unable to return to the island because of the onset of the Anglo-Spanish War in 1588. Because of the war, White could not procure a ship as all were being used in the war.

White was finally able to return to the colony on August 18, 1590, aboard a privateering vessel. This date also happened to be the third birthday of his granddaughter, Virginia Dare. White was astonished to find the island completely deserted. There was no sign of any of the settlers, nor was there evidence of any fight or struggle. The only clue was the word “Croatoan” carved into a nearby post. All fortifications were dismantled, rather than destroyed, which suggested a departure may have been planned by the settlers.

There are several theories regarding the disappearance of the settlers. One of the leading theories is that the Roanoke settlers integrated with one of the local native groups to ensure their survival. We do know that the colonists arrived at Roanoke Island during one of the greatest draughts the region had ever experienced. This would have made it very difficult to grow crops or find drinking water. Others believe the colonists may have been killed by the Spanish, or, by other native groups. The Algonquin chief Powhatan, father of Pocahontas, claimed to have killed the Roanoke settlers.

The mystery of the Roanoke Island settlement lives on today. Scientists will probably never know what fate befell those settlers, but do know the failure of the colony led the English to establish the Jamestown Colony, the first permanent, successful English settlement in the New World, in 1607.

- 1. Which of the following could describe the purpose of the Roanoke Colony?**
 - A. Primarily to find riches but also to spread religion

- B. Primarily to set up a base for privateering but also to find riches
- C. Primarily to spread religion but also to find riches
- D. Primarily to find riches but also to set up a base for privateering

2. Who was Sir Walter Raleigh?

- A. The man who paid for the Roanoke settlement
- B. The man who led the Roanoke settlement
- C. One of the settlers of Roanoke
- D. The man who gave the charter to the settlers of Roanoke

3. Why did John White leave the Roanoke Colony?

- A. He was sick and needed to get back to England
- B. There was a war going on between England and France
- C. He needed to pick up more settlers to bring to Roanoke
- D. He needed to pick up more supplies from England

4. What was the effect of the Anglo-Spanish war on the Roanoke settlers?

- A. Life became very dangerous at Roanoke
- B. Roanoke settlers could not get supplies they needed
- C. The colony fell apart and the settlers integrated with native groups
- D. John White left for England in 1587

5. Which is NOT true about the settlement at Roanoke?

- A. It was the site of the first English child born in the New World
- B. The region was enduring one of the worst draughts in its history
- C. The colonists believed they would be landing near the Chesapeake Bay
- D. When John White returned, he saw the fortifications were destroyed

6. What could be a synonym for “procure” in the following sentence?

Because of the war, White could not procure a ship as all were being used in the war.

- A. Obtain
- B. Sell
- C. Require
- D. Barter

7. Which of the following is a theory?

- A. The word Croatoan was carved into a nearby post on Roanoke Island
- B. The fortifications at Roanoke were dismantled rather than destroyed
- C. John White returned to Roanoke on his granddaughter’s third birthday
- D. The Colonists integrated with local native groups to ensure their survival

Sacagawea

Sacagawea was born sometime around 1790. She is best known for her role in assisting the Lewis and Clark expedition. She, along with her husband, were guides from the Great Plains to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Sacagawea was kidnapped from her Shoshone village by Hidatsa Indians when she was twelve years old. She was promptly sold into slavery. She was then sold to a French fur trapper by the name of Toussaint Charbonneau. The pair became married and had a son named Jean-Baptiste.

Although there are conflicting opinions concerning how important Sacagawea was to the Lewis and Clark expedition, she did serve as the interpreter and negotiator to the Shoshone tribe - that was led by her brother Cameahwait. She helped them obtain essential supplies and horses while she carried her infant son on her back. Furthermore, Sacagawea helped identify edible plants and herbs and prevented hostile relations with other tribes simply by being with the expedition. She was even more important on the return trip because she was familiar with the areas in which they were traveling and was able to guide the expedition back safely. Lewis and Clark received credit for discovering hundreds of animals and plants that Sacagawea had probably seen for years. Although she received no payment for her help, her husband was rewarded with cash and land.

Six years after the journey, Sacagawea died after giving birth to her daughter Lisette. William Clark adopted both of her children, but there are no records of Lisette. To this day, there are no reliable pictures or drawings of Sacagawea. Recently, the United States government engraved her image on the new one dollar coin. Sacagawea is buried in Lander, Wyoming.

1.) Sacagawea originally came from the _____ tribe.

- A. Shoshone
- B. Hidatsa
- C. Sioux
- D. Wyoming

2.) Sacagawea was a _____.

- A. warrior
- B. princess
- C. slave
- D. spy

3.) Who was Jean-Baptiste?

- A. Sacagawea's brother
- B. Sacagawea's husband
- C. An Indian chief
- D. Sacagawea's son

4.) What does the word 'promptly' mean in the following sentence:

She was **promptly** sold into slavery.

- A. never
- B. quickly
- C. finally
- D. controversially

5.) Historians are _____ concerning how important Sacagawea was in the Lewis and Clark expedition.

- A. in agreement
- B. not in agreement
- C. sure
- D. intolerant

6.) Sacagawea DID NOT:

- A. Help translate for Lewis and Clark
- B. Help negotiate for Lewis and Clark
- C. Help Lewis and Clark find food
- D. Help Lewis and Clark plan to ambush Indians

7.) Sacagawea was given _____ for help on the Lewis and Clark expedition.

- A. cash
- B. awards
- C. land
- D. nothing

8.) Lewis and Clark saw animals that

- A. No one had ever seen before
- B. Had long since been forgotten
- C. Were likely known by Sacagawea and Native Americans.
- D. Were thought to be extinct

9.) There is no record of....

- A. Sacagawea's daughter
- B. Sacagawea's son
- C. Sacagawea
- D. All of the above

10.) Which of the following IS NOT known about Sacagawea?

- A. What tribe she was from
- B. The names of her children
- C. The approximate year of her birth
- D. What she looked like

Saguaro Cactus Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The hot cruel sun of the desert beats down on long prickly arms that extend skyward from tall green trunks. Here in the Sonoran Desert, located on the border of the United States and Mexico, the air is dry and every drop of water is fought for viciously. In this arid climate, saguaro cacti battle for survival.

Every part of the cactus helps the plant gather and keep what little water is available. Unlike trees, which often have roots extending dozens of feet underground to reach deep reserves of water, saguaro cacti have very short roots that spread out wide to better capture rainwater. The trunk of the cactus is corrugated, or folded, almost like an accordion. When the cactus is full of water, the trunk can expand to store water for use in drier times. The waxy green surface of the cactus' trunk prevents the cactus from drying out and losing the water stored within.

Many species of cacti have similar methods of storing water in dry climates. The saguaro cactus is unique, however, in its incredible size and growth. Scientists think that saguaro cacti can live to be up to 200 years old. Cacti this old can be more than 40 feet tall and weigh more than a car. Despite this impressive size, saguaro cacti start from humble beginnings. The cactus begins life under the shade of a desert tree, called a nurse tree, that will shield it from the hot sun and from the hungry glances of animals. At ten years old, the saguaro is only about the size of a thumb. As the little cactus grows larger and larger, it begins to demand more water from the soil. Soon, the nurse tree that sheltered the young plant is deprived of water and dies.

As the saguaro grows, it becomes a source of food and shelter for a multitude of desert creatures. Although the prickly spines of the cactus deter animals while the cactus is young, as the saguaro ages, the spines spread out. This allows the first brave explorer, the Gila woodpecker, to approach the trunk. The woodpecker bores a hole in the trunk to make its home. In following years, owls, finches, and sparrows will use the hole to raise their young. When the saguaro matures and begins to produce flowers, bats will visit by night to eat the sweet nectar. In the summertime, the saguaro fruit becomes a tasty snack for many reptiles, insects, and mammals. In times of drought, rodents, deer and sheep will eat chunks of the cactus' water-filled trunk to quench their thirst. Young cacti can even be found sprouting within the sheltered cavities, or holes, in the trunks of older saguaro. In the harsh environment of the Sonoran Desert, the strong saguaro is an oasis of life.

1. According to the paragraph 1, what could be the meaning of the word

“arid”?

- a.) Lively
- b.) Dry
- c.) Empty
- d.) Windy

2. Why do trees have roots that are different than the roots of cacti?

- a.) The roots of cacti are made to survive very hot conditions while tree roots do not have to survive such hot conditions
- b.) The roots of trees need to support the heavy weight of the tree while the roots of cacti do not have to support such heavy weights
- c.) The roots of trees are made to reach water deep underground while cacti roots are made to spread out and collect surface rainwater
- d.) Trees have plenty of water and nutrients to grow large roots while cacti can only manage to grow small roots

3. According to the information in paragraph 2, what might happen to a cactus if you took away the waxy green surface of the trunk?

- a.) The cactus would overheat and might die
- b.) The cactus would be more likely to be attacked by animals and diseases
- c.) The cactus would collapse as it will not be able to support itself
- d.) The cactus would lose the water it stored in its trunk

4. Which feature does the saguaro cacti share with many other species of cacti?

- a.) Height of more than 40 feet tall
- b.) Extremely long lifespan
- c.) Corrugated trunk for storing water
- d.) Weight greater than the weight of a car

5. What role does the Gila woodpecker play in the life of the saguaro?

- a.) The woodpecker creates a hole that many animals will use
- b.) The woodpecker eats the nectar of the cactus fruit
- c.) The woodpecker removes the prickly spines of the cactus
- d.) The woodpecker eats the trunk of the cactus during droughts

6. Which of the options below would be the best choice as a subheading for the final paragraph?

- a.) Prickly Protection: The Spines of the Saguaro Cactus
- b.) Hidden Water in Times of Drought
- c.) Cozy Home for Many Species
- d.) Source of Life in the Desert

7. Which of the following plants or animals is negatively affected by the saguaro cactus?

- a.) A nurse tree
- b.) The Gila woodpecker
- c.) Young cacti within trunk cavities
- d.) Bats

The South Carolina Colony Reading Comprehension

South Carolina, part of the original Province of Carolina, was founded in 1663 when King Charles II gave the land to eight noblemen known as The Lords Proprietors. At the time, the province included both North Carolina and South Carolina. North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies in 1729.

The Spanish and French vied over the rights to the coast of South Carolina in the 1500s. In 1562, French soldiers unsuccessfully attempted to start a settlement on Parris Island off the coast of present-day South Carolina. In 1566, the Spanish built the colony of Santa Elena near the site of the original French settlement. Santa Elena was abandoned in 1576 after being attacked by Indians. Although the settlement was rebuilt, the Spanish concentrated their forces in Florida after British pirate Sir Francis Drake destroyed St. Augustine. The British would be the next to colonize the area.

In 1670, the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina was established at Albemarle Point. Many of the original settlers came from the Caribbean island of Barbados, including the new governor, William Sayle. A year before, in 1669, prospective Carolina settlers including John Locke wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, which served as an early form of government for the Carolina colony.

In 1680, the colony moved to Charles Town (later Charleston). Charles Town would quickly become the cultural and economic center of the Southern colonies. Because of the influence of the Caribbean settlers, the colony's original economy resembled the plantation colonies of the West Indies. It would become a major center for rice, tobacco, and indigo production, and the colony's plantation owners were among the wealthiest people in all the colonies. By the late 1700s, African-American slaves represented the majority of the population in South Carolina, as the number of cotton plantations increased.

1.) The British...

- a.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French and Spanish.
- b.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French but after the Spanish.
- c.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the Spanish but after the French.
- d.) tried colonizing South Carolina after the French and Spanish.

2.) Which of the following is true?

- a.) South and North Carolina were always separate colonies.
- b.) The original Carolina colony only included the land that is now South Carolina.
- c.) North and South Carolina would go to war against each other.
- d.) The Lords Proprietors founded South Carolina in 1663.

3.) The _____ established their first permanent settlement at Albemarle Point.

- a.) French
- b.) English
- c.) Spanish
- d.) Puritans

4.) Many of South Carolina's original settlers came from _____.

- a.) Barbados
- b.) Spain
- c.) France
- d.) England

5.) What question is answered in the third paragraph?

- a.) How was the new governor chosen?
- b.) Who wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina?
- c.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- d.) What did John Locke believe about religion?

6.) Charles Town would become a major center for the export of _____.

- a.) soybeans
- b.) peanuts
- c.) cotton
- d.) rice

7.) Which of the following is NOT true about the South Carolina colony?

- a.) Eventually, the majority of the population would be slaves.
- b.) It would have a large number of cotton plantations.
- c.) It was influenced by the West Indies.
- d.) William Sayle came to South Carolina from England.

8.) Plantation owners in South Carolina were _____.

- a.) poor
- b.) fairly wealthy
- c.) very wealthy
- d.) the passage doesn't say

9.) Which of the following is a RESULT of the increasing number of cotton plantations in South Carolina in the 1700s?

- a.) The King of England exerted more and more control over South Carolina.
- b.) The population of African-American slaves in South Carolina increased.
- c.) The economic center of South Carolina shifted away from Charles Town.
- d.) The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina was revoked.

10.) Which of the following is NOT addressed by the passage?

- a.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- b.) What products were exported from Charles Town?
- c.) What group made up the majority of the population in South Carolina by the late 1700s?
- d.) Where was the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina established?

SHARKS Reading Comprehension

Description: The great white shark is the largest predatory shark and is probably the most well-known and feared shark. The great white shark is gray or bluish above and white below. The largest great whites can reach lengths of 22 feet and weigh up to 5,000 pounds. Most are between 13 and 16 feet long and weigh 1,500–2,400 pounds. The great white has massive teeth, which are positioned in rows and serrated. When the great white attacks, it bites its prey and shakes its head back and forth. The serrated teeth act as a saw and literally tear the victim apart. The great white shark often swallows many of its own teeth in an attack.

Diet: The great white shark normally feeds on fish, seals, dolphins, porpoises, otters, and turtles. It is thought to locate its prey by electrosense and by smell. Like all sharks, great whites have special pores called ampullae of Lorenzini, which enable them to detect the electromagnetic fields radiated by moving organisms. Great whites can detect voltage as small as one-half-billionth of a volt.

Great whites employ several hunting techniques depending on the prey. Most of the time, the shark will remain still underwater before ambushing its prey from underneath. In the case of hunting some kinds of seals, the impact of the shark is so powerful that it knocks both the shark and the seal clear out of the water. With larger prey such as elephant seals, the shark will simply take a huge bite out of it and wait for it to bleed to death. When hunting dolphins, the shark will attack from above, presumably to avoid detection from the dolphin's echolocation.

Range/Habitat: Great white sharks are most commonly observed throughout the world's subarctic coastal waters, though they likely spend most of their time in the open ocean. The highest concentrations are found in the waters off the coast of South Africa, Australia, California, and Mexico. The great white shark is also found in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas. They generally prefer water between 54 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Reproduction: A great white shark has never been observed giving birth, however, pregnant females have been caught. It is known to be ovoviviparous (young develop in eggs within the mother's body). Females give birth to eight or nine pups that are about five feet in length upon birth. Great whites reach reproductive maturity when the male is about 12 feet long and the female about 13 feet long. It is thought that great white sharks live up to 40 years in the wild, but this estimate may be too low.

Shark attacks: Despite the fear of great white sharks, at least in part generated by Steven Spielberg's 1975 movie, "Jaws," great white sharks do not target humans as prey. Most attacks are attributed to mistaken identity. Sharks can easily mistake humans for seals. Many human injuries caused by great white sharks are cases of test-biting. If a shark is unsure about a floating object, it often gives it a test bite to determine what kind of object it is. While such bites do little damage to buoys and other objects, they obviously can inflict serious damage on the human body.

1.) Which of the following is least likely?

- a.) Finding a 15-foot-long great white shark
- b.) Finding a great white shark hunting a porpoise
- c.) Finding a great white shark in 85-degree-Fahrenheit water
- d.) Finding a great white shark that weighs 2,000 pounds

2.) The maximum weight of MOST great white sharks is _____ pounds.

- a.) 4,200
- b.) 2,400
- c.) 24,000
- d.) 5,000

3.) Select all of the following that are normal parts of the great white shark's diet.

- a.) humans
- b.) fish
- c.) dolphins
- d.) seals

4.) The _____ are specialized pores that allow a shark to detect magnetic fields of moving organisms.

- a.) electromagnets
- b.) echolocation
- c.) ampullae of Lorenzini
- d.) serrations

5.) What does "ovoviviparous" mean?

- a.) It refers to animals whose young develop in eggs within the mother's body.
- b.) It refers to animals that lay eggs.
- c.) It refers to animals whose young develop outside the mother's body.
- d.) It refers to animals that do not lay eggs.

6.) You would have something in common with the great white shark if you...

- a.) spend most of your time near the shore.
- b.) located your food by sound.
- c.) lived to be 80 years old.
- d.) have four brothers and four sisters.

7.) In which of the following places would you have the best chance to see a great white shark?

- a.) Mediterranean Sea
- b.) Antarctica
- c.) coastal South Africa
- d.) Mississippi River

8.) Sharks often mistake humans for _____.

9.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Great white sharks employ different hunting techniques depending on the prey they are stalking.
- b.) Great white sharks can detect prey by smell or by magnetic field.
- c.) Great white sharks swallow their own teeth during attacks.
- d.) Great white sharks often target humans as prey.

10.) Which of the following may or may not be true?

- a.) The great white shark is actually only white on its underparts.
- b.) Newborn great white sharks are about five feet in length.
- c.) Great white sharks have serrated teeth that act like saws.
- d.) Great white sharks have a life span of 40 years.

The Behavioral Tradition Shift and the Purple Martin

Name _____

The first purple martin hosts were Native Americans. Hundreds or thousands of years ago, likely by chance, a single pair of martins probably nested in a Native American hanging gourd. A gourd is simply a hollowed out container that hangs from a pole or fixture. The gourd served the same purpose for martins as woodpecker holes. Other martins likely followed suit and an incredible tradition was born.

The Native Americans quickly learned that hosting purple martins was to their advantage. The birds consumed copious amounts of insect pests. Furthermore, they noticed the martins were aggressive toward other birds on their nesting grounds and worked vigorously to drive away blackbirds and crows, which threatened crops, and hawks and vultures, which could steal food or eat chickens. They encouraged these birds to nest nearby by hanging gourds on wooden poles. The more they hung, the more martins they attracted. The practice of using gourds to attract martins is documented in the histories of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and other Native groups in the American South.

As the nation was settled, Europeans copied the Native American practice of hanging gourds. Some of these settlers added artistic flair to the gourds and at some point, began building and painting houses for the birds. As more and more settlers poured west and south, land was cleared to make room for their settlements. Before long, the great swaths of forests that covered the land were gone and the natural cavities martins traditionally nested in became scarce, unintentionally and irreversibly making martins dependent on man-made gourds and nesting houses. The transition forced upon the martins is an example of a "behavioral tradition shift." Interestingly, this shift did not occur in western populations of martins, which still use woodpecker holes in trees and cacti to nest in rather than houses or gourds.

Today, eastern populations of martins are entirely dependent on a dedicated group comprised of thousands of "landlords." across the eastern and central United States. Many landlords are intimately involved with their martin colonies and take great measures to ensure their success. Removing predators, trapping invasive sparrows and starlings, caring for displaced or orphaned young martins, cleaning houses, and providing martins with mealworms or crushed egg shells are just some of the jobs performed on a daily basis by purple martin lovers.

- 1. What question is NOT answered in the passage?**
 - A. In what year was the first purple martin house built?
 - B. What are some of the Native American groups that attracted martins?
 - C. Who were the first people to attract purple martins?
 - D. How did Native Americans attract purple martins?

- 2. Which of the following IS NOT true about purple martins?**
 - A. They nest in gourds or houses throughout America
 - B. They chase away birds that eat crops
 - C. They eat a lot of insect pests
 - D. They nest in colonies

- 3. Which of the following would be another example of a behavioral tradition shift?**
 - A. A bird that is introduced to a new land or habitat
 - B. A bird that can be found in many different habitats
 - C. A bird that changes in migration pattern because of habitat disturbance
 - D. A bird that only eats one type of insect

- 4. What could a title for the third paragraph?**
 - A. The Benefits of Hosting Purple Martins
 - B. Purple Martins: An Endangered Species
 - C. Habitat Destruction in America: The Felling of the Great Forests
 - D. The Nesting Habits of Purple Martins: A Tale of Two Populations

- 5. What is IMPLIED in the following sentence about the eastern and central United States?**

Before long, the great swaths of forests that covered the land were gone and the natural cavities martins traditionally nested in became scarce, unintentionally and irreversibly making martins dependent on man-made gourds and nesting houses.

- A. Martins will never go back to nesting in woodpecker holes
- B. The great swaths of forests are gone forever
- C. Purple martins were once scarce
- D. There are probably no more natural cavities for birds to nest in.

- 6. Which word in the last paragraph means committed or loyal?**
- A. dependent
 - B. determined
 - C. involved
 - D. intimately
- 7. Which of the following is an example of a transition as it relates to martins?**
- A. The martins transitioned from rare to common
 - B. The martins transitioned from Native American to European
 - C. The martins transitioned from chasing blackbirds to chasing hawks and vultures
 - D. The martins transitioned from natural to man-made nesting sites

“Shoeless Joe” Reading Comprehension and the Black Sox Scandal

Name _____

Joseph Jefferson Wofford Jackson was born in Pickens County, South Carolina, on July 16, 1888. When he was only six years old, he went to work at a textile mill sweeping cotton dust off the floors. Joe never learned to read or write because he had to work instead of going to school. Joe began to play baseball on a team called the Brandon Mill team when he was 13.

Joe started out as a pitcher on the mill’s team, but he threw the ball so hard that he broke the catcher’s arm. Joe was moved to the outfield where his incredible skills attracted attention. He could throw the ball more than 400 feet. The newspapers called Joe’s home runs “Saturday Specials,” his line drives “Blue Darters,” and his glove, “a place where triples go to die.”

Joe got his nickname in 1908 when he was playing semi-pro ball with the Greenville Spinners. He had a new pair of spikes that made blisters on his feet, so he began to play in just his socks. When he was running to third after he hit a triple, a fan yelled, “you shoeless son of a gun!”

Joe played professional baseball with the Philadelphia Athletics, Cleveland Naps (which became the Indians in 1915), and the Chicago White Sox. Many think he is the greatest natural hitter in the history of baseball. Joe’s lifetime batting average was .356, which is the third-highest in Major League Baseball history. Joe believed that bats had only so many hits in them, and when he went into a slump, he would discard his bat and get a new one. Joe had a name for all his bats. His favorite, and most famous, was Black Betsy. He also had Blond Betsy, Carolyn, Ol’ Genril, and Big Jim.

In 1919, however, members of the White Sox conspired to lose the World Series to the Cleveland Indians because they were unhappy with owner Charles Comiskey. The ensuing scandal came to be known as the Black Sox scandal. Joe is said to have admitted that he was involved. He was supposed to get \$20,000, more than three times his annual salary, but received only \$5,000. He later told *the Sporting News*:

“Regardless of what anybody says, I was innocent of any wrong-doing. I gave baseball all I had. The Supreme Being is the only one to whom I’ve got to answer. If I had been out there booting balls and looking foolish at bat against the Reds, there might have been some grounds for suspicion. I think my record in the 1919 World Series will stand up against that of any other man in that Series or any other World Series in all history.”

Joe hit .375 for the Series, the highest on either team; had twelve hits (a tie for the World Series record at the time); six RBIs and made no errors in eight games. He scored eleven of the Sox twenty runs and hit the only home run in the series. The extent of Joe’s part in the conspiracy remains controversial. Charles Comiskey came to believe that Joe was totally innocent.

Since Joe was banned from Major League Baseball after the scandal, he played, coached and managed various minor league and semi-pro teams. In 1933, he opened Joe Jackson’s Liquor Store. He would help local children learn how to play baseball. They knew him as Mr. Joe and never knew how famous he had been. Joe died on December 5, 1951, in Greenville, South Carolina.

- 1. Who gave “Shoeless Joe” his nickname?**
 - A. The Greenville spinners
 - B. Players on the Brandon Mill team
 - C. A fan
 - D. The Philadelphia Athletics

- 2. Why was Joe moved to the outfield?**
 - A. Because he was so fast
 - B. Because he threw so hard he hurt the catcher
 - C. Because the team needed outfielders
 - D. Because he could throw the ball 400 feet

- 3. Which of the following supports the idea that Joe WAS NOT involved in the Black Sox Scandal?**
 - A. He was angry at Charles Comiskey
 - B. After he was banned from baseball, he helped children learn the sport
 - C. He said he was innocent
 - D. He scored over half of his team’s runs and hit the only home run

- 4. Which of the following questions might someone who did not believe Joe Jackson was involved in the scandal ask?**
 - A. If Joe Jackson was involved in the Black Sox Scandal, why did he play so well against the Cleveland Indians in the 1919 World Series?
 - B. If Joe Jackson was involved in the Black Sox Scandal, why did he help teach kids the game of baseball after he was banned?
 - C. If Joe Jackson was involved in the Black Sox Scandal, why did he claim he had no involvement?
 - D. If Joe Jackson was involved in the Black Sox Scandal, why do people think he was one of the greatest baseball players of all time?

- 5. According to the owner of the Chicago White Sox...**
 - A. Joe Jackson was not involved in the Black Sox Scandal
 - B. Joe Jackson was probably involved in the Black Sox Scandal
 - C. Joe Jackson may have been involved in the Black Sox Scandal
 - D. Joe Jackson was definitely involved in the Black Sox Scandal

6. What was the effect of the Black Sox Scandal?

- A. Everybody thought that Joe was guilty
- B. Joe became known as "Shoeless Joe"
- C. Joe would never be allowed to play Major League Baseball again
- D. Joe's life was totally destroyed

7. What question is answered in the final paragraph?

- A. When was it proved that Joe Jackson was not involved in the Black Sox Scandal?
- B. What besides baseball did Joe Jackson do after the Black Sox Scandal?
- C. How did Joe Jackson die?
- D. What semi-pro teams did Joe Jackson play for and manage?

SIOUX (LAKOTA) NATION Reading Comprehension

In the Sioux culture, men were the providers and women tended to the home and cooked. In fact, in Sioux culture, the home belonged to the woman, and she was in charge of every aspect involved in caring for and maintaining the home. Since there were often more women in a village than men, many Sioux men had several families and killed enough buffalo to feed them all.

Only men could become "chiefs" in Sioux society. Unlike in some Native American tribes, however, the title of "chief" was earned rather than inherited. Sioux warriors used bows and arrows, clubs, and spears when hunting or defending the tribe. "Fighting" between Indians was often nonviolent and usually involved stealing horses or proving bravery. Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the travois was used to transport the tepees and family belongings. A travois was a V-shaped formation of tree trunks dragged by a team of dogs. After the Europeans arrived, the Sioux became dependent on horses and were known as accomplished riders.

Children were thought of as sacred in Sioux culture. Children were rarely punished. When they were punished, the adult usually confiscated an item that was loved. Adults often hung dream catchers above the cradles of their children to "catch" bad dreams in the web.

Like most tribes, the Sioux were very spiritual. They believed in Wakan Tanka (The Great Mystery of The Thunderbird), a god who created all living things. Wakan Tanka lived in a grand tepee in the Black Hills of South Dakota, one of the most sacred areas in Sioux culture. The Sioux also believed in the spirit of the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. This spirit first appeared to the Sioux in human form but was actually a white buffalo calf. She taught the Sioux lessons to avoid ignorance, evil, and self-destruction. She also introduced the sacred pipe, which was the center of seven secret ceremonies performed during times of religious persecution. Among these ceremonies was the Sweat Lodge Ceremony in which Sioux villagers purged themselves of guilt, burden, and evil by smoking the pipe in a "sweat lodge" (a dome-shaped tent made of willow branches, furs, and hides with a fire pit in the center) before an important event. The ceremony was also thought to bring its participants closer to Wakan Tanka. Another ceremony was known as the Vision Quest. In a vision quest, an individual would purify himself in the sweat lodge before isolating himself on a mountaintop, forest, or desert without food. The object of the vision quest is to help the participant seek oneness with all living things and to learn about his future in the form of a vision. The participant would then communicate his vision to the village shaman (medicine man) who would interpret it. Based on the interpretation, a medicine bundle (a bag of tokens and items that had special meanings to the owner) would be prepared with various items to represent the guiding spirit. This is just a small sampling of Sioux spiritual beliefs. It is important to note that there were many more spiritual ceremonies that may be interpreted in a variety of ways.

1.) In Sioux culture, only men could...

- a.) own property.
- b.) prepare the buffalo.
- c.) become chief.
- d.) tend to the house.

2.) A _____ was a V-shaped formation of tree trunks that was used to transport possessions.

3.) Which of the following is NOT true?

- a.) Children were very important in Sioux culture.
- b.) Sioux men sometimes had more than one family.
- c.) The Sioux would eventually become dependent on the horse.
- d.) Fighting between the Sioux and other Indian tribes was usually violent and caused much death and destruction.

4.) According to Sioux culture, _____ created all living things.

5.) After the arrival of the White settlers, the Sioux became dependent on horses.

Which of the following is an example of another dependent relationship?

- a.) cub -> lioness
- b.) bottle -> water
- c.) spider -> fly
- d.) math -> calculator

6.) Analogy

shield: knight :: _____

- a.) buffalo: Sioux hunter
- b.) bravery: warrior
- c.) travois: dog
- d.) dream catcher: Sioux baby

7.) Which of the following WAS NOT true about a vision quest?

- a.) Vision quests sometimes occurred in the forest or on top of a mountain.
- b.) The participant was prohibited from telling anyone about the details of his vision during the vision quest.
- c.) Those experiencing a vision quest hoped to learn about their future.
- d.) The vision quest was experienced alone.

8.) What would probably NOT be found in a medicine bundle?

- a.) A bottle of water
- b.) A token representing a guiding spirit
- c.) An eagle feather representing bravery
- d.) A special rock handed down from father to son.

9.) Which of the following were lessons taught by the White Buffalo Maiden Calf?

- a.) Those to avoid war with neighboring tribes
- b.) Those to avoid charging buffalo stampedes
- c.) Those to avoid conflicts with White settlers
- d.) Those to avoid destroying themselves

10.) Which of the following WAS NOT true of the sweat lodge?

- a.) It was made of willow branches.
- b.) Most vision quests occurred in the sweat lodge.
- c.) It had a fire pit in the center.
- d.) It was dome-shaped.



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?

The French and Indian War proved extremely expensive. In fact, Prime Minister William Pitt nearly bankrupted Parliament to pay for fighting a war overseas. Parliament enacted the Sugar Act in 1764. The Sugar Act imposed new duties (taxes) on American commodities such as sugar, molasses, textiles, coffee and indigo. Unlike previous taxes, this tax was enforced and accused smugglers were prosecuted. American colonists were enraged by the Sugar Act because they did not think they should be taxed in the same way British residents were. For the first time, as the Virginia House of Burgesses asserted, the famous words, “no taxation without representation” were uttered. American colonists argued that they should not be subjected to taxes unless they had elected representatives in Parliament. To make matters worse, Parliament passed the Stamp Act on March 22, 1765. The Stamp Act required Americans to purchase tax stamps for any printed documents including newspapers, legal documents, marriage licenses and more. On March 24th, Parliament passed the Quartering Act which required Americans to provide housing and provisions to British soldiers. Colonists wondered why troops were being sent to America after the French and Indian War. Many believed the troops were sent over to suppress freedoms Americans had enjoyed.

Opposition to the Stamp Act was universal. In 1765, the Massachusetts General Court organized opposition to the Stamp Act. Representatives from nine colonies drafted a petition calling for the repeal of the Stamp Act. Street mobs, calling themselves the Sons of Liberty, destroyed royal offices in Massachusetts and New York. When the Stamp Act was to be officially implemented, on November 1, 1765, all stamp agents sent over from England had been intimidated into resigning their posts. Meanwhile, Americans increasingly imported goods illegally which caused British merchants and manufacturers to lose business. Some, such as Samuel Adams, began to call for independence because Parliament had exceeded its authority. In March of 1766, Parliament agreed to repeal the Stamp Act, but passed the Declaratory Act which reaffirmed their right to pass any law in America.

1. Why did the British issue the Sugar Act?

- A. To pay for paper documents which were expensive to make
- B. To tax the Americans on tea, sugar, and molasses
- C. To make sure the colonists knew that Parliament was in charge
- D. To help recover money used to pay for the French and Indian War

- 2. What did “no taxation without representation” really mean?**
- A. That the colonists would not pay taxes unless they had someone in Parliament on their side
 - B. That the colonists would not be taxed unless Parliament moved to America
 - C. That citizens living in England should not be taxed
 - D. That the colonists would never pay taxes to Parliament because they lived in the colonies rather than in England.
- 3. Which of the following might a colonist have asked after the passage of the Quartering Act?**
- A. Will we have to provide clothing and food to soldiers?
 - B. Why do we keep getting taxed when we have no representative in Parliament?
 - C. Now that the French and Indian War is over, why are more soldiers being sent?
 - D. How will the Quartering Act affect the Stamp Act?
- 4. What could be a synonym for “universal” as used in the first sentence of the second paragraph?**
- A. Total
 - B. Partial
 - C. Severe
 - D. Serious
- 5. What was the role of the Sons of Liberty?**
- A. To peacefully protest the various acts issued by Parliament
 - B. To violently protest the various acts issued by Parliament
 - C. To make the colonies independent from England
 - D. To compromise with Parliament
- 6. Although Parliament ultimately repealed the Stamp Act...**
- A. Parliament agreed that it has exceeded its authority and repealed all acts it had issued against the colonists.
 - B. it agreed that the colonies should become independent
 - C. it issued an act warning the colonists that it could make any law in America.
 - D. it waged war on the Sons of Liberty.
- 7. What question is not answered in the second paragraph?**
- A. What colonies signed the petition demanding repeal of the Stamp Act?
 - B. What was the Declaratory Act?
 - C. What happened to stamp agents in America?
 - D. Why did some Americans call for independence from England?

Statue of Liberty Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The Statue of Liberty is one of America's most beloved symbols. Rising over 300 feet above New York Harbor, "Lady Liberty" has long been a symbol of freedom to immigrants looking for a better life in the United States.

In 1865, Edouard Rene de Laboulaye, the president of the Anti-Slavery Society of France, proposed that a monument representing liberty be created for the United States to honor its victory in the American Civil War and the end of slavery. He shared his idea with the prominent sculptor F.A. Bartholdi, who supported the plan and was eager to work on it. By 1870, Bartholdi had begun work.

In order to plan the sculpture, Bartholdi made several trips to the United States. He decided the statue should stand on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor. In this way, immigrants entering the United States hoping for better lives would sail right past it. Bartholdi envisioned a massive copper statue. The statue would be constructed in France and shipped in pieces to the United States. American builders would construct the platform on which the statue would rest. Bartholdi built "Lady Liberty" with numerous symbols. Her crown has seven points to represent the seven seas and continents. Her torch represents the idea that enlightenment is needed for a nation to achieve freedom. In this way, freedom can be achieved only if one knows that it exists. Her tablet represents the idea that laws are needed to protect freedom. "July 4, 1776" is engraved on the tablet's cover to honor Independence Day. Her robe represents Libertas - the Roman goddess of freedom, whom the entire statue is modeled after. The platform was built with thirteen layers of granite to symbolize the original 13 colonies of America.

Bartholdi finished the statue in 1884. It was shipped to America and assembled in 1886. Its original name was "Liberty enlightening the world," but eventually came to be known simply as the Statue of Liberty. It was dedicated in New York's first ticker-tape parade in 1886, by president Grover Cleveland.

- 1. The inspiration for the idea of the Statue of Liberty came from...**
 - A. Libertas, the Roman goddess of Liberty.
 - B. immigrants who would be sailing through New York Harbor.
 - C. the ending of Slavery in the United States.
 - D. the support of sculptor F.A. Bartholdi.

- 2. Why was Bedloe's Island chosen as the location for the statue?**
- A. Because it was large enough to hold the massive statue
 - B. So immigrants would know that they were in America
 - C. So immigrants would be inspired by the statue as they begun new lives in America
 - D. So Americans would know that the Statue of Liberty was a gift from France
- 3. Which question is NOT answered in the passage?**
- A. What is the Statue of Liberty made from?
 - B. What do the points on her crown represent?
 - C. When was the statue dedicated?
 - D. When did the statue become known as the Statue of Liberty?
- 4. Which of the following best describes the term "enlightenment" as used in the passage?**
- A. Enlightenment refers to achievement based on knowledge
 - B. Enlightenment refers to victory based on circumstances
 - C. Enlightenment refers to learning based on achievement
 - D. Enlightenment refers to circumstances based on knowledge
- 5. Which of the following best describes why the statue was not conceived in 1864?**
- A. Because the Civil War was occurring in America
 - B. Because slavery still existed in parts of America
 - C. Because slavery still existed in France
 - D. Because the French people were not united in their stance on slavery
- 6. Which of the following quotes best describes the tablet's symbolism?**
- A. "Immigrants from around the world have come to New York City for better lives."
 - B. "Opportunity abounds in New York City. That is why she is modeled after Libertas."
 - C. "You must know that freedom exists to be able to achieve it."
 - D. "Strong laws must be passed to preserve liberty."
- 7. The third paragraph mainly discusses...**
- A. the different symbols of the statue.
 - B. the history of the statue.
 - C. statistics regarding the statue.
 - D. the inspiration for the statue.

Stonehenge

Name _____



Stonehenge is one of the most mysterious monuments in the world. Located near Salisbury, England, Stonehenge features a ring of large, standing stones known as megaliths. Considering Stonehenge is about 4,000 – 4,500 years old, scientists still aren't sure how the people of that time moved and positioned the stones. The stones are thought to weigh about 25 tons (50,000 pounds). Scientists are also unsure of what Stonehenge was meant to represent or how it was used, though many ideas exist. Some believe Stonehenge was used as an ancient observatory, others believe it was built as a permanent stone symbol of the more numerous wooden structures that were built in the area, and still others believe it was an ancient alien landing site!

1. Scientists believe... (circle all that are true)

- A. Stonehenge may have been an ancient observatory
- B. Stonehenge may have been a permanent stone symbol of wooden structures
- C. Stonehenge may have been an ancient alien landing site
- D. Stonehenge may have been a place where fires were lit

2. Which of the following are scientists not sure about? (Circle all that true)

- A. The exact location of Stonehenge
- B. How its builders moved the stones
- C. How much the stones weigh
- D. The exact age of Stonehenge

3. What word is closest in meaning to “mysterious” as used in the following sentence?

When Jefferson won the election, Adams returned to his Massachusetts to live in virtual seclusion with Abigail, his wife.

- A. Small
- B. Real
- C. Interesting
- D. Puzzling

4. What could be title for this passage?

- A. Monuments in England
- B. Large Stones in England
- C. The Mystery of Stonehenge
- D. The Aliens of Stonehenge

Anne Sullivan Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Anne Sullivan is best known as Helen Keller's teacher. Her own story, however, is equally as inspirational. Anne overcame incredible obstacles in her life to impact history.

Anne Sullivan was born on April 14, 1866, in Massachusetts. At the age of five, Anne was stricken with a painful bacterial eye infection known as trachoma, which rendered her blind. Three years later her mother died of tuberculosis and her father, who was said to be abusive, abandoned her. Anne and her brother were sent to an overcrowded orphanage in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, where she'd live for four years. Anne's brother died shortly after arriving at the orphanage. In 1880, however, Anne was allowed to leave the orphanage and enroll in the Perkins School for the Blind. At Perkins, Anne was combative with both teachers and students. Nevertheless, her brilliance was obvious and she graduated at the age of 20 as the school's valedictorian, or, highest achiever.

Following her graduation, Anne left for Tusculumbia, Alabama, to work with Helen Keller, who was blind and deaf. Like Anne, Helen was combative and uncooperative with her former teachers. At first, Anne's fiery personality caused problems in the Keller household. According to legend, Anne argued with Mr. Keller about his status as a former slave owner. Anne and Helen, however, bonded immediately. Unlike Helen's teachers of the past, Anne adapted to Helen's personality and learning style. Anne taught Helen words by spelling them out in Helen's palm. In one famous example, Anne ran water over Helen's hands while spelling out "w-a-t-e-r" in her palm. Within six months, Anne had taught Helen hundreds of words, basic math, and even braille. Anne next accompanied Helen to the Perkins School, where Helen's progress drew the attention of the national media. Helen quickly became a celebrity and the public face of the Perkins School. Helen would be accepted to Radcliffe College. At Radcliffe, Sullivan continued to help Keller understand lectures by spelling words into Helen's palm. With Anne's help, Helen Keller became the first blind and deaf person to graduate from college.

Following Helen's graduation, the two toured the country giving speeches and lectures. Anne even starred in a movie about herself entitled *Deliverance* in 1919. Helen and Anne remained close friends and companions throughout the rest of Anne's life. By 1936, Anne's health was in decline and Helen was helping to take care of her. On October 15, 1936, Anne suffered a heart attack. With Helen holding her hand, Anne Sullivan died five days later, on October 20, 1936.

- 1. What is the author trying to communicate in the first paragraph?**
- A. That Anne Sullivan, not Helen Keller, should be the person remembered in history
 - B. That Anne Sullivan played an important role in Helen Keller's life
 - C. Although Anne Sullivan is usually associated with Helen Keller, she also overcame incredible obstacles to make a difference in the world.
 - D. That Anne Sullivan should be best known as Helen Keller's teacher

- 2. Which question is NOT answered in the second paragraph?**
- A. Why did Anne's father leave her?
 - B. What is trachoma?
 - C. When was Anne allowed to leave the orphanage?
 - D. How did Anne's mother die?

- 3. Circle all of the following that Anne and Helen had in common?**
- A. They were combative with people
 - B. They were blind and deaf
 - C. They were both from Alabama
 - D. They both suffered from vision problems

- 4. What is implied in the following sentence?**

Unlike Helen's teachers of the past, Anne adapted to Helen's personality and learning style.

- A. Helen's personality made it very difficult for Anne to teach her
- B. Anne personalized Helen's lessons - unlike her previous teachers
- C. Anne was similar to teachers that Helen had in the past
- D. Anne disciplined Helen for not following her rules

- 5. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Anne and Helen?**
- A. At first Helen was the student, but as time went on, Helen became the teacher and Anne became the student
 - B. At first Helen was simply Anne's student, but as time went on, they became business partners and very close friends
 - C. Helen was Anne's student and eventually they were able to become friends
 - D. While it's true that Helen and Anne spent a lot of time together, the story does not elaborate on their relationship enough to make an accurate description

6. Which of the following IS NOT answered in the passage?

- A. How did Anne help Helen while Helen was a student at Radcliffe?
- B. What was the name of the movie that Anne starred in?
- C. What happened in Anne's life in the years before she died?
- D. What did Anne and Helen do together after Helen graduated from Radcliffe?

7. What can be inferred from the third paragraph?

- A. Anne Sullivan also graduated from Radcliffe College
- B. Anne Sullivan was against slavery
- C. Helen Keller would be the only blind and deaf person to ever graduate from Radcliffe College
- D. Helen Keller also starred in *Deliverance*

The Sylacauga Meteorite

Name _____

Ann Hodges was enjoying a well-deserved nap in her farmhouse on the afternoon of November 30, 1954, in Oak Grove, Alabama, near the town of Sylacauga. It was a cool fall day, typical in Alabama for that time of year. The typical fall afternoon, however, would quickly become anything but typical. At 12:46 P.M., a large object came crashing through the roof of the farmhouse. It crushed a wooden radio before hitting Mrs. Hodges. The object that fell was about the size of a grapefruit. It left a nasty bruise on the left thigh of Mrs. Hodges, but otherwise, left her uninjured.

What was it?

Before the object came crashing through the roof of the farmhouse, people across eastern Alabama reported a fireball streaking through the sky. Others heard loud booming noises. Many believed it was a plane crash or even a UFO. A government geologist was called in to investigate. He quickly concluded that the object that fell was a meteorite. Thus, Ann Hodges made history that day. She was the first documented person in history hit by an object from space. While meteorites entering the Earth's atmosphere are relatively common events, large, intact meteorites are exceedingly rare. Most fall into the ocean or break up into tiny parts. Soon, people from across Alabama descended upon the Hodges house to see the meteorite for themselves. Ann Hodges was so overwhelmed by the attention that she was transferred to a local hospital.

The next question

The final question that soon arose concerning the meteorite involved ownership. Who owned the meteorite? While the United States Air Force initially collected the meteorite, both the Hodges' and their landlord claimed ownership. Eventually, the two parties compromised and the Hodges paid \$500 to their landlord for the meteorite. The Hodges had hoped to sell the meteorite, but by the time their ownership was established there was little public interest in and they were unsuccessful in finding an owner. They decided to donate the meteorite to the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

- 1. Which of the following best describes the afternoon of November 30th in Oak Grove?**
 - A. It was very noteworthy
 - B. It was a typical day for that time of the year
 - C. It was chaotic
 - D. It was very atypical for a fall day in Oak Grove
- 2. Which of the following IS NOT true?**
 - A. The meteorite almost hit Ann Hodges
 - B. The meteorite crushed a radio
 - C. The meteorite fell in the afternoon of November 30
 - D. Some believed the meteorite was a UFO

3. The type of meteorite that landed in Oak Grove...

- A. was fairly common.
- B. was fairly uncommon.
- C. was very common.
- D. was very rare.

4. How did Ann Hodges feel about the aftermath of the meteorite strike?

- A. She felt very proud to have been the first documented person to have been struck by a meteorite
- B. She was badly injured and likely in significant pain
- C. She did not like all of the attention that came with the meteorite strike
- D. She felt it was an opportunity to become rich and famous

5. What is suggested in the following sentence?

She was the first documented person in history hit by an object from space.

- A. No one other than Ann Hodges had ever been hit with a meteorite or part of a meteorite
- B. People are sometimes hit by objects from space
- C. There would soon be new documented instances of people struck by meteorites
- D. There may have been others struck by meteorites, but only Ann Hodges was definitively struck by a meteorite.

6. Which word used in this the final paragraph means to “come to an agreement?”

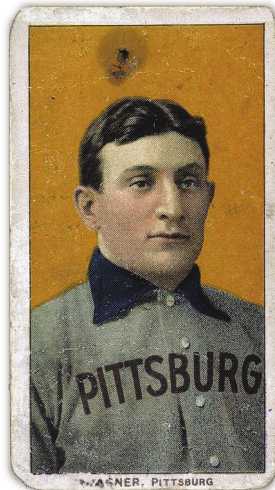
- A. compromised
- B. descended
- C. established
- D. claimed

7. What ultimately became of the meteorite?

- A. The Hodges sold it
- B. It was donated to a museum
- C. It was given to the landlord
- D. The passage doesn't say

Honus Wagner and the T206

Name _____



The T206 Honus Wagner is the world's most valuable sports card. It was issued as part of a series of cards that were inserted in packs of cigarettes produced by the American Tobacco Company (ATC) in 1909.

Who was Honus Wagner?

Wagner was one of the best baseball players of his time. He played shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates between 1897 and 1917. Wagner, who was nicknamed "the Flying Dutchman" for both his running speed and his heritage, won eight batting titles during his career. Along with Babe Ruth, Wagner was one of the first five players elected to the Professional Baseball Hall-of-Fame.

Why is the T206 card so valuable?

The T206 card is so valuable because Honus Wagner forced the American Tobacco Company to cease production of this card. Although his reasoning remains unclear, experts believe one of two theories: Wagner did not want kids to buy packs of cigarettes to obtain the card, or, that he wanted more compensation from the American Tobacco Company. Whatever the reason, only between 50 and 200 of the T206 cards were ultimately printed, packaged, and distributed.

The Value of T206

Even in 1933, the T206 was regarded as the world's most valuable baseball card; although it was valued at a paltry \$50.00 by the *American Card Catalog*. As sports cards became more popular as collectors' items in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, prices of rare cards rose dramatically as they became more in demand. In 1991, Wayne Gretzky, widely considered the greatest hockey player of all time, purchased a professionally graded T206 card for \$451,000. It was later revealed the card was trimmed to improve its condition. In 2016, a different T206 card in poor, but unaltered condition, sold for over \$3,000,000! Several T206 cards have emerged over the past few decades, a few of which are thought to be authentic and several others that are thought to be counterfeit.

- 1. Which is NOT true about Honus Wagner?**
 - A. He played shortstop
 - B. His nickname was “The Flying Dutchman”
 - C. He was recently elected to the Hall-of-Fame
 - D. He won eight batting titles

- 2. Which of the following best describes the T206 card?**
 - A. Very rare
 - B. Fairly common
 - C. Fake
 - D. Non-existent

- 3. Which of the following would be good advice to someone who was considering purchasing a T206 card?**
 - A. You should probably wait a few years as they will become less expensive
 - B. You should probably ask Wayne Gretzky if he thinks purchasing a T206 is a good idea
 - C. You should probably make sure the card you are considering purchasing is authentic rather than fake
 - D. You should probably buy a lot of packs of baseball cards and maybe you’ll get one

- 4. Why is the T206 card so rare?**
 - A. Because the card is so old
 - B. Because Honus Wagner refused to buy cigarettes
 - C. Because most people threw them out
 - D. Because very few of the cards were produced

- 5. Which of the following best describes why Honus Wagner refused to allow his cards to be packaged with American Tobacco Company cigarettes?**
 - A. Because he wanted more money
 - B. Because he didn’t like the idea that kids had to buy packs of cigarettes to get his card
 - C. No one is sure, but the answer is likely A or B
 - D. No one is sure, but the answer is likely A and B

6. What does the word “distributed” mean as used in the following sentence?

Whatever the reason, only between 50 and 200 of the T206 cards were ultimately printed, packaged, and distributed.

- A. borrowed
- B. destroyed
- C. sent out
- D. returned

7. Over time...

- A. prices for rare baseball cards rose.
- B. people lost interest in expensive baseball cards.
- C. Wayne Gretzky bought more T206 cards.
- D. it was discovered that the T206 card wasn't actually very rare.



THOMAS EDISON Reading Comprehension

Thomas Edison was born February 11, 1847, in Milan, Ohio. He was nicknamed "Al" at an early age. At age 11, Edison moved to Michigan, where he spent the remainder of his childhood.

Thomas Edison struggled at school but learned to love reading and conducting experiments from his mother who taught him at home. At age 15, Edison became a "tramp telegrapher," sending and receiving messages via Morse Code, an electronically-conveyed alphabet using different clicks for each letter. Eventually, he worked for the Union Army as a telegrapher. Edison often entertained himself by taking things apart to see how they worked. Soon, he decided to become an inventor.

In 1870, Edison moved to New York City and improved the stock ticker. He soon formed his own company that manufactured the new stock tickers. He also began working on the telegraph and invented a version that could send four messages at once. Meanwhile, Edison married Mary Stillwell, had three children, and moved his family to Menlo Park, New Jersey, where he started his famous laboratory.

In 1877, Edison, with help from "muckers," individuals from around the world looking to make fortunes in America, invented the phonograph. The phonograph was a machine that recorded and played back sounds. He perfected the phonograph by recording "Mary Had a Little Lamb" on a piece of tin foil! In 1878, Edison invented the light bulb as well as the power grid system, which could generate electricity and deliver it to homes through a network of wires. He subsequently started the Edison Electric Light Company in October of 1878.

In 1884, after he attained great fame and fortune, Mary Stillwell died. Edison remarried 20-year-old Mina Miller in 1886. He had three more children and moved to West Orange, New Jersey. At West Orange, Edison built one of the largest laboratories in the world. He worked extremely hard and registered 1,093 patents. Edison continued to invent or improve products and made significant contributions to x-ray technology, storage batteries, and motion pictures (movies). He also invented the world's first talking doll. His inventions changed the world forever. They still influence the way we live today. Edison worked until his death on October 18, 1931.

1.) In what state did Thomas Edison NOT live?

- a.) Michigan
- b.) Ohio
- c.) New York
- d.) Massachusetts

2.) How many children did Thomas Edison have?

- a.) 3
- b.) 4
- c.) 5
- d.) 6

3.) What best describes Morse Code?

- a.) A language for deaf people
- b.) A system of clicks
- c.) A system of clicks that stand for words
- d.) A system of clicks that stand for letters

4.) What was one of Thomas Edison's first accomplishments?

- a.) Inventing the light bulb
- b.) Inventing an improved stock ticker
- c.) Inventing an improved x-ray
- d.) Inventing tin foil

5.) A phonograph is most similar to:

- a.) A microphone
- b.) A walkie-talkie
- c.) A record player
- d.) A television

6.) What is a "mucker"?

- a.) Someone from another country
- b.) Someone from another country hoping to find a home in America
- c.) Someone from another country hoping to make a fortune in America
- d.) Someone from Thomas Edison's family

7.) Select all of the following that Thomas Edison did not invent.

- a.) A power system that could deliver electricity to homes
- b.) The first stock ticker
- c.) The first phonograph
- d.) The first storage battery

8.) What does the quote "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration" mean?

- a.) Only geniuses should think of new ideas.
- b.) One percent of people are capable of ingenuity.
- c.) Geniuses have to sweat a lot to come up with good ideas.
- d.) Great ideas take more hard work than ingenuity.

9.) What is a patent?

- a.) An idea that is the property of a person.
- b.) An idea that everyone can use.
- c.) An idea that can only be used in the future.

10.) What happened last?

- a.) Thomas Edison was nicknamed Al.
- b.) Thomas Edison was a "tramp telegrapher."
- c.) Edison served in the Union Army.
- d.) Edison moved to New York City.

Tides are the daily rise and fall of ocean levels. High tide, as the name implies, is when the ocean's water level is at its highest. During this time if you are at the beach you may have to move your towel back to avoid getting wet as the water level slowly rises and gets closer to you. At low tide, as the name also implies, the ocean's water level is at its lowest. Now your towel might suddenly be very far away from the water as the sea level retreats.

The rising and falling of our planet's oceans is due to the gravitational pull of the moon. To try and understand how this works, imagine that you are looking up at the moon in the night sky. Now imagine seeing a line straight down from the moon and hitting a point on the surface of the earth directly below it. Finally imagine that line going straight through the center of the earth and touching a point on the other side of the world. Those two points are where a high tide will occur. This happens because the gravitational force or "pull" of the moon is strongest where it is closest. Think of it as the moon trying to pull the ocean water closer to it. The moon's gravity causes the water to bulge forward, almost like it is trying to touch the sky and land on the moon.

Now imagine a line going through the center of the earth that is perpendicular to the line we created earlier. This line also goes to two opposing points on the earth and this is where low tides occur. This is where the gravitational pull is the weakest. During low tides, the water is "happy where it is."

As the moon moves, so too does the location of the "bulge" therefore creating a change in tides. Due to the way the earth and moon rotate, most coastal places experience two low tides and two high tides a day. The next time you are at the beach pay attention to where you place your towel, and how the ocean may get closer to you or farther away from you as the day goes on.

- 1. If you are at the beach and notice the waves crashing closer to your towel, you can assume...**
 - A. the gravitational pull of the moon is getting stronger.
 - B. the gravitational pull of the moon is getting weaker
 - C. the water is trying to escape the gravitational pull of the moon.
 - D. a low tide is beginning.

- 2. What is the purpose of the introductory paragraph?**
 - A. To describe how tides work
 - B. To describe what happens during in high and low tides
 - C. To describe the moon's gravitational pull
 - D. To describe different ocean levels

3. What causes a change in tides?

- A. Levels of water
- B. Movements of the moon
- C. Changes in Gravity
- D. Changes in weather

4. What technique does the author use to help you envision the mechanics of tides?

- A. role-play
- B. elaboration
- C. analysis
- D. imagination

5. The author refers to the water being “happy where it is” during ...

- A. low tide.
- B. high tide.
- C. both tides.
- D. parts of the year.

6. Which of the following could replace the word “retreats” in the following sentence?

- A. advances
- B. rises
- C. moves back
- D. scatters

7. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the second and third paragraphs?

- A. To explain the relationship between the tides and mathematics.
- B. To explain the meaning of gravity
- C. To compare and contrast high and low tides
- D. To describe why most coastal regions have two high and low tides

TORNADO Reading Comprehension

A tornado is born from a powerful storm called a supercell. Tornadoes have been reported in all states, but most tornadoes happen in the central parts of America called “Tornado Alley.” In some supercells, warm, moist air rises quickly into the atmosphere. Winds blowing at different speeds at different parts of the supercell produce wind shear and cause a horizontal, rotating column of air. A funnel cloud will form as the air column rotates faster and more tightly within the supercell. The rain and hail within the storm cause the funnel cloud to touch the ground, resulting in a tornado. The strength of a tornado is measured by what’s called the Fujita scale. The weakest tornadoes (F0) feature winds of 40–78 miles per hour, while the strongest tornadoes (F5) have winds of up to 318 miles per hour. All tornadoes can be devastating, especially if they touch down in areas with lots of people.

Tornado Outbreak

A tornado outbreak occurs when one storm system produces multiple tornadoes. Some tornado outbreaks can result in the formation of dozens of tornadoes over several states. One particularly powerful tornado outbreak occurred between April 25 and April 28 of 2011, where a record 355 tornadoes in 21 states and Canada were recorded, including an F5 tornado that completely destroyed parts of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Much of the destruction was caught on camera and broadcast across the country and internet. The same weather system produced hailstones that measured 4.5 inches across in southern Virginia. 328 people were killed as a result of the outbreak, which totaled over \$11 billion in damages.

1.) Which is NOT true about tornadoes?

- a.) They are born from supercells.
- b.) They only occur in some states.
- c.) Tornado strength is measured on the Fujita scale.
- d.) Most tornadoes occur in North America in Tornado Alley.

2.) What states have never had tornadoes?

- a.) Alaska and Hawaii
- b.) The passage doesn't say.
- c.) States outside of Tornado Alley
- d.) All states have had tornadoes.

3.) What causes the supercell to tilt downward toward the ground?

- a.) wind
- b.) warm air
- c.) rain and hail
- d.) lightning

4.) When are tornadoes most devastating?

- a.) When they hit in Tornado Alley
- b.) When wind shear occurs
- c.) When they register on the Fujita Scale
- d.) When they hit areas with lots of people

5.) Which of the following would complete the analogy:

Supercell : Tornado ::

- a.) Cloud : Lightning
- b.) Moon : Stars
- c.) Hurricane : Ocean
- d.) Thunder : Rain

6.) What is the theme of the first paragraph?

- a.) Historic Tornadoes
- b.) Wind Speed
- c.) The Fujita Scale
- d.) Birth and Strength of a Tornado

7.) Why does the author refer to the hailstones that hit Virginia as part of the tornado outbreak of April 2011?

- a.) To show that much of the damage was caught on camera
- b.) To show how long the storm lasted
- c.) To show that tornado outbreaks often happen in the spring
- d.) To show how powerful and destructive the storms were

8.) In a tornado outbreak... (select all that are true)

- a.) A single storm system can produce multiple tornadoes.
- b.) Only F5 tornadoes occur.
- c.) Storms that produce damaging hail can occur as well.
- d.) Dozens of tornadoes can form in distant locations.

9.) What did paragraph two include that paragraph one did not include?

- a.) information about the Fujita scale
- b.) information on when tornadoes become very destructive
- c.) information about how tornadoes form
- d.) a specific instance

10.) Select all that are true about the tornado outbreak of 2011.

- a.) It produced a violent hailstorm in Virginia.
- b.) It devastated Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- c.) It spanned two nations.
- d.) It was both deadly and costly

Track 61

The sprawling New York City metro system is one of the largest and most traveled in the world. But within the bowels of the great subway system exist miles and miles of abandoned tracks and several abandoned stations.

Track 61 was a railway platform for the Metro-North Railroad that ran beneath the famous Waldorf Astoria hotel next to Grand Central Terminal in the middle of the city. It originally served as a storage area for the city's railroad cars. Because of its ideal location next the Waldorf Astoria and Grand Central Station, Track 61 was used as a means to secretly transport prominent visitors. According to legend, it was first used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a means to privately transport his car from the station to the indoor parking lot of the Waldorf Astoria. In addition, Roosevelt was believed to have utilized Track 61 to get back and forth to the hotel without being seen in public and to hide to his deteriorating condition resulting from Polio. In 1965, the famous pop artist Andy Warhol is said to have hosted a private party on the platform. Many years later, Track 61 was used by President George W. Bush to travel to and from meetings that were held in the Waldorf hotel. Countless other rumors of its uses exist.

Nowadays, the station appears to be in complete disrepair and is closed to the public. An old car of the train still sits at the station and the tracks are covered in a thick layer of dirt. Many insist that Track 61 is still in use, because of the supposed presence of an "unmarked" door at the street level of the Waldorf-Astoria that supposedly leads down to the train station.

1. Track 61 was originally used...

- A. as a means to transport prominent citizens secretly.
- B. as a storage area for railroad cars.
- C. for Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- D. for visitors of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel

2. Which is following is NOT true about Track 61?

- A. It is connected to the Waldorf-Astoria hotel
- B. It is currently open to the public and is used as a museum
- C. Andy Warhol is said to have once thrown a party there
- D. It is one of several abandoned railway stations on the New York City subway system

3. What does the word “prominent” mean in the following sentence?

However, because of its ideal location next the Waldorf Astoria and Grand Central Station, Track 61 was used as a means to secretly transport prominent visitors

- A. Regular
- B. Rich
- C. Foreign
- D. Important

4. Why do people think Track 61 may still be in use?

- A. Because of an unmarked door at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel
- B. Because the track is in disrepair
- C. Because Franklin D. Roosevelt was once used it
- D. The passage doesn't say

5. Which of the following remains a mystery?

- A. Did Franklin D. Roosevelt use Track 61?
- B. Did Track 61 exist?
- C. Where was Track 61?
- D. Is Track 61 still in use today?

BATTLE OF TRENTON Reading Comprehension

For the most part, and with the exception of the publication of the Declaration of Independence, 1776 had been a brutal year for Patriot morale. The Continental Army, under the command of George Washington, had been more or less routed in and around New York City, suffering tremendous casualties. Morale was low and the ragtag Continental Army was forced to retreat through New Jersey to the west side of the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. On the other side of the river, in Trenton, N.J., were three regiments of Hessian soldiers (German soldiers) numbering about 1,400.

General Washington planned an attack on the Hessians from three directions to be executed on December 26, 1776, the day after Christmas. As the Continental Army prepared to cross the Delaware River on their way to Trenton, sleet and snow had begun to fall, delaying the crossing. With great effort and difficulty, the army eventually crossed the river in Durham boats, and the horses and artillery were ferried across. Two men fell overboard during the crossing, but both survived. Two other generals who were to assist Washington were delayed by the adverse weather. By 4:00 in the morning, however, the crossing was completed and the Continental Army began the nine-mile march toward Trenton. During the march, Washington continually encouraged his troops, many of whom lacked shoes and were bleeding from their feet.

The first gunfire of the battle happened about a mile north of Trenton at a Hessian outpost, where the Hessians stationed there began a desperate retreat. Once in Trenton, Washington instructed the escape route to Princeton cut off. Washington's army was soon joined by armies under the command of Generals Nathanael Greene and John Sullivan. Cannons and artillery were set up at the heads of King and Queen Streets, the two main streets running through the city, which did tremendous damage to the Hessian ranks. Hessian soldiers advancing up the streets were quickly repulsed. Elsewhere in the city, Hessian forces were being overrun. Eventually, the majority of Hessian forces would become surrounded by American forces in an orchard. They were forced to surrender. Others surrendered when their escape routes had been cut off.

In the battle, only two American soldiers were killed and five were injured, though many more died from hypothermia and disease. The Hessians suffered 83 casualties, 22 of which were fatalities. 896 Hessians were captured, though several hundred did manage to escape. All four Hessian colonels, however, were killed. Although the battle was not important tactically, it inspired the American war effort and raised the morale of the army, which seemed to be threatened with dissolution.

- 1.) **At the time just before the Battle of Trenton, where was the Continental Army?**
 - a.) Delaware
 - b.) New Jersey
 - c.) New York
 - d.) Pennsylvania

- 2.) **What made the crossing of the Delaware River so difficult?**
 - a.) The depth of the current
 - b.) The soldiers on the other side
 - c.) The current
 - d.) The weather

- 3.) **What happened after the army crossed the Delaware River?**
 - a.) The nine-mile march to Trenton
 - b.) The weather cleared
 - c.) The Battle of Trenton
 - d.) The death of two soldiers

- 4.) **Which word best describes the crossing of the river?**
 - a.) dangerous
 - b.) comfortable
 - c.) splendid
 - d.) outrageous

- 5.) **Which of the following was NOT true about the crossing of the Delaware River?**
 - a.) It occurred on the day after Christmas.
 - b.) The cannons were carried across on a ferry.
 - c.) Two men died.
 - d.) The soldiers crossed in Durham boats.

- 6.) **Where were the first shots fired?**
 - a.) south of Trenton
 - b.) north of Trenton
 - c.) on the Delaware River
 - d.) in Trenton

- 7.) **What does the word “repulsed” mean in the following sentence:**

Hessian soldiers advancing up the streets were quickly **repulsed**.

 - a.) turned back
 - b.) fooled
 - c.) destroyed
 - d.) none of the above

- 8.) **Which of the following would accurately describe the Americans after the battle?**
 - a.) Few died in battle; many died of the cold and of disease.
 - b.) Many died in battle; few died of the cold and of disease.
 - c.) Few died in battle; few died of the cold and of disease.
 - d.) Many died in battle; many died of the cold and of disease.

- 9.) **Which best describes the Battle of Trenton?**
 - a.) It was the turning point in the war.
 - b.) Completely unimportant
 - c.) Tactically important
 - d.) It raised the morale of the army.

- 10.) **What happened first?**
 - a.) The capture of 896 Hessian soldiers.
 - b.) Christmas 1776
 - c.) The Battle of Trenton
 - d.) Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River.

HARRIET TUBMAN Reading Comprehension

Harriet Tubman was one of the most famous American women in history. She was born on March 10, 1821, in Dorchester County, Maryland, the daughter of slaves on a Maryland plantation. Her original name was Araminta Ross, and she was nicknamed "Minty." From an early age, she worked as a servant at the plantation house. As a teenager, she suffered a vicious head wound as she tried to protect a fellow slave from a beating. According to legend, the woman who was beating the other slave hurled a two-pound weight, hitting Harriet in the head. Her injury would haunt her for the remainder of her life, resulting in periodic fainting spells.

Tubman spent her early life as a slave. In 1844, she married a free black man named John Tubman, who would prove disloyal. Life as a slave was extremely difficult. They were forced to work in the merciless heat without rest. They were often beaten and forced to live in poor conditions. In the early and mid 1800s, slaves were often sold to Southern plantations where they would never have contact with their families again. Harriet was a particularly strong and powerful woman who could be sold for a hefty sum. Fearing that she was about to be sold, Harriet resolved to run away. Despite the brutal punishment that would be inflicted upon her if she was caught, Harriet took off in the middle of the night sometime in 1849 and headed north to freedom. She gained assistance along the way by abolitionist Quaker families who hung specially designed carpets or lights on the outside of their houses as a sign that runaway slaves were welcome and would receive help. She traveled by night through the dense woodlands of Maryland, guided north by the North Star and the moss that grew on the north side of the trees. She eventually made it to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a free city where she landed a job and saved money. After living in Philadelphia for two years, Harriet decided to return to Maryland, in the hopes of freeing her family members. She succeeded in guiding her sister and mother to freedom along the same path that she had taken. This path became known as the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of woodland paths scattered throughout parts of the South that led to freedom in the North. Harriet returned again and guided her father and brother to freedom.

Soon, Harriet became known as the "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and made more daring trips to the South to guide more slaves to their freedom. Harriet devised strategies to trick various parties that tried to capture her. If she was traveling with a baby, she would use herbal drugs to ensure it didn't cry. She made sure that she traveled on Saturdays as "runaway notices" in Southern newspapers could not be printed until Monday. Harriet's daring "forays" continued to elude slave hunters who were offered huge bounties for returning slaves to their owners. By 1856, a \$40,000 bounty was placed on her capture—dead or alive. She became a serious threat to Southern plantation owners who made large investments in their slaves. In one famous story, Harriet was close to being captured at a bus station. To avoid capture, she pulled out a book and pretended to read. Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.

By 1860, Tubman was said to have completed 19 successful journeys on the Underground Railroad, freeing as many as 300 slaves. She was never captured, nor were any of her "passengers." During the Civil War, she served as a cook, nurse, and spy for the Union Army. After the war, she settled in Troy, New York, where she would die in 1913.

1.) Which of the following was an EFFECT of Harriet's head injury?

- a.) She suffered from fainting spells.
- b.) She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad.
- c.) She married a free black man.
- d.) She was sold to another family.

2.) Which of the following best describes the Underground Railroad?

- a.) A network of trains and railroad tracks that led slaves to freedom in the North
- b.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the West
- c.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the South
- d.) A network of paths and forest trails that led slaves to freedom in the North.

3.) Which of the following did Harriet NOT take into consideration in her quest for freedom?

- a.) The position of the North Star
- b.) The disappointment of her owners when they learned she had runaway
- c.) Specially designed carpets on the outsides of houses friendly to runaway slaves
- d.) The tendency of moss to grow on the north side of trees

4.) Which of the following questions is answered in the last paragraph?

- a.) Was Harriet Tubman able to read or write?
- b.) How did Harriet Tubman contribute to the Union Army in the Civil War?
- c.) How did Harriet Tubman avoid capture on the Underground Railroad?
- d.) What happened to Harriet's husband?

5.) Who helped Harriet in her escape to freedom?

- a.) the people of Maryland
- b.) her husband
- c.) Quaker families
- d.) the police

6.) Harriet Tubman suffered a head injury while...

- a.) Falling.
- b.) lifting heavy weights.
- c.) working in the fields.
- d.) protecting a fellow slave.

7.) Harriet Tubman helped as many as _____ slaves to their freedom.

- a.) 300
- b.) 40,000
- c.) 40
- d.) 100

8.) Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturdays?

- a.) Because runaway notices would be printed on Sundays
- b.) Because she was too tired during the work week
- c.) To get a head start on the runaway notices that would appear in Monday newspapers
- d.) Because slave hunters never worked on Saturdays

9.) Why did Harriet Tubman ultimately run away from her owners?

- a.) She was very strong
- b.) To reunite with her husband
- c.) She was afraid she would be sold
- d.) To find better pay in the North

10.) What does the word "illiterate" mean in the following sentence?

Since nearly all slaves were illiterate, the hunters simply ignored her and continued their search.

- a.) captured
- b.) unable to read or write
- c.) slow
- d.) quiet

Harriet Tubman Reading Comprehension – How Did She do it?

Name _____

Harriet Tubman was well known as the “conductor” of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was neither underground nor a railroad; it was a system of trails that led from the slave states of Delaware and Maryland to the free state of Pennsylvania. Harriet Tubman knew the trails well and was said to have guided at least 60-70 slaves to freedom upon the trail. How did she do it?

The borders of Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, were dangerous places for slaves seeking their freedom. Slave catchers frequented the area, hoping to reap the rewards offered by slave owners for their runaways before or after they crossed the Mason-Dixon Line. Thus, Harriet Tubman, and others who helped slaves escaped to freedom were resourceful and elusive and were quick to learn who to trust and who not to trust.

Tubman, in contrast to popular thought, never relied on the “quilt system” to choose safe houses along the Underground Railroad. Rather, she relied on people she trusted to hide her and guide her in the right directions. She often relied on Quaker families living in Maryland who were willing to break Maryland law to hide her or transport her. To travel, she walked, rode horses or in wagons, sailed on boats, and rode actual trains. She often traveled in disguise or dressed up as a man or elderly person. She traveled on Saturdays as runaway notices in southern newspapers weren’t published until Monday. Tubman even employed acting techniques when necessary. In one particularly harrowing tale, she recognized one of her old masters on a train. The quick-thinking Tubman quickly grabbed a newspaper pretending to read it. Because she was thought to be illiterate, her master thought nothing of it. The newspaper turned out to be an extremely effective prop – even though she held it upside down! In addition, Tubman used songs to communicate danger or safety and had others write letters on her behalf. She even bribed people when necessary.

In the woods, Tubman used various methods to ensure she traveled in the correct direction. She learned to identify the directional flow of rivers and to follow those that flowed north. She often traveled by night and used the north star as a guide. On cloudy nights, she watched for moss that only grew on the north side of the trees. If danger arose, Tubman looked for a quick source of water to hide her scent from the hound dogs that accompanied the slave catchers.

- 1. Why is the word “conductor” in quotes in the first paragraph?**
 - A. To make sure the reader notices that Harriet was conductor of the Underground Railroad
 - B. To make sure that reader notices the word “conductor”
 - C. To make sure the reader knows that Harriet was not a real conductor
 - D. To make sure the reader knows how important her role was

- 2. According to the reader, which of the following could be a misnomer? A misnomer is something that is named inaccurately.**
 - A. The free state of Pennsylvania
 - B. Quilt System
 - C. Mason-Dixon Line
 - D. The Underground Railroad

- 3. Which of the words in the third paragraph means “hard to find?”**
 - A. resourceful
 - B. elusive
 - C. frequented
 - D. seeking

- 4. Why did Harriet Tubman travel on Saturday?**
 - A. Because the north star was clearest on Saturdays
 - B. Because she knew people would not expect slaves to escape on Saturday or Sunday
 - C. Because she knew she would have at least a full day before word of the slaves she was helping escape was published in the newspapers
 - D. Because she knew that slave catchers preferred to operate during the week rather than on weekends

- 5. Which of the following can be inferred about Maryland Quakers?**
 - A. Many were against the practice of slavery
 - B. Many were suspicious of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
 - C. Many were considered violent criminals in Maryland
 - D. The passage doesn’t give enough information about Quakers to enable the reader to make an inference

- 6. Which of the following IS NOT answered in the passage?**
 - A. Was Harriet Tubman ever captured?
 - B. How did Harriet Tubman elude the hound dogs that accompanied slave catchers?
 - C. To what state did Harriet Tubman hope to bring runaway slaves?
 - D. How did Harriet Tubman use songs?

- 7. Which of the following would be the best main idea for this passage?**
- A. Harriet Tubman will always be remembered as the Conductor of the Underground Railroad
 - B. Harriet Tubman's life was difficult and full of sadness
 - C. Harriet Tubman's adventures led to the escape of 70 slaves
 - D. Harriet Tubman's resourcefulness and instincts served her well as conductor of the Underground Railroad

Rock Types Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The three main types of rocks that exist are igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. They all look a little bit different, and they are all created in different ways. Igneous rocks are formed when hot liquid magma cools. This can happen under the surface of the earth or on top of the surface of the earth during a volcanic eruption. When this happens the liquid magma turns into a hard solid and crystals are formed. These crystals make up an igneous rock and can be so small that you need a microscope to see them, or, they can be as big as the size of your hand! Pumice and granite are examples of igneous rocks. Sedimentary rocks are formed when broken pieces of other types of rocks travel from other places on the earth's surface and come together to harden over a very long period of time. Sedimentary rocks can form at the bottom of oceans, at the bases of mountains, in rivers, floodplains, and deltas to name a few. Examples include limestone, sandstone, and coal. Believe it or not, chalk is a type of sedimentary rock! Metamorphic rocks start out as one kind of rock, and then turn into another kind of rock when they are exposed to heat and pressure. They are normally found inside the earth's crust because the weight of all of the rocks laying on top of them are able to squeeze them and heat them into something new. Marble is an example of a metamorphic rock.

These rock types are all different but they all have the same super power - they can all change their identity and turn into each other! A sedimentary rock can be melted and then re-harden to form an igneous rock. An igneous rock can be broken down into tiny pieces and then team up with other tiny broken pieces and harden into a sedimentary rock. A sedimentary rock can be squeezed and heated and turn into a metamorphic rock. Even though it may take millions of years, rocks are always changing due to this process called the rock cycle, a cycle that is happening all over the earth's surface.

1. Which of the following would be unlikely?

- Discovering a rock that is millions of years old
- Finding a metamorphic rock that was never a different kind of rock
- Igneous rocks forming from a volcanic eruption
- Finding a sedimentary rock at the bottom of the ocean

2. Which of the following best explains how metamorphic rocks are formed?

- a. Metamorphic rocks are formed under extreme pressure and heat
- b. Metamorphic rocks are formed from the melting of other rocks
- c. Metamorphic rocks are formed from the hardening of fragments of other types of rock
- d. Metamorphic rocks are formed in large bodies of water

3. Which is NOT true?

- a. A sedimentary rock can turn into an igneous rock
- b. An igneous rock can become a metamorphic rock
- c. Only the metamorphic rock is not part of the rock cycle
- d. Coal is a type of sedimentary rock.

4. Which of the following does the author think you'll be surprised to know?

- a. Chalk is a kind of sedimentary rock
- b. Marble is a type of metamorphic rock
- c. Sedimentary rocks can become metamorphic rocks
- d. Igneous rocks can be formed during volcanic eruptions

5. To which of the following questions would "because they can change form" be the answer?

- a. Why are rocks always changing?
- b. How are rocks like super heroes?
- c. What makes sedimentary rocks different from the other two types of rock?
- d. Why are rocks so important to the study of Earth?

6. Which of the following best describes the rock cycle?

- a. The process by which rocks are transported
- b. The process by which rocks are classified
- c. The process by which rocks change
- d. The process by which rocks are discovered

7. Which of the following completes the analogy?

marble : metamorphic rock ::

- a. bird: hawk
- b. dove : sparrow
- c. sparrow : dove
- d. hawk : bird

Unicorn Reading Comprehension

Name _____

When you imagine a unicorn, what do you see? Do you see a graceful, white, horse-like creature with a long horn protruding from its forehead? If so, you may be surprised about how it came to be the symbol we imagine. For most of history, the unicorn was seen quite differently. In fact, it remains somewhat of a mystery how history's interpretation of the unicorn evolved into today's version.

Where the Legend Began

The Legend of the Unicorn began with Pliny the Younger's epic encyclopedia known as *Natural History*, in which he described a creature called a Monoceros. Pliny was a philosopher in ancient Rome who also happened to pen the only known eyewitness account of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Pliny described the unicorn as "the fiercest of animals, and it is said that it is impossible to capture alive. It has the body of a horse, the head of a stag, the feet of an elephant, the tail of a boar, and a single black horn three feet long in the middle of its forehead. Its cry is a deep bellow."

Unicorns Around the World

Descriptions and depictions of unicorns would next appear in the Bible and other early folklore. The Chinese version of the unicorn was known as a kirin. A kirin sighting was thought to come before the birth of a baby, or, in some cases, the death of a sage or ruler. In Medieval Europe, unicorn horns were said to detect poisons in drinks and food. Unscrupulous merchants made small fortunes selling narwhal tusks or oryx horns as unicorn tusks to royals and aristocrats. Many of those who were wealthy enough to purchase such horns ground them up into powder and ingested them preemptively to gain supposed immunity to toxins. The powder was known as alicorn and had no actual medicinal qualities.

The Real Unicorn - Maybe

While the inspiration for the mythical unicorn may have simply been an antelope or deer with a lost antler, many believe the Indian rhinoceros to be the true inspiration for the unicorn. Much of Pliny the Younger's description could be attributed to the rhino, which indeed had a single, long horn, a tail similar to a boar's, and had feet similar to an elephant. As generations of Romans traveled to India and China, descriptions of the rhinoceros may have been embellished or changed over time. Furthermore, Marco Polo's description of a unicorn he observed in Asia in the 1200s undoubtedly fit the description of a Javan rhinoceros.

- 1. Why does the author ask questions in the first paragraph?**
- A. Because the author is curious about how the reader would answer
 - B. Because the author doesn't know the answer
 - C. Because the author wants to prepare the reader for a new explanation
 - D. Because the author wants to indicate the main idea

- 2. According to Pliny the Younger...**
- A. the Monoceros was similar to a modern-day unicorn.
 - B. the Monoceros was several modern-day animals put together.
 - C. had no characteristics of a modern-day unicorn.
 - D. had multiple horns.

- 3. Which is not true about Pliny the Younger?**
- A. He lived during the same time as Marco Polo
 - B. He saw Mt. Vesuvius erupt
 - C. He was an ancient Roman philosopher
 - D. He wrote an encyclopedia

- 4. What does the word "Unscrupulous" mean in the following sentence?**

Unscrupulous merchants made small fortunes selling narwhal tusks or oryx horns as unicorn tusks to royals and aristocrats.

- A. Unsuccessful
 - B. Unclean
 - C. Disorganized
 - D. Dishonest
- 5. To which of the following questions would "to become immune to poisons" be the answer?**
- A. Why did wealthy aristocrats believe in unicorns?
 - B. What were the medicinal properties of narwhal tusks?
 - C. Why did unscrupulous merchants sell tusks?
 - D. Why did wealthy aristocrats grind tusks into alicorn?
- 6. Why do some people believe the Indian rhinoceros was the inspiration for the unicorn?**
- A. Because many people from the Roman Empire had visited Asia
 - B. Because Roman descriptions of the Indian rhinoceros may have evolved over time
 - C. Because Marco Polo traveled to China in the 1200s
 - D. Because the inspiration for the unicorn was unlikely an antelope or deer that had lost an antler

7. What is suggested in the third paragraph?

- A. Most people weren't wealthy enough to acquire alicorn
- B. The kirin was the Chinese version of the unicorn
- C. Alicorn may have actually had medicinal qualities
- D. Narwhals were the real unicorns

Utah Reading Comprehension for Grades 4-6

Salt Lake City was founded by Brigham Young and members of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in 1847. The Mormons were looking for an isolated place to practice their religious beliefs without being persecuted. Immediately, settlers began building their temple, which was completed forty years later. They also organized a new state, which they called Deseret. Congress, however, denied their petition for statehood and instead created the Utah Territory. In 1858, Salt Lake City was named capital of the Utah Territory. In the late 1800's, the city's population grew with the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The famed "Golden Spike" was hammered north of Salt Lake City in Promontory, Utah.

Today, Salt Lake City remains one of only two urban areas (cities) in the entire Great Basin (Reno, Nevada is the other). A little less than half of the city's residents are Mormons. The city is a popular resort town with skiers and winter sports enthusiasts. In 2002, Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics.

1. Why did the Mormons settle in Salt Lake City?

- A. It was the capital of Utah
- B. They wanted to practice their religion freely
- C. They knew the population would grow
- D. They knew it would grow to be a great city

2. What happened when the Mormons applied for statehood?

- A. It was granted by Congress
- B. Congress agreed to complete the Transcontinental Railroad
- C. The Utah Territory was created
- D. The Mormons organized the "state" of Deseret.

3. Today...

- A. Many Mormons still live in Salt Lake City.
- B. Mormons are the only people that live in Salt Lake City.
- C. Mormons no longer live in Salt Lake City.
- D. There are very few Mormons who live in Salt Lake City.

4. Which of the following people would likely be MOST excited to visit Utah?

- A. Snowboarders
- B. Skateboarders
- C. Tennis Players
- D. Surfers

5. What can you infer about the Great Basin from the passage?

- A. It has a lot of traffic and congestion
- B. It has a lot of people
- C. Apart from Salt Lake City and Reno, there are probably few people
- D. Reno, Nevada is a very large city

6. When did Salt Lake City start growing?

- A. Upon the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad
- B. After the Winter Olympics of 2002
- C. 1858
- D. When Deseret was formed

7. What is implied in the followed sentence?

The famed "Golden Spike" was hammered north of Salt Lake City in Promontory, Utah.

- A. Promontory, Utah became the capital of Utah
- B. The "Golden Spike" became well known
- C. The Transcontinental Railroad was built through Salt Lake City
- D. None of the above

University of Virginia Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The University of Virginia was founded in 1819 by Thomas Jefferson in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was built on land originally owned by America's fifth president, and trustee of the university, James Monroe. Jefferson envisioned the university as a center of knowledge separate from religious influence. Although Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, he became unhappy with the institution because of its emphasis on religion over science.

Jefferson's University of Virginia would prove an entirely different educational experience than of typical universities of the time. First, students could attend any of eight independent schools where they could focus on medicine, law, chemistry, ancient languages, modern languages, natural philosophy, and moral philosophy. The university would become the first to allow students to focus their educations on astronomy, architecture, botany, philosophy, and political science. In most other universities, student choices were limited to law, medicine, or divinity.

The University of Virginia was the first university to be centered around a library instead of a church. The university reflected Jefferson's strong position concerning a separation of church and state and lacked a school of divinity. Jefferson believed religion stifled education and that the University of Virginia would be a place "based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind." It held its first classes on March 7, 1825. Jefferson was intimately involved with the university and often hosted dinners for faculty and students at his nearby home, *Monticello*. Jefferson was so proud of his university, that he included "Father of the University of Virginia" on his gravestone.

- 1. Why was Thomas Jefferson unhappy with the College of William and Mary?**
 - A. He thought it emphasized science over religion
 - B. He thought it emphasized law over science
 - C. He thought it emphasized religion over science
 - D. He thought it failed to emphasize religion enough

2. What question is not answered in the passage?

- A. What classes did Jefferson teach?
- B. How was Jefferson involved with the university?
- C. Why did Thomas Jefferson decide to establish the university?
- D. What kinds of classes could students take?

3. What made the University of Virginia different from other universities?

- A. Religion was an important part of studies at the University of Virginia
- B. A library was at the center of the university
- C. It was built on land owned by Thomas Jefferson
- D. All of the above

4. To which of the following would Thomas Jefferson likely agree?

- A. It is a university's responsibility to teach religion to its students
- B. When done correctly, religion is a positive influence on education
- C. The focus of students should remain firmly fixed on medicine or law
- D. Students are best served by universities with the absence of religion

5. What does Jefferson mean by "illimitable" in the sentence below?

Jefferson believed religion stifled education and that the University of Virginia would be a place "based on the illimitable freedom of the human mind."

- A. living
- B. mortal
- C. ending
- D. unlimited

6. For which of the following statements could the following be used as supporting evidence?

Jefferson was intimately involved with the university and often hosted dinners for faculty and students at his nearby home, *Monticello*.

- A. The university allowed students to pursue many paths of study
- B. Thomas Jefferson was very proud of the University of Virginia
- C. Thomas Jefferson enjoyed interacting with the people of his university
- D. Thomas Jefferson built the University of Virginia around a library instead of a church

7. Which is NOT true about the University of Virginia?

- A. It provided a different educational experience from other colleges and universities at the time
- B. Classes began in 1819
- C. James Monroe was one of the university's original trustees
- D. Students could pursue studies focused on astronomy, architecture, and many other topics

Venomous Spiders Compare and Contrast

Name _____

The **brown recluse spider** gets its name from its drab brown coloring and its habit of living a solitary existence. These spiders are characterized by a violin-shaped marking on the back of the neck. While many spiders have eight eyes, the Brown recluse has six eyes organized into three "dyads." Brown recluse spiders are small spiders rarely exceeding 3/8 of an inch in length.

These spiders are most common in the southern plain states of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. They are also established in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. This spider loves dark places and is normally found under porches, in log piles, old tires, or in drains. Inside the house, brown recluse spiders may be found in dark basements, closets, or in trash cans.

Brown recluse spiders will bite humans when threatened, although their bite is only powerful enough to puncture skin; it cannot bite through clothing. Although different people will experience a wide range of intensity of symptoms (some will experience little pain or minor symptoms while other experience intense pain and symptoms), a brown recluse spider bite normally requires medical attention, although there is currently no anti-venom for a bite from this spider. Some individuals (about 10% of those who are bitten) experience major tissue damage, necrosis (decay of skin and tissue) and infection as a result of a bite from this spider. In rare cases, individuals require the amputation of the affected limb.

The **black widow spider** is characterized its by black body and legs, and tell-tale red hourglass marking on the underside of its abdomen. Females can grow to lengths of about 1.5 inches. Males are smaller but have longer legs.

The black widow spider is one of the most feared spiders in the world. Its venom is extremely poisonous and is said to be at least 15 times more poisonous than the venom of a rattlesnake. Black widow spiders are found in many parts of the world, but in the United States are limited to the warmer climates of the southern and western portions of the county. Black widow spiders are fond of dark places such as under rocks or logs. In houses and buildings, they may take up residence in closets, furniture, pipes, or in basements. After a female and a male mate, the female often kills and eats the male, hence the name black "widow."

Black widow spiders eat other insects that they catch in their webs. Unlucky victims are injected with venom which liquefies their insides. The spider can then easily consume its prey. Black widow spiders will bite humans when they feel threatened. While the venom is not toxic enough to normally cause death, it is extremely painful, and is often severe enough to require hospitalization. Headaches, chest or abdominal pain, muscle cramps, and trouble breathing are the most common symptoms.

- 1. Which of the following do both kinds of spider have in common?**
 - A. They both live in dark places
 - B. They both have red hourglass markings
 - C. They are both about the same size
 - D. They are both the same color

- 2. What makes the brown recluse spider different from most spiders?**
 - A. The bite of the brown recluse is more powerful than that of most spiders
 - B. They are larger than most spiders
 - C. They live in the southern United States
 - D. They have less eyes than most spiders

- 3. Which is accurate?**
 - A. The black widow spider is smaller than the brown recluse spider
 - B. The black widow spider and the brown recluse spider are found in different habitats and different states
 - C. The black widow spider and the brown recluse spider live in similar habitats and the some of the same states
 - D. The bites of both the black widow and the brown recluse spiders are not usually severe

4. What is described below?

I saw a dark-colored spider in my trash can. It was about an inch and a half long. It looked like it might have some red marking on its belly.

- A. Male black widow spider
 - B. Female brown recluse spider
 - C. Female black widow spider
 - D. Male brown recluse spider
-
- 5. Which of the following best describes why the brown recluse spider has “recluse” in its name?**
- A. Its venom is so toxic that in some cases it causes people to lose limbs
 - B. The spider is often found in dark places, under logs, and in basements
 - C. It is drab and plain-colored, which makes it look relatively harmless
 - D. These spiders live alone and rarely associate with other brown recluse spiders



Venus

What does this planet look like?

Venus is sometimes called Earth's sister planet, though its similarities with Earth are limited apart from size and relative condition of its surface. It is easily observed with the naked eye and is sometimes called the "evening star" or "morning star." Venus is covered by thick, noxious clouds of sulfuric acid that obscure its surface. The thick layers of cloud create an extreme insulating effect (like the greenhouse effect) that radiates heat back to the surface and raises the temperature to over 800 degrees F.

Its surface is rocky, dusty, and dotted with mountains and canyons and a few volcanic hot spots. There are many lava flows. Some of the mountain ranges, including the Maxwell Montes are enormous. Mountains within the 540 mile long range can reach heights of seven miles (much higher than the highest mountain on Earth). In contrast to the high mountains, about 65% of Venus is comprised of smooth plains. The pressure on the surface of Venus is intense. If you were to stand upon Venus, you would feel the same amount of pressure you would if you were 3,200 feet underwater!

How big is this planet?

Venus is very similar in size to Earth and occupies about 95% of Earth's diameter. Venus is at least 80% as massive as Earth.

What is its gravity like?

Gravitational force on Venus is similar to Earth. A 100-pound Earthling would weigh about 91 pounds on Venus.

How far is it from the sun? From the Earth?

Venus is the second closest planet to the sun at 67,000,000 miles away. When Venus and Earth are on the same side of the sun, the two planets may come within 25,500,000 miles of each other. When they are on opposite sides of the sun, they may be as far as 162,000,000 miles apart.

What is its atmosphere like?

The atmosphere of Venus is made mostly of carbon dioxide with small amounts of water vapor and nitrogen and even smaller amounts of argon, carbon monoxide, neon, and sulfur dioxide.

What's the temperature like?

Venus is the hottest planet in the solar system. As previously noted, temperatures on the surface exceed 800 degrees F. The temperature in the uppermost layer of Venus's clouds average a temperate 55 degree F.

How many moons does it have? None

1.) Why is Venus called Earth's sister planet?

- A. It is close to the Earth.
- B. It is similar in size to Earth.
- C. It is hotter than the Earth.
- D. Much like Earth, Venus can support life.

2.) What does the word "obscure" mean in the following sentence

"Venus is covered by thick, noxious clouds of sulfuric acid that *obscure* its surface."

- A. cover
- B. damage
- C. extend
- D. create

3.) Which of the following is NOT a feature of Venus' surface?

- A. volcanoes
- B. canyons
- C. plains
- D. glaciers

4.) In comparison to mountains on Earth, the Maxwell Montes range is...

- A. comparable in size
- B. older
- C. much taller
- D. smaller

5.) The thick clouds on Venus...

- A. make it much colder than Earth
- B. radiate extreme heat back to the surface
- C. allow heat to escape into space
- D. make the planet very colorful

6.) Which word or phrase could describe the relationship between the size of Venus in comparison to the size of Earth?

- A. similar
- B. identical
- C. gaseous
- D. distant

7.) A person on Earth would weigh _____ on Venus.

- A. Much less
- B. Much more
- C. About the same
- D. A little bit more

8.) Which of the following is NOT true about Venus?

- A. Its moon is about the size of Earth's
- B. Venus is closer to the Sun than Earth
- C. Venus has water vapor in its atmosphere
- D. No planet is hotter than Venus.

9.) According to the first sentence in the passage...

- A. Earth is more similar to other planets than Venus
- B. Earth and Venus have few similarities
- C. Earth and Venus have many similarities
- D. Earth and Venus have no similarities

10.) Venus can often be seen...

- A. With special glasses
- B. Only through a telescope
- C. Just by looking into the night sky
- D. On stormy nights

Venus Fly Trap Reading Comprehension

Name _____

What has a gaping red mouth, long fearsome teeth, and can snap food from the air in the blink of an eye? A dragon? Some frightening beast? Few people would guess that this frightening creature is the humble Venus fly trap, a plant smaller than the size of your hand.

The fleshy “mouth” of a fly trap is not like the mouths of people or dogs or any other creatures. This trap is made of a tough plant fiber and snaps shut when crawling or flying insects brush past. Unlike many other carnivorous creatures, which have complex systems for processing food, all of the work of digestion in a Venus fly trap happens in its leafy trap. First, the trap has to ensure that insects cannot easily escape to freedom. Long tooth-like pieces called cilia frame the opening of the trap. The cilia cage the insects and prevent them from escaping the trap’s leafy jaws. From here, the fly trap faces a challenge. In the wild, pieces of debris can fall from passing animals and other plants to trigger the trap. Instead of wasting precious energy on inedible objects, the plant waits to feel the object move before beginning digestion. If the object is still, the trap will soon open and release the debris. The plant can then await its next victim. If a live insect is sensed, however, the trap will flood with wet digestive juices that will break down the body of its victim into usable nutrients.

Scientists believe that the hunt for nutrients is the reason why the ancient ancestors of Venus fly traps evolved methods to attract and digest insects. Venus fly traps and other carnivorous plants most commonly grow in bogs. The soil in boggy habitats is acidic and lacks sufficient nutrients for many plants to grow. It is possible that some bog plants developed a taste for insects as a novel way of obtaining nutrients. The snapping leaves of the Venus fly trap, however, are unique even among carnivorous plants. Other carnivorous plants use slippery leaves or sticky hairs to trap insects. Scientists think that the Venus fly trap is most closely related to the sticky hair type of carnivorous plant. The development of a trap mechanism meant that the Venus fly trap could better hold on to wiggly insect prey than its relatives with simpler sticky mechanisms.

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

- a.) To excite the reader
- b.) To inform the reader
- c.) To persuade the reader
- d.) To confuse the reader

2. Which part of a Venus Fly Trap is most similar to a human mouth?

- a.) The cilia
- b.) The trap
- c.) The digestive juices
- d.) The sticky hairs

3. What might happen to a Venus Fly Trap that is missing its cilia?

- a.) The Venus Fly Trap would catch more prey than usual
- b.) The Venus Fly Trap would be stickier
- c.) The Venus Fly Trap would not spring closed as quickly
- d.) The Venus Fly Trap would have more prey escape its trap

4. Based on the following sentence, what could be the best definition for the word "debris"?

In the wild, debris can fall from passing animals and other plants to trigger the trap.

- a.) Leaves
- b.) Gravel
- c.) Particles
- d.) Trash

5. Which of the following is not a step of the Venus Fly Trap's eating process?

- a.) Digestive juices flood the trap
- b.) The plant waits to feel for movement from the caught object
- c.) Plant fibers move the insect into place for digestion
- d.) The trap springs shut when an object brushes by

6. What would be the best choice as a heading for the final paragraph?

- a.) "Unique Plants of the Bogs"
- b.) "The Family Tree of the Venus Fly Trap"
- c.) "Mechanisms of Carnivorous Plants"
- d.) "Nutrient Processing of the Venus Fly Trap"

7. Which feature does the Venus Fly Trap not share with the other carnivorous plants?

- a.) Lives in bog habitats
- b.) Eats insects to obtain nutrients
- c.) Lives in acidic soil
- d.) Uses a snapping trap mechanism to catch prey

Baron von Steuben Reading Comprehension for Grades 4-6

Baron Von Steuben was born on November 15, 1730 in Germany. From an early age, he was familiar with the military. His father was an engineer lieutenant in the Prussian army. Von Steuben himself joined the army when he was only 17 years old. He served in the army under Frederick the Great in the Seven Years War. In 1763, however, he was discharged from the army as a captain. No one knows why.

Baron Von Steuben worked for the German courts after his military service. He then tried unsuccessfully to join the ranks of the French and Austrian armies. When he heard that Benjamin Franklin was in France, he traveled there in hopes of offering his services to the Patriot cause. Franklin met with Von Steuben and took an immediate liking to him. He wrote Von Steuben a letter of recommendation and sent it to George Washington. Washington assigned Von Steuben to his winter quarters at Valley Forge.

At Valley Forge, Von Steuben's value to the Patriot cause was realized. He transformed the raw recruits and militia men into a well-disciplined fighting force. He taught badly needed military tactics, drill formations, command structure and line movements. The soldiers loved his style and broken English. Von Steuben was instrumental in raising the army's morale at the horrible conditions of Valley Forge. While his main contributions to the Patriot cause were at Valley Forge, he also served with Nathaniel Greene and the southern army, and was a divisional commander under George Washington at the Yorktown campaign. He served in the American army until 1784. He died November 28, 1794.

1. What happened in 1763?

- A. Von Steuben fought in the Seven Years War
- B. Von Steuben joined the army
- C. Von Steuben was removed from the army
- D. Von Steuben traveled to America

2. What is not true about Baron von Steuben?

- A. He joined the army at the age of 17
- B. He tried to join both the French and British armies
- C. His father was an engineer lieutenant in the Prussian army
- D. He impressed Benjamin Franklin

- 3. How did Baron von Steuben prove valuable to the Patriot cause?**
- A. He taught George Washington how to be a better general
 - B. He taught the Continental Army military tactics
 - C. He was a spy for the Continental Army
 - D. His main contribution to the Continental Army was as a divisional commander at Yorktown
- 4. The definition of "endear" is to "cause to be loved or liked." Which of the following sentences in the passage reflects the fact that von Steuben "endeared" himself to the soldiers?**
- A. The soldiers loved his style and broken English.
 - B. He served in the American army until 1784.
 - C. He transformed the raw recruits and militia men into a well-disciplined fighting force
 - D. At Valley Forge, Von Steuben's value to the Patriot cause was realized.
- 5. Apart from Valley Forge...**
- A. Von Steuben contributed little to the Patriot cause.
 - B. Von Steuben joined the Prussian army.
 - C. Von Steuben participated in other battles for the Patriot cause.
 - D. Von Steuben joined the French military.
- 6. Which of the following best describes Baron von Steuben?**
- A. An American soldier who helped George Washington at Yorktown
 - B. A former German captain who helped George Washington at Yorktown
 - C. A former German captain who was important in the Revolutionary War
 - D. A former German captain who was important in training the Continental Army
- 7. What is another way to write the following sentence without losing its meaning?**

Von Steuben was instrumental in raising the army's morale at the horrible conditions of Valley Forge.

- A. Von Steuben was successful in helping to defeat the British at Valley Forge
- B. Von Steuben was an important reason the army felt confident at Valley Forge
- C. Von Steuben was successful in helping to keep many sick soldiers from dying at Valley Forge
- D. Von Steuben played an important role in helping the Continental Army defend Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778

History of Google Reading Comprehension

Name _____

The very first known waffle recipe comes from *Le Ménagier de Paris*, an anonymous manuscript written as instructions from a husband to his wife in the late fourteenth century. This manuscript contains four different variations of waffle recipes with all the traditional steps: beating the eggs, seasoning with salt, adding flour and mixing, and cooking both sides of the waffle in irons. However, a key ingredient from today's waffles was missing from this original recipe: a leavening agent. Leavening agents cause baked goods to rise and expand as they cook, making them taste light and airy when we eat them. It would take a couple hundred years for waffles to fully transition to the breakfast food we know and love today.

The second known waffle recipe comes from *Om ghode waffellen te backen*, an excerpt from the Dutch *KANTL 15* manuscript, in the early sixteenth century. This recipe was the first one to use partial measurements, sugar, and spices like ginger and cinnamon. In the late sixteenth century, *Groote Wafelen*, the first recipe to use a leavening agent, was penned in a Belgian cookbook. *Groote Wafelen* represented an important transition in waffle creation towards lighter, fluffier final products.

By the time the seventeenth century came around, unsweetened or honey-sweetened waffles were a common delicacy available for consumption for the average European citizen, while sugar-sweetened waffles were too expensive for everyone except the wealthy elite and monarchy. In the eighteenth century, the word "waffle" first appeared in the English language; by this time, waffle recipes had spread throughout Europe and America.

Waffles increased in popularity following the use of leavening agents, but the second half of the nineteenth century saw a sharp decline in waffle demand. The availability of beet sugar led to a greater variety of sweet candies and chocolates accessible to the middle class, and thus the desire for waffles decreased.

By the twentieth century, new technologies revolutionized the creation of waffles. In 1918, the company General Electric (GE) developed the first electric commercial waffle maker. By the mid-1930s, multiple companies began marketing dry waffle mix—including Aunt Jemima, Bisquick, and the Dorsa brothers, who later started selling frozen waffles in 1953, under the Eggo brand. The innovation of frozen waffles increased their distribution in the United States and led to the waffle becoming one of the staples of a morning meal.

1. **Who wrote the manuscript that describes the first waffle recipe?**
 - A. A wife to her husband
 - B. A Belgian cookbook author
 - C. A Dutch chef
 - D. No one knows

2. **What was the effect of *Groote Wafelen*?**
 - A. Waffles would be no longer be made with leavening agents
 - B. Future waffles would be lighter and fluffier
 - C. Waffles could only be eaten by the wealthy
 - D. Sweetened waffles became available to people of all classes

3. **What was the significance of the leavening agent in the history of waffles?**
 - A. The leavening agent changes the texture of waffles
 - B. The leavening agent made waffles sweeter
 - C. The leavening agent made waffles cook faster
 - D. The leavening agent made waffles healthier to eat

4. **When was the leavening agent added to waffle recipes?**
 - A. After the word “waffle” came into use
 - B. Before waffles became a treat that only the wealthy could enjoy
 - C. Before *Om ghode waffellen te backen* was published
 - D. After waffles became a treat that only the wealthy could enjoy

5. **According to the author, why did waffles fall out of favor?**
 - A. Because new technologies were about to revolutionize the waffle
 - B. Because waffles became too expensive and were only available to the wealthy
 - C. Because people of the middle class became able to purchase other sweet food items
 - D. Because beet sugar became unavailable

6. **What is implied in the final paragraph?**
 - A. The Dorsa Brothers were the most successful wafflers of in the history of waffles
 - B. By the 1930s, several companies produced dry waffle mixes
 - C. General Electric was the company that first produced the first electric waffle maker
 - D. Waffles weren’t necessarily thought of as a breakfast item until sometime after the establishment of the Eggo Company

7. In which of the sentences below is the word “demand” used in the same way it is used in the following sentence?

Waffles increased in popularity following the use of leavening agents, but the second half of the nineteenth century saw a sharp decline in waffle demand.

- A. Mrs. Kent demanded that Gabriel complete his work before recess.
- B. You cannot make demands on people that are unreasonable.
- C. Demand for fidget spinners seems to be falling now that they can be purchased at so many different stores
- D. We demand that action be taken to decrease the traffic on Interstate 66 in northern Virginia!