



Reading Library

Book 2

Level C

Reading Horizons
ELEVATE[®]

Reading Library

Book 2

Reading Horizons Elevate[®] Reading Library, Fourth Edition

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Introduction

This is the *Reading Horizons Elevate® Reading Library*. These reading passages are also found on the *Reading Horizons Elevate®* software. You can use the *Reading Library* to practice applying Reading Horizons skills and to improve your reading fluency.

Fluency is the ability to read accurately at a good reading rate (or speed) while understanding most or all of what you read. You should try to read as quickly as you can, but you need to read as carefully as you can, too. After reading a passage, check your comprehension by answering the comprehension quiz questions. The page number for the comprehension questions is listed at the end of each passage. You can also check your answers using the answer key in the back of this book. You will be asked comprehension questions about the main idea, details, vocabulary, and organization of the passage. You will also be asked to *infer*. To infer means to *guess* or *assume*. Try to answer the questions without going back to look at the passage. If you need to refer back to the passage, paragraph references are provided in some quiz questions to help you quickly locate specific words or ideas.

The passages cover a wide variety of topics. Each passage is tagged with one or more topic categories. The categories for a passage are listed below the passage's pictures.

You can read passages that are interesting to you. You should also read passages that are at your appropriate reading level, or Lexile®. The Lexile® is found below the topic categories. The passages in this book are organized by reading level, from lower- to higher-level passages. You may choose to read passages that are easy for you, but you should also try to read passages that challenge you (up to 50L above your personal Lexile® score). Reading passages that challenge you will help you improve your reading ability.

You can use the *Reading Library* to help you practice the reading skills you learn in the *Reading Horizons Elevate®* software. You can also read the passages to help you improve your reading fluency and to practice reading faster. If you choose to use the *Reading Library* to improve your reading fluency, it is important to track your progress. As you track your progress, you will see your strengths and your areas of weakness.

The *Reading Horizons Elevate®* software tracks your progress in the *Reading Library* section of the software. If you are not using the software, you can track your progress using the Reading Rate Table and Reading Fluency Progress Chart on pages 143–149 in the back of this book.

Follow the instructions below to track your reading fluency:

1. Choose a reading passage that is at your level. If you do not know your level, read a few passages to get a feel for which level is about right for you—not too easy, but not too difficult. Then choose a passage that you have not read before that is at the same or similar level. A passage is too difficult if you struggle with more than 3-5 words per paragraph.
2. Write your time on the bottom of the page in the space provided, or write it on another piece of paper.
3. Answer the comprehension questions for the passage you read. Then check your answers.
4. Look at the level of the passage at the bottom of the page you read. Then turn to pages 143–147 in the back of this book. Look for the level of the passage. Titles appear in order by level. Then find the time it took you to read the passage on the left of the table and move your finger across the row to find the number of words per minute you read the passage.

Example:

Passage Title	Crying	Bones	Yuri Gagarin	Badminton	Clouds	Trees	Guitars	Hollywood	Lions	Pigs	Wilma Rudolph	Teeth	Chocolate	Robots	Tokyo Tower
Level Group	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lexile®	200L	230L	260L	270L	270L	270L	280L	290L	310L	310L	310L	320L	330L	330L	330L
WPM	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Word Count	175	156	154	142	169	191	142	155	130	175	170	160	184	152	206
Minutes:Seconds															
:30	350	312	308	284	338	382	284	310	260	350	340	320	368	304	412
:35	300	267	264	243	290	327	243	266	223	300	291	274	315	261	353
:40	263	234	231	213	254	287	213	233	195	263	255	240	276	228	309
:45	233	208	205	189	225	255	189	207	173	233	227	213	245	203	275
:50	210	187	185	170	203	229	170	186	156	210	204	192	221	182	247
:55	191	170	168	155	184	208	155	169	142	191	185	175	201	166	225

5. Turn to the Reading Fluency Progress Chart on pages 148–149. Write the title of the passage you read across the top under the corresponding level. Write the number of comprehension questions you answered correctly in the space provided under the title. Look at the words per minute listed down the left side of the table. Find your words per minute within the range listed. Mark the box with an X. Write the date you read the passage at the bottom of the page.

Example:

Passage Title	Crying	Bones	Yuri Gagarin												
Comprehension Questions Correct	5	5	4												
301-350															
251-300															
201-250		X	X												
176-200	X														
151-175															
126-150															

6. After reading five or six passages and tracking your progress on the Reading Fluency Progress Chart, look at your progress. If your reading rate is the same, you should try to read a little faster. If you answer three or more comprehension questions incorrectly, you should slow down so you can comprehend what you are reading better.

Conclusion

You will learn a lot of new things when you read these passages. Talk about what you read with a classmate, friend, or teacher. It will help you remember the information you learned. Enjoy your reading!

Roller Derby

Roller derby is a tough, fast sport in which players wear roller skates. Players must be quick, strong, and able to work well as a team. Most roller derby teams are female.

Each roller derby game is called a *bout*. In a bout, two teams compete against each other. Each team has five players: three blockers, a jammer, and a pivot. The jammer wears a helmet cover with a star on each side. The pivot wears a helmet with a striped cover. The blockers wear helmets but no covers.

Each bout consists of several small sections called *jams*, which last two minutes each. At the start of a jam, both teams race around a track in the same direction, but the teams begin on opposite sides of the track. The blockers and the pivot from both teams begin skating first, followed by each team's jammer. The referee then blows the whistle twice which means that the jammer can race through her team's pack to score points. The jammer earns a point for each member of the opposing team she **laps**, or passes, on the track. To help, the blockers and pivot on a team will pull and throw their jammer forward. The other team will use their bodies to block the jammer. But they must not block with their heads, arms, or hands. Players who break the rules or fight are sent to the penalty box. They must sit and wait before they can return to the game.

Roller derby players wear quad skates, which have two wheels at the front of each skate and two at the back, unlike inline skates that have all four wheels in a single line. Quad skates are not as fast as inline skates, but they give players better control and reduce the chance of tripping. Women in roller derby teams often wear uniforms of tank tops and shorts. They also wear helmets, elbow and knee pads, and gloves.

Roller derby dates back to roller skating contests in the 1930s. Mixed teams of men and women would race to complete a certain number of laps around a track. Through the 1940s and 1950s, these races gained in popularity. People loved the crashes between skaters. Over time, these events became today's roller derbies.

Now, most roller derby leagues are played between all-female teams. However, there are now some mixed leagues with men and women. Fans agree that the best way to learn roller derby is to go to a bout. Is there a roller derby bout near your neighborhood?

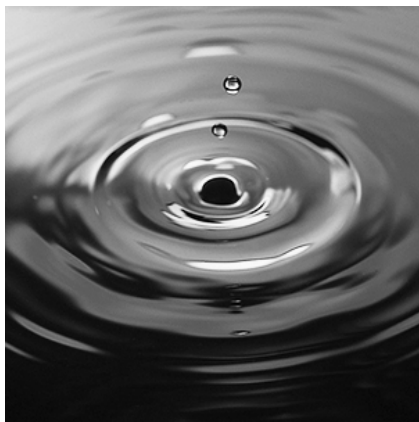


sports

Lexile®: 610L
Word Count: 424

Time: _____

Answer comprehension questions on page 74.



geography, nature, health

Lexile®: 610L
Word Count: 421

Time: _____

Water

As human beings, we need many things to survive including food to eat, air to breathe, and a safe place to sleep. Scientists suggest that we can live without food for up to a month, but we can only survive a few days without water. All forms of life, in fact, need water.

Slightly more than half of the human body is made of water, and in some animals, water makes up to 90 percent of their bodies. Human bodies need lots of water each day, and some people need more than the average person. For example, women who are pregnant need extra water as do people who exercise, play sports, or are sick. People who live in dry or hot places may also need higher than average amounts of water to stay healthy. Our bodies get water by drinking it and by eating foods that contain water.

On Earth, water is the only element naturally found in all three states of matter: liquid, solid (ice), and gas (**steam**). There are many sources of fresh water. In the sky, it takes the form of water vapor and clouds, and on the land, fresh water fills rivers and lakes. Much of Earth's fresh water sources lie under the ground or in frozen icebergs and glaciers.

Unlike the fresh water that we can drink, most of Earth's water is salt water. The oceans are filled with salt water. In fact, 97 percent of the world's water is found in the oceans. This means only 3 percent of the world's water comes from fresh water sources.

In the United States, the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons (300 to 380 liters) of water each day. Water is used in the bathroom to flush a toilet, take a shower, and brush teeth. It is used in a kitchen to prepare food and wash dishes. Almost half of the water in the USA is used to help make electric power. Farmers use water to help their crops grow. Firefighters use water to stop fires. We also use water to have fun. We use it to swim, ski, ice skate, or make a snowman.

Because of its many uses, water is important in our lives, so we should conserve, or save, water. We can conserve water by turning off a water tap when it is not being used or by taking shorter showers so that less water is wasted. By saving water, we can make sure that there is enough water for everyone who needs it.

Answer comprehension questions on page 75.

Jai Alai

The name *jai alai* (pronounced *high a-lie*) may seem like some kind of martial art or a type of food, but it is actually a sport. It is not a sport that is commonly played, but jai alai is fast, challenging, and fun.

The game of jai alai is played on a court that has three walls. Players catch and throw a hard rubber ball with a *cesta*. A *cesta* is a kind of glove that looks like a long, curved basket. It is strapped to each player's arm. A *cesta* may be up to 28 inches (70 centimeters) long. Players also wear **helmets** to protect their heads from injury. A jai alai ball is small, and it is made of goat skin. When it is thrown, it can move as fast as 180 miles (290 kilometers) per hour.

Jai alai players must think and move quickly. In fact, some people call jai alai "the fastest sport in the world." As in tennis, a player first serves the ball by throwing it at one of the walls. The other player tries to catch the ball. He or she must catch the ball using the *cesta*. The ball must be caught on the serve or after the first bounce. Points are scored when the other player drops the ball or fails to catch it. As in tennis, jai alai games may be played between two players or between two teams of two players.

Jai alai comes from the Basque region of Spain. People in the Basque region first played jai alai more than 200 years ago. The name *jai alai* comes from a Basque word meaning "happy party." This name comes from the fact that the game was first played during holiday celebrations.

Jai alai has been played by people all over the world. It was especially popular in the eastern United States beginning in the 1920s. Fans would crowd jai alai courts to watch their favorite players compete. Interest in professional jai alai in the United States decreased by the 1980s. However, there are still many people who enjoy playing the sport. If you like exciting sports, you may want to learn more about jai alai.

Answer comprehension questions on page 76.



sports

Lexile®: 620L
Word Count: 366

Time: _____



myths, Europe

Lexile®: 620L

Word Count: 358

Time: _____

Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness is a lake in Scotland. (*Loch* is the Scottish word for “lake.”) In fact, it is the largest lake of fresh water in Great Britain. It has more water than the rest of the lakes on the island put together. Over the years, some people claim to have seen a monster in the lake. It is known as the Loch Ness monster, or “Nessie.”

In drawings, artists depict, or show, Nessie as dark green or black in color. It has a long neck. Its skin has the texture of an elephant’s skin. And its feet are flippers. Some people think that Nessie is some kind of seal with a long neck. Others claim that it may be a large **eel** (a type of fish) or a newt (an animal similar to a lizard). Some people have even suggested that Nessie is a dinosaur that has survived to the present day.

Stories of a monster living in Loch Ness go back for many years. The first tale is more than 1,400 years old. In the year 565 AD, an Irish priest came to visit a small town near the lake. The people there told him that a creature from the lake had attacked and killed one of their friends. In time, it tried to kill another man in the town. But the priest shouted at the monster. The monster then sank back into the lake and was not seen for quite a long time. In 1933, a man named George Spicer said that he saw the monster from a close distance. He said that it was about 4 feet (1 meter) tall and about 25 feet (8 meters) long.

Since then, there have been others who claim to have seen the monster. People have looked for proof of Nessie in the waters of the deep lake. They have taken pictures and filmed the area. There are also those who say that Nessie once lived but has since died. The truth is that there has never been any scientific evidence that the monster ever existed. Still, many people, visit the lake each year in hopes of seeing Nessie.

Answer comprehension questions on page 77.

The Common Cold

First, your throat feels sore, and then you start to sneeze and cough. Your nose feels stuffy, or clogged, and it also begins to run, or drip. Your head feels warm and hurts, and you feel tired. What is wrong? You have one of the most common illnesses in the world, which is known as the *common cold*, or simply a *cold*.

When someone begins to feel sick in this way, we say that this person has “caught a cold.” Everyone can catch a cold, and some people catch a cold many times per year. It is the main reason people go to see a doctor. It is also the main reason that people stay home from school or work.

A cold is caused by a virus, which is a tiny thing that can enter someone’s body. It makes the nose, throat, and forehead sick. More than 200 types of viruses cause colds, and these can enter a person’s body in many ways. Sometimes, these viruses are in the air we breathe, or on the things we touch with our fingers. Someone with a cold may cough or sneeze near us, and then we might breathe in those viruses. Or we might touch an object covered in those viruses, and then touch our faces. Either way, the viruses can enter our noses or mouths. The body’s **immune system**, which fights illness, responds with a sore throat or headache.

If you live in a dry place, you might catch a cold more easily. People who smoke are also more likely to catch a cold. If it is not treated, a cold could become more serious.

There is no cure for the common cold. You cannot take pills to make it go away. Science has tried to find a cure, but none has been found. A person just has to wait for the body to fight off the virus. A cold usually lasts for about a week or two.

However, there are some things that you can do to prevent catching a cold. First, wash your hands often. This helps stop the spread of viruses. Also, do not share a glass that a person with a cold used.

If you catch a cold, get rest. Drink plenty of water or juice. Eat a bowl of warm soup, which can help clear a stuffy nose. Also, do not spread the cold! When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose. Use your shirtsleeve or a tissue to keep the virus from spreading to others.

Answer comprehension questions on page 78.



health

Lexile®: 620L
Word Count: 423

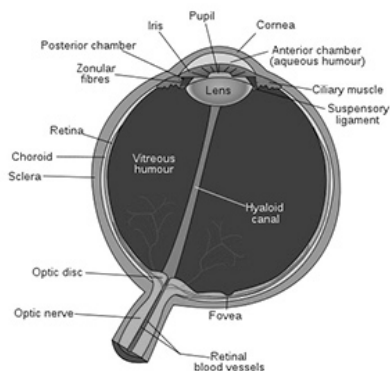
Time: _____



The Human Eye

The human eye is amazing. In fact, the eye is one of the most complex parts of the human body. As you look at these words on a paper or computer screen, light is bouncing off of them. That light travels through the many layers of your eyes. Your eyes and brain use that light to understand what you are seeing.

First, the light reaches your cornea, which protects the inner eye. The cornea is curved, which allows the eye to take in lots of light, and all of this light helps a person to see more clearly. As the light passes through the cornea, it bends and focuses, which allows the light to continue to the other parts of the eye.



health

Lexile®: 620L
Word Count: 414

Time: _____

Next, the light goes through the pupil. The pupil is the black dot inside the colored ring, or iris, in the eye. The pupil helps control the amount of light that enters the eye. When a room is dark, the pupil gets bigger, which allows more light into the eye. This makes it easier to see in the dark. When the eye is in a very bright place, the pupil will **shrink**, or become smaller. This will stop too much light from entering the eye. It is difficult to see when too much or too little light enters the pupil. The size of the pupil is controlled by muscles in the iris.

Once light enters the pupil, it is directed through a lens, which bends the light even further. The light hits the retina, the back part of the eye. The retina tells the brain things about the light. It sends messages through the optic nerve. This nerve is like a long wire that connects the eye to the brain. Then the brain understands what the eye sees.

Some people have problems with their eyes. Sometimes the lenses of their eyes are not shaped exactly right. Because their lenses are not shaped right, the eyes do not work properly. As a result, the light does not hit the retinas correctly. This makes things look blurry. That is why some people need glasses or contact lenses. Glasses and contact lenses provide extra lenses that bend the light before it enters the eyes. This helps the light reach the retina in each eye, so the brain can properly understand what the eyes see.

Eyes are complex. Each part of the eye must do its job for you to be able to see and read.

Answer comprehension questions on page 79.

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a holiday that is celebrated in parts of the United States and Canada. Each year, Groundhog Day is celebrated on the second day of February. Groundhog Day comes from a legend. In this story, a groundhog can predict a change in the weather. So people watch the groundhog on February 2 to know how long until spring arrives.

Another name for groundhog is *woodchuck*. Groundhogs hibernate, or sleep through the winter. According to the groundhog legend, a groundhog wakes up on February 2. Then, he comes out of his **burrow**, a hole in the ground. If it is a sunny day, he will see his shadow. This will scare him, and he will run back into his burrow and hide. He will sleep for six more weeks. This is a sign that there will be six more weeks of winter. But if it is not sunny that day, he will not see his shadow, and he will leave his burrow. This is a sign that spring will come early.

Groundhog Day is believed to come from the Candlemas holiday in Europe. Candlemas is also on February 2. It is believed that a sunny Candlemas meant more winter. A rainy or cloudy Candlemas meant the end of winter. European immigrants to the USA brought this custom with them. Over time, the groundhog became part of the tradition. The first Groundhog Day celebration may have been as early as 1840.

Many places in the USA and Canada now have Groundhog Day events. The most famous event is held in the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Thousands of people travel there each year on February 2. They want to see the town's groundhog, named Punxsutawney Phil, predict the weather. A 1993 movie called *Groundhog Day* is set in Punxsutawney. It tells the story of a man who keeps repeating Groundhog Day. Thus, the term *Groundhog Day* now also means when a person gets stuck doing the same activities or events.

Of course, no one believes that a groundhog can really predict the weather. But after a cold winter, it is good to have some fun. And Groundhog Day is a fun way to hope that spring will arrive early!

Answer comprehension questions on page 80.



*celebrations, culture, weather,
animals, USA*

Lexile®: 630L
Word Count: 368

Time: _____



food, culture

Lexile®: 630L
Word Count: 366

Time: _____

Interesting Foods

Around the world, many people eat meals that include vegetables, rice or potatoes, and maybe some meat. But some people enjoy trying new and uncommon foods. Would you like to eat an insect or another unusual animal? These may seem new to you, but many people enjoy eating these interesting foods.

Some people are scared of bugs and insects. Yet, for some people, bugs are popular foods. After all, bugs are a great source of protein! This means that they can be good for your body. There are people in Vietnam who like to eat **scorpions**. Ants are delicious to some people in Australia and Colombia. Caterpillars are a favorite snack for some people in South Africa. It may help that many of these foods are often covered in chocolate.

Normally, a person should never eat poison. But one of the most exciting fish meals in Japan is fugu, or puffer fish. If this fish is not cooked properly, the person who eats it could die. In other parts of Asia, people like to drink snake wine. This is made by placing the body of a poisonous snake in a bottle of rice wine. Many people think that snake wine is good for one's health.

Pizza is a popular food in many countries. But some people enjoy this food with unusual toppings. Have you ever tried pizza with frog legs? Some people in England have. In Japan, pizzas can come with squid. Pizzas with pickles or grapes are popular in New Zealand. In Brazil, hard-boiled eggs and peas are sometimes added to pizza.

Many people enjoy eating ice cream, and common flavors vary around the world. In North America, many people like ice cream that is flavored with fruit or chocolate. In some countries, tomato ice cream is popular. So are ice creams flavored with bean, cheese, meat, cucumber, lettuce, and pepper.

It can be fun to try new foods, and learning to appreciate food from other countries is a great way to develop a love for various cultures. But even some traditional foods are not popular with locals. It is good to be brave, but it is also acceptable to sometimes say, "No, thank you!"

Answer comprehension questions on page 81.

Anne Frank

Anne Frank was born June 12, 1929, in Germany. She and her family were Jewish. In 1933, Adolf Hitler became the new leader of Germany. He blamed Jewish people for Germany's problems. Many Jewish people did not feel safe in Germany. The Frank family moved to the Netherlands in the 1930s. During World War II (WWII), Hitler's army moved into the Netherlands and took control of it. Jewish people could no longer do many of the things they used to do. For example, they could not own businesses. They could not ride in cars or buses. They had to go to separate schools.

To stay safe, Frank, her sister, and her parents went into hiding in 1942. They lived in a secret **annex**, an extra part of a building, above and behind the office where Frank's father worked. Four of their Jewish friends hid with them. The annex was small, and everyone had to share rooms. That year, on Frank's 13th birthday, her parents gave her a diary. In the annex, she often wrote about her experiences in her diary. She also wrote short stories.

For two years, Frank's family and friends hid in the annex. While they hid, friends of Frank's father brought them food. Frank's last diary entry was made August 1, 1944. Three days later, soldiers found the hiding place. Frank and her family were sent to prison work camps. The conditions at these camps were awful. The Franks and their friends were treated with cruelty. Hitler's army acted terribly toward the Jews. Frank's sister and mother both became sick and died. Frank, too, became very sick and died before the British army freed the people who were in her prison camp. She was 15 years old. Frank's father was the only person from the secret annex who survived the camps.

After the war, Frank's father returned to the Netherlands. He found his daughter's diary in the secret annex. He wanted others to read her story. In 1947, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* was published. It is now one of the most read books in the world. More than 30 million copies have been printed in over 60 languages. Frank's diary tells the story of just one of six million Jewish people who were killed during World War II. Her ability to see the good in people, even during a time of war, serves as a message of hope to the world. She has become a hero to many and a voice against the terror of war.

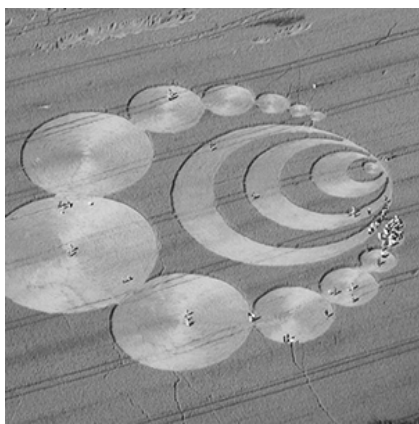
Answer comprehension questions on page 82.



history, war, Europe, biography

Lexile®: 640L
Word Count: 423

Time: _____



myths, hobbies, food

Lexile®: 640L
Word Count: 395

Time: _____

Crop Circles

In 1967, a farmer awoke one morning to begin work. He was shocked when he saw his field. Some of the crops, or plants, had been flattened to the ground in the shape of three large circles. The farmer did not know what had created these circles.

Since the 1960s, these circle patterns have appeared in many fields. They are called crop circles. Most crop circles are in the shape of circles or rings, but some of them are other shapes or lines. Many crop circles have appeared in Great Britain, especially during the 1990s, but crop circles have also been found in other countries.

Crop circles usually appear in corn, wheat, rice, or **oat** fields. The plants in these fields are flattened or cut. Sometimes crop circles are made in snow and ice. Although it is possible to see crop circles from the ground, they are best seen from the sky, so planes and helicopters can take good pictures of crop circles.

When these circles first began to appear, people suggested explanations for these creations. Some people thought that crop circles were made by alien spaceships that landed on farmers' fields. Then, as these spaceships returned to space, they left large circles on the ground. Other people suggested that crop circles came from jets or were created by wind or lightning.

Today we know that crop circles are created by people as a joke or as a hobby. People work at night using simple tools including rope and wooden boards. Since no one sees them when they create these circles, many people imagined other explanations for crop circles.

Crop circles are still being made today. People enjoy making new and interesting patterns in fields. However, they should be sure to have permission to use those fields. In fact, some businesses pay farmers to create crop circle advertisements in their fields to get people's attention!

Some farmers create a different kind of pattern in their fields. They create corn mazes. They plant thick rows of corn. Then, as the corn begins to grow, they cut down some of the plants to form a maze. They sometimes add other interesting designs. The rest of the plants grow tall. Then there is a fun maze in the field. People will visit the farm to walk through the maze. Corn mazes are a very popular activity in the autumn.

Answer comprehension questions on page 83.

Snakes

Snakes are long, thin animals. As reptiles, they are cold-blooded. This means they cannot keep their own bodies warm. Because snakes are cold-blooded, you will sometimes see them sleeping in the sun. Snakes have no arms or legs, and they move by wiggling their bodies back and forth. Some snakes are very small, and other snakes are very large.

Snakes generally attack and kill their **prey**, or the animals they eat for food, in two main ways. Some snakes use venom, or poison, to catch their prey. When a venomous snake bites an animal, the snake's two fangs (long, pointed teeth) inject the venom into the animal. The venom can be strong enough to kill an animal, or it might be used to just keep the prey from running away. Then the snake can eat the animal.

The other way that snakes kill their food is through constriction. A snake constricts its prey by wrapping its long, strong body around the animal. Then, it squeezes the animal tightly. When the animal breathes out, the snake squeezes more tightly, making it difficult for the animal to continue breathing. The snake squeezes tighter and tighter until the animal dies because it cannot breathe. Then the snake can swallow the animal.

When hunting, a snake finds its prey by using its tongues to smell. Once a snake finds its prey, it gets close and waits quietly. When the prey is close enough, the snakes attacks with venom or constriction.

Snakes can take a very long time to swallow their food completely. Can you imagine taking a few weeks to swallow your dinner? Because snakes sometimes take so long to swallow their food, some snakes need to eat only a few times each year.

Another interesting feature of snakes is that they are covered with thick skin made of small scales. Fish also have scales, but snakes' scales are much tougher and stronger. These scales protect them from hot or sharp things and help them to be able to hold onto things. This skin does not grow with the snake. As a snake gets bigger, it grows a new set of scales. It then sheds, or removes, the old skin by rubbing it off.

Although many movies show snakes as scary monsters, humans are rarely attacked by snakes. In fact, most snakes are not venomous. Even though there are a few dangerous snakes, people can avoid problems by avoiding places where these snakes live and acting carefully when they encounter such a snake.

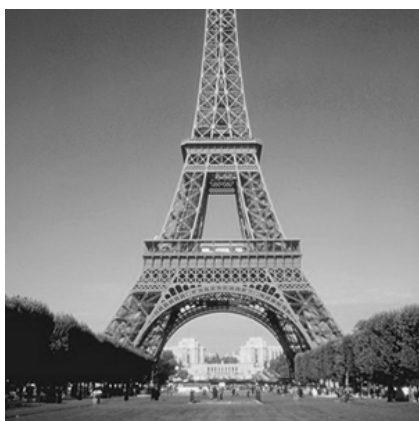
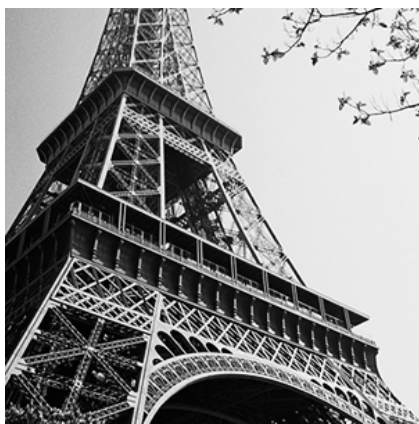
Answer comprehension questions on page 84.



animals

Lexile®: 650L
Word Count: 421

Time: _____



history, landmarks, Europe

Lexile®: 650L

Word Count: 402

Time: _____

The Eiffel Tower

Take one look at the skyline of Paris, France, and you can't miss the Eiffel Tower. It is one of the best-known buildings in the world. It is also a great work of art. Since its completion in 1889, more than 200 million people have visited it. About seven million visit the tower each year.

The 1889 World's Fair was held in Paris. A world's fair is a gathering of people from around the world. They come to share ideas and plan for the future. They hope to make the world better.

The year 1889 marked 100 years since the start of the French Revolution. A contest was held for the best design of a new building. The building would honor these 100 years. It would also be displayed at the World's Fair. The winner of the contest was a man named Gustave Eiffel. In 1885, Eiffel had helped with the creation of the Statue of Liberty. He also did some remodeling work on the Cathedral of Notre Dame, a famous building in France.

It took two years (1887 to 1889) to build the Eiffel Tower. Close to 300 men worked to put it together. At first, many of the French people did not like it. They thought that it was ugly. It was originally meant to stand for just 20 years. In 1909, it was nearly torn down. But the tower has survived. Today, it is important to the French people. The names of 72 famous French people are engraved on it. It is one of the symbols of France.

When the tower was finished in 1889, it was the world's tallest building. It held that title for 41 years. Then, in 1930, the Chrysler Building was built in New York City. It was taller. In the years since, many taller towers have been built around the world.

The Eiffel Tower stands 1,063 feet (325 meters) high. A person can take an elevator or climb 1,710 steps to reach the top. The tower is made out of steel. In fact, it is **composed of** more than 18,000 pieces of steel. The tower weighs more than 20 million pounds (9.18 million kilograms). That includes 80,000 pounds (36,000 kilograms) of paint. About 20,000 light bulbs are needed to light the tower at night. There are restaurants on the first and second platforms. In clear weather, a person standing at the top can see up to 42 miles (68 kilometers) away.

Answer comprehension questions on page 85.

Charles Dickens

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." These lines are from *A Tale of Two Cities*. It is one of the most popular books ever written. It was written by Charles Dickens, one of the most famous authors of all time.

Dickens was born in 1812 in England. He was the second of eight children. His family was poor. His father had many **debts**, meaning he owed a lot of money. As a result, his father went to prison in 1824. So his mother sent 12 year-old Dickens to work in a factory. He worked for 10 hours each day, and the working conditions were very bad. But he was able to help his family repay the debts.

At age 15, Dickens took a new job at a law office. He liked this job much better than his last one. As he grew into a young man, he began to write and draw pictures, and, in 1832, he started work for a newspaper.

Soon, Dickens began to write stories of his own. His first book, *The Pickwick Papers*, was a huge success. This encouraged him to write a second novel, *Oliver Twist*. It was also very popular with readers. In 1842, he was invited to travel to the United States to talk about his books.

Over the next 30 years, Dickens wrote a dozen more books. His tales were well loved by British readers. His works and fame spread to other countries, too. His books are quite long, but they are also known for their warmth and humor. Dickens often wrote about orphans and poor people. He supported the rights of working class people. He judged the rich and high classes. His readers enjoyed these messages.

One of the most famous tales that Dickens wrote is called *A Christmas Carol*. It is a popular holiday story. It tells the tale of a grumpy old man named Scrooge. Scrooge hates people and treats them unkindly. He also hates Christmas. But then three ghosts come to see him, one night. They show him his mistakes. In the morning, Scrooge decides to change, and he chooses to care for other people.

In 1870, Dickens died at 58 years old. However, his books are still read and enjoyed across the world in our day.

Answer comprehension questions on page 86.



biography, history,
arats, Europe

Lexile®: 660L
Word Count: 386

Time: _____



food, Asia

Lexile®: 660L
Word Count: Asia

Time: _____

Sushi

When you hear someone say “sushi,” what do you think about? Do you think about octopus or squid? Do you think about red or pink fish? There is some truth to these ideas. But sushi is more than this. Sushi can be served in many ways. It comes in many different colors, sizes, and shapes. You can eat it with chopsticks, a fork, or even with your bare hands.

This food originally came from Southeast Asia. Then, it spread to China and Japan. Now sushi is popular all over the world! The term *sushi* comes from the Japanese language. It means “sour tasting.” The word *sour* refers to the rice vinegar, a liquid, in which sushi rice is made.

Many people like to eat sushi with soy sauce. This adds a salty taste. Some people like to add wasabi. This is a green sauce. It is very spicy, so only a little wasabi is usually added. Other people like to eat sushi plain. They enjoy the natural flavors of the ingredients.

People often think of sushi as **raw** fish. *Raw* means that something has not been cooked. But most fish in sushi is not really raw. The fish must be frozen before it is prepared. This helps kill some germs. Also, the fish may be treated in other ways, such as pickling or marinating. This means that the fish is soaked in a flavorful liquid before it is prepared.

Sushi contains more than fish. Sometimes other seafood is used such as crab. Cream cheese, cucumbers, carrots, or even fruit may be used in sushi. And, of course, the rice is very important!

In addition to its great taste, sushi can be quite healthy. It contains many nutrients. Sushi is usually wrapped in a thin, green layer. This layer is made of seaweed. It is called *nori*, and it has minerals and vitamins. Also, the fish and other types of meat are high in protein.

Some people say that it takes years become to a great sushi chef. A chef is someone who has a cooking job. Even if you are not an expert sushi chef, you can still have fun learning to prepare sushi. You can watch internet videos about making sushi. Or maybe you will want to take a sushi cooking class somewhere in your community. Perhaps you have a friend who can teach you. Not only does sushi taste good, but preparing sushi can be fun.

Answer comprehension questions on page 87.

The Internet

In the past, messages were mostly sent through the mail, and news came from newspapers. Then telephones and radio were invented. People could talk to or hear those who were far away. Soon, television made sharing information easier. Near the end of the 20th century, the internet became popular. Communication became even easier. But the internet did not just change the way people send mail or news reports. It changed many people's lives in many ways.

In the 1950s, governments began sending satellites into space. There was a need to communicate with these satellites. Scientists **devised**, or created, a way to communicate with satellites using computer networks. In time, more groups connected to these computer networks. These computer networks included computers all around the world. Together these computer networks were called the *internet*.

For many years, only governments used the internet. Then some universities began to use it. In the 1990s, it became popular with the public and with businesses. All around the world, people began connecting their home computers to the internet.

The internet became popular very quickly. It took 38 years for radio to get 50 million users. It took 13 years for TV to get 50 million users. But it only took five years for the internet to get 50 million users.

The internet is very big. There are more than 8 billion web pages. Each day, millions of new web pages are added. Most web pages are in English. But more and more web pages are written in other languages, especially Spanish and Chinese.

There are many uses of the internet. People send emails to family and businesses. They meet and chat using text and video. They watch movies and play video games with friends. They pay bills and shop for food, books, and music. They buy plane tickets, cars, and even houses. They can take college classes and earn a degree. They can do all of these things with a home computer, a smartphone, or another device.

The internet has changed how we live our lives. This change happened quickly. It is exciting to imagine what changes will happen in the future.

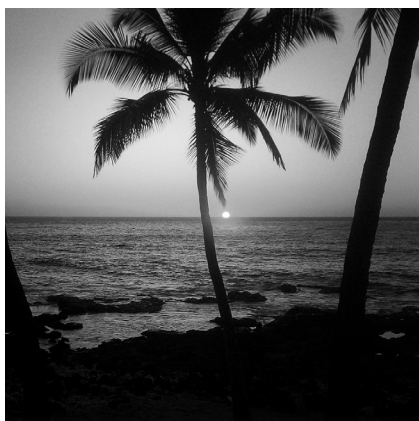
Answer comprehension questions on page 88.



technology

Lexile®: 660L
Word Count: 357

Time: _____



*Oceania, culture, food,
USA, celebrations*

*Lexile®: 680L
Word Count: 364*

Time: _____

Luaus

Before 1819, there were many rules about meals in Hawaii. Royal people could eat all types of food, but other people could not eat certain foods. Men and women could not eat their meals at the same table. In 1819, these old traditions were stopped. The king hosted a special feast. It was a party for all people. He invited women and men to eat together. Everyone was allowed to eat all types of food. This feast was the first luau.

There are still luaus today. They are popular in Hawaii. Other cultures from the Pacific Islands may have similar feasts. But they may use a different name.

There are many reasons why people hold luaus. Sometimes a family hosts a luau as part of a wedding. Other luaus may be held when a friend graduates from school. They might also celebrate a holiday or birthday.

Traditionally, luaus begin at **dusk**, or when the sun sets. If possible, luaus happen next to the beach. At some luaus, there may be live music. The musicians usually play music from the Hawaiian Islands that includes steel guitar. Dancers may perform the *hula*, a traditional Hawaiian dance.

In Hawaii, taro is an important food. It is a thick, purple root. The term *luau* comes from a food made from taro. This food is made of taro leaves and chicken. It is cooked in coconut milk. It is one of many dishes that may be eaten at a luau. *Poi* is another popular luau food. It is made from crushed taro root. Roasted pig, fish, rice, and pineapple are other popular luau dishes.

Flowers are an important part of luaus. A luau guests will often wear a necklace called a *lei*. A lei is often made of flowers or shells. It may be worn on the head or around the neck. A lei is placed over the head of someone as a symbol of love and respect. For example, the host will usually give a lei to the guest at a luau.

Different people celebrate luaus in different ways. But it is certain that guests at a luau will enjoy visiting with other people and eating good food.

Answer comprehension questions on page 89.

Alexander the Great

Throughout history, there have been many leaders. Some of these leaders controlled their people through fear and violence. But others ruled with respect and fairness. They were loved by their people. Alexander of Macedonia was such a leader. In fact, his people called him Alexander the Great.

Alexander was born a prince in the year 356 B.C. His parents were king and queen of Macedonia, a kingdom in the southeast of Europe that included most of Greece. Alexander was taught by Aristotle, the well-known Greek scientist and thinker. Aristotle taught the young prince to love the arts, politics, philosophy, and science. Alexander enjoyed reading books. He wanted to become a great warrior like Achilles from his favorite book.

When Alexander was 19 years old, his father was killed. Many Greeks were glad that he was dead. They wanted to leave the kingdom. But as the new king, Alexander marched his army through Greece. As he went, he unified the people, and they chose to stay in the kingdom.

After taking control of Greece, Alexander prepared for war with Persia. Persia was a large kingdom to the east. Its army was much bigger than Alexander's army. Still, he and his soldiers fought bravely, and they defeated Persia. Alexander now ruled part of Asia. Next, Alexander went to Egypt. The Egyptians welcomed him as king. They were thankful to be free of Persian rule. While in Egypt, Alexander **established**, or created, the city of Alexandria, which became Egypt's new capital for the next 1,000 years.

Over time, Alexander added more regions to his kingdom. He made plans to explore Arabia and parts of northern Africa. He also wanted to go as far east as China. But he became sick and died. He was still just a young man—only 32 years old. After his death, his kingdom did not last. It was broken up into four parts, each ruled by a different man.

Alexander is remembered as one of the world's greatest rulers. He never lost a battle. If his troops did not have food or water, he did not eat or drink, either. Wherever he went, he respected local customs, and the people respected him. Quite often, he treated them better than their former rulers did. He is often considered to be one of history's most influential political and military leaders.

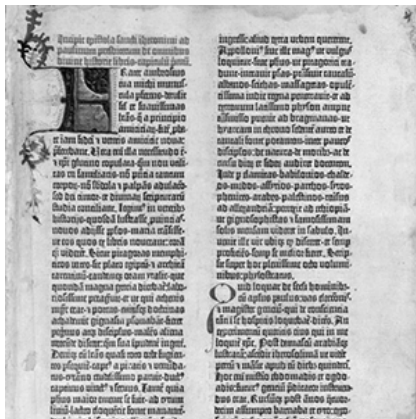
Answer comprehension questions on page 90.



*history, Europe, biography,
war, government, leaders*

Lexile®: 690L
Word Count: 390

Time: _____



history, technology,
Europe, biography

Lexile®: 690L

Word Count: 378

Time: _____

Johannes Gutenberg

Until the 15th century, books were not common. They had to be copied by hand. It was a long, difficult process. Many months, if not a year, were needed to make just one book. A new book could cost as much as the price of a farm! As a result, very few people knew how to read. But all of this changed thanks to a man named Johannes Gutenberg.

Gutenberg was born in a small town in Germany about the year 1398. As a young boy, he learned to read. At the time, most people could not read. He loved books. As a young man, Gutenberg learned to work as a **goldsmith**. A goldsmith creates things from gold and other rare metals, such as silver.

From his work as a goldsmith, Gutenberg knew metals well. He got the idea for a machine called a printing press. Gutenberg's printing press would use small metal letters called movable type. With movable type, Gutenberg could create words and sentences. Then he could put these together to create pages of text. He could print many pages very quickly. He began to work on the printing press in 1436.

By the 1440s, Gutenberg was ready to show what his invention could do. Instead of copying just one page per day, the printing press could make 300 copies each day. In 1446, a poem was one of the first items printed. In 1452, Gutenberg began work on a printed copy of the Bible. It would become known as the Gutenberg Bible.

Use of the printing press spread very quickly. For the first time, large numbers of books could be produced very quickly. Book prices dropped, and the common people could afford to buy them. Many people learned to read for the first time. News began to travel around Europe much faster.

Gutenberg died in 1468. During his life, he did not become wealthy or popular, but his invention remains one of the greatest of all time. It helped to change the world. Today, Gutenberg and his inventions are very famous. The printing press is considered the most important invention of the second millennium (1001 to 2000 AD). As a result of Gutenberg's work, books and the ability to read have become available to everyone.

Answer comprehension questions on page 91.

Amelia Earhart

When Amelia Earhart was young, there were no women pilots. Many people thought that women should not fly planes, but Earhart was determined to become a pilot.

Earhart was born in Kansas in 1897. As a young girl, she liked to do activities that were not considered appropriate for girls. She climbed trees and hunted rats with a rifle. As a teenager, she went to see an air show. The planes performed stunts, such as flying fast, flying high, and turning circles in the sky. Earhart was amazed at the things she saw.

A few years later, a friend took Earhart for a ride in his plane. At that moment, Earhart knew that she wanted to become a pilot. In 1921, she took her first flying lesson. She also bought her own plane. She painted it yellow and named it *Canary*.

Over the next few years, Earhart became a great pilot. In 1932, she flew alone across the Atlantic Ocean. She was the first woman to do so. She became very popular. Many businesses asked her to be the spokesperson for their products. She represented a strong American woman. She made friends with many other famous people. One of her good friends was Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of US President Franklin Roosevelt. Both women worked hard to improve the lives of all women.

In 1935, Earhart was the first person to fly alone across the Pacific Ocean. Next, she chose to make a full trip around the world. On June 1, 1937, Amelia began her 29,000-mile (47,000-kilometer) trip around the planet. She left Miami, Florida, heading southeast. After traveling for a month, she had flown most of the way around the **globe**. There were stops in parts of South America, Africa, and Asia. By July 2, there were just 7,000 miles (11,000 kilometers) left to go. Earhart flew over the Pacific Ocean. But she disappeared and was not heard from again. No one knows for sure what happened to her or her plane.

Though Amelia was never seen again, she has not been forgotten. She set many flying records and improved opportunities for women. She is known for her courage. She has also inspired many people to work hard to make their dreams come true.

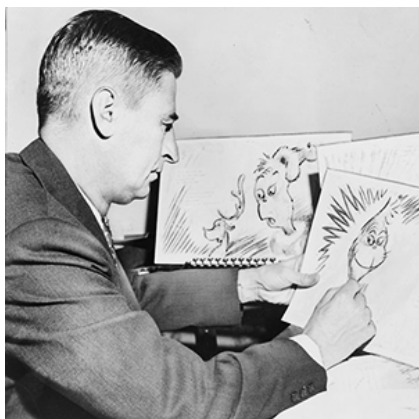
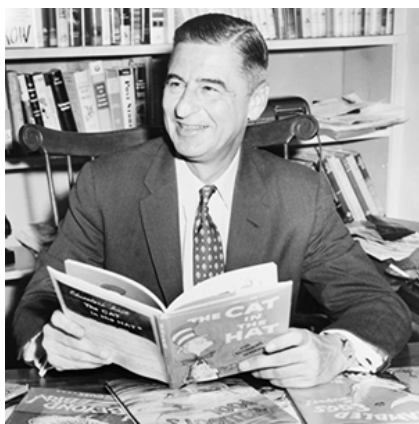
Answer comprehension questions on page 92.



USA, biography, geography

Lexile®: 700L
Word Count: 375

Time: _____



biography, USA, arts

Lexile®: 700L
Word Count: 364

Time: _____

Dr. Seuss

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” These are words from a popular American writer. He wrote over 60 books. It is possible that you have read one or more of them. This writer’s real name is Theodor Seuss Geisel. But you might know him as Dr. Seuss.

Geisel was born in 1904. He grew up in the town of Springfield, Massachusetts. As a child, he loved for his mother to read him nursery rhymes at bedtime. As an adult, he would write some of the most popular children’s storybooks.

Geisel started his professional career as an illustrator and cartoonist for popular magazines and newspapers. Sometimes he also helped create advertisements. During World War II, he worked in animation. He helped create several short films for the United States Army.

His first children’s book was rejected by many publishers. Finally, Geisel found a publisher who would print his book. Instead of using his real name, Geisel used the name Dr. Seuss. Many other books followed. Some of his most successful books were the most challenging to write. Geisel wrote stories that would motivate children to read. The stories had to be interesting, but the words had to be familiar. Geisel created a list of about 200 words that young readers would be expected to know. He wrote one of his most famous books using only those words. That book is *The Cat in the Hat*.

In addition to writing his own books, Geisel helped other authors of children’s books publish their stories. When he worked as an editor for a publishing company, he helped launch the career of Stanley and Janice Berenstain. They are the authors of the popular Berenstain Bear books.

Over the years, Geisel wrote some of the best-loved children’s books in the world. He won many awards for his work. In 1991, he died. But his books and his rhymes are still well known today. The characters in his stories address many important social issues. They encourage cooperation and respect for nature. They **discourage** racism and selfishness. Geisel continues to entertain children and adults through his books.

Answer comprehension questions on page 93.

Joan of Arc

Did you know that one of France's greatest military heroes was a woman? Did you know that this woman commanded the French army when she was just 17 years old? Did you know that happened nearly 600 years ago? The woman's name was Joan of Arc.

Joan was born in France in the year 1412. From a young age, she was very religious. She claimed that she began to see visions when she was 12 years old. In these visions, she said, the voice of God spoke to her. The voice told Joan to help the people of France to unite as one. At the time, France and England were fighting a war. It was later called *the Hundred Years' War*. During Joan's time, France did not have a king. The English ruled many parts of France. Half of the French people were loyal to the king of England. The other half supported the French prince, Charles.

In 1429, Joan went to see Charles at the royal court. She told him of her visions, and the prince was amazed. He put her in charge of a group of soldiers. At just 17 years old, she led her small army to battle. Joan led her **troops** to the town of Orleans, which had been under attack for five months. In just nine days, Joan's army took the city. Soon, they freed more towns from English rule. She was a great hero to the people of France. They called her "The Maid of Orleans." That same year, Charles was crowned king of France.

The next year, Joan was captured by those who supported the English. Because she claimed to have seen visions, they did not trust her. The English leaders claimed that Joan had tricked the people. At the age of 19, Joan was killed.

A few decades after Joan's death, government leaders admitted that Joan was innocent. Though her life was short, Joan's influence is still felt in France hundreds of years later. When German troops occupied France during World War II, the French people used stories of Joan to inspire them to fight for their freedom. Because of her courage, Joan is an important hero in France.

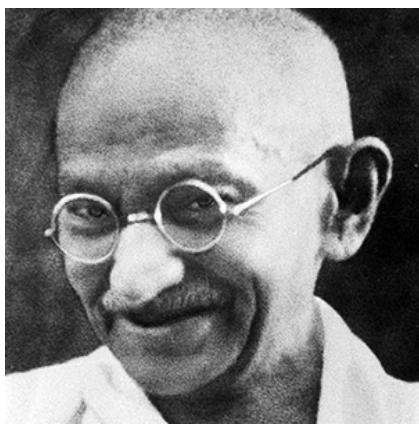
Answer comprehension questions on page 94.



Europe, biography, history, leaders, war

Lexile®: 700L
Word Count: 367

Time: _____



*Asia, leaders,
biography, history*

Lexile®: 710L
Word Count: 398

Time: _____

Mohandas Gandhi

You may have heard the name *Mohandas Gandhi* mentioned as one of the world's greatest leaders. Why was Gandhi such a powerful leader? He fought for the equal rights of all people. But he did not use his fists or weapons to fight. Rather, he used what he called *passive resistance*. He believed that equal rights could be gained through the use of peaceful protests. This was also how he led the people of India to their independence.

Gandhi was born in India in 1869. His father was a political leader in the country. As a child, Gandhi enjoyed learning traditional stories about Indian heroes who were full of wisdom and love.

At age 18, Gandhi went to Great Britain to study law. A few years later, he took a job with a law firm in South Africa. Over the next three decades, he lived and worked in that country. During that time, he saw a lot of **discrimination** against people, including Indians, because of their skin color. Because he was Indian, he was removed from trains. He could not stay at certain hotels. He was attacked by mobs, too. Gandhi chose to fight back. But he did not use violence to do so. He organized protests. Gandhi's actions helped some people realize that discrimination was wrong.

In 1915, Gandhi came back to India. At the time, India was ruled by the British. Many Indians wished to rule their own country. Gandhi joined their cause. He was chosen as the new leader of the Indian National Congress (INC), one of the major political parties. He was often sent to jail for protesting. But, again, he refused to use violence when fighting against the government. Instead, he chose to speak about his beliefs. He also went on hunger strikes, meaning that he refused to eat until the government listened to his requests.

Gandhi became a great hero to many Indians. They began to call him *Mahatma*. It means "great soul" in the Sanskrit language. Gandhi's actions helped India win its independence in 1947.

In January 1948, Gandhi was shot and killed. His death was mourned by people all over the world. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela are just two of the many leaders who followed Gandhi's peaceful teachings. His birthday, October 2, is a holiday in India. It is also known as the *International Day of Non-Violence*.

Answer comprehension questions on page 95.

Paramedics

Often when people think of emergency vehicles, they think of three types: police cars, fire engines, and ambulances. Who drives an ambulance? Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics do. They are men and women who provide emergency help to injured and sick people. Then they deliver these people to hospitals for further care.

An EMT and a paramedic do similar work. They both ride in ambulances and respond to medical emergencies. The main difference is their level of medical training. In most states in the USA, emergency medical workers have three levels of training. The first level is the EMT-Basic level. Workers are taught emergency skills. This includes treating heart attacks and common injuries. At the EMT-Intermediate level, technicians are taught additional medical skills, including how to use some types of medicine. The most advanced level of training is the Paramedic level. At this level, workers must study more about the human body. They learn advanced techniques such as how to use needles.

These training experiences are important. However, the most important education is gained on the job. Doing the daily work of a paramedic or EMT is the best way to learn how to be one. Their work depends on the type of emergency they encounter. When a person calls 9-1-1, an operator answers. If someone is sick or injured, the operator sends paramedics by ambulance. Sometimes an ambulance is too slow or the location cannot be reached by road. Then paramedics travel by helicopter. Sometimes police or firemen may be asked to help. As soon as paramedics arrive, they check for problems and do their best to help the **patient**. If further treatment is needed, they will rush the patient to the nearest hospital. They work as quickly and carefully as they can.

As you might guess, paramedics' work can be stressful. Because they interact with sick people, they could get a disease from the people they help. They could get injured from constant bending, kneeling, and lifting. Emergencies can happen at any time, so paramedics may need to work long hours. Some paramedics must work through the night. They travel through all kinds of weather. And their work environment changes every day. So, why do they do it? It is difficult but important work. They do it because they want to help people.

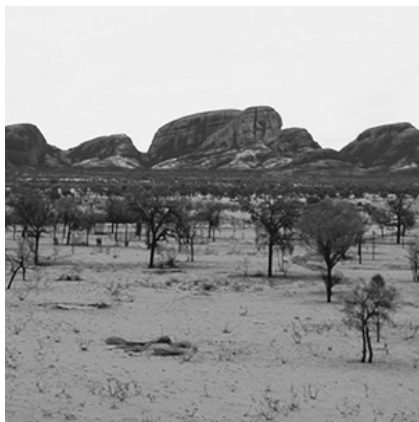
Answer comprehension questions on page 96.



jobs, health

Lexile®: 710L
Word Count: 386

Time: _____



*Oceania, animals,
nature, landmarks*

Lexile®: 710L
Word Count: 344

Time: _____

The Australian Outback

Australia is quite a large country. It has beautiful beaches. It has green forests. And much of the country is dry grasslands or desert. This dry area is called the *outback*. It covers much of the center part of Australia. The outback is close to 2.5 million square miles (6.5 million square kilometers) in size.

The outback is not a popular place to live. There are about 24 million people in Australia. But fewer than 700,000 people live in the outback. That is less than 3 percent of the national population. In most places in the outback, a doctor must be flown in when someone gets sick. Half of the people in the outback live in just one town, Alice Springs. Alice Springs is right in the center of Australia. In contrast, about 90 percent of Australians live along the southern and eastern coasts.

Much of the outback is a desert. In fact, most of the Outback receives fewer than 2 inches (55 millimeters) of rain each year. Still, the Outback is an amazing place to visit. The land is known for its beauty. Many people like to see Uluru, also called *Ayers Rock*. It is a huge rock, as big as a mountain, in the desert. There are also amazing waterfalls and natural pools. Many people from the cities travel to the outback to get a break from city life.

Many animals live in the outback. Some of them are dangerous, such as crocodiles, lizards, and snakes. Others are harmless to humans and are beautiful. For example, many birds live in the outback. Visitors can see flocks (or groups) of parrots, including budgies and cockatoos. These birds range in color from yellows and greens to reds and pinks. The outback is also home to some of Australia's most famous animals. These include the dingo (a type of wild dog) and the red kangaroo. Some of these animals are **endangered**, so people are working to protect them. They hope that the outback can remain a wonderful place to visit for people in the future.

Answer comprehension questions on page 97.

Icebergs

A glacier is a very large area of thick ice. Some glaciers are found high in the mountains. Most are located near the North Pole and the South Pole. When a piece breaks off of a glacier and falls into the ocean, it is called an *iceberg*. Icebergs are usually formed during the spring and summer when glaciers get warmer. Icebergs float for many miles until they melt away or become stuck in shallow water.

Icebergs are made of fresh water. But most of them are found floating in salt water. Icebergs can be found in oceans all over the world. Most of them come from Antarctica and float to the north. They can move at speeds of up to 10 miles (17 kilometers) a day.

Some icebergs can be quite large. In fact, the word iceberg means ice mountain. The tallest iceberg ever seen in the Atlantic Ocean was 550 feet (168 meters) in height. That is as tall as a 55-story building. Some icebergs can be as wide as the US state of Rhode Island. That is about 37 miles (60 kilometers). Icebergs may weigh as much as 400 million pounds (182 million kilograms).

An iceberg may look big above the surface of the water. However, an iceberg is even larger below the water's surface. Only about 10 percent of an iceberg can be seen above water. Ice weighs so much that most of the iceberg lies below the surface. Perhaps you have heard the phrase "This is only the tip of the iceberg." This saying refers to the fact that some problems are much larger than they appear at first.

The world's most famous iceberg appeared in 1912. That was the year of the first and only **voyage** of the *Titanic*, a beautiful, large ship. It sailed from England to the USA. One morning in April, the *Titanic* hit an iceberg. It created a huge hole in the side of the ship. Just three hours later, the *Titanic* sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. More than 1,500 people died. About 705 survived. Pieces of the ship are still at the bottom of the ocean.

Today, scientists study icebergs. Using special tools, they watch icebergs. They can tell how big an iceberg is. They can guess where icebergs will float. They warn ships about large icebergs to stop accidents from happening.

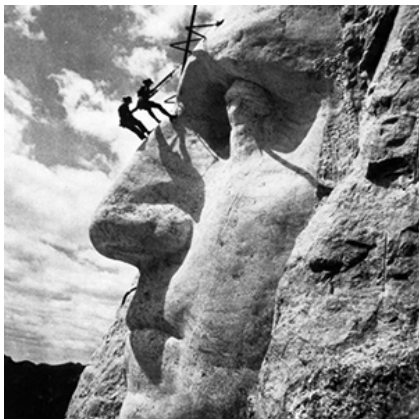
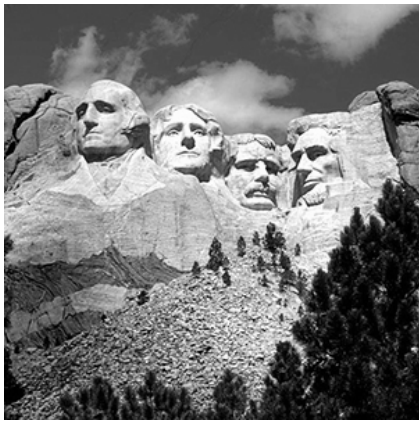
Answer comprehension questions on page 98.



nature, geography, weather

Lexile®: 720L
Word Count: 395

Time: _____



history, landmarks, USA

Lexile®: 720L

Word Count: 359

Time: _____

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore is a national memorial of the United States. It was created to honor the history and people of the United States. The memorial is a large carving on the side of a mountain. It shows the faces of four presidents of the United States. It is a famous landmark of the United States.

Mount Rushmore is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The mountain was originally called *Six Grandfathers* by the Sioux people. In 1885, it was renamed *Mount Rushmore*. In 1889, South Dakota became a state. People in the region wanted to encourage tourists to visit. They had the idea to create a giant monument on the side of the mountain. After much discussion, the people decided that the monument would include four US presidents. The people chose George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. These four presidents represent a range of years during the country's history.

Work on the monument began in 1927. It was completed in 1941, so it took 14 years to complete the enormous monument. About 400 workers used dynamite and drills to create the sculpture. Each day, they had to climb more than 500 steps to reach the top of the mountain. They used the dynamite to **blast** big sections of rock from the mountain. They used drills to remove small sections. In total, they cleared more than 400,000 tons (363 million kilograms) of stone. The sculpture was completed in 1941.

The completed sculpture stands at 5,725 feet (1,745 meters) above sea level. The presidents' noses are 20 feet (6.1 meters) long. Their mouths are 18 feet (5.5 meters) wide. Each eye is 11 feet (3.6 meters) across. The head of Washington is 60 feet (18 meters) tall. That is the same height as a six-story building!

Today, over two million people visit Mount Rushmore each year. Visitors to the site can learn many things. They can learn about the creation of the monument. They can find information about the history of South Dakota. They are also taught about the land and wildlife in the region. A visit to Mount Rushmore is a popular summer road trip.

Answer comprehension questions on page 99.

Peafowl

Peafowl are related to pheasants, which are large birds that are hunted for food. However, peafowl are much larger and more colorful than pheasants. Peafowl are famous for their colorful feathers.

Generally, male peafowl (called *peacocks*) are much more colorful than female peafowl (called *peahens*). Although peahens are usually brown or gray, peacocks are blue or green and have colorful tails which they can raise up and fan out.

For centuries, peacocks have been highly valued for their bright, colorful tail feathers. When a peacock spreads its tail wide, the tail feathers look amazing. The tail feathers are bright blue and green and can be as long as 5 feet (1.5 meters). The ends of the tail feathers have colorful markings called eyes. These markings are circles of bright blue, green, and gold. Only males have these famous tail feathers. Males lose their tail feathers every year, but they grow new ones. The bright feathers are used to attract females as well as to scare away predators.

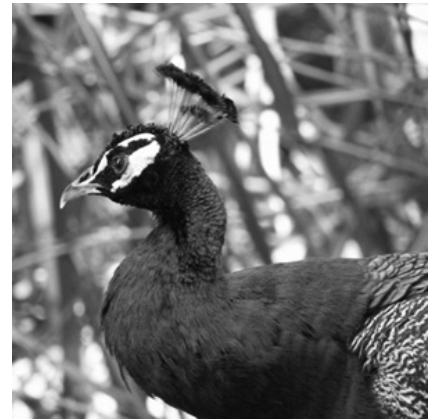
When peafowl are ready to find a mate, the male uses his colorful tail feathers to attract attention. Then both the male and female will often make a loud, high noise to communicate. Peahens lay three or more eggs each year. The peafowl babies, called *peachicks*, spend several months in their eggs before hatching. When they are small, peachicks are fed and taught to find food by their mothers. As the peachicks grow into adults, they develop longer feathers and soon begin looking for their own mates.

Peafowl are omnivorous, which means that they eat both plants and animals. They usually eat small bugs (such as ants and termites), very small animals (such as mice and frogs), plant seeds, and flower petals. Interestingly, peafowl have been known to eat scorpions!

Peafowl are native to Asia, and they usually live in forests. They fly into trees to escape predators and to sleep. However, they make their nests on the ground, in a quiet area that is safe from predators. They hunt for food during most of the day, searching through tall grass and near small streams.

Many people like peafowl even though the birds can be very loud. For several hundred years, rulers in Europe **imported** peafowl from Asia to their castle gardens. Because of this practice, peafowl can be found all over Europe today. Peafowl are also kept as pets on many farms throughout the world. If you would like to see a peafowl in person, you may be able to find one at a zoo.

Answer comprehension questions on page 100.



animals, Asia

Lexile®: 720L
Word Count: 423

Time: _____



Tidal Power

Heavy snowstorms, hurricanes, and drought conditions. Scientists believe that an increase in these situations can be attributed to, or result from, climate change. Climate change can be made worse by air pollution from coal and oil power plants.

To reduce air pollution, governments around the world are looking for forms of energy that are cleaner for the environment. Examples of cleaner, or **green**, technologies include solar power, wind turbines, and hydroelectricity. Another green form of energy comes from the ocean. It is called *tidal power*.



technology, nature

Lexile®: 720L

Word Count: 421

Time: _____

Tidal power is a form of energy that uses the tides. The tides are the movement of ocean waters. As the moon rotates around Earth, it pulls ocean waters. This means that at certain times of the day, the ocean level in some regions is high. At other times, it is lower. In most places in the world, the tide changes four times a day. Low tide happens twice a day. So does high tide. In some locations, the change in tide can be very big. For example, the Bay of Fundy in Canada has the world's highest tide with a tide difference of 53 feet (over 16 meters). The difference in tide level provides scientists with the ability to generate tidal power.

One form of tidal power is created using a barrage. It is similar to a dam. It is built across a body of ocean water. At low tide, the barrage gates are opened. This allows water to flow through the barrage. At high tide, the gates are closed. Then the tide goes out. Now water in front of the barrage is low. But the water behind the barrage stays high. This is because the gates are still closed.

Now the barrage is ready to generate tidal power. First, the gates are opened. The water begins to return to the ocean. As the water moves out, it pushes a turbine. This is a machine that looks like a fan or windmill. It has wide blades. The water pushes the blades. This turns the turbine which is connected to an electrical generator. The generator creates electricity! The water continues to flow towards the ocean until its level matches the level of low tide. At that point, the process starts again. The gates are left open until the next high tide. Then they will be closed so that more electricity can be generated.

Electricity from a barrage can be stored in a battery or transferred through wiring. It can be used to power homes and businesses.

Answer comprehension questions on page 101.

Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill was born in Great Britain in 1874. His family was very rich. In school, he did not do well in his studies. But as a young man, he joined the British Army and was a good soldier. His travels with the army took him all across the world. Cuba, South Africa, and Sudan are just a few of the many countries that he visited. He also wrote articles for newspapers back in Great Britain.

Not long after his career as a soldier ended, Churchill ran for political office. He was **elected** to the House of Commons in 1900. He became known as a great speaker and writer. During the First World War, he left his position in the government to serve in the British Army. He returned to politics after the war.

In 1939, World War II began. It was a difficult time for the people of Britain. Great Britain had few allies against the army of Hitler. Churchill became Great Britain's new prime minister in 1940. His speeches gave hope and courage to the people. The war went on for six years. Many people were worried and scared. But, with Churchill as their leader, the British people fought hard.

Soon, other countries joined forces with Great Britain to form "the Allies." The Allies included Great Britain, Poland, France, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. Other countries later joined including some European nations, China, and the USA. Together, the Allies won the war. Churchill called World War II Great Britain's "finest hour."

World War II ended in 1945. Churchill's first term as prime minister ended that same year. But he later served a second term as prime minister from 1951 to 1955. In 1953, he also won a Nobel Prize for literature and was knighted by the queen. Churchill stopped serving as prime minister in 1955 due to poor health. But he continued serving in the House of Commons for nine more years. He retired in 1964 after spending 64 years of his life serving in the British government.

Churchill died in 1965 at the age of 90. He led a life full of service to his country. He is remembered as one of the world's greatest leaders of the 20th century.

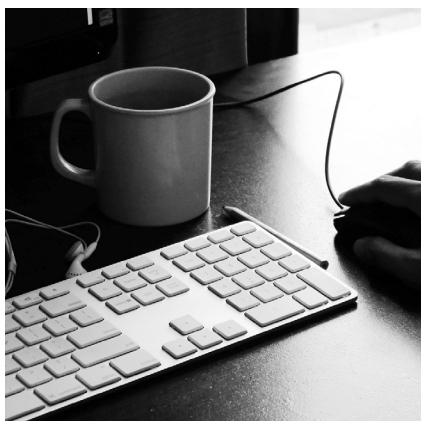
Answer comprehension questions on page 102.



*Europe, biography, leaders,
history, war, government*

Lexile®: 720L
Word Count: 373

Time: _____



hobbies, technology, jobs

Lexile®: 730L
Word Count: 414

Time: _____

Blogging

Some people express creativity through art, such as drawing, painting, or sculpting. Others sing, dance, or perform on stage. In the 21st century, one of the newest means of expression is blogging. Blogging is sharing your writing on the internet.

Do you want to start a blog? It is not too tough at all to start one. First, you must know how to use a computer and the Internet. Then you can pick a blog name and a site where it will be hosted. A number of sites on the web, such as Blogger, Tumblr, and WordPress, can host your blog for free. After that, you can pick a background theme and colors that you like. Now, you are ready to go.

Once you have created your blog, what should you write about? Choose a topic that interests you. You will probably find that it is something that others will want to read about, too. Do not try to copy a famous writer or blogger. Instead, let your personality show by writing in your own style! You may choose to write about current events. Or you might write about your cooking skills and share new recipes that you have created in the kitchen. If you pick a theme that you really enjoy, you will have many ideas to write about.

Not everyone who keeps a blog writes. Some bloggers share photographs. You could share photos of your pets, your hobbies, or your trips. Some bloggers add pictures of the art that they create. You decide what to post on your blog.

Some bloggers write a new post or share a new photo every day. Often, these are professional bloggers who have turned a hobby into a career. If you cannot do this, do not become **discouraged**. Don't give up, or stop! You do not have to post every day or even each week. Write as often as you can, and you will have a wonderful time doing so.

Some people become famous through their blogs. Some of them gain thousands of followers who read their blog. Your blog may not become famous or popular. There are millions of blogs on the web, but there is only one *you*. Write for yourself more than for anyone else. Do not be worried if people do not notice your blog at first. Share what interests you, and readers will appear in time. If nothing else, you can share your blog with your friends, family, and neighbors.

Answer comprehension questions on page 103.

Pilots

Have you ever wanted to fly an airplane? It is possible. You can earn a pilot's license. Then you can fly airplanes.

How do you get started in a career as a pilot? First, most pilots need a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree. Then, you might take a class at a local flight school. There you will learn to work the controls. You will also learn how to obtain a pilot's license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This license is required of anyone who flies a plane.

Additionally, you may want to earn an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate. This certificate is required of anyone who flies a plane as a job. These people are called *professional pilots*. Many professional pilots work for airline companies. They fly commercial planes carrying passengers and cargo. Some airline pilots fly between small, nearby cities. They make trips lasting one or two hours. Other pilots fly longer trips between major cities. For example, the trip between Los Angeles and New York takes five hours, and the trip from London to Moscow takes four hours. An **intercontinental** flight is one that crosses oceans and continents. The intercontinental flight between Tokyo and Toronto crosses the North American continent and the Pacific Ocean. It takes about 13 hours!

Many pilots work with a team. In fact, all commercial airline flights must have two pilots. This helps when one pilot needs to rest. Along with the flight attendants, pilots make up the flight crew. The captain is in charge of the plane. Another pilot, the first officer, assists the captain. Airline pilots make sure that a plane takes off and lands safely. They also take care of the passengers. During the trip, they talk to passengers on an intercom to tell them facts or safety tips. They do their best to keep the flight on schedule. In the case of engine failure or another emergency, the pilots must safely land the plane in an unexpected place.

Not all pilots work for airlines. Some pilots have special jobs, including fighting fires or dusting crops with pesticides. Other pilots fly military planes. Some fly helicopters. Helicopter pilots might rescue a lost or injured person.

Pilots often work only a few days each month. But they must spend a great deal of time away from home. They can be gone for weeks at a time. However, many pilots enjoy the work because they love flying. They may also get the opportunity to visit interesting cities, countries, or continents!

Answer comprehension questions on page 104.



jobs, technology, geography

Lexile®: 730L
Word Count: 420

Time: _____



health, biography, Europe, war

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 416

Time: _____

Florence Nightingale

Health care has improved greatly in the past 200 years. But there was a time when a hospital was the last place a person would want to be. It was often thought that if a person was sent to a hospital, that person would soon die. This is because hospitals were dirty. Diseases and infections were often spread in hospitals. A nurse named Florence Nightingale helped to change things for the better.

Nightingale was born in Florence, Italy, in 1820. Her British parents were visiting Italy at the time. They named her after the city where she was born. Nightingale was raised in Great Britain. Her family was wealthy, so Nightingale did not need to work. In fact, it was considered unusual for a wealthy woman in her day to get a job. But Nightingale had been influenced by a family friend who encouraged her to challenge the role of women in society. So, at age 24, Nightingale decided to work as a nurse and care for the sick. She wanted to help others. She studied nursing in Germany.

In 1854, Nightingale was the leader of a large group of nurses who went to Turkey to help care for wounded British soldiers. Great Britain had been fighting the Crimean War against Russia. Conditions at this hospital were miserable. It was not clean, and there were not enough supplies to treat all of the soldiers. Ten times more soldiers died from infections than from battle wounds. Florence and her staff worked hard to improve hospital conditions. Nightingale made sure that staff washed their hands and that bathrooms were clean. She provided soldiers with proper food. In just six months, the death rate of wounded soldiers dropped from 42 percent down to only two percent. Florence became a great hero to the people of her country.

After the war, Florence returned home to Great Britain. She continued to work in nursing. She trained nurses and improved hospital design. She also worked with the government to teach **sanitation** to people. For example, she showed them how to keep their bodies and homes clean. This reduced diseases and infections in thousands of families. She established several hospitals and nursing schools. She also wrote many books on nursing.

Nightingale is remembered for her thoughtful care. Her life's work was popularized by her nickname as "The Lady with the Lamp." This name was based on her service during the war when she spent the nights checking on each soldier in the hospital.

Answer comprehension questions on page 105.

Hot Dogs

Do you like to eat hot dogs? They are a popular food for many people in the United States. Americans eat 16 billion hot dogs each year. That is an average of 53 hot dogs for every man, woman, and child.

No one is certain when the first hot dog was made. There are a few legends about it. One story states that the first hot dog was served around 1900. On a cold day in New York City, a man sold snacks at a street stand. He wanted to help his customers keep warm. So he sold them hot meat sausages in buns. He called this food *hot dogs*.

Since then, hot dogs have spread across North America and the rest of the world. It is a popular food in many places. Fast food restaurants and food stands at sporting events often sell them. Along with hamburgers, they are common at barbecue parties. Many people like to pour ketchup, a sweetened tomato sauce, on top of their hot dogs. Other common toppings include mustard (a spicy sauce), relish (made from pickles), and sauerkraut (sour cabbage).

In recent years, hot dog-eating contests have become quite popular. Many people consider these contests to be a new kind of sport. The most famous contest in the USA is hosted each Independence Day (July 4th). The contest takes place on Coney Island in New York.

The contest was first hosted by Nathan Handwerker. He was an immigrant to the USA from Poland. In 1916, Handwerker opened a hot dog stand on Coney Island. He sold hot dogs made from his wife's recipe. In 1916, the hot dogs cost five cents each.

That same year, Handwerker held his first hot dog-eating contest. It began with four men who were eating at the stand. They were all recent immigrants to the USA. The men started to argue. Each one claimed to be the most **patriotic**. They could not decide who loved the USA the most. So, they decided on a contest. They wanted to see who could eat the most hot dogs. The contest lasted for 10 minutes. The winner, they agreed, would be the most "American."

Today, hot dog-eating contests are popular at picnics and other summer activities. If you decide to participate in a hot dog-eating contest, remember to carefully chew your hot dog properly when eating. And no matter who wins, you can enjoy the taste of this delicious, American food.

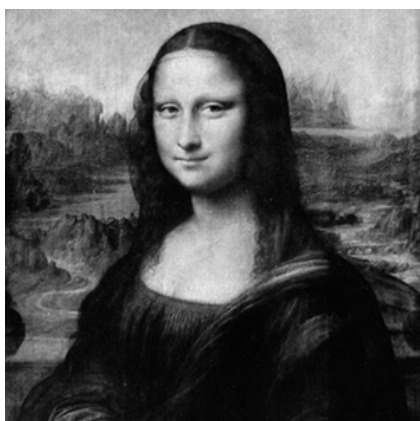
Answer comprehension questions on page 106.



food, USA

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 409

Time: _____



*history, Europe, biography,
arts, scientists*

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 404

Time: _____

Leonardo da Vinci

A Renaissance man or woman is a person who studies many different things and has many talents. Leonardo da Vinci is considered a good example of a Renaissance man. He created amazing works of art, and he studied math, science, history, and more.

Leonardo da Vinci was born in Italy in 1452. He grew up in the small town of Vinci. In fact, *da Vinci* is not a family name. It means “from Vinci” and is often used when referring to him. He is also simply called Leonardo. He lived during a period of time called the Renaissance. This term comes from a French word meaning “rebirth.” This period is viewed as a remarkable time of learning and artistic creation in Europe. Leonardo was influenced by other great artists and thinkers, and his work inspired many others.

Leonardo is known for many things, including his scientific works. He had a great interest in anatomy, which is the study of the human body. He created many drawings of both human and animal bodies. These drawings show details in muscles and bones. He was also interested in botany, the study of plants. Leonardo kept many notebooks, and filled them with drawings of flowers, grains, and berries. He studied mapmaking, or **cartography**. His maps were well known for their accuracy and detail. He also studied other scientific topics, including light and the stars.

Leonardo is also well known for his inventions. He designed many useful machines. He designed bridges. He designed military machines, such as tanks. He designed underwater diving suits. He was interested in flying, and he created numerous drawings of machines that looked like hang gliders or helicopters.

Leonardo is best remembered as a master of the arts. He learned to paint as a young man. In fact, many of his scientific discoveries helped him paint more realistically. He often worked for churches, so many of his paintings were of religious events. He also worked for rich families, so he also painted rich people and their friends. His most famous painting is the *Mona Lisa*. It is also called *La Gioconda*, which means “the laughing one.” For centuries, the smile of the woman in the painting has intrigued people. It is a very famous painting.

In 1519, Leonardo died at the age of 67. He is remembered as one of the smartest people who ever lived. His art and his notebooks continue to inspire people.

Answer comprehension questions on page 107.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is one of the most famous waterfalls in the world. It is actually a group of three large waterfalls. They form part of the border between New York in the USA and Ontario in Canada. American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls are found in New York. Horseshoe Falls lie in Ontario. Niagara Falls is known for its great beauty. It is also a popular site for couples on their honeymoons. In all, from 20 to 30 million people come to see it each year.

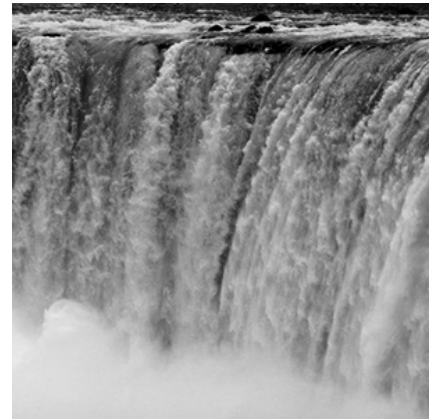
The falls are about 10,000 years old. They were formed when a large glacier melted. This same glacier also helped to form the Great Lakes. The name *Niagara* comes from a term of the Iroquois people. It means the **strait**. A strait is a narrow area of water that connects two bigger areas. Niagara Falls is along the Niagara River which connects Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

Compared to other waterfalls around the world, Niagara Falls is not very tall. But Niagara Falls is very wide. Horseshoe Falls is the biggest of the three waterfalls. It is 173 feet (53 meters) tall and 2,600 feet (792 meters) wide. American Falls stands at only 100 feet (30 meters) and is 1,060 feet (323 meters) wide. Bridal Veil Falls is the smallest. It is 78 feet (24 meters) tall and 65 feet (17 meters) wide.

The water of Niagara Falls has a great deal of force. Each second, 3,160 tons (2.9 million kilograms) of water pass over the edge. Much of it is used to make hydroelectric power. Stations at the falls provide electricity to people who live in New York and Ontario.

Tourists may take a cruise on the *Maid of the Mist*. This boat ride lets people see the falls more closely. But that is not enough for some people. Although it is not allowed, 16 people have jumped over the falls. Some of them have been hurt in the attempt. A few of them have even drowned. In 1829, Sam Patch was the first person who tried to jump over the edge of the falls. In 1901, a cat was sent over in a barrel. The cat was not harmed. So, a 63-year-old woman rode down the same way. Fortunately, she was not hurt.

Answer comprehension questions on page 108.



*landmarks, USA,
Americas, nature*

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 381

Time: _____



*history, Oceania,
landmarks, geography*

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 420

Time: _____

Rapa Nui

In the spring of 1722, a European sea captain arrived on an island in the South Pacific Ocean. He called the place Easter Island. He named it after the spring holiday of Easter. But the people who live there today call it Rapa Nui.

Rapa Nui is tiny. It is only 14 miles (23 kilometers) long by 7 miles (11 kilometers) wide. That is about 63 square miles (163 kilometers) in size. It lies in the Pacific Ocean, far from other land. Tahiti is more than 2,500 miles (4,050 kilometers) to the west. Chile is nearly 2,400 miles (3,800 kilometers) to the east. Rapa Nui is the southeast corner of the Polynesian Triangle. This region includes other Pacific Islands such as Hawaii, Tonga, and Samoa.

Rapa Nui is most famous for its large stone statues. When Europeans first visited the island, they were surprised to see many large stone heads covering the hills. These statues are called moai. But they are more than just heads. They are carved bodies and heads, but the bodies are buried in the dirt. There are almost 900 moai on the island. They are between 10 and 40 feet (3 to 12 meters) tall. They are very heavy. The largest moai weighs about 164,000 pounds (about 75,000 kilograms).

Experts are not sure how the moai were created and moved around the island. They are so heavy that they could not be lifted. They may have been dragged using ropes. Or they were moved using wooden logs to roll them into place. This idea is surprising because there are few trees on the island. Some experts think that the island once had many forests. But the locals cut them down to build the moai. It is believed that over 10,000 people once lived on the island. But the loss of the trees reduced the population. The loss of trees caused the ground to slide and cover the bodies of the moai. Later contact with Europeans also reduced the island's population to fewer than 200 people.

Today, more than 5,000 people live on Rapa Nui. It is now part of the country of Chile in South America. Tourism is the main industry. Thousands of visitors come to the island each year. There are efforts to improve farming on the island. The forests are being planted again. After many difficulties, there is hope that life on the island will improve. The world is working to save Rapa Nui. People want to restore, or bring back, the island's beauty.

Answer comprehension questions on page 109.

Stunt Performers

Actors do many things in movies. Sometimes the characters they play are super heroes, police officers, or spies. In these situations, the work can be very difficult. It might require an actor to do something dangerous. The character might drive a car off a cliff. Or the character might need to run into a burning building. Other times, actors might have to do flips or jumps. These actions are called *stunts*. Stunts can be dangerous, so the film director will hire a stunt performer for the job. Stunt performers are men and women who are trained to be able to do these tough tasks.

Often, an actor will play a role for almost the entire movie. In an action scene, a stunt performer will dress like the actor. Often, this person is called a **stunt double**. From a distance, the stunt double will look just like the actor. Then, the stunt performer will do whatever action the actor cannot safely do. This makes it seem like the main actor does the dangerous stunt.

Stunt doubles allow for dangerous and exciting scenes in movies. These scenes would not be possible without these stunt performers. A stunt performer gets to do some of the most exciting parts of movies. Stunt performers are very skilled at what they do. But they must be careful! Each time they perform, they take a risk.

Some stunt performers do not act in movies. Instead, they perform on stage in front of a live audience. These stunts are the most risky. This is because the performers must do the stunt right on the first try. They must make the stunt look real and exciting. But they must also do the stunt safely. This is challenging.

If the stunt is for a movie, film editing can make performing the stunt much safer. For example, a fight between actors can be fake, but camera angles can make it look real. But many stunts are still very dangerous. Stunts with fire are never completely safe. Car crashes must be set up carefully. Stunt performers must be in good shape and must be brave. Many have been hurt or have even been killed while doing their jobs. Those who want to be a stunt performer must be very careful. They need to train well before trying a stunt.

The next time that you see an amazing stunt on TV, look for the stunt performer who makes the action possible!

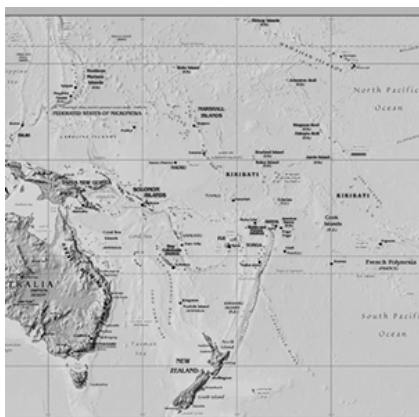
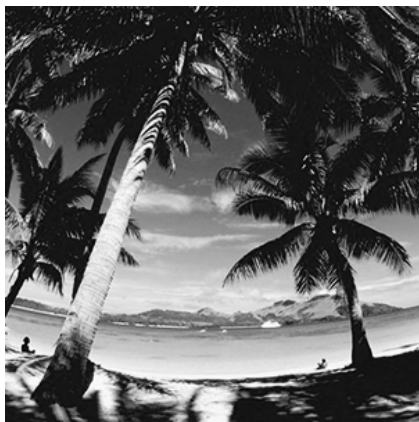
Answer comprehension questions on page 110.



jobs, arts

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 409

Time: _____



Oceania, geography, oceans

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 369

Time: _____

The Pacific Islands

The Pacific Ocean is quite big. In fact, it is the largest body of water on Earth. It is about 60 million square miles (155 million square kilometers) in size. Many islands of all sizes and shapes are spread out over the Pacific Ocean. There are between 20,000 and 30,000 islands in all. No one knows for sure just how many there might be. New islands are created as volcanoes rise from the ocean. The lava cools above the surface of the ocean. After a period of time, the lava forms a new island.

“Oceania” is another name for the islands of the Pacific. The islands cover an area from Australia and Guam in the west, to Hawaii and Easter Island in the east. They are about 5 percent of Earth’s total land area. Many of these islands are found on or near the equator. Thus, the weather is usually warm all year long. The exact border between Oceania and Asia is not always clear. But the United Nations places the border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Thus, the Philippine Islands are in Asia, and Guam and Palau are in Oceania.

The islands of the Pacific have been put into three groups: Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. The term *Melanesia* means “black islands.” This region includes the southwest islands near Australia, such as Fiji and Vanuatu. *Micronesia* means “small islands.” This region includes the set of islands north of Melanesia. The word *Polynesia* means “many islands.” This is a region in the shape of a triangle that includes Hawaii in the north, New Zealand in the southwest, and Rapa Nui (or Easter Island) in the southeast.

Some of the Pacific Islands are called *high islands*. They have tall mountains, which bring lots of fresh water. High islands can support many people. They have many farms and large cities. Other islands are called *low islands*. They usually have very small populations. The people on these islands survive mostly by fishing.

The Pacific Islands include 17 countries. About 32 million people live on these islands. They speak more than 1,200 different languages. The people in New Guinea alone speak more than 700! The Pacific Islands represent many different cultures, as well.

Answer comprehension questions on page 111.

The Running of the Bulls

The Running of the Bulls is a custom from northern Spain. In this event, a group of people agree to be chased by a group of bulls. A bull is a male cow. The bulls chase the runners through the streets of town. Any adult may run in this event. Some say that this race is only for brave people. Others say that it is only for foolish people.

The world's most famous Running of the Bulls takes place in Pamplona, Spain. This event began in the 13th century. It is part of the festival of San Fermin. This festival is held each year, from July 6 to July 14. San Fermin is a religious hero. According to legend, he was **martyred**, or killed for his beliefs. The legend says that he was killed by bulls that ran through the streets of the town. In our time, before each race, some of the runners pray to San Fermin for help. They believe that he protects people from being hurt by the bulls.

In Pamplona, the Running of the Bulls happens each day of the San Fermin festival. Those who run wear white shirts and pants. They wear a red sash, or belt, around the waist. They also wear red handkerchiefs, or scarves, around their necks. They run through town for about a half mile (about 800 meters). The bulls race at an average speed of 15 miles (24 kilometers) per hour. Each event only lasts about four minutes.

It is dangerous to run in the race. A bull has sharp horns on its head. A bull can be very dangerous when angry. Since 1910, the bulls have killed 15 people. Hundreds of others are hurt each year. Some of the bulls are injured, too. This is because the stone streets of Pamplona can cause the bulls to trip.

Pamplona is not the only place with a Running of the Bulls. Other towns in Spain, France, and Mexico also have such an event. In some cities around the world, the bulls are replaced with very fast people. The city of New Orleans, in the United States, has a fun Running of the Bulls. Roller derby skaters act as bulls and chase after runners. It is very fun and much less dangerous than running with real bulls!

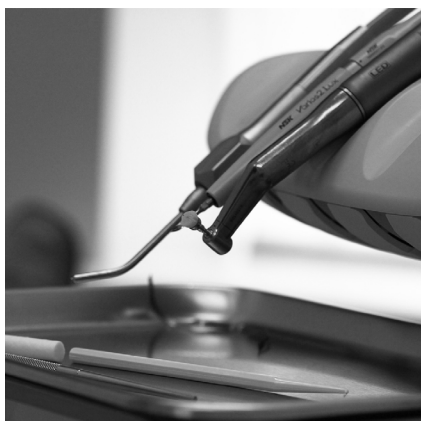
Answer comprehension questions on page 112.



Europe, culture, animals, sports

Lexile®: 740L
Word Count: 385

Time: _____



*jobs, scientists,
technology, health*

Lexile®: 750L
Word Count: 384

Time: _____

Dentists

Do your teeth hurt when you chew food? Have you chipped a tooth in an accident? If so, you may need the help of a dentist. Some people think that going to a dentist is scary. In reality, a good dentist will help you feel better soon.

First, dentists look at your mouth, teeth, and gums to make sure they are healthy. They ask questions and listen carefully to find out what is wrong. Sometimes, they will need to fill a hole in your tooth. This hole is called a cavity. Other times, they may need to perform other work. Whatever needs to be done, dentists will help you feel better soon.

Other people work in a dentist's office, too. A receptionist greets people who arrive at the office. The receptionist also answers the telephone or email messages. Receptionists help patients make appointments. A dental hygienist is a dentist's assistant. Dental hygienists clean your teeth. They also give you advice to keep your teeth healthy and strong.

Most dentists perform regular dental work. However, there are many other types of doctors who work in the field of dentistry. Orthodontists, for example, straighten teeth with devices called braces and retainers. Oral surgeons operate on the mouth and teeth as well as the jaw. Public health dentists work in communities. They teach about good dental health.

To become a dentist, many years of schooling are required. Like any other doctor, dentists in the United States must first receive a bachelor's degree. Next, they must take and pass the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). Then they will go to a dental school that has been licensed by the American Dental Association (ADA). After four years of study, they will earn their dental degree. Other countries have different requirements for dentists.

Dental students learn how to use many tools. They learn to use brushes, drills, lasers, scalpels, and x-ray machines. They must ensure patients are **numb**, or not able to feel pain before the dental work begins. After graduation, new dentists must be licensed in the state where they wish to work.

Being a dentist certainly requires a great deal of work and study. But for those who graduate and begin to practice, dentistry can be a very rewarding career. Dentists can put smiles on their patients' faces.

Answer comprehension questions on page 113.

Eva Perón

Eva Duarte was born in Junín, Argentina, in May 1919. At the young age of 15, she moved to Buenos Aires, the capital city. She wanted to be an actor. She worked very hard and found parts in many plays and films. She became very successful. Her friends and fans called her “Evita.”

In 1944, she met Juan Peron, who was a colonel in the army. The next year, they were married. In 1945, Juan Peron ran for and was elected president of Argentina. For the next six years, Eva Perón served as the country’s first lady. Among her duties, she helped to run the Department of Labor and the Department of Health. She supported the right of women to vote, which had not yet been granted in Argentina. A new law, passed in 1947, gave women that right.

In 1948, Eva Perón started a service organization. This group gave food and supplies to the poor. Some of the items they donated were shoes, sewing machines, and cooking pots. The organization built homes, schools, and hospitals. It also employed, or provided jobs for, more than 14,000 people. The poor and working people of Argentina loved Eva Perón for her efforts to help make their lives better.

When the next election came near, Eva Perón was asked by a large group of supporters to run for vice president of the country. But she could not accept their offer. She was sick with cancer. In time, her health got worse. In 1952, Juan Peron was elected to a second term as president. But Eva Perón lost her battle with cancer and died a few weeks after that. She was 33 years old.

Much of Argentina **mourned** when Eva Perón died. People bought flowers to remember her. In a few days, all flowers had been sold from every flower shop in Buenos Aires. The Congress of Argentina named her the “Spiritual Leader of the Nation.” Though she had her critics, she is still remembered as a great hero by many people.

Answer comprehension questions on page 114.



*Americas, leaders, government,
biography, history*

Lexile®: 750L
Word Count: 338

Time: _____



Americas, landmarks, history

Lexile®: 750L
Word Count: 403

Time: _____

Machu Picchu

About 500 years ago, the Incas were a group of people who ruled a large empire. It stretched for over 4,300 miles (6,920 kilometers) along the mountains and coasts of South America. It ran from Chile in the south to Colombia in the north. They called their empire the *Land of the Four Regions*.

In the Andes Mountains of present-day Peru, the Incas built a city. They called it *Machu Picchu*, which means “old mountain peak” in **Quechua**. Quechua was the language spoken by the Incas. Many of the people of Peru still speak it today. Machu Picchu was a royal city. Sometimes the emperor lived there. Hundreds of other Incas lived there too.

In the 16th century, explorers from Spain arrived in Peru. They came in search of gold and treasure. In a short time, they and the diseases they brought with them from Europe killed most of the Incas. They destroyed many Inca cities and took their gold. However, the explorers never learned about Machu Picchu.

For centuries, Machu Picchu was known only among the surviving Incas. It remained hidden from the rest of the world. In 1911, Hiram Bingham, a university professor, was shown Machu Picchu by a local farmer. When Bingham first saw the city, many plants and trees had grown over the buildings. They were hidden from view. Bingham told others about Machu Picchu. Soon, the city became famous around the world.

Today, the plants and trees have been cleared. The buildings have been restored. About 150 homes, palaces, and temples still stand there. Many people travel to Peru to see this city.

Visiting Machu Picchu is not easy. It is located high in the mountains. It is 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of the city of Cusco. To get to Machu Picchu, most people will take a short train ride from Cusco. However, some people choose to hike to Machu Picchu. To hike there, they must take the Inca Trail, a trip that takes two to four days.

In our day, people from all over the world love to visit Machu Picchu. Some are scientists who study the Incas. These scientists think that the Incas used Machu Picchu to study the stars. Other visitors are volunteers who try to fix the old buildings. Many more are tourists who want to see this amazing place. Like the ancient Incas, they want to experience the wonder of Machu Picchu.

Answer comprehension questions on page 115.

Isaac Newton

Perhaps one of the most common stories about Isaac Newton involves an apple tree. According to the story, Newton sat next to an apple tree. He saw an apple fall from a branch and hit the ground. As he thought about the apple, Newton's understanding of gravity deepened. Newton is considered a great scientific thinker for his studies about gravity and many more scientific ideas.

Newton was born in England in 1643. As a boy, he did not do well in school. His teachers thought that he was lazy and did not pay attention. When he was 17 years old, Newton quit school, so his mother decided that he should become a farmer. But Newton did not want to become a farmer, so he returned to school. He tried harder and paid more attention. He completed his lessons. He became interested in science. Soon, he was the top student in the school. The following year, he went to Cambridge University.

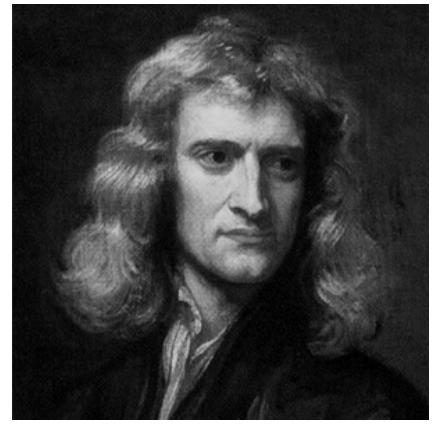
To pay for school, Newton worked as a servant. Then, he was given a scholarship and invited to **pursue**, or work towards, an advanced degree in math and physics. After graduation, Newton became a professor. Over the next several years, he developed many important theories about math. He developed a system that is known today as *calculus*. It is used to study and predict change in fields such as physics, economics, and medicine.

Newton performed many experiments in optics, the study of light. He discovered that white light is composed of the colors of the rainbow. He also created a new type of telescope. This is a device that helps people look into space. Most telescopes today still follow Newton's design.

Perhaps Newton is best known for his work in physics, the study of matter and energy. Newton's laws of motion helped the scientific community better understand how objects move. Combined with his law of universal gravitation, Newton's theories helped scientists better understand physics on Earth and in the observed movement of the planets.

In his later life, Newton served two terms in Parliament, part of the government in Great Britain. For 24 years, he was president of the Royal Society. This was the leading group of scientists in Great Britain. He also published books on history, religion, and philosophy. In 1705, he was knighted by Queen Anne. Newton died in 1727 at the age of 84. Today, his ideas still influence the study of science. Some people have called him "the father of modern science."

Answer comprehension questions on page 116.



*history, biography,
Europe, scientists*

Lexile®: 760L
Word Count: 416

Time: _____



biography, Asia, leaders

Lexile®: 760L
Word Count: 399

Time: _____

Mother Teresa

When people talk about the most important people of the past 100 years, they may mention the name of Mother Teresa. She wanted to change the world. In many ways, that is what she did.

She was born in 1910 in what is now Macedonia. As a young girl, she heard stories of those who **devoted** their lives to serving others. (To devote one's life to service can mean to decide to give all of one's efforts to helping others.) She felt the need to help in this work. At the age of 18, she left her homeland to study English in Ireland. From there, she traveled to India and joined the Sisters of Loreto. This was a group of nuns, or religious women, who taught children. In 1931, she chose to be called by the name of *Teresa*. She was later given the title *Mother*.

For the next 17 years, Mother Teresa taught school in Calcutta, India. There were many sick and poor people who lived there. She could see them from her window at the school. She wished to do something more than teach school. So, in 1948, she left the school to take care of the poor and sick. She had very little money, food, and supplies. But people saw what Mother Teresa was trying to do. They began to send her money and other forms of help. Many of these people who helped her were her former students who were now adults.

In 1950, Mother Teresa began her own order, or group of nuns. The order was called the *Missionaries of Charity*. Members of the order made it their goal to care for the poorest of the poor. The Missionaries of Charity are now in more than 120 countries all over the world. They still devote their efforts to helping the poor and the sick. They also care for refugees, the homeless, and those who suffer from floods or famine.

In 1979, Mother Teresa was given the Nobel Peace Prize for her example of peace building through service. She died in 1997 at the age of 87. But her memory and her life of service remain a great example to all. In 2016, she was canonized, or made a saint, in the Catholic Church by Pope Francis. Her example of service has inspired thousands of people around the world to help the poor and sick.

Answer comprehension questions on page 117.

The United States Constitution

The United States Constitution is the highest law in the United States of America. All other laws are based on the Constitution. It explains how the government should work. It outlines the roles of the president and Congress of the United States. All new laws in the United States must agree with the Constitution. Each state has its own constitution. All state laws must agree with the state's constitution. And each state constitution must agree with the US Constitution.

The Constitution was created in 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. More than 50 men from across the country worked together to write it. These men included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton. They wanted the United States to remain a safe and good place to live. They did not want one leader to take away the people's freedom.

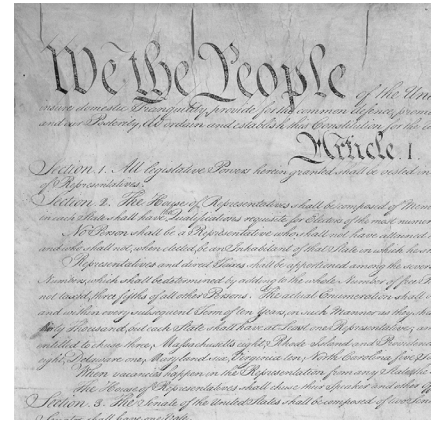
It took four months to **draft**, or write, this document. The final version contained 4,300 words. It took two days to write all of the words by hand. Then the men who supported the Constitution had to convince the rest of the country that this was a good document. Many people agreed with the Constitution. Others were concerned that it did not protect the rights of individuals. They would not agree to support the Constitution until these rights were included. Ten of these rights were outlined in a document called the *Bill of Rights*. It offers many protections including freedom of expression and religious liberty.

The writers of the Constitution knew that the Constitution might need to change over time. The first set of changes, called *amendments*, were the ten rights in the Bill of Rights. Since 1787, over 9,000 amendments have been proposed. Only 27 of them have been approved so far. Some of these amendments ended slavery and granted rights to former slaves. A later amendment gave women the right to vote. Others clarified various government processes.

The Constitution explains that power in the US government is separated into three branches, or groups. They are the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches. The job of the legislative branch is to make laws. This is what elected representatives in Congress do. The executive branch is led by the president, who makes sure that laws are followed. Finally, the judicial branch interprets laws when there is disagreement on their meaning. The judges in the US Supreme Court decide whether laws follow the Constitution or not.

Today, the Constitution continues to be respected as an important foundation for freedom and the law in the United States.

Answer comprehension questions on page 118.



USA, history,
government, leaders

Lexile®: 760L
Word Count: 423

Time: _____



WILLIAM WALLACE.



Europe, biography, leaders,
history, war

Lexile®: 760L

Word Count: 343

Time: _____

William Wallace

Who was William Wallace? You may have seen his life story as it is shown in the film *Braveheart*. But how much of this film is true?

Much of what is known of Wallace comes from folk tales. He was a real person. He was born in Scotland about the year 1270. His father owned land, and Wallace owned land of his own when he was old enough. When Wallace was born, King Alexander III ruled Scotland. There was peace in the land for many years. After King Alexander III died in 1296, King Edward I of England claimed to be the new ruler of Scotland. The Scottish people did not want to be ruled by a foreign king. They wanted to be free and to have a king of their own. Soon, a war for Scottish independence began.

Some stories say that in May of 1297, an English sheriff from the town of Lanark killed Wallace's wife. So, Wallace and many of his friends attacked and killed the sheriff. They also burned the town of Lanark to the ground. Over the next few months, Wallace fought and defeated the English army in other towns. He was a hero to the people of Scotland. He was knighted by Robert the Bruce, who later became the new king of Scotland.

In October 1297, Wallace and his group of soldiers invaded the northern part of England. The next year, he and his men fought King Edward I's troops at the town of Falkirk. This time, the English won the battle. It was a huge defeat for Wallace. Later, in 1305, he was captured by the English army and killed.

As with many folk tales, the truth about Wallace is mixed with fictional stories. Whatever the truth may be, Wallace was an important symbol of Scottish independence. Inspired by Wallace, Scottish people continued his efforts. They fought for and won their freedom from the English just a few years after his death. Some people even think that Wallace's life helped **inspire** the legend of Robin Hood.

Answer comprehension questions on page 119.

Karaoke

A musician in Japan often performed at parties. People asked him to record his music for them. They wanted to sing his songs. This gave the musician an idea. He made a machine that would play a song when a coin was dropped into a slot. The original singer's voice was removed so that the user could sing the song. With this new machine, karaoke was invented. The word *karaoke* comes from a Japanese phrase meaning "empty orchestra." This phrase suggests that the music (or orchestra) remains, but the voice is removed (or empty).

Soon, karaoke machines were placed in restaurants and hotels. In time, karaoke clubs began to appear, too. These are places that have a karaoke machine in each room. Karaoke became very popular in Japan. In the 1980s, it spread to other parts of Asia. By the 1990s, it came to the United States and Canada.

Karaoke technology has changed over time. At first, karaoke machines just played music, and users sang along. As the technology improved, users had more control. A person could adjust the pitch, or how high or low the musical notes were. Changing pitch made more people feel comfortable singing karaoke. Soon, a screen was added to these machines. The song **lyrics** were shown on the screen. The words changed in color to guide the singer through the song. This helped people who did not remember all the words to a song. When they were first made, karaoke machines used cassette tapes. They now use CDs and DVDs. Some machines connect to the internet so that users can download new songs.

Today, karaoke is a popular activity in places around the world. It is often found at parties and weddings. In some countries, taxicabs even have karaoke machines for passengers to use. Many video games are based on karaoke. In the game, players earn points based on how well they sing the songs.

The world record for the largest group to sing a karaoke song was set at a race car stadium in Tennessee, USA in 2009. Over 160,000 people gathered to sing a country music song. In 2001, a man in Italy set a record for singing karaoke. He sang 1,295 songs for nearly 102 hours (about five days) to raise money for charity. In 2014, a group in China set the record for the longest karaoke party. It lasted 792 hours (over one month)! Though most karaoke parties don't last nearly that long, karaoke remains a popular activity around the world.

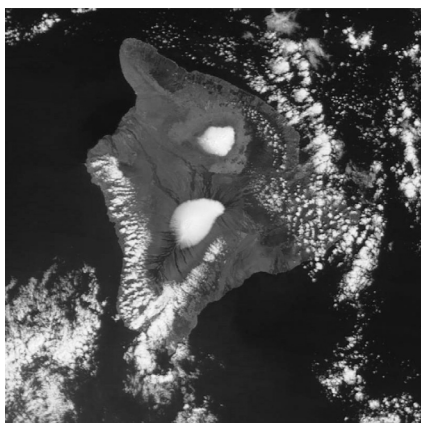
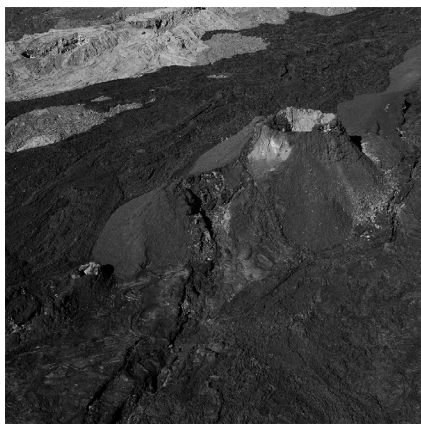


culture, Asia, hobbies

Lexile®: 770L
Word Count: 420

Time: _____

Answer comprehension questions on page 120.



*geography, nature, USA,
Oceania, culture, landmarks*

Lexile®: 780L
Word Count: 355

Time: _____

Mauna Loa

A volcano is a place on Earth that opens downward to a pool of hot, liquid rock below the surface. When pressure increases, the liquid rock and hot gases erupt. This means that they are pushed out of the volcano. Volcanoes are found all over the world. But the largest volcano is found in Hawaii. It is called *Mauna Loa*.

Mauna Loa is a mountain on the Big Island of Hawaii. It is about 6 miles (10 kilometers) tall from the surface of the ocean to the top of the mountain. It is an **active** volcano. This means that it continues to release lava (liquid rock). Some volcanoes are explosive. But Mauna Loa usually releases its lava and gases slowly. This is why many people can live on the Big Island of Hawaii. Most people there do not fear a terrible eruption.

Mauna Loa is not the only volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. There are four other volcanoes. Mauna Loa is the biggest in overall size. In fact, Mauna Loa is Hawaiian for “long mountain.” But Mauna Kea is taller. It is a tall and has a steep slope. Mauna Loa is wide and has a long slope.

Even though Hawaii is a tropical place, the top of Mauna Loa is often covered in snow. This means that people could ski on the top of Mauna Loa. And later that day they could surf in the warm ocean along its shores!

Hawaiian volcanoes have not caused any human deaths in recent decades. But the lava flows have destroyed farms, houses, and roadways. At times, locals have been forced to leave their towns due to these lava flows. Scientists continue to monitor all of the Hawaiian volcanoes. They try to predict eruptions that could be dangerous for people.

The ancient Hawaiian people had great respect for Mauna Loa and the other volcanoes. The Hawaiian goddess Pele controlled lightning, fire, and the volcanoes. Ancient Hawaiians would leave offerings, or presents, on the mountain. They hoped that Pele would keep the volcano from erupting and destroying them. Today, Hawaiians view Mauna Loa as a special place.

Answer comprehension questions on page 121.

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was born in 1918 in a small village in South Africa. His father was the chief, or leader, of the village. As a young boy, Mandela worked as a goat and cattle shepherd. He was the first person in his family to go to school. He studied law and earned a university degree in 1942. In 1944, Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC), a political organization. He spoke out against the apartheid policies of the government. Apartheid policies stated that white people and black people in South Africa had to live in separate places. It also placed many other restrictions on non-white people. Mandela believed that these rules were not right or fair.

The pass laws were part of apartheid policies. The pass laws required black people to take identity cards with them into areas where white people lived and worked. In 1960, the ANC planned to protest the country's pass laws. During the protest, 69 people were killed by police. As a result, the government banned the ANC. Members of the group could no longer meet.

Following the ban, Mandela and others decided that the government needed to be replaced. They began plans to force the government to change. Their plans were discovered by the government. In 1964, Mandela was tried and found guilty of **treason**. Treason means trying to attack and replace the government. Mandela was sent to prison for life.

Mandela spent the next 27 years in prison. In February 1990, President de Klerk of South Africa set Mandela free. Together, Mandela and de Klerk helped the government end apartheid in 1993. That same year, Mandela was given the Nobel Peace Prize. Then, Mandela and de Klerk organized the country's first multiracial elections. In 1994, Mandela was elected president of South Africa. He was the first black person to hold that office.

In 1999, Mandela chose not to seek a second term as president. Instead, he retired from political life. He continued to speak out on issues, including education, equality, peace, and public health. More than 50 colleges around the world have given him honorary degrees. He died in 2013 at the age of 95. He is remembered as a fighter for the freedom and equal rights of all people.



*Africa, biography, leaders,
history, government*

Lexile®: 780L
Word Count: 376

Time: _____

Answer comprehension questions on page 122.



Walt Disney

Each year, millions of people around the world go to movie theaters to see films created by The Walt Disney Company. They watch TV programs on channels owned by The Walt Disney Company. They visit theme parks operated by The Walt Disney Company. The Walt Disney Company is the largest entertainment organization in the world. But less than 100 years ago, it did not even exist. And its start was very small. It began with a man and a mouse.

Walt Disney was born in 1901. He spent much of his childhood on a farm. This helped him gain a love of animals. He loved to draw and paint pictures of them. In high school, he drew cartoons for the school newspaper. At night, he took art classes.

As an adult, Disney decided to work in the field of art. He started a small **animated**, or cartoon, film company. But it did not make much money. Soon the company closed. In 1923, Disney moved to Hollywood, California to try again. He and his brother Roy started a new company that would become The Walt Disney Company. The brothers began making more cartoon short films.

Their first big success came in 1928 with their black-and-white cartoon, *Steamboat Willie*, which was the first cartoon to have sound. It was very popular, and so was its star, Mickey Mouse. Over the next few years, Mickey appeared in more cartoons. Soon he was joined by other characters, such as Pluto, Goofy, and Donald Duck.

Soon Disney won awards for his cartoons. In 1934, Disney and the studio began to work on the first full-length animated film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Many film experts and businessmen thought it would be a failure. Instead, it was a huge success. This encouraged Disney to make more animated movies throughout the 1940s.

In the 1950s, The Walt Disney Company began to air TV programs. In 1955, Disneyland theme park opened in Anaheim, California. It became the most successful theme park of all time. A second park, Walt Disney World, was added near Orlando, Florida, in 1971. Today, there are several Disney theme parks in the world, including parks in France, Japan, and China.

Disney passed away in 1966 at age 65. By that time, he had personally worked on or produced hundreds of films and cartoons. His legacy as a great director, producer, writer, and innovator is still felt today. The company that he created continues to grow each year.

Answer comprehension questions on page 123.



biography, arts, USA, business

Lexile®: 780L
Word Count: 414

Time: _____

Disc Jockeys

Before 1930, live musicians played most of the music heard on the radio. Then one day, a radio announcer created a new program. Instead of live music, he played recorded music. But he pretended he was in the same room as live musicians. It made listeners believe that he was broadcasting from a dance hall. Soon the person who did this kind of job was called a *disc jockey*.

Originally, the disc part of disc jockey referred to phonograph records. The first disc jockeys played music using a phonograph. A phonograph is an old device for playing recorded music. Compact discs, or CDs, were not invented until many years later. The *jockey* part of the word is a term for a person who operates a machine. Disc jockeys are nicknamed DJs or deejays.

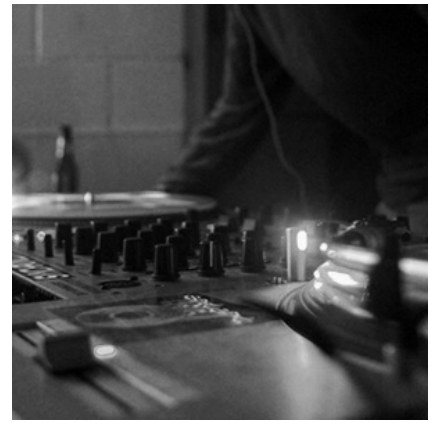
Many DJs work in radio. The main task of a radio DJ is to select and play music. Between songs, DJs report on the news, sports, and weather. Sometimes they interview guests. Many radio stations are broadcast 24 hours a day. So DJs work different shifts, meaning different work schedules. Some work late into the night. Others work early in the morning.

Another type of DJ works at parties or events. These DJs play music in clubs, for school dances, or at weddings. They usually work outside of normal work hours. They often travel with their own equipment. This includes a sound system and a collection of recorded music. Hip-hop DJs play music on multiple turntables, or record players. They often blend, or mix, two or more songs.

People who wish to work as a DJ should love music. They should know many kinds, or **genres**, of music. DJs should feel comfortable speaking in front of a crowd. They should develop a voice that can be easily understood.

Many DJs develop their skills by joining their high school radio clubs. They may have a part-time job playing music for parties hosted by friends or family. After that, they may work at a college radio station. In time, they may find full-time work at a local radio station or as a DJ at parties and other events. The next time you listen to the radio or attend a party, ask yourself, “Is that something I’d like to do?”

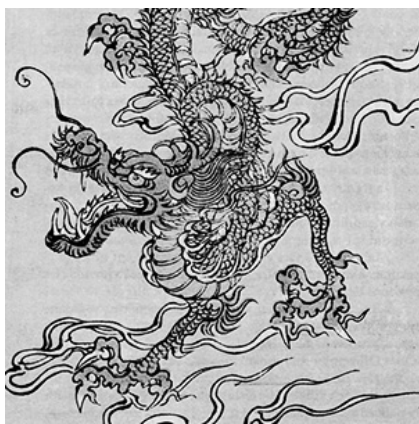
Answer comprehension questions on page 124.



jobs, hobbies, arts

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 380

Time: _____



culture, animals, myths

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 356

Time: _____

Dragons

Can you guess this animal? It has the head of a camel. It has the horns and ears of a cow. It has huge bat-like wings. It is also covered in green scales. And it can breathe fire. Yes, as you have probably guessed, this is a description of a dragon. Dragons are fantasy creatures. This means that they are imaginary. Even though they are not real, dragons remain popular creatures in storytelling.

Stories of dragons come from cultures all around the world. The word *dragon* comes from Greek and means “water snake.” The terrible sea monsters in many ancient Greek stories fit this description of dragons. In most Greek stories, dragons are large, snake-like monsters. Sometimes they have several heads. These dragons often guard treasure or block a hero’s path. In order to complete the quest, the hero must **defeat**, or win against, the dragon.

Other cultures also include dragons in their stories. In China, dragons are very important symbols. In fact, some Chinese tales say that people are the children of an ancient, powerful dragon. In some stories, dragons rule the sky and can control the rain. Legends suggest that when a person dies, a dragon carries the person’s soul to heaven where the person is reunited with parents and grandparents in eternal rest. In fact, one of the most famous symbols in many Asian cultures, the yin-yang symbol of eternity, is said to represent two dragons placed together.

Did you know that before 1912, the national flag of China included a blue dragon on a gold background? The dragon appeared on the flag because, in China, the dragon is a symbol of power. The Chinese emperor, or king, often used a dragon to represent his power.

Sometimes ancient stories described dragons that are angry and dangerous. But at other times dragons were shown to be wise and helpful. This is true in modern stories about dragons, too. Some stories and books tell about mean dragons who steal treasure and hurt people. Other stories describe kind creatures who protect and guide people. In all cases, dragons have a remarkable power to capture our imagination!

Answer comprehension questions on page 125.

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman lived in a time when slavery was still practiced in parts of the United States. She escaped to her freedom and helped many others to do the same. Tubman dedicated her life to helping others.

Tubman was named Araminta Ross when she was born in Maryland, USA, around 1820. She, her eight brothers and sisters, and her parents were all slaves. They had to work long hours in the fields. These fields were owned by **slave** owners. As a girl, she was hit in the head with an iron weight that was thrown by one of these slave owners. As a result of this attack, she had headaches for the rest of her life.

In 1844, she married John Tubman, and she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. In 1849, she escaped to her freedom through what was called the *Underground Railroad*. This term was used to describe a system of paths and people who helped slaves escape to freedom. Tubman arrived in the state of Pennsylvania and found a job as a maid. She worked and saved money to help the rest of her family escape. Between 1850 and 1860, Tubman helped many people to escape slavery. Among this group were her parents, brothers, and close friends. She helped these people find new work.

When the United States Civil War began in 1861, Tubman continued to serve her country. She worked as a nurse and cared for those who were wounded in battle. She also worked as a spy and a scout in the South. In June of 1863, she became the first woman to lead a group of soldiers in an attack in South Carolina. They destroyed the Southern army's food, weapons, and supplies. They also freed more than 700 people from slavery.

After the war ended in 1865, Tubman moved to the state of New York. She spent the rest of her life there, helping others. She also gave speeches on the topic of suffrage, or the right of women to vote. Her husband, John, died in 1867. She married again in 1869. Tubman died in 1913 at age 91. Seven years after her death, the 19th Amendment was added to the United States Constitution. This amendment gave women the right to vote. Today, Tubman is remembered as a freedom fighter and great hero to all Americans.



history, USA,
biography, leaders

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 392

Time: _____

Answer comprehension questions on page 126.



technology, nature, business

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 384

Time: _____

Hybrid Cars

In many countries, people drive cars. Cars save time. Before cars, people had to travel by horse or bicycle or by walking. With cars, people can travel in just a few hours to places that used to take several days to reach.

Though cars do a lot of good, they come with some problems. Cars can be expensive. A new car can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Also, both the cost of car repairs and gasoline can be high. However, the main problem is that cars make pollution. The exhaust that comes from cars pollutes the air, creating smog. Smog can make it hard for people to breathe. Air pollution can also increase global warming, or climate change.

In contrast to gasoline-fueled cars, some people use electric cars. Electric cars are usually powered by batteries, so electric cars are very quiet and produce little pollution. However, electric batteries need to be recharged, and recharging can take a long time. Also, finding an electric charging station is not as easy as finding a gasoline station.

Both gasoline cars and electric cars have problems. This is why some people like hybrid cars. A hybrid car is powered by both gasoline and an electrical battery. The engine in a hybrid car is smaller. It requires less energy. As a result, a hybrid car can travel farther before refueling and does not pollute much. In some countries, the government will give a tax credit to people who buy a hybrid car. This encourages some people to buy a hybrid car.

As with other kinds of cars, there are also some concerns about hybrid cars. They cost more than gas-powered cars. And a new battery can be expensive. Since they have two engines, there are more parts that can break. And some customers may not live close to a place that sells hybrid cars. Hybrid cars weigh less than other cars. Because of this, some people wonder how safe they might be in a crash.

There are pros and **cons**, or advantages and disadvantages, to owning any kind of car. Are there more pros than cons with a hybrid car? That is a choice that each driver will have to make. In the meantime, car designers keep looking for new and better ways to build cars.

Answer comprehension questions on page 127.

International Date Line

In the 19th century, many cities established the time of day based on the sun's position. This meant that the time could be 7:00 a.m. in one town. But the time could be 7:03 a.m. in a town only a few miles east. The change in time would make sense to the people in each town, because the sun rises and sets at slightly different times at east or west locations. However, the change in time created problems as communication and transportation between towns improved. Railroads, in particular, wanted to create a standard time schedule. This led to the creation of time **zones**.

Today, there are 24 time zones around the world. Most time zones are one hour apart. A time zone to the west is one hour earlier. And a time zone to the east is one hour later. The mainland United States has four main time zones. Another time zone is used for Alaska, which is farther west. And still another is used for Hawaii. All places within the same time zone set their clocks to the same hour. This is true for time zones across the world.

Even after the creation of time zones, there were problems. What happened when someone traveled around the world? Those who traveled west from the Americas to Asia had a problem. They discovered that people in Asia were one full day ahead on the calendar. Those who traveled from Asia to the Americas discovered the opposite; locals were one day behind.

An agreement was made to establish an international date line. When travelers moved west over the line, they would need to move their calendars ahead one day. Those who traveled east over the line would set their calendars back one day. Governments agreed to set the International Date Line at the 180-degree line of longitude. This was halfway around the world from the 0-degree line of longitude that passes through Great Britain. The 180-degree line passes through the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Here, few countries would be split in half by this imaginary line.

The International Date Line is not perfectly straight. It zigzags to allow certain island countries to exist in the same day as their trade partners. For example, American Samoa and Western Samoa are very close to one another and set their clocks to the same hour each day. But they are on different sides of the International Date Line. So people in Western Samoa celebrate the new year a day earlier than those in nearby American Samoa!

Answer comprehension questions on page 128.

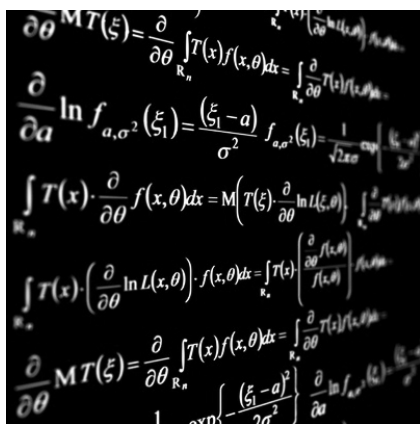


history, geography

Lexile®: 790L

Word Count: 424

Time: _____



Jaime Escalante

A great teacher can change a student's life for the better. Hopefully, you have had at least one or two teachers like this. For many math students in East Los Angeles, California, Jaime Escalante was exactly this kind of teacher.

Escalante was born in 1930, in La Paz, Bolivia. Both of his parents were teachers. Escalante also wished to teach school when he grew up. First, he taught math in Bolivia for nine years. Then, in 1964, he moved to California, USA. In time, he learned to speak English and earned his US teaching degree.



biography, USA

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 414

Time: _____

In 1974, Escalante took a job as a math teacher at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. Before he arrived, there were many problems at this school. Most of the students did not do well in their studies. About half of them dropped out, or stopped attending school, before graduation. There were many fights, too. But Escalante worked hard to change things. He became a favorite teacher to many students. He also helped to inspire them to work hard and earn good grades.

More than 90 percent of the students at Garfield High were **Hispanic**. This means they came from Spanish-speaking families. Escalante was also Hispanic. He was a positive role model for his students.

One of the classes that Escalante taught at Garfield High School was Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus. Calculus is a type of math. Each year that he taught it, more students signed up for the class. More of them passed the AP Calculus test, too. In 1982, 18 of his students were unfairly accused of cheating on this test. These students were upset and disappointed. But Escalante encouraged them to take the test once more to prove that they had passed the first test fairly. Once again, all of them passed.

In 1988, the story of Escalante and his first class of calculus students became a successful film called *Stand and Deliver*. The film received a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor.

By 1988, the dropout rate at Garfield High had fallen from about 50 percent to 14 percent. A large part of that was due to the efforts of Escalante and his students. In 1998, Escalante retired from teaching. The next year, he was voted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. He died in 2010 at age 79 after a long battle with cancer. His hard work and love for his students continue to inspire teachers in the 21st century.

Answer comprehension questions on page 129.

Mermaids

The term *mermaid* usually refers to a mythical creature that is part woman and part fish. The term *merman* can be used to describe a creature that is part man and part fish. And the term *merfolk* is sometimes used to describe both male and female creatures of this type. One of the oldest tales of merfolk is the Babylonian myth of Ea. He was a merman and the god of the sea. His lower body looked like a fish, and his upper body was human. Ea was the idea behind the Greek myth of Poseidon and the Roman god Neptune. These myths led to stories about mermaids.

Sailors have told stories about mermaids for thousands of years. One of the earliest mermaid legends comes from Assyria, around the year 1000 B.C. In this story, a goddess dove into a lake. The water transformed her. The top half of her body remained human, but her legs became a fish fin. Many years later, Pliny, a famous Roman, wrote about mermaids. And the explorer Christopher Columbus thought he saw mermaids near the Caribbean Sea in 1493.

In many stories, mermaids are pretty, with long, shiny hair. They are gentle, sing beautifully, and help humans who are lost at sea. In other tales, mermaids are not kind. Some mermaids have the ability to cause storms that sink ships. The Greek writer Homer wrote about evil mermaids. Their beautiful singing had the power to hypnotize many sailors. The singing was like a magic spell that controlled the men. The **hypnotized** men did whatever the mermaids wanted. This caused the ships to sink or crash. Some of the men were killed.

Danish author Hans Christian Andersen wrote a tale called *The Little Mermaid* in 1836. A 1989 Disney film tells the same story. A young mermaid saves a handsome prince from a sinking ship. To live with the prince, she trades her voice to a sea witch for legs. The mermaid can remain human if the prince falls in love with her. But if she fails, she will die. The Disney movie concludes with a happy wedding. But the original tale by Hans Christian Andersen is not so happy. In it, the prince marries someone else, and the mermaid dies.

Some experts think that manatees are animals that inspired tales of mermaids. These animals live in the sea. From a distance, they might look like mermaids.

In our time, people continue to enjoy stories about mermaids.

Answer comprehension questions on page 130.



oceans, culture, myths, arts

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 412

Time: _____



history, culture, health, Africa

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 423

Time: _____

Mummies

In Egypt, a team of scientists find a pyramid. Inside, they discover a room with treasures—but it also includes a mummy who wakes from a deep sleep and comes to life. It wants to protect its treasure and will stop anyone in its way. Beware this terrible monster!

Does this sound like a movie you have seen? For many years, the mummy has been a popular and scary movie monster. In reality, a mummy is not a monster. It is the body of a person who has died.

Normally, a person's body decomposes after death. This means that bacteria rots all of the body parts, such as hair, skin, and muscles. Within a few months, the body becomes a bare skeleton.

Sometimes, a body does not **decompose** if it is trapped in ice or buried under the sand. When this happens, there are no bacteria to decompose the body. These situations create a natural mummy. This means that the body parts, including skin and hair, remain on the skeleton.

Some cultures, including the culture of ancient Egypt, made mummies through a process called *embalming*. Ancient Egyptians began the practice of embalming mummies more than 5,000 years ago. Ancient Egyptians believed in a life after death. They believed that dead people would need to use their bodies again someday. This is why they embalmed kings and other rulers after they died. Sometimes other important and rich people could afford to be embalmed.

In ancient Egypt, the embalming process often took up to 70 days. First, the body was washed and cleaned. All internal organs except the heart were removed and replaced with stuffing. Next, the body was dried with salt to remove all water. After 40 or 50 more days, the body was wrapped in linen cloths and placed in a sheet. Last, the body was put in a stone coffin, which is a special box for storing dead bodies. Treasure and food were placed with the coffin. At times, a person's animals, such as cats, dogs, or even cows, were embalmed along with the human mummy.

Other cultures also made mummies. In Peru and Chile, the Incas embalmed their dead. The Han dynasty in China did, too. In addition, mummies have been discovered in Canada, Australia, and Russia. In fact, mummies have been found on all seven continents.

Those who study mummies can learn many important things about the culture that a mummy comes from. In this sense, a mummy is hardly a monster. But it could be considered a history teacher!

Answer comprehension questions on page 131.

MyPlate

Which kinds of food should I eat each day? How much should I eat? Are some foods more important than others for good health? These are common questions that people ask about healthy eating.

In the USA, a government group tries to help people answer these questions. One of the tools they created is called *MyPlate*. *MyPlate* is a nutrition guide. **Nutrition** refers to eating foods that are good for our health. *MyPlate* includes a picture that shows how to make healthy eating choices. *MyPlate* also includes more detailed advice and suggestions for healthy living.

The *MyPlate* picture looks like a dinner plate. The plate is divided into four parts. Two large sections, grains and vegetables, represent 30 percent each. Two smaller sections, fruits and protein, represent 20 percent each. The picture suggests that each day, a person's diet (meaning the food that a person eats) should contain mostly vegetables and grains with some fruits and proteins. Grains are foods such as rice, pasta, and bread. Proteins include meat, nuts, and beans. The *MyPlate* picture also includes a small circle representing a glass of milk. This reminds people that a small amount of a fifth food group, dairy products, can also be part of a healthy daily diet. Dairy products include milk, cheese, and yogurt.

MyPlate helps people make healthy food choices. It helps parents teach children good eating habits. In the media, people learn about all kinds of diet fads. A fad is an idea that is popular for a short time. Often, diet fads encourage people to make strange food choices to lose weight. Some fads tell people to only eat fruits and vegetables. Some suggest a diet of just meat and nuts. These fads can be dangerous. *MyPlate* reminds people that it is important to eat a variety of foods.

People who follow *MyPlate* will eat well. They will have a balanced diet. This means that they will eat many different types of good food from each category. They will probably eat less meat, fat, and sugar. At the same time, they will probably eat more fruits, vegetables, and grains.

MyPlate is only a guide. It gives suggestions. But it does not tell people which specific foods to eat. Do you like broccoli? Great! Would you prefer to eat a peach instead of an apple? That's OK! Those choices are left to each person. People with special health conditions should discuss their nutrition choices with their doctor.

To learn more about *MyPlate*, visit www.ChooseMyPlate.gov on the web.

Answer comprehension questions on page 132.



food, health

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 420

Time: _____



hobbies, USA, culture

Lexile®: 790L

Word Count: 360

Time: _____

Pumpkin Chunking

Pumpkins, the bright orange fruit of a garden plant, is used for many purposes. Each Halloween, some people cut pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns. Pumpkins are also used in cooking. Pumpkins can be eaten as a main meal or made into sweet pies. Roasted pumpkin seeds are a nice treat, too.

Recently, a new use for pumpkins has been invented. It is called *pumpkin chunking*, and it is an uncommon hobby or sport. The goal is to **launch**, or throw, pumpkins high into the air and send them as far as possible. Because pumpkins can be heavy, a machine is used to launch them. But these machines do not use electricity. Instead, the pumpkins are launched using machines similar to catapults or slingshots. These machines are based on ancient tools for war.

A pumpkin-chunking machine can send a pumpkin thousands of feet away. On September 9, 2010, the world record for pumpkin-chunking distance was set in Moab, Utah, USA. A pumpkin was sent 5,545 feet (1,690 meters) away. That is longer than a mile!

Many factors affect how far a pumpkin may travel. The size and shape of the pumpkin and the design of the machine are factors. The weather may play a role, too.

In pumpkin chunking contests, there is a rule that the pumpkin must stay in one piece before it hits the ground. If a pumpkin breaks apart while flying through the air, the throw is not valid. This means that it is not acceptable. A new pumpkin will need to be launched.

Since 1986, the World Championship Punkin Chunkin Association (WCPKA) has hosted an annual pumpkin-chunking contest. It is held each autumn soon after Halloween. For three days, engineers and pumpkin lovers from around the world come to launch pumpkins into the air. They gather near Bridgeville, Delaware, USA. Each team gets three attempts. Only the longest shot is counted for the competition. Pumpkins must weigh between 8 and 10 pounds (3.6 and 4.5 kilograms). The competition is not just for adults. Young children and teenagers can design pumpkin-chunking machines. They can compete against others in their age group. This event can be fun for the whole family!

Answer comprehension questions on page 133.

Storm Chasers

A tornado is one of the strongest windstorms. The wind in a tornado spins very quickly and can destroy trees, houses, and other buildings. When most people see a tornado, they hide in a safe place, such as a basement. But not storm chasers. These scientists do not hide from a storm. When they see a tornado, they head toward the storm!

A storm chaser is not an easy job. These scientists could get seriously injured, or even die, while chasing a storm. Storm chasers face dangerous rain, wind, and hail. They must be careful in situations with flooding or lightning. Storm chasers work together as teams. To do such work by oneself would be more dangerous! They spend a great deal of time away from home because they travel, searching for bad weather. They live, work, and sleep in cars, trailers, or motels. Each day, they must listen to weather reports. They check the internet for places where a tornado might land. Then, they drive towards the storm.

At other times, the job can seem less exciting. Storm chasers spend many hours researching. And they may not see a tornado develop where they expect one to appear. On average, a storm chaser only sees a tornado in one out of ten chases.

In the United States, many storm chasers work in “Tornado Alley.” This is the portion of the country where warm, moist air from the south meets cold, dry air from the north creating ideal conditions for tornadoes. Tornado Alley usually includes parts of South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Tornadoes are most common in drier states, but they can also form in the wet southern states such as Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. In that region, storm chasers also study **hurricanes**. These are strong storms that form over the ocean and sometimes hit the coast.

In their job, storm chasers use a variety of equipment. Cell phones, computers, and radios help them to communicate and record data. They also use anemometers. These are devices that measure the power of the wind. They also carry cameras to take images and videos of the storms.

Storm chasing is dangerous. People might wonder why storm chasers do such dangerous work. The truth is that they want to help people. They want to learn more about these extreme weather patterns. The more they learn, the easier it will be to warn people. They can save lives in the future.

Answer comprehension questions on page 134.



jobs, weather, USA

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 410

Time: _____



leaders, biography, history,
government, USA

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 406

Time: _____

Susan B. Anthony

When Susan B. Anthony was a schoolteacher, she learned that she was being paid just one-fourth as much as the male teacher she replaced. This and other experiences inspired her to fight for change. She was one of the leaders in the fight for equal rights in the USA.

Anthony was born in 1820. Her parents taught her to work hard and help others. They made sure that she received a good education, something that many people, especially young women, did not receive. During her time as a teacher, Anthony joined the cause of **abolition**. This was the movement to end slavery in the USA. However, when Anthony went to abolitionist meetings, she was told that she could not talk. Women were not allowed to speak in public meetings. As a result, she decided to also fight for women's rights.

Anthony's fight began with her attendance at a women's rights convention in 1852. Afterward, she began to invite people to join both causes: abolition and women's suffrage (or the right to vote). In her work, she met others who helped with these important causes.

During the Civil War, Anthony focused her efforts on ending slavery. She and her friends collected more than 400,000 signatures of Americans who supported the abolitionist cause. Their efforts helped to pass the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865. This new law made slavery illegal in the USA.

Following the war, Anthony focused on women's suffrage. She wrote books, gave speeches, and even started a newspaper to support women's suffrage. In addition to the right to vote, Anthony argued for equal pay for equal work, education for women, and better rights for working women.

By 1872, women still did not have the right to vote. Anthony and some of her friends registered to vote anyway. They voted for president that year. They were arrested because their voting was considered a crime. Anthony was not allowed to speak at her trial.

Anthony did not give up, or stop. She continued to give speeches on women's rights. She gave these speeches in the USA and Europe. By the time she died in 1906, at age 86, only four US states, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, allowed women to vote. Eventually, the other states allowed this right. In 1920, the 19th Amendment was passed. It gave the right to vote to all adult citizens. Many people credit Susan B. Anthony for making this happen.

Answer comprehension questions on page 135.

The Sahara Desert

Do you like playing in the sand at the beach? Perhaps you like making sand castles or driving trucks through the sand. If so, the Sahara Desert has enough sand to do all of this and more!

The term *Sahara* is Arabic for *great desert*. A desert is a place that gets less than 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain each year. The cold continent of Antarctica is the world's largest desert, because it gets very little rain. However, the Sahara is the world's largest hot desert. As you can imagine, it is very hot and dry. The average temperature is 86 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius). The warmest temperature ever recorded there was 136 degrees Fahrenheit (58 degrees Celsius)! Even though it is hot in the day, some parts of the Sahara are freezing at night. Some sand dunes, which are hills made of sand, get covered in snow. Very little rain falls in the Sahara each year. When it does fall, it is usually during a big rain storm.

The Sahara Desert is in northern Africa. It measures over 3.5 million square miles (around 9 million square kilometers). This is larger than the continental United States. On the east, the desert reaches the Red Sea. On the west, it borders the Atlantic Ocean. The Sahara covers parts of 10 African nations. About 4 million people, from different language and cultural backgrounds, live in the Sahara. Most of them do not live in cities or towns. Instead, they are nomads, people who travel from place to place. The Sahara is also home to several animals, including foxes, snakes, and birds.

The desert has many different areas. Some areas have mountains, such as a volcano in the country of Chad. Other areas are so dry that there are no plants. In other regions, trees, flowers, and bushes grow. Many of these plants have thick skin to survive when there is little rain. About one fourth of the desert is made up of sand dunes that can reach 500 feet (150 meters) in height.

The great Nile River flows through the Sahara. There are also small streams, as well as **aquifers**, which are underground water sources. In some places, visitors can find an oasis. An oasis is a place in the desert where water from an aquifer reaches the surface. Trees and other plants can be found near an oasis.

Visitors to the Sahara should carry water and stay close to towns or cities. Visitors should be careful to protect themselves from the weather conditions.

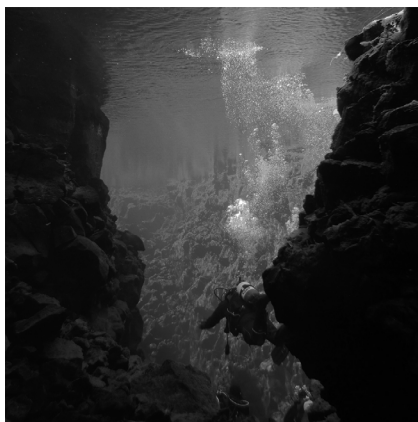
Answer comprehension questions on page 136.



*geography, Africa,
landmarks, nature*

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 424

Time: _____



*geography, nature,
Europe, landmarks*

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 411

Time: _____

The Silfra Crack

At the bottom of a lake in Iceland, there is a huge crack in the ground. It is the point where two continental plates meet. A continental **plate** is a large section of Earth's outer layer. There are many of these plates. One is the North American Plate. Another is the Eurasian Plate. These two plates meet at the bottom of this lake in Iceland. This point is known as the *Silfra Fissure*, or *Silfra Crack*. At a very slow rate, this crack is getting bigger. Each year, it grows by 0.8 inches (2 centimeters).

The crack between the plates cannot be seen in other places. The deep, dark water in the Atlantic Ocean prevents people from seeing it. However, the water at the Silfra Crack is clear because of a nearby volcano.

The water near the crack comes from a glacier, an extremely huge block of ice, 31 miles (50 kilometers) away. The glacier has been frozen for hundreds of years. As the water slowly melts, it goes underground and travels towards a lake. As it travels, it passes through lava rock from the volcano. This cleans the water and makes it very clear. When the water arrives at the lake, it is pure and ready to drink.

The water is also cold all year long. The water stays at a temperature between 35 and 39 degrees Fahrenheit (2 and 4 degrees Celsius). As a result, there are no living creatures in the lake except for algae. Green algae cover the floors of the crack.

Scuba divers enjoy exploring the Silfra Crack. At some places, the crack is so narrow that divers can touch both continental plates at the same time. Some openings may be as tiny as 1.6 feet (0.5 meters) wide. Few divers go as deep as the Silfra Cave. This cave is 207 feet (63 meters) below the surface of the water. The cave's depth makes this dive risky for those who go there. The passages are narrow and hard to pass through. Only very experienced divers should attempt to go this far down.

The Silfra Crack is part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. This ridge is the world's longest chain of mountains. However, most of these mountains are covered by the water of the Atlantic Ocean. The Silfra Crack is in a national park in Iceland and is close to the capital city. It is sure to be a memorable vacation spot for all who visit.

Answer comprehension questions on page 137.

The Voyager Probes

In 1977, the United States launched two spaceships. The first was called Voyager 1. The second was called Voyager 2. Both of these spaceships are referred to as *probes*. A **probe** is a small spaceship that gathers information, or data. It sends that data back to its creators. The Voyager probes have a mission to explore the giant planets of our solar system. Their findings have taught scientists much about the sun and the planets.

By July 1979, both probes had been to Jupiter. By August 1981, both had flown past Saturn. Voyager 2 passed by Uranus in 1986. It passed Neptune in 1989. As a team, the probes have explored these four giant planets. They have also collected data from 48 of these planets' moons.

Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 are the third and fourth US spaceships sent to explore our solar system. Before the Voyager probes, Pioneer 10 and Pioneer 11 had been sent out into space. However, Voyager 1 has flown past the Pioneer probes. It is now the most distant human-made object in space.

Scientists have learned much from the mission of the two Voyager probes. By the time they passed Neptune, the probes had sent 5 trillion bits of data back to Earth! Across the planet, several antennae receive this data from the probes. The signals sent from such a long distance are very weak. It takes 33 hours for the probes' signals to reach Earth. It takes another 33 hours for commands from Earth to travel back to the probes.

On August 25, 2012, Voyager 1 left our solar system. It entered a region called *interstellar space*. This is a region of space that is very far from our sun as well as from all other stars. Now, both Voyager probes are billions of miles away from our sun. With each second, that distance grows.

Each Voyager probe carries a message. This message has been recorded on a 12-inch metal disc. Each disc has been covered in gold. The message is a greeting from the people of Earth. This greeting can be heard in 55 languages. The disc also contains music from a variety of cultures. Instructions on how to play the disc are shown on its surface.

Where will these remarkable probes go next? Will the Voyager probes find new planets or stars? Will they find new life forms in space? The answers are sure to be exciting. We will just have to be patient as we wait here on Earth.

Answer comprehension questions on page 138.



space, technology

Lexile®: 790L
Word Count: 418

Time: _____



Dirty Jobs

What is the dirtiest job in the world? Maybe it is a job repairing sewer pipes below a city. Or maybe it is taking care of elephants at a zoo. Perhaps it is sweeping out fireplaces and chimneys. No matter how dirty the job is, it is likely that reporter Mike Rowe has done it.

Mike Rowe hosted the TV program *Dirty Jobs* from 2005 to 2012. On this program, Rowe interviewed people who have dirty and difficult jobs. Not only did Rowe describe the jobs of these brave people, but he also performed these difficult jobs with them.



jobs, USA

Lexile®: 800L
Word Count: 345

Time: _____

For seven years, Rowe performed these difficult jobs. Some jobs looked scary. For example, Rowe was afraid when he washed the windows on the outside of a very tall building. Others jobs appeared dangerous. More than once, Rowe helped an alligator farmer. He also swam with sharks. And he trapped deadly snakes. Many other jobs were smelly. He often cleaned animals, bathrooms, and garbage containers. Despite his fears, the dangers, and the smells, Rowe did his best to complete each job. Sometimes, the camera crew got just as dirty as Rowe did.

Rowe performed more than 200 different jobs. He traveled to almost all of the 50 states in the USA. Sometimes he was only home for five days each month.

Many of the ideas for Rowe's new assignments came from TV viewers. They sent in letters and videos telling Rowe about their own jobs. Then Rowe and his camera crew would visit these people. Rowe would help them perform their job **functions**, or duties. Rowe tried to perform each job with an honest effort and a good attitude.

Dirty Jobs was a great success. Not only did Rowe and his crew learn a lot, but TV viewers also found it educational. Rowe's program demonstrated the value of hard work. Since then, Rowe has continued to highlight the amazing and important work that people do to serve their communities and society. He encourages people to receive training to learn the skills to perform these difficult jobs.

Answer comprehension questions on page 139.

UFOs

Many amazing things can be seen in the sky. We can see stars and comets. Near the Arctic, we can see the dancing colors of the northern lights. We can enjoy observing eclipses of the sun and moon.

We might also see UFOs. The term UFO means “unidentified flying object.” A UFO is anything seen in the sky that currently has no explanation. Some people think that UFOs are spaceships from other planets.

Many people claim to have seen UFOs. Kenneth Arnold is one of these people. In June 1947, he took his private plane for a short trip. He reported seeing nine bright objects as he flew over Washington State. These objects quickly moved from one mountain to the next. He guessed that they flew as fast as 1,200 miles (1,931 kilometers) per hour. He also said that they were shaped like a saucer, a small plate. Arnold’s report resulted in the term *flying saucer*. Today, people often refer to alien spaceships as flying saucers.

Only two weeks after Arnold’s flight, an object fell from the sky. It crashed in the desert near the town of Roswell, New Mexico. At first, the United States Air Force reported that the object was a flying disc. News of the crash soon spread all over the world. Some people thought the report meant that the flying disc was a flying saucer. These people thought that aliens from space had come to Earth.

Then, the United States Air Force clarified that the flying disc was part of a regular weather balloon. The disc did not come from space aliens. Even though the government provided a reasonable explanation for the object, many people still thought it was a spaceship. To this day, some people still think that an alien spaceship crashed in Roswell. They think that the government is secretly hiding a flying saucer and alien bodies.

Since 1947, thousands of people claim to have seen UFOs. Many of them have even said that they were **abducted**, or kidnapped, by aliens. They say that they were taken onto UFOs. None of these claims have been proven with scientific evidence. In most cases, reported UFOs have later been identified as planes or satellites. UFO abductions have been explained as strange dreams resulting from stress. Still, there are those who look at the sky and wonder if UFOs might be real.

Answer comprehension questions on page 140.



myths, space, USA, history

Lexile®: 800L
Word Count: 395

Time: _____

Roller Derby

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a team racing sport.
 - b. a group of ice skaters.
 - c. a famous female athlete.
 - d. a car race across the USA.
2. The jammer wears
 - a. red gloves.
 - b. blue skates.
 - c. a helmet with stars.
 - d. a shirt with a stripe.
3. The job of a jammer is to
 - a. push the pivot.
 - b. pull the blockers.
 - c. pass the other team.
 - d. block the other jammer.
4. The main difference between inline and quad skates is
 - a. the number of wheels.
 - b. the color of the skates.
 - c. the height of the skates.
 - d. the position of the wheels.
5. We can infer that roller derby players must be
 - a. tall.
 - b. funny.
 - c. tough.
 - d. good swimmers.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. stating where roller derby is played.
 - b. describing roller derby players.
 - c. summarizing roller derby history.
 - d. explaining the rules of roller derby.
7. If a player *laps* someone (paragraph 3), that player
 - a. hits someone from behind.
 - b. moves in front of someone.
 - c. stops someone from skating.
 - d. pushes someone to the ground.

Check your answers on page 141.

Water

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. how water is made.
 - b. who protects water.
 - c. where water is cleaned.
 - d. why water is important.
2. The portion of a person's body that is water is around
 - a. one half.
 - b. one third.
 - c. nine tenths.
 - d. three quarters.
3. Most of Earth's water is found in
 - a. the oceans.
 - b. ice and snow.
 - c. lakes and rivers.
 - d. the atmosphere.
4. Each day, the average person in the USA uses
 - a. 30 to 40 liters of water.
 - b. 80 to 100 gallons of water.
 - c. 300 to 400 gallons of water.
 - d. 800 to 1000 liters of water.
5. From this passage, we can infer that
 - a. children need more water than adults.
 - b. farmers use less water than businesses.
 - c. cold water is needed to make electricity.
 - d. all plants and animals need water.
6. The author mentions a kitchen (paragraph 5) to
 - a. explain how indoor plumbing works.
 - b. remind readers to drink more water.
 - c. list some of the ways that water is used.
 - d. emphasize the importance of clean water.
7. *Steam* (paragraph 3) refers to
 - a. frozen water.
 - b. water in a gas form.
 - c. water in a liquid form.
 - d. underground water.

Check your answers on page 141.

Jai Alai

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Another good title for this passage is
 - a. A Game of Fast Ball.
 - b. Playing in the Water.
 - c. Having Fun at the Beach.
 - d. America's Favorite Sport.
2. Jai alai is played with a
 - a. small ball.
 - b. long stick.
 - c. pair of nets.
 - d. set of cards.
3. A player scores a point in jai alai when
 - a. the player finds three of the same object.
 - b. an opponent drops or misses a catch.
 - c. the player runs in a complete circle.
 - d. an opponent falls from the top of the wall.
4. Jai alai was created in
 - a. Spain.
 - b. China.
 - c. the United States.
 - d. the Czech Republic.
5. We can infer that, compared with the 1970s, today there are
 - a. more jai alai fans in the USA.
 - b. safer jai alai games in the USA.
 - c. bigger jai alai courts in the USA.
 - d. fewer jai alai players in the USA.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. sharing a personal story.
 - b. asking several questions.
 - c. summarizing a news report.
 - d. defining an important word.
7. *Helmets* (paragraph 2) are used to
 - a. protect players' heads.
 - b. catch and throw the ball.
 - c. make the ball move faster.
 - d. help the players jump higher.

Check your answers on page 141.

Loch Ness Monster

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Another good title for this passage is
 - a. A Forgotten Village.
 - b. Mystery in the Lake.
 - c. A Creature in Ireland.
 - d. High in the Mountains.
2. People have described Nessie in all of the following ways EXCEPT as
 - a. a seal.
 - b. a newt.
 - c. a whale.
 - d. a dinosaur.
3. According to the story from 565 AD, people were afraid of Nessie because the monster
 - a. ate a cow.
 - b. killed a man.
 - c. blocked a road.
 - d. smashed a house.
4. According to the story from 565 AD, the priest got rid of Nessie by
 - a. shouting at the monster.
 - b. singing an old Irish song.
 - c. throwing fish in the water.
 - d. lighting a fire on the shore.
5. The passage suggests that Loch Ness is
 - a. a crowded city.
 - b. an imaginary lake.
 - c. a popular tourist spot.
 - d. a dangerous place to visit.
6. The author mentions an elephant (paragraph 2) to describe Nessie's
 - a. size.
 - b. skin.
 - c. color.
 - d. sound.
7. An eel (paragraph 2) is a type of
 - a. fish.
 - b. lake.
 - c. town.
 - d. story.

Check your answers on page 141.

The Common Cold

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main idea of this passage is
 - a. feeling cold is common in the winter.
 - b. sleeping is difficult with a cold.
 - c. the cold is a very common illness.
 - d. cold water can make someone sick.
2. One body part that is usually affected by a cold is
 - a. the feet.
 - b. the back.
 - c. the head.
 - d. the arms.
3. A cold virus usually enters a person's body through
 - a. the hair or ears.
 - b. the arms or legs.
 - c. the back or neck.
 - d. the nose or mouth.
4. The author suggests using a tissue to
 - a. cover a cough or a sneeze.
 - b. prevent breathing in smoke.
 - c. wipe away sweat on a hot day.
 - d. warm up hands in cold weather.
5. The passage suggests that a person is more likely to catch a cold if that person lives in
 - a. a big house.
 - b. a small town.
 - c. a desert region.
 - d. a tropical island.
6. The final paragraph is mostly about
 - a. how cold medicine works.
 - b. what cold viruses look like.
 - c. how many school children get colds.
 - d. what to do when you have a cold.
7. The main purpose of the *immune system* (paragraph 3) is to
 - a. create viruses to share with others.
 - b. turn food into energy for the body.
 - c. control the body's breathing.
 - d. keep people from getting sick.

Check your answers on page 141.

The Human Eye

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. how our eyes work.
 - b. how surgery can fix eyes.
 - c. why sunglasses protect eyes.
 - d. why eyes are different colors.
2. The first place that light touches your eyes is the
 - a. iris.
 - b. pupil.
 - c. retina.
 - d. cornea.
3. A person's eyes are connected to the brain through the
 - a. visual lens.
 - b. image veins.
 - c. optic nerves.
 - d. sight muscles.
4. Glasses can help people by
 - a. changing the color of the light.
 - b. allowing more light into the eye.
 - c. bending the light before it enters the eye.
 - d. stopping light from entering the eye.
5. When someone is walking outside on a sunny day, that person's
 - a. irises become lighter.
 - b. retinas become faster.
 - c. pupils become smaller.
 - d. corneas become straighter.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. explaining why some people do not like wearing glasses.
 - b. summarizing the different layers in the eye.
 - c. recommending which glasses are good for playing sports.
 - d. noting the importance of all parts of the eye.
7. To *shrink* (paragraph 3) means to
 - a. bend light.
 - b. be straight.
 - c. get smaller.
 - d. send information.

Check your answers on page 141.

Groundhog Day

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Groundhog Day celebrates
 - a. using groundhogs to tell the weather.
 - b. a groundhog's ability to find food in winter.
 - c. the day that groundhogs are born.
 - d. the first day of groundhog hunting.
2. According to the story, a groundhog will hide if he sees
 - a. a bear.
 - b. his tail.
 - c. a person.
 - d. his shadow.
3. Groundhog Day probably comes from
 - a. a Canadian song.
 - b. a European holiday.
 - c. a king's favorite pet.
 - d. a story about friendship.
4. Punxsutawney Phil is a groundhog that lives in
 - a. Ontario, Canada.
 - b. Bavaria, Germany.
 - c. Moldova, Romania.
 - d. Pennsylvania, USA.
5. The passage suggests that people might feel they are having a "Groundhog Day" if they
 - a. feel very cold and wet.
 - b. keep doing the same things.
 - c. want to stay home all alone.
 - d. decide to move to a new town.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. explaining what food a groundhog likes to eat.
 - b. listing other common names for groundhogs.
 - c. suggesting why Groundhog Day is celebrated.
 - d. describing the oldest Groundhog Day party.
7. A *burrow* (paragraph 2) is
 - a. a hole in the ground.
 - b. a movie about winter.
 - c. a story told to children.
 - d. an animal with short hair.

Check your answers on page 141.

Interesting Foods

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. famous food stores.
 - b. different types of food.
 - c. growing one's own food.
 - d. getting energy from food.
2. Bugs are a good source of
 - a. fat.
 - b. sugar.
 - c. water.
 - d. protein.
3. Fugu can be poisonous if it is not
 - a. eaten quickly.
 - b. cooked properly.
 - c. grown in the water.
 - d. covered in chocolate.
4. In the USA, all of the following are uncommon ice cream flavors EXCEPT
 - a. pepper.
 - b. tomato.
 - c. chocolate.
 - d. cucumber.
5. The passage suggests that trying new foods is often very
 - a. fun.
 - b. sad.
 - c. boring.
 - d. dangerous.
6. The author introduces the passage by
 - a. contrasting common and uncommon foods.
 - b. describing the benefits of trying new foods.
 - c. explaining how bugs are cooked.
 - d. sharing a favorite cooking recipe.
7. A *scorpion* (paragraph 2) is a type of
 - a. fish.
 - b. bug.
 - c. flower.
 - d. vegetable.

Check your answers on page 141.

Anne Frank

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a man who served in the army.
 - b. the causes of WWII in Europe.
 - c. a girl's experience during the war.
 - d. the bad conditions of prison camps.
2. The Frank family chose to hide because
 - a. they lost their house in a fire.
 - b. they feared the German army.
 - c. they owed money to the bank.
 - d. they got in a fight with the police.
3. For her 13th birthday, Frank was given
 - a. a cat.
 - b. a diary.
 - c. toy dolls.
 - d. new shoes.
4. Soldiers found the Frank family's hiding place in
 - a. 1940.
 - b. 1942.
 - c. 1944.
 - d. 1946.
5. The passage suggests that the Franks' life in hiding was
 - a. cold.
 - b. relaxing.
 - c. crowded.
 - d. comfortable.
6. The author ends the passage by
 - a. summarizing the impact of Frank's book.
 - b. describing a museum about World War II.
 - c. suggesting that readers keep a personal diary.
 - d. inviting readers to travel to the Netherlands.
7. An *annex* (paragraph 2) is
 - a. a person who must hide from the army.
 - b. an extra space added to a building.
 - c. a conflict between family members.
 - d. a book for recording daily activities.

Check your answers on page 141.

Crop Circles

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a famous spaceship.
 - b. the work of a farmer.
 - c. strange shapes in fields.
 - d. aliens from outer space.
2. People once believed that crop circles came from all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. wind.
 - b. aliens.
 - c. animals.
 - d. lightning.
3. Today, we know that crop circles are made by
 - a. fire.
 - b. people.
 - c. insects.
 - d. army jets.
4. No one saw crop circles being made because the circles
 - a. are made at night.
 - b. take months to create.
 - c. can only be seen from space.
 - d. were only stories and not real.
5. We can infer that corn mazes are created
 - a. using ice and snow.
 - b. once every decade.
 - c. by alien spaceships.
 - d. for people to have fun.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. telling a short story.
 - b. asking some questions.
 - c. defining a difficult word.
 - d. comparing two countries.
7. Oat (paragraph 3) is a type of
 - a. plant.
 - b. house.
 - c. animal.
 - d. person.

Check your answers on page 141.

Snakes

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to
 - a. share interesting facts about snakes.
 - b. tell scary stories about snake attacks.
 - c. explain why some places do not have snakes.
 - d. describe cultural symbols based on snakes.
2. Snakes mostly move by
 - a. running.
 - b. wiggling.
 - c. jumping.
 - d. swinging.
3. Snakes inject venom using their
 - a. tails.
 - b. teeth.
 - c. scales.
 - d. tongue.
4. Snakes smell with their
 - a. tails.
 - b. eyes.
 - c. scales.
 - d. tongues.
5. The passage suggests that most snakes
 - a. live in the water.
 - b. eat mostly plants.
 - c. do not hurt people.
 - d. do not like the heat.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. telling a funny joke.
 - b. sharing a personal story.
 - c. comparing snakes to birds.
 - d. addressing a common fear.
7. *Prey* (paragraph 2) refers to an animal that
 - a. lives above the ground in trees branches.
 - b. sleeps during the day and moves at night.
 - c. eats its food whole without chewing.
 - d. is hunted and killed by another animal.

Check your answers on page 141.

The Eiffel Tower

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a tower that
 - a. was built for a world's fair.
 - b. was built in New York City.
 - c. is made completely of wood.
 - d. is currently the world's tallest.
2. The Eiffel Tower honors 100 years
 - a. of peace across the world.
 - b. since Gustave Eiffel's birth.
 - c. of French and US friendship.
 - d. since the French Revolution.
3. Gustave Eiffel helped create
 - a. the London Eye.
 - b. the Chrysler Tower.
 - c. the Statue of Liberty.
 - d. the Washington Monument.
4. When the Eiffel Tower was first completed, most local people thought that it looked
 - a. ugly.
 - b. small.
 - c. broken.
 - d. expensive.
5. The passage suggests that those who climb the stairs to the top of the Eiffel Tower
 - a. are usually all alone.
 - b. must be in good health.
 - c. no longer have a good view.
 - d. often get injured on the way up.
6. In the last paragraph, the author describes
 - a. other tall towers in the world.
 - b. the best time to visit the tower.
 - c. other buildings in Paris, France.
 - d. the measurements of the tower.
7. If something is *composed of* something (paragraph 6), it is
 - a. built with it.
 - b. working on it.
 - c. happy about it.
 - d. interested in it.

Check your answers on page 141.

Charles Dickens

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Dickens was most famous for his
 - a. riches.
 - b. travels.
 - c. writings.
 - d. drawings.
2. Dickens' father went to prison because he
 - a. robbed a bank.
 - b. stole some bread.
 - c. could not pay his debts.
 - d. would not serve in the army.
3. Dickens' first job was
 - a. cleaning a prison.
 - b. drawing pictures.
 - c. working in a factory.
 - d. writing a newspaper.
4. Dickens often wrote about
 - a. poor people.
 - b. scary ghosts.
 - c. countries at war.
 - d. newspaper owners.
5. We can infer from this passage that Dickens' books
 - a. are no longer popular today.
 - b. were short and easy to read.
 - c. sold very well around the world.
 - d. were only bought by rich people.
6. The author mentions the United States (paragraph 4) to
 - a. tell where Dickens' stories happened.
 - b. contrast rich and poor people.
 - c. show the popularity of Dickens' work.
 - d. explain where Dickens was born.
7. *Debts* (paragraph 2) are
 - a. money that someone owes.
 - b. long trips to faraway places.
 - c. books about working people.
 - d. factories with many workers.

Check your answers on page 141.

Sushi

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a famous Asian cook.
 - b. a cooking school in Asia.
 - c. a type of food from Asia.
 - d. popular Asian restaurants.
2. The rice in sushi tastes
 - a. sour.
 - b. sweet.
 - c. creamy.
 - d. crunchy.
3. *Wasabi* is used to
 - a. keep sushi cold.
 - b. make sushi spicy.
 - c. add a salty flavor.
 - d. help cook the fish.
4. Most sushi is wrapped in
 - a. crab.
 - b. cheese.
 - c. seaweed.
 - d. cucumbers.
5. We can infer that the author's feeling towards the topic is
 - a. worry.
 - b. dislike.
 - c. surprise.
 - d. enjoyment.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. sharing some common ideas about the topic.
 - b. asking readers to think about their favorite foods.
 - c. discussing well-known places around the world.
 - d. explaining the process of training to be a cook.
7. If something is *raw* (paragraph 4), it
 - a. is made from rice.
 - b. has not been eaten.
 - c. has not been cooked.
 - d. is made from fish.

Check your answers on page 141.

The Internet

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. online video gaming.
 - b. satellites in outer space.
 - c. international cooperation.
 - d. communication technology.
2. The internet first became popular with the public in the
 - a. 1950s.
 - b. 1970s.
 - c. 1990s.
 - d. 2010s.
3. The internet got 50 million users in
 - a. 5 years.
 - b. 13 years.
 - c. 38 years.
 - d. 50 years.
4. The majority of web pages are written in
 - a. English.
 - b. Spanish.
 - c. Chinese.
 - d. Japanese.
5. We can infer that, in the future, a larger portion of web pages will be
 - a. used for controlling satellites.
 - b. owned by private universities.
 - c. focused on the history of radio.
 - d. available in different languages.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. telling a personal story.
 - b. sharing a famous quote.
 - c. thinking about the future.
 - d. explaining an important word.
7. If something is *devised* (paragraph 2), it is
 - a. sent.
 - b. created.
 - c. changed.
 - d. connected.

Check your answers on page 141.

Luau

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a type of
 - a. party.
 - b. music.
 - c. dance.
 - d. clothing.
2. Before 1819, Hawaiian men and women could not
 - a. eat meals together.
 - b. play music together.
 - c. live in the same house.
 - d. work in the same village.
3. Popular reasons for a luau include all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. a birthday.
 - b. a sickness.
 - c. a wedding.
 - d. a graduation.
4. A lei is often used to
 - a. decorate a table.
 - b. play quiet music.
 - c. cook food quickly.
 - d. show honor to a guest.
5. We can infer that a luau usually happens
 - a. on a Monday.
 - b. inside a school.
 - c. in the outdoors.
 - d. on a Wednesday.
6. The author introduces the passage by
 - a. describing the first luau.
 - b. telling about music at a luau.
 - c. explaining what people wear at a luau.
 - d. listing the popular foods at a luau.
7. *Dusk* (paragraph 4) is
 - a. the part of a coconut that people eat.
 - b. a person who lives on an island.
 - c. a traditional dance from Hawaii.
 - d. the time of day when the sun sets.

Check your answers on page 141.

Alexander the Great

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a man who
 - a. built great walls and buildings.
 - b. was a great leader to his people.
 - c. wrote the greatest Persian books.
 - d. was the greatest teacher in Greece.
2. Macedonia was a kingdom in
 - a. Asia.
 - b. Africa.
 - c. Europe.
 - d. the Americas.
3. When Alexander traveled through Egypt,
 - a. the king of Persia invited him to dinner.
 - b. the Egyptian people welcomed him as king.
 - c. the Persian poets wrote poems about him.
 - d. the Egyptian army defeated him in battle.
4. After his death, Alexander's kingdom was
 - a. divided into four parts.
 - b. controlled by North Africa.
 - c. made even larger by his son.
 - d. destroyed by the Chinese army.
5. From this passage we can infer that Aristotle
 - a. prepared Alexander to be a leader.
 - b. wanted Alexander to stay in Greece.
 - c. was Alexander's grandfather.
 - d. fought along side Alexander in war.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. giving reasons for the king's greatness.
 - b. listing books and movies about Macedonia.
 - c. explaining what happened after the king died.
 - d. describing what Macedonia looks like now.
7. If something is *established* (paragraph 4), it is
 - a. made.
 - b. visited.
 - c. forgotten.
 - d. destroyed.

Check your answers on page 141.

Johannes Gutenberg

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a man who
 - a. became rich by finding gold.
 - b. invented a printing machine.
 - c. painted famous works of art.
 - d. taught lessons from the Bible.
2. Before the invention of the printing press, a book could cost as much as a
 - a. farm.
 - b. house.
 - c. village.
 - d. church.
3. Movable type is made from
 - a. metal.
 - b. paper.
 - c. water.
 - d. wood.
4. Gutenberg's invention lowered the price of
 - a. gold.
 - b. silver.
 - c. books.
 - d. horses.
5. The passage suggests that Gutenberg never knew
 - a. how to read and write.
 - b. how to work with gold.
 - c. how famous he would become.
 - d. how the printing press worked.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. showing how Gutenberg's invention was changed over time.
 - b. describing what life was like before Gutenberg's invention.
 - c. explaining where Gutenberg got the idea for his invention.
 - d. summarizing the important parts of Gutenberg's invention.
7. A *goldsmith* (paragraph 2) is someone who
 - a. finds gold in caves and rivers.
 - b. wears clothing made from gold.
 - c. creates objects from gold metal.
 - d. writes books about gold treasure.

Check your answers on page 141.

Amelia Earhart

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who is famous for
 - a. flying airplanes.
 - b. fighting in a war.
 - c. teaching children.
 - d. running a business.
2. *Canary* was the name of Earhart's first
 - a. pet.
 - b. book.
 - c. plane.
 - d. school.
3. Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt shared an interest in
 - a. movie stars.
 - b. women's rights.
 - c. English literature.
 - d. vegetable gardening.
4. In 1937, Earhart disappeared while
 - a. driving to California.
 - b. walking home at night.
 - c. traveling around the world.
 - d. working on her parent's farm.
5. We can infer that Earhart's interest in flying began
 - a. when she met President Roosevelt.
 - b. at an airplane stunt show.
 - c. after reading a book from her uncle
 - d. during her first trip to Africa.
6. The author introduces the passage by
 - a. quoting the words of a famous pilot.
 - b. describing something that women did not do.
 - c. comparing life in the city with life on a farm.
 - d. explaining how airplanes were invented.
7. The *globe* (paragraph 5) refers to
 - a. the sun.
 - b. the moon.
 - c. the ocean.
 - d. the world.

Check your answers on page 141.

Dr. Seuss

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a man who is most famous for
 - a. fighting in World War II.
 - b. writing children's books.
 - c. taking care of sick people.
 - d. working for a newspaper.
2. Geisel took the name Seuss from
 - a. his best friend.
 - b. his hometown.
 - c. his middle name.
 - d. his favorite story.
3. He started his career as
 - a. an animal doctor.
 - b. an army instructor.
 - c. a newspaper editor.
 - d. a magazine cartoonist.
4. *The Cat in the Hat* was a challenge to write because it had to be fun and it
 - a. only used words that rhymed with cat.
 - b. had to be written in two weeks.
 - c. only used a limited set of words.
 - d. had to teach a respect for nature.
5. The publication of Geisel's first children's book shows that he was very
 - a. funny.
 - b. smart.
 - c. patient.
 - d. creative.
6. The author introduces the passage by
 - a. listing Geisel's most popular characters.
 - b. summarizing Geisel's childhood.
 - c. describing how many books Geisel sold.
 - d. quoting from one of Geisel's books.
7. To *discourage* (paragraph 6) means to
 - a. try to stop.
 - b. plan to visit.
 - c. write quickly.
 - d. make interesting.

Check your answers on page 141.

Joan of Arc

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who
 - a. led the French army.
 - b. became queen of France.
 - c. married the king of England.
 - d. taught English to the French.
2. Joan was born in the year
 - a. 1412.
 - b. 1423.
 - c. 1429.
 - d. 1434.
3. Joan said that her desire to help the French people was a result of
 - a. visions from God.
 - b. her father's last wish.
 - c. a letter from the English king.
 - d. a book about the history of France.
4. Those who supported the English found Joan guilty of
 - a. stealing gold.
 - b. tricking people.
 - c. disobeying her parents.
 - d. killing the French prince.
5. We can infer that Joan was called "The Maid of Orleans" because she
 - a. built the city of Orleans.
 - b. freed the city of Orleans.
 - c. was born in the city of Orleans.
 - d. was killed in the city of Orleans.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. describing the impact of Joan's story.
 - b. telling about a famous statue of Joan.
 - c. summarizing a movie about Joan.
 - d. comparing Joan to Prince Charles.
7. *Troops* (paragraph 3) are
 - a. royal princes.
 - b. bags of money.
 - c. religious books.
 - d. groups of soldiers.

Check your answers on page 141.

Mohandas Gandhi

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a man who is famous for
 - a. creating political change without violence.
 - b. improving the speed and safety of trains.
 - c. building the most beautiful hotel in India.
 - d. writing popular music while living in jail.
2. In school, Gandhi studied
 - a. art.
 - b. law.
 - c. biology.
 - d. religion.
3. After graduation, Gandhi worked in
 - a. Saudi Arabia.
 - b. South Africa.
 - c. Great Britain.
 - d. New Zealand.
4. October 2 is the day that
 - a. Gandhi was born.
 - b. Gandhi was killed.
 - c. India gained independence.
 - d. Indians celebrate the new year.
5. The passage suggests that Gandhi showed people the power of
 - a. physical power.
 - b. constant energy.
 - c. peaceful protest.
 - d. lifelong happiness.
6. The author mentions Nelson Mandela (paragraph 6) to
 - a. show that Gandhi had many friends in South Africa.
 - b. explain how Gandhi inspired other leaders.
 - c. compare peaceful and violent political groups.
 - d. describe how Indians were poorly treated in Africa.
7. *Discrimination* (paragraph 3) refers to
 - a. world travel.
 - b. healthy food.
 - c. unfair treatment.
 - d. traditional stories.

Check your answers on page 141.

Paramedics

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about people who
 - a. teach medical students at universities.
 - b. design hospitals and medical clinics.
 - c. help people in medical emergencies.
 - d. write books about medical problems.
2. The main difference between EMTs and paramedics is
 - a. the type of vehicle they drive.
 - b. the level of training they have.
 - c. the kinds of clothes they wear.
 - d. the locations where they work.
3. When an ambulance cannot reach a medical emergency, paramedics
 - a. ask local doctors to visit the patient instead.
 - b. encourage the patient to drive to the hospital.
 - c. help the patient by giving advice on the phone.
 - d. travel to the emergency by helicopter.
4. When paramedics arrive at an emergency, the first thing they do is
 - a. give the patient medicine.
 - b. take the patient's heart rate.
 - c. move the patient into the ambulance.
 - d. find out what the patient's problem is.
5. We can infer that paramedics must learn to deal with situations that are
 - a. funny and sometimes silly.
 - b. quiet and usually peaceful.
 - c. unexpected and often tiring.
 - d. boring and frequently repetitive.
6. Paragraph 2 is mostly about
 - a. how paramedics are trained.
 - b. what vehicles paramedics drive.
 - c. where paramedics usually work.
 - d. why people become paramedics.
7. A *patient* (paragraph 3) is a
 - a. type of needle.
 - b. kind of medicine.
 - c. book for doctors.
 - d. person who is hurt.

Check your answers on page 141.

The Australian Outback

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about Australia's
 - a. biggest cities.
 - b. central region.
 - c. famous animals.
 - d. largest mountain.
2. The outback is mostly
 - a. dry areas.
 - b. large lakes.
 - c. warm forests.
 - d. beautiful beaches.
3. The percentage of Australia's population that lives in the Outback is about
 - a. 3%.
 - b. 10%.
 - c. 55%.
 - d. 90%.
4. A cockatoo is a type of
 - a. dog.
 - b. bird.
 - c. lizard.
 - d. snake.
5. The passage suggests that most cities in Australia are found
 - a. on small islands near the mainland.
 - b. in the center of the country.
 - c. along the south and east coasts.
 - d. along the north and west coasts.
6. Paragraph 3 is mostly about the outback's
 - a. history.
 - b. animal life.
 - c. population.
 - d. environment.
7. If something is *endangered* (paragraph 4), it is
 - a. at risk of dying.
 - b. brightly colored.
 - c. interesting to see.
 - d. poisonous to people.

Check your answers on page 141.

Icebergs

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. ice storms.
 - b. floating ice.
 - c. a famous ship.
 - d. a tall mountain.
2. Icebergs are found in
 - a. cities.
 - b. the sky.
 - c. the water.
 - d. mountains.
3. Icebergs usually form during
 - a. the night.
 - b. rainstorms.
 - c. winter months.
 - d. warm weather.
4. The world's most famous iceberg
 - a. was hit by a ship.
 - b. is in Rhode Island.
 - c. is as big as a truck.
 - d. came from England.
5. According to the passage, the amount of an iceberg that is underwater is
 - a. 10 percent.
 - b. 30 percent.
 - c. 60 percent.
 - d. 90 percent.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. explaining where icebergs come from.
 - b. listing which animals live on icebergs.
 - c. telling how scientists watch icebergs.
 - d. describing the largest iceberg in history.
7. A voyage (paragraph 5) is
 - a. a trip.
 - b. a boat.
 - c. a rescue.
 - d. an accident.

Check your answers on page 141.

Mount Rushmore

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. one of the most popular US presidents.
 - b. a very large historical sculpture.
 - c. the government of South Dakota.
 - d. animals that live in the Black Hills.
2. Mount Rushmore was created to
 - a. encourage people to visit South Dakota.
 - b. help art students practice their skills.
 - c. remember the leaders of the Sioux people.
 - d. scare dangerous animals away from the area.
3. The four presidents represented in the monument
 - a. gave money to build the monument.
 - b. had all visited South Dakota.
 - c. covered a wide range of years.
 - d. were the most handsome leaders.
4. The monument was completed in
 - a. 1885.
 - b. 1889.
 - c. 1927.
 - d. 1941.
5. The passage suggests that the monument took 14 years to complete because
 - a. the weather was so poor.
 - b. the workers got very sick.
 - c. the sculpture was so large.
 - d. the country was fighting a war.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. telling why the monument is called Mount Rushmore.
 - b. comparing the monument to other statues.
 - c. explaining how the monument was created.
 - d. describing why people visit the monument today.
7. To *blast* (paragraph 3) means to
 - a. climb up.
 - b. hold onto.
 - c. break apart.
 - d. think about.

Check your answers on page 141.

Peafowl

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a bird that is famous for its
 - a. ability to run fast.
 - b. soft, musical song.
 - c. beautiful feathers.
 - d. flights across the sea.
2. Male peafowl are usually
 - a. red and pink.
 - b. green and blue.
 - c. grey and brown.
 - d. yellow and orange.
3. Peafowl are native to
 - a. Asia.
 - b. Europe.
 - c. North America.
 - d. South America.
4. Peafowl eat
 - a. only fruit.
 - b. only grass.
 - c. only insects.
 - d. many things.
5. The passage suggests that peafowl are popular because of
 - a. the taste of their meat.
 - b. the nests that they build.
 - c. the color of their feathers.
 - d. the sounds that they make.
6. The author mentions eyes (paragraph 3) to
 - a. emphasize the hunting skill of peafowl.
 - b. describe the pattern on peacock tails.
 - c. highlight how rare it is to see a peahen.
 - d. explain how helpless new peachicks are.
7. If something is *imported* (paragraph 7), it is
 - a. difficult to find.
 - b. kept very clean.
 - c. brought into a country.
 - d. much larger than normal.

Check your answers on page 141.

Tidal Power

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a place with high tides.
 - b. a way to make electricity.
 - c. an animal from the ocean.
 - d. a machine for cleaning air.
2. The movement of the tides is controlled by
 - a. boats.
 - b. whales.
 - c. the wind.
 - d. the moon.
3. The Bay of Fundy is famous for its
 - a. high tide.
 - b. air pollution.
 - c. tidal barrage.
 - d. beautiful fish.
4. A barrage is designed to create
 - a. water.
 - b. clean air.
 - c. electricity.
 - d. tidal movement.
5. The passage suggests that a barrage can be used
 - a. twice each day.
 - b. once every hour.
 - c. once every week.
 - d. a few times per year.
6. The author mentions a windmill (paragraph 5) to
 - a. explain what a turbine is.
 - b. show how the moon moves.
 - c. give an example of a power plant.
 - d. illustrate how powerful storms are.
7. In this passage, the word *green* (paragraph 2) means
 - a. costing a lot of money.
 - b. built next to the ocean.
 - c. placed very high in the sky.
 - d. better for the environment.

Check your answers on page 141.

Winston Churchill

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a man who was famous for
 - a. creating a famous newspaper.
 - b. leading a country during a war.
 - c. writing storybooks for children.
 - d. marrying the Queen of England.
2. Churchill was born in
 - a. Cuba.
 - b. Sudan.
 - c. South Africa.
 - d. Great Britain.
3. During World War II, Churchill served as
 - a. a soldier.
 - b. a reporter.
 - c. the vice president.
 - d. the prime minister.
4. Churchill won a Nobel Prize for
 - a. peace.
 - b. physics.
 - c. literature.
 - d. chemistry.
5. The passage suggests that the majority of Churchill's efforts were focused on
 - a. fighting a war.
 - b. becoming famous.
 - c. serving his country.
 - d. traveling the world.
6. The passage is organized by
 - a. groups of laws.
 - b. events over time.
 - c. places Churchill lived.
 - d. people Churchill knew.
7. To be *elected* (paragraph 2) means to be
 - a. finished going to school.
 - b. attacked by an enemy army.
 - c. chosen for a government position.
 - d. asked to give an important speech.

Check your answers on page 141.

Blogging

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. pets.
 - b. writing.
 - c. cooking.
 - d. photography.
2. WordPress is an example of a
 - a. hosting website.
 - b. keyboard layout.
 - c. computer monitor.
 - d. background theme.
3. According to the author, professional bloggers often
 - a. take care of animals.
 - b. write about pieces of art.
 - c. travel across the country.
 - d. create a blog post each day.
4. The author encourages bloggers to
 - a. discuss famous people.
 - b. write as often as possible.
 - c. gain thousands of readers.
 - d. learn about current events.
5. The passage suggests that most bloggers are motivated by
 - a. easy money.
 - b. good grades.
 - c. internet fame.
 - d. personal interest.
6. The passage begins with a
 - a. joke about sports.
 - b. story about dancing.
 - c. definition of computers.
 - d. list of creative activities.
7. To be *discouraged* (paragraph 5) means that a person
 - a. has no angry feelings.
 - b. cannot read very well.
 - c. will not work for money.
 - d. does not want to try again.

Check your answers on page 141.

Pilots

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main idea of this passage is that
 - a. attending flight school is expensive.
 - b. airplane technology is amazing.
 - c. flying a plane can be interesting.
 - d. airline workers must be friendly.
2. Pilots who work for airlines must have an FAA license and an
 - a. ATM card.
 - b. AT diploma.
 - c. MA degree.
 - d. ATP certificate.
3. A flight from Los Angeles to New York takes about
 - a. 2 hours.
 - b. 5 hours.
 - c. 13 hours.
 - d. 20 hours.
4. The job of a first officer is to
 - a. fight fires.
 - b. serve food.
 - c. help the captain.
 - d. rescue lost people.
5. The passage suggests that longer flights are made safer by
 - a. requiring two pilots.
 - b. using smaller planes.
 - c. flying higher in the air.
 - d. staying close to mountains.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. describing some popular airplanes.
 - b. offering important warnings about flying.
 - c. sharing personal stories about traveling.
 - d. listing some benefits of being a pilot.
7. If something is *intercontinental* (paragraph 3), it
 - a. is near a large city.
 - b. moves very carefully.
 - c. carries important people and things.
 - d. travels across continents.

Check your answers on page 141.

Florence Nightingale

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who is famous for
 - a. being very rich.
 - b. fighting in a war.
 - c. caring for sick people.
 - d. leading the government.
2. Nightingale's first name came from
 - a. her father's favorite bird.
 - b. the name of a family friend.
 - c. the city where she was born.
 - d. her grandmother's hometown.
3. Nightingale was a hero during the Crimean War because she
 - a. improved army hospitals.
 - b. could read Russian messages.
 - c. completed many spy missions.
 - d. stopped several enemy attacks.
4. Nightingale is best remembered by the nickname of
 - a. the Fighter by the Flag.
 - b. the Lady with the Lamp.
 - c. the Teacher at the Table.
 - d. the Woman near the Water.
5. The passage suggests that given her family's status, Nightingale
 - a. was not respected by most people.
 - b. chose a life of sacrifice and service.
 - c. could never return to Great Britain.
 - d. needed a job to support her parents.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. summarizing the work of a famous doctor.
 - b. comparing past and current health care conditions.
 - c. describing popular artists from a small town in Italy.
 - d. suggesting that sometimes war is necessary.
7. *Sanitation* (paragraph 4) involves
 - a. going to school.
 - b. using bright lights.
 - c. writing war stories.
 - d. keeping things clean.

Check your answers on page 141.

Hot Dogs

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a small animal.
 - b. a common US food.
 - c. a new type of sport.
 - d. a New York restaurant.
2. One story suggests that hot dogs were invented in the city of
 - a. Boston.
 - b. New York.
 - c. Los Angeles.
 - d. Washington.
3. All of the following are popular hot dog toppings EXCEPT
 - a. relish.
 - b. syrup.
 - c. ketchup.
 - d. mustard.
4. The first winner of the contest at Handwerker's hot dog stand was considered the
 - a. best cook.
 - b. fastest runner.
 - c. most American.
 - d. hardest working.
5. The passage suggests that a person is most likely to find hot dogs
 - a. at a fancy hotel.
 - b. inside a hospital.
 - c. at a baseball game.
 - d. in a office building.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. asking a question.
 - b. defining a key word.
 - c. quoting a famous poem.
 - d. sharing a personal story.
7. If someone is *patriotic* (paragraph 6), that person loves
 - a. eating food.
 - b. earning money.
 - c. his or her family.
 - d. his or her country.

Check your answers on page 141.

Leonardo da Vinci

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about Leonardo's
 - a. most famous paintings.
 - b. many different interests.
 - c. important personal friends.
 - d. childhood education in Italy.
2. Da Vinci refers to Leonardo's
 - a. first book.
 - b. hometown.
 - c. family name.
 - d. painting style.
3. The Renaissance was a time in which
 - a. there were no kings and queens.
 - b. books and reading were invented.
 - c. food and clothing were hard to find.
 - d. many important works were created.
4. The *Mona Lisa* is a famous
 - a. castle.
 - b. queen.
 - c. painting.
 - d. machine.
5. The passage suggests that Leonardo's greatest interest was
 - a. botany.
 - b. painting.
 - c. anatomy.
 - d. machines.
6. The author mentions helicopters to show
 - a. Leonardo's imagination.
 - b. Leonardo's interest in war.
 - c. Leonardo's favorite way to travel.
 - d. Leonardo's desire to visit the stars.
7. *Cartography* (paragraph 3) is the
 - a. creation of maps.
 - b. study of the stars.
 - c. growing of plants.
 - d. healing of the body.

Check your answers on page 141.

Niagara Falls

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a set of waterfalls that is famous for being very
 - a. hot.
 - b. tall.
 - c. wide.
 - d. quiet.
2. Niagara Falls forms a border between
 - a. Alberta and Montana.
 - b. Quebec and Vermont.
 - c. Ontario and New York.
 - d. Manitoba and North Dakota.
3. The largest of the waterfalls is
 - a. Erie Falls.
 - b. American Falls.
 - c. Bridal Veil Falls.
 - d. Horseshoe Falls.
4. Niagara Falls is used to create
 - a. wind power.
 - b. solar power.
 - c. nuclear power.
 - d. hydroelectric power.
5. The passage suggests that a trip on the *Maid of the Mist*
 - a. often results in injuries.
 - b. is now considered illegal.
 - c. takes passengers to Lake Erie.
 - d. gives a better view of the falls.
6. Paragraph 2 is mostly about
 - a. the size of the falls.
 - b. the creation of the falls.
 - c. popular tourist activities near the falls.
 - d. traditional stories about the falls.
7. A *strait* (paragraph 2) can be
 - a. a boat with two engines.
 - b. a river between two lakes.
 - c. a town that invites tourists.
 - d. an animal that lives in water.

Check your answers on page 141.

Rapa Nui

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about an island famous for its
 - a. stone statues.
 - b. beautiful birds.
 - c. large university.
 - d. active volcanoes.
2. The European explorer named the island after
 - a. a king.
 - b. his ship.
 - c. a holiday.
 - d. his father.
3. The land nearest to the island is about
 - a. 14 miles away.
 - b. 163 miles away.
 - c. 2,400 miles away.
 - d. 25,000 miles away.
4. Today, the island is part of the country of
 - a. Chile.
 - b. Tahiti.
 - c. Tonga.
 - d. Samoa.
5. The passage suggests that the island's trees
 - a. were cut down to move the moai.
 - b. are the tallest in the South Pacific.
 - c. were destroyed in a terrible storm.
 - d. are used to build long fishing boats.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. explaining how the island got its name.
 - b. describing what the island looks like today.
 - c. telling where the island's people came from.
 - d. teaching about the plant and bird population.
7. To *restore* (paragraph 5) means to
 - a. be too heavy to lift or move.
 - b. return something to how it was before.
 - c. cause something important to disappear.
 - d. sell something for a good price.

Check your answers on page 142.

Stunt Performers

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about people who
 - a. sell expensive cars.
 - b. write exciting stories.
 - c. do dangerous actions.
 - d. watch interesting movies.
2. Stunt performers must be
 - a. smart and selfish.
 - b. athletic and brave.
 - c. beautiful and kind.
 - d. friendly and funny.
3. Stunt performers only get one chance to do the stunt correctly when
 - a. the stunt uses fire.
 - b. they film a spy movie.
 - c. they perform on stage.
 - d. the stunt involves a car.
4. People who want to perform a stunt should
 - a. stay away from fire.
 - b. eat plenty of junk food.
 - c. become a main actor first.
 - d. train well before performing.
5. From the passage, we can infer that movie audiences usually
 - a. cannot tell when a stunt performer is used.
 - b. do not like movies with car crash stunts.
 - c. prefer women's stunts more than men's.
 - d. pay more money to see films with stunts.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. summarizing a popular superhero movie.
 - b. explaining the daily life of a movie star.
 - c. describing dangers that movie actors face.
 - d. sharing a personal story about movies.
7. A *stunt double* (paragraph 2) is
 - a. a machine made from twin cameras.
 - b. an action that is extremely difficult.
 - c. a building with two entrances.
 - d. a performer who looks like the main actor.

Check your answers on page 142.

The Pacific Islands

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Another name for the Pacific Islands is
 - a. Asia.
 - b. Papua.
 - c. Oceania.
 - d. Vanuatu.
2. Because these islands are near the equator, they
 - a. have warm climates.
 - b. get snow in the winter.
 - c. use the same language.
 - d. are home to many people.
3. The country of Fiji is considered part of
 - a. Malaysia.
 - b. Indonesia.
 - c. Melanesia.
 - d. Micronesia.
4. The islands in Polynesia form the shape of a
 - a. star.
 - b. circle.
 - c. triangle.
 - d. rectangle.
5. Compared with the low islands, high islands have
 - a. fewer cities.
 - b. better farming.
 - c. less fresh water.
 - d. more colorful fish.
6. The author mentions the United Nations (paragraph 2) to
 - a. share a story about the many languages in the Pacific Islands.
 - b. explain the border between Asia and the Pacific Islands.
 - c. describe how governments work in the Pacific Islands.
 - d. summarize the history of how the Pacific Islands were named.
7. The word part *micro-* (paragraph 3) means
 - a. high.
 - b. black.
 - c. small.
 - d. many.

Check your answers on page 142.

The Running of the Bulls

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a fast race.
 - b. a big animal.
 - c. a small town.
 - d. a cultural hero.
2. Pamplona is a town in
 - a. Spain.
 - b. France.
 - c. Mexico.
 - d. the USA.
3. Participants in the event wear
 - a. red clothes with blue hats.
 - b. black clothes with red shoes.
 - c. blue clothes with white belts.
 - d. white clothes with red scarves.
4. In New Orleans, the bulls are replaced with
 - a. police dogs.
 - b. race horses.
 - c. roller skaters.
 - d. young children.
5. We can infer that some people would disagree with this event because
 - a. the distance is too long for most racers.
 - b. tickets to the event are too expensive.
 - c. it takes place during cold weather days.
 - d. many people and animals are injured.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. describing similar events.
 - b. providing the event's history.
 - c. comparing Mexico with France.
 - d. explaining who San Fermin was.
7. If someone was *martyred* (paragraph 2), that person
 - a. died for his or her beliefs.
 - b. was afraid of large animals.
 - c. organized cultural festivals.
 - d. was able to run very quickly.

Check your answers on page 142.

Dentists

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about people who
 - a. fix broken buildings.
 - b. have beautiful smiles.
 - c. teach science classes.
 - d. help take care of teeth.
2. Dentists who adjust the position of teeth using braces are called
 - a. oral surgeons.
 - b. orthodontists.
 - c. dental hygienists.
 - d. public health dentists.
3. The DAT is taken by
 - a. children who have too many cavities.
 - b. people who want to go to dental school.
 - c. dentists who want to use an x-ray machine.
 - d. adults who need a root canal.
4. In the United States, dental licensing is done at the
 - a. city level.
 - b. state level.
 - c. county level.
 - d. national level.
5. We can infer that those who work as dentists
 - a. like to drive expensive cars.
 - b. enjoy traveling to new places.
 - c. have many years of education.
 - d. spend most of the day outside.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. warning that the cost of dental school is very expensive.
 - b. suggesting that dentists find joy in helping others.
 - c. stating that there are few dental schools in the USA.
 - d. admitting that dentist visits make some people nervous.
7. If something is *numb* (paragraph 6), it means that it cannot
 - a. see.
 - b. feel.
 - c. hear.
 - d. think.

Check your answers on page 142.

Eva Perón

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. Another good title for this passage is
 - a. An Important Race.
 - b. Life in a Small Town.
 - c. The Poor Helping the Rich.
 - d. From Movies to Leadership.
2. Eva Perón's nickname was
 - a. Via.
 - b. Tita.
 - c. Evita.
 - d. Anita.
3. When Eva Perón met her husband, he worked
 - a. on a farm.
 - b. as an actor.
 - c. in a hospital.
 - d. for the army.
4. Many people asked Eva Perón to run for the position of
 - a. judge.
 - b. president.
 - c. vice president.
 - d. prime minister.
5. The passage suggests that, as first lady, Eva Perón spent her time
 - a. caring for sick and injured animals.
 - b. improving the lives of working people.
 - c. performing in several popular films.
 - d. planting fruit trees all across the country.
6. The author mentions flowers (paragraph 5) to
 - a. describe where Eva Perón was married.
 - b. highlight the people's love for Eva Perón.
 - c. contrast Eva Perón's town and city life.
 - d. tell about one of Eva Perón's famous plays.
7. If someone *mourned* (paragraph 5), it means that the person
 - a. felt sad.
 - b. went home.
 - c. became sick.
 - d. worked hard.

Check your answers on page 142.

Machu Picchu

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
 - a. a king from the Inca Empire.
 - b. a Spanish visitor to the Incas.
 - c. an Inca city in the mountains.
 - d. an ancient book about the Inca.
2. Machu Picchu can be found in
 - a. Peru.
 - b. Chile.
 - c. Spain.
 - d. Colombia.
3. In the 16th century most of the Incas
 - a. died from war and disease.
 - b. migrated to other countries.
 - c. were taken to Spain as slaves.
 - d. froze in the Andes Mountains.
4. In addition to hiking, many people travel to Machu Picchu by
 - a. riding a bike.
 - b. taking a train.
 - c. traveling in a boat.
 - d. flying in an airplane.
5. We can infer that the Spanish never found Machu Picchu in the 16th century because
 - a. it was located high in the mountains.
 - b. it was hidden under trees and plants.
 - c. they were killed before they could find it.
 - d. they had no interest in visiting Inca cities.
6. The author begins this passage by
 - a. explaining the meaning of the word Inca.
 - b. summarizing the area of the Inca Empire.
 - c. telling a short story about an Inca child.
 - d. describing one of the Inca leaders.
7. *Quechua* (paragraph 2) refers to
 - a. a city.
 - b. a plant.
 - c. a language.
 - d. a mountain.

Check your answers on page 142.

Isaac Newton

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about a man who
 - a. built a university in England.
 - b. developed math and science theories.
 - c. grew a new kind of apple tree.
 - d. created famous colorful paintings.
2. At Cambridge, Newton earned a degree in
 - a. art.
 - b. math.
 - c. history.
 - d. religion.
3. Newton invented a new type of
 - a. bicycle.
 - b. computer.
 - c. telescope.
 - d. telephone.
4. The Royal Society is a group of
 - a. scientists.
 - b. gardeners.
 - c. kings and queens.
 - d. actors and artists.
5. The passage suggests that, as a young man, Newton returned to school to
 - a. get a job as a servant.
 - b. make his mother happy.
 - c. see his favorite teachers.
 - d. avoid becoming a farmer.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. telling a popular story about Newton.
 - b. explaining Newton's physical appearance.
 - c. describing Newton's family life.
 - d. listing Newton's laws of motion.
7. To *pursue* (paragraph 3) means to
 - a. take back.
 - b. stay away.
 - c. look closer.
 - d. work towards.

Check your answers on page 142.

Mother Teresa

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who is most famous for
 - a. building a beautiful church.
 - b. caring for the poor and sick.
 - c. teaching English to children.
 - d. traveling to different countries.
2. Mother Teresa was born in
 - a. India.
 - b. Ireland.
 - c. Germany.
 - d. Macedonia.
3. Mother Teresa started a group of nuns called
 - a. the Workers of India.
 - b. the Teachers of Calcutta.
 - c. the Helpers of Happiness.
 - d. the Missionaries of Charity.
4. Mother Teresa became a saint of the Catholic Church in
 - a. 1931.
 - b. 1950.
 - c. 1997.
 - d. 2016.
5. We can infer that Mother Teresa first decided to help others
 - a. after she learned English.
 - b. when she was a young girl.
 - c. a short time before her death.
 - d. as soon as she moved to India.
6. The author mentions refugees (paragraph 4) when
 - a. telling why Mother Teresa learned English.
 - b. describing Mother Teresa's parents.
 - c. listing the groups that Mother Teresa helped.
 - d. explaining why Mother Teresa left her home country.
7. If someone *devoted* (paragraph 2), that person
 - a. gave everything.
 - b. traveled very far.
 - c. was well educated.
 - d. missed one's family.

Check your answers on page 142.

The United States Constitution

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. the job of the president of the United States.
 - b. the role of individual rights in the United States.
 - c. the way that new laws are created in the United States.
 - d. the highest law in the United States.
2. The Constitution was created in the city of
 - a. Boston.
 - b. New York.
 - c. Washington.
 - d. Philadelphia.
3. The passage indicates that all of the following helped write the Constitution EXCEPT
 - a. Thomas Jefferson.
 - b. Benjamin Franklin.
 - c. Alexander Hamilton.
 - d. George Washington.
4. The number of freedoms outlined in the Bill of Rights is
 - a. 10.
 - b. 27.
 - c. 50.
 - d. 76.
5. The passage suggests that amendments to the Constitution
 - a. were no longer necessary after 1787.
 - b. may be needed in the future.
 - c. have always been illegal.
 - d. still prevent women from voting.
6. The author mentions the US Supreme Court to explain
 - a. how the three branches of government work together.
 - b. who organized the creation of the original Constitution.
 - c. why laws in one state must follow the US Constitution.
 - d. what time of year representatives can be elected into office.
7. To *draft* (paragraph 3) means to
 - a. protect people's houses.
 - b. go to an important meeting.
 - c. make sure that people follow the rules.
 - d. create a first version of something.

Check your answers on page 142.

William Wallace

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a man who was famous for
 - a. fighting for Scottish independence.
 - b. becoming the first king of Scotland.
 - c. creating peace between England and Scotland.
 - d. uniting England and Scotland into one country.
2. Wallace attacked a sheriff because the sheriff
 - a. stole Wallace's land.
 - b. killed Wallace's wife.
 - c. burned a Scottish town.
 - d. arrested King Alexander III.
3. Wallace was knighted by
 - a. King Edward I.
 - b. Robert the Bruce.
 - c. William of Falkirk.
 - d. King Alexander III.
4. When Wallace was captured in 1305, he was
 - a. killed by the English.
 - b. asked to go to Ireland.
 - c. sent to a prison in France.
 - d. allowed to return to Scotland.
5. The passage suggests that Wallace's example helped his people
 - a. capture the king of France.
 - b. get rid of the Scottish king.
 - c. build a new country in Ireland.
 - d. gain independence from England.
6. The author introduces the topic by comparing
 - a. leaders with followers.
 - b. movies and storybooks.
 - c. truth with fictional stories.
 - d. the kings of England and Scotland.
7. To *inspire* (paragraph 5) means to
 - a. travel.
 - b. attack.
 - c. remember.
 - d. encourage.

Check your answers on page 142.

Karaoke

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. wedding parties.
 - b. a famous dancer.
 - c. traditional music.
 - d. a singing machine.
2. Karaoke was invented by
 - a. a teacher.
 - b. a musician.
 - c. a medical doctor.
 - d. a businesswoman.
3. Karaoke first became popular in
 - a. Italy.
 - b. Japan.
 - c. China.
 - d. Canada.
4. When they were first created, karaoke machines used
 - a. CDs.
 - b. DVDs.
 - c. the internet.
 - d. cassette tapes.
5. Karaoke is most likely to be found
 - a. on a farm.
 - b. in a restaurant.
 - c. inside a hospital.
 - d. at a police station.
6. The author concludes the passage by
 - a. giving warnings.
 - b. asking questions.
 - c. sharing world records.
 - d. comparing karaoke songs.
7. *Lyrics* (paragraph 3) are
 - a. words to a song or poem.
 - b. machines that play music.
 - c. businesses that serve food.
 - d. people who sing and dance.

Check your answers on page 142.

Mauna Loa

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a cold island.
 - b. a beautiful ocean.
 - c. an ancient leader.
 - d. a special mountain.
2. People think it is safe to live on the Big Island because
 - a. scientists built a wall by the volcano.
 - b. the volcano is not explosive.
 - c. the volcano fell into the ocean.
 - d. scientists destroyed the volcano.
3. Compared to Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa
 - a. is not as tall.
 - b. has fewer cities.
 - c. has more animals.
 - d. is more dangerous.
4. Ancient Hawaiians left gifts on Mauna Loa to
 - a. share with other ancient Hawaiians.
 - b. protect them from Pele's anger.
 - c. use as food during emergencies.
 - d. help them capture wild animals.
5. The passage suggests that the top of Mauna Loa
 - a. is very cold.
 - b. has a big city.
 - c. is still exploding.
 - d. has a restaurant.
6. The author begins the passage by
 - a. sharing a personal story.
 - b. asking several questions.
 - c. summarizing a news report.
 - d. defining an important word.
7. If something is *active* (paragraph 2), it
 - a. still has energy.
 - b. needs more sun.
 - c. is very respected.
 - d. reaches very high.

Check your answers on page 142.

Nelson Mandela

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about a man who was famous for
 - a. serving as a university president.
 - b. fighting for equal rights in Africa.
 - c. being a rich businessman in Africa.
 - d. winning an important soccer match.
2. Mandela's father was
 - a. a village leader.
 - b. a national judge.
 - c. a popular lawyer.
 - d. a successful athlete.
3. Mandela earned a university degree in
 - a. art.
 - b. law.
 - c. biology.
 - d. business.
4. Apartheid policies separated
 - a. farmers and lawyers.
 - b. young and old people.
 - c. teachers and students.
 - d. black and white people.
5. The passage suggests that apartheid policies
 - a. are popular all around the world.
 - b. were found to be unfair and racist.
 - c. are still used in South Africa today.
 - d. were supported by Nelson Mandela.
6. The author mentions *pass laws* (paragraph 2) to
 - a. demonstrate unequal rights.
 - b. explain Mandela's childhood.
 - c. compare Mandela and de Klerk.
 - d. show people's interest in sports.
7. *Treason* (paragraph 3) means
 - a. stealing food from farmers.
 - b. attacking someone who is hurt.
 - c. running away from one's family.
 - d. trying to replace the government.

Check your answers on page 142.

Walt Disney

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. Disney's career.
 - b. Disney's family life.
 - c. Disney's childhood.
 - d. Disney's theme parks.
2. Disney gained a love of animals from his time
 - a. on a farm.
 - b. at the zoo.
 - c. at city parks.
 - d. in pet stores.
3. *Steamboat Willie* was released in the year
 - a. 1923.
 - b. 1928.
 - c. 1934.
 - d. 1955.
4. Disney theme parks are found in all of the following countries EXCEPT
 - a. Japan.
 - b. China.
 - c. France.
 - d. Germany.
5. Many people expected *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* to
 - a. win many awards.
 - b. be several years late.
 - c. be a film with live actors.
 - d. lose a great deal of money.
6. The author mentions Disney's time in high school to
 - a. explain how Disney met his future business partners.
 - b. show why Disney wanted to move away from home.
 - c. demonstrate Disney's problems managing money.
 - d. illustrate Disney's early interest in working in art.
7. If a film is *animated* (paragraph 3), it is
 - a. filled with music.
 - b. about farm animals.
 - c. made from drawings.
 - d. created by one person.

Check your answers on page 142.

Disc Jockeys

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main purpose of the passage is to
 - a. explain the job of a DJ.
 - b. tell how a DJ's job has changed.
 - c. describe why DJs are important.
 - d. share a story about a famous DJ.
2. Early DJs played recorded music using a
 - a. computer.
 - b. phonograph.
 - c. cassette recorder.
 - d. compact disc player.
3. Many radio DJs must work in shifts because
 - a. most DJs do not like to work together.
 - b. radio stations operate all day and night.
 - c. radio stations do not have much money.
 - d. many DJs take university classes.
4. Hip-hop DJs are known for their ability to
 - a. work all night.
 - b. play the guitar.
 - c. combine songs.
 - d. sing at weddings.
5. We can infer that DJs who perform at events
 - a. often have problems being on time.
 - b. should be tall and have dark hair.
 - c. must always wear formal clothing.
 - d. usually work nights and weekends.
6. The purpose of the last paragraph is to
 - a. explain how someone might become a DJ.
 - b. describe how much money a DJ usually earns.
 - c. compare the job of a DJ with the job of a singer.
 - d. list the health benefits of working as a DJ.
7. A *genre* (paragraph 5) is another word for a
 - a. job.
 - b. voice.
 - c. category.
 - d. musician.

Check your answers on page 142.

Dragons

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. heroes who fought dragons.
 - b. popular movies with dragons.
 - c. dragons as symbols of power.
 - d. different stories about dragons.
2. The word *dragon* comes from a Greek word meaning
 - a. large beast.
 - b. green lizard.
 - c. water snake.
 - d. fire breather.
3. In some Chinese legends, at death, a person
 - a. must answer a dragon's questions.
 - b. gets eaten by an evil dragon.
 - c. turns into a powerful dragon.
 - d. is taken to heaven by a dragon.
4. Before 1912, the Chinese flag contained
 - a. a red dragon on a black background.
 - b. a blue dragon on a gold background.
 - c. a green dragon on a white background.
 - d. a white dragon on a blue background.
5. From this passage, we can infer that the ancient Chinese usually
 - a. viewed dragons positively.
 - b. were afraid of attacks from dragons.
 - c. told few stories about dragons.
 - d. thought dragons were very small.
6. The author introduces the passage by
 - a. telling a famous dragon story.
 - b. explaining a dragon's personality.
 - c. listing cultures with dragon tales.
 - d. describing a dragon's appearance.
7. To *defeat* something (paragraph 2) means to
 - a. find it.
 - b. hate it.
 - c. hide it.
 - d. stop it.

Check your answers on page 142.

Harriet Tubman

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who was famous for
 - a. teaching at a university.
 - b. building army machines.
 - c. improving people's lives.
 - d. owning a beautiful hotel.
2. Tubman was born in
 - a. Maryland.
 - b. New York.
 - c. Pennsylvania.
 - d. South Carolina.
3. Tubman changed her name to Harriet when she
 - a. moved to New York.
 - b. escaped from slavery.
 - c. married John Tubman.
 - d. earned the right to vote.
4. The Underground Railroad was
 - a. a building in New York City.
 - b. a fast way to travel by train.
 - c. a way to help slaves to freedom.
 - d. a tool for stealing an army's food.
5. The passage suggests that Tubman's head injury did not
 - a. cause any negative effects.
 - b. result from a violent attack.
 - c. happen when she was young.
 - d. stop her from serving others.
6. The author mentions the United States Constitution to explain how
 - a. South Carolina and Maryland were different.
 - b. Tubman and her husband were able to marry.
 - c. slaves had few rights before the Civil War.
 - d. Tubman fought for women's right to vote.
7. A *slave* (paragraph 2) is a person who
 - a. discovers new places.
 - b. fights in a difficult war.
 - c. has no friends or family.
 - d. is owned by someone else.

Check your answers on page 142.

Hybrid Cars

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a new type of car.
 - b. driving a race car.
 - c. a class for car drivers.
 - d. getting to work by car.
2. The main problem with gasoline engines is that
 - a. they have quiet engines.
 - b. they add to air pollution.
 - c. there are few refueling stations.
 - d. there are few places that sell them.
3. One important concern with electric engines is that
 - a. most countries do not allow these engines.
 - b. recharging them can take a lot of time.
 - c. they make too much pollution.
 - d. they are only available in one color.
4. Some people are afraid that a hybrid car
 - a. may not protect people during a crash.
 - b. does not work on normal roads.
 - c. only works in warm, sunny weather.
 - d. will cause too much water pollution.
5. We can infer from this passage that
 - a. car technologies will continue to improve.
 - b. new cars are better for families than old cars.
 - c. soon people will no longer need to use cars.
 - d. driving to work is healthier than walking to work.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. comparing cars to trucks.
 - b. describing one benefit of cars.
 - c. summarizing the history of cars.
 - d. telling about a famous car inventor.
7. *Cons* (paragraph 6) are
 - a. old things.
 - b. bad things.
 - c. new things.
 - d. good things

Check your answers on page 142.

International Date Line

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. creating time zones.
 - b. sailing on the ocean.
 - c. traveling by railroad.
 - d. building clock towers.
2. In the early 19th century, a town set its clocks according to
 - a. the full moon.
 - b. animals' habits.
 - c. the sun's position.
 - d. government rules.
3. Today, the number of time zones around the world is
 - a. 12.
 - b. 24.
 - c. 180.
 - d. 360.
4. The international date line passes through
 - a. Great Britain.
 - b. New York City.
 - c. the Pacific Ocean.
 - d. the Atlantic Ocean.
5. The passage suggests that people who travel from Asia to the Americas would need to set their calendar
 - a. one day back.
 - b. one day ahead.
 - c. one month back.
 - d. one month ahead.
6. The author mentions Alaska (paragraph 2) to explain
 - a. people's interest in popular vacation places.
 - b. problems with railroad travel.
 - c. the location of the international date line.
 - d. the need for multiple time zones.
7. Zones (paragraph 1) are
 - a. clocks.
 - b. new towns.
 - c. small trains.
 - d. areas of land.

Check your answers on page 142.

Jaime Escalante

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a man who
 - a. became a famous actor.
 - b. taught math to teenagers.
 - c. built high school buildings.
 - d. was caught cheating on tests.
2. Escalante was born in
 - a. Bolivia.
 - b. Mexico.
 - c. Colombia.
 - d. Argentina.
3. When Escalante arrived at Garfield High School in 1974, many of the students did not
 - a. drive cars.
 - b. listen to music.
 - c. enjoy playing sports.
 - d. graduate from school.
4. In 1988, the story of Escalante and his students was adapted into a
 - a. book.
 - b. movie.
 - c. TV show.
 - d. stage play.
5. We can infer from this passage that Escalante was voted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame because of
 - a. the amount of money that he earned.
 - b. the math research articles that he wrote.
 - c. his excellent public speaking skills.
 - d. his ability to help his students learn.
6. The author mentions 1982 (Paragraph 5) in describing a time when
 - a. some students got lost on a school trip.
 - b. some students were accused of cheating.
 - c. a teacher quit his job at the school.
 - d. a teacher was hurt in a car accident.
7. If someone is *Hispanic* (paragraph 4), it means that person
 - a. is excellent at doing math.
 - b. is studying Spanish at school.
 - c. has taken several Calculus classes.
 - d. has a Spanish-speaking background.

Check your answers on page 142.

Mermaids

Comprehension Question

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a song that mermaids sing.
 - b. places where mermaids live.
 - c. stories related to mermaids.
 - d. a movie with a mermaid hero.
2. The Roman god Neptune was based on
 - a. a story written by the historian Pliny.
 - b. the Babylonian myth of Ea.
 - c. the Assyrian tale of a fish goddess.
 - d. a report by Christopher Columbus.
3. The mermaids in Homer's writings were
 - a. beautiful and kind.
 - b. afraid and helpless.
 - c. shy and mysterious.
 - d. dangerous and mean.
4. Unlike the Disney movie, Andersen's original mermaid story
 - a. has a sad ending.
 - b. has no sea witch.
 - c. is about a merman.
 - d. is not very famous.
5. We can infer that information in this passage probably came from people who
 - a. cook fish.
 - b. build boats.
 - c. study history.
 - d. train dolphins.
6. The author mentions manatees to
 - a. suggest a possible origin of mermaid stories.
 - b. describe a mermaid's voice.
 - c. share a personal experience with mermaids.
 - d. list other names for mermaids.
7. People who are *hypnotized* (paragraph 3)
 - a. will not go near water.
 - b. should not listen to music.
 - c. must not have many friends.
 - d. cannot control their actions.

Check your answers on page 142.

Mummies

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a type of dead body.
 - b. the history of Egypt.
 - c. a new clothing style.
 - d. the life of an old king.
2. A natural mummy can be created if a body is
 - a. frozen in ice.
 - b. left in the sun.
 - c. wrapped in a cloth.
 - d. dropped into the sea.
3. Egyptians embalmed bodies because
 - a. they believed that the dead would need their bodies again.
 - b. they wanted to punish their leaders for making mistakes.
 - c. they thought that the smell of decomposing bodies was bad.
 - d. they did not have room to bury the bodies in the ground.
4. The Egyptian embalming process often took
 - a. less than 40 days.
 - b. about 40 years.
 - c. up to 70 days.
 - d. close to 70 years.
5. We can infer that the author's feeling towards this topic is
 - a. fear.
 - b. anger.
 - c. interest.
 - d. confusion.
6. The author introduces this topic by
 - a. telling a scary story.
 - b. defining important words.
 - c. describing a famous person.
 - d. comparing different cultures.
7. To *decompose* (paragraph 4) means to
 - a. look scary.
 - b. grow longer.
 - c. become rotten.
 - d. carefully cover.

Check your answers on page 142.

MyPlate

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to describe
 - a. the perfect dinner party.
 - b. a guide for healthy eating.
 - c. how to cook delicious meals.
 - d. tips for losing weight quickly.
2. MyPlate was created by
 - a. a food company.
 - b. a team of athletes.
 - c. a government group.
 - d. a collection of farmers.
3. According to MyPlate, people should eat most of their food from
 - a. meats and nuts groups.
 - b. dairy and sugars groups.
 - c. proteins and fruits groups.
 - d. grains and vegetables groups.
4. People who follow MyPlate suggestions will probably
 - a. have less time to cook.
 - b. eat less sugar and fats.
 - c. sleep more hours at night.
 - d. save more money on food.
5. From this passage, we can infer that the author thinks that diet fads
 - a. can be unhealthy.
 - b. cost a lot of money.
 - c. help people gain weight.
 - d. work best with children.
6. The author ends the passage by
 - a. sharing a link to more information.
 - b. recommending some favorite foods.
 - c. encouraging readers to teach others.
 - d. explaining why exercise is important.
7. *Nutrition* (paragraph 2) means
 - a. asking questions.
 - b. eating healthy food.
 - c. growing vegetables.
 - d. teaching about science.

Check your answers on page 142.

Pumpkin Chunking

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. a sport that uses pumpkins.
 - b. why people cut up pumpkins.
 - c. how farmers grow pumpkins.
 - d. a dessert made from pumpkins.
2. In pumpkin chunking, pumpkins are thrown using
 - a. rope.
 - b. arms.
 - c. towels.
 - d. machines.
3. The city where a pumpkin was thrown the farthest is currently
 - a. Moab, Utah.
 - b. Pumpkin, Texas.
 - c. Black Cat, Arkansas.
 - d. Bridgeville, Delaware.
4. The WCPCA contest happens soon after
 - a. Christmas.
 - b. Halloween.
 - c. Thanksgiving.
 - d. New Year's Day.
5. We can infer that a pumpkin throw at the WCPCA contest is not acceptable if
 - a. the pumpkin stays whole.
 - b. the machine uses electricity.
 - c. the pumpkin weighs 9 pounds.
 - d. the machine is built by teenagers.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. describing the world's biggest pumpkin.
 - b. mentioning different uses of pumpkins.
 - c. comparing different types of pumpkins.
 - d. explaining where pumpkins grow best.
7. To *launch* (paragraph 2) means to
 - a. grow quickly.
 - b. build carefully
 - c. shoot into the air.
 - d. share with friends.

Check your answers on page 142.

Storm Chasers

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about people who
 - a. build strong buildings.
 - b. report weather on TV.
 - c. study dangerous storms.
 - d. find lost men and women.
2. Storm chasers usually work
 - a. at hospitals.
 - b. on airplanes.
 - c. in their homes.
 - d. from their cars.
3. Tornado Alley includes states such as
 - a. Florida and Georgia.
 - b. Texas and Oklahoma.
 - c. California and Oregon.
 - d. Massachusetts and Maine.
4. Storm chasers use anemometers to
 - a. send text messages to other scientists.
 - b. listen to TV reports about the weather.
 - c. take pictures of rain storms.
 - d. check how strong the wind is.
5. The passage suggests that storm chasers need to be very
 - a. tall.
 - b. brave.
 - c. funny.
 - d. beautiful.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. describing the education that storm chasers must receive.
 - b. comparing how different people act during a storm.
 - c. explaining how a storm can form from hot and cold winds.
 - d. listing the places in the USA that often experience tornadoes.
7. *Hurricanes* (paragraph 4) are
 - a. large cars that can be slept in.
 - b. strong storms over the ocean.
 - c. people who live near the coast.
 - d. regions that get very little rain.

Check your answers on page 142.

Susan B. Anthony

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about a woman who
 - a. was freed as a slave in the Civil War.
 - b. was elected the first female US senator.
 - c. fought to gain equal rights in the USA.
 - d. served in the army during the Civil War.
2. As a teacher, Anthony learned that she was
 - a. only allowed to teach girls because only men could teach boys.
 - b. not allowed to speak in the classroom and could only grade papers.
 - c. being paid much less than a male teacher who had the same job.
 - d. being replaced by a male teacher who had less education than her.
3. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution resulted in
 - a. women's suffrage.
 - b. the end of slavery.
 - c. equal pay for equal work.
 - d. education for all children.
4. Anthony shared her ideas in all of the following ways EXCEPT by
 - a. writing books.
 - b. acting in plays.
 - c. giving speeches.
 - d. creating a newspaper.
5. From this passage, we can infer that all female adult citizens in the US currently
 - a. have the right to vote.
 - b. work in government jobs.
 - c. are excellent public speakers.
 - d. receive pay equal to men's pay.
6. The author begins this passage by
 - a. telling why it is important for women to be able to vote.
 - b. describing Anthony's parents.
 - c. explaining state laws about how voting rights are passed.
 - d. telling a story about Anthony's life.
7. *Abolition* (paragraph 2) is the action of
 - a. ending.
 - b. finding.
 - c. sharing.
 - d. forgetting.

Check your answers on page 142.

The Sahara Desert

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a very hot place.
 - b. a cold mountain.
 - c. amazing animals.
 - d. important rivers.
2. The average temperature in the Sahara is
 - a. 86 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - b. 86 degrees Celsius.
 - c. 136 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - d. 136 degrees Celsius.
3. The number of African countries that are part of the Sahara is
 - a. 4.
 - b. 10.
 - c. 25.
 - d. 35.
4. Most people in the Sahara
 - a. live in large cities.
 - b. keep moving around.
 - c. have the same culture.
 - d. speak a common language.
5. The passage suggests that most regions of the Sahara
 - a. have little water.
 - b. have many birds.
 - c. are covered in flowers.
 - d. are filled with volcanoes.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. giving some advice.
 - b. sharing a personal story.
 - c. explaining important words.
 - d. comparing different deserts.
7. *Aquifers* (paragraph 5) are
 - a. animals that live in water.
 - b. towns surrounded by sand.
 - c. underground water sources.
 - d. trees that grow in the desert.

Check your answers on page 142.

The Silfra Crack

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. a mysterious island.
 - b. a dangerous volcano.
 - c. an opening in the ground.
 - d. a cave on a high mountain.
2. The space between the continental plates at Silfra gets bigger each year by
 - a. 2 centimeters.
 - b. 1.6 feet.
 - c. 100 meters.
 - d. 207 miles.
3. The water at Silfra is clear because
 - a. scientists regularly remove dirt from the water.
 - b. the water is cleaned as it moves through volcanic rock.
 - c. all the dirt falls through an opening at the bottom.
 - d. the sun kills any plant life that tries to grow in the lake.
4. The author warns against visiting the bottom of Silfra because
 - a. scientists do not know how deep the area is.
 - b. poisonous animals live near the bottom.
 - c. the water at the bottom can burn people.
 - d. only experienced divers should go so far.
5. The passage suggests that the Silfra is near
 - a. the Pacific Ocean.
 - b. the Caribbean Sea.
 - c. the Atlantic Ocean.
 - d. the South China Sea.
6. The author teaches about Silfra in the second paragraph by
 - a. comparing Silfra's water to the ocean's.
 - b. giving measurements for the size of Silfra.
 - c. listing activities that people do at Silfra.
 - d. explaining how Silfra was created.
7. In this passage, *plate* (paragraph 1) means
 - a. a large piece of plastic connecting things.
 - b. a prize that is earned by winning a race.
 - c. a flat dish used for eating food.
 - d. a part of the planet's outer layer.

Check your answers on page 142.

The Voyager Probes

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mainly about
 - a. four giant planets.
 - b. two brave scientists.
 - c. two small spaceships.
 - d. four mysterious moons.
2. The Voyager probes left Earth in the year
 - a. 1963.
 - b. 1977.
 - c. 1989.
 - d. 2012.
3. The Voyager 1 probe has collected information about
 - a. Mars and Pluto.
 - b. Jupiter and Saturn.
 - c. Mercury and Venus.
 - d. Neptune and Uranus.
4. The metal disc on each probe contains
 - a. data collected from the giant planets.
 - b. a rock from each moon in the solar system.
 - c. music from alien cultures beyond our planet.
 - d. a message from the people on Earth.
5. The passage suggests that, compared to other human-made objects, the probes
 - a. have traveled the farthest from Earth.
 - b. have taken the most photos of the moon.
 - c. are the biggest objects ever built.
 - d. are the smallest objects ever sent into space.
6. The author concludes by
 - a. describing the outside appearance of the probes.
 - b. listing the names of the people who created the probes.
 - c. asking how long the probes will work before breaking.
 - d. wondering what the probes will find in the future.
7. A *probe* (paragraph 1) is a
 - a. star in another system.
 - b. person who builds ships.
 - c. device for collecting data.
 - d. message of peace and love.

Check your answers on page 142.

Dirty Jobs

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to
 - a. describe a TV show about difficult jobs.
 - b. offer advice about how to get a new job.
 - c. highlight the importance of a clean appearance.
 - d. explain how Mike Rowe became a reporter.
2. *Dirty Jobs* began in
 - a. 2000.
 - b. 2005.
 - c. 2010.
 - d. 2012.
3. As a host, Rowe interviewed people and then
 - a. wrote a book about their experiences.
 - b. invited them to travel across the USA.
 - c. helped them perform their jobs.
 - d. offered to find them a new career.
4. The passage states that Rowe cleaned all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. animals.
 - b. bathrooms.
 - c. state highways.
 - d. garbage containers.
5. From this passage, you can infer that Rowe values jobs that
 - a. provide a useful service.
 - b. pay people a lot of money.
 - c. require international travel.
 - d. help people become famous.
6. The author mentions window washing to
 - a. show how smelly some jobs can be.
 - b. illustrate the importance of hard work.
 - c. give an example of a job that Rowe feared.
 - d. tell what Rowe did before his TV career.
7. *Functions* (paragraph 5) are
 - a. groups of people who work together.
 - b. things that someone is supposed to do.
 - c. friends who help you when you are tired.
 - d. difficult jobs that are dangerous.

Check your answers on page 142.

UFOs

Comprehension Questions

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is mostly about
 - a. visits to planets in outer space.
 - b. mysterious objects from space.
 - c. training to become a space pilot.
 - d. building rockets to travel in space.
2. Arnold's experience resulted in the creation of the term
 - a. UFO.
 - b. spaceship.
 - c. flying saucer.
 - d. alien life form.
3. Roswell, New Mexico is famous for being the supposed location of a
 - a. crash of a UFO.
 - b. factory for making UFOs.
 - c. hospital for UFO survivors.
 - d. telescope for finding UFOs.
4. Most UFOs are probably
 - a. birds or bats.
 - b. stars or comets.
 - c. planes or satellites.
 - d. aliens or spaceships.
5. The author's attitude towards flying saucers is
 - a. fear.
 - b. anger.
 - c. disbelief.
 - d. excitement.
6. The author introduces the topic by
 - a. summarizing a popular TV program.
 - b. telling a personal story about aliens.
 - c. describing different planets in space.
 - d. describing interesting sights in the sky.
7. If something is *abducted* (paragraph 6), it is
 - a. given food.
 - b. taken away.
 - c. not believed.
 - d. covered in lights.

Check your answers on page 142.

Answer Key

Roller Derby

1. a 2. c 3. c 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. b

Water

1. d 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. c 7. b

Jai Alai

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. d 7. a

Loch Ness Monster

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. a

The Common Cold

1. c 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. c 6. d 7. d

The Human Eye

1. a 2. d 3. c 4. c 5. c 6. d 7. c

Groundhog Day

1. a 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. a

Interesting Foods

1. b 2. d 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. a 7. b

Anne Frank

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. a 7. b

Crop Circles

1. c 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. a 7. a

Snakes

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. d 7. d

The Eiffel Tower

1. a 2. d 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. d 7. a

Charles Dickens

1. c 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. c 7. a

Sushi

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. c

The Internet

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. a 5. d 6. c 7. b

Luau

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. a 7. d

Alexander the Great

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. a 7. a

Johannes Gutenberg

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. b 7. c

Amelia Earhart

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. b 6. b 7. d

Dr. Seuss

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. c 5. c 6. d 7. a

Joan of Arc

1. a 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. a 7. d

Mohandas Gandhi

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. c

Paramedics

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. d 5. c 6. a 7. d

The Australian Outback

1. b 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. c 6. d 7. a

Icebergs

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. d 6. c 7. a

Mount Rushmore

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. c 6. d 7. c

Peafowl

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d 5. c 6. b 7. c

Tidal Power

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. a 6. a 7. d

Winston Churchill

1. b 2. d 3. d 4. c 5. c 6. b 7. c

Blogging

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. d 6. d 7. d

Pilots

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. d 7. d

Florence Nightingale

1. c 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. d

Hot Dogs

1. b 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. c 6. a 7. d

Leonardo da Vinci

1. b 2. b 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. a 7. a

Niagara Falls

1. c 2. c 3. d 4. d 5. d 6. b 7. b

Rapa Nui

1. a 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. a 6. a 7. b

Stunt Performers

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. d 5. a 6. c 7. d

The Pacific Islands

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. c 5. b 6. b 7. c

The Running of the Bulls

1. a 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. a

Dentists

1. d 2. b 3. b 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. b

Eva Perón

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. c 5. b 6. b 7. a

Machu Picchu

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. b 7. c

Isaac Newton

1. b 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. d 6. a 7. d

Mother Teresa

1. b 2. d 3. d 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. a

The United States Constitution

1. d 2. d 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. a 7. d

William Wallace

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. d 6. c 7. d

Karaoke

1. d 2. b 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. a

Mauna Loa

1. d 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. a

Nelson Mandela

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. a 7. d

Walt Disney

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. d 6. d 7. c

Disc Jockeys

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. c

Dragons

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. d

Harriet Tubman

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. c 5. d 6. d 7. d

Hybrid Cars

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. b 7. b

International Date Line

1. a 2. c 3. b 4. c 5. a 6. d 7. d

Jaime Escalante

1. b 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. d

Mermaids

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. c 6. a 7. d

Mummies

1. a 2. a 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. a 7. c

MyPlate

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. b

Pumpkin Chunking

1. a 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. c

Storm Chasers

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. b 7. b

Susan B. Anthony

1. c 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. d 7. a

The Sahara Desert

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. c

The Silfra Crack

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. d 5. c 6. a 7. d

The Voyager Probes

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. d 5. a 6. d 7. c

Dirty Jobs

1. a 2. b 3. c 4. c 5. a 6. c 7. b

UFOs

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. c 5. c 6. d 7. b

Reading Rate Table

Passage Title	Roller Derby	Water	Jai Alai	Loch Ness Monster	The Common Cold	The Human Eye	Groundhog Day	Interesting Foods	Anne Frank	Crop Circles	Snakes	The Eiffel Tower	Charles Dickens	Sushi
Level Group	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lexile®	610L	610L	620L	620L	620L	620L	630L	630L	640L	640L	650L	650L	660L	660L
WPM	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Word Count	424	421	366	358	423	414	368	366	423	395	421	402	386	408
Minutes:Seconds														
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:35	727	722	627	614	725	710	631	627	725	677	722	689	662	699
:40	636	632	549	537	635	621	552	549	635	593	632	603	579	612
:45	565	561	488	477	564	552	491	488	564	527	561	536	515	544
:50	509	505	439	430	508	497	442	439	508	474	505	482	463	490
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1:10	363	361	314	307	363	355	315	314	363	339	361	345	331	350
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7:00	61	60	52	51	60	59	53	52	60	56	60	57	55	58

Passage Title	The Internet	Lulus	Alexander the Great	Johannes Gutenberg	Amelia Earhart	Dr. Seuss	Joan of Arc	Mohandas Gandhi	Paramedics	The Australian Outback	Icebergs	Mount Rushmore	Peafowl	Tidal Power
Level Group	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lexile®	660L	680L	690L	690L	700L	700L	700L	710L	710L	710L	720L	720L	720L	720L
WPM	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Word Count	357	364	390	378	375	364	367	398	386	344	395	359	423	421
Minutes:Seconds														
:30	714	728	780	756	750	728	734	796	772	688	790	718	846	842
:35	612	624	669	648	643	624	629	682	662	590	677	615	725	722
:40	536	546	585	567	563	546	551	597	579	516	593	539	635	632
:45	476	485	520	504	500	485	489	531	515	459	527	479	564	561
:50	428	437	468	454	450	437	440	478	463	413	474	431	508	505
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3:15	110	112	120	116	115	112	113	122	119	106	122	110	130	130
3:30	102	104	111	108	107	104	105	114	110	98	113	103	121	120
3:45	95	97	104	101	100	97	98	106	103	92	105	96	113	112
4:00	89	91	98	95	94	91	92	100	97	86	99	90	106	105
4:30	79	81	87	84	83	81	82	88	86	76	88	80	94	94
5:00	71	73	78	76	75	73	73	80	77	69	79	72	85	84
5:30	65	66	71	69	68	66	67	72	70	63	72	65	77	77
6:00	60	61	65	63	63	61	61	66	64	57	66	60	71	70
6:30	55	56	60	58	58	56	56	61	59	53	61	55	65	65
7:00	51	52	56	54	54	52	52	57	55	49	56	51	60	60

Reading Rate Table

Passage Title	Winston Churchill	Blogging	Pilots	Florence Nightingale	Hot Dogs	Leonardo da Vinci	Niagara Falls	Rapa Nui	Stunt Performers	The Pacific Islands	The Running of the Bulls	Dentists	Eva Perón
Level Group	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lexile®	720L	730L	730L	740L	740L	740L	740L	740L	740L	740L	740L	750L	750L
WPM	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Word Count	373	414	420	416	409	404	381	420	409	369	385	384	338
Minutes:Seconds													
:30	746	828	840	832	818	808	762	840	818	738	770	768	676
:35	639	710	720	713	701	693	653	720	701	633	660	658	579
:40	560	621	630	624	614	606	572	630	614	554	578	576	507
:45	497	552	560	555	545	539	508	560	545	492	513	512	451
:50	448	497	504	499	491	485	457	504	491	443	462	461	406
:55	407	452	458	454	446	441	416	458	446	403	420	419	369
1:00	373	414	420	416	409	404	381	420	409	369	385	384	338
1:05	344	382	388	384	378	373	352	388	378	341	355	354	312
1:10	320	355	360	357	351	346	327	360	351	316	330	329	290
1:15	298	331	336	333	327	323	305	336	327	295	308	307	270
1:20	280	311	315	312	307	303	286	315	307	277	289	288	254
1:25	263	292	296	294	289	285	269	296	289	260	272	271	239
1:30	249	276	280	277	273	269	254	280	273	246	257	256	225
1:35	236	261	265	263	258	255	241	265	258	233	243	243	213
1:40	224	248	252	250	245	242	229	252	245	221	231	230	203
1:45	213	237	240	238	234	231	218	240	234	211	220	219	193
1:50	203	226	229	227	223	220	208	229	223	201	210	209	184
1:55	195	216	219	217	213	211	199	219	213	193	201	200	176
2:00	187	207	210	208	205	202	191	210	205	185	193	192	169
2:05	179	199	202	200	196	194	183	202	196	177	185	184	162
2:10	172	191	194	192	189	186	176	194	189	170	178	177	156
2:15	166	184	187	185	182	180	169	187	182	164	171	171	150
2:20	160	177	180	178	175	173	163	180	175	158	165	165	145
2:25	154	171	174	172	169	167	158	174	169	153	159	159	140
2:30	149	166	168	166	164	162	152	168	164	148	154	154	135
2:35	144	160	163	161	158	156	147	163	158	143	149	149	131
2:40	140	155	158	156	153	152	143	158	153	138	144	144	127
2:45	136	151	153	151	149	147	139	153	149	134	140	140	123
2:50	132	146	148	147	144	143	134	148	144	130	136	136	119
2:55	128	142	144	143	140	139	131	144	140	127	132	132	116
3:00	124	138	140	139	136	135	127	140	136	123	128	128	113
3:15	115	127	129	128	126	124	117	129	126	114	118	118	104
3:30	107	118	120	119	117	115	109	120	117	105	110	110	97
3:45	99	110	112	111	109	108	102	112	109	98	103	102	90
4:00	93	104	105	104	102	101	95	105	102	92	96	96	85
4:30	83	92	93	92	91	90	85	93	91	82	86	85	75
5:00	75	83	84	83	82	81	76	84	82	74	77	77	68
5:30	68	75	76	76	74	73	69	76	74	67	70	70	61
6:00	62	69	70	69	68	67	64	70	68	62	64	64	56
6:30	57	64	65	64	63	62	59	65	63	57	59	59	52
7:00	53	59	60	59	58	58	54	60	58	53	55	55	48

Passage Title	Machu Picchu	Isaac Newton	Mother Teresa	The United States Constitution	William Wallace	Karaoke	Mauna Loa	Nelson Mandela	Walt Disney	Disc Jockeys	Dragons	Harriet Tubman	Hybrid Cars
Level Group	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lexile®	750L	760L	760L	760L	760L	770L	780L	780L	780L	790L	790L	790L	790L
WPM	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Word Count	403	416	399	423	343	420	355	376	414	380	356	392	384
Minutes:Seconds													
:30	806	832	798	846	686	840	710	752	828	760	712	784	768
:35	691	713	684	725	588	720	609	645	710	651	610	672	658
:40	605	624	599	635	515	630	533	564	621	570	534	588	576
:45	537	555	532	564	457	560	473	501	552	507	475	523	512
:50	484	499	479	508	412	504	426	451	497	456	427	470	461
:55	440	454	435	461	374	458	387	410	452	415	388	428	419
1:00	403	416	399	423	343	420	355	376	414	380	356	392	384
1:05	372	384	368	390	317	388	328	347	382	351	329	362	354
1:10	345	357	342	363	294	360	304	322	355	326	305	336	329
1:15	322	333	319	338	274	336	284	301	331	304	285	314	307
1:20	302	312	299	317	257	315	266	282	311	285	267	294	288
1:25	284	294	282	299	242	296	251	265	292	268	251	277	271
1:30	269	277	266	282	229	280	237	251	276	253	237	261	256
1:35	255	263	252	267	217	265	224	237	261	240	225	248	243
1:40	242	250	239	254	206	252	213	226	248	228	214	235	230
1:45	230	238	228	242	196	240	203	215	237	217	203	224	219
1:50	220	227	218	231	187	229	194	205	226	207	194	214	209
1:55	210	217	208	221	179	219	185	196	216	198	186	205	200
2:00	202	208	200	212	172	210	178	188	207	190	178	196	192
2:05	193	200	192	203	165	202	170	180	199	182	171	188	184
2:10	186	192	184	195	158	194	164	174	191	175	164	181	177
2:15	179	185	177	188	152	187	158	167	184	169	158	174	171
2:20	173	178	171	181	147	180	152	161	177	163	153	168	165
2:25	167	172	165	175	142	174	147	156	171	157	147	162	159
2:30	161	166	160	169	137	168	142	150	166	152	142	157	154
2:35	156	161	154	164	133	163	137	146	160	147	138	152	149
2:40	151	156	150	159	129	158	133	141	155	143	134	147	144
2:45	147	151	145	154	125	153	129	137	151	138	129	143	140
2:50	142	147	141	149	121	148	125	133	146	134	126	138	136
2:55	138	143	137	145	118	144	122	129	142	130	122	134	132
3:00	134	139	133	141	114	140	118	125	138	127	119	131	128
3:15	124	128	123	130	106	129	109	116	127	117	110	121	118
3:30	115	119	114	121	98	120	101	107	118	109	102	112	110
3:45	107	111	106	113	91	112	95	100	110	101	95	105	102
4:00	101	104	100	106	86	105	89	94	104	95	89	98	96
4:30	90	92	89	94	76	93	79	84	92	84	79	87	85
5:00	81	83	80	85	69	84	71	75	83	76	71	78	77
5:30	73	76	73	77	62	76	65	68	75	69	65	71	70
6:00	67	69	67	71	57	70	59	63	69	63	59	65	64
6:30	62	64	61	65	53	65	55	58	64	58	55	60	59
7:00	58	59	57	60	49	60	51	54	59	54	51	56	55

Reading Rate Table

Passage Title	International Date Line	Jaine Escalante	Mermaids	Mummies	MyPlate	Pumpkin Chunking	Storm Chasers	Susan B. Anthony	The Sahara Desert	The Silfra Crack	The Voyager Probes	Dirty Jobs	UFOs
Level Group	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Lexile®	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	790L	800L	800L
WPM	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Word Count	424	414	412	423	420	360	410	406	424	411	418	345	395
Minutes:Seconds													
:30	848	828	824	846	840	720	820	812	848	822	836	690	790
:35	727	710	706	725	720	617	703	696	727	705	717	591	677
:40	636	621	618	635	630	540	615	609	636	617	627	518	593
:45	565	552	549	564	560	480	547	541	565	548	557	460	527
:50	509	497	494	508	504	432	492	487	509	493	502	414	474
:55	463	452	449	461	458	393	447	443	463	448	456	376	431
1:00	424	414	412	423	420	360	410	406	424	411	418	345	395
1:05	391	382	380	390	388	332	378	375	391	379	386	318	365
1:10	363	355	353	363	360	309	351	348	363	352	358	296	339
1:15	339	331	330	338	336	288	328	325	339	329	334	276	316
1:20	318	311	309	317	315	270	308	305	318	308	314	259	296
1:25	299	292	291	299	296	254	289	287	299	290	295	244	279
1:30	283	276	275	282	280	240	273	271	283	274	279	230	263
1:35	268	261	260	267	265	227	259	256	268	260	264	218	249
1:40	254	248	247	254	252	216	246	244	254	247	251	207	237
1:45	242	237	235	242	240	206	234	232	242	235	239	197	226
1:50	231	226	225	231	229	196	224	221	231	224	228	188	215
1:55	221	216	215	221	219	188	214	212	221	214	218	180	206
2:00	212	207	206	212	210	180	205	203	212	206	209	173	198
2:05	204	199	198	203	202	173	197	195	204	197	201	166	190
2:10	196	191	190	195	194	166	189	187	196	190	193	159	182
2:15	188	184	183	188	187	160	182	180	188	183	186	153	176
2:20	182	177	177	181	180	154	176	174	182	176	179	148	169
2:25	175	171	170	175	174	149	170	168	175	170	173	143	163
2:30	170	166	165	169	168	144	164	162	170	164	167	138	158
2:35	164	160	159	164	163	139	159	157	164	159	162	134	153
2:40	159	155	155	159	158	135	154	152	159	154	157	129	148
2:45	154	151	150	154	153	131	149	148	154	149	152	125	144
2:50	150	146	145	149	148	127	145	143	150	145	148	122	139
2:55	145	142	141	145	144	123	141	139	145	141	143	118	135
3:00	141	138	137	141	140	120	137	135	141	137	139	115	132
3:15	130	127	127	130	129	111	126	125	130	126	129	106	122
3:30	121	118	118	121	120	103	117	116	121	117	119	99	113
3:45	113	110	110	113	112	96	109	108	113	110	111	92	105
4:00	106	104	103	106	105	90	103	102	106	103	105	86	99
4:30	94	92	92	94	93	80	91	90	94	91	93	77	88
5:00	85	83	82	85	84	72	82	81	85	82	84	69	79
5:30	77	75	75	77	76	65	75	74	77	75	76	63	72
6:00	71	69	69	71	70	60	68	68	71	69	70	58	66
6:30	65	64	63	65	65	55	63	62	65	63	64	53	61
7:00	61	59	59	60	60	51	59	58	61	59	60	49	56

Passage Title															
Comprehension Questions Correct															
Words Per Minute	651-750														
	551-650														
	451-550														
	551-600														
	501-550														
	451-500														
	401-450														
	351-400														
	301-350														
	251-300														
	201-250														
	176-200														
	151-175														
	141-150														
	131-140														
	126-130														
	121-125														
	116-120														
	111-115														
	106-110														
	101-105														
	96-100														
	91-95														
	86-90														
	81-85														
	76-80														
	71-75														
	66-70														
	61-65														
	59-60														
	57-58														
	55-56														
	53-54														
	51-52														
	49-50														
	47-48														
	45-46														
	43-44														
	41-42														
	39-40														
	37-38														
	35-36														

Passage Title															
Comprehension Questions Correct															
Words Per Minute	651-750														
	551-650														
	451-550														
	551-600														
	501-550														
	451-500														
	401-450														
	351-400														
	301-350														
	251-300														
	201-250														
	176-200														
	151-175														
	141-150														
	131-140														
	126-130														
	121-125														
	116-120														
	111-115														
	106-110														
	101-105														
	96-100														
	91-95														
	86-90														
	81-85														
	76-80														
	71-75														
	66-70														
	61-65														
	59-60														
	57-58														
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	49-50														
	47-48														
	45-46														
	43-44														
	41-42														
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	37-38														
	35-36														

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