

 SCHOLASTIC

Between  
Grades  
**5-6**

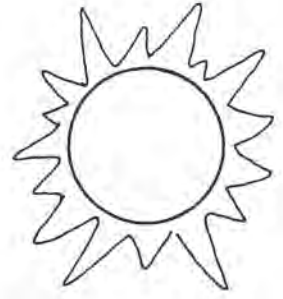
**Summer**

**Stay-on-Track  
PACK**

Compiled by Mary Rose

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# Welcome to the **Summer Stay-on-Track Pack!**



## Between Grades 5-6

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### Dear Families,

We hope your child will enjoy these delightful activities from Scholastic Teachables' website. Each page in this booklet has been especially selected to provide a review of the reading comprehension and math standards that your child's teacher likely covered in the past school year. Because this resource is designed to provide review and practice, we did not insert new concepts that you would have to introduce and explain to your child. There is great value to having your child practice and gain confidence on "secure skills."

We know that this material will be used in many ways: for children to play school, as rainy day fun, as serious "at-a-desk" lessons, and as independent work. We have suggested a week-by-week order, but you may choose to use the pages in any order that makes the most sense for you and your child. Because children have varied skills and school experiences, there are no strict guidelines for how much you should, or should not, help your child. The rule is to help as much as the child needs and to help where he or she needs it. Some pages will be quite easy; others will require some guidance. Students may need help in order to understand the directions. We have listed each standard and have provided a "Tip" to explain the standard or to offer a suggestion for further learning.

You may want to consider sending this completed booklet back to school in the fall. It will give your child's new teacher an idea of his or her skills and will help set the stage for upcoming instruction.

We wish you and your child a wonderful, fun, and productive summer!

**Mary Rose and the Editors at Scholastic Teachables**

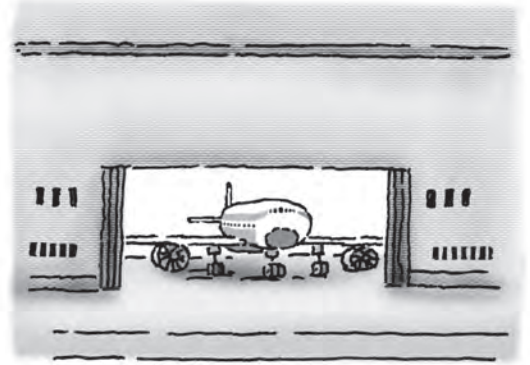


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

# Big Business

Where do you build the world's largest jet airliner? First, you have to put up the world's largest building. That's just what happened in Everett, Washington. An airplane factory there covers more than 98 acres under one roof. More than 75 NFL football fields could fit inside! More than 15 railcars a day deliver parts to the factory. Workers use overhead cranes and forklifts to assemble the large pieces. Buyers from all over the world purchase the finished airplanes.



1. The main idea of this paragraph is
  - (A) looking for the largest jet airliner.
  - (B) railcars deliver parts to the factory.
  - (C) the largest building is a jet factory.
  - (D) how to build airplanes indoors.
2. How big is the world's largest building? (Give two details)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is the world's largest building located?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
  - (A) only one plane is assembled at one time.
  - (B) cranes do most of the work in the factory.
  - (C) workers arrive at the factory by train.
  - (D) many parts are made in other places.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the texts. Then answer the questions.

# The Eating Habits of a Mosquito

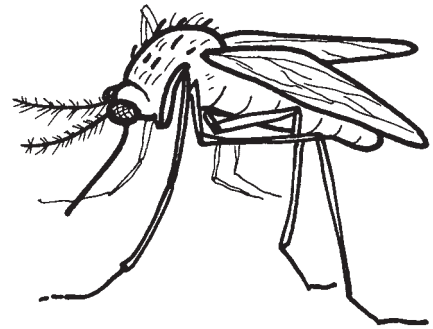
If you have ever been bitten by a mosquito, you can be sure it was a female. She was in search of blood. A female mosquito needs to feed on the blood of birds, reptiles, people, and other mammals. She uses the protein in the blood as nourishment while she is producing and laying eggs.

The male mosquito will never “bite” you. He feeds on flower nectar and other plant juices. It is from these sources that he gets all the food he needs.

## Ick! by Mary Rose

Buzz went the mosquito.  
Slap went the hand.  
Splat went the blood  
All over the sand.

One dead mosquito  
A female, I guess  
Looking for dinner  
But, oh what a mess!



1. What is the text structure of the first piece?

- (A) cause and effect                      (C) sequence  
(B) problem and solution                (D) description

2. How is the *structure* of second text different from the first?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What fact is mentioned in both pieces?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you learn in the first piece that you do not learn in the second?

\_\_\_\_\_

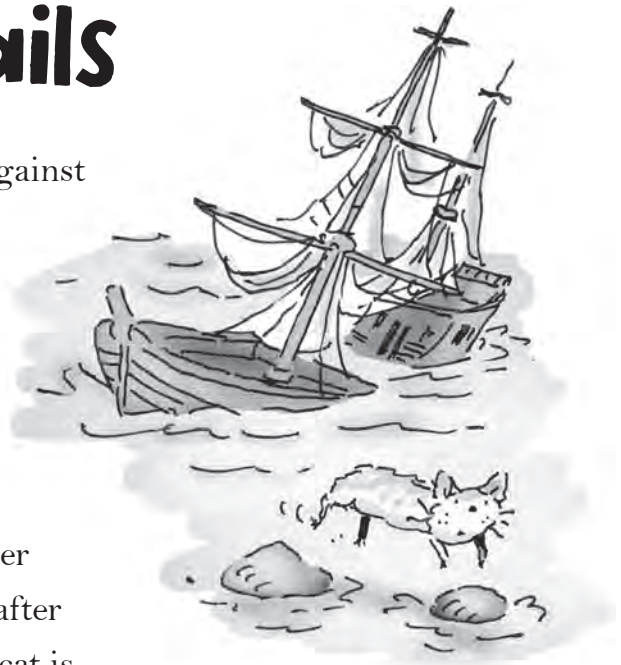
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

# A Tale of No Tails

In 1588, the Spanish **Armada** sailed to fight against England. The armada consisted of a fleet of 130 ships. Aboard one of these ships was a tailless cat. Her job was to catch mice. After a great naval battle that England **dominated**, the Spanish ships set sail for home. The cat's ship was wrecked near the Isle of Man. The nimble cat got ashore safely and lived there ever after. Her many descendants became known as Manx cats after the name of their island home. Today, the Manx cat is known for being tailless. It's a marvelous tale.



1. What is particular about a Manx cat?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was the Manx cat on a Spanish ship?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did the cat get off the ship on the Isle of Man?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is an **armada**?

\_\_\_\_\_

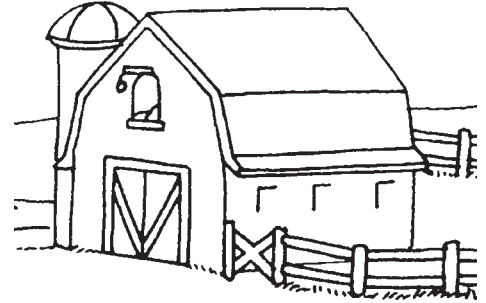
5. What is the meaning of the word **dominated**?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use the story to answer the following questions. Use an additional sheet of paper if needed.

# The Farm



Mark loved visiting his grandfather's farm. He loved his lone walks over the freshly plowed soil that seemed to be patiently waiting for the next planting season. Then another bounty of corn, cotton, and soybeans would spring forth. Grandfather's work would be justly rewarded again. His life was this farm. It was all he knew, except for baseball. Grandfather was one of the seven sons of Walter Baker. The Baker boys were expected to rise before dawn, feed animals, load hay barns, and oil tractors, all before breakfast and departing for school. After school, they had additional chores to tend to once homework and dinner were out of the way.

This was their life, and it was a good one. It provided the Baker family with all they needed for food and finances. It also provided the eight Baker boys with amazing physical strength for playing high school sports and rising to star status in a five-county area. Farm work was physical; it was hard and it was not usually done very fast. This meant strength, discipline, stamina, and focus were all deeply engrained in these young men, and their high school coaches loved it.

Mark's grandfather was the baseball star, while his seven brothers pursued other sports. They all were offered college scholarships. They all graduated with business or agriculture degrees, but they all returned to Airedale County as that was what they knew, and the majors meant too much travel and separation from family. That was not the Baker family style back then.

February was approaching and that meant decision time was getting close for Mark. Mark spent a great deal of time at the farm with Grandfather over the holidays. They spent hours talking about Mark's choices for college or professional baseball. Only two weeks earlier Mark had received a call from a scout for the Arizona Diamondbacks telling him of their interest in the upcoming draft. Mark was flabbergasted. He was giddy with the whole idea of being a professional baseball player. This complicated his decision making, but he knew with Grandfather's wisdom and Baker family values, the ultimate decision would be one he would never regret. Life as a Baker boy playing baseball would be great. And after baseball, there was another field waiting for him, too, ready for a planting.

1. Describe Mark's grandfather. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What sport is shared by the boy and the grandfather? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did life on the farm help Mark's grandfather? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is living in Airedale during the setting of this story? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What decision is Mark facing? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

# A President Preserves

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1883–1945) loved trees. As a boy, he took great interest in his family’s land in Hyde Park, New York. He learned the importance of preserving the land. Later, as president, he created job programs for unemployed people in the field of **conservation**. During the early 1930s, **catastrophic** dust storms had stripped away valuable soil in the Great Plains. Roosevelt’s programs taught farmers how to protect the soil and how to plant trees as windbreaks to keep the soil from blowing away.



1. What three things does this passage tell you that Franklin D. Roosevelt learned as a child?

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2. How did what he learned affect his decisions as president?

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3. What is the meaning of the word **conservation** in this text?

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4. What is the meaning of the word **catastrophic** in this text?

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

# Friend of the Everglades

Marjory Stoneman Douglas was the heroine of the Everglades, a **unique** environment in Florida.

Many animals make their home in this wetland region.

Nevertheless, for years the Everglades were being drained off for buildings and roads. The water was polluted. So Douglas wrote a book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*. In it she explained why the Everglades were important and should be protected. In 1969, Douglas started an organization called Friends of the Everglades.

The Friends kept an airport from being built there!



1. Which phrase best reflects the writer's point of view?
  - A. annoyed by the work of Douglas
  - B. uninterested in the fate of the Everglades
  - C. impressed by the efforts of Douglas
2. In this paragraph, the word **unique** means
  - A. unexceptional.
  - B. valuable.
  - C. one of a kind.
  - D. unfamiliar.
3. Which word would most likely *not* describe Marjory Stoneman Douglas?
  - A. determined
  - B. involved
  - C. careless
  - D. concerned
4. The main idea of this paragraph is
  - A. the work of Marjory Stoneman Douglas.
  - B. the animals in the Everglades.
  - C. how building polluted the Everglades.
  - D. a special environment in Florida.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story and answer the questions.

# Theodore Roosevelt: The Trust Buster



Theodore Roosevelt was the twenty-sixth President of the United States. He was an active reformer. One of his reforms dealt with preventing companies from forming trusts. A trust was created when businesses joined together to form large monopolies. Roosevelt was not against big business, but he wanted the government to have the power to make sure that big businesses acted fairly. He realized that the number of trusts were rapidly increasing. The problem with a trust was that they would put pressure on smaller businesses to either join the trust or face the possibility of going out of business. Sometimes the trusts would also agree to raise prices on their goods. Consumers, in turn, would have to pay more for these companies' products.

During Roosevelt's presidency, the government began to file suit against these large trusts, charging that a trust's goal was to force smaller companies out of business and reduce competition. For this reason, some people called him a "trust buster." Roosevelt claimed that he did not want to break apart trusts. He only wanted to ensure that they acted in a fair manner.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)

- (A) Roosevelt was a champion for small businesses.
- (B) Roosevelt was a champion for big businesses.
- (C) Roosevelt wanted businesses to operate in a fair manner.

2. What is a trust?

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3. What did trusts do that Roosevelt did not approve of?

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4. What was Roosevelt's intention in having the government sue the trusts?

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5. Do you agree with Roosevelt's actions? Why or why not?

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## Directions

Read the passage. Choose the best answer to each question.

**HINT:** To make judgments about a passage, think about *why* the author wrote it.

# Save the Wilbur

Mayor Nichols has talked about tearing down the Wilbur Hotel to make room for a parking garage. This is a terrible idea! The Wilbur is an important part of our town's history. We should preserve it instead of tearing it down.

Today the Wilbur is empty and boarded up, but it was once the loveliest building on Main Street. The hotel had comfortable rooms and a terrific restaurant. Famous people, including two presidential candidates, stayed there. Our town was proud of the Wilbur.

Is the Wilbur doomed for sure? Not if concerned citizens can find a way to restore and reopen it. If you think the Wilbur should be saved, make sure Mayor Nichols hears from you!



**HINT:** To find a fact, look for a statement that can be proven true.

**A** Which action taken by the mayor would please the author most?

- (A) building a new hotel beside the new parking garage
- (B) inviting famous people to visit the town
- (C) tearing down the Wilbur to build a gasoline station
- (D) finding a different location for the parking garage

**B** Which idea from the passage is a fact?

- (F) Tearing down the Wilbur Hotel is a terrible idea.
- (G) The Wilbur Hotel should be preserved.
- (H) The Wilbur Hotel is empty and boarded up.
- (J) The Wilbur Hotel was once the loveliest building in town.

**C** The author mentions that two presidential candidates stayed at the Wilbur as evidence to support the idea that

- (A) citizens should vote.
- (B) the Wilbur was a fine hotel.
- (C) the town is famous.
- (D) the Wilbur had lots of rooms.

**D** Look at the underlined part of the sentence. Choose the answer that shows the correct capitalization and punctuation of the underlined part.

The Wilbur Hotel was owned by Mr and mrs Bernard.

- (F) Mr and Mrs Bernard
- (G) Mr. and mrs. Bernard
- (H) Mr. and Mrs. Bernard
- (J) Correct as it is

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

# The Talking Dog

Kerry was driving through Montana and stopped at a diner. A sign in the window read “Talking Dog for Sale.” She took a seat at the empty counter.

“Do you have a talking dog for sale?” she asked the man behind the counter.

“I do indeed,” he replied, and he whistled.

“Over here, Max!”

A hound scampered over to Kerry and sat on the stool beside her.

“Can you talk?” she asked.

“Sure,” said Max. “I speak so well that I have worked for the United States government. Sometimes I used to curl up in the corner and listen to the conversations of the enemies of this great country. They thought I was just a dumb dog, but back in the office I could tell the generals and heads of state every word that I had overheard.”

“Wow!” Kerry exclaimed to the man. “Max is amazing. How much do you want for him?”

“Ten dollars.”

“Ten dollars! Why so cheap?” inquired Kerry.

“Why? He’s a liar!” said the man. “He’s never been anywhere. He spends all his time here in the diner, sleeping and snoring in one of my booths!”



1. What did Kerry notice outside the diner?

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2. Explain how the illustration matches the story.

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3. How did Max say he had helped the government?

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4. Why is the ending of this story funny?

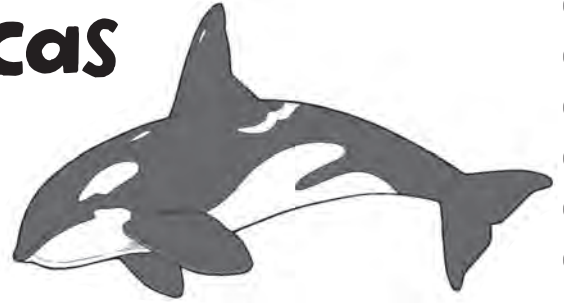
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story and answer the questions.

# Learning About Orcas

Orcas, also known as “killer whales,” live their whole lives in the same family group called a pod. A mother can give birth to a calf every two years. The mother nurses and protects the young calf. Each member of the pod is committed to protecting the group.



Orcas have no vocal chords but make sounds through their blowholes. The blowhole allows the animal to whistle. Pod members are in constant communication, and since each whale’s “whistle” is unique, the pod can tell who is “calling.” The whistle is also used as a distress signal. Orcas also make clicks and “click trains” when talking.

When an orca sends out a signal, the pod listens in silence. When the first “speaker” has completed his or her “talking,” another pod member will respond. Only the pod leader can “talk over” the signal of another pod member.

It is not unusual for these animals to reach a length of 40 feet and a weight in excess of 15,000 pounds. A tuna fisherman in the Southeast Pacific reported witnessing a pod of 15 orcas surrounding a school of dolphins. The orcas swam in ever-tightening circles around the dolphins. Suddenly, one orca left the circle and swam straight through the dolphin school, biting and chewing on anything it hit. Within minutes each orca followed the same tactic. After striking, each orca would return to the circle thereby keeping the dolphins trapped.

Orcas rarely hurt humans unless provoked. For this reason, marine parks the world over feature them. The orcas are fast learners in captivity. A newly captured orca is placed with already trained animals and soon learns all of the tricks. Trainers must keep ahead of them because the animals quickly become bored with the same tricks and begin to invent new tricks on their own.

1. An orca calf, at birth—
  - (A) stays with the pod only until it is grown.
  - (B) lives by feeding on whatever it can catch.
  - (C) is nursed by its mother.
  - (D) leaves its mother and swims with the pod.
2. In the example from the story, when the orcas hunted the dolphins, they—
  - (A) kept circling until the dolphins tired.
  - (B) hunted in a group.
  - (C) ate their prey once they drew blood.
  - (D) hunted on their own.
3. Scientists who study orcas’ communication have discovered that—
  - (A) orcas are silent most of the time.
  - (B) pods have strict rules for “talking.”
  - (C) they love “talking” so much they often talk over each other.
  - (D) their single method of “talking” is to make a whistling through their blowholes.
4. Orcas in captivity—
  - (A) learn very slowly.
  - (B) create all of their own tricks.
  - (C) are easily amused.
  - (D) quickly learn routines and tricks.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

# I Hate Bugs



I hate bugs.  
I hate their creepy, crawly  
six-leggedness.  
I hate their antennae  
Always probing and waving around  
Like they are threatening me.

I hate bugs.  
I hate the way they hide  
And appear right when  
you least expect them,  
Dropping out of a tree  
Or sniggling out of a closet.

I hate bugs.  
I hate the screechy  
loud sounds they make  
In the day

And especially in the night.  
I hate the way they stare at me  
And skitter across the floor,  
Daring me to stomp on them.

But one bug is beautiful,  
Small, and gentle,  
Giving a soft glow.  
He friendlies up the darkest night  
And makes me less afraid  
Of what might be lurking in the shadows.

The little firefly can crawl on my hand  
And I am delighted.  
He makes me happy with his yellow light.  
He is my darkness friend.  
I don't hate this bug at all.

1. All of these words could be used to describe a theme of the poem: *fear*, *disgust*, *appreciation*. Choose the one you think best represents the theme and write a sentence explaining your choice.

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2. What words does the speaker of the poem use to describe the firefly? What do these words show about her feelings toward fireflies?

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## Figuratively Speaking



**Metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, and oxymorons** are examples of figurative language.

- A simile makes a comparison between two unlike things, using **like** or **as**.  
**Example:** She was quiet as a mouse.
- A metaphor makes a comparison between two unlike things, without using **like** or **as**.  
**Example:** The road was a ribbon of moonlight.
- A personification gives human characteristics and qualities to nonhuman things, like animals, nature, and objects.  
**Example:** The moon peeked through the clouds and smiled down on us.
- A hyperbole is an exaggerated statement used to heighten the effect.  
**Example:** The ice-cream sundae had toppings that were a mile high.
- An oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines normally contradictory terms.  
**Example:** “Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow.” – *Romeo and Juliet*

Circle the answer that best describes each example of figurative language.

- Johnny was white as a ghost.**  
A. metaphor      B. simile      C. personification      D. oxymoron
- Santos looked so sad . . . like a candle with the flame gone.**  
A. metaphor      B. personification      C. simile      D. hyperbole
- Flaming ice**  
A. simile      B. oxymoron      C. metaphor      D. personification
- She’s so happy, she’s walking on clouds.**  
A. oxymoron      B. simile      C. hyperbole      D. metaphor
- When he gets sick, my father is a big baby.**  
A. metaphor      B. personification      C. oxymoron      D. hyperbole
- The ground rushed up to meet me very suddenly.**  
A. metaphor      B. personification      C. hyperbole      D. simile

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story and answer the questions.

# Colonists Come to America

After Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492, many people wanted to come live in the new land. Many Europeans left their countries and settled along the Atlantic Coast of North America between Florida and Canada. Some people came to make a better life for themselves. Other people, especially the Pilgrims, Puritans and Quakers, came to gain religious freedom.



The London Company, a group of men who sought out gold and other types of riches, came to America in hopes of finding wealth in the new land. This group of men asked the king of England for land in America. They also asked for permission to establish a colony. Upon arrival in America, the London Company founded Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America. It was founded in 1607. This group eventually purchased ships and supplies and began relocating people who wanted to move to and settle in America.

A voyage to America took about eight weeks and was dangerous. Fierce winds would often blow the ships off course. Many ships would end up shipwrecked. The ships were also often crowded and dirty. Many passengers on these voyages became ill and some even died. Upon arrival in America, life did not become any easier. There were many hardships to face because much of the land was covered with dense forests.

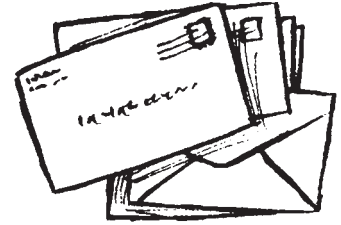
1. About how long did it take colonists to travel to America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name three groups of people who came to America in search of religious freedom.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was the London Company originally formed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why was a voyage to America dangerous?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think it would be difficult to arrive in a new country with most of the land covered with dense forests?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the letters. Then answer the questions.

# Letters from Camp

by Mary Rose



Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you so much for sending me to this wonderful camp! I love sleeping in the cabins because it is just one big room and everyone is in bunk beds. We stay awake late at night talking and giggling and telling stories.

The best activities here are swimming in the lake, (It has MUD on the bottom and fish go around my legs!), archery (I hit the bull's eye once today!), and crafts. Today I made three bracelets and gave two of them to my new friends.

I miss you and daddy and Fido, but I love it here and wish it would last more than a week.

Your happy camper!  
Emily

Dear Mom and Dad,

I am trying very hard to like this camp, but really, I do prefer a nice clean pool. Here we swim in a LAKE! I can't even see my feet and there are things swimming around my legs. ICK!

And you didn't tell me that I would have to share a room with 15 other girls! I am surrounded by gigglers who don't get quiet until at least 11 when the camp counselor makes them stop.

I did have a good time with the crafts, though. I made a couple of potholders and a pretty bracelet.

Next year can we just go to a motel as a family?

I miss you terribly,  
Margaret

1. What activities did these girls do that were the same?

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2. On what issue do Emily and Margaret agree?

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3. How was Margaret's point of view different from Emily's?

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4. Which camper do you think might be homesick?

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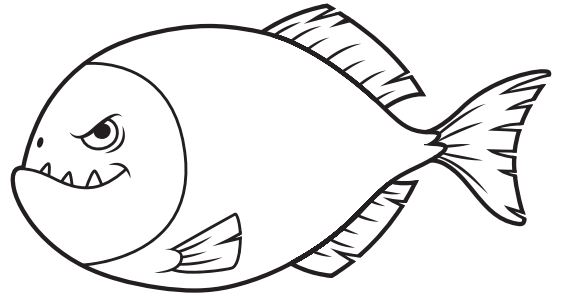


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

# What's for Lunch?

Have you ever heard of a fish called a caribe? These blood-thirsty fish are more commonly known as piranhas. These South American natives live in the mighty Amazon River. Piranhas range in size from as small as four inches to as large as 18 inches in length. Animal and human life along the Amazon are terrorized by vicious schools of piranhas. A single school may include more than a thousand fish. Scientists believe that for their size, piranhas are more dangerous than sharks. With their razor-sharp teeth, they can strip the flesh from the carcass of any animal down to its skeleton in a matter of minutes. Approximately 20 different varieties of piranhas have been identified. Gold or red spots on bluish-gray, green, or yellow bodies are the most common varieties of the caribe.



Read each statement below. If it is true, write **T**. If it is false, write **F**.

1. All piranhas are green. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Piranhas are native to North America. \_\_\_\_\_
3. They terrorize animal life. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Schools can number in the thousands. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Piranhas have razor-sharp teeth. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Piranhas are not as dangerous as sharks. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Another name for this fish is caribe. \_\_\_\_\_
8. There are roughly 20 varieties of piranhas. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The piranha is an endangered fish. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Piranhas can have spots. \_\_\_\_\_

Provide three details from the text that support the idea that piranhas are dangerous fish.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passage. Then fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

## A Trash Collector's Work Is Never Done

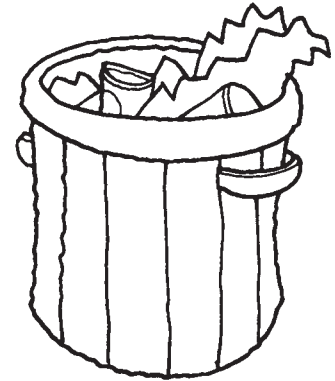
Brian Kane was a trash collector in Denver, Colorado. Eight hours a day, five days a week, fifty weeks a year, he rode on the back of a garbage truck. At each stop, he would jog quickly to the back of buildings, then drag heavy trash cans to the truck. Brian never complained.

Brian saw these hardships as opportunities to become strong and fit. His job was a training ground for his lifelong dream: to climb Mount Everest. On his thirtieth birthday, Brian took a leave from his job and flew to Nepal to begin the long, difficult journey up Mount Everest.

Brian first climbed to a base camp. He planned to bring three oxygen canisters with him to the summit. At 29,028 feet, it would be hard to survive without extra oxygen. Over the next two months, Brian climbed to 26,000 feet, to Camp Four—the last place to rest below the summit. But when Brian saw this camp, he gasped and fell to his knees.

"Trash!" he cried. Nearly a thousand empty oxygen canisters littered the camp area. Humans had turned this beautiful, remote place into a giant trash heap. Sad, but determined, Brian continued to follow his dream. Two days later he stood proudly on the peak of Mt. Everest. He had reached the "roof of the world!"

Two days after this great achievement, Brian stuffed a dozen empty oxygen canisters in his pack and headed down the mountain. He smiled to himself as he realized that the work of a trash collector is never done.



1. How does Brian feel about his job as a trash collector?

- (A) He does not like his job.
- (B) He hates the smell of garbage.
- (C) He likes to work outside and to be in shape.
- (D) He always complains about the hard work.

2. Why did Brian drop to his knees when he saw the pile of trash on Mount Everest?

- (A) He missed his job as a trash collector.
- (B) He was so tired he could not stand.
- (C) He realized that pollution and trash are everywhere.
- (D) He wanted to see how many oxygen canisters there were.

3. Use a properly punctuated direct quote from the text to tell what Brian called the top of Mount Everest.

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4. Why did Brian carry twelve empty oxygen canisters down the mountain?

- (A) He believed even small efforts are important in keeping the Earth clean.
- (B) He thought they are valuable.
- (C) He planned to organize a party.
- (D) He needed to fill the canisters.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story and answer the questions.

# Tall Tales



Many types of stories, such as myths and fables, began in Europe and Asia, but the tall tale is a completely American invention. Perhaps you have heard of some of the most famous tall tales - Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox, Rip Van Winkle or Pecos Bill. What do all of these characters have in common? All of the characters were honorable heroes and fought on the side of good. For example, Pecos Bill was thought to have lassoed a cyclone to save his neighbors. Early American settlers did not have televisions or radios. For entertainment, they sat around campfires spinning, or making up, tall tales. Later, they would tell their children and grandchildren the stories, always exaggerating just a little bit. It was not important for these stories to be historically correct. It was only important that they were fun. Next time you hear a tall tale, remember that these “yarns” had their start in America.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)

- A You cannot believe a tall tale.
- B Tall tales began in America.
- C Myths and fables began in Europe and Asia.

2. Why was Pecos Bill considered a hero?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you were telling a “yarn,” you might be accused of: (Circle the answer)

- A exaggerating the details of a story
- B telling the truth
- C telling only your side of a story

4. What characteristics do the heroes of tall tales share?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you rather watch TV or sit around a campfire making up stories with friends and family? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

# Telling About Tigers

Tigers are the biggest members of the cat family. These magnificent cats are solitary animals and need a large territory in which to hunt. They mark their territory with urine so that other tigers are warned away. Tigers track their prey in silence and then pounce for the kill. A tiger can eat 40 pounds of meat in one meal. Unfortunately, tiger habitats have been destroyed in many parts of Asia, their homeland. Scientists think there may be only 3,000 to 6,000 tigers left in the wild. These mighty animals are close to **extinction**. It is such a shame.



1. Which phrase best reflects the writer's point of view?
  - A. regretful about the loss of tigers
  - B. joyful about the habitat of tigers
  - C. curious about the fate of tigers
2. From this paragraph, you can conclude that
  - A. tigers need to change their habits to save themselves.
  - B. tiger habitats need to be preserved to save tigers.
  - C. tigers should start hunting in groups.
  - D. tigers should learn to eat less food.
3. Write *fact* or *opinion* next to each sentence.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ A. These mighty animals are close to extinction.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ B. Tigers are the biggest members of the cat family.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ C. It is such a shame.
4. In this paragraph, the word **extinction** means
  - A. dying out.
  - B. extending.
  - C. exercising.
  - D. overeating.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story. Think about the ways the two friends are mismatched.

# Mismatched Friends

Crab and Snail were unlikely friends. Snail was slow and always lagged behind Crab. Snail offered, "You lead the way whilst I watch your back and warn you of danger, like friends do." Crab rolled his eyes, but accepted the arrangement.

One day Crab invited Snail to explore a nearby sandy beach, but Snail wisely refused Crab's offer. His mother had warned him that there were hungry seagulls on the beach, just looking for a snail dinner.

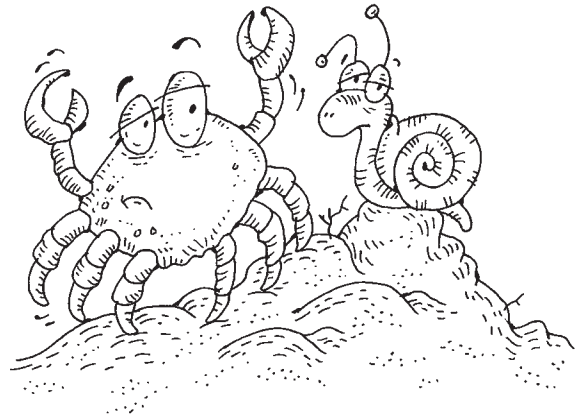
Crab mocked his friend. "Be brave! You walk in front and I'll watch your back and warn you of danger." Trusting Crab's friendship, Snail accepted.

Snail relaxed and explored. He was so excited he didn't realize that he was on the beach alone. When Snail turned to thank Crab for his wonderful adventure, he saw a seagull diving right toward him. Snail froze with fear, but the bird scooped him up and flew off.

And where was Crab? He was hiding. He had not warned Snail. He had simply saved himself by hiding in a hole he had dug in the sand.

After dark, Crab dashed from the hole to tell Mama Snail about her son—but out popped Snail! "How did you escape?" asked Crab.

"She-Gull brought me home instead of eating me. She told me to listen to my mother when she warns me about danger—and to find better friends."



1. What did Snail do to be a friend to Crab?

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2. What did Crab NOT do for Snail?

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3. What cowardly thing did Crab do and why did he do it?

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4. Write a sentence (or two) to compare the characters of Snail and Crab.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Solving Two-Step Equations

Solve for  $x$ . Draw a line to match each answer on the left with one on the right.

**LEFT**

**RIGHT**

1.  $3x - 6 = 24$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

A.  $10x - 50 = 50$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $2x + 9 = 33$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

B.  $9x + 14 = 77$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

3.  $5x - 7 = 13$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

C.  $2x - 1 = 3$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $10x + 18 = 38$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

D.  $3x - 24 = 0$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

5.  $4x - 5 = 23$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

E.  $11x + 20 = 119$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

6.  $5x - 4 = 41$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

F.  $7x + 12 = 40$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

7.  $4x + 10 = 30$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

G.  $3x + 5 = 41$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

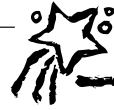
8.  $9x + 8 = 80$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

H.  $8x - 10 = 30$       $x =$  \_\_\_\_\_

## TRIPLE MATCH Challenge

Greg's brother Pete is three years more than twice as old as him. The sum of their ages is 30. How old is Greg? \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the answers that match above.



# Crack! Splat!



When you want readers to “hear” something you are describing, you can use words that imitate the sound it makes. This use of words is called **onomatopoeia**.

**The teakettle hissed as the water came to a boil.  
As the blazing campfire crackled, it warmed the chilled campers.  
Everyone buzzed with excitement as they awaited the president’s arrival.**



What comes to your mind when you read aloud each word listed below? Add to the following list of words that imitate sounds. Answer these questions to get started. What does your stomach do when you are hungry? What does a glass do when it breaks? What do high-heeled shoes do on a marble floor? What does falling rain do on a tin roof?

- tick tock \_\_\_\_\_
- hum \_\_\_\_\_
- fizz \_\_\_\_\_
- zoom \_\_\_\_\_
- meow \_\_\_\_\_
- ding dong \_\_\_\_\_



Use onomatopoeia to complete each of the following sentences. Try to use some of the words from your list.

1. The dried leaves \_\_\_\_\_ underfoot as we walked through the woods.
2. The subway \_\_\_\_\_ to a stop as it pulled into the station.
3. The cat’s sharp claws \_\_\_\_\_ the upholstery to shreds.
4. The racing car \_\_\_\_\_ by at 140 miles per hour.
5. The well-oiled machine \_\_\_\_\_ quietly in the background.
6. When I opened the bottle of soda, it \_\_\_\_\_ in my face.
7. The windows \_\_\_\_\_ noisily as the wind grew stronger.
8. Some of the floorboards and wooden steps in our house are loose, so they \_\_\_\_\_ when you walk on them.
9. The siren \_\_\_\_\_, warning both drivers and pedestrians along the busy street to make a path for the approaching ambulance.
10. We \_\_\_\_\_ for air as smoke filled the room.



Think of a scene, such as the morning after a heavy snowfall, an approaching thunderstorm, or a walk down a busy city street. Use onomatopoeia to develop the scene so that the readers will hear the sounds. Then ask a friend or family member to read your writing and identify the onomatopoeia you used.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Based on what you've read, circle the letter with the best answer for each question.

# Monopoly on Atlantic City

**Atlantic City, N.J.**—Times are tough. Jobs are scarce. Money is tight. That's why people are going wild about the new game, Monopoly.

Monopoly lets you live in a make-believe world full of money. Go to Baltic Avenue and put up a new house. Go to Marvin Gardens and buy four new houses there, too. Go to Park Place and buy a new hotel. With Monopoly money, even a poor person can be a tycoon. He or she can become rich and powerful.

Monopoly is the brainchild of Charles Darrow, a salesman. He used to come to Atlantic City on holiday. Then hard times began. Darrow lost his job. But he still had his imagination.

With no job, he had lots of free time. He used it to create a game. He called it Monopoly because the word means "the complete control of something." Places on the game board are named for streets in Atlantic City.

At first, Darrow made the game boards himself. But he couldn't make enough. Too many people wanted them. They loved playing Monopoly. It made them feel wealthy and daring, even if just for the moment.

This year, Darrow sold his game. Now it will be made by a company named Parker Brothers. Let's hope they can make enough!



1. People loved playing Monopoly because
  - (A) it let them pretend they had money.
  - (B) the game was long and boring.
  - (C) it was about a place for vacations.
  - (D) the game cost a lot of money.
2. Why was it unusual for people to be buying houses and hotels in 1935?
  - (A) There was nothing for sale.
  - (B) There was no land to build on.
  - (C) Atlantic City didn't exist.
  - (D) People didn't have money to spend.
3. Why was Monopoly so popular back in 1935?
  - (A) People were tired of the same old games.
  - (B) Atlantic City was a popular vacation spot.
  - (C) Many people were poor then but they could play at being a rich tycoon.
  - (D) They wanted to have a board game made by Charles Darrow.
4. Where did the names Park Place and Marvin Gardens come from?
  - (A) They are places found in Atlantic City.
  - (B) They do not exist anywhere.
  - (C) They are places in Darrow's hometown.
  - (D) They are names found in many cities.
5. Why did Charles Darrow sell his game to Parker Brothers?
  - (A) He couldn't make enough game boards.
  - (B) The company loved playing the game.
  - (C) He had to move to another city.
  - (D) He wanted to invent a new game.
6. Why was the game named Monopoly?
  - (A) Charles Darrow probably wanted complete control of it.
  - (B) The object of the game was to own everything.
  - (C) Charles Darrow was rich.
  - (D) He wanted to invent a new game.

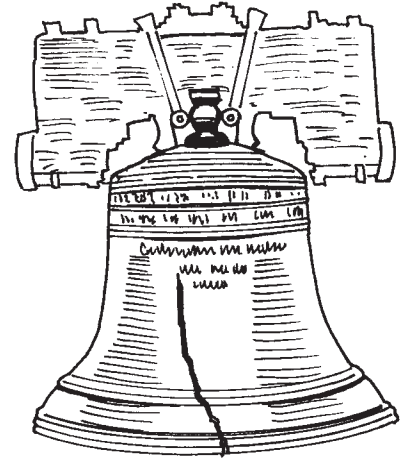


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story and answer the questions.

# The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The bell was first rung on July 8, 1776 to announce the adoption and the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Founding Fathers of our country. Inscribed on the Liberty Bell are the words, "Proclaim Liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." The original name of the bell was the Province Bell. The name was changed to the Liberty Bell after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was rung every year on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence until 1835, when the bell broke. Now a ceremony is held near the Liberty Bell to honor the anniversary, but the bell is not rung.



There was one special occasion when the bell was rung. On June 6, 1944, when the Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in France on D-Day, officials again rang the bell. Thousands of tourists still view the Liberty Bell every year when visiting Philadelphia.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)  
 (A) The Liberty Bell is an important part of the history of the United States.  
 (B) Philadelphia is the home of the Liberty Bell.  
 (C) The Liberty Bell has been damaged.
2. A word that means "the annual or yearly commemoration of an event" is? (Circle the answer)  
 (A) occasion  
 (B) anniversary  
 (C) officials

3. What event occurred on July 8, 1776?

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4. By what name was the Liberty Bell first known?

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5. For what one event was the Liberty Bell rung after 1835?

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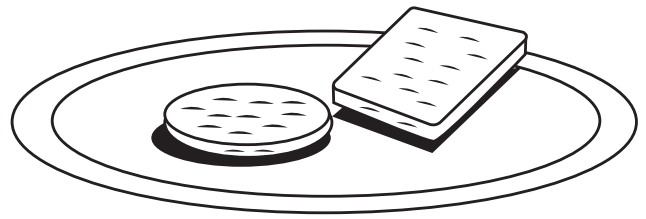
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Read the folk tale. Then answer the questions.

# Two Rice Cakes

by Martin Lee and Marcia Miller (abridged)



When Hung-Vuong was king, the people believed that the sky was round and the earth was square. Hung-Vuong had twenty-two sons. One day he called his sons to him. He said, “I am old. I need an heir. So there will be a contest. Each of you shall travel our land. You shall find a food special enough to please me. The prince whose dish is best shall become king. You have until spring.”

Hung-Vuong secretly hoped that the quest would teach the princes about the land one of them would rule, but he said nothing. All of the princes left to seek the perfect food—that is, all except the youngest son. He went home to his wife and children. Tiet-Lieu was unlike his brothers. He was not a poet, a hunter or a warrior. He was a rice farmer.

In the spring, the princes returned to offer the king their special foods. One prince made fish with wild mushrooms; another presented roasted peacock on flower petals; a third offered shrimp in ginger.

Then Tiet-Lieu came forward. He served the king a modest offering of one square rice cake and one round one. At last the king decided. “The highest honor goes to Tiet-Lieu. His food was pure because he grew the rice himself and used water from our land. His helpers were his own family. Tiet-Lieu understands our people.” The emperor and twenty-one princes bowed to Tiet-Lieu, the new king.

1. What problem did the king have?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How was Tiet-Lieu unlike his brothers?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did the rice cakes impress the king?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do the first and last paragraphs of this story have in common?

\_\_\_\_\_