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YESTERDAY, you said : 'TOMORROW' well, Then the time is now!

Do not give up , the beginning is always the hardest...

There is no next time . It's now or never

Chapter 1

The Weekend Market

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

Many tourists I have met have told me that one place they have to go is the weekend market. This market is huge and has everything from bags, souvenirs and handicrafts to many kinds of animal and many kinds of plants. It also has a fantastic variety of local food. In other words, the weekend market is a great place for shopping and experiencing the local culture.

The market is located near the city's main bus station so people come from all over the country to buy and sell goods. Moreover, it is also near a sky train station and a subway station which makes it very convenient for city people, especially young people who don't have cars. The market is very large and full of hundreds of small shops and stalls. Consequently, it can be confusing to get around. However, if you get lost, it is a good idea to look for the clock tower which is right in the middle of the market. It will help you Find your way.

When I walk into the market early on a Sunday morning there are people and cars and motorcycles everywhere. You have to be careful where you walk. Many people are bringing their goods to sell in big bags on carts and trolleys. In fact, you might even have to jump out of the sellers' way as they charge along the narrow walkways with their goods. In addition to the sellers, tourists and locals are pouring in looking for something to eat or ready to start shopping. As time goes by, the market gets more and more crowded and you have to start squeezing past people to keep moving.

As you walk through the market you will experience many sensations. For example, there are many smells, scents and aromas. One moment you will be smelling the aromas of stir-fried cooking dishes from a small restaurant and the next you smell the scents of orchids and other flowers as you pass through the cooler and more relaxing garden section. Furthermore, walking deeper into the market, your eyes will have trouble recording so many products with their many colors, designs and sizes. After a while you may feel dizzy and look for a quiet place to have a rest and a refreshing drink. Fortunately, there are many small cafes and drink stalls selling fresh coconut juice, orange juice or iced water.

To sum up, a day at the weekend market is both a day of shopping and a unique experience for your senses. It is a kind of magical journey that is great as a first experience for tourists and an escape from daily life for locals. Moreover, while it is usually hot and crowded, the atmosphere is friendly and good-natured.

1 Why is the weekend market a great place to go on the weekend ?

2 Why can the market be confusing ?

3 How might you feel when walking through the crowded parts of the market ?

4 What do you have to be careful about as you walk through the market ?

5 Why is the market described as a “magical journey” ?

First Day at University

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

What important days in your life do you remember? I remember my first day at university very clearly. I felt excited and happy. At the same time I was very nervous because I didn't know anyone. However, my first day at university was memorable. At first, I was confused and lost. I didn't know where to go. I had to ask a stranger where the first year students were going to meet. This person was very polite and showed me the way. I walked through some big buildings, and when I arrived I saw many students and I felt scared.

After a while, I told myself to be braver. I asked one girl what was happening and we discovered that we were in the same group. We introduced ourselves. Her name was May. We joined in with the activities for "freshie" students. Soon, I started feeling much better. The activities helped me feel part of a team and I was beginning to feel that I had become a university student.

Later, we began our classes. However, all our classmates were quiet. The teacher talked for a while and then we introduced ourselves. I met two girls. Their names were June and Apple. Soon we became good friends and started chatting and learnt more about each other. Although we came from different provinces we had a lot in common. We spent the rest of the day together until we had to go home.

I am always going to remember that day because I had the opportunity to meet many people. Most importantly, I met the best friends that I have ever had. Finally, I think that it is natural that on the first day at university we feel nervous, but often difficult experiences have happy endings. That's why I say that my first day in the university was very memorable.

1 How did the student feel at the beginning of the first day at university ?

2 When did the student's first day start to improve ?

3 What do you think was the best thing that happened to the student on this day ?

4 Do you think the writer is male or female ? Why ?

5 Do you think this person went on to be a successful student ? Explain?

High school students and university students

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

Education is very important for society. It is very important in the development of the individual, too. However, there are many methods of learning and ways to develop students' skills, so it's very difficult to work out which are the best paths to educational success. Nothing demonstrates this more than the differences between the lifestyles of high school students and university students.

First of all, high school students just have to follow the rules and obey their teachers. In contrast, university students have more responsibilities than high school students. They have to be more independent and make decisions by themselves. For example, they have to manage their schedules and do assignments.

Second, high school students usually have more fun than university students. Their lives are not so serious. They are more carefree and they do more fun activities. University students, however, often don't have much free time. And they are more stressed because their exams are more serious.

Finally, high school students often live in a small, narrow world. They usually go to school with people similar to themselves. They live similar lives and think alike. No one challenges their ideas. University students, on the other hand, mix with a wider range of people. They meet different kinds of people. They have to start to learn to live in the real world. As a consequence, most university students become more open minded.

In conclusion, it seems clear that different educational situations and environments suit different age groups. Is this really true ? Or do we just rely on ideas handed down from earlier generations? Perhaps, we need to try and pick the best features of the lifestyles of high school students and university students. Then we might be able to create better educational systems for the 21st century.

1 What is a problem with creating an effective education system ?

2 What are some positive qualities that students learn at university ?

3 What are the benefits of being a high school student ?

4 What are 2 weaknesses of the high school students' lifestyles ?

5 Why do we need to look at the advantages of each kind of student's lifestyle ?

What effect has technology had on our lives ?

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

The twenty--first century is already turning out to be the century of advanced technologies. The technological revolution that started after the Second World War is now developing more quickly and computing and other technological advances are beginning to reach into and influence and take over nearly every aspect of our lives. The two main effects advanced computing has had on our lives are in the areas of economics and communications.

Technology has led to big changes in economic and business systems and operations . Businesses now have to be using cloud services or machine learning or risk failure. Consequently, every big corporation bases its operations on computing, regardless of which sector they are in. For instance, Coca Cola, the BBC and Levi's market and sell different products and services, yet they all share one basic property – without advanced computing services their operations would collapse. New technologies are a generator of economic dynamism. China and India and many other developing countries have large IT sectors which drive their economies. Furthermore, the more advanced economies, including Germany, the United States, Japan and Korea are moving from an industrial—based economy to a computing and IT--based one.

The other important effect of technological change is the revolutionizing of communication For example, in the past, people wrote letters or talked on phones on fixed landlines, which slowed down the communication process. Now they send e--mail, text or chat using mobile devices. Instead of waiting weeks for a letter or spending time finding a landline , we can communicate instantly in real time or seconds after a message or email has been sent. New forms of communication are cheaper or free. As a result, now people who live thousands of kilometres away from each other can communicate as much as they want and whenever they want .

In conclusion, computing and new technologies have had a profound effect on our lives in many ways and it is in business and communication that they have had the greatest influence. In the future, if technology continues evolving at such speed, our business practices and methods of communication will undergo even greater changes. It is already starting to bring changes to other parts of our lives, such as transportation and health.

1 What two parts of our lives has computing changed ?

2 Can you give an example of how computing is important in business ?

3 What might happen to a company if it didn't keep up with technological advances ?

4 Why is it easier to communicate with people in other parts of the world now than in the past ?

5 Which two parts of our lives will be affected by new technologies in the future ? Can you think of your own example for each?

Christiane Amanpour

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

If you watch TV anywhere in the world, you are probably familiar with the face of Christiane Amanpour. She is one of the world's most successful international news reporters. She has reported from so many countries and on so many issues that she is more famous than many movie or music celebrities.

Christiane Amanpour was born in 1958 in London. Her father is Iranian and her mother is British. Because of her mixed cultural heritage, she learned to speak English, Persian and French. She

became famous after she started working for CNN, the first global news network. Newsweek magazine wrote that Amanpour " helped establish CNN as must--see for world leaders".

While working for CNN, Amanpour quickly earned a reputation for high quality journalism. She was also known for her bravery. She was always in the world's newsmaking hotspots at the right time.

For instance, she reported on the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Gulf War. She likes to be where the action is happening. She told the New Yorker magazine in 1993 after she reported on the war in Sarajevo, "how can you know what's going onif you're sitting in London".

Over more than 20 years Amanpour has become perhaps the most famous symbol of high quality journalism in the world. She has won many awards and she has interviewed many presidents, prime ministers, kings, queens, and other important people. But she is never shy when she confronts fame and power. Once she interviewed Bill Clinton and asked him why he had been slow and "flip--flopped" about helping the people in Sarajevo during the war in Bosnia. Bill Clinton got extremely angry, his face went red and he said, "There have been no flip flops , Madam". If Christiane Amanpour has any weaknesses it is that her success has made her think she can do anything. Consequently, when she first tried to move out of journalism she failed as a TV host. It has taken her time to learn to be a good TV host.

To sum up, Christiane Amanpour is a role model for anyone wanting to be a journalist. She is brave, honest and independent, while she is also compassionate and caring. The world could do with more people like her. It would be a better place.

1 How did Christiane Amanpour become famous ?

2 What qualities helped her become famous ?

3 What negative effect has fame had on her ?

4 Why could the world do with more people like Christiane Amanpour ?

How to Entertain

Read the short essay below and answer the questions.

People always tell me I have the best parties and ask me how I do it. I answer that over the years I have discovered three steps to make entertaining successful: creating a relaxing atmosphere, providing lots of good food, and having many fun things to do.

The first thing you must think about when entertaining is how to create a relaxing atmosphere. Of course, you have to plan appropriate decorations. Think about lighting, the weather and the furniture. And you need interesting, easy-listening music. Also, you need to think about a theme. Costume parties are fun. Another important factor is the kind of people you invite. It's not going to be a relaxing atmosphere if the guests are not outgoing and talkative.

Next, plan the food. You need to prepare a lot of good food. And consider how you will organize the food. It needs to be in a location where it is easy to mingle and walk around the table. Prepare a variety of drinks too. Interesting food and beverages are great conversation starters.

Finally, have some amusements. Think about the kinds of entertainment you already have. Maybe there is a pool or games tables such as a table for ping pong or billiards. Perhaps you can put video games in a convenient location. Anything that can serve as an icebreaker will add to your party.

If you see your guests enjoying themselves as the evening progresses, you know the party is a success. Then you will enjoy yourself too. There are not many things more satisfying than organizing a successful party.

1 What are the three important elements of a successful party ?

2 What kind of people should you invite ?

3 What are some good conversation starters mentioned in the essay ?

4 Why is organizing a successful party satisfying ?

5 Can you add some other ideas for a successful party ?

Jacob the Great

Jacob hated finishing things almost as much as he loved starting them. As a result, he had gotten into a million hobbies and activities, but he never stuck with any of them long enough to get any good.

He begged his mother for months for a guitar so that he could play Black Eyed Peas songs to Angie, a girl he liked, but after he finally got one for Christmas, he found out that guitars don't play themselves. He took a few lessons, but strumming the strings hurt his fingers and he didn't like holding the pick, so now the five-hundred dollar guitar lives under his bed.

After reading an ad in the back of one of his comic books, Jacob decided that he wanted a Wonder-Sweeper 5000 metal detector, so that he could find buried pirate treasure. So he mowed lawns all summer and didn't spend his money on ice-cream like his younger brother, Alex. He saved it all in a shoe box in his closet. Then he shoveled driveways all winter, and he didn't spend his money on candy and chips like his classmates. By the time spring came he had saved \$200, and he purchased the Wonder-Sweeper 5000 metal detector. He beeped it around the park for a while, but he soon found out that no pirates had ever set sail in his neighborhood, and if they had they didn't leave any treasure. Even though he found a key ring, forty-seven cents, and all the bottle caps he could throw, he buried the metal detector in his closet.

Given Jacob's history with hobbies, it was no surprise that Jacob's father was *reluctant* to buy him a magician's kit for his birthday. "Geez, Jacob... You sure you wouldn't rather I got you more guitar lessons?" He suggested. Jacob was insistent. "Dad, you've got to get me the magician's kit. This time I'll stick with it for real. I promise! Come on, Dad," Jacob begged. Jacob's father sighed and then replied, "Oh, I don't know, Jacob. Things are awfully tight right now." But Jacob's father was reminded of his own youth long ago, when he quit football and started karate practice before hardly getting his equipment dirty. So when Jacob's birthday came around, Jacob was both surprised and pleased to find the magician's kit that he had desired so badly with a big bright bow on it.

Jacob opened up the box and unwrapped the many parts in the kit. As he did so, he imagined sawing his pet cat in half and putting it back together to the amazement of his friends and family. He took the many fake coins, trick cards, and rope pieces of varying length on the kitchen table and imagined pulling rabbits out of his hat and turning them into pigeons with a mysterious puff of smoke. As Jacob continued pulling plastic thumbs, foam balls, and giant playing cards out of the magic kit, a commercial on the TV caught his attention. "*Hey kids! Have you ever wanted to go to space? Experience what it's like to be an astronaut? Do you want to explore the universe? Well, now you can.*" As the commercial continued playing, Jacob walked away from the magic kit on the kitchen table and stared at the TV screen longingly. "*For only \$195 you can go to space camp and live life like an astronaut for a whole weekend. Enroll now for a once in a life time experience.*" Jacob's cry rang throughout the house as he yelled, "MOM!" He now knew what his true purpose in life was.

Comprehension and Inferential Questions

Directions: After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question. Circle one answer.

1. According to the text, why does Jacob stop playing the guitar?
a. It hurt his fingers. b. He'd rather play drums. c. It was too easy. d. He failed math.
2. To whom did Jacob want to play Black Eyed Peas songs?
a. Alex b. Angie c. Mom d. Dad
3. According to the passage, why does Jacob decide that he wants a metal detector?
a. He sees a man at the park with one. b. His father had one as a child.
c. He saw a TV commercial for one. d. He read an ad for one in a comic book.
4. How does Jacob get the items that he wants in the story?
a. He asks his mom. b. He asks his dad.
c. He shovels driveways and mows lawns. d. He does all of these things to get what he wants.
5. When did Jacob buy the metal detector?
a. In the fall b. In the summer c. In the spring d. In the winter
6. True or False: The metal detector was a good investment for Jacob.
a. True b. False
7. Why doesn't Jacob's father want to get him the magician's kit for his birthday?
a. Jacob failed math class. b. Jacob quits too many expensive activities.
c. Jacob has been mean to his younger brother. d. Jacob went to the park without permission.
8. Why does Jacob's father buy Jacob the magician's kit?
a. Jacob mowed the lawn. b. Jacob reminded his father of himself.
c. Jacob bought ice cream for his brother. d. Jacob found his father's key ring.
9. Which word is closest in meaning to the italicized word in the following sentence from paragraph four: "It was no surprise that Jacob's father was *reluctant* to buy him a magician's kit for his birthday"?
a. Happy b. Willing c. Proud d. Hesitant
10. What distracts Jacob from the magician's kit?
a. A TV commercial b. His father c. The kitchen table d. A comic book
11. Based on the end of the story, Jacob is *most likely* to go on and do which of the following?
a. Become a great magician b. Learn to play guitar well
c. Detect an incredible hidden treasure d. Raise money to go to space camp

12. Which happened first in the text?
a. Jacob asked his dad for the magician’s kit. b. Jacob got a guitar for Christmas.
c. Jacob mowed lawns. d. Jacob shoveled driveways.

13. Which happened last in the text?
a. Jacob saved up \$200. b. Jacob found forty-seven cents in the park.
c. Jacob took guitar lessons. d. Jacob was influenced by a comic book.

Literary Elements Questions

Directions: After reading the story, choose the best answer for each question.

14. Which **character trait** *best* describes Jacob in regards to his hobbies?
a. Dedicated b. Impulsive c. Committed d. Devoted
15. What was the author’s purpose in writing this text?
a. Inform b. Persuade c. Entertain d. Confuse
16. In what genre is this story?
a. Fiction b. Nonfiction c. Folklore d. Poetry
17. In what subgenre is this story?
a. Biography b. Historical Fiction c. Realistic Fiction d. Fable
18. In which pattern is the text organized?
a. Problem and Solution b. Chronological c. Sequence d. Cause and Effect
19. From what point of view is the story narrated?
a. First-Person b. Third-Person Objective
c. Second-Person d. Third-Person Omniscient
20. Which poetic technique is used in the following line: “He beeped it around the park for a while?”
a. Onomatopoeia b. Simile c. Personification d. Hyperbole
21. Which technique is used in the following line: “He had gotten into a million hobbies and activities”
a. Onomatopoeia b. Simile c. Personification d. Hyperbole
22. Which technique is used in the following line: “The five-hundred dollar guitar lives under his bed.”
a. Onomatopoeia b. Simile c. Personification d. Hyperbole

Submarines | Nonfiction Reading Test

Do you know the difference between a submarine and a submersible? A submarine is a watercraft that is capable of independent operation under the sea. Submarines do not require support ships because submarines can renew their air and power supplies independently. Submersibles also submerge and operate underwater, but they need the support of a larger vessel. Submersibles cannot renew their air and power supplies without support. For this reason submersibles are usually smaller and cannot spend as much time underwater as submarines.

The first documented submersible was constructed in 1620 by Cornelius Drebbel. It was powered by rowing oars underwater. Though this craft was originally designed for underwater exploration, it did not take long for inventors and makers of war to recognize the military potential of the submersible. In 1648 Bishop John Wilkins wrote, "It may be of great advantages against a Navy of enemies, who by this may be undermined in the water and blown up." Over one-hundred years later, the first military submarine was ready to be deployed.

The *Turtle* was the world's first submarine used in combat. Designed by David Bushnell in 1775, it was deployed by the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Though the *Turtle* did utilize a support ship in combat, it was fully capable of renewing its air and power supplies independently; therefore, the *Turtle* is considered to have been a submarine and not a submersible. The *Turtle* was powered by hand-cranked propellers and was named as such because it resembled a turtle. It held a single person, moved about three miles per hour in calm water, and contained enough air to stay submerged for about thirty minutes. General Washington authorized an attack using the *Turtle* on a British flagship blockading New York Harbor. Sgt. Ezra Lee operated the *Turtle* and attempted to affix underwater explosives to the British ship, but he failed. The *Turtle* was later destroyed by the British. Despite this failure, the *Turtle* is still remembered as the first submarine used offensively during war.

Another notable submarine originally designed for war was Julius H. Kroehl's *Sub Marine Explorer*. Built between 1863 and 1866, this submarine was created for the North during the American Civil War but the war ended before it went into use. After the war it was used commercially to harvest pearls in Panamanian waters during the late 1860s. Unfortunately, the dangers of decompression sickness (a condition that occurs when divers rise to the water's surface too quickly) were not understood. While experimenting with the *Sub Marine Explorer* in 1867, Kroehl himself perished from decompression sickness. In 1869 a new engineer put the *Sub Marine Explorer* back to the task of harvesting pearls. Tragically, use of the *Sub Marine Explorer* was discontinued after the entire crew died from decompression sickness.

Submarine use increased greatly during World War I. Due to innovations in engineering, such as a dual power system using both diesel and electric sources, submarines had finally developed into effective war machines. One watercraft called the U-Boat was put to great effect by the Germans. Some argue that the U-Boat was more of a submersible, since U-Boats operated primarily on the surface using diesel engines and submerged only occasionally to attack using battery power, but the effectiveness of the U-Boat in combat is certain. During World War I more than 5,000 Allied ships were sunk by U-Boats, including the *Lusitania*, which is often cited as a reason why America entered the war.

Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary. Write your answer on the provided space. 1. For what purpose were submersibles originally designed?

- a. Transporting passengers underwater without the threat of storms
- b. Exploring under the sea
- c. Smuggling weapons and outlawed materials
- d. Attacking ships on the surface of the water

2. Why was the *Sub Marine Explorer* originally created?

- a. To assist the North in the Civil War
- b. To harvest pearls
- c. To explore undersea
- d. To experiment with decompression sickness

3. Which is *most likely* to limit the how long a modern submarine can remain submerged?

- a. The amount of fuel in the submarine
- b. The air supply in the submarine
- c. The amount of food and water aboard the submarine
- d. There is no limit to the amount of time a modern submarine can remain submerged

4. How were U-Boats powered?

- a. Hand crank
- b. Diesel
- c. Battery
- d. Both B & C
- e. None of these
- f. All of these

5. Which of the following statements best describes the *Turtle* according to the text?

- a. The *Turtle* was the first submarine used during war to destroy another ship.
- b. The *Turtle* was the first submersible used during war to attack another ship.
- c. The *Turtle* was the first submersible used during war to destroy another ship.
- d. The *Turtle* was the first submarine used during war to attack another ship.
- e. The *Turtle* is the biggest and fastest watercraft in all of human history.

Tigers | Nonfiction Reading Test

Who would win in a fight, a lion or a tiger? Well, if size has anything to do with the matter, the tiger would win. That's because tigers are the largest of all cat species. They grow up to eleven feet long and weigh as much as 670 lbs. This makes tigers the third largest land carnivore. The only larger land carnivores are polar bears and brown bears. Tigers are not only large, they are also fast. They can sprint as fast as 40 miles per hour for short distances and leap as far as 30 feet horizontally. This makes for an extremely dangerous pounce. You might not think that such large, fast, and ferocious creatures need help to survive, but they do. The tiger is an endangered species.

Despite all of the tiger's strengths, the future of the species is uncertain. Tigers face a very high risk of extinction. It is estimated that at the start of the 20th century, there were over 100,000 tigers living in the wild. By the turn of the century, the number of tigers outside of captivity dwindled to just over 3,000. Interestingly, the most serious threats that tigers face come from a much smaller species, one with an average weight of around 140 lbs. That species is *Homo sapiens*, better known as humans. Humans threaten tigers in primarily two ways: hunting and destroying habitat.

Tigers are hunted for many reasons. People have long valued the famous striped skins. Though trading tiger skins is now illegal in most parts of the world, tiger pelts are worth around \$10,000 on the black-market. Though the fur would be incentive enough for most poachers, other parts of the tiger can also fetch a pretty penny. Some people in China and other Asian cultures believe that various tiger parts have healing properties. Traditional Chinese medicine calls for the use of tiger bones, amongst other parts, in some prescriptions.

Humans have done considerable damage to the world's tiger population through hunting, but perhaps more damage has been caused through the destruction of habitat. Tigers once ranged widely across Asia, all the way from Turkey to the eastern coast of Russia. But over the past 100 years, tigers have lost 93% of their historic range. Instead of spanning all the way across Asia, the tiger population is now isolated in small pockets in south and southeastern Asia. This is because humans have drastically changed the environments. Humans have built towns and cities. Road and transit systems were created to connect these towns and cities. To feed the people living in these areas, forests and fields have been cleared to create farmland. Large tracts of land have been strip-mined to yield metals and other materials used in manufacturing. All of these activities have consumed habitats that at one time supported tigers.

A major obstacle to preserving tigers is the enormous amount of territory that each tiger requires. Each wild tiger demands between 200 and 300 square miles. Tigers are also both territorial and solitary animals. This means that they are protective of the areas that they claim and they generally do not share with other tigers. Because tigers need so much territory, it is difficult for conservationists to acquire land enough to support a large population of tigers. Even when such these considerable spaces are allocated, it is even more difficult to patrol such large areas to prevent poaching. There is no easy way to preserve the wild tiger population without making large sacrifices.

Tigers have also been hunted as game. In other words people hunted tigers solely for the thrill and achievement of killing them. Such killings took place in large scale during the 19th and early 20th centuries, when a single maharaja or English hunter might claim to kill over a hundred tigers in their hunting career. Though this practice is much less popular today than it was in the past, it has not ceased entirely.	
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Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary. Write your answer on the provided space.

1. Which of the following is **not** a reason in the article explaining why tigers are hunted?
 - a. Because tiger skins are worth a lot of money
 - b. Because tiger parts are used as medicines in some cultures
 - c. Because some tigers attack local villages
 - d. Because tigers are hunted for enjoyment by some people
2. Which animal does **not** grow larger than the tiger?
 - a. Brown bear b. Lion
 - c. Polar bear d. All of these animals grow larger than a tiger
3. Which number is *closest* to the estimation of the wild Tiger population in 2003?
 - a. 3,000 b. 100,000
 - c. 140 d. 30,000
4. Which of the following best describes the author's main purpose in writing this article?
 - a. To provide readers with interesting information about the lifestyles of tigers
 - b. To persuade readers to help the world's tiger population and to offer ways to help
 - c. To entertain readers with stories about how tigers hunt and are hunted
 - d. To explain to readers why the world's tiger population is endangered
5. Information in the third paragraph is *mainly* organized using which text structure?
 - a. Cause and effect b. Compare and contrast
 - c. Chronological order d. Spatial order
6. Which *best* explains why tigers have lost so much of their habitat according to the text?
 - a. Because humans are afraid of tigers
 - b. Because tiger skins are extremely valuable
 - c. Because humans have changed the land
 - d. Because tigers need so much space to survive
7. Based on information in the text, which *best* explains why tigers are poached?
 - a. Poachers hunt tigers to protect their families from dangerous animals.
 - b. Poachers hunt tigers for medicine to cure sick family members.
 - c. Poachers hunt tigers because they enjoy killing dangerous animals.
 - d. Poachers hunt tigers to earn large amounts money.

Castles | Nonfiction Reading Test

Palaces are known for their beauty and splendor, but they offer little protection against attacks. It is easy to defend a fortress, but fortresses are not designed with the comfort of a king or queen in mind. When it comes to structures that are both majestic and well-fortified, the classic European castle is the pinnacle of design. Across the ages castles changed, developed, and eventually fell out of use, but they still command the fascination of our culture.

Castles were originally built in England by Norman invaders in 1066. As William the Conqueror advanced through England, he fortified key positions to secure the land he had taken. The castles he built allowed the Norman lords to retreat to safety when threatened by English rebellion. Castles also served as bases of operation for offensive attacks. Troops were summoned to, organized around, and deployed from castles. In this way castles served both offensive and defensive roles in military operations.

Not limited to military purposes, castles also served as offices from which the lord would administer control over his fiefdom. That is to say, the lord of the land would hold court in his castle. Those that were socially beneath the lord would come to report the affairs of the lands that they governed and pay tribute to the lord. They would address disputes, handle business, feast, and enjoy festivities. In this way castles served as important social centers in medieval England. Castles also served as symbols of power. Built on prominent sites overlooking the surrounding areas, castles constantly loomed in the background of many peasants' lives and served as a daily reminder of the lord's strength.

The first castles constructed in England were made from earth and timber. Those who constructed them took advantage of natural features, such as hills and rivers, to increase defenses. Since these castles were constructed from wood, they were highly susceptible to attacks by fire. Wooden castles were gradually replaced by stone, which greatly increased the strength of these fortifications; however, being made from stone did not make these castles entirely fireproof. Attackers could hurl flaming objects into the castle through the windows or ignite the wooden doors. This led to moving the windows and entrances

Castles served many purposes during the Middle Ages. As the nobility accumulated wealth, England became increasingly attractive to those who sought to plunder. Raids by Vikings and other marauders increased in regularity. In response to these attacks, castle defenses were updated and improved. Arrow-slits were added. These were small holes in the castle, large enough for an arrow to fit through, which allowed defenders to fire from nearly invulnerable positions. Towers were built from which defenders could provide flanking fire. These towers were connected to the castle by wooden bridges, so that if one tower fell, the rest of the castle was still easy to defend. Multiple rings of castle walls were constructed, so that even if attackers made it past one wall, they would be caught on a killing ground between inner and outer walls. Advances such as these greatly increased the defense of castles.

The demise of castles can ultimately be attributed to gunpowder. Gunpowder was first introduced to Europe during the 14th century, but the first gunpowder weapons were unreliable, inaccurate, and weak by later standards. During the 15th century, artillery became powerful enough to break through stone walls. This greatly undermined the military role of castles. Castles were then replaced by artillery forts that had no role in civil administration, and country houses that were indefensible. Though castles no longer serve their original purposes, remaining castles receive millions of visitors each year from those who wish to experience these majestic vestiges of a time long passed.

off of the ground floor and up to the first floor to make them more difficult to access.	
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Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary. Write your answer on the provided space.

1. Which of the following is **not** a function of castles as expressed in the text?
 - a. Castles served both offensive and defensive purposes militarily.
 - b. Castles served as symbols of power.
 - c. Castles were important social centers in medieval England.
 - d. Castles were places where knights would keep their best horses.

2. Which of the following *best* describes the main idea in paragraph 2?
 - a. It describes how and why William the Conqueror took control of England.
 - b. It explains why castles were first built in England and the military purposes they served.
 - c. It shows how Norman lords were often scared and frequently retreated.
 - d. It details all of the purposes that English castles served.

3. Which *best* explains why the original castles were first made from earth and timber?
 - a. It takes a lot more time and energy to build a stone castle.
 - b. It did not occur to people to build castles out of stone.
 - c. People did not realize how weak wooden castles would be against fire.
 - d. Wooden castles were prettier than dirty stone castles.

4. Which of the following is **not** a true statement according to the text?
 - a. Palaces are designed for luxury, not fortification.
 - b. Fortresses are designed for fortification, not luxury.
 - c. Castles are designed for luxury and fortification.
 - d. Palaces are designed for luxury and fortification.

5. Which best explains why wooden castles were converted to stone castles.
 - a. Wooden castles take a long time to build.
 - b. Wooden castles are uncomfortable.
 - c. Stone castles offer better defense.
 - d. Stone castles stay cooler in the summer.

6. Which of the following best describes the structure of the text in the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Compare and contrast
 - b. Order of importance
 - c. Cause and effect
 - d. Chronological order

7. Which is **not** described in the text as an improvement in castle defenses?
 - a. Towers attached to the main castle by wooden bridges
 - b. Deep ditches dug around the castle walls and filled with water
 - c. Multiple castle walls providing layers of defenses
 - d. Windows and entrances raised off of the ground floor

8. Which *best* explains how gunpowder ended the role of traditional castles?
 - a. Wars were fought with guns and hiding in castles was no longer necessary.
 - b. Artillery forts with large cannons became more stylish than traditional castles.
 - c. Defending castles grew difficult, since attackers could just shoot castle defenders.
 - d. Cannons were able to knock down stone walls, so castles offered little protection.

Gutenberg | Nonfiction Reading Test

If you are reading this right now, you are taking part in the wonder of literacy. Because of printed words, people can relay information across both time and space. Ideas are encoded in writing and transmitted to readers across thousands of miles and years. Because of this development, the words of people distant to us can influence events, impart knowledge, and change the world. Much of the credit for the development of this phenomenon can be attributed to one man.

Johannes Gensfleisch zur Laden zum Gutenberg, better known as Johannes Gutenberg, was born in the German city of Mainz. Though most of Gutenberg's early life is a mystery, historians believe that he studied at the University of Erfurt in 1418 and spent much of his young adult life practicing the profession of his father: goldsmithing. Having a penchant for fortune and success, Gutenberg borrowed money from investors in 1439 and found himself in financial trouble.

In the year 1439 the city in which Gutenberg lived was planning to exhibit its large collection of relics from Emperor Charlemagne (a famous ruler who had united much of Western Europe around 800 AD). The exhibit was expected to bring many visitors to the town, so Gutenberg took investments and created many polished metal mirrors which were to be sold to the visitors (it was a common belief at that time that mirrors were able to capture holy light from religious relics). The mirrors which Gutenberg produced probably would have sold well, but due to severe flooding the event was delayed by one year. The impatient investors demanded that Gutenberg return their investments, but he had already spent the money on producing the unsaleable mirrors. He was trapped in a difficult situation. In order to satisfy the investors, Gutenberg decided to share his greatest secret with them.

This secret would forever change the world, all of history, and even the process of keeping history. It's been argued that Gutenberg's idea was one of the greatest of all mankind. This one idea would lead to the spread of countless others. It would play a key role in the development of the Renaissance, Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, and the Scientific Revolution. This idea would bring learning to the masses and form the backbone of the modern knowledge-based economy. Gutenberg had created the mechanical printing press with movable type.

Before the spread of Gutenberg's idea, literature was primarily handwritten. That means that each copy of the Catholic bible and all of its 73 books were tediously and painstakingly hand scribed, and this was done before the invention of the ballpoint pen. Given the amount of detail that went into scribing each text, creating a single copy of a bible could take years. Because of the effort that went into producing them, books were extremely rare and valuable. Because of the value and scarcity of books, there was little reason for common people to learn to read or write since it was unlikely that they would ever handle a book in their lifetimes. Gutenberg's invention would change all of that. His printing press allowed literature to be produced on a mass scale. His movable metal type could be arranged once to form a page, and his press could print the page again and again.

The first major text that Gutenberg produced was a 42 line copy of the bible. Written in Latin and containing 1272 pages, the Gutenberg Bible has had an immeasurable effect on the history of the printed word. Scholars estimate that Gutenberg produced between 165 and 185 of these bibles, which sold out almost immediately. Most copies went to monasteries and universities, though one bible was sold to a wealthy private individual. Copies are known to have sold for 30

florins (about three years of wages for a clerk at the time), which may seem expensive but was nonetheless much cheaper than a hand produced copy. Purchasing a Gutenberg Bible in the 1450s would have been a good investment if you and your descendants were able to maintain it. Only twenty-one complete Gutenberg Bibles exist today and the last one traded hands in 1987 for 4.9 million dollars, the highest price ever paid for a book at the time.

Gutenberg's brilliant idea would soon change the world, but in the short term he bungled what proved to be a large and risky investment. He found himself in financial trouble once again and was sued by one of his investors, who accused Gutenberg of mismanaging money meant for the production of books. The courts ruled against Gutenberg and Gutenberg lost control of the shop that he had created. He was effectively bankrupt.

Though he had failed as a businessman, the technologies that he had created spread across Europe rapidly. As these printing technologies and techniques spread, news and books began to travel across Europe much faster than previously possible. The world has not been the same since. Though Gutenberg was financially unsuccessful in his own lifetime, he made the world a much richer place.

Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary. Write your answer on the provided space.

1. Which *best* describes the structure of the text in paragraph 2?
 - a) Compare and contrast
 - b) Problem and solution
 - c) Chronological order
 - d) Spatial order
2. Which of the following expresses the correct order of events?
 - a) Gutenberg was born in Mainz, invested in mirrors, and then became a goldsmith.
 - b) Gutenberg created the printing press, printed the bible, and then invented the metal mirror.
 - c) Gutenberg went to college, revealed his press, and then invested in shiny mirrors.
 - d) Gutenberg studied goldsmithing, invented the printing press, and then lost his shop.
3. Which *best* explains why Gutenberg's plan to sell mirrors failed?
 - a) The mirrors were less popular than he had expected.
 - b) Flooding delayed the event for an entire year.
 - c) Too many other people had the same idea.
 - d) Newly invented glass mirrors rendered his metal mirrors obsolete.
4. Which of the following did Gutenberg invent?
 - a) Reflective mirrors
 - b) The printing press with movable type
 - c) Written language
 - d) Scientific inquiry
5. Which is not listed in the text as a movement to which Gutenberg's idea contributed?
 - a) The Great Schism
 - b) The Scientific Revolution
 - c) The Renaissance
 - d) The Age of Enlightenment
6. Which of the following is *best* supported by evidence from the text?
 - a) Gutenberg's idea was a tremendous success that made him incredibly wealthy.
 - b) Gutenberg's idea didn't catch on in his lifetime, but grew very popular after his death.
 - c) Gutenberg's idea did not make him rich but spread very quickly.
 - d) Gutenberg's idea did not catch on right away but made him incredibly rich over time.

7. Which *best* explains why most people were illiterate during Gutenberg's time?
- a) Books were rare and very expensive.
 - b) The public school system had not yet been created.
 - c) Writing had not yet been invented.
 - d) Emperor Charlemagne made reading and writing illegal for common people.
8. Which *best* expresses the author's purpose in writing this text?
- a) To describe what life was like during the Middle Ages
 - b) To persuade people to read and write more
 - c) To chart the spread of printing technologies across Europe
 - d) To provide biographical information about Johannes Gutenberg
9. Which *best* explains why so few of Gutenberg's bibles were sold to private individuals?
- a) Gutenberg wanted to use his talents to help churches and universities.
 - b) Gutenberg's Bible was pretty expensive and most people couldn't read.
 - c) Most Europeans were not religious and did not care about the bible.
 - d) Gutenberg's investors forbade him from selling the bibles to private individuals.
10. Which of the following titles best expresses the main idea of this text?
- a) *Investing Wisely: Turning Your Good Ideas into Money*
 - b) *How to Make Books Using the Gutenberg Method*
 - c) *The City of Mainz: Life in Medieval Germany*
 - d) *Gutenberg: A Man Who Changed the World*

The Statue of Liberty | Nonfiction Reading Test

More than a million people immigrate to the United States to start new lives every year, and if they are arriving in New York, one of the first sights that they will see is the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island, near Manhattan in New York. Though she is often thought to be resident of New York, Liberty Island is actually federal property, which means that the Statue of Liberty belongs to the whole country. The Statue of Liberty is not only the tallest statue in America, it is also one of the most recognizable American symbols.

The Statue of Liberty is huge. From the tip of the torch to the pedestal on which she stands, she is just over 151 feet tall. If you include the pedestal in your measurement, she stands more than 305 feet off of the ground. That's more than 30 basketball hoops or an entire football field. Her waist size is 35 feet, which would make it awfully tough to find pants, and the tablet she holds is 23 feet long. Don't worry though; she hasn't had any trouble holding that tablet yet with her 8 foot index finger. Talk about heavy handed...

Though America financed and built the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty stands, the statue itself was a gift from France. In this way the complete work, much like the United States, is a product of both American and French contributions. At one time America was ruled by the British. The founding fathers of America chose to fight against Great Britain for the independence of their country. France supported America by providing money, men, and weapons of war. Had it not been for French contributions during the Revolutionary War, America would not exist in the way that it does today; therefore, it is quite fitting that the Statue of Liberty, which represents freedom, came to being by a joint American and French effort. On October 28th, 1886, just over one-hundred years after America declared its independence from Great Britain, the Statue of Liberty was completed and dedicated by its designer, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.

Perhaps no person did more to bring the statue into being than Bartholdi. Not only did Bartholdi gain both French and American approval for the project, he led the French fundraising efforts and designed the appearance of the statue. The appearance of the Statue of Liberty is somewhat derived from Libertas,

seven continents, and (as with the torch) how liberty enlightens the world. Though much of the statue was modeled after depictions of goddesses, Bartholdi modeled the face after his mother. Now that's a Mother's Day gift that's hard to top.

Though Bartholdi was responsible for the external appearance of statute, the internal design can be largely credited to innovative designer, Gustave Eiffel. Though Mr. Eiffel is best known for his contributions to a tower in Paris that is named after him, he also engineered the internal structure that holds up the Statue of Liberty. Eiffel chose to use a flexible structure, so that changes in the temperature and strong winds from the ocean would not cause the statue to crack. Because of Eiffel's crafty design, the Statue of Liberty may sway as much as three inches on a windy day. If the winds exceed 50 miles per hour, the torch may sway five inches. Eiffel is also responsible for including two spiraling staircases on the interior of the statue to help visitors reach the observation point in the crown.

While most people appreciate the Statue of Liberty today, during its construction in the 1870s, many Americans were critical of the project. Some took issue with the fact that Bartholdi was French. They believed that American monuments should be designed and constructed by Americans. Others felt that the statue wasn't much of a gift since it required Americans to foot the bill for the pedestal. After the Panic of 1873, America fell into a deep economic depression that lasted through much of the 1870s. (During an economic depression people spend less money and it is harder to find jobs.) Because the nation was going through a depression, many Americans thought that money should not be spent to support a giant French statue. I think most Americans would now agree that it was a good investment.

the Roman goddess of freedom. The torch represents how liberty enlightens the world. The seven points or rays coming from the top of the crown represent the sun, the seven seas, the	
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Directions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer. Refer to the text if necessary. Write your answer on the provided space.

1. Which is **not** represented by the seven points on the crown of the Statue of Liberty according to the text?
 - a. The points represent how liberty enlightens the world.
 - b. The points represent the seven continents.
 - c. The points represent the sun.
 - d. The points represent the seven days of creation.

2. Information in the second paragraph is *mainly* organized using which text structure?
 - a. Spatial order
 - b. Order of importance
 - c. Chronological order
 - d. Cause and effect

3. Which *best* expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. France assisted the United States in the Revolutionary War.
 - b. The statue was a joint effort between France and the U.S. just like U.S. independence.
 - c. The U.S. was once a colony of Great Britain.
 - d. The statue of liberty was dedicated 100 years after America declared its independence.

4. Which is **not** a reason why people criticized the Statue of Liberty during its construction?
 - a. Some people felt that the statue should have been bigger.
 - b. Some people felt that the statue should have been built by an American.
 - c. Some people felt that France should have paid for the statue and the pedestal.
 - d. Some people felt that America shouldn't spend money on a statue during a depression.

5. Which of the following statements is false?
 - a. The tablet that the Statue of Liberty holds is 23 feet long.
 - b. The Statue of Liberty's waist size is 35 feet.
 - c. The pedestal underneath the Statue of Liberty is 305 tall.
 - d. The Statue of Liberty is over 151 feet tall.

6. Which *best* expresses the author's purpose in writing the last paragraph?
 - a. To describe what a depression is
 - b. To show that some people did not think very highly of the French
 - c. To argue why the Statue of Liberty was a good investment
 - d. To explain why some people were against building the statue.

7. Which of the following is an opinion?
 - a. The Statue of Liberty cost a tremendous amount of money to build.
 - b. The Statue of Liberty was sculpted by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.
 - c. The Statue of Liberty is over 151 feet tall.
 - d. The Statue of Liberty may sway 3 inches on a windy day.

Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Test

Worst Game Ever?

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial is a video game that came out for the Atari 2600 game system in 1982. It was based on a very popular film of the same name. It cost over 125 million dollars to make. Star programmer Howard Scott Warshaw created it with consultation from Steven Spielberg. And it is widely considered to be one of the worst video games ever created. The massive failure of *E.T.* and its effects on Atari is an often-mentioned reason for the video game industry crash of 1983.

It was July 27th, 1982. Howard Scott Warshaw was hot off the success of his most recent game, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. He received a call from Atari C.E.O. Ray Kassar. Atari had bought the rights to make a video game version of Spielberg's movie, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, which had just been released in June. Kassar told Warshaw that Spielberg had specifically asked for Warshaw to make the game. Warshaw was honored, but there was one huge problem. Atari needed the game finished by September 1st in order to start selling it during the Christmas season.

It had taken Warshaw six months to create *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The game he made prior to that took him seven months. He was expected to create *E.T.* in around five weeks. Warshaw just did not have enough time to program the game properly, but he accepted the challenge anyway and production began. Spielberg wanted Warshaw to create a simple maze game, similar to *Pac-Man*, but Warshaw had a bigger vision. He wanted players to explore different environments in a 3D world. Warshaw followed his vision.

Atari anticipated that the game would be a huge success. Usually companies like Atari have people test games before releasing them. If there is something that testers really dislike, programmers can fix it before the public gets a chance to play. Atari decided to skip testing due to time limitations. They wanted the game released during the holiday season. It was: *E.T.* was released in December of 1982.

The game sold very well at first. It was a hot holiday item. Unfortunately, Atari overestimated how many they would sell. They made 5 million copies and they only sold 1.5 million. Most people who played the game hated it. The graphics were bad. Game play was awkward. Players got stuck in holes that they couldn't escape. A short time limit made the game difficult to explore and frustrating to play. Some people who stuck with the game grew to like it, but it wasn't the mainstream success that Atari had hoped it would be.

Too many copies of the game sat on store shelves. One employee remembers the game being discounted five times, from \$49.95 to less than a dollar. Many people returned the game. Atari was left with millions of unsold copies. In September of 1983, a newspaper in New Mexico reported that between 10 and 20 semitrailer truckloads of Atari products were crushed and buried at a landfill in Alamogordo. Perhaps a million or more copies of *E.T.* were buried in the desert. When word got out, the drop site had to be covered with cement to prevent scavenging.

Atari lost over \$100 million on *E.T.* The game was so bad that it was said to have affected Atari's reputation. The video game industry soon fell into a deep depression. In 1983 the industry made

\$3.2 billion. By 1985 profit fell to just over \$100 million. This was almost a 97% drop. Many critics believe that Atari's blunder on *E.T.* was one of the causes leading to this depression. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* will long be remembered as one of the worst video games ever made, if not one of the causes of the decline of the entire video game industry.

1. Which of the following is **not** a reason for the failure of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*?
 - a. The programmer was not given enough time to finish the game properly.
 - b. Atari did not test the game before its release.
 - c. Atari made too many copies of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*.
 - d. The game was released on a new system that only a small number of people owned.

2. Which of the following were effects of the failure of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*?
 - a. Perhaps a million or more copies of the game were buried in the desert.
 - b. Atari lost over \$100 million.
 - c. The video game industry sunk into a deep depression.
 - d. All of the above

3. Which of the following was **not** listed as a reason why *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* was considered one of the worst games ever?
 - a. The soundtrack was annoying.
 - b. The graphics were bad.
 - c. A short time limit made the game frustrating.
 - d. Players would get stuck in holes.

4. Which of the following events happened first?
 - a. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* video game was released to the public.
 - b. The entire video game industry sank into a deep decline.
 - c. Steven Spielberg suggested that the *E.T.* video game should be like *Pac-Man*.
 - d. Atari buried millions of cartridges and game consoles in the New Mexico desert.

5. Who programmed *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*?
 - a. Steven Spielberg b. Ray Cassar
 - c. Howard Scott Warshaw d. Elliot Thomas

6. Why did Atari decide to skip testing *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*?
 - a. Testing was too expensive.
 - b. Spielberg would not allow testing.
 - c. They were in a hurry to release the game for the holiday season.
 - d. Testing video games was not common until after *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* was released.

7. When was the game *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* released?
 - a. June 1982 b. September 1982
 - c. December 1982 d. September 1983

8. According to the text, which group of people would like playing *E.T.*?
 - a. People who really enjoyed watching the movie
 - b. People who liked playing fast, fun games
 - c. People who stuck with the game despite its flaws
 - d. People who enjoyed playing *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

9. Which of the following statements is true?

- a. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* was one of the worst selling games of all time.
- b. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* sold a lot fewer copies than Atari was hoping it would.
- c. *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* was one of the best selling video games of all time despite its flaws.
- d. Every copy of *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* ever sold was eventually returned.

10. Which is **not** a reason cited in the article why *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* should have been successful?

- a. It was based on an extremely popular movie.
- b. The gameplay was smooth and enjoyable.
- c. Atari spent over \$125 million on its production.
- d. Howard Scott Warshaw programmed the game.

Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Test

Kevlar

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Did you know that there is a fiber that is as flexible and lightweight as nylon yet five times stronger than steel? Did you know that this fabric is resistant to temperatures higher than 500 degrees Fahrenheit? Did you know that a woman invented this fiber? This miraculous fabric is called Kevlar and it is used to make everything from body armor to musical instruments.

The year was 1964. There were gasoline shortages due to conflict in the Middle East. A Polish-American chemist named Stephanie Louise Kwolek was working for DuPont, an American chemical company. She and her group were trying to make a lightweight, yet durable fiber to be used in tires. Lighter tires would allow vehicles to get better gas mileage, but the tires had to be strong enough to resist the wear and tear of the road. They had been working on the problem for some time and had little success, until Kwolek had a breakthrough.

Kwolek and her group were synthesizing or creating fibers to test. During one of the steps in the process, Kwolek created a milky white solution by mixing two chemicals that were often used in the process. This solution was usually thrown away, but Kwolek convinced one of the technicians to help her test it. They were amazed to discover that the fabric that Kwolek had created was not only more durable than nylon, it was more durable than steel. Kwolek had invented Kevlar.

Kevlar is a remarkable fabric known for its strength and durability. Since its invention it has found its way into a wide variety of products. Kevlar is used in sporting equipment like bike tires, bowstrings, and tennis racquets. It is used in musical instruments like drum heads, reeds, and speaker cones. And it is used in protective gear like motorcycle safety jackets, gloves, and shoes. However, Kevlar is best known for its ability to stop bullets.

Richard Armellino created the first Kevlar bulletproof vest in 1975. It contained 15 layers of Kevlar, which could stop handgun and shotgun bullets. The vest also had a steel plate over the

heart, which made the vest strong enough to stop rifle rounds. Vests like Armellino's were quickly picked up by police forces and it is estimated that by 1990, half of all police officers in America wore bulletproof vests daily. By 2006 there were over 2,000 documented police vest "saves," or instances where officers were protected from deadly wounds by wearing bulletproof vests.

Kevlar is an amazing fabric not only for its hardness and durability, but also for its heat resistance. Because of this it has been used to replace asbestos. Asbestos is a naturally occurring material that is known for its ability to resist fire. Asbestos can resist temperatures over 1000 degrees Fahrenheit. For this reason it was used in roofs, electrical cables, and brake pads, until people discovered that it causes cancer and other serious health problems. Kevlar poses no such risks. It is lightweight, flexible, and resistant to fire. Therefore, it has proven to be a good replacement for asbestos in many cases.

Since its invention in 1964, Kevlar has won its way into our lives. From musical instruments and brake pads to protective equipment and sporting gear, Kevlar is everywhere. Every day of your life you are exposed to something that was made better by Kevlar. Who'd have known?

1. Which of the following is **not** a product that has been made with Kevlar?
a. Tennis racquets b. Bungee jumping cords
c. Brake pads d. Body armor
2. When was the first bulletproof vest invented?
a. 1964 b. 1975
c. 1990 d. 2006
3. For which of the following characteristics is Kevlar known?
a. Heat resistance b. Strength
c. Durability d. All of the above
4. Who is credited with inventing Kevlar?
a. Robert Kevlar b. Richard Armellino
c. Stephanie Kwolek d. None of the above
5. Which of the following caused the search for a fabric like Kevlar?
a. A shortage in the gasoline supply b. A desire to protect police officers
c. The need to replace asbestos d. The want of better musical instruments
6. A vest made of 15 layers of Kevlar with **no** steel plates could stop **all but which** of the following rounds?
a. Handgun rounds b. Shotgun pellets
c. Rifle rounds d. It could stop all of the above
7. Why did people begin using asbestos in buildings?
a. It was extremely durable b. It was very heavy
c. It was poisonous to insects d. It was resistant to fire
8. According to the article, how many American police officers are estimated to wear bulletproof vests daily?
a. 1,000 b. 2,000
c. Over half d. Almost all of them
9. How much stronger is Kevlar than steel?

- a. Half as strong b. As strong
 - c. Five times as strong d. 200 times as strong
10. What product was Kwolek trying to improve when she invented Kevlar?
- a. Tires b. Milk
 - c. Brake pads d. Armor

Nonfiction Reading Test

Asian Carp

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

The United States has a lengthy history of going to war. It is a nation born from war. Pick any year since 1776, and the odds of America being involved in at least one war is over 90%. Every US President has faced war. Still, it may surprise you to hear that the US government is at war with a fish.

Asian carp were introduced to American waters during the 1970s. Southern fish farmers began importing them to help clean their ponds. Asian carp are phenomenal cleaners. Unfortunately, it didn't take too long for them to escape from these ponds, perhaps from flooding, and get into the Mississippi River. From there they have followed their natural tendency to swim upstream. This tendency may lead them into the Great Lakes and Canada, a nightmare scenario for fisherman.

Asian carp are large fish. One species, the silver carp, can grow to be 100 pounds. But despite their size, they feed from the bottom of the food chain. That means that they eat plankton and algae. A one hundred pound fish can eat an awful lot of sea scum, and some of it is toxic. The carp are *resistant* to the toxins, but we aren't. Some Asian carp are hazardous to eat because they have so many algal toxins in their systems. They also have lots of tiny bones in their meat, which makes them difficult to prepare. Asian carp is not a popular delicacy.

Introducing the Asian carp into waters that have not known them can be devastating. Beneath the surface of the water is a unique ecosystem. This system rests delicately on a balance that has evolved over millions of years. Then along come these big, hungry bottom feeders to mess up everything. They breed rapidly and densely populate the waters. Worse still, they compete with the native bottom feeders. The native bottom feeders are smaller. Larger, tastier fish like salmon eat them. The native bottom feeders are

Not only do Asian carp mess up the food chain, they mess up people. Seriously. An Asian carp will bust you in head. Remember that silver carp can be 100 pounds. There is a reason why they are also known as "flying carp." This particular species of Asian carp has a tendency to jump when frightened. They can jump up to ten feet in the air, and the sound of boat motors frightens them. Watch out watersportists! In 2003 a woman jetskier collided with one and broke her nose and a vertebra. She almost drowned. In 2008 a teenager broke his jaw on one while tubing. Many others have been injured by these flying logs. Asian carp pose a serious threat to water skiers and boaters.

In 2007 the U.S. Department of the Interior declared all silver carp to be an injurious species. In 2010, the State of Michigan passed the \$30 million CARPACT. In 2012 Congress approved the "Stop Invasive Species" act, legislation written solely to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp. The government has been on the offensive against these large-bellied invaders.

But Asian carp are difficult to catch. Since they eat from the bottom, they do not go for lures or baits like most large fish. The best way to stop them is to keep them out. The Great Lakes are connected to the Mississippi River through the 28-mile Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. For Chicagoans, it is the final point of resistance.

A series of multimillion-dollar electrical barriers have been built along the canal. The barriers are effective at keeping adult carp at bay, but some fear that baby carp may pass through. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has been deployed along with EPA. In 2009 they poisoned the entire canal with rotenone, a chemical that kills fish. The \$3 million operation netted over 90 tons of dead fish, and a single carp.

Some think that Great Lakes must be cut off from the Mississippi River. The Michigan Attorney General sued to have the canal closed. The Ontario government and some Great Lake states have also taken legal action. But the courts have

an important part of the ecosystem. When the Asian carp outperform them, the whole food chain suffers, all the way up to the people.

been persuaded by the value of the canal as a shipping conduit thus far. In the meantime, the barriers continue to hold, but how long can they? The carp have the Great Lakes under siege. Is this a war that we are destined to lose?

1. Which statement best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Asian carp were brought to America during the 1970s to assist Southern fish farmers.
 - b. Asian carp are remarkable cleaners, which makes them highly desirable fish to have.
 - c. Asian carp were supposed to clean ponds but they escaped and are headed north.
 - d. Asian carp are excellent at swimming upstream and cleaning up plankton.

2. Which is **not** a reason why Asian carp is an unpopular menu item?
 - a. It is hard to prepare because of all the little bones.
 - b. They are a very fattening fish.
 - c. Some of them are toxic and unsafe to eat.
 - d. They are bottom feeders.

3. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. Asian carp outperform many native bottom feeders.
 - b. Asian carp could disrupt the ecosystem in Lake Michigan.
 - c. One species of Asian carp is the silver carp.
 - d. Asian carp are disliked because they eat salmon.

4. Which best describes the text structure of the fourth paragraph?
 - a. Chronological order
 - b. Cause and effect
 - c. Compare and contrast
 - d. Problem and solution

5. Which person would be most threatened by silver carp in a local water source?
 - a. A waterskier
 - b. A chicken farmer
 - c. A bungee jumper
 - d. A beachgoer

6. Which best describes the word *resistant* as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. To be allergic to something
 - b. To be unaware of something
 - c. To be unaffected by something
 - d. To be attracted or drawn to something

7. According to information in the article, which event happened **last**?
 - a. Asian carp escaped from southern fish farms.
 - b. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal was poisoned with rotenone.
 - c. A teenager broke his jaw on a silver carp while tubing.
 - d. Congress approved the "Stop Invasive Species" act.

8. Which of the following statements is **false**?
 - a. Silver carp have been declared an "injurious species" by the government.
 - b. Silver carp are also known as "flying carp."
 - c. Silver carp can grow to be 100 lbs.
 - d. Silver carp can jump up to twenty feet in the air.

9. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
- a. It would be best for the fishing industry if the canal were closed permanently.
 - b. The electric barriers will keep the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes forever.
 - c. The Great Lake states agree fully on a solution to the Asian carp problem.
 - d. Closing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship canal would have little economic impact.

10. Which title best represents the author's main purpose in writing this text?

- a. *America: A Nation at War*
- b. *Asian Carp: Threatening the Great Lakes*
- c. *Asian Carp: A Beautiful and Powerful Fish*
- d. *Misunderstood: Protect and Defend the Asian Carp*

Nonfiction Reading Test

Black Friday

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

The day after Thanksgiving is the start of the holiday shopping season. Thanksgiving is always on a Thursday, so the day after is a Friday. This day has come to be known as Black Friday. It has been the busiest shopping day of the year since 2005.

Most stores offer great deals on Black Friday. They open their doors in the wee hours of the morning. They try to attract shoppers with big discounts. Some items like TVs are much cheaper than usual. Stores may even lose money on these items. They hope that shoppers will buy gifts for other people while they are in the store.

Black Friday is a great time to get good deals. The problem is that there are not enough lowpriced items to go around. Each store may only have a few. These items are in high demand. People stand in long lines to get such great deals. They may line up hours before a store opens. They may be hoping to get a low price on a TV or laptop, but not everyone who wants one will get one. Some people leave disappointed.

The situation can be tense. Some Black Friday events have been violent. Large, eager crowds have trampled workers. Fights have broken out over toys or people cutting in line. People have shot one another over parking spots. But most Black Friday events are safe and fun. Still, if you plan on going, expect large crowds and a bit of shoving.

So where does the name "Black Friday" come from? It was first used in Philadelphia in the 1950s. The police called this day Black Friday because of the heavy traffic it drew. In the 1960s, stores tried to rename the day "Big Friday." It did not stick. The name "Black Friday" continued to spread across the country.

It seems that it is here to stay.

Now people all over the country take part in the event known as Black Friday. It is even spreading to other parts of the world. Stores have held Black Friday events in the U.K., Australia, and Brazil since 2012. In Costa Rica Black Friday is known as "Viernes Negro." And in Mexico, stores offer an annual weekend of discounts. They call it "El Buen Fin," which means "the good weekend" in Spanish. I guess the language of savings is universal.

1. According to the text, why do stores set prices so low on some items that they lose money?
 - a. They want people to enjoy the holidays.
 - b. They hope people will buy other gifts while they are in the store.
 - c. They are in a giving mood because the holiday season is just beginning.
 - d. They are trying to get rid of old items from last year to make room for new items.

2. Which is **not** true about Black Friday?
 - a. Black Friday is always the day after Thanksgiving.
 - b. Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year.
 - c. Black Friday is a national holiday.
 - d. Black Friday is the start of the holiday shopping season.

3. Where does the name Black Friday come from?
 - a. The police called this day Black Friday because there is a lot of traffic.
 - b. The stores called this day Black Friday because it is a serious shopping day.
 - c. The police called this day Black Friday to remember the victims of violence.
 - d. The stores called this day Black Friday because they make a lot of money.

4. Which best explains the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. People stand in long lines on Black Friday.
 - b. Black Friday is the best time of the year to get good deals.
 - c. Black Friday is a really disappointing time of the year.
 - d. Black Friday deals are limited and not everyone will get one.

5. Which country does **not** participate in Black Friday?
 - a. France b. Costa Rica
 - c. Brazil d. United Kingdom

6. Which happened first?
 - a. Stores tried to rename the day after Thanksgiving "Big Friday."
 - b. Black Friday events began happening in Australia.
 - c. Police began calling the day after Thanksgiving "Black Friday."
 - d. Black Friday became the busiest shopping day of the year.

7. Which title best expresses the author's purpose in writing this text?
 - a. *Black Friday: Stories from the Parking Lot*
 - b. *Black Friday: Why You Should Go This Year*
 - c. *Black Friday: The Stuff That You Should Know*
 - d. *Black Friday: How to Save Money on the Big Day*

8. Which best describes the overall structure of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. chronological order b. problem and solution
 - c. compare and contrast d. order of importance

9. Which was **not** cited as one of the downsides of Black Friday?
 - a. Stores run out of high demand items quickly.
 - b. Nobody really saves any money on Black Friday.
 - c. There are large crowds and lots of shoving.
 - d. Sometimes violence occurs at Black Friday events.

10. Which best explains why Costa Ricans call Black Friday "Viernes Negro"?

Nonfiction Reading Test

Carnivorous Plants

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Imagine that you're a fly. You're just zipping around the sky, looking for a place to rest, when you see nice pink leaf. *That looks like a nice place to land.* You think to yourself in your fly head. As you rest your feet on the leaf, you notice something strange. This leaf is hairy. You begin to make your move, but you trigger the plant's reflex. *Snap!* In one-tenth of a second, you are caught in the Venus flytrap. You will be digested in five to twelve days. Welcome to the world of carnivorous plants!

There are over a quarter of a millions plant species. Only 600 or so are carnivorous. We call them this because they attract, trap, and eat bugs. Like other plants, they get energy from the sun. But unlike other plants, they get their nutrients from their prey. Carnivorous plants live in bogs and places where the soil lacks nutrients. Most plants get nutrients from the soil. Carnivorous plants have turned to other sources.

The snap of the Venus flytrap is not the only way that plants eat bugs. Pitcher plants trick their prey into landing on them. They offer nectar bribes to the foolish insects that would take them. True to their name, pitcher plants have deep chambers. Their landing surface is slippery. They have inward pointing hairs, making it hard to escape. The fly lands on the pitcher plant to eat, but slips into a pit filled with digestive fluids and is eaten. Then there're sundews. We call them sundews because they sparkle in the sun as if covered in morning dew. Of course, that sparkle is from something much more *treacherous*. It is a sweet goo called mucilage that bugs can't resist. Sundews create mucilage to attract bugs. As they fly in to eat, bugs become trapped in the very object of their desire. They soon exhaust themselves by trying to escape the mucilage. Or the sundew's tentacles, which respond to prey by curling around them, smother them. Bugs usually die in about 15 minutes. Then the plant dissolves its prey in enzymes and absorbs the nutrients.

Have you ever walked into trouble and found that you couldn't get out? So has every insect that has ever wandered into a corkscrew plant. Bugs love to investigate plants for nectar and food. Corkscrew plants have inviting stems. Curved hairs line the inside of these stems. These hairs allow insects to go up the stems, but not back. Going forward leads a chamber filled with digestive fluid, the plant's stomach. Bugs who wander into the corkscrew plant find that they are unable to escape. They must march to their own demise.

And then there are the bladderworts. They're about as nice as they sound. They live in water and float near the surface. Their traps are like small bladders hidden beneath the water. Only their flowers are visible from the surface. When bugs swim into the trigger hairs, the plant reacts. A trapdoor in the bladder opens up. The bladder sucks up the prey and the water surrounding it. A tenth of a second later, the bladder shuts again. The plant has trapped the prey. It releases digestive fluids. The prey will be digested within hours.

Carnivorous plants might sound tough, but they are difficult to keep at home. They are built to survive in places that other plants cannot. This specialization comes at a cost. They have a hard time adapting to other environments. Their strengths become weaknesses in rich soil. They depend on the harsh yet delicate environments in which they thrive. They are not so hardy after all. Still, there's something to be said about the power of life when one finds a plant that can survive in barren soil.

1. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. There are too many species of carnivorous plants.
 - b. There are too few plant species in the world.
 - c. Only a small number of plants are carnivorous.
 - d. A majority of plants are carnivorous.

2. Which plant traps bugs in its stem and forces them to walk forward?
 - a. Corkscrew plants b. Sundews
 - c. Bladderworts d. Pitcher plants

3. Which of the following statements is **false**?
 - a. Carnivorous plants get their energy from eating bugs.
 - b. Carnivorous plants do not get nutrients from the soil.
 - c. Carnivorous plants get their energy from the sun.
 - d. Carnivorous plants get their nutrients from eating bugs.

4. Which event happens **last** when a sundew eats a meal?
 - a. The sundew creates mucilage.
 - b. The sundew's tentacles curl in response to the prey.
 - c. The bug is attracted to the mucilage.
 - d. The sundew releases enzymes.

5. Which best expresses the main idea of the **third** paragraph?
 - a. There are more types of carnivorous plants than the Venus fly trap.
 - b. The pitcher plant tricks bugs into falling into its stomach.
 - c. The Venus flytrap kills its prey in a various ways.
 - d. Some plants attract bugs by offering them nectar.

6. Which best defines the word *treacherous* as it is used in the **fourth** paragraph?
 - a. Something that provides nutrients. b. Something that is very bright.
 - c. Something that tastes delicious. d. Something that has a hidden danger.

7. Which best describes the overall text structure of the second paragraph?
 - a. Chronological order b. Compare and contrast
 - c. Sequential order d. Spatial

8. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. Carnivorous plants cannot thrive in rich soil.
 - b. Bladderworts react quickly when their trigger hairs are bumped.
 - c. Carnivorous plants are tough and can live in any environment.
 - d. Bladderworts hide their traps just below the surface of the water.

9. Which best expresses the main idea of the **last** paragraph?
 - a. Carnivorous plants are not hard to take care of because they feed themselves.
 - b. Carnivorous plants are delicate because they need certain conditions to survive.

- a. To explain the rules of chess b. To compare different types of games
c. To talk about game pieces d. To persuade people to play chess
2. Which is **not** a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?
a. Good chess players think about what will happen next.
b. Good chess players take a lot of risks.
c. Good chess players take their time.
d. Good chess players use their brains.
3. How long have people been playing chess?
a. Over 100 years b. Over 500 years
c. Over 1000 years d. Over 5000 years
4. Where did the game that chess is based on come from?
a. Europe b. America
c. India d. All of these
5. Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?
a. This paragraph argues that players should think less.
b. This paragraph explains how blitz chess is played.
c. This paragraph explains time clocks work.
d. This paragraph describes many different ways to play chess.
6. How does a game of chess end according to the text?
a. One player takes all of the other player's pieces.
b. One player makes it to the end of the board.
c. One player becomes king.
d. One player loses his or her king.
7. Which happened first?
a. Computers did not play chess well. b. Deep Blue won an important game.
c. Cell phones got good at playing chess. d. Deep Blue took up a whole room.
8. How is blitz chess different from regular chess?
a. Each player has two kings. b. Players are blindfolded.
c. Players only have ten minutes to play. d. Players start from a random position.
9. If it's your turn in blitz chess, what happens when you hit the clock?
a. Both your clock and the other person's clock keep running.
b. The other person's clock stops running and yours starts.
c. Both clocks stop running.
d. Your clock stops running and the other person's clock begins.
10. When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?
a. 2006 b. 1997
c. 1970 d. 1976

Extended Response

How might playing chess be good for people? Refer to the text in your answer.

The Coliseum is an ancient stadium in the center of Rome. It is the largest of its kind. It is very old. They started building it in the year 70. It took ten years to build. It is still around today.

The Coliseum has been used in many ways. In ancient Rome, men fought each other in it. They fought against lions, tigers, and bears. Oh my! It was dreadful. But most of the people loved it. As many as 80,000 Romans would pack inside to watch. These gruesome events went on until 523.

The Coliseum has been damaged many times over the years. It was struck by lightning in the year 217. This started a fire. Much of the Coliseum is made of stone. But the fire damaged the upper levels. They were made of wood. This damage took many years to repair. It was not finished until the year 240.

The worst damage happened in 1349. A mighty earthquake shook Rome and the Coliseum. The south side of the building collapsed. Pieces of the arena were all over the ground. Many people took the fallen stones. Others took stones from the seating areas. They used them to repair houses and churches.

The Romans of those days were not connected to the Coliseum. It had last been used as a castle. Before that it was a graveyard. It has been hundreds of years since the games. The damage to the Coliseum was never repaired. It's a good thing the outer wall of it still stands strong.

Today the Coliseum is one of Rome's most popular attractions. People from all over the world come to Italy to see it. The Pope leads a big march around it every Good Friday. It is a symbol that many know. It has even appeared on the back of a coin. I guess that makes it a symbol that many people want too.

1. Which happened first?

- a. An earthquake damaged the Coliseum.
- b. The Coliseum was struck by lightning.
- c. The Coliseum appeared on the back of a coin.
- d. The Coliseum was used as a castle.

2. When did the Romans finish building the Coliseum?

- a. The year 70 b. The year 523
- c. The year 80 d. The year 240

3. What caused the fire that damaged the upper levels of the Coliseum?

- a. A bolt of lightning
- b. Rowdy people who came to watch the events
- c. An attacking army
- d. An angry mob

4. For which purpose was the Coliseum **not** used?

- a. People fought other people in it.
- b. It was a private castle.
- c. People fought animals in it.
- d. It was a meeting place for the government.

5. Which caused the most damage to the Coliseum?

- a. Fires b. Earthquakes

garbage stinks. Nobody wants to live next to a landfill. This makes it hard to find new locations for landfills.

As landfill space increases, interest in composting grows. Compositing is when people pile up organic matter, such as food waste, and allow it to decompose. The product of this decomposition is compost. Compost can be added to the soil to make the soil richer and better for growing crops. While composting is easy to do onsite somewhere, like home or school, it's hard to do after the garbage gets all mixed up. This is because plastic and other inorganic materials must be removed from the compost pile or they will pollute the soil. There's a lot of plastic in garbage, which makes it hard to compost on a large scale.

One thing that is easier to do is burning garbage. There are two main ways to incinerate waste. The first is to create or harvest a fuel from the waste, such as methane gas, and burn the fuel. The second is to burn the waste directly. The heat from the incineration process can boil water, which can power steam generators. Unfortunately, burning garbage pollutes the air. Also, some critics worry that incinerators destroy valuable resources that could be recycled.

Usually, the community in which you live manages waste. Once you put your garbage in that can, what happens to it is beyond your control. But you can make choices while it is still in your possession. You can choose to recycle, you can choose to compost, or you can choose to let someone else deal with it. The choice is yours.

1. Which best explains why the author begins the text by talking about magical garbage fairies?
 - a. He is putting a common misconception to rest.
 - b. He is trying to get the reader's attention.
 - c. He is addressing his concern in a serious way.
 - d. He is supporting his argument with evidence.

2. Which best defines the meaning of *incineration* as it is used in the text?
 - a. To bury waste materials in a large hole
 - b. To allow waste products to decompose and become fertilizer
 - c. To burn waste materials and harvest the energy
 - d. To turn waste materials into products like book covers

3. Which was **not** cited in the third paragraph as an issue with landfilling?
 - a. Landfills are smelly.
 - b. Usable materials are wasted in landfills.
 - c. Landfills may pollute the water supply.
 - d. It is difficult to find locations for landfills.

4. Which conclusion could best be supported with text from the passage?
 - a. Each method of waste management has its drawbacks.
 - b. Recycling is without a doubt the best way to handle waste.
 - c. Incineration is the best way to process waste.
 - d. All large cities should create massive compost piles.

5. Which best expresses the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
 - a. Landfills take up a lot of space.
 - b. Composting is good for the soil but it can be hard to do.
 - c. The process of composting is very complicated and scientific.
 - d. There is a lot of plastic garbage in landfills.

6. Which best expresses the meaning of the word *compacted* as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. Garbage is burned before it is thrown in a hole.

many times those words appeared on each page. Then they might return pages where the words in your query appeared the most. This system did not work well and people often had to click through pages and pages of results to find what they wanted.

Google was the first search engine that began considering links. Links are those blue underlined words that take you to other pages when you click on them. Larry Page, cofounder of Google, believed that meaningful data could be drawn from how those links connect. Page figured that websites with many links pointing at them were more important than those that had few. He was right. Google's search results were much better than their rivals. They would soon become the world's most used search engine.

It wasn't just the great search results that led to Google becoming so well liked. It also had to do with the way that they presented their product. Most of the other search engines were cluttered. Their home pages were filled with everything from news stories to stock quotes. But Google's homepage was, and still is, clean. There's nothing on it but the logo, the search box, and a few links. It almost appears empty. In fact, when they were first testing it, users would wait at the home page and not do anything. When asked why, they said that they were, "waiting for the rest of the page to load." People couldn't imagine such a clean and open page as being complete. But the fresh design grew on people once they got used to it.

These days Google has its hands in everything from self-driving cars to helping humans live longer. Though they have many other popular products, they will always be best known for their search engine. The Google search engine has changed our lives and our language. Not only is it a fantastic product, it is a standing example that one good idea (and a lot of hard work) can change the world.

1. Which event happened last?
 - a. Lycos released their search engine.
 - b. Yahoo! released their search engine.
 - c. Google released their search engine.
 - d. Xerox released their copy machine.

2. Which statement would the author of this text most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. Part of Google's success is due to the design of their homepage.
 - b. Google succeeded by following examples of others in their field.
 - c. Google wasn't the first search engine, but it was the best.
 - d. Google's success may not have been possible without Larry Page.

3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. There are lots and lots of websites connected to the internet.
 - b. Google created a better way to organize search results.
 - c. Many smart people have worked on search engines over the years.
 - d. Older search engines used unreliable methods to order results.

4. What is the author's main purpose in writing this article?
 - a. To explain how Google overtook its rivals
 - b. To compare and contrast Google and Xerox
 - c. To persuade readers to use Google for internet searches
 - d. To discuss how companies can influence language over time

5. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. Google became successful because its founders were well-connected.
 - b. Google was the world's first and best search engine.

honey badger apart is their skin. Their skin is thick and tough. Arrows, spears, and bites from other animals can rarely pierce it. Small bullets can't even penetrate it. Not only is their skin thick and tough, it is also loose. This allows them to twist and turn to attack while another animal is gripping them. The only safe grip one can get on a honey badger is on the back of their necks.

Honey badgers have long, sharp claws. These claws are good for attacking and even better for digging. Honey badgers are some of nature's most skilled diggers. They can dig a nine-foot tunnel into hard ground in about 10 minutes. They love to catch a meal by digging up the **burrows** of frogs, rodents, and cobras. They also use their digging skills to create their homes. They live in small chambers in the ground and defend them fiercely. They will attack horses, cows, and even water buffalo if they are foolish enough to poke around a honey badger's den.

You don't get a reputation like the honey badger by running from danger. The honey badger is fearless and a tireless fighter. They will attack any creature that threatens them, man included. Because of the honey badger's reputation, most predators avoid them. Some animals use the honey badger's rep to their advantage. Adult cheetahs have spotted coats, but their kittens have silver manes and look like honey badgers. Some scientists believe that their coloring tricks predators into avoiding them. Wouldn't you walk the other way if you saw a honey badger?

You might be wondering: "If honey badgers are so tough, how did they get a name that makes them sound like a piece of candy?" The answer makes sense. Since honey badgers have such thick skin, bee stings rarely harm them. So honey badgers love to raid beehives. I can't blame them. Who doesn't like free honey? Honey badgers chase after honey aggressively. So much so that beekeepers in Africa have to use electric fencing to hold them back. There's nothing sweet about that. Beekeepers aren't the only people who have grown to hate honey badgers. Honey badgers may be fun to read about, but they are nasty neighbors. They attack chickens, livestock, and some say children, though they usually leave people alone. But if a honey badger moves in your backyard, there's not a whole lot that you can do about it. I mean, are you going to go and tangle with an animal that eats the bones of its prey? An animal with teeth strong enough to crunch through turtle shells? An animal that never tires, gives up, or backs down? Yeah, I wouldn't either...

1. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Honey badgers have sharp claws that they use for fighting.
 - b. Honey badgers digging skills assist them in many ways.
 - c. Honey badgers use their claws to defend their homes.
 - d. Honey badgers will defend their homes to the death against any animal.

2. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. What makes the honey badger so tough is their speed and strength.
 - b. Honey badgers are large in size and tireless in fighting spirit.
 - c. What makes honey badgers so tough is their thick, loose skin.
 - d. Honey badgers got their name from the sweet taste of their meat.

3. Which best defines the meaning of the word *burrows* as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. Lily pads or other seaweeds in which animals hide
 - b. Holes or tunnels in which animals live
 - c. A nest or animal dwelling in a tree or bush
 - d. A water supply where small animals come to drink

4. Which best expresses the main idea of the last paragraph?

Hummingbirds are small. One type called the bee hummingbird is the smallest bird in the world. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny. They are just a little bit bigger than bees. I guess that's where they get their name. Bee hummingbirds build tiny nests. They use cobwebs and bits of bark to make their homes. Their homes are only an inch around. This is big enough for their eggs though. Their eggs are smaller than peas. People have found these tiny nests on a clothespin.

Hummingbirds move fast. It takes lots of energy to move as fast as they do. This means that they need to eat a lot of food. Their favorite food is nectar, a sweet liquid inside of some flowers. They drink more than their own weight in nectar daily. They have to visit hundreds of flowers to get enough nectar to live. They can only store enough energy to survive through the night. They live on the edge.

Hummingbirds don't use their long beaks like straws. They have a tongue just like you. They use their tongues for eating. They flick their tongues in and out of their mouths while inside of flowers. They lap up nectar. Flowers give them the energy that they need.

Hummingbirds help flowers too. They get pollen on their heads and bills when they feed. Flowers use pollen to make seeds. Hummingbirds help pollen get from one flower to the next. This helps flowers make more seeds. More seeds means more flowers. More flowers means more food for hummingbirds. Isn't it nice how that works out?

1. Why are they called hummingbirds?
 - a. They are very light
 - b. They sing when they fly
 - c. Their wings make a humming sound
 - d. Their song sounds like humming
2. How do hummingbirds eat?
 - a. They drink nectar through their beaks like a straw.
 - b. They chew up flower petals with their beaks.
 - c. They use their heads and bills to eat pollen.
 - d. They lap up nectar with their tongues.
3. How do hummingbirds help flowers?
 - a. They drink nectar.
 - b. They eat pollen.
 - c. They bring pollen from one flower to the next.
 - d. They plant seeds.
4. According to the text, which does the bee hummingbird use to make nests?
 - a. straw
 - b. concrete
 - c. bark
 - d. sticks
5. Which best describes the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Hummingbirds move fast.
 - b. Hummingbirds like to eat nectar.
 - c. Hummingbirds use lots of energy and eat often.
 - d. Hummingbirds drink their own weight in nectar every day.
6. Which statement about bee hummingbirds is **not** true?
 - a. Bee hummingbird eggs are smaller than peas.
 - b. Bee hummingbirds weigh less than a penny.

Germans made these payments by printing money. They would trade the money that they printed for foreign currency. But as they printed more and more, the money was worth less and less. In November of 1921, one US Dollar was worth 330 Marks. A year later, one US Dollar was worth 800 German Marks.

The German government grew desperate. They began to trade Marks for foreign money at any rate. This only made things worse. By November of 1923, one US Dollar could buy 4,210,500,000,000 Marks. That is not a typo. The number is 4 trillion. Their money was devalued so fast that German workers had to go to the store right after getting paid. If they waited until the day's end, their money would be worthless. Basic items like stamps and loaves of bread cost billions of Marks. Germans had to figure their expenses in thousands of billions. That made it tough to get through the day if you lacked strong math skills. Some burned the old bills to provide heat. The Marks' value as a fuel had increased beyond its value as a currency.

That the German economy ever recovered is something of a miracle, but it did recover. They created a new currency called the *Reitenmark*. Unlike the old Marks, the new Reitenmark was backed by land and gold. This means the currency could be traded for gold or land at a fixed rate. This also meant that the government could only print as much money as they had land and gold to back it. That turned out to be a good thing. By December of 1923, the Reitenmark was the official currency. The Germans cut 12 zeros from the prices of their products and it was business as usual. Though they still had a lot of issues to work out, the money was stable. That made life a lot more livable. So while you are out chasing after money, remember that money is little more than a promise, and that promises can be broken.

1. Which is **not** a reason why the German Mark lost value?
 - a. The Germans borrowed money to pay for World War I.
 - b. The Germans had to make payments with foreign money.
 - c. The French demanded large payments.
 - d. The French lost the war.

2. Which best defines the word *inflation* as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. When the value of a currency drops
 - b. To increase the size of a balloon by blowing air into it
 - c. When the same amount of money purchases more than in the past
 - d. When the pictures on the money change

3. Which best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Germany and France fought against one another in World War I.
 - b. Many people died in World War I on all sides.
 - c. The German Mark lost value because of borrowing.
 - d. The French were wrong to increase taxes during war time.

4. Which happened first?
 - a. The German Mark was replaced with the Reitenmark.
 - b. The US Dollar was worth nine German Marks.
 - c. The Germans began making war payments to France.
 - d. German Marks were burned to provide heat.

5. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. Inflation affects governments, not people.
 - b. The best way to pay for a long war is to borrow money.

later she moved onto the Stanford University campus with Dr. Patterson. Koko continued to learn on the campus until 1976. That's when she began living full-time with Patterson's group, the Gorilla Foundation. Patterson and Koko's relationship has blossomed ever since.

Dr. Patterson says that Koko has mastered sign language. She says that Koko knows over 1,000 words, and that Koko makes up new words. For example, Koko didn't know the sign for *ring*, so she signed the words *finger* and *bracelet*. Dr. Patterson thinks that this shows meaningful and constructive use of language.

Not everyone agrees with Dr. Patterson. Some argue that apes like Koko do not understand the meaning of what they are doing. Skeptics say that these apes are just performing complex tricks. For example, if Koko points to an apple and signs *red* or *apple*, Dr. Patterson will give her an apple. They argue that Koko does not really know *what* the sign apple means. She only knows that if she makes the right motion, one which Dr. Patterson has shown her, then she gets an apple. The debate is unresolved, but one thing is for certain: Koko is an extraordinary ape.

Sign language isn't the only unusual thing about Koko. She's also been a pet-owner. In 1983, at the age of 12, researchers said that Koko asked for a cat for Christmas. They gave Koko a stuffed cat. Koko was not happy. She did not play with it, and she continued to sign *sad*. So for her birthday in 1984, they let her pick a cat out of an abandoned litter. Koko picked a gray cat and named him "All Ball." Dr. Patterson said that Koko loved and nurtured All Ball as though he were a baby gorilla. Sadly, All Ball got out of Koko's cage and was hit by a car. Patterson reported that Koko signed "Bad, sad, bad" and "Frown, cry, frown, sad" when she broke the news to her.

It seems like Patterson and Koko have a good relationship, but not everyone agrees with it. Some critics believe that Patterson is *humanizing* the ape. They believe that apes should be left in the most natural state possible. Even Dr. Patterson struggles with these feelings. When asked if her findings could be *duplicated* by another group of scientists, she said, "We don't think that it would be ethical to do again." She went on to argue that animals should not be kept in such unnatural circumstances. Nonetheless, Koko lives in her foundation today.

As for the future, Dr. Patterson and the Gorilla Foundation would love to get Koko to an ape preserve in Maui, but they are having trouble securing the land. So unless you have a few million dollars to spare, Koko's going to be spending her time in Woodland, California with Dr. Patterson. Koko probably doesn't mind that. If she moved to Hawaii, she'd have to give up her Facebook page and Twitter feed, and she's got like 50 thousand "likes." Some may deny that she knows sign language, but nobody says that she doesn't know social networking.

1. Which best expresses the main idea of this article?
 - a. Bees, whales, and apes like Koko all use language to communicate.
 - b. Koko uses sign language but some think it's just a trick.
 - c. It is natural for gorillas and house cats to live together.
 - d. If you want a lot of "likes" on Facebook, get a talking gorilla.
2. Which best describes how the second paragraph is organized?
 - a. Chronological order
 - b. Cause and effect
 - c. Compare and contrast
 - d. Problem and solution
3. Which best expresses the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?
 - a. The author is describing the environment in which Koko lives.

- b. The author is informing readers how Dr. Patterson developed her skills.
- c. The author is persuading readers that Koko should be freed.
- d. The author is telling readers about Koko and Dr. Patterson's background.

4. Which happened **last**?

- a. Koko got a stuffed cat for Christmas.
- b. Koko lost All Ball.
- c. Koko began living with the Gorilla Foundation.
- d. Dr. Patterson began teaching Koko to sign.

5. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?

- a. Koko has mastered sign language without a doubt.
- b. Everybody likes how Dr. Patterson has raised Koko.
- c. Koko doesn't really know sign language.
- d. Some people are troubled by how Koko was raised.

6. Which best defines the word *duplicated* as it is used in the sixth paragraph?

- a. To dispute a fact or disagree with someone
- b. To lie to someone or to fool them
- c. To copy or recreate something
- d. To be disproven through debate

7. Which event happened **first**?

- a. Koko moved onto the Stanford University campus.
- b. Koko picked All Ball out for her birthday.
- c. Koko began living with the Gorilla Foundation.
- d. Koko got a stuffed cat for Christmas.

8. Which best describes the main idea of the **sixth** paragraph?

- a. Dr. Patterson has treated Koko very cruelly.
- b. Dr. Patterson and Koko have a beautiful, pure, and unconflicted relationship.
- c. Some people think that Koko should not have been treated like a human.
- d. Some people are working very hard to prove that Dr. Patterson is wrong.

9. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?

- a. Dr. Patterson has worked hard to teach Koko sign language.
- b. Some people think that Koko only signs to get food.
- c. The Gorilla Foundation would like to move Koko to an ape preserve.
- d. Dr. Patterson has no regrets about working with Koko.

10. If a book were being written about Koko and All Ball, which title would best summarize their story?

- a. *Long Wanted, Short Lived: A Tale of Strong Loves Lost*
- b. *Happy Ending: The Gorilla Who Got What She Wanted*
- c. *A Tale of Two Kitties: A Stuffed Cat Versus a Real One*
- d. *Plushy Love: How A Gorilla Fell in Love with a Stuffed Cat*

Long-Response Questions

1. Does Koko really understand sign language? Support your position with quotes from the text. Explain your quotes clearly. Argue your point thoroughly.

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Some call it the "Hermit Kingdom." It is a place where the outside world has been walled off. American pop music is illegal here and you can get executed for watching soap operas. This is not a make-believe world in a science fiction novel. It's a 46,000 square mile nation hanging off the east coast of China. It is one of the poorest nations in the world and it is armed with nuclear weapons. It is North Korea.

Immediately to the south lies a nation with one of the world's richest economies. About one-third of all phones and TVs are made here. The people of this nation are among the world's most educated. Unemployment is low, job security is high, and workers in this nation enjoy the highest salaries in Asia. It is South Korea. The people of this nation share origins with their northern neighbor, but they have since grown far apart.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (known to Westerners as North Korea) was founded in 1945 after World War II. Their neighbor at the end of the Korean Peninsula, South Korea or the Republic of Korea, was established at the same time. These two nations have an unusual history. For one thing, they have technically been at war since 1950.

Though they were born at the same time, these two countries had different parents. The United States supported South Korea in its infancy. China and the Soviet Union supported North Korea. The U.S. and the Soviet Union may have ended World War II as allies, but they had different ways of organizing their societies.

The U.S. is a capitalist country. That means that some people are rich and some people are poor. Resources are distributed unevenly. Business are owned by private entities. The Soviet Union claimed to have a communist system. That means that everybody supposedly gets the same. Resources are distributed more evenly. Business are owned in "common" by the government. These two superpower nations raised North and South Korea in their own images.

The two Koreas went to war in 1950. The North attacked and took over much of South Korea. But the United States jumped in and pushed the North Koreans back to the Chinese border. Then China got involved and pushed the Americans and South Koreans back. The nations agreed to a ceasefire. Millions of people were dead and the living returned to their original boundaries. The war never officially ended, though combat has ceased for the most part.

After the war, South Korea was one of the poorest nations in the world. In 1960 the average citizen made \$79 a year. The country did not have a lot of natural resources to sell, but they did have many hardworking people. During the 1960s, the country began manufacturing labor-intensive products. Selling these products to people in other nations made South Korea rich. They now have one of the largest and most thriving economies in the world. As of 2012, the average South Korean citizen makes around \$32,020 a year.

The economy of North Korea is dramatically different. Since its birth in the 1940s, North Korea has been one of the most secluded countries in the world. They promote an idea of self-reliance that they call *Juche*. Under this idea, they do little to no trading with other nations. Up until the 1980s, they received large cash infusions from China and the Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union fell apart in the 80s and became separate capitalist countries, of which Russia is largest. Without the Soviet contributions, North Korea entered a long period of *famine* that lasted through the 90s. Food was hard to come by and some estimate that millions of people starved to death. Still, the

country persisted when much of the world thought that it would fall apart. Not only did they survive, they managed to build a nuclear arsenal during this time.

North Korea and South Korea share a border. Since they are locked in state of perpetual war, it's not a regular boarder with a simple checkpoint. The border they share is known as a "demilitarized zone." A demilitarized zone is supposed to be free from military installations. Yet, the Korean Demilitarized Zone is the most heavily militarized border in the world. Both nations have their biggest guns lined-up on the divide and pointed at the other side. It is literally the opposite of what the phrase "demilitarized zone" implies.

Some day Korea may be unified again. It seems unlikely now, but stranger things have happened. Yet, even if they did unify, how could these very different societies acclimate to one another? They have grown in different directions. One country is among the wealthiest, the other amongst the poorest. The average North Korean male is estimated to be five-inches shorter than a South Korean (some suspect because of malnutrition). With such big differences, will they ever be able to see eye to eye?

1. Which term best describes South Korea based on information from the text?

- a. capitalist
- b. communist
- c. socialist
- d. totalitarian

2. Based on the author's tone and viewpoint, which person would most likely **disagree** with the conclusions drawn in this text?

- a. An American businessman
- b. A South Korean businessman
- c. A North Korean politician
- d. A South Korean politician

3. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?

- a. The Korean War was a major win for the United States of America.
- b. North Korea is poor because they don't trade with many other nations.
- c. South Korean people are naturally more gifted than their northern brethren.
- d. The South Korean economy grew at an average pace after 1960.

4. Which statement best expresses the main idea of the **seventh** paragraph?

- a. South Korea was a very poor nation in 1960.
- b. South Korea makes a lot of money by trading natural resources.
- c. South Korea had a remarkable economic turnaround.
- d. South Korea produces many electronic products.

5. Which statement best describes the results of the Korean War?

- a. The South Koreans gained a lot of ground after winning the war.
- b. The North Koreans benefitted tremendously from the war.
- c. The Korean War led to the formation of South Korea.
- d. Both sides lost many people and got little to show for it.

6. Which best defines the word *famine* as it is used in the eighth paragraph?

- a. A period of time when food is scarce
- b. A period of time when it is hard to get laborers
- c. A period of time when the government is going through a transition
- d. A period of time when a country does not have a leader

7. What is ironic about the Korean Demilitarized Zone?

- a. It is not the average border with a simple checkpoint.

passing. There were bunkers armed with mounted machine guns and anti-tank guns. These were for pushing back attackers. And there were many large and small fortresses along the line. Each had mess halls, lots of supplies, and air conditioning. The Maginot line would give the French a supreme edge in the case of a head-on invasion by the Germans.

Unfortunately for the French, the Germans did not attack head-on. They positioned a decoy army in front of the line to distract the French. While the French waited, the Germans snuck a larger force through Belgium. Belgium is France's northeastern neighbor. The French did have some defenses along their border with Belgium, but this part of the Maginot line was weak. The Germans made quick work of these defenses. Within five days of their initial attack they were well into France.

Once they were in France, the Germans attempted to seize the main forts along the Maginot Line. They were not successful. The forts had proved to be strong, but they failed to hold back the Germans. The Germans had taken Paris, France's capital city. Soon after the French commander ordered his men to stand down. He commanded the French defenders to leave their bases along the Maginot Line. These soldiers were then taken to POW camps.

While the Maginot Line did not work in the way that the French had hoped, they did benefit by having built it. Belgium and England were strong allies. England had pledged to protect Belgium. Belgium declared itself a neutral country, one which wanted to stay out of wars. When Germany invaded Belgium to bypass the Maginot Line, they violated Belgium's neutrality. This led to England entering the war sooner.

Though the Maginot Line is no longer used militarily, many of the buildings remain. Some of the forts are now wine cellars or mushroom farms. One was turned into a disco club. Today the Maginot Line is often used as a metaphor. People may refer to a failed project in which someone placed a lot of hope as a Maginot Line. Also, the Maginot Line lives on as the best-known symbol of the common saying that "generals always fight the last war."

1. Which of the following statements is **true**?
 - a. The Maginot Line provided absolutely no benefit to the French.
 - b. The Maginot Line is still used by the French army today.
 - c. Maginot's experiences during WWI led to his support for the line.
 - d. The French were betrayed by the Belgians during World War II.
2. Which best expresses the author's purpose in writing the fourth paragraph?
 - a. To persuade readers that the Maginot Line was not at all thin.
 - b. To inform readers of the types of defenses along the Maginot Line.
 - c. To describe what the inside of the Maginot Line looked like.
 - d. To compare and contrast defenses along the Maginot Line.
3. Which best describes the weakness of the Maginot Line?
 - a. It was built from cheap material and could not resist attack.
 - b. Poor screening let spies take control of the forts from within.
 - c. The line was not fortified along France's border with Belgium.
 - d. The French underestimated the power of newer German tanks.
4. Which of the following is a **false** statement?
 - a. André Maginot fought against the French in the First World War.

- b. André Maginot served as the Minister of War for France.
 - c. The Maginot Line is named after André Maginot.
 - d. After WWI, André Maginot believed that Germany would attack France again.
5. Which best explains why André Maginot wanted to build up France's defense rather than their offense?
- a. After WWI, France and Germany became history's greatest allies.
 - b. France needed protection from the Germans and the hostile Belgians.
 - c. Maginot feared that French commanders might invade Germany if they had the power.
 - d. France had far fewer people than Germany and needed to save manpower.
6. Which best defines the meaning of the word *stalemate* as it is used in the second paragraph?
- a. When troops lose morale because they miss their families
 - b. When two sides are locked in a draw
 - c. When breathing is made difficult by foul odors
 - d. When one side has a large advantage over the other
7. Which best expresses the main idea of the last paragraph of this text?
- a. It describes how the Maginot Line is still used today.
 - b. It restates the main points of the text.
 - c. It discusses how the French used the Maginot Line during World War II.
 - d. It explains how the Maginot Line is used as a symbol.
8. How did the French lose control of the Maginot Line?
- a. The Germans overtook the fortresses with military power.
 - b. The Germans tunneled into the fortresses using new technology.
 - c. The French were starved out of the fortresses by German siege.
 - d. The French surrendered the fortresses.
9. Which was **not** part of Germany's strategy to invade France in World War II?
- a. Position a decoy force in front of the Maginot Line
 - b. Sneak troops into France by tunneling underneath the Maginot Line
 - c. Bring a large army through Belgium
 - d. Move very quickly
10. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
- a. *Undefeatable: How the Maginot Line Became the World's Strongest Fortress*
 - b. *André Maginot: France's Greatest Patriot*
 - c. *Strong as the Weakest Link: The Mighty Maginot Wall and Its Shortcomings*
 - d. *Blood Feud: The History of War Between France and Germany*

1. What is meant by the last line of the text? How did the Maginot Line serve as an example of this saying? Support your explanation with evidence from the text.

Metal detectors make magnetic waves. These waves go through the ground. The waves change when they hit metal. Then the device beeps. This lets the person with the device know that metal is close.

The first metal detectors were meant to help miners. They were big. They cost a lot of money. They used a lot of power. And worst of all, they didn't work well. People kept trying to make them better.

Metal detectors got smaller. Now they are light and cheap. They also work better. That is why people bring them to the beach. They can look for rings in the water. They can look for phones in the sand. Metal detectors help them find these things. They usually just find junk though.

Metal detectors also protect people. They help to keep guns out of some places. They are in airports. They are in courthouses. Some schools use them. They help guards look for weapons. Guards use special wands to find metal on a person.

These devices save lives in other ways too. During wars, people plant bombs in the ground. When the war ends, they don't clean up their messes. This is unsafe for the people who live in those places. Others use metal detectors to find bombs. They remove them and help the people.

These devices also make clothes safer. It sounds funny, but it's true. Most clothes are made in big factories. There are lots of needles in these places. Needles break from time to time. They get stuck in the clothes. They would poke people trying them on. They don't though. That's because our clothes are scanned for metal. Isn't that nice? Let's hear it for metal detectors. They make the world a safer place.

1. Which was **not** one of the problems with the first metal detectors?
 - a. They were too big.
 - b. They were too expensive.
 - c. They didn't work well.
 - d. They were unsafe.

2. Which best describes the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. It describes the sounds of a metal detector.
 - b. It explains how metal detectors work.
 - c. It warns about the effects of metal detectors.
 - d. It explains how magnetic waves move.

3. How do metal detectors make clothing safer?
 - a. Metal detectors make sure factory machines are working the right way.
 - b. Metal detectors make sure workers don't bring weapons into factories.
 - c. Metal detectors make sure that broken needles don't get into clothing.
 - d. Metal detectors help people recover lost clothing at the beach.

4. Why were metal detectors first used?
 - a. To help miners
 - b. To help security guards
 - c. To help doctors
 - d. To help soldiers

5. According to the text, metal detectors have been used in all of the following **except** which?
 - a. schools
 - b. churches
 - c. courthouses
 - d. airports

6. How do metal detectors help soldiers?
 - a. They warn soldiers when bullets are coming.
 - b. They help soldiers find hidden bombs.
 - c. They find weaknesses in their armor.
 - d. They create a relaxing beeping noise.

feed on snakes, rats, and lizards, creatures that most people dislike. They are also cute and furry. And they kill deadly cobras. What's not to love? Sadly, India is a much different place than Hawaii.

When the mongooses got to Hawaii, they did not wipe out the rats as plantation owners hoped. Instead, they joined them in ravaging the birds, lizards, and small plants that were native to Hawaii. It's not that the mongooses became friends with the rats. They still ate a bunch of them. But mongooses are not too different from most other animals: they go for the easy meal. In Hawaii they had a choice. Pursue the elusive black rat or munch on turtle eggs while tanning on the beach. Most took the easy route.

Now Hawaii has two unwanted guests defacing the natural beauty. The Hawaiians have learned their lesson. Talks of bringing in mongoose eating gorillas have been tabled. So don't get uptight when they don't welcome your cat Mittens with open arms. They're trying to maintain a delicate ecosystem here.

1. Based on the text, which best explains how black rats were introduced to Hawaii?
 - a. The native Hawaiians imported them to solve a problem with their crops.
 - b. The Asians brought them to Hawaii when they first arrived.
 - c. The Europeans brought them on their ships.
 - d. The rats were able to swim to Hawaii from Asia.

2. Which best defines the word *originate* as it was used in the **second** paragraph?
 - a. To come from a place
 - b. To go to a place
 - c. To become independent
 - d. To wander the world

3. Which event happened **first**?
 - a. The mongoose was introduced to Hawaii
 - b. The black rat was introduced to Hawaii
 - c. The black rat migrated to Europe
 - d. Plantation owners bred mongooses

4. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. Black rats threaten many creatures native to Hawaii.
 - b. Mongooses threaten many creatures native to Hawaii.
 - c. Mongooses were brought to Hawaii intentionally.
 - d. The only reason people dislike rats is because they are ugly.

5. Which best express the author's main purpose in writing this text?
 - a. To persuade readers to protect the endangered mongoose
 - b. To describe the habits and hazards of the black rat
 - c. To inform readers about species that have invaded Hawaii
 - d. To entertain readers with tales of a mongoose's adventures

6. Which best expresses the main idea of the **sixth** paragraph?
 - a. This paragraph is about Indian culture and wildlife.
 - b. This paragraph is about the mongoose's role in Indian society.
 - c. This paragraph is about the lifecycle of the mongoose.
 - d. This paragraph is about how mongooses migrated to India.

7. Which statement is **false** according to information in the text?
 - a. Rats eat lots of vegetation and crops.

The Pony Express had 184 stations along the trail. The stations were around ten miles apart. This is about how far a horse could run at a gallop before tiring. The rider would switch to a new horse at each station. He would only take his mail pouch with him. Every 75-100 miles, the rider would get to a home station. At each home station, riders would rest. Before resting, he would give his mail pouch to a new rider. The mail never stopped moving, even while the horses and riders rested.

It was tough to ride for the Pony Express. Each rider had to weigh less than 125 pounds. Speed was the key. Most of the riders were teenage boys. They rode at a fast pace for up to 100 miles a day. If there were an emergency, one might have to ride 200 miles in a day. The ride could be rough and dangerous. Attacks by Native Americans were common. But in its time running, the Pony Express only lost one mail pouch.

The Pony Express filled an important role for a time, but it did not last. The Civil War started in April of 1861. This was bad news for the owners. The worst for them was yet to come. On October 24th, 1861, the first telegraph line to California was finished. This linked them to the rest of the country. People could send messages in an instant. Two days later the Pony Express closed. But the lore of the brave riders lives on even today.

1. Which happened first?
 - a. Settlers rushed to California to find gold.
 - b. The Pony Express was started.
 - c. The train line to California was finished.
 - d. The first telegraph line to California was finished.

2. Which best explains why Pony Express riders had to weigh less than 125 pounds?
 - a. Heavier men were more expensive.
 - b. Horses were scared of heavier men.
 - c. Heavier men scared customers.
 - d. Horses could move quicker with lighter men.

3. How fast could the Pony Express take a letter from California to Missouri?
 - a. 24 hours b. ten days
 - c. twenty days d. one month

4. Why were the Pony Express stations about ten miles apart?
 - a. This was about as far as a man could walk in a single day.
 - b. This was as far as a man could ride on a horse in a day.
 - c. This was so the riders wouldn't get so lonely at night.
 - d. This was as far as a horse could run without getting tired.

5. Which was probably **not** a requirement to be a rider for the Pony Express?
 - a. You had to be light. b. You had to be an expert horse rider.
 - c. You had to be able to read and write. d. You had to be brave in the face of danger.

6. Which best describes that main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. It is about how many Pony Express stations there were.
 - b. It is about how the Pony Express carried mail so quickly.
 - c. It is about how the Pony Express riders slept in the stations.
 - d. It is about how far the Pony Express riders would go in a day.

7. Which of these ended the Pony Express?

- a. The telegraph b. The Civil War
- c. Wars with Native Americans d. The train line

8. About how far did Pony Express riders travel on a usual day?

- a. 10 miles b. 200 miles
- c. 100 miles d. 2000 miles

9. How many mail pouches did the Pony Express lose?

- a. The Pony Express never lost a mail pouch. b. One
- c. Two d. Too many to keep track

10. Which title best describes the author's purpose in writing this?

- a. *Out of Touch: Why Phones are Faster Than Horses*
- b. *The Pony Express: Stories of Their Bravery in Battle*
- c. *Back in Touch: Why We Should Use Horses to Deliver the Mail*
- d. *The Pony Express: About the 1860's Fastest Mail Service*

1. How was the Pony Express able to move letters across the country so quickly? Refer to the text in your answer.

2. How did the California Gold Rush help to create a need for the Pony Express? Use the text to support your response.

give you a broader perspective on things. It can make you worldlier. You can learn how people live in far away places. You can learn about cultures different from your own.

Reading is good for your state of mind. It has a calming effect. It can lower your stress levels and help you relax. You can escape from your troubles for a moment when you read, and it's a positive escape. The benefits of reading far outweigh those of acting like a doofus. So do yourself a favor: the next time you get a reading assignment, take as much as you can from it. Squeeze it for every drop of knowledge that it contains. Then move on to the next one.

1. Which best expresses the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Reading is exciting.
 - b. Reading strengthens your mind.
 - c. Age affects the body in many ways.
 - d. Working out keeps your body in shape.

2. Why does the author think that you should read books that are boring?
 - a. You will eventually grow to love them if you read them enough.
 - b. You will get better grades in reading class.
 - c. You will make your teacher very happy.
 - d. You will learn new words.

3. Which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Reading can benefit you.
 - b. You can learn to program video games or design clothing by reading.
 - c. You can learn amazing things and become a better person by reading.
 - d. Knowledge is power.

4. Which is **not** a reason given by the author why students fail to complete reading assignments?
 - a. Students may be bored.
 - b. Students may be distracted.
 - c. Students may be unwilling to focus.
 - d. Students may be tired.

5. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
 - a. He is trying to persuade students to do their reading work.
 - b. He is teaching people how to become better readers.
 - c. He is explaining why people don't do their reading work.
 - d. He is entertaining readers with facts about the mind and body.

6. Which best describes the author's tone in the first three sentences?
 - a. Surprised
 - b. Sarcastic
 - c. Informative
 - d. Irate

7. Which of the following is **not** one of the author's main points?
 - a. Reading broadens your perspective and makes you a better person.
 - b. Reading is a relaxing activity with positive mental side effects.
 - c. Reading helps you perform on tests and get into selective schools.
 - d. Reading keeps your mind in shape and prevents losses due to age.

8. Which is **not** one of the author's arguments in the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Reading gives you a broader perspective on the world.
 - b. Reading changes the way that you understand the world.
 - c. Reading helps prepare you for your job in the real world.
 - d. Reading teaches you about distant lands and cultures.

9. Why does the author believe that reading is good for your mind state?

less likely to be killed in a car wreck if you are wearing a seat belt. You are much less likely to get seriously injured if you are wearing one. So why not take the safer way? Why not go the way that has been proven to result in fewer deaths? You do want to live, don't you?

1. Which title best expresses the main idea of this text?
 - a. *Car Accidents: Ways That We Can Prevent Them*
 - b. *Slow Down: Save Lives By Driving Slower*
 - c. *Seat Belts: Wear Them to Survive Any Wreck*
 - d. *Why Not? Improve Your Odds with Seat Belts*

2. Which best expresses the author's main purpose in writing this text?
 - a. To inform readers about seat belt laws
 - b. To persuade readers to wear seat belts
 - c. To entertain readers with stories and jokes about seat belts
 - d. To describe what car accidents are like without seat belts

3. Which best describes the text structure in the fourth paragraph?
 - a. Compare and contrast
 - b. Chronological order
 - c. Sequential order
 - d. Problem and solution

4. Which best defines the word *alternatives* as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. Being safe
 - b. Being unsafe
 - c. Other choices
 - d. Driving fast

5. Which best expresses the main idea of the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Seat belts are a waste of money.
 - b. People don't like to give money away.
 - c. Not wearing a seat belt may cost you.
 - d. Seat belt laws save lives.

6. Which best defines the word *invincible* as it is used in the last paragraph?
 - a. Uncool
 - b. Difficult or impossible to see
 - c. Glow-in-the-dark
 - d. Unable to be harmed

7. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
 - a. Being safe is more important than being cool.
 - b. Moving freely around a car is worth the risks.
 - c. Seat belts will keep you safe in any car accident.
 - d. You should be most concerned with your comfort.

8. Which argument is **not** made by the author?
 - a. Not wearing a seat belt can be expensive.
 - b. Penalties for not wearing a seat belt should increase.
 - c. Seat belts keep you from flying through the windshield.
 - d. Wearing a seat belt is cooler than suffering an injury.

9. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. Seat belts save lives.
 - b. Every state in America has seat belt laws.
 - c. You shouldn't drive anywhere until you are wearing your seat belt.
 - d. Seat belts increase your chances of being injured in a car wreck.

Nonfiction Reading Test

Tetris

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Do you like video games? Lots of people do. There are many types of video games. Some people like action games. Other people like driving games. But the most popular game of all time is a puzzle game.

Tetris is a game about making lines. Blocks fall from the top of the screen. They fall one at a time. The player moves the blocks. Once the blocks hit the bottom, they are locked in place. Players try to make lines go across the screen with no gaps. Complete lines disappear. This gives players more room. The blocks pile up during the game. The game ends when the blocks get to the top of the screen.

A man named Alexey made Tetris in 1984. All the pieces in Tetris have four blocks. The word "tetra" means four. Alexey named his game after tetra and tennis. He made Tetris while working at a science academy in Moscow. Moscow is in Russia.

Alexey made his game on a screen that only showed letters. He could not use blocks. The blocks were made out of letters in the first game of Tetris. Still, all Alexey's friends loved his game. It was easy to learn and fun to play.

Soon the game spread across the world. It was on every computer. It was in arcades. It came with every one of Nintendo's Game Boy. More than 100 million Game Boys were sold. Tetris was all over the place. Even today Tetris comes with many phones.

Dr. Richard Haier has studied Tetris players. He ran many tests. He found that playing Tetris boosts mental activity. Dr. Haier thinks Tetris is good for the brain. I agree with this finding. Now go and play some Tetris. It's just what the doctor ordered.

1. What is this article about?

- a. Video games
- b. Tetris
- c. Alexey
- d. Blocks

2. What is the goal of Tetris?

- a. To make tall piles of blocks
- b. To match the colors of blocks
- c. To make complete lines
- d. To get blocks to the top of the screen

3. After which is Tetris named?
 - a. Fish
 - b. The number ten
 - c. Paris
 - d. Tennis

4. Where was Alexey when he created Tetris?
 - a. Paris
 - b. Russia
 - c. The United States of America
 - d. Germany

5. What is the highest selling game of all time?
 - a. A driving game
 - b. Call of Duty
 - c. Tetris
 - d. An action game

6. Which event happened first?
 - a. Tetris was played with letters instead of blocks
 - b. Tetris was released on the phone
 - c. Tetris was released in the arcade
 - d. Tetris was brought to the Game Boy

7. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. To persuade readers to play Tetris
 - b. To explain how Tetris is played
 - c. To describe different types of games
 - d. To compare Tetris to other puzzle games

8. According to Dr. Richard Haier, which is true about Tetris?
 - a. Tetris lowers blood pressure
 - b. Tetris increases physical strength
 - c. Tetris boosts mental activity
 - d. Tetris has no positive side effects

9. What happens to a block that hits the bottom and does not form a complete line in Tetris?
 - a. It disappears and reappears at the top.
 - b. It is locked in place.
 - c. The player moves the block.
 - d. It gives the player more room.

10. Why did the first game of Tetris use letters instead of blocks?
 - a. Alexey did not think to use blocks
 - b. Alexey thought letters were more fun
 - c. Alexey's screen could only show letters
 - d. Alexey wanted to teach people to read

How does the word "tetra" relate to the game Tetris? Use evidence from the text to support your response.

A tumbler named George Nissan and his coach Larry Griswold made the first modern trampoline in 1936. They got the idea by watching trapeze artists bouncing off of a tight net at the circus. The two men experimented with different fabrics and designs. They found a winner when they stretched a piece of canvas across a steel frame and held it in place with springs. They named their device after the Spanish word *trampolín*, which means diving board.

At first Nissan and Griswold used their device to train tumblers. The piece of training equipment was a lot of fun. They realized that everyone could enjoy their trampoline, not just tumblers. The men wanted to share their idea with the whole world. In 1942 they began making trampolines to sell to the public.

Trampolines may be fun, but they can also be dangerous. Experts estimate that more than 100,000 people hurt themselves while using one each year. Clubs and gyms use large safety nets and rubber padding to make it safer. Most trampoline injuries happen at home. Since trampolines are more affordable than ever, injuries are even more common.

These injuries happen for many reasons. People may bounce too high and land off of the trampoline or onto the springs. From the peak of the bounce, this can be a fall of 13 feet or more. Ouch. Injuries also happen when many people are jumping at the same time. Jumpers may collide and cause one another to land in strange ways. Lots of people have broken bones in this way. Perhaps the worst injuries happen when untrained people try to do flips. Landing on your neck or head can paralyze or even kill you.

But don't let all that bad news keep you down. There are many things that you can do to practice safe trampolining. You can cover the springs with special pads so that people's limbs are less likely to get stuck in them. You can surround your trampoline with a net so that people don't fall off of it. You can limit bouncers to one at a time. This will prevent collision injuries. Perhaps most importantly, you should never flip on a trampoline without professional guidance. You are much less likely to get hurt on a trampoline if you do these things.

Trampolines have been around for a while now. They have brought a lot of joy to many people. There is no feeling quite like soaring up in the air and then free-falling. Trampolines can also be a good source of exercise and activity. They can help people improve their balance and aerial moves. But they can also be deadly. Be sure that you are practicing safety while having a good time. Happy bouncing!

1. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. The basic idea of a trampoline has been around for a long time.
 - b. Nissan and Griswold owe much of their success to circus performers.
 - c. Most club and gym trampolines are safer than most home trampolines.
 - d. Trampolines are dangerous and not much can be done to make them safer.
2. Which best describes the main idea in the second paragraph?
 - a. It explains how Eskimo have used walrus skins like trampolines for a long time.
 - b. It describes activities similar to trampolining that came first.
 - c. It compares and contrasts how different groups have used trampolines.
 - d. It discusses how trampolining is ancient.
3. Which of the following events happened **first**?
 - a. Firemen begin using life nets to catch people jumping from buildings.
 - b. Nissan and Griswold begin selling trampolines to the public.
 - c. Circus performers begin using netting to perform tricks.

- d. Nissan and Griswold invent the modern trampoline.
4. Which is **not** cited as a cause of trampoline related injuries?
a. Colliding with other bouncers b. Bouncing into low hanging objects
c. Jumping off of the trampoline d. Landing a flip incorrectly
5. Which best explains why trampoline injuries are more likely to happen at home?
a. Home trampolines get rained on and become very slippery.
b. Home trampolines are cheaply made and fall apart during use.
c. Home trampolines often lack proper safety equipment.
d. Most people are on their best behavior when they leave the home.
6. Which best describes the structure of the text in the sixth paragraph?
a. Cause and effect b. Compare and contrast
c. Chronological order d. Descriptive writing
7. How does the purpose of the text switch after the fourth paragraph?
a. It goes from describing the uses of a trampoline to the dangers.
b. It shifts from explaining the history of the trampoline to health benefits.
c. It moves from Nissan and Griswold's life story to how trampolines are used today.
d. It changes from discussing the origins of the trampoline to the risks.
8. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?
a. Trampolines are extremely dangerous and should be banned.
b. Nissan and Griswold stole the idea for the trampoline from the eskimos.
c. You should take turns when jumping on a trampoline with friends.
d. You'll never learn to flip if you don't start practicing by yourself.
9. Which best expresses the author's purpose in writing the seventh paragraph?
a. He is persuading readers to stay off of trampolines.
b. He is telling readers how to prevent trampoline injuries.
c. He is describing what a modern trampoline looks like.
d. He is informing readers about the risks of trampolining.
10. Which of the following is **not** a main idea in this text?
a. Trampoline-like activities have been around for a long time.
b. Trampolining can be dangerous if practiced unsafely.
c. Trampolining is a great way to reduce stress and anxiety.
d. Modern trampolines were invented by Nissan and Griswold.

Long Response

1. If you were buying a new trampoline, what advice do you believe that the author would give you? Refer to the text to support your response.

probably call them TVs. John Baird made the first TV in 1925. It had one color. It could only show 30 lines. This was just enough room for a face. It didn't work well, but it was a start.

The first TV station was set up in 1928. It was in New York. Few people had TVs. The broadcasts were not meant to be watched. They showed a Felix the Cat doll for two hours a day. The doll spun around on a record player. They were experimenting. It took many years to get it right.

By the end of the 1930s, TVs were working well. America got its first taste at the 1939 World's Fair. This was one of the biggest events ever. There were 200 small, black and white TVs set up around the fair. The U.S. President gave a speech over the TVs. The TVs were only five inches big but the people loved it.

They wanted TVs. But World War II was going on during this time. Factories were busy making guns and bombs. When the war was over, TV spread across the country. By 1948 there were 4 big TV networks in America. They aired their shows from 8 to 11 each night. Local shows were aired at other times. Most of the time, nothing was shown at all. TV was not "always on" like it is now. Color TVs came out in 1953. They cost too much money for most. Also, shows were aired in black and white. By 1965, color TVs were cheaper. TV stations started airing shows in color. People had to switch if they wanted to see the shows.

Now most TVs are high-def. This means that they have many lines on them. This makes the image clear. TVs have come a long way since Baird's 30 line set. High-def TVs have 1080 lines. There are state of the art sets called 4K TVs. These TVs have 3,840 lines. Some people watch TV in 3D. I wonder what they will come up with next. Smell-o-vision anyone?

1. When did color TVs come out?

- a. 1925 b. 1953
- c. 1939 d. 1965

2. Which was **not** true about the first TV?

- a. It could only show one color. b. It only had 30 lines.
- c. It did not have sound. d. It did not work well.

3. When did networks start showing programs in color?

- a. 1948 b. 1953
- c. 1965 d. 1939

4. Why did the first TV station only show Felix the Cat for two hours a day?

- a. They were running tests. b. Felix the Cat was really popular.
- c. Felix the Cat had been a big radio star. d. Felix the Cat was the only show that they had.

5. Which of these events slowed the spread of TVs?

- a. The World's Fair of 1939 b. The Civil War
- c. The election of the U.S. President. d. World War II

6. What is the author's main purpose in writing this?

- a. He is trying to explain how a TV works. b. He is telling readers how TVs became popular.
- c. He is describing the history of the TV. d. He is trying to get people to watch more TV.

7. Why did many families switch to color TVs in 1965?

Nonfiction Reading Test

Wintertime

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Brrrr. Winter is cold in some places. Many plants do not grow during winter. Some plants die. Snow and ice may cover the ground. It can be hard for animals to find food during winter. Animals get through this time in many ways.

Birds and butterflies can fly. Many of them do not stick around for the winter. They leave. They go to a place with nice weather. Then they come home in the spring. We call this migration. Migrating is a good way to avoid the cold.

Another good way to avoid the cold is to sleep through it. Many animals hide during the winter. Their bodies slow down. They save their energy. They do not eat. They live off of their fat. They do this until food returns. We call this hibernation. Snakes, frogs, and bears hibernate.

Some animals store food in their homes. They do not sleep all winter, but they do much less. They live on what they saved in the summer and fall. This is what squirrels, beavers, and raccoons do. Skunks do this too.

Other animals tough it out. They do not leave. They do not hide. They must survive. Sometimes nature helps them out. Some animals grow thicker coats in the winter. Other animals change color. The arctic fox is brown in the summer. His coat turns white in the winter.

Winter may be pretty. It is nice to see snow on the trees. But it is dangerous too. People are also at risk. You can get frost bitten or worse. How do you beat the winter? Do you wear a thick coat? Do you stay inside? Or do you live somewhere warm?

1. Which of these animals migrates during the winter?
a. foxes b. snakes
c. bears d. butterflies
2. Which of these animals survives winter by eating stored food?
a. bears b. raccoons
c. frogs d. birds
3. Why does the arctic fox's coat change white during winter?
a. The white coat is prettier and attracts mates.
b. White absorbs the sun and is warmer.
c. The white coat helps him blend with the snow.
d. His body saves energy by reducing hair color.
4. Which does not hibernate?
a. skunks b. frogs
c. snakes d. bears
5. Why is winter a difficult season in some places?
a. There is less food.

CHAPTER 2

1. Questions 1-7.

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees S. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

The sixteenth century was an age of great ___ exploration.

A. cosmic B. land C. mental D. common man E. none of the above

2. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political ___.

A. entanglement B. discussion C. negotiation D. problems E. none of the above

3. The Pope divided New World lands between Spain and Portugal according to their location on one side or the other of an imaginary geographical line 50 degrees west of Greenwich that extends in a ___ direction.

A. north and south B. crosswise C. easterly D. south east E. north and west

4. One of Magellan's ships explored the ___ of South America for a passage across the continent.

A. coastline B. mountain range C. physical features D. islands E. none of the above

5. Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern ___.

A. coast B. inland C. body of land with water on three sides D. border E. answer not available

6. The passage was found near 50 degrees S of ___.

A. Greenwich B. The equator C. Spain D. Portugal E. Madrid

7. In the spring of 1521, the ships crossed the ___ now called the International Date Line.

A. imaginary circle passing through the poles B. Imaginary line parallel to the equator C. area D. land mass E. answer not found in article

8. Questions 8-14

Marie Curie was one of the most accomplished scientists in history. Together with her husband, Pierre, she discovered radium, an element widely used for treating cancer, and studied uranium and other radioactive substances. Pierre and Marie's amicable collaboration later helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

Marie was born in 1867 in Warsaw, Poland, where her father was a professor of physics. At the early age, she displayed a brilliant mind and a blithe personality. Her great exuberance for learning prompted her to continue with her studies after high school. She became disgruntled, however, when she learned that the university in Warsaw was closed to women. Determined to receive a higher education, she defiantly left Poland and in 1891 entered the Sorbonne, a French university, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate in physics.

Marie was fortunate to have studied at the Sorbonne with some of the greatest scientists of her day, one of whom was Pierre Curie. Marie and Pierre were married in 1895 and spent many productive years working together in the physics laboratory. A short time after they discovered radium, Pierre was killed by a horse-drawn wagon in 1906. Marie was stunned by this horrible misfortune and endured heartbreaking anguish. Despondently she recalled their close relationship and the joy that they had shared in scientific research. The fact that she had two young daughters to raise by herself greatly increased her distress.

Curie's feeling of desolation finally began to fade when she was asked to succeed her husband as a physics professor at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to be given a professorship at the world-famous university. In 1911 she received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for isolating radium. Although Marie Curie eventually suffered a fatal illness from her long exposure to radium, she never became disillusioned about her work. Regardless of the consequences, she had dedicated herself to science and to revealing the mysteries of the physical world.

The Curies' ____ collaboration helped to unlock the secrets of the atom.

A. friendly B. competitive C. courteous D. industrious E. chemistry

9. Marie had a bright mind and a __personality.

A. strong B. lighthearted C. humorous D. strange E. envious

10. When she learned that she could not attend the university in Warsaw, she felt ____.

A. hopeless B. annoyed C. depressed D. worried E. none of the above

11. Marie ____ by leaving Poland and traveling to France to enter the Sorbonne.

A. challenged authority B. showed intelligence C. behaved D. was distressed E. answer not available in article

12. ____ she remembered their joy together.

A. Dejectedly B. Worried C. Tearfully D. Happily E. Sorrowfully

13. Her ____ began to fade when she returned to the Sorbonne to succeed her husband.

A. misfortune B. anger C. wretchedness D. disappointment E. ambition

14. Even though she became fatally ill from working with radium, Marie Curie was never ____.

A. troubled B. worried C. disappointed D. sorrowful E. disturbed

15. Questions 15-19.

Mount Vesuvius, a volcano located between the ancient Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, has received much attention because of its frequent and destructive eruptions. The most famous of these eruptions occurred in A. D. 79.

The volcano had been inactive for centuries. There was little warning of the coming eruption, although one account unearthed by archaeologists says that a hard rain and a strong wind had disturbed the celestial calm during the preceding night. Early the next morning, the volcano poured a huge river of molten rock down upon Herculaneum, completely burying the city and filling in the harbor with coagulated lava.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the mountain, cinders, stone and ash rained down on Pompeii. Sparks from the burning ash ignited the combustible rooftops quickly. Large portions of the city were destroyed in the conflagration. Fire, however, was not the only cause of destruction. Poisonous sulphuric gases saturated the air. These heavy gases were not buoyant in the atmosphere and therefore sank toward the earth and suffocated people.

Over the years, excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum have revealed a great deal about the behavior of the volcano. By analyzing data, much as a zoologist dissects a specimen animal, scientist have concluded that the eruption changed large portions of the area's geography. For instance, it turned the Sarno River from its course and raised the level of the beach along the Bay of Naples. Meteorologists studying these events have also concluded that Vesuvius caused a huge tidal wave that affected the world's climate. In addition to making these investigations, archaeologists have been able to study the skeletons of victims by using distilled water to wash away the volcanic ash. By strengthening the brittle bones with acrylic paint, scientists have been able to examine the skeletons and draw conclusions about the diet and habits of the residents. Finally, the excavations at both Pompeii and Herculaneum have yielded many examples of classical art, such as jewelry made of bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius and its tragic consequences have provided us with a wealth of data about the effects that volcanoes can have on the surrounding area. Today volcanologists can locate and predict eruptions, saving lives and preventing the destruction of cities and cultures.

Herculaneum and its harbor were buried under ___lava.
A. liquid B. solid C. flowing D. gas E. answer not available

16. The poisonous gases were not ___ in the air.
A. able to float B. visible C. able to evaporate D. invisible E. able to condense

17. Scientists analyzed data about Vesuvius in the same way that a zoologist ___ a specimen.
A. describes in detail B. studies by cutting apart C. photographs D. chart E. answer not available

18. ___have concluded that the volcanic eruption caused a tidal wave.
A. Scientist who study oceans B. Scientist who study atmospheric conditions C. Scientist who study ash D. Scientist who study animal behavior E. Answer not available in article

19. Scientist have used ___water to wash away volcanic ash from the skeletons of victims.
A. bottled B. volcanic C. purified D. sea E. fountain

20. Questions 20-24.

Conflict had existed between Spain and England since the 1570s. England wanted a share of the wealth that Spain had been taking from the lands it had claimed in the Americas.

Elizabeth I, Queen of England, encouraged her staunch admiral of the navy, Sir Francis Drake, to raid Spanish ships and towns. Though these raids were on a small scale, Drake achieved dramatic success, adding gold and silver to England's treasury and diminishing Spain's omnipotence.

Religious differences also caused conflict between the two countries. Whereas Spain was Roman Catholic, most of England had become Protestant. King Philip II of Spain wanted to claim the throne and make England a Catholic country again. To satisfy his ambition and also to retaliate against England's theft of his gold and silver, King Philip began to build his fleet of warships, the Armada, in January 1586.

Philip intended his fleet to be indestructible. In addition to building new warships, he marshaled one hundred and thirty sailing vessels of all types and recruited more than nineteen thousand robust soldiers and eight thousand sailors. Although some of his ships lacked guns and others lacked ammunition, Philip was convinced that his Armada could withstand any battle with England.

The martial Armada set sail from Lisbon, Portugal, on May 9, 1588, but bad weather forced it back to port. The voyage resumed on July 22 after the weather became more stable.

The Spanish fleet met the smaller, faster, and more maneuverable English ships in battle off the coast of Plymouth, England, first on July 31 and again on August 2. The two battles left Spain vulnerable, having lost several ships and with its ammunition depleted. On August 7, while the Armada lay at anchor on the French side of the Strait of Dover, England sent eight burning ships into the midst of the Spanish fleet to set it on fire. Blocked on one side, the Spanish ships could only drift away, their crews in panic and disorder. Before the Armada could regroup, the English attacked again on August 8.

Although the Spaniards made a valiant effort to fight back, the fleet suffered extensive damage. During the eight hours of battle, the Armada drifted perilously close to the rocky coastline. At the moment when it seemed that the Spanish ships would be driven onto the English shore, the wind shifted, and the Armada drifted out into the North Sea. The Spaniards recognized the superiority of the English fleet and returned home, defeated.

Sir Francis Drake added wealth to the treasury and diminished Spain's ____.

A. unlimited power B. unrestricted growth C. territory D. treaties E. answer not available in article

21. Philip recruited many ____ soldiers and sailors.

A. warlike B. strong C. accomplished D. timid E. non experienced

22. The ____ Armada set sail on May 9, 1588.

A. complete B. warlike C. independent D. isolated E. answer not available

23. The two battles left the Spanish fleet ____.

A. open to change B. triumphant C. open to attack D. defeated E. discouraged

24. The Armada was ____ on one side.

A. closed off B. damaged C. alone D. circled E. answer not available in this article

25. Questions 25-29.

The victory of the small Greek democracy of Athens over the mighty Persian empire in 490 B. C. is one of the most famous events in history. Darius, king of the Persian empire, was furious because Athens had interceded for the other Greek city-states in revolt against Persian domination. In anger the king sent an enormous army to defeat Athens. He thought it would take drastic steps to pacify the rebellious part of the empire. Persia was ruled by one man.

In Athens, however, all citizens helped to rule. Ennobled by this participation, Athenians were prepared to die for their city-state. Perhaps this was the secret of the remarkable victory at Marathon, which freed them from Persian rule. On their way to Marathon, the Persians tried to fool some Greek city-states by claiming to have come in peace. The frightened citizens of Delos refused to believe this. Not wanting to abet the conquest of Greece, they fled from their city and did not return until the Persians had left. They were wise, for the Persians next conquered the city of Etria and captured its people.

Tiny Athens stood alone against Persia. The Athenian people went to their sanctuaries. There they prayed for deliverance. They asked their gods to expedite their victory. The Athenians refurbished their weapons and moved to the plain of Marathon, where their little band would meet the Persians. At the last moment, soldiers from Plataea reinforced the Athenian troops.

The Athenian army attacked, and Greek citizens fought bravely. The power of the mighty Persians was offset by the love that the Athenians had for their city. Athenians defeated the Persians in archery and hand combat. Greek soldiers seized Persian ships and burned them, and the Persians fled in terror. Herodotus, a famous historian, reports that 6400 Persians died, compared with only 192 Athenians.

Athens had ____ the other Greek city-states against the Persians.

A. refused help to B. intervened on behalf of C. wanted to fight D. given orders for all to fight E. defeated

26. Darius took drastic steps to ____ the rebellious Athenians.

A. weaken B. destroy C. calm D. placate E. answer not available

27. Their participation ____ to the Athenians.

A. gave comfort B. gave honor C. gave strength D. gave fear E. gave hope

28. The people of Delos did not want to ____ the conquest of Greece.

A. end B. encourage C. think about D. daydream about E. answer not available

29. The Athenians were ____ by some soldiers who arrived from Plataea.

A. welcomed B. strengthened C. held D. captured E. answer not available

30. Questions 30-32.

The Trojan War is one of the most famous wars in history. It is well known for the ten-year duration, for the heroism of a number of legendary characters, and for the Trojan horse. What may not be familiar, however, is the story of how the war began. According to Greek myth, the strife between the Trojans and the Greeks started at the wedding of Peleus, King of Thessaly, and Thetis, a sea nymph. All of the gods and goddesses had been invited to the wedding celebration in Troy except Eris, goddesses of discord. She had been omitted from the guest list because her presence always embroiled mortals and immortals alike in conflict.

To take revenge on those who had slighted her, Eris decided to cause a skirmish. Into the middle of the banquet hall, she threw a golden apple marked “for the most beautiful.” All of the goddesses began to haggle over who should possess it. The gods and goddesses reached a stalemate when the choice was narrowed to Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. Someone was needed to settle the controversy by picking a winner. The job eventually fell to Paris, son of King Priam of Troy, who was said to be a good judge of beauty.

Paris did not have an easy job. Each goddess, eager to win the golden apple, tried aggressively to bribe him. “I’ll grant you vast kingdoms to rule,” promised Hera. “Vast kingdoms are nothing in comparison with my gift,” contradicted Athena. “Choose me and I’ll see that you win victory and fame in war.” Aphrodite outdid her adversaries, however. She won the golden apple by offering Helen, Zeus’ daughter and the most beautiful mortal, to Paris. Paris, anxious to claim Helen, set off for Sparta in Greece.

Although Paris learned that Helen was married, he accepted the hospitality of her husband, King Menelaus of Sparta, anyway. Therefore, Menelaus was outraged for a number of reasons when Paris departed, taking Helen and much of the king’s wealth back to Troy. Menelaus collected his loyal forces and set sail for Troy to begin the war to reclaim Helen.

Eris was known for ___ both mortals and immortals.

A. scheming against B. involving in conflict C. feeling hostile toward D. ignoring E. comforting

31. Each goddess tried ___ to bribe Paris.

A. boldly B. effectively C. secretly D. carefully E. answer not stated

32. Athena ___ Hera, promising Paris victory and fame in war.

A. denied the statement of B. defeated C. agreed with D. restated the statement E. questioned the statement

33. Questions 33-37.

One of the most intriguing stories of the Russian Revolution concerns the identity of Anastasia, the youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas II. During his reign over Russia, the Czar had planned to revoke many of the harsh laws established by previous czars. Some workers and peasants, however, clamored for more rapid social reform. In 1918 a group of these people, known as Bolsheviks, overthrew the government. On July 17 or 18, they murdered the Czar and what was thought to be his entire family.

Although witnesses vouched that all the members of the Czar’s family had been executed, there were rumors suggesting that Anastasia had survived. Over the years, a number of women claimed to be Grand Duchess Anastasia. Perhaps the best –known claimant was Anastasia Tschaikovsky, who was also known as Anna Anderson.

In 1920, eighteen months after the Czar’s execution, this terrified young woman was rescued from drowning in a Berlin river. She spent two years in a hospital, where she attempted to reclaim her health and shattered mind. The doctors and nurses thought that she resembled Anastasia and questioned her about her background. She disclaimed any connection with the Czar’s family.

Eight years later, though, she claimed that she was Anastasia. She said that she had been rescued by two Russian soldiers after the Czar and the rest of her family had been killed. Two brothers named Tschaikovsky had carried her into Romania. She had married one of the brothers, who

had taken her to Berlin and left her there, penniless and without a vocation. Unable to invoke the aid of her mother's family in Germany, she had tried to drown herself.

During the next few years, scores of the Czar's relatives, ex-servants, and acquaintances interviewed her. Many of these people said that her looks and mannerisms were evocative of the Anastasia that they had known. Her grandmother and other relatives denied that she was the real Anastasia, however. Tried of being accused of fraud, Anastasia immigrated to the United States in 1928 and took the name Anna Anderson. She still wished to prove that she was Anastasia, though, and returned to Germany in 1933 to bring suit against her mother's family. There she declaimed to the court, asserting that she was indeed Anastasia and deserved her inheritance.

In 1957, the court decided that it could neither confirm nor deny Anastasia's identity. Although we will probably never know whether this woman was the Grand Duchess Anastasia, her search to establish her identity has been the subject of numerous books, plays, and movies.

Some Russian peasants and workers ___ for social reform.

A. longed B. cried out C. begged D. hoped E. thought much

34. Witnesses ___ that all members of the Czar's family had been executed.

A. gave assurance B. thought C. hoped D. convinced some E. answer not stated

35. Tschaikovsky ___ any connection with the Czar's family.

A. denied B. stopped C. noted D. justified E. answer not stated

36. She was unable to ___ the aid of her relative.

A. locate B. speak about C. call upon D. identify E. know

37. In court she ___ maintaining that she was Anastasia and deserved her inheritance.

A. finally appeared B. spoke forcefully C. testified D. gave evidence E. answer not stated

38. Questions 38-39.

King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette ruled France from 1774 to 1789, a time when the country was fighting bankruptcy. The royal couple did not let France's insecure financial situation limit their immoderate spending, however. Even though the minister of finance repeatedly warned the king and queen against wasting money, they continued to spend great fortunes on their personal pleasure. This lavish spending greatly enraged the people of France. They felt that the royal couple bought its luxurious lifestyle at the poor people's expense.

Marie Antoinette, the beautiful but exceedingly impractical queen, seemed uncaring about her subjects; misery. While French citizens begged for lower taxes, the queen embellished her palace with extravagant works of art. She also surrounded herself with artists, writers, and musicians, who encouraged the queen to spend money even more profusely.

While the queen's favorites glutted themselves on huge feasts at the royal table, many people in France were starving. The French government taxed the citizens outrageously. These high taxes paid for the entertainments the queen and her court so enjoyed. When the minister of finance tried to stop these royal spendthrifts, the queen replaced him. The intense hatred that the people felt for Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette kept building until it led to the French Revolution. During this time of struggle and violence (1789-1799), thousands of aristocrats, as well as the king and queen themselves, lost their lives at the guillotine. Perhaps if Louis XVI and Marie

Antoinette had reined in their extravagant spending, the events that rocked France would not have occurred.

The people surrounding the queen encouraged her to spend money ____.

A. wisely B. abundantly C. carefully D. foolishly E. joyfully

39. The minister of finance tried to curb these royal ____.

A. aristocrats B. money wasters C. enemies D. individuals E. spenders

40. Questions 40-45.

Many great inventions are greeted with ridicule and disbelief. The invention of the airplane was no exception. Although many people who heard about the first powered flight on December 17, 1903, were excited and impressed, others reacted with peals of laughter. The idea of flying an aircraft was repulsive to some people. Such people called Wilbur and Orville Wright, the inventors of the first flying machine, impulsive fools. Negative reactions, however, did not stop the Wrights. Impelled by their desire to succeed, they continued their experiments in aviation.

Orville and Wilbur Wright had always had a compelling interest in aeronautics and mechanics. As young boys they earned money by making and selling kites and mechanical toys. Later, they designed a newspaper-folding machine, built a printing press, and operated a bicycle-repair shop. In 1896, when they read about the death of Otto Lilienthal, the brother's interest in flight grew into a compulsion.

Lilienthal, a pioneer in hang-gliding, had controlled his gliders by shifting his body in the desired direction. This idea was repellent to the Wright brothers, however, and they searched for more efficient methods to control the balance of airborne vehicles. In 1900 and 1901, the Wrights tested numerous gliders and developed control techniques. The brothers' inability to obtain enough lift power for the gliders almost led them to abandon their efforts.

After further study, the Wright brothers concluded that the published tables of air pressure on curved surfaces must be wrong. They set up a wind tunnel and began a series of experiments with model wings. Because of their efforts, the old tables were repealed in time and replaced by the first reliable figures for air pressure on curved surfaces. This work, in turn, made it possible for them to design a machine that would fly. In 1903 the Wrights built their first airplane, which cost less than one thousand dollars. They even designed and built their own source of propulsion- a lightweight gasoline engine. When they started the engine on December 17, the airplane pulsed wildly before taking off. The plane managed to stay aloft for twelve seconds, however, and it flew one hundred twenty feet.

By 1905 the Wrights had perfected the first airplane that could turn, circle, and remain airborne for half an hour at a time. Others had flown in balloons or in hang gliders, but the Wright brothers were the first to build a full-size machine that could fly under its own power. As the contributors of one of the most outstanding engineering achievements in history, the Wright brothers are accurately called the fathers of aviation.

The idea of flying an aircraft was ___to some people.

A. boring B. distasteful C. exciting D. needless E. answer not available

41. People thought that the Wright brothers had ____.

A. acted without thinking B. been negatively influenced C. been too cautious D. had not given enough thought E. acted in a negative way

42. The Wright's interest in flight grew into a _____.
A. financial empire B. plan C. need to act D. foolish thought E. answer not in article
43. Lilenthal's idea about controlling airborne vehicles was ___ the Wrights.
A. proven wrong by B. opposite to the ideas of C. disliked by D. accepted by E. opposed by
44. The old tables were ___ and replaced by the first reliable figures for air pressure on curved surfaces.
A. destroyed B. canceled C. multiplied D. discarded E. not used
45. The Wrights designed and built their own source of _____.
A. force for moving forward B. force for turning around C. turning D. force to going backward
E. none of the above

Identifying Theme

Directions: Determine what the theme is for each story and explain your answer. Remember, a theme is a lesson or message in the story. **Write in complete sentences.**

1. Katie Clean invited Messy Missy to her house to work on their biology project, but Katie Clean had no idea what a visit from Messy Missy entailed. First of all, it was raining and Messy Missy neither bothered to take her boots off nor thoroughly wiped them on the doormat. Then Messy Missy ate a bag of hot chips on Katie Clean's white bedspread without asking, and Messy Missy is a sloppy eater, so hot chip powder got all over the bedspread. Katie Clean tried to be polite and ignore Messy Missy's sloppy behavior, but then Messy Missy threw her chip wrapper on the floor. Offended, Katie Clean pretended that she was sick and asked Messy Missy to leave. The next day Katie Clean asked the teacher if she could work by herself. After explaining her situation, the teacher allowed Katie to work alone. Messy Missy would have finished the assignment by herself, but she spilled grape soda all over her assignment.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

2. Money Mark was born rich. He never had to work a day in his life and he got everything handed to him on a silver platter. When he was six, Money Mark wanted to go to a basketball game. His father paid the starting five of the Bulls and Celtics to play a private game of Nerf-ball in Money Mark's bedroom. When Money Mark turned thirteen, he wanted to start a band. His father hired the Rolling Stones to play with him every Saturday at the family's private concert hall, though his family was never there. By the time he was twenty-one, Money Mark was bored with life. He was surrounded by a bunch of possessions that he didn't appreciate and Money Mark could find nothing new or exciting in his life. Despite his vast wealth, Money Mark never found happiness. Penny Petal was born poor. Her family hardly had anything to eat, but they loved each other. Penny Petal appreciated every thing she got. When she was six, her father

walked her around the United Center before the Bulls played the Celtics. She was excited by the crazy fans and feeling in the air. She looked forward to the day that she could see a real game. When she was thirteen, she learned to play the buckets. She was an extremely talented musician, a natural percussionist, and everyone on the block loved the rhythms that poured from her palms. By the time she was twenty-one, Penny was a successful businesswoman. Now she had everything that she had ever dreamed of and she truly loved to share her wealth and happiness with her family who supported her through all of the hard times.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

3. Tammy and Sammy were both students in Mr. Morton's reading class. Mr. Morton wasn't too strict about deadlines, and Sammy took advantage of that. He did all of his homework in his other classes but never bothered to complete Mr. Morton's reading assignments, figuring that he could complete them later. Tammy, on the other hand, completed each assignment Mr. Morton assigned the night that he assigned it. She had to stay up a little later, but she didn't want to get a penalty for turning in her reading work late. Tammy knew reading was a core subject and that she had to keep "C" average for the entire year or she would have to go to summer school. When the end of the quarter came, Tammy and Sammy had both planned on going to the Enchanted Castle amusement park, but Mr. Morton called Sammy's mother, and she grounded Sammy until he turned in all of his work. That weekend was horrible for Sammy. He stayed up until 2:00 AM each night and still couldn't complete all of the assignments. The whole while, Tammy had a great time eating pizza at Enchanted Castle, watching movies late at night, and enjoying her weekend free of stress and pressure. At the end of the quarter, Sammy was lucky to squeak by with a "C" minus in reading while Tammy earned an "A." Sammy still hasn't learned his lesson and probably won't complete this activity either.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

4. Mr. Pig and Mr. Dog were hanging out at the food court of the animal shopping mall. Mr. Pig was eating a huge feast of pizza and drinking a large jug of fruit punch and Mr. Dog was watching him eat. "Hey, Mr. Pig. If you give me a slice of your pizza, I'll let you have the next bone I find." Mr. Pig declined, even though it hurt his stomach to eat the last three slices of pizza. "I'm sorry, Mr. Dog," Mr. Pig said, "but I paid for this pizza and it's all mine." Mr. Dog sighed and waited for Mr. Pig to finish, and then they left the animal mall together. On the way out, a hunter spotted them and gave chase. Mr. Pig normally could have escaped the hunter but since he was weighed down by such a large meal, Mr. Pig collapsed and the hunter killed him. Mr. Dog easily escaped. Later that night while returning to the scene, Mr. Dog caught the scent of something delicious and began digging around a trash can. He found a large ham bone with lots of meat and marrow still stuck to the bone. Mr. Dog happily ate.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

5. In his sophomore year of high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. When he finally made the varsity squad, Jordan averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

What is the theme of the story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?

Main Idea

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fifty thousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch \$25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Before you put on that skeleton costume and rove door-to-door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on this tradition. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1st was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts. They celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bon fires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grew to be the candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted. This is not always the case. Many reality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. It is estimated that over twenty million pounds of candy corn are sold in the US each year. Brach's, the top manufacturer, sells enough candy corn to circle the earth 4.25 times if each piece were laid end to end. That's a lot of candy corn, but that's nothing compared to the production of Tootsie Rolls. Over 64 million Tootsie Rolls are produced every day! But even Tootsie Rolls have got nothing on the candy industry's staple product: chocolate. Confectioners manufacture over twenty billion pounds of chocolate in the United States each year. Now that's a mouthful!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Screech! When a driver pushes on the brake pedal, it initiates a process that causes the vehicle to stop in motion. We literally trust braking systems with our lives every time we get into a vehicle or cross at a busy intersection. How does this life-critical process work? It begins when the pedal is pushed. At this moment brake fluid is released into the braking mechanisms. As the fluid collects, this creates a leverage, which causes a friction to be applied. This friction will create a force that will cause the wheels to stop and allow you to reach your destination safely. Beep! Beep!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than the platypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Male platypus carry a venom cocktail in their ankle spurs. This venom incapacitates victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. That means that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricity produced by the muscular movements of its prey. Electroreception is a sixth sense different from seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. What an odd creature indeed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

7. Yellowstone National Park is mainly located in Wyoming, although three percent is located in the state of Montana. The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park. The park sits on the Yellowstone Plateau, which is an average elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is bounded on nearly all sides by mountain ranges. There are 290 waterfalls that are at least fifteen feet in the park, the highest being the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, which falls 308 feet.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

Main Idea 2

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. Being a clown isn't all fun and games. Rodeo clowns expose themselves to great danger every time they perform. When cowboys dismount or bulls buck them off, rodeo clowns jump in front of the bulls and motion wildly to get their attention. In this way rodeo clowns provide an alternate target, and in doing so protect the rider. Of course, this is a very dangerous thing to do. So you see, sometimes clowning around can be serious business.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Wolverines are medium sized mammals. They weigh no more than 50 lbs. Yet they have earned their reputation for ferocity by killing prey many times their size. But why do they get in so many fights? The reason why wolverines have so many conflicts with other animals (including wolves, cougars, and even bears) is probably because of the wolverine's preferred hunting style. Rather than chasing down or tricking its prey like most hunters, the wolverine prefers to take its meals directly from other hunters. So while a polar bear or a lone wolf might be enjoying a hard earned carcass, a hungry wolverine may try to take his lunch. As you might imagine, this style of hunting get the wolverine in plenty of fights.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. Sometime in December of 1891, Dr. James Naismith was teaching gym at the YMCA College in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was raining, and Dr. Naismith was trying to keep his students active. He wanted them playing a vigorous game that would keep them moving. He rejected a few ideas that were too rough. Then Naismith had his breakthrough. He wrote out the rules for a game with peach baskets fixed to ten-foot elevated tracks. Naismith's students played

against one another, passing the ball around and shooting it into the peach baskets. Dribbling wasn't a part of the original game. Also it took a while to realize that the game would run more smoothly if the bottoms of the baskets were removed. But this game grew to be one of the most popular sports in America today. Can you guess which one?

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. What's that humming sound? Could it be the hummingbird, the only bird capable of backward flight? Hummingbirds have many unique flight habits that distinguish them from other birds. Most birds flap their wings up and down to fly, but the hummingbird moves its wings forward and backward very rapidly in a figure eight pattern. This allows the hummingbird to hover in position. They can also fly upside down and move about very rapidly. Other birds have to push off with their feet to begin flying and work their ways up to their top speeds. The hummingbird can both start flying at maximum speed and stop flying instantaneously. Once you've seen a hummingbird in flight, it's unlikely that you'll mistake them for another bird.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Remember, if something is worth doing, it is worth doing correctly. That said, the key to making perfect cookies is merely a matter of preparation and precision. To begin with, read your cookie recipe thoroughly before baking. Make sure that you have all the necessary ingredients before you continue. Next, use good tools and utensils. Sometimes, the craftsperson is only as good as his or her tools. By using good tools you minimize mistakes and improve the quality of your product. Last, use top quality ingredients. Unlike characters in fairytales, you can't turn lead into gold. If you use poor quality materials, you'll create inferior products. So, to make perfect cookies you should use the highest quality materials available. Bon appetite!

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. You might think that all automobile fuels are the same, but they aren't. Automobiles can run on one of three types of fuel: gasoline, diesel, and biodiesel. All these fuels are burned inside of the engine, which creates the heat and energy that is used to power the car. But there are important differences between these fuels. Gasoline and diesel are more common than biodiesel. But each burns differently. Diesel fuel is heavier and less flammable than gasoline, so it has to be compressed before it will burn. Gasoline may be lighter than diesel, but both fuels are made from crude oil. On the other hand, biodiesel fuel is made from vegetables. Both biodiesel and diesel fuels must be burned in diesel engines, which only use diesel fuel. If gasoline is pumped into a diesel engine, it will have to be pumped out. These fuels may look pretty similar at the gas station, but remember that there are important differences between them or it may cost you.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

Main Idea with Robots

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, “What is the author doing in this paragraph?” Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. What do you get when you cross a robot and an astronaut? A Robonaut! Robonauts are robot helpers designed to work side-by-side with astronauts. Work on the first Robonaut began in 1997, and by 2002 Robonaut B was revealed to the public. Robonaut B featured interchangeable lower bodies, like four-wheel mode or hydraulic legs. Yet scientists and engineers continued to improve Robonaut. In February of 2010, Robonaut 2 was released to the public. Robonaut 2 moved four times faster than the first Robonaut. An advanced version of Robonaut 2 was finally tested in outer space in 2011. Robonaut 2 functioned exactly as designed.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. *Automation* is the use of machines to reduce the need for human labor. In other words automation is when jobs done by people become jobs done by robots. Automation can be a good thing. Clothing, cars, and other manufactured products are available at good prices and in large supply because of automation. But automation can also be a bad thing. Because of automation there are over 700,000 robots in America that do jobs once performed by humans. The way of automation may not be best for humanity, but it is the course we are taking.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. My grandma may not look very strong, but with the help of hydraulic power, she can stop a car with her foot. How does hydraulic power work? First, fluid is rapidly released into a chamber through a valve. As the fluid collects, the valve is slammed shut. This causes a pressure spike, but since the chamber is sealed, the pressure has nowhere to go. The hydraulic mechanism channels the pressure and provides great power. And that’s how, with the help of hydraulics, my grandma can stop a speeding car with one foot.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. Many people use the words cyborg and android interchangeably, but these words have different meanings. Both refer to beings powered by robotics, but an android is powered entirely by machinery. Cyborgs are partly powered by a living organism. They also look different. Androids may be completely mechanical, but they are designed to look like humans. They may have synthetic skin, hair, and other human-like features. Cyborgs are usually designed in a way that accents their robotic modifications. A cyborg's mechanically enhanced eye may cast a red

light or have a chrome plate surrounding it, for instance. So you see, though the terms cyborg and android seem similar, they refer to different things.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. It is a widely acknowledged fact that machines are stronger than people. Is it possible for them to become smarter than us too? Some scientists fear that it is, or so says the theory of technological singularity. In a nutshell, the theory of technological singularity says that there will be a moment when a computer can improve its own capabilities. This computer will go into an infinite loop, getting progressively smarter. Inevitably this will lead to machines becoming smarter than people, or so the theory goes. Such gains in available intelligence might lead to huge improvements in science and medicine. Diseases could be cured and such. But it could also lead to the total domination or replacement of mankind by robots, which would be bad. If the latter were the case, I, for one, would welcome our new computer overlords.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. Fellow Members of the Springfield Robotics Club: we have a problem. It has come to my attention that the workshop has been left an absolute mess on at least two separate occasions. Remember, that this is a shared space, so we must clean up behind ourselves after every meeting. It is in the spirit of keeping our club meeting space that we establish this rule: when you take a tool off the rack, put it back. If everyone puts their tools back immediately after using them, there will be minimal mess to clean up, and we won't get kicked out of the spot. So, if you like having a meeting place, and being part of our club, put your tools back.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

Main Idea Worksheet 4

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, "What is the author doing in this paragraph?" Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. It's hard to imagine what things were like before there was money, but such a time did exist. During these times people exchanged goods using the barter system. The word *barter* means to trade. People using the barter system traded things instead of buying and selling them. So if you were a rice farmer, you would trade your rice with many people to get all the things that you wanted or needed. Unfortunately, the people from whom you needed things might not want your rice. Isn't it nice to just go to the store and buy candy instead of having to trade rice for it?

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. Money is pretty old but nobody knows exactly how old it is. Perhaps the oldest evidence of people using money is in the Code of Ur-Nammu. The Code of Ur-Nammu is a system of laws written around 2050 BC. That's like 4,000 years ago! Many of Ur-Nammu's laws carry fines, such as one stating that if a man is proven innocent of sorcery, his accuser must pay 3 shekels. This ancient document shows me two things: Ur-Nammu didn't tolerate false witch-hunts, and money is very old.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. One problem that the U.S. faced when rebelling against the British was currency. While under British control, colonists mainly used British paper money and foreign coins. But after forming a new nation, the Americans needed their own currency. They created Continental currency. Congress issued over 240 million Continental Dollars during the Revolution. Unfortunately, these dollars soon dropped in value. This gave rise to the popular expression, "not worth a Continental." By the end of 1778, Continentals were worth 1/5th of their face value. By 1780, they were worth 1/40th. In the 1790s, the U.S. bought back Continentals for 1% of their printed value. One reason for this decline was economic warfare. During the war the British hired artists to counterfeit Continental Dollars. Then they funneled large amounts of these counterfeit notes into the American economy. The value of the Continental Dollar crashed. When people complain about today's inflation rates, I tell them about Continentals.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. *Hyperinflation* refers to when the value of money drops rapidly. During World War I, Germany paid for the war by borrowing. The German Mark steadily lost value as the war went on and German people could buy less and less. After losing the war, Germany was required to make large payments to the Allies. They paid all the debts that they could by printing more money. Soon the German Mark was worthless. When the war had started, the U.S. Dollar was worth around four German Marks. By November of 1923, one U.S. Dollar was worth 4,210,500,000,000 German Marks. At this point the money had more value as a fuel than as a currency, and people burned it to stay warm.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Counterfeiting is the act of making phony money that looks official. It is a very old crime but recent advances in printing have made it possible for even amateurs to produce decent counterfeits. Fortunately, there are some ways that you can detect counterfeits. The first and most telling inspection is to pay attention to how the money feels. It is difficult to reproduce the texture of real money. If the money feels suspect, look carefully at the microprinting on the bill. Many features along the portrait and border of a genuine bill contain writing that is too small to reproduce in most printers. If you are still suspicious, hold the bill up to the light and look for the strip that says the value of the bill. With a little diligence, you can keep yourself from becoming a victim of this rising trend.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. Currencies have changed and developed over the course of history, but one of the newest forms of payment doesn't even exist in the physical world. Bitcoin is an entirely digital currency. Users of Bitcoin send payments to one another over computer networks. These payments are nonrefundable. In other words, once the money is sent, you can't get it back. The value of a Bitcoin has risen rapidly since its introduction in 2009, when each Bitcoin was worth around 30 cents. At the time of this writing, it would cost you around 7400 U.S. Dollars to get one Bitcoin. That's quite a jump. On the downside, if the value of Bitcoin ever crashes, you won't be able to heat your home by burning it.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

7. As young Americans mature into adults, they are tempted by the allure of easy credit. Credit card companies attempt to ensnare young people by giving away "free" headphones or sports towels in return for completing credit applications. Many of these young people go on to accumulate debt through undisciplined spending. They pay much more than the original loan because they are charged a high rate of interest and it takes them years to repay their debts. It is best to avoid this debt prison altogether.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

Main Idea Worksheet 5

Directions: Read each passage and ask yourself, “What is the author doing in this paragraph?” Write your answer in the summary box and then think of an appropriate title for the passage based on the main idea of the passage.

1. Sir Isaac Newton was contemplating the universe in his garden one day in 1665 when he noticed an apple fall from a tree. Newton wondered to himself, “Why should the apple always fall to the ground? Why does it not go sideways or upwards but directly toward the Earth’s center?” After much contemplation Newton concluded that objects are pulled to the Earth through a force that he called *gravity*, which means heaviness in Latin. On July 5th, 1687 Newton formally expressed his law of universal gravitation in series of books called *The Principia*.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

2. In the summer of 1939, a few months before World War II started, Albert Einstein and a group of Hungarian scientists wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In this letter they warned Roosevelt that the Nazi’s were conducting atomic research and that the consequences would be dire if the Nazis were to win the race to build an atom bomb. They recommended that U.S. become involved in uranium research. As a result of this letter, the U.S. joined the atomic race and poured billions of dollars into the development of weaponry. The U.S. won the race and became the first country to build an atomic bomb. The bomb was then used in Japan, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians. In 1954, a year before his death, Einstein would refer to the moment that he signed the letter to President Roosevelt as the greatest mistake of his life.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

3. For most of human history, people thought that the Earth was the center of the universe. Nicolaus Copernicus changed how people understood the universe when he theorized that it was heliocentric, or sun-centered. Interestingly, Copernicus had most of this theory worked out some time before 1514, and his work was fully articulated by 1532, yet publication of this text was not completed until 1543 as he lay dying. Some scholars believe that Copernicus delayed publishing this work because it contradicted the Catholic Church’s view that the Earth was at the center of the universe. Copernicus’s may have been smart in doing so because the Church did not formally accept his view of the universe until 1822, almost 300 years later.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

4. Galileo Galilei was an influential scientist and one of the early developers of the refracting telescope. In 1632 Galileo published a book called *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, in which he compared the Copernican view of a heliocentric universe, one where the sun is at the center, with the geocentric view, one in which the Earth is at the center. The Church took offense as to how Galileo portrayed the geocentric view using a character named Simplicio, which has undertones of *simpleton* in the Italian language, and he was put on trial before the Roman Inquisition. The Inquisition ordered Galileo to recant his ideas, his book was banned, he

was forbidden from publishing anything else, and he was sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life. I guess it's not just what you say that's important but how you say it.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

5. Nikola Tesla was an inventor and physicist who is best remembered for his contributions to the AC power system and radio, but he may have also built a death ray. At a 1937 luncheon in his honor, Tesla claimed to have created a weapon that could shoot a concentrated beam of energy capable of bringing down fleets of airplanes. He further claimed to have built, demonstrated, and used this weapon. When Tesla entered negotiations with the U.S., the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union to sell his device, Tesla claimed that one of these parties had sent people to break into his room and steal his invention, but that this theft was impossible since the blueprint for the weapon was entirely in his mind. Unfortunately, Tesla died with the blueprint in his mind before anyone could get one. On second thought, maybe that's not such a bad thing.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____

6. Marie Curie not only the first woman to have won a Nobel Prize, she is also the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences. Most notably, however, Marie Curie discovered radiation. She was also the first person to use radiation to treat tumors. Curie experimented extensively with radioactivity during her scientific career. Unfortunately the damaging effects of radiation were not known then. Her exposure to radiation most likely was the cause of her blindness and early death. Still today her scientific papers are considered too dangerous to handle without protective equipment. These documents are stored in lead-lined boxes. Even her cookbook is radioactive. She must have made some really hot food in her lifetime.

Summarize this paragraph in one sentence. **Be specific and clearly explain the main idea.**

An appropriate title: _____



JUSTICE

FREEDOM

PROPERTY

PROPERTY

AMERICAN AIR

AMERICA

Coca-Cola

McDonald's

Pepsi