



# Achieve3000 Literacy™ At Home

Lexile 250

1<sup>st</sup> B, 2<sup>nd</sup> C

# Lesson Tracker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



## Step One

Respond to the Before Reading Poll



## Step Two

Read the Article



## Step Three

Do the Activity Questions



## Step Four

Respond to the After Reading Poll



## Step Five

Answer the Thought Question

Watch me soar! Mark off each lesson step as you finish it. Use the back of this paper if you need more space to add more lessons.

Lesson Title	Before Reading Poll	Article	First Try Activity Score	After Reading Poll	Thought Question
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# A Musical Pioneer (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In the world of classical music, most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. But South Africa's Ofentse Pitse stands out. She's a young, black, female conductor. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

*This is a photo of Ofentse Pitse. Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound.*

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is 27. She lives in South Africa. She used to be an architect. But classical music was calling to her. And she listened! Now she leads Anchored Sound. That's an orchestra and choir. She started the group herself.

Why did Pitse start Anchored Sound? To change the lives of young black people. First, she put together a choir. This was in 2017. She picked great singers. Where did they live? In poor communities. Pitse gave them a chance to use their gifts. In 2019, she put together the orchestra. She's the conductor.

In the world of classical music, Pitse is a pioneer. Most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. Pitse is a young black woman. So she stands out.

At classical music concerts, you often hear music written long ago. The pieces are by European composers. Beethoven is one. But Pitse's shows are different. The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.

*Video credit: Mesia Gumede*

### Dictionary

**architect** (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

**choir** (*noun*) a group of singers especially in a church

**conductor** (*noun*) a person who stands in front of people while they sing or play musical instruments and directs their performance

**orchestra** (*noun*) a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

**pioneer** (*noun*) a person who helps create or develop new ideas, methods, etc.

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Beethoven is a European composer.
- Ⓑ Pitse used to be an architect.
- Ⓒ Most conductors are men.
- Ⓓ Pitse leads an orchestra and choir.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Pitse put together a youth choir in 2017.
- Ⓑ The music of African composers sounds good.
- Ⓒ Beethoven was a European composer.
- Ⓓ Pitse started a group called Anchored Sound.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**But Pitse's shows are different. The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what kind of music Pitse's shows have
- Ⓑ where Pitse usually has her shows
- Ⓒ when Pitse became a composer
- Ⓓ why Pitse has written classical music

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ first and last
- Ⓑ poor and strange
- Ⓒ classical and loud
- Ⓓ lives and stays

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Pitse was not born in South Africa
- Ⓑ Pitse doesn't like the music of Beethoven
- Ⓒ Pitse has written some classical works
- Ⓓ Pitse wants to help other people

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why Pitse likes Beethoven
- Ⓑ When Pitse put together an orchestra
- Ⓒ Why Pitse started Anchored Sound
- Ⓓ When Pitse started her choir

Question 7

The Article says:

**At classical music concerts, you often hear music written long ago. The pieces are by European *composers*. Beethoven is one.**

Which means almost the **same** as *composer*?

- Ⓐ teacher
- Ⓑ writer
- Ⓒ leader
- Ⓓ singer

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how Pitse's concerts are different from most concerts?

- Ⓐ The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.
- Ⓑ Now she leads Anchored Sound. That's an orchestra and choir.
- Ⓒ Ofentse Pitse is 27. She lives in South Africa. She used to be an architect.
- Ⓓ Why did Pitse start Anchored Sound? To change the lives of young black people.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Imagine you are a reporter who is speaking with Ofentse Pitse. What questions might you ask her? What might her answers be? Include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and describing words, in your answer.

# Ancient Lines in the Sand (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are big ground drawings. They're in the desert sand. They were put there more than 1,500 years ago. But scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

*A monkey geoglyph is seen from above. It's one of the many ground drawings known as the Nazca Lines.*

**NAZCA, Peru** (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). You're in an airplane. It's flying over southern Peru. You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sands. They're of animals, plants, and more.

These geoglyphs are called the Nazca Lines. They've been around for more than 1,500 years. And there are many of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty! But people didn't notice them until 1927. That's when an archaeologist found some. Today, technology such as drones has found more geoglyphs. The best way to see them is from up above.

Who made the geoglyphs? The Nazca people. They lived before the Incas. How did they make them? By taking away some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.

Why were the geoglyphs made? Researchers aren't sure. They think they were part of rituals for rain and crops. Or that they led people to where the rituals took place.

*Video credit: Achieve3000 from footage by maxuser/Creatas Video+/Getty Images*

### Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

**drone** (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot

**research** (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

**ritual** (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The geoglyphs might have led people to rituals.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines were found by an archaeologist.
- Ⓒ The Nazca Lines are drawings in the desert sand.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs have been around for many years.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ The best way to see the lines is from up above.
- Ⓑ Drones have found some of the geoglyphs.
- Ⓒ It's very interesting to study the Nazca Lines.
- Ⓓ The Nazca people lived before the Incas did.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sands. They're of animals, plants, and more.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what the Nazca Lines look like
- Ⓑ why the Nazca Lines were made
- Ⓒ that animals live in the desert
- Ⓓ that finding the lines is not easy

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ desert and ground
- Ⓑ before and after
- Ⓒ think and see
- Ⓓ technology and computer



Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ most of the Nazca Lines were made after 1927
- Ⓑ some of the lines point to places to grow crops
- Ⓒ it's hard to see the animal shapes from the ground
- Ⓓ the Nazca Lines were made by an archaeologist

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What researchers think the lines were for
- Ⓑ Who found the Nazca Lines in 1927
- Ⓒ Who lived before the Incas
- Ⓓ Why researchers made the lines

Question 7

The Article says:

**How did they make them? By taking away some of the dark *rocks* that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.**

Which means almost the **same** as *rocks*?

- Ⓐ mud
- Ⓑ dirt
- Ⓒ water
- Ⓓ stones

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how the Nazca Lines were made?

- Ⓐ By taking away some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.
- Ⓑ Why were the geoglyphs made? Researchers aren't sure. They think they were part of rituals for rain and crops
- Ⓒ You're in an airplane. It's flying over southern Peru. You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground!
- Ⓓ These geoglyphs are called the Nazca Lines. They've been around for more than 1,500 years. And there are many of them.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Some things should stay a secret.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Give three reasons why the Nazca Lines are interesting to visit and/or study? What's left to know about them?

Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Animated Favorites Get Real (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Moviemakers are remaking old cartoon movies. The new movies have real people. *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast* are two of these live-action remakes. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

*Many families love live-action remakes of animated movies. "Aladdin" is one of these movies. It stars Will Smith.*

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Like the Fairy Godmother waving her wand, moviemakers are bringing new life to old animated movies. Bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*! They're now live-action hits. They have real people.

Live-action remakes can make lots of money. They have a winning formula: Big stars. Special effects. Stories fans love. Characters who seem like old friends. It's box office gold! That's right. *Ka-ching*!

The power of nostalgia helps. Adults watched these movies growing up. They loved them. So they like taking their kids to see them.

Moviemakers like these movies. They can add diversity. So more kids see characters who look like them. That's not all. They can crank up the girl power! Have you noticed? Many remakes have strong girl characters.

What do *you* think about live-action remakes?

### Dictionary

**animated** (*adjective*) produced by the creation of a series of drawings, pictures, etc., that are shown quickly one after another: produced through the process of animation

**diversity** (*noun*) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

**nostalgia** (*noun*) pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why do parents take their kids to see the remakes?

- Ⓐ They know the movies have made lots of money.
- Ⓑ They loved the animated movies growing up.
- Ⓒ They can crank up the girl power.
- Ⓓ They can add diversity to the movies.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Adults watch movies with their kids.
- Ⓑ People love the new live-action remakes of animated movies.
- Ⓒ Kids still watch old animated movies.
- Ⓓ Some movie characters seem just like old friends.

#### Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What the "winning formula" for movies is
- Ⓑ Who adults take to the movies
- Ⓒ Which animated characters people like
- Ⓓ Why people like live-action films so much

#### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ character and teacher
- Ⓑ old and funny
- Ⓒ hit and winner
- Ⓓ strong and large

#### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ people want more animated movies
- Ⓑ some kids take their friends to the movies
- Ⓒ most people don't like the new remakes
- Ⓓ kids like movies with characters like them

Question 6

The Article says:

**Live-action remakes can make lots of money. They have a winning formula: Big stars. Special effects. Stories fans love. Characters who seem like old friends. It's box office gold!**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ why people still watch old animated movies
- Ⓑ why Hollywood actors can make so much money
- Ⓒ why fans don't always like live-action remakes
- Ⓓ why moviemakers remake animated movies

Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows why a parent might go and see today's live-action movies?

- Ⓐ Bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*! They're now live-action hits. They have real people.
- Ⓑ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her wand, moviemakers are bringing new life to old animated movies.
- Ⓒ Moviemakers like these movies. They can add diversity. So more kids see characters who look like them.
- Ⓓ The power of nostalgia helps. Adults watched these movies growing up. They loved them. So they like taking their kids to see them.

Question 8

The Article says:

**The power of nostalgia helps. Adults *watched* these movies growing up. They loved them.**

Which means almost the **same** as *watched*?

- Ⓐ bought
- Ⓑ forgot
- Ⓒ copied
- Ⓓ saw

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Live-action remakes are more entertaining than the cartoon classics.**

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Write a summary of the Article. A summary tells what the main idea of a story is. To write a summary you should:

**STEP 1:** Read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Look back at each paragraph. Find the main idea of each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put everything—in your own words—into a few sentences.

**STEP 3:** Read your summary again.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make any last changes to your summary.

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A fairly new drink called "bubble tea" is winning fans across the world. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images  
*A bubble tea shop is a sweet spot to hang out.*

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Have you heard of bubble tea? It's from Taiwan. It's like a drink *and* a snack. Many shops sell it. They're opening all over.

Bubble tea starts with milk tea. Then, treats are added. They usually rest at the bottom. Often, they're balls of tapioca. They're sweet. People call them "bubbles." There can also be bubbles on top of the drink. They form when the drink is shaken.

Bubble tea was invented in Taiwan. This was in the 1980s. It was a hit. Then it spread across Asia. In the 1990s, bubble tea shops opened in the U.S. Now, they're in other places, too.

Some shops sell over a hundred flavors! Want to try mango? How about chocolate pudding? And don't forget the toppings. How about chia seeds? How about red beans?

The shops can be great places to chill. Many kids go there to hang out with friends. They may play games or study.

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Credit: Voice of America*

### **Dictionary**

<b>invent</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to make something that has never been made before
<b>tapioca</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a food made from cassava, the root of a tropical plant
<b>treat</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	something good that you don't get very often

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ Kids can hang out with friends at bubble tea shops.
- Ⓑ The "bubbles" in bubble tea can be tapioca balls.
- Ⓒ People all around the world love bubble tea.
- Ⓓ Some bubble tea shops sell over a hundred flavors.

#### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *treat*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Hat
- Ⓑ Box
- Ⓒ Goody
- Ⓓ Fish

#### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which took place *first*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops opened in the U.S.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea was made in Taiwan.
- Ⓒ Bubble tea shops opened across the world.
- Ⓓ Bubble tea spread across Asia.

#### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Bubble tea was first made in Taiwan.
- Ⓑ Some kids go to bubble tea shops to hang out.
- Ⓒ Chocolate pudding is the tastiest flavor.
- Ⓓ There are over a hundred flavors of bubble tea.

#### Question 5

Rosa wants to know what tapioca is. How can she find out? She could use a \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Dictionary
- Ⓑ Newspaper
- Ⓒ Map
- Ⓓ Calendar

### Question 6

The Article says:

**It's like a drink and a *snack*. Many shops sell it. They're opening all over. Bubble tea starts with milk tea. Then, treats are added.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *snack*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Surprise
- Ⓑ Tool
- Ⓒ Plant
- Ⓓ Food

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

- Ⓐ Bubble tea starts with milk tea.
- Ⓑ In the 1990s, bubble tea shops opened in the U.S.
- Ⓒ Many kids go there to hang out with friends.
- Ⓓ Many shops sell it.

### Question 8

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ The U.S. is where tapioca was first made.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea shops ask people to finish their drinks quickly.
- Ⓒ The U.S. has more bubble tea shops than any other country.
- Ⓓ More and more people like to drink bubble tea.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Newer is better.**

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What is bubble tea? What can you tell about the people who visit bubble tea shops? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



# Cooking Up Native Traditions (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Sean Sherman saw a problem in Native American communities. He came up with a plan to fix it. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Amy Forliti

*Sean Sherman cooks up Native American recipes.*

**Minneapolis, Minnesota** (Achieve3000, January 17, 2020). Sean Sherman is Native American. He's part of the Lakota Sioux tribe. He grew up on a reservation. As a kid, he ate foods given to his family by the U.S. government. Like what? Canned beans. Boxed rice. Sherman later wondered: Where were the foods from his family's culture?

So Sherman learned about his culture. In the past, many Native American food traditions were lost. And Native food sources, like bison, were nearly wiped out. When did this happen? When Europeans came. Before that? Native Americans grew and hunted different foods. They used their own traditional ways.

Sherman had an idea: He wanted to bring back those traditions. But how?

Sherman started a cooking business. It's called The Sioux Chef. His recipes use ingredients from nature. Like what? Mushrooms and wild rice. Sherman skips ingredients brought by Europeans.

Another reason Sherman does this? The foods given to many Native Americans, like those Sherman ate as a kid, aren't healthy. This causes health problems. Diabetes is one. But not Native foods. They are good for people.

*Video credit: The Sioux Chef*

## Dictionary

**bison** (*noun*) a large, hairy wild animal that has a big head and short horns

**culture** (*noun*) the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time

**diabetes** (*noun*) a serious disease in which the body cannot properly control the amount of sugar in your blood because it does not have enough insulin

**recipe** (*noun*) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients

**reservation** (*noun*) an area of land in the U.S. that is kept separate as a place for Native Americans to live

**tradition** (*noun*) a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The government gives Native Americans boxed rice.
- Ⓑ Bison were nearly wiped out after Europeans came.
- Ⓒ Sherman's recipes use mushrooms and wild rice.
- Ⓓ Sherman is bringing back Native American foods.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Native foods have less sugar.
- Ⓑ The bison were nearly wiped out.
- Ⓒ Sherman uses ingredients from nature.
- Ⓓ Sherman's recipes taste great.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**The foods given to many Native Americans, like those Sherman ate as a kid, aren't healthy. This causes health problems. Diabetes is one. But not Native foods. They are good for people.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ who helps Sherman make Native foods
- Ⓑ why Sherman has some health problems
- Ⓒ which Native foods Sherman likes to eat
- Ⓓ why Sherman is bringing back Native foods

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

- Ⓐ asked and saw
- Ⓑ food and ingredient
- Ⓒ before and after
- Ⓓ learned and studied

Question 5

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Sherman will put canned beans in his recipes.
- Ⓑ Sherman will stop using wild rice and mushrooms.
- Ⓒ More people will learn about Native foods.
- Ⓓ Native American foods will cause health problems.

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why it's hard to find wild rice
- Ⓑ What animal was nearly wiped out
- Ⓒ What foods Sherman ate as a kid
- Ⓓ What problem some Native Americans have

Question 7

The Article says:

**So Sherman learned about his culture. In the past, many Native American food traditions were *lost*. And Native food sources, like bison, were nearly wiped out.**

Which means the **opposite** of *lost*?

- Ⓐ said
- Ⓑ found
- Ⓒ used
- Ⓓ made

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows what kinds of foods Sherman ate when he was young?

- Ⓐ In the past, many Native American food traditions were lost. And Native food sources, like bison, were nearly wiped out.
- Ⓑ When did this happen? When Europeans came. Before that? Native Americans grew and hunted different foods.
- Ⓒ As a kid, he ate foods given to his family by the U.S. government. Like what? Canned beans. Boxed rice.
- Ⓓ His recipes use ingredients from nature. Like what? Mushrooms and wild rice.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Don't sit back when you see a problem—find ways to fix it yourself.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe something that Sean Sherman did. Explain what that tells about him. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Defying Gravity (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Simone Biles has been called the greatest gymnast ever. However, her rise to the top has not always been easy. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP  
*Gymnast Simone Biles shows off some of her gold medals.*

**STUTTGART, Germany** (Achieve3000, October 24, 2019). Simone Biles is a gymnast. She's been called the greatest ever. How did she get to be great? With hard work.

Biles was born on March 14, 1997. Her early life wasn't easy. Her parents couldn't care for her. So she lived in foster care. In 2003, her grandparents stepped in. They adopted her.

Biles got into gymnastics early. She was 6. Even back then, she gave it her all. She never missed a practice. But in 2011, she didn't make the U.S. team. This made her sad. Did she give up? No way! And in 2013, she made the team.

At age 19, Biles went to the 2016 Olympics. She led Team U.S.A. She and swimmer Katie Ledecky were the female athletes with the most medals. Biles won five.

And in October 2019, Biles made history. She was at the world championships. And she won her 25th medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world!

*Credit: Video Credit: Team USA*

### Dictionary

**adopt** (*verb*) to take a child of other parents legally as your own child

**foster** (*adjective*) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

**medal** (*noun*) a piece of metal often in the form of a coin with designs and words in honor of a special event, a person, or an achievement

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Biles was adopted by her grandparents in 2003.
- Ⓑ Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.
- Ⓒ Biles got into gymnastics when she was just 6.
- Ⓓ Biles never missed a gymnastics practice as a child.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Biles wasn't a good gymnast in 2011.
- Ⓑ Biles has won 25 world championship medals.
- Ⓒ Biles led Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympics.
- Ⓓ Biles spent her early years in foster care.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**But in 2011, she didn't make the U.S. team. This made her sad. Did she give up? No way! And in 2013, she made the team.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Biles has always been the best gymnast
- Ⓑ people think that Biles is sad
- Ⓒ problems make Biles try harder
- Ⓓ Biles should've made the 2011 team

#### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ make and help
- Ⓑ easy and hard
- Ⓒ early and late
- Ⓓ greatest and best

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Biles missed practice a lot
- Ⓑ Biles will not win any more medals
- Ⓒ Biles hurt herself as a child
- Ⓓ Biles doesn't like to give up

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Who adopted Biles in 2003
- Ⓑ Where does Biles live
- Ⓒ When Biles got into gymnastics
- Ⓓ When Biles was born

Question 7

The Article says:

**But in 2011, she didn't make the U.S. team. This made her *sad*. Did she give up? No way! And in 2013, she made the team.**

Which means almost the **same** as *sad*?

- Ⓐ angry
- Ⓑ funny
- Ⓒ unhappy
- Ⓓ unfriendly

Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Biles' life as a child was sometimes hard?

- Ⓐ And in October 2019, Biles made history. She was at the world championships.
- Ⓑ Simone Biles is a gymnast. She's been called the greatest ever. How did she get to be great?
- Ⓒ At age 19, Biles went to the 2016 Olympics. She led Team U.S.A.
- Ⓓ [Biles'] early life wasn't easy. Her parents couldn't care for her. So she lived in foster care.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**With enough hard work, anything is possible.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Who is Simone Biles? And why has she been called the greatest gymnast ever? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



# Give Me S'more! (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many people like to make a dessert called s'mores. The gooey treats are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers. What do you think of this well-known saying?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

*This is a s'more. It's made of chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers.*

**SAVANNAH, Georgia** (Achieve3000, July 18, 2019). S'mores are yummy. Want to make some? Here's how:

1. Get a graham cracker. Break it in half. Place chocolate on one half.
2. Put a marshmallow on a stick. Hold it over a campfire.
3. Use the stick to set the hot marshmallow on the chocolate.
4. Take the other cracker half. Put it on the marshmallow.
5. Smoosh the crackers together. Pull out the stick.
6. Eat!

S'mores have three parts: the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. The gooey? That's the marshmallow. Marshmallows aren't new. But they used to be a luxury for only the rich. Today, they cost less.

The chocolatey? That's milk chocolate. Milk chocolate has been around since 1875. What's in it? Chocolate, sugar, and milk.

But who first made s'mores? No one's sure. Maybe it was the Girl Scouts. A 1927 Girl Scouts manual talks about the snack.

What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave.

S'more yumminess? Yes, please!

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: Hilah Cooking*

## Dictionary

**luxury** (*noun*) something that costs a lot and is nice to have but is not really needed

**manual** (*noun*) a small book that gives instructions or helpful information about something

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why do some people think Girl Scouts made s'mores first?

- Ⓐ Girl Scouts learn how to make campfires.
- Ⓑ A Girl Scouts manual talked about s'mores.
- Ⓒ S'mores use milk chocolate.
- Ⓓ Marshmallows were only for the rich.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ When milk chocolate was first made
- Ⓑ What milk chocolate is made of
- Ⓒ How to make a s'more
- Ⓓ How much marshmallows cost

#### Question 3

Which word means almost the **same** as *manual*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Guide
- Ⓑ Newspaper
- Ⓒ Rhyme
- Ⓓ Painting

#### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Milk chocolate has milk, sugar, and chocolate.
- Ⓑ A 1927 Girl Scouts manual talks about s'mores.
- Ⓒ Graham crackers were first made in the late 1800s.
- Ⓓ Marshmallows were once eaten only by rich people.

Question 5

The Article says:

**What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ That microwaves are not very easy to use
- Ⓑ That campfires are not safe
- Ⓒ That oven s'mores are best
- Ⓓ That there are different ways to make s'mores

Question 6

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Yummy and crispy
- Ⓑ Less and more
- Ⓒ Microwave and oven
- Ⓓ Over and beside

Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one tells how milk chocolate is made?

- Ⓐ What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. S'more yumminess? Yes, please!
- Ⓑ The chocolatey? That's milk chocolate. Milk chocolate has been around since 1875. What's in it? Chocolate, sugar, and milk.
- Ⓒ But who first made s'mores? No one's sure. Maybe it was the Girl Scouts. A 1927 Girl Scouts manual talks about the snack.
- Ⓓ The gooey? That's the marshmallow. Marshmallows aren't new. But they used to be a luxury for only the rich. Today, they cost less.

Question 8

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ It costs a lot of money to make s'mores.
- Ⓑ Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after 1927.
- Ⓒ S'mores are easy to make.
- Ⓓ Marshmallows used to be too sweet.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**S'mores always leave you beggin' for s'more!**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Write a summary of the Article. A summary tells what the main idea of a story is. To write a summary you should:

**STEP 1:** Read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Look back at each paragraph. Find the main idea of each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put everything—in your own words—into a few sentences.

**STEP 3:** Read your summary again.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make any last changes to your summary.

# Global Game Fame (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In 2019, several video games were chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame. One game came out in 1976. Two others came out in the 1990s. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP  
Each year, games are chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

**ROCHESTER, New York** (Achieve3000, May 10, 2019). *Super Mario Kart*. *Microsoft Solitaire*. *Colossal Cave Adventure*. What do these games have in common? In 2019, they were chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

This is in New York. It opened in 2015. It's for the best and most important video games. Some are from the past. But they stood the test of time.

Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's from 1976. It helped start computer gaming. *Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer card game. It's from 1991. It taught players how to use a mouse.

*Super Mario Kart* came out in 1992. It was the first *Mario Kart* racing game. Fun fact: Mario wasn't meant to be in the game. But people liked a drawing of the plumber. The rest is history!

*Information for this story came from AP.*

### Dictionary

**Hall of Fame** (*noun*) a place to honor well-known people or things

**plumber** (*noun*) someone who works on pipes, bathtubs, sinks, toilets, and other things that carry water

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a video game from 1976.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.
- Ⓒ The World Video Game Hall of Fame is in New York.
- Ⓓ Important video games go into a hall of fame every year.

#### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *plumber*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Leader
- Ⓑ Actor
- Ⓒ Player
- Ⓓ Fixer

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ *Colossal Cave Adventure* helped start computer gaming.
- Ⓑ *Super Mario Kart* is more fun than *Microsoft Solitaire*.
- Ⓒ The World Video Game Hall of Fame began in 2015.
- Ⓓ The hall of fame winners are not always new games.

#### Question 4

Think about the Article. How is *Microsoft Solitaire* different from *Super Mario Kart*?

- Ⓐ *Solitaire* is played by many people.
- Ⓑ *Super Mario Kart* came out in the 1990s.
- Ⓒ *Super Mario Kart* is a video game.
- Ⓓ *Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.

#### Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

- Ⓐ Drawing and picture
- Ⓑ Teach and study
- Ⓒ Cave and street
- Ⓓ Common and hard

### Question 6

The Article says:

**[The World Video Game Hall of Fame] is in New York. It opened in 2015. It's for the best and most important video games. Some are from the past. But they stood the test of time.**

Why is this in the Article? It shows \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ What the hall of fame is for
- Ⓑ Who goes to the hall of fame
- Ⓒ Why people like the hall of fame
- Ⓓ How to find the hall of fame

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one tells why a game was chosen for the hall of fame?

- Ⓐ Fun fact: Mario wasn't meant to be in the game. But people liked a drawing of the plumber.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer card game. It's from 1991.
- Ⓒ In 2019, they were chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame. This is in New York.
- Ⓓ Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

### Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Mario won't be a plumber in the new *Super Mario Kart*.
- Ⓑ More games will go into the hall of fame next year.
- Ⓒ The hall of fame will open in a new place soon.
- Ⓓ *Colossal Cave Adventure* will win next year's hall of fame.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Older video games are more fun to play.**

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a story about visiting the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Which video game did you most want to see and why? Use describing words from the Article in your answer.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly? (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many fruits and veggies are wasted because they don't look "perfect." Now, some companies are selling "ugly" fruits and veggies. They ship them to people's homes. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Joshua McKerrow/The Baltimore Sun  
*Does this carrot have a tail? A company is selling it anyway.*

**URBANDALE, Iowa** (Achieve3000, May 6, 2019). Would you buy ugly produce? Many people wouldn't. So supermarkets don't sell it.

But now, some companies are selling ugly produce. They don't want it to go to waste.

That sounds great. But not everyone is happy.

### The Ugly Truth?

Critics say ugly produce isn't wasted. Farmers sell it. They also use it. It's fed to animals. It's added to the soil for nutrients.

### Not So Bad, After All?

Ugly produce companies are fighting back. Food waste *is* a big problem, they say. About 30 percent of food in the U.S. is wasted.

The companies can help stop waste. Farmers can, too.

### Dictionary

<b>critic</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a person who finds something wrong in something or someone
<b>nutrient</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	what a living thing needs to live, such as water and minerals
<b>produce</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	fruits and vegetables



### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why are some companies selling ugly produce?

- Ⓐ They hope to feed animals on farms.
- Ⓑ They know farmers will not sell it.
- Ⓒ They believe supermarkets will buy it.
- Ⓓ They do not want the produce wasted.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. Which is **most** important to say?

- Ⓐ Ugly produce is used to feed animals.
- Ⓑ Ugly produce can be added to the soil.
- Ⓒ About 30 percent of food in the U.S. is wasted.
- Ⓓ Some companies are selling ugly produce.

#### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ Supermarkets should only sell pretty produce.
- Ⓑ It is a bad idea to eat ugly fruits and vegetables.
- Ⓒ Some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables.
- Ⓓ It is not a problem to waste 30 percent of food.

#### Question 4

Which word means almost the **same** as *produce*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Food
- Ⓑ Picture
- Ⓒ Animal
- Ⓓ Farm

#### Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Get people in the U.S. to stop wasting food
- Ⓑ Explain why some companies sell ugly produce
- Ⓒ Tell readers that ugly produce feeds farm animals
- Ⓓ Tell readers to buy their food from farmers

#### Question 6

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows why some companies sell ugly produce?

- Ⓐ Would you buy ugly produce? Many people wouldn't. So supermarkets don't sell it.
- Ⓑ Food waste *is* a big problem, they say. About 30 percent of food in the U.S. is wasted.
- Ⓒ They also use it. It's fed to animals. It's added to the soil for nutrients.
- Ⓓ Critics say ugly produce isn't wasted. Farmers sell it.

#### Question 7

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning, as they're used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Supermarket and farmer
- Ⓑ Use and waste
- Ⓒ Produce and food
- Ⓓ Happy and ugly

#### Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Ugly produce companies will sell to farmers.
- Ⓑ Farmers will give away all their ugly produce.
- Ⓒ People in the U.S. will keep wasting food.
- Ⓓ Critics will say all ugly produce is wasted.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All "ugly" produce should be given away to people in need.**

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Are ugly produce companies a good idea? Write what people on both sides of the argument believe. Which side do you agree with and why? Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# Katherine the Great (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One woman did math for NASA. She started in the 1950s. Back then, many African American women were told they could not have high-level jobs. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP  
*Katherine Johnson made headlines.*

**HAMPTON, Virginia** (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson worked for NASA. She started in the 1950s. Her math helped people go into space. She's a hero.

Have you seen *Hidden Figures*? The movie tells Johnson's story. She worked with other African American women. NASA called them "human computers." One thing they worked on was trajectories.

John Glenn was an astronaut. He trusted Johnson's math. In 1962, Glenn was going into space. A programmed computer did the math. But Glenn wanted Johnson to check it. She did. The trip went well. Johnson's math helped other space trips go well, too.

Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018. She wrote an autobiography. It's called *Reaching for the Moon*. It comes out in 2019.

Johnson's book is for young readers. She wants kids to believe they can do anything.

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: NASA*

## Dictionary

**autobiography** (*noun*) the story of someone's life written by that person

**NASA** (*noun*) a group that studies space; it is run by U.S. leaders

**trajectory** (*noun*) the path of an object through space

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why did John Glenn ask Katherine Johnson to check some math?

- Ⓐ Glenn saw the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- Ⓑ Johnson wrote a book about Glenn.
- Ⓒ Glenn trusted Johnson's work.
- Ⓓ Johnson knew how to use a computer.

#### Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old in 2018.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson worked with other women.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson wrote an autobiography.

#### Question 3

Think about the Article. Which must have taken place *first*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson helped John Glenn go into space.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson got a job at NASA.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson wrote *Reaching for the Moon*.

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Anything and nothing
- Ⓑ Readers and kids
- Ⓒ Trips and rides
- Ⓓ Seen and watched

Question 5

Kay wants to know more about going into space. She should look \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In a dictionary, under the word "autobiography"
- Ⓑ In a book about different NASA trips
- Ⓒ At a list of the actors in *Hidden Figures*
- Ⓓ At a photo of some "human computers"

Question 6

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ *Reaching for the Moon* is too hard for most kids to read.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson only likes numbers, not words.
- Ⓒ Working at NASA was probably simple in the 1950s.
- Ⓓ Some important people believed in Katherine Johnson.

Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Katherine Johnson does more than math?

- Ⓐ The movie tells Johnson's story.
- Ⓑ She wrote an autobiography.
- Ⓒ NASA called them "human computers."
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson worked for NASA.

Question 8

The Article says:

**Johnson's book is for *young* readers. She wants kids to believe they can do anything.**

Which must mean almost the **opposite** of *young*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Old
- Ⓑ Real
- Ⓒ Past
- Ⓓ Wise

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe Katherine Johnson's work at NASA. How did she help lead the way for women and African Americans to do well in math and other technical fields? Use facts and details from the lesson in your answer.

# Ötzi the Iceman (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Ötzi the Iceman lived about 5,300 years ago. Scientists have been studying Ötzi since his body was found in 1991. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock  
*This is what Ötzi the Iceman may have looked like.*

**BOLZANO, Italy** (Achieve3000, November 21, 2019). It was about 5,300 years ago. A man was climbing up a mountain in Italy. He was hurt. And it was cold. Would he stay alive? He would not. But today, people are learning all about him. Here's why.

Soon after he died, his body froze in ice. It stayed frozen until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. His body was in good shape! It was the first well-preserved body found in Europe from late-Neolithic times.

He was given a name: Ötzi the Iceman. And scientists started studying him. What did they learn? He was about 46 years old when he died. And he was about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (157 centimeters and 50 kilograms).

His clothes were made from hides and grass. And he had a copper ax, a bow, and arrows. The materials used to make his tools came from places that were far away. So did people trade goods then? Probably so. There's still a lot to learn from Ötzi!

### Dictionary

**hide** (*noun*) the skin of a usually large animal

**Neolithic** (*adjective*) of or relating to the time during the Stone Age when people used stone tools and began to grow crops, raise animals, and live together in large groups but did not read or write

**well-preserved** (*adjective*) kept in good condition over a long period of time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Ötzi wore clothes and carried a bow and arrows.
- Ⓑ Ötzi's body was well-preserved in ice when it was found.
- Ⓒ Scientists think Ötzi was about 46 years old when he died.
- Ⓓ People are learning from Ötzi the Iceman's body.

#### Question 2

The Article says:

**It stayed frozen until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. His body was in good shape! It was the first well-preserved body found in Europe from late-Neolithic times.**

What does this show?

- Ⓐ what made Ötzi die long ago
- Ⓑ where Ötzi's body was found
- Ⓒ why scientists can study Ötzi
- Ⓓ what scientists found out about Ötzi

#### Question 3

Which means almost the **same** as *well-preserved*?

- Ⓐ new
- Ⓑ named
- Ⓒ known
- Ⓓ saved

#### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Ötzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.
- Ⓑ Ötzi's body is the first body found from late-Neolithic times in Europe.
- Ⓒ Ötzi's clothes were made from animal hides and grass, and he carried a copper ax.
- Ⓓ Ötzi died on a mountain in Italy and was found in 1991 by two hikers.



Question 5

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows what Ötzi has taught scientists about late-Neolithic times?

- Ⓐ The materials used to make his tools came from places that were far away. So did people trade goods then? Probably so.
- Ⓑ He was given a name: Ötzi the Iceman. And scientists started studying him. What did they learn?
- Ⓒ Soon after he died, his body froze in ice. It stayed frozen until 1991. That's when two hikers found him.
- Ⓓ And, surprise. His body was in good shape! It was the first well-preserved body found in Europe from late-Neolithic times.

Question 6

The Article says:

**And he had a copper ax, a bow, and arrows. The *materials* used to make his tools came from places that were far away.**

Which means almost the **same** as *materials*?

- Ⓐ pictures
- Ⓑ flowers
- Ⓒ colors
- Ⓓ things

Question 7

Antonio wants to know more about Ötzi the Iceman. He should look \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ at a newspaper
- Ⓑ in a history book
- Ⓒ at a map of Italy
- Ⓓ in a math book

Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ People will try to make their own clothes from hides and grass.
- Ⓑ Scientists will keep studying Ötzi in hopes of learning more.
- Ⓒ Scientists will stop sharing what they find out about Ötzi.
- Ⓓ Many more bodies from the late-Neolithic period will be found.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Who was Ötzi the Iceman? What have scientists learned about Ötzi? And what have they learned about the time when he lived? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Sniffing Out Extinction (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Trained dogs are now being used to help save endangered species. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus  
*This dog can sniff out the scent of different animals on land and in water.*

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Achieve3000, December 4, 2019). Dogs can sniff things out. They have a super sense of smell. It's 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger than a person's!

Sniffing dogs have helped police find missing people. Now some are helping conservationists. To find what? Endangered species!

One species is the Baw Baw frog. It lives in Australia. Most of the frogs have been wiped out. How many are left? Fewer than 1,200.

An Australian conservation group is helping to save them. They find the frogs. They breed them in zoos. And they put them back in the wild with their tadpoles.

But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. Here's why: They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they hide under mud. That's why two border collies are helping. The dogs learned the frogs' smell. And they sniff to find them.

And it's not just Baw Baw frogs. Dogs are helping to find other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. And killer whales!

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Video credit: Voice of America*

### Dictionary

**breed** (*verb*) to keep and take care of animals or plants in order to produce more animals or plants of a particular kind

**conservationist** (*noun*) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation

**endangered** (*adjective*) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely

**species** (*noun*) a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Baw Baw frogs live in forests in Australia.
- Ⓑ Dogs use their noses to find endangered species.
- Ⓒ Dogs have a better sense of smell than people do.
- Ⓓ Most Baw Baw frogs have been wiped out.

#### Question 2

Think about the Article. Why does an Australian conservation group want to help the Baw Baw frogs?

- Ⓐ Baw Baw frogs live in forests in Australia.
- Ⓑ Baw Baw frogs hide under mud.
- Ⓒ The group wants to send the Baw Baw frogs to zoos.
- Ⓓ Fewer than 1,200 Baw Baw frogs are left.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**[Baw Baw frogs] live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they hide under mud.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ why forests aren't good homes for frogs
- Ⓑ how dogs are helping to find animals
- Ⓒ how many frogs are left in the wild
- Ⓓ why it's not easy to find Baw Baw frogs

#### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ missing and sad
- Ⓑ stronger and faster
- Ⓒ sniff and smell
- Ⓓ find and study

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that Baw Baw frogs \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ are often eaten by border collies
- Ⓑ are much smaller than most other frogs
- Ⓒ can't live outside of their home in the wild
- Ⓓ don't want other animals to find them

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What Baw Baw frogs like to eat
- Ⓑ How many Baw Baw frogs are in the wild
- Ⓒ Where the Baw Baw frog hides
- Ⓓ How people are helping Baw Baw frogs

Question 7

The Article says:

**They have a *super* sense of smell. It's 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger than a person's!**

Which means the **opposite** of *super*?

- Ⓐ terrible
- Ⓑ useless
- Ⓒ important
- Ⓓ troubling

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Baw Baw frogs are in danger of dying out completely?

- Ⓐ But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. Here's why: They live in hard-to-get-to forests.
- Ⓑ An Australian conservation group is helping to save them. They find the frogs. They breed them in zoos.
- Ⓒ That's why two border collies are helping. The dogs learned the frogs' smell.
- Ⓓ Most of the frogs have been wiped out. How many are left? Fewer than 1,200.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Explain how trained dogs help to save endangered species, such as the Baw Baw frog. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Today, people write their thoughts on websites like Facebook. Long ago, in the ancient city of Pompeii, people scribbled their thoughts on the walls of homes and buildings. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

*More than 11,000 graffiti samples like this have been found at Pompeii.*

**POMPEII, Italy** (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works. But get this: People in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii posted messages on walls, too! Real walls, that is.

How were these messages written? Using charcoal or paint. Others were scratched into the walls of homes and buildings.

And guess what? Many of those walls still stand today. Yes, 2,000 years later! Some of the messages are still there, too. Here's why:

In 79 CE, there was a volcano. It destroyed Pompeii. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this? Pompeii kept standing!

Then came the mid-1700s. People started digging out Pompeii. And the messages were found. So, what did Pompeians write about? Thoughts and feelings. News and tips.

Here are a few messages:

Health to you, Victoria...may you sneeze sweetly.  
Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!  
A copper pot went missing from my shop...

Forget sites like Facebook. This was social media, the Pompeii way.

*Video credit: Achieve3000*

## Dictionary

**ancient** (*adjective*) of, coming from, or belonging to a time that was long ago in the past

**ash** (*noun*) the soft gray powder that remains after something (such as a cigarette or wood) has been completely burned and destroyed by fire

**cyber** (*adjective*) computer

**volcano** (*noun*) a mountain with a hole in the top or side that sometimes sends out rocks, ash, lava, etc., in a sudden explosion (called an eruption)

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ People in Pompeii wrote messages on walls.
- Ⓑ There was a message about Stronius Stronnius.
- Ⓒ A volcano hit Pompeii in 79 CE.
- Ⓓ Some messages were written in charcoal.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Pompeians wrote down their thoughts on walls.
- Ⓑ In 79 CE, a volcano destroyed the city of Pompeii.
- Ⓒ It's fun to read the messages on Pompeii's walls.
- Ⓓ Some of Pompeii's messages were written in paint.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**In 79 CE, there was a volcano. It destroyed Pompeii. The city was covered with stone and ash.  
But *under* all of this? Pompeii kept standing!**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ why Pompeii was saved for so long
- Ⓑ why people wrote on Pompeii's walls
- Ⓒ who first found the city of Pompeii
- Ⓓ where Pompeii can be found

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ write and take
- Ⓑ post and play
- Ⓒ found and lost
- Ⓓ destroyed and moved



Question 5

Camila wants to know more about the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She should look \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ on a map showing where ancient cities are
- Ⓑ in a book about the person who found Pompeii
- Ⓒ at a TV show called *Life in Old Pompeii*
- Ⓓ at a movie about the world's largest volcano

Question 6

The Article says:

**So, what did Pompeians write about? Feelings and *thoughts*. News and tips.**

**Here are a few messages:**

**Health to you, Victoria...may you sneeze sweetly.**

**Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!**

Which means almost the **same** as *thoughts*?

- Ⓐ buildings
- Ⓑ cartoons
- Ⓒ games
- Ⓓ ideas

Question 7

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows why many buildings in Pompeii are still there today?

- Ⓐ Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works.
- Ⓑ The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this? Pompeii kept standing!
- Ⓒ So, what did Pompeians write about? Thoughts and feelings. News and tips.
- Ⓓ People in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii posted messages on walls, too! Real walls, that is.

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ When Pompeii was hit by a volcano
- Ⓑ Where people post messages today
- Ⓒ What messages were posted on Pompeii's walls
- Ⓓ Who found out that a city was buried at Pompeii

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should always find a way to share their thoughts.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Tell what happened to Pompeii in 79 CE and what's been found thousands of years later. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Soldier in the Wild (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A Japanese soldier stayed hidden on Guam 28 years after World War II ended. When he finally returned to Japan, he was given a hero's welcome. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

*This photo of Shoichi Yokoi was taken shortly after his hiding ended in 1972.*

**TALOFOFO, Guam** (Achieve3000, August 27, 2019). It was 1943. World War II (WWII) was going strong. And Shoichi Yokoi was a soldier in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was stationed on Guam. It had been taken over by Japan.

In 1944, U.S. soldiers came to free Guam. Yokoi was afraid for his life. So he fled to the jungles. And he hid.

In 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allied Forces. WWII was over. But Yokoi didn't know. He stayed in hiding for the next seven years.

And that's just the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. But he kept hiding for another 20 years! Why not come out? It was about loyalty. Japanese soldiers were taught to fight to the death. Surrendering was shameful.

In 1972, Yokoi was found by two fishermen. He felt ashamed to return to Japan. But he got a hero's welcome.

*Video Credit: AP Archive*

## Dictionary

**loyalty** (*noun*) a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something

**shameful** (*adjective*) very bad : bad enough to make someone ashamed

**surrender** (*verb*) to agree to stop fighting, hiding, resisting, etc., because you know that you will not win or succeed

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. What made Yokoi flee into the jungle?

- Ⓐ He thought U.S. soldiers would hurt him.
- Ⓑ He heard that Japan had surrendered.
- Ⓒ He was spotted by two fishermen.
- Ⓓ He got a hero's welcome in Japan.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Yokoi was stationed on Guam during WWII.
- Ⓑ Yokoi didn't know that Japan had surrendered.
- Ⓒ Yokoi hid in the jungles of Guam for many years.
- Ⓓ Yokoi felt ashamed to go back to Japan.

#### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which must have happened *last*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Yokoi fled to the jungles.
- Ⓑ Yokoi heard the war had ended.
- Ⓒ Yokoi became a hero in Japan.
- Ⓓ Yokoi was stationed on Guam.

#### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ end and finish
- Ⓑ hide and block
- Ⓒ death and life
- Ⓓ soldier and brother

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Yokoi tried to go home in 1952.
- Ⓑ Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan.
- Ⓒ Yokoi didn't want to become a Japanese soldier.
- Ⓓ Yokoi fought with many American soldiers.

Question 6

The Article says:

**Why not come out? It was about loyalty. Japanese soldiers were taught to fight to the death. Surrendering was shameful.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that Yokoi didn't want to fight
- Ⓑ why Yokoi stayed on Guam
- Ⓒ why Japanese soldiers surrendered
- Ⓓ that Yokoi was not happy with his country

Question 7

A *soldier* is someone who \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ goes to Japan
- Ⓑ lives on an island
- Ⓒ fights in a war
- Ⓓ lived long ago

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why Yokoi stayed hidden after 1952
- Ⓑ How Yokoi learned the war had ended
- Ⓒ Why Yokoi fled into the jungle
- Ⓓ How Yokoi felt about going home

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All soldiers are heroes.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Who was Shoichi Yokoi? And why did he remain hidden on Guam until 1972? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In April 2019, Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world. Here's what Mason wants kids to know. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Used with permission from Mason Andrews  
*Mason Andrews flew this plane around the world.*

**MONROE, Louisiana** (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews studies flying in college. But he already holds a flying record.

Mason flew around the world. And he did it alone! He's the youngest pilot to do that. He left Louisiana in July 2018. His trip took 76 days. He returned in October. He was 18 years and 163 days old.

Mason's trip wasn't easy. He often flew in bad weather. Mason flew through a sandstorm. It was from Egypt to Dubai. He also hit a monsoon. It was over the Bay of Bengal. There were bad typhoons, too. They were in the Philippines. So Mason couldn't fly for three weeks.

Mason's trip also raised over \$30,000. It was to help kids with special needs.

Now, Mason has some advice for kids. What is it?

"Anything is possible."

*Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko*

*Published on Oct 6, 2018*

*Edited for length*

## Dictionary

**monsoon** (*noun*) a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia

**record** (*noun*) something that has never been done before

**sandstorm** (*noun*) a desert storm in which strong winds blow clouds of sand

**typhoon** (*noun*) a very strong storm that forms in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Since there were bad typhoons in the Philippines, then \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Mason flew around the world by himself.
- Ⓑ Mason couldn't fly for three weeks.
- Ⓒ Mason raised money to help kids.
- Ⓓ Mason left Louisiana in July 2018.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. Which is most important to say?

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews is the youngest pilot to fly around the world.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews left Louisiana in July 2018.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews raised money for kids with special needs.
- Ⓓ Mason Andrews studies flying in college.

#### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ Advice from young people is usually the best advice for kids.
- Ⓑ A monsoon is the scariest kind of storm to fly through.
- Ⓒ Mason flew through a sandstorm between Egypt and Dubai.
- Ⓓ Mason was brave to fly around the world when he was 18 years old.

#### Question 4

The Article says:

**Mason's trip wasn't easy. He often flew in bad weather. Mason flew *through* a sandstorm. It was from Egypt to Dubai.**

Which word means almost the **same** as *through*?

- Ⓐ Over
- Ⓑ Under
- Ⓒ On
- Ⓓ In

#### Question 5

The Article says:

**Mason flew through a sandstorm. It was from Egypt to Dubai. He also hit a monsoon. It was over the Bay of Bengal. There were bad typhoons, too.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ How a sandstorm is different from a monsoon
- Ⓑ Why it wasn't easy for Mason to fly around the world
- Ⓒ How long it takes to fly from Egypt to Dubai
- Ⓓ Why people like Mason love flying through storms



Question 6

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ It's probably easier to fly through a typhoon than a sandstorm.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews must have a lot of money.
- Ⓒ It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big.
- Ⓓ Most flying records are very easy to break.

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Alone and fast
- Ⓑ Easy and hard
- Ⓒ Help and save
- Ⓓ Hold and call

Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

- Ⓐ Mason flew around the world. And he did it alone! He's the youngest pilot to do that.
- Ⓑ Mason's trip also raised over \$30,000. It was to help kids with special needs.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews studies flying in college. But he already holds a flying record.
- Ⓓ Mason's trip wasn't easy. He often flew in bad weather.

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"Anything is possible."**

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe Mason Andrews. What did he do? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# The Early-Late Debate (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people want later start times for middle schools and high schools. These people want start times pushed back until 8 a.m. or later. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

*Too tired to learn? Some people think schools should start later.*

**SACRAMENTO, California** (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Like to snooze? Here's good news! Some schools are starting later.

Some examples? High schools in Seattle. They start at 8:45 a.m. Or later!

California passed a law. It sets new rules. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

Why? Because of research. Scientists studied how adolescents sleep. Most sleep best between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. If teens get up early, they miss out on some good z's!

Students who don't get enough sleep can have health problems. They have trouble learning, too.

But some people think starting schools later isn't smart. It could be hard to have enough buses. Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less free time. For what? Sports, jobs, and homework. Don't forget about fun!

What about you? Wanna start school early? Or snoozzzzzzzzzzzze?

### Dictionary

**adolescent** (*noun*) a young person who is developing into an adult : a young person who is going through adolescence

**research** (*noun*) careful study that is done to find and report new knowledge about something

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Teens sleep best between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. That's why \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ sleep helps students learn and stay healthy
- Ⓑ people think starting schools later isn't smart
- Ⓒ California high schools won't start before 8:30 a.m.
- Ⓓ scientists study about how adolescents sleep

#### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ staying healthy, so students learn better
- Ⓑ doing research about when adolescents sleep best
- Ⓒ starting schools later, so students get enough sleep
- Ⓓ what students do in their free time

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Getting enough sleep helps students learn.
- Ⓑ Students in California will like going to school later.
- Ⓒ California middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.
- Ⓓ Teens sleep best between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

#### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *adolescent*?

- Ⓐ grandfather
- Ⓑ woman
- Ⓒ baby
- Ⓓ teen

#### Question 5

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what times adolescents get their best sleep
- Ⓑ where later school start times are happening
- Ⓒ why people think starting schools later isn't smart
- Ⓓ what students think about schools starting later

Question 6

The Article says:

**Students who don't get enough sleep can have health problems. They have trouble learning, too.**

This passage helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ how important sleep is for students
- Ⓑ what problems all students have
- Ⓒ why it's hard for students to get enough sleep
- Ⓓ how sleep research is done on students

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

- Ⓐ law and rule
- Ⓑ good and smart
- Ⓒ trouble and problem
- Ⓓ start and finish

Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that some schools believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

- Ⓐ Students who don't get enough sleep can have health problems. They have trouble learning, too.
- Ⓑ California passed a law. It sets new rules. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.
- Ⓒ But some people think starting schools later isn't smart. It could be hard to have enough buses. Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less free time.
- Ⓓ Scientists studied how adolescents sleep. Most sleep best between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Middle schools and high schools should start later.**

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Do you think middle schools and high schools should start later in the day? Why or why not?

Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# The Last Generation? (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people from the Pacific Islands are working to stop climate change. Rising seas could take away their homeland. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

*This is the city of Majuro. It's in the Marshall Islands, a Pacific Island nation.*

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands** (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). There are 11 countries in the Pacific Islands. But they all have one big problem. What is it? Climate change.

Climate change causes seas to rise. That's bad news for the islands. Here's why: They have low elevations. They're harmed by rising seas.

But could the Pacific Islands be wiped out? Islands like Fiji and Samoa? It's possible. And some young islanders wonder: Are *they* the last generation to live on those islands?

But the islanders are fighting the problem. Change can start with cargo ships. They bring the islands' goods. But they add to the world's carbon emissions. This makes climate change worse.

So six Pacific Island countries teamed up. This was in 2019. They made plans. They'll cut carbon emissions from shipping. By how much? About 40 percent by 2030. Then zero-carbon shipping by 2050. How will they do it? By using carbon-free technology.

Sea levels are rising. But hopes aren't sinking in the Pacific Islands.

*Video credit: United Nations*

## Dictionary

**elevation** (*noun*) the height of a place

**emission** (*noun*) something sent out or given off

**generation** (*noun*) a group of people born and living during the same time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why did six Pacific Island countries get together to cut shipping emissions?

- Ⓐ They think that sea levels will fall more.
- Ⓑ They want to fight climate change.
- Ⓒ They want to stop all shipping.
- Ⓓ They know the oceans are not clean.

#### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ how the islands are making carbon-free technologies
- Ⓑ how islanders will cut shipping emissions
- Ⓒ why other countries are helping the islanders
- Ⓓ why island countries put out so many emissions

#### Question 3

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ fighting and seeing
- Ⓑ low and high
- Ⓒ harmed and hurt
- Ⓓ bad and terrible

#### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What some of the names are of the Pacific Islands
- Ⓑ Why climate change is a threat to the islands
- Ⓒ Which shipping emissions are causing problems
- Ⓓ Why only some of the countries are working together

#### Question 5

The Article says:

**[Six Pacific Island countries will] cut carbon emissions from shipping. By how much? About 40 percent by 2030. Then zero-carbon shipping by 2050.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that shipping to the islands will be stopped
- Ⓑ how islanders plan to fight climate change
- Ⓒ that zero emissions is not possible
- Ⓓ how dangerous climate change is

Question 6

The Article says:

**Climate change causes seas to *rise*. That's bad news for the islands. Here's why: They have low elevations. They're harmed by rising seas.**

Which means the **opposite** of *rise*?

- Ⓐ fall
- Ⓑ splash
- Ⓒ darken
- Ⓓ change

Question 7

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the water in the ocean has too much trash
- Ⓑ there can never be zero shipping emissions
- Ⓒ some Pacific Islands may go underwater
- Ⓓ Fiji is the biggest island in the Pacific Ocean

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells what might happen to some Pacific Islands?

- Ⓐ There are 11 countries in the Pacific Islands. But they all have one big problem.
- Ⓑ So six Pacific Island countries teamed up. This was in 2019. They made plans.
- Ⓒ Change can start with cargo ships. They bring the islands' goods.
- Ⓓ But could the Pacific Islands be wiped out? Islands like Fiji and Samoa? It's possible.

**Step 4: Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Everyone should work together to stop climate change.**

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

How is climate change harming the Pacific Islands? What are some Pacific Island nations doing about this problem? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# The Truth About Dogs (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A new exhibit teaches about dogs. What do you think of this quote by Josh Billings?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel  
*People at the exhibition can learn how dogs see.*

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Why do dogs smell things? Why do people and dogs get along so well?

One exhibition has these answers and more. It's called "Dogs!" It opened in March 2019. Here's what it teaches:

### **1. They have a pee-culiar interest.**

Dogs sniff fire hydrants. Why? Dogs learn from smelling pee. They can tell if a place is safe.

### **2. They're doggone smart.**

Dogs do more than smell to find things out. They know when something moves. They hear soft sounds, too.

### **3. They're heroic.**

Dogs aren't just smart. They're heroes. There's a movie at the exhibition. It shows dogs saving people.

### **4. Yes, they love us, too.**

People and dogs love each other. It's a mutual affection.

### **5. They go way back with humans.**

Scientists don't know when dogs and people first met. But it was a long time ago.

Best friends fur-ever, it seems.

*Information for this story came from AP.*



## Dictionary

**exhibition** (*noun*) a show

**mutual affection** (*noun*) shared feeling of love

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Since dogs learn from smelling, then \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Dogs sniff fire hydrants to tell if a place is safe.
- Ⓑ Dogs do more than smell to find things out.
- Ⓒ Dogs know when something moves.
- Ⓓ Dogs are able to hear soft sounds.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Dogs can save people.
- Ⓑ There is an exhibition that teaches about dogs.
- Ⓒ Dogs can hear soft sounds.
- Ⓓ Scientists don't know when dogs and people met.

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ A movie shows dogs saving people.
- Ⓑ Dogs can tell how safe an area is by sniffing.
- Ⓒ Smart dogs are the best pets to have.
- Ⓓ "Dogs!" opened in March 2019.

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ People and humans
- Ⓑ Soft and loud
- Ⓒ Heroic and brave
- Ⓓ Answers and facts

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ People were closer with dogs thousands of years ago.
- Ⓑ As dogs spend more time with people, they will stop sniffing fire hydrants.
- Ⓒ People like dogs partly because dogs are helpful.
- Ⓓ Most people notice things in an area before their dogs do.

Question 6

The Article says:

**Why do dogs smell things? Why do people and dogs get along so well? One exhibition has these answers and more. It's called "Dogs!" It opened in March 2019.**

What does this show?

- Ⓐ When the dog exhibition comes to an end
- Ⓑ Who set up the exhibition about dogs
- Ⓒ What people might learn at an exhibition about dogs
- Ⓓ Where the dog exhibition will be after March 2019

Question 7

The Article says:

**Dogs do more than smell to find things out. They *know* when something moves. They hear soft sounds, too.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *know*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Sleep
- Ⓑ Run
- Ⓒ Cry
- Ⓓ See

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than a great sense of smell?

- Ⓐ Dogs sniff fire hydrants.
- Ⓑ They hear soft sounds, too.
- Ⓒ People and dogs love each other.
- Ⓓ Dogs learn from smelling pee.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Think about telling a friend about the "Dogs!" exhibition. What would you share? Use descriptive words from the Article in your answer.

# Welcome to Batuu (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

It's been said that Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places on Earth. Now, the Disney parks in California and Florida have added an attraction from "a galaxy far, far away"—Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

*This starship can be found at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.*

**ORLANDO, Florida** (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). It's a Star Wars fan's dream! In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a new land. People who go feel like they're in a Star Wars story.

Galaxy's Edge is open at Disneyland. That's in California. There's one at Disney's Hollywood Studios, too. That's in Florida.

Galaxy's Edge sits on 14 acres of land. And guess what? It's set up as a new planet! The planet is called Batuu. It was built from the ground up. Some parts even look like real places. Take Batuu's forest. It's like Arizona's Petrified Forest National Park.

What's Batuu like? It's a hot spot for traders and explorers. And it has a story. The workers are part of that story. You can be, too. It's like being on an alien planet.

*Video credit: Courtesy Disney, with music by Valeriano Chiaravalle/proudmusiclibrary.com*

### Dictionary

**alien** (*adjective*) from somewhere other than the planet Earth

**explore** (*verb*) to travel over or through (a place) in order to learn more about it or to find something

**trader** (*noun*) a person who buys, sells, or exchanges goods

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Galaxy's Edge is in California and Florida.
- Ⓑ Disney opened a new land called Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓒ The workers are part of the story at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓓ The planet at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is called Batuu.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Galaxy's Edge is open for people to see now.
- Ⓑ The Star Wars story is the best part of Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓒ There are traders and explorers on Batuu.
- Ⓓ The planet in Galaxy's Edge is named Batuu.

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**It's a Star Wars fan's dream! In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a new land. People who go feel like they're in a Star Wars story.**

This passage helps the reader to know that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Galaxy's Edge will not be open for long
- Ⓑ people have seen the land before
- Ⓒ Star Wars fans will like Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓓ Disney did not build the new land

#### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *explore*?

- Ⓐ help
- Ⓑ do
- Ⓒ look
- Ⓓ run

#### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Disney thinks many people will go to Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓑ Batuu is in Petrified Forest National Park
- Ⓒ most people will go to Galaxy's Edge in California
- Ⓓ the next Star Wars movie will be in Batuu

Question 6

Anna Maria wants to know what an acre is. She could find this out by using a \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ globe
- Ⓑ dictionary
- Ⓒ calendar
- Ⓓ newspaper

Question 7

The Article says:

**The planet is called Batuu. It was *built* from the ground up. Some parts even look like real places.**

Which means almost the **same** as *built*?

- Ⓐ heard
- Ⓑ found
- Ⓒ made
- Ⓓ tried

Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Batuu is not like any place you've been to before?

- Ⓐ In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓑ Some parts even look like real places.
- Ⓒ Galaxy's Edge is open at Disneyland.
- Ⓓ It's like being on an alien planet.

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places in the galaxy.**

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Imagine that you are telling a friend about Disney's new Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida. What would you say? Use describing words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

# Women Adventurers (250L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families. But some brave women chose to take off on amazing adventures around the world. What do you think?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Left to right: Cristoforo Dall'Acqua, Wellcome Collection, Library of Congress

*Left to right: Jeanne Baret, the first woman to sail around the globe. Lady Hester Stanhope, who led an archaeological dig. And Nellie Bly, who traveled around the world in 72 days.*

**RED BANK, New Jersey** (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have many adventures. But not hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home. Well these three women had different ideas.

**Jeanne Baret (1740-1807):** Baret was a French scientist. And she was the first woman to sail around the world! In 1766, she wanted to set sail with other scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, guess what? Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away.

**Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839):** Stanhope was from England. She traveled throughout the Middle East by herself. And that's not all. She led an archaeological dig there. She was the first woman to do this.

**Nellie Bly (1864-1922):** Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a big story. About what? Hidden problems at a mental hospital. The story made Bly well-known. It also led the way for other women journalists. And guess what? Two years later, Bly set a world record. She traveled around the world in 72 days!

## Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

**disguise** (*verb*) to change the usual appearance, sound, taste, etc., of (someone or something) so that people will not recognize that person or thing

**journalism** (*noun*) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

**mental** (*adjective*) of or relating to the mind

**navy** (*noun*) the part of a country's military forces that fights at sea using ships, submarines, airplanes, etc.

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

Think about the Article. Which took place *last*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ A woman dressed as a man and sailed around the world.
- Ⓑ A woman set sail on a French navy ship in 1766.
- Ⓒ A woman traveled through the Middle East by herself.
- Ⓓ A woman traveled around the world in 72 days.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that women today go into space and sail around the world
- Ⓑ that Nellie Bly's story about a hospital made her well-known
- Ⓒ that some women in history went on unexpected adventures
- Ⓓ that French scientists traveled all around the world in 1766

#### Question 3

The Article says:

**Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a big story. About what? Hidden problems at a mental hospital. The story made Bly well-known. It also led the way for other women journalists.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that Nellie Bly worked at a hospital
- Ⓑ that journalists are all women
- Ⓒ that all hospitals have problems
- Ⓓ that Nellie Bly helped other women

#### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Jeanne Baret was a scientist who sailed around the world.
- Ⓑ Nellie Bly set a record by traveling around the world in 72 days.
- Ⓒ It was not a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.
- Ⓓ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East by herself.



Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ many and few
- Ⓑ guess and know
- Ⓒ world and Earth
- Ⓓ dig and fill

Question 6

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how women live today?

- Ⓐ These days, women go to space. They sail around the world.
- Ⓑ Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships.
- Ⓒ In 1887, she wrote a big story. About what? Hidden problems at a mental hospital.
- Ⓓ But not hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home.

Question 7

The Article says:

**These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have many *adventures*. But not hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home.**

In this passage, the word *adventure* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ a quiet or sleepy experience
- Ⓑ a sad experience
- Ⓒ a fun or exciting experience
- Ⓓ a boring experience

Question 8

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- Ⓑ how long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record
- Ⓒ how long it took Baret to sail around the world
- Ⓓ what Nellie Bly wrote her six-part report about

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should live life the way they want to, not how they're expected to.**

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

What's one word that describes Jeanne Baret, Lady Hester Stanhope, and Nellie Bly? What actions by these women back up your answer? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



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## ANSWER KEY

# A Musical Pioneer

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

D Pitse leads an orchestra and choir.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B The music of African composers sounds good.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**But Pitse's shows are different. The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

A what kind of music Pitse's shows have.

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A first and last

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Pitse wants to help other people

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

A Why Pitse likes Beethoven

### Question 7

The Article says:

**At classical music concerts, you often hear music written long ago. The pieces are by European *composers*. Beethoven is one.**

Which means almost the **same** as *composer*?

B writer

### Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how Pitse's concerts are different from most concerts?

A The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.

# Ancient Lines in the Sand

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

C The Nazca Lines are drawings in the desert sand.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C It's very interesting to study the Nazca Lines.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sands. They're of animals, plants, and more.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

A what the Nazca Lines look like

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

B before and after

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C it's hard to see the animal shapes from the ground

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why researchers made the lines

### Question 7

The Article says:

**How did they make them? By taking away some of the dark *rocks* that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.**

Which means almost the **same** as *rocks*?

D stones

### Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how the Nazca Lines were made?

A By taking away some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.

# Animated Favorites Get Real

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why do parents take their kids to see the remakes?

B They loved the animated movies growing up.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

B People love the new live-action remakes of animated movies.

### Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Which animated characters people like

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C hit and winner

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

D kids like movies with characters like them

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Live-action remakes can make lots of money. They have a winning formula: Big stars. Special effects. Stories fans love. Characters who seem like old friends. It's box office gold!**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

D why moviemakers remake animated movies

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows why a parent might go and see today's live-action movies?

D The power of nostalgia helps. Adults watched these movies growing up. They loved them. So they like taking their kids to see them.

### Question 8

The Article says:

**The power of nostalgia helps. Adults *watched* these movies growing up. They loved them.**

Which means almost the **same** as *watched*?

D saw

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is the main idea of this Article?

C. People all around the world love bubble tea.

### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *treat*, as it is used in the Article?

C. Goody

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which took place *first*?

B. Bubble tea was made in Taiwan.

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

C. Chocolate pudding is the tastiest flavor.

### Question 5

Rosa wants to know what tapioca is. How can she find out? She could use a \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Dictionary

### Question 6

The Article says:

**It's like a drink and a *snack*. Many shops sell it. They're opening all over. Bubble tea starts with milk tea. Then, treats are added.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *snack*, as it is used above?

D. Food

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

C. Many kids go there to hang out with friends.

### Question 8

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

D. More and more people like to drink bubble tea.

# Cooking Up Native Traditions

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

D Sherman is bringing back Native American foods.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Sherman's recipes taste great.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**The foods given to many Native Americans, like those Sherman ate as a kid, aren't healthy. This causes health problems. Diabetes is one. But not Native foods. They are good for people.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

D why Sherman is bringing back Native foods

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

C before and after

### Question 5

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

C More people will learn about Native foods.

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

A Why it's hard to find wild rice

### Question 7

The Article says:

**So Sherman learned about his culture. In the past, many Native American food traditions were *lost*. And Native food sources, like bison, were nearly wiped out.**

Which means the **opposite** of *lost*?

B found

### Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows what kinds of foods Sherman ate when he was young?

C As a kid, he ate foods given to his family by the U.S. government. Like what? Canned beans. Boxed rice.



# Defying Gravity

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

B Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

A Biles wasn't a good gymnast in 2011.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**But in 2011, she didn't make the U.S. team. This made her sad. Did she give up? No way! And in 2013, she made the team.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know that \_\_\_\_\_.

C problems make Biles try harder

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

D greatest and best

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Biles doesn't like to give up

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

B Where does Biles live

### Question 7

The Article says:

**But in 2011, she didn't make the U.S. team. This made her sad. Did she give up? No way! And in 2013, she made the team.**

Which means almost the **same** as *sad*?

C unhappy

### Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Biles' life as a child was sometimes hard?

D [Biles'] early life wasn't easy. Her parents couldn't care for her. So she lived in foster care.

# Give Me S'more!

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why do some people think Girl Scouts made s'mores first?

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected

B A Girl Scouts manual talked about s'mores.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

C How to make a s'more

### Question 3

Which word means almost the **same** as *manual*, as it is used in the Article?

A Guide

### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Graham crackers were first made in the late 1800s.

### Question 5

The Article says:

**What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

D That there are different ways to make s'mores

### Question 6

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

B Less and more

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one tells how milk chocolate is made?

B The chocolatey? That's milk chocolate. Milk chocolate has been around since 1875. What's in it? Chocolate, sugar, and milk.

### Question 8

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C S'mores are easy to make.

# Global Game Fame

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is the main idea of this Article?

D Important video games go into a hall of fame every year.

### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *plumber*, as it is used in the Article?

D Fixer

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B *Super Mario Kart* is more fun than *Microsoft Solitaire*.

### Question 4

Think about the Article. How is *Microsoft Solitaire* different from *Super Mario Kart*?

D *Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.

### Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

A Drawing and picture

### Question 6

The Article says:

**[The World Video Game Hall of Fame] is in New York. It opened in 2015. It's for the best and most important video games. Some are from the past. But they stood the test of time.**

Why is this in the Article? It shows \_\_\_\_\_.

A What the hall of fame is for

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one tells why a game was chosen for the hall of fame?

D Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

### Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

B More games will go into the hall of fame next year.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly?

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why are some companies selling ugly produce?

D They do not want the produce wasted.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. Which is **most** important to say?

D Some companies are selling ugly produce.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

C Some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables.

### Question 4

Which word means almost the **same** as *produce*, as it is used in the Article?

A Food

### Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

B Explain why some companies sell ugly produce

### Question 6

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows why some companies sell ugly produce?

B Food waste *is* a big problem, they say. About 30 percent of food in the U.S. is wasted.

### Question 7

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning, as they're used in the Article?

C Produce and food

### Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

C People in the U.S. will keep wasting food.

# Katherine the Great

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why did John Glenn ask Katherine Johnson to check some math?

C Glenn trusted Johnson's work.

### Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

A Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.

### Question 3

Think about the Article. Which must have taken place *first*?

C Katherine Johnson got a job at NASA.

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A Anything and nothing

### Question 5

Kay wants to know more about going into space. She should look \_\_\_\_\_.

B In a book about different NASA trips

### Question 6

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Some important people believed in Katherine Johnson.

### Question 7

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Katherine Johnson does more than math?

B She wrote an autobiography.

### Question 8

The Article says:

**Johnson's book is for *young* readers. She wants kids to believe they can do anything.**

Which must mean almost the **opposite** of *young*, as it is used above?

A Old

# Otzi the Iceman

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

D People are learning from Ötzi the Iceman's body.

### Question 2

The Article says:

**It stayed frozen until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. His body was in good shape! It was the first well-preserved body found in Europe from late-Neolithic times.**

What does this show?

C why scientists can study Ötzi

### Question 3

Which means almost the **same** as *well-preserved*?

D saved

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

A Ötzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.

### Question 5

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows what Ötzi has taught scientists about late-Neolithic times?

A The materials used to make his tools came from places that were far away. So did people trade goods then? Probably so.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**And he had a copper ax, a bow, and arrows. The *materials* used to make his tools came from places that were far away.**

Which means almost the **same** as *materials*?

D things

### Question 7

Antonio wants to know more about Ötzi the Iceman. He should look \_\_\_\_\_.

B in a history book

### Question 8

Think about the Article. Which is most likely to happen?

B Scientists will keep studying Ötzi in hopes of learning more.

# Sniffing Out Extinction

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

B Dogs use their noses to find endangered species.

### Question 2

Think about the Article. Why does an Australian conservation group want to help the Baw Baw frogs?

D Fewer than 1,200 Baw Baw frogs are left.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**[Baw Baw frogs] live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they hide under mud.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

D why it's not easy to find Baw Baw frogs

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C sniff and smell

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that Baw Baw frogs \_\_\_\_\_.

D don't want other animals to find them

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

A What Baw Baw frogs like to eat

### Question 7

The Article says:

**They have a *super* sense of smell. It's 10,000 to 100,000 times stronger than a person's!**

Which means the **opposite** of *super*?

A terrible

### Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Baw Baw frogs are in danger of dying out completely?

D Most of the frogs have been wiped out. How many are left? Fewer than 1,200.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

A People in Pompeii wrote messages on walls.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C It's fun to read the messages on Pompeii's walls.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**In 79 CE, there was a volcano. It destroyed Pompeii. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this? Pompeii kept standing!**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

A why Pompeii was saved for so long

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

C found and lost

### Question 5

Camila wants to know more about the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She should look \_\_\_\_\_.

C at a TV show called *Life in Old Pompeii*

### Question 6

The Article says:

**So, what did Pompeians write about? Feelings and *thoughts*. News and tips.**

**Here are a few messages:**

**Health to you, Victoria...may you sneeze sweetly.**

**Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!**

Which means almost the **same** as *thoughts*?

D ideas

### Question 7

Read these passages from the Article. Which one shows why many buildings in Pompeii are still there today?

B The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this? Pompeii kept standing!

### Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Who found out that a city was buried at Pompeii



# Soldier in the Wild

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. What made Yokoi flee into the jungle?

A He thought U.S. soldiers would hurt him.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Yokoi hid in the jungles of Guam for many years.

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which must have happened *last*?

C Yokoi became a hero in Japan.

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

A end and finish

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Why not come out? It was about loyalty. Japanese soldiers were taught to fight to the death. Surrendering was shameful.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

B why Yokoi stayed on Guam

### Question 7

A *soldier* is someone who \_\_\_\_\_.

C fights in a war

### Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

B How Yokoi learned the war had ended

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Since there were bad typhoons in the Philippines, then \_\_\_\_\_.

B Mason couldn't fly for three weeks.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. Which is most important to say?

A Mason Andrews is the youngest pilot to fly around the world.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

C Mason flew through a sandstorm between Egypt and Dubai.

### Question 4

The Article says:

**Mason's trip wasn't easy. He often flew in bad weather. Mason flew *through* a sandstorm. It was from Egypt to Dubai.**

Which word means almost the **same** as *through*?

D In

### Question 5

The Article says:

**Mason flew through a sandstorm. It was from Egypt to Dubai. He also hit a monsoon. It was over the Bay of Bengal. There were bad typhoons, too.**

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

B Why it wasn't easy for Mason to fly around the world

### Question 6

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big.

### Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

B Easy and hard

### Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

B Mason's trip also raised over \$30,000. It was to help kids with special needs.

# The Early-Late Debate

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Teens sleep best between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. That's why \_\_\_\_\_.

C California high schools won't start before 8:30 a.m.

### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

C starting schools later, so students get enough sleep

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Students in California will like going to school later.

### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *adolescent*?

D teen

### Question 5

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

D what students think about schools starting later

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Students who don't get enough sleep can have health problems. They have trouble learning, too.**

This passage helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

A how important sleep is for students

### Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D start and finish

### Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that some schools believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

B California passed a law. It sets new rules. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

# The Last Generation?

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Why did six Pacific Island countries get together to cut shipping emissions?

B They want to fight climate change.

### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

B how islanders will cut shipping emissions

### Question 3

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

B low and high

### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why only some of the countries are working together

### Question 5

The Article says:

**[Six Pacific Island countries will] cut carbon emissions from shipping. By how much? About 40 percent by 2030. Then zero-carbon shipping by 2050.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

B how islanders plan to fight climate change

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Climate change causes seas to *rise*. That's bad news for the islands. Here's why: They have low elevations. They're harmed by rising seas.**

Which means the **opposite** of *rise*?

A fall

### Question 7

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C some Pacific Islands may go underwater

### Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells what might happen to some Pacific Islands?

D But could the Pacific Islands be wiped out? Islands like Fiji and Samoa? It's possible.

# The Truth About Dogs

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Since dogs learn from smelling, then \_\_\_\_\_.

A Dogs sniff fire hydrants to tell if a place is safe.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

B There is an exhibition that teaches about dogs.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

C Smart dogs are the best pets to have.

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

B Soft and loud

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C People like dogs partly because dogs are helpful.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Why do dogs smell things? Why do people and dogs get along so well? One exhibition has these answers and more. It's called "Dogs!" It opened in March 2019.**

What does this show?

C What people might learn at an exhibition about dogs

### Question 7

The Article says:

**Dogs do more than smell to find things out. They *know* when something moves. They hear soft sounds, too.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *know*, as it is used above?

D See

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than a great sense of smell?

B They hear soft sounds, too.

# Welcome to Batuu

## Answer key

### Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

B Disney opened a new land called Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B The Star Wars story is the best part of Galaxy's Edge.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**It's a Star Wars fan's dream! In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a new land. People who go feel like they're in a Star Wars story.**

This passage helps the reader to know that \_\_\_\_\_.

C Star Wars fans will like Galaxy's Edge

### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *explore*?

C look

### Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

A Disney thinks many people will go to Galaxy's Edge

### Question 6

Anna Maria wants to know what an acre is. She could find this out by using a \_\_\_\_\_.

B dictionary

### Question 7

The Article says:

**The planet is called Batuu. It was *built* from the ground up. Some parts even look like real places.**

Which means almost the **same** as *built*?

C made

### Question 8

Look at these passages from the Article. Which one shows that Batuu is not like any place you've been to before?

D It's like being on an alien planet.

# Women Adventurers

## Answer key

### Question 1

Think about the Article. Which took place *last*?

D A woman traveled around the world in 72 days.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

C that some women in history went on unexpected adventures

### Question 3

The Article says:

**Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a big story. About what? Hidden problems at a mental hospital. The story made Bly well-known. It also led the way for other women journalists.**

This helps the reader to know \_\_\_\_\_.

D that Nellie Bly helped other women

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

C It was not a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.

### Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C world and Earth

### Question 6

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how women live today?

A These days, women go to space. They sail around the world.

### Question 7

The Article says:

**These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have many *adventures*. But not hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home.**

In this passage, the word *adventure* means \_\_\_\_\_.

C a fun or exciting experience

### Question 8

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

C how long it took Baret to sail around the world



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# Lesson Tracker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



## Step One

Respond to the Before Reading Poll



## Step Two

Read the Article



## Step Three

Do the Activity Questions



## Step Four

Respond to the After Reading Poll



## Step Five

Answer the Thought Question

Watch me soar! Mark off each lesson step as you finish it. Use the back of this paper if you need more space to add more lessons.

Lesson Title	Before Reading Poll	Article	First Try Activity Score	After Reading Poll	Thought Question
			%		
			%		
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# A Musical Pioneer (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In the world of classical music, most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. But South Africa's Ofentse Pitse stands out. She's a young, black, female conductor. What do you think?

**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

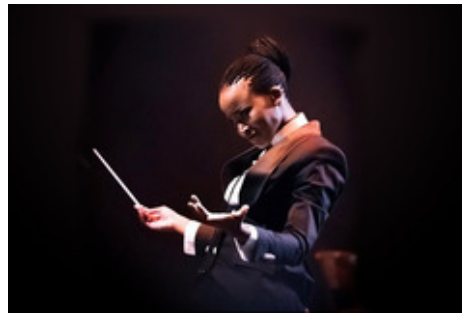


Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

*Ofentse Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and choir for young people in South Africa.*

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women. And there are few conductors of color. For example, about 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S. are white. In short, as a young, black, female conductor from South Africa, Pitse is one of a kind.

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a band conductor and led a choir. But music wasn't Pitse's first job choice. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she was also good at drawing. She chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse. And she listened! In 2017, she started a choir. She chose great singers with big dreams. They lived in poor communities. And they had few opportunities. Pitse says Anchored Sound has changed the lives of these young people. It has allowed them to use their gifts. Now that's something worth singing about!

And Pitse hasn't stopped there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. By 2019, Pitse had done it. She had created a 40-member orchestra.

What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. Are these names new to you? You're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse's group plays pieces by African composers. This lets listeners know that classical music is alive in Africa.

*Video credit: Mesia Gumede*

## Dictionary

**architect** (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

**choir** (*noun*) a group of singers especially in a church

**empower** (*verb*) to give power to (someone)

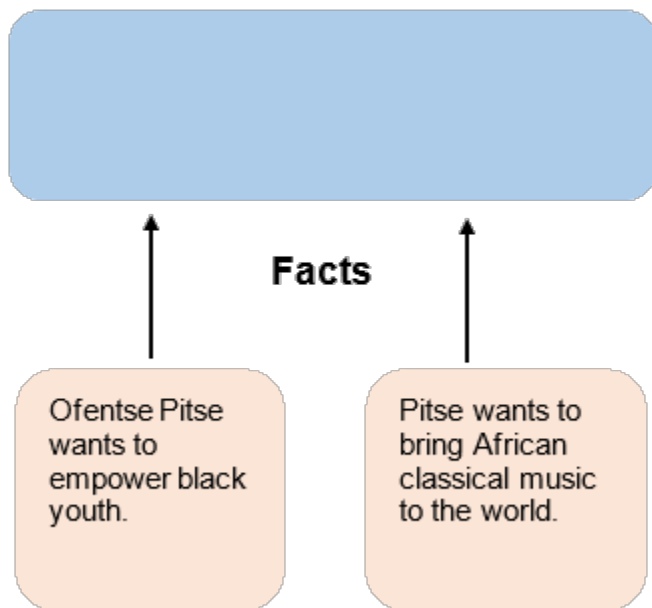
**opportunity** (*noun*) an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done: chance

**orchestra** (*noun*) a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ Pitse wants people around the world to enjoy the music of today's African composers.
- Ⓑ Pitse's grandfather was a band conductor who also led a choir.
- Ⓒ Pitse's all-black orchestra and youth choir performs the works of African composers.
- Ⓓ Pitse was an architect before she started an orchestra and youth choir.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ A recent study found that only 5 out of the top 100 conductors were women.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse started a youth choir in 2017 and formed an orchestra two years later.
- Ⓒ Ofentse Pitse's grandfather was an excellent band conductor and choir leader.
- Ⓓ About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the United States are white.

Question 3

The Article says:

**What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. Are these names new to you? You're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse's group plays pieces by African composers. This lets listeners know that classical music is alive in Africa.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's idea of what classical music is
- (B) explain which European composer's music Ofentse Pitse wanted to play
- (C) point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
- (D) say that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are better composers than Beethoven

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *empower*?

- (A) weaken
- (B) promise
- (C) startle
- (D) respect

Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) the works of Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza aren't well-known yet
- (B) Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often lead Pitse's orchestra
- (C) Pitse's choir usually plays at least one piece written by Beethoven
- (D) Pitse has written a number of classical works that her choir has sung

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- (A) How Pitse is helping young people from poor communities in South Africa
- (B) How Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
- (C) Why Pitse has her group play classical music by African composers
- (D) Why Pitse is considered to be a pioneer in classical music

Question 7

The Article says:

**[Ofentse Pitse is] the *conductor* of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.**

Which means almost the **same** as *conductor*?

- (A) singer
- (B) writer
- (C) driver
- (D) leader

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that most classical conductors today are men?

- Ⓐ In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir.
- Ⓒ And there are few conductors of color. For example, about 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S. are white.
- Ⓓ And Pitse hasn't stopped there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. By 2019, Pitse had done it. She had created a 40-member orchestra.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Imagine you are a reporter who is speaking with Ofentse Pitse. What questions might you ask her? What might her answers be? Be sure to include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and describing words, in your answer.

# Ancient Lines in the Sand (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are big ground drawings. They're in the desert sand. They were put there more than 1,500 years ago. But scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

**Some things should stay a secret.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

*A monkey geoglyph is seen from above. It's one of the many ground drawings known as the Nazca Lines.*

**NAZCA, Peru** (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). The greatest wonders of the ancient world are usually hard to miss. For example, you can't walk past Egypt's pyramids without noticing them. They're right in your face. But not the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on huge slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings"). They're seen in the desert sands. There are hundreds of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty! And the best way to see them is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of visitors view them each year.

Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.

Researchers still have many questions about the geoglyphs. And the answers are unclear.

Here's what we *do* know: The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make them? By removing some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.

Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths. Researchers say this shows that the Nazca people may have had a taste for the magical.

So why were the geoglyphs created in the first place? Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

Then again, these are all guesses. Only one thing is clear: The Nazcas found a way to draw lasting lines in the always-changing sands of time.

### Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

**drone** (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot

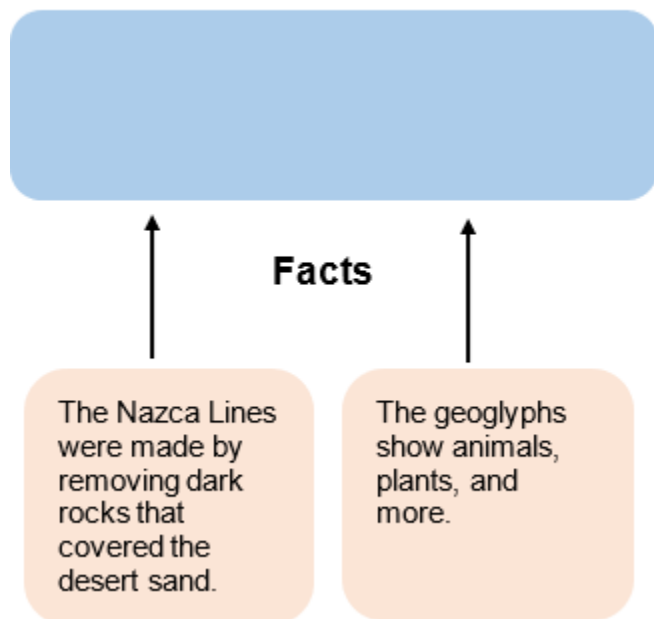
**research** (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

**ritual** (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ The Nazca Lines were found by an archaeologist in 1927.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines are pictures made in the sands of Peru.
- Ⓒ The geoglyphs show a creature with many mouths and eyes.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ The Nazca Lines were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE.
- Ⓑ A creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found in 2019.
- Ⓒ Some of the geoglyphs are recognizable from an airplane.
- Ⓓ It's a waste of time to try to figure out why the lines were made.

Question 3

The Article says:

**Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ say that finding the lines was not very easy
- Ⓑ explain the reason for making the strange lines
- Ⓒ point out what some of the Nazca Lines look like
- Ⓓ talk about the rituals of the Nazca people

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ wonders and rituals
- Ⓑ discovered and created
- Ⓒ noticing and spotting
- Ⓓ technology and wisdom

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ it's hard to make out the shapes of the geoglyphs from the ground
- Ⓑ some of the Nazca Lines point to good places to grow crops
- Ⓒ the geoglyphs in Peru were created by moving white sand around
- Ⓓ the Nazca Lines were made by an archaeologist from Peru

Question 6

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Reread the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ The Nazca lines went unnoticed in the desert sands of Peru for nearly 1,500 years.
- Ⓑ A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found.
- Ⓒ The Nazca people created drawings in the desert sand by taking away the top layer of rocks.
- Ⓓ A Peruvian archaeologist found groups of lines drawn on the desert floor.

Question 7

The Article says:

**And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was *uncovered* in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.**

Which means almost the **same** as *uncovered*?

- Ⓐ built
- Ⓑ wrecked
- Ⓒ studied
- Ⓓ found



### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that the Nazca Lines might have been used for more than one thing?

- Ⓐ Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.
- Ⓑ Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.
- Ⓒ The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make them? By removing some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath
- Ⓓ Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Some things should stay a secret.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

List three reasons why the Nazca Lines are an interesting attraction to visit and/or study in Southern Peru. Explain why the Nazca Lines have left researchers with questions. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Animated Favorites Get Real (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Moviemakers are remaking old cartoon movies. The new movies have real people. *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast* are two of these live-action remakes. What do you think?

**Live-action remakes are more entertaining than the cartoon classics.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

Many families love live-action remakes of animated movies. "Aladdin," starring Will Smith, is one of these movies.

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. Bibbidi-bobbidi-booyah! They've changed them into live-action hits. They're made with real people. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! They're just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.

So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold.

The power of nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? They were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. New fans!

Here's another reason golden oldies are getting a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity. So more kids are seeing characters who look like them. Take *The Little Mermaid* remake. Just about everybody and their pet crab has heard the news: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel.

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as a chance to crank up the girl power. *Aladdin*'s Jasmine is an example. The movie's producer says she isn't just along for the magic carpet ride in the remake. She's a strong character. She speaks up. She takes a stand.

What do *you* think about live-action remakes? Whatever your take, the movies offer a whole new world for moviegoers.

## Dictionary

**animated** (*adjective*) produced by the creation of a series of drawings, pictures, etc., that are shown quickly one after another: produced through the process of animation

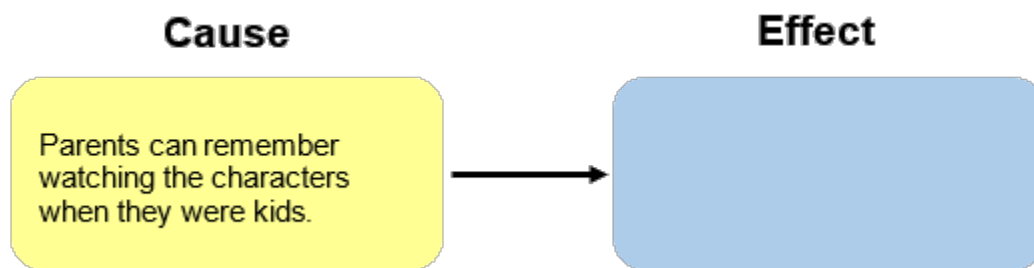
**diversity** (*noun*) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

**inclusive** (*adjective*) open to everyone: not limited to certain people

**nostalgia** (*noun*) pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Parents can remember watching the characters when they were kids." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- Ⓐ Moviemakers have added new characters to old movies.
- Ⓑ Some people grew up watching old Pokémon cartoons.
- Ⓒ Some of the remade animated movies have become hits.
- Ⓓ Live-action remakes let moviemakers crank up the girl power.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The remake of *The Lion King* is not really a live-action movie.
- Ⓑ *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dumbo* have been released since 2010.
- Ⓒ Moviemakers are making live-action remakes of animated films.
- Ⓓ Halle Bailey landed a part in the remake of *The Little Mermaid*.

### Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Who landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*
- Ⓑ What "winning formula" moviemakers have been using
- Ⓒ Why so many people like live-action movies
- Ⓓ Why adults enjoyed watching old Pokémon cartoons

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ plenty and lots
- Ⓑ modern and everyday
- Ⓒ strong and weak
- Ⓓ dance and sing

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ *Detective Pikachu* made more money than *The Jungle Book*
- Ⓑ Jasmine did not appear in the animated movie *Aladdin*
- Ⓒ fans like movies with characters they already know
- Ⓓ most kids don't care about diversity in the movies

Question 6

The Article says:

**So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ give reasons why fans don't always like live-action
- Ⓑ say why Hollywood actors can make so much money
- Ⓒ point out why moviemakers remake animated movies
- Ⓓ explain why people still watch old animated movies

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that parents like the new remakes because they remind them of their own childhoods?

- Ⓐ The power of nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? They were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. New fans!
- Ⓑ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. Bibbidi-bobbidi-booyah! They've changed them into live-action hits. They're made with real people. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! They're just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.
- Ⓒ Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as a chance to crank up the girl power. *Aladdin*'s Jasmine is an example. The movie's producer says she isn't just along for the magic carpet ride in the remake. She's a strong character. She speaks up. She takes a stand.
- Ⓓ What do *you* think about live-action remakes? Whatever your take, the movies offer a whole new world for moviegoers.

## Question 8

The Article says:

**With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching*! It all equals box office gold.**

Which means almost the **same** as *formula*?

- Ⓐ example
- Ⓑ plan
- Ⓒ bargain
- Ⓓ reply

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Live-action remakes are more entertaining than the cartoon classics.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Find the main idea for each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A fairly new drink called "bubble tea" is winning fans across the world. What do you think?

**Newer is better.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images

*A bubble tea shop is a sweet spot to hang out. It's also a good place to get a sweet treat.*

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is from Taiwan. It's like a drink and a snack in one cup. It's winning fans around the world.

To enjoy bubble tea, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice. But here's what makes bubble tea *really* special: There are chewy goodies in it. They're usually at the bottom of the cup. Most often, they are balls of black tapioca. They're sweet. Some people think the balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others say it's called bubble tea because of the bubbles on top of the drink. They form when the drink is shaken.

Bubble tea was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s. People loved it. From Taiwan, it spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Now, the shops are on the rise all over the U.S. They're found in lots of other countries, too.

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors. Would you like mango or chocolate pudding? Or maybe you're up for cookie dough?

And don't forget about the toppings! You could go for the black tapioca, of course. But there are plenty of other choices, too. How about chia seeds or red beans?

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Credit: Voice of America*

## Dictionary

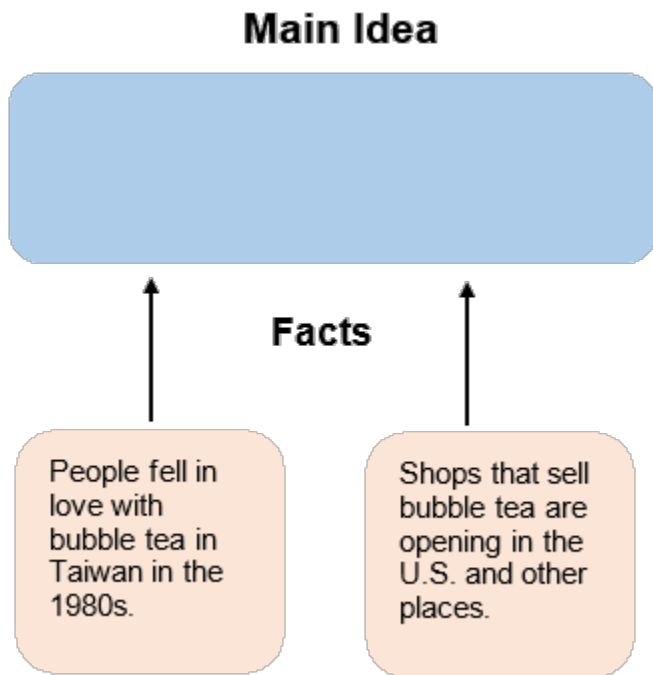
**decision** (*noun*) a choice

**invent** (*verb*) to make something that has never been made before

**tapioca** (*noun*) a food made from cassava, the root of a tropical plant

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "People fell in love with bubble tea in Taiwan in the 1980s." The box on the right says "Shops that sell bubble tea are opening in the U.S. and other places."

- Ⓐ Bubble tea lovers can order toppings like chia seeds and red beans.
- Ⓑ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be black tapioca balls or the bubbles on top of the drink.
- Ⓒ People now enjoy bubble tea in Asia, the U.S., and beyond.
- Ⓓ Some people like going to bubble tea shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.

#### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *invent*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Create
- Ⓑ Seize
- Ⓒ Need
- Ⓓ Trade

Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *first*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops were found around the world.
- Ⓑ People in other parts of Asia began to enjoy the tea.
- Ⓒ People in Taiwan fell in love with bubble tea.
- Ⓓ Bubble tea shops opened in the United States.

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ There are over a hundred different flavors of bubble tea.
- Ⓑ Chia seeds are a tastier topping than red beans.
- Ⓒ Some people go to bubble tea shops to hang out with friends.
- Ⓓ In the 1980s, bubble tea was made in Taiwan.

Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Looking on a map of the United States in a history book
- Ⓑ Reading about how tapioca is made
- Ⓒ Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea in America"
- Ⓓ Looking up the word "tea" in a dictionary

Question 6

The Article says:

**You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to *chill*. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *chill*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Sing
- Ⓑ Cook
- Ⓒ Pretend
- Ⓓ Rest

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

- Ⓐ Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions.
- Ⓑ Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.
- Ⓒ A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice.
- Ⓓ In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States.



### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops ask people to finish their drinks quickly.
- Ⓑ There are more bubble tea shops in the U.S. than anywhere else.
- Ⓒ It can be hard to choose which kind of bubble tea to buy.
- Ⓓ Tapioca was first made in the United States.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Newer is better.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What is bubble tea? What can you tell about the people who visit bubble tea shops? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Cooking Up Native Traditions (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Sean Sherman saw a problem in Native American communities. He came up with a plan to fix it. What do you think?

**Don't sit back when you see a problem—find ways to fix it yourself.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Amy Forliti

*Sean Sherman whips up Native American recipes for his catering business, The Sioux Chef.*

**Minneapolis, Minnesota** (Achieve3000, January 17, 2020). Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these foods. They were given to the family by the U.S. government. Later in life, Sherman, whose family are Oglala Lakota Sioux, raised this question: Why didn't his family have foods that came from their culture?

And Sherman would have even more questions: Why weren't Native American recipes being more widely used? Where could those recipes even be found? And why don't more restaurants serve Native American foods?

Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history. What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.

Then Sherman had an idea. He started a cooking business. He called it The Sioux Chef. His plan? To bring back Native American food to today's world.

But why was it lost in the first place?

In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were lost. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.

So Sherman is bringing the traditions and foods back. His recipes leave out ingredients that were brought by Europeans. He uses local plants and other natural ingredients, such as elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.

There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients. But Native American food is *not* just a passing idea, says Sherman. It's a way of life.

*Video credit: The Sioux Chef*

### Dictionary

**culture** (*noun*) the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time

**local** (*adjective*) relating to or occurring in a particular area, city, or town

**recipe** (*noun*) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients

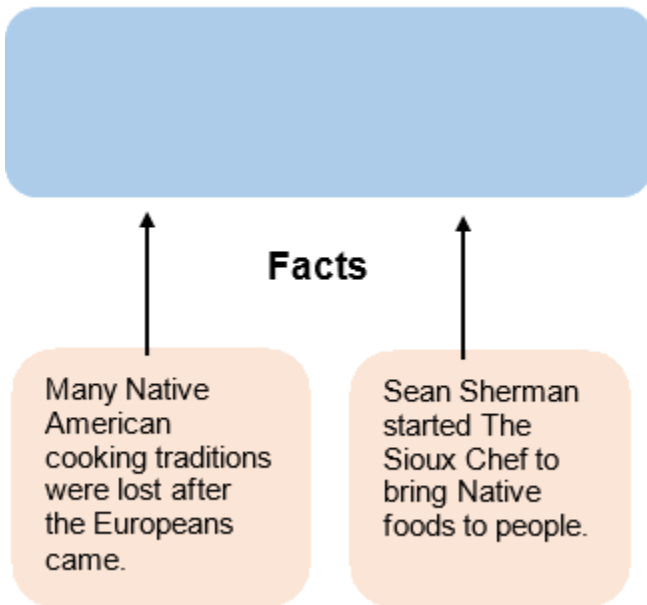
**reservation** (*noun*) an area of land in the U.S. that is kept separate as a place for Native Americans to live

**tradition** (*noun*) a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ The U.S. government gives Native Americans beans, rice, and vegetable oil.
- Ⓑ Sean Sherman's recipes use natural ingredients such as elk and quail.
- Ⓒ Native peoples used to use traditional ways of growing and hunting food.
- Ⓓ Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American food traditions.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ After the Europeans arrived, some food sources were nearly wiped out.
- Ⓑ The government meant to do the right thing by giving free food to Native Americans.
- Ⓒ Sean Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions with his recipes.
- Ⓓ Sherman spoke with Native American chefs to learn about traditional foods.

Question 3

The Article says:

**There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ say how Sean Sherman uses sodium, sugar, and fats in his dishes
- Ⓑ explain that people avoid traditional foods because they lead to illness
- Ⓒ show how Sean Sherman is addressing a serious problem
- Ⓓ point out that few Native Americans eat foods with lots of sugar

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ chatted and cooked
- Ⓑ later and earlier
- Ⓒ packed and filled
- Ⓓ questions and answers

Question 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Sherman will add more canned beans and vegetable oil to his recipes.
- Ⓑ People who like eating healthy will try traditional Native American cooking.
- Ⓒ Many Native Americans who eat Native foods will end up with health problems.
- Ⓓ Sherman will teach some classes on European cooking at a local college.

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What foods used to be in Sherman's family cupboard
- Ⓑ Which problem Sherman is addressing with his recipes
- Ⓒ Why it's hard to find natural ingredients, like wild rice
- Ⓓ Why traditional Native American foods are healthy

### Question 7

The Article says:

**In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were *lost*. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.**

Which means the **opposite** of *lost*?

- Ⓐ allow
- Ⓑ follow
- Ⓒ found
- Ⓓ announce

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

- Ⓐ Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history. What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.
- Ⓑ So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients.
- Ⓒ In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were lost.
- Ⓓ Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these foods.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Don't sit back when you see a problem—find ways to fix it yourself.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe something that Sean Sherman did and explain what that tells about him. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Defying Gravity (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Simone Biles has been called the greatest gymnast ever. However, her rise to the top has not always been easy. What do you think?

**With enough hard work, anything is possible.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP

*Simone Biles shows off her hardware. The gymnast won five gold medals at the 2019 gymnastics world championships.*

**STUTTGART, Germany** (Achieve3000, October 24, 2019). Is 25 a lot? It depends. Twenty-five days of summer vacation are not nearly enough. Twenty-five gymnastics medals? Now that's *a lot* of hardware. Just ask Simone Biles.

In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world!

You'll understand her medal count when you see Biles perform. Just prepare to be amazed. She twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, she has to use super strength to pull off her moves. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world.

Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. But in 2003, her grandparents adopted her.

Biles discovered gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. Even from a young age, she gave her all to her sport. She showed up for practice even when she was sick.

But Biles didn't have a completely smooth journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.

She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!

Then, at age 19, Biles led Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. *She and swimmer Katie Ledecky were the female athletes who won the most medals in Rio. Biles won five medals. Four of them were gold.*

And it's safe to say Biles isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been getting ready for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!

*Credit: Video Credit: Team USA*

## Dictionary

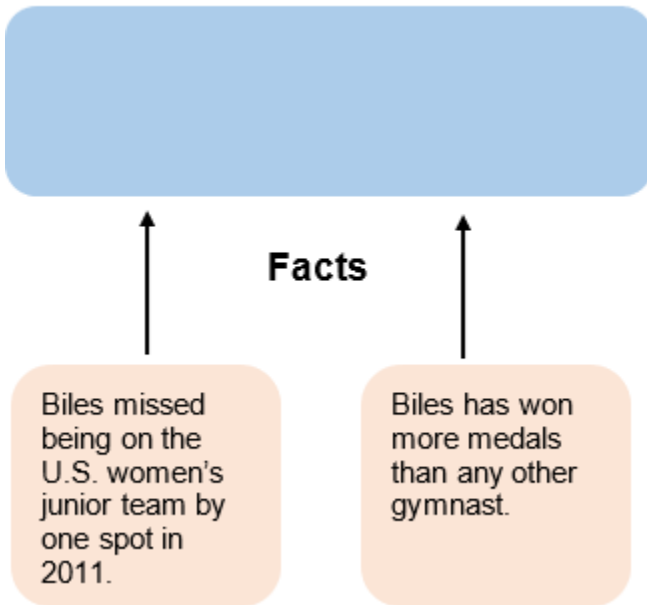
**foster** (*adjective*) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

**junior** (*adjective*) younger in age

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Biles missed on being on the U.S. women's junior team by one spot in 2011." The box on the right says "Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast."

- Ⓐ Sickness did not keep Simone Biles from going to gymnastics practice.
- Ⓑ Simone Biles discovered gymnastics when she was a 6-year-old girl.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles never gave up and became one of the world's best gymnasts.
- Ⓓ After spending years in foster care, Simone Biles' grandparents adopted her.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Simone Biles led Team U.S.A. at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics
- Ⓑ Simone Biles' super strength is the key to her success in gymnastics.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles' early years were spent in foster care.
- Ⓓ Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal in 2019.

Question 3

The Article says:

**She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ explain that Simone Biles was surprised when she made the team
- Ⓑ say that Simone Biles should have made the team before 2013
- Ⓒ show that heartbreaking problems made Simone Biles try harder
- Ⓓ point out that Simone Biles has always been the best gymnast ever

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ adopted and followed
- Ⓑ heartbreaking and upsetting
- Ⓒ completely and hardly
- Ⓓ amazed and disappointed

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Simone Biles won a world championship medal at the age of 6
- Ⓑ Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with problems
- Ⓒ Simone Biles often missed gymnastics practice when she was sick
- Ⓓ Simone Biles' grandparents were worried that she might hurt herself

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Who coached the U.S. women's junior team in 2013
- Ⓑ What sport Katie Ledecky won her Olympic medals in
- Ⓒ How many world championship medals Simone Biles has won
- Ⓓ How old Simone Biles was when she discovered gymnastics

Question 7

The Article says:

**But Biles didn't have a completely *smooth* journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.**

Which means almost the **same** as *smooth*?

- Ⓐ usual
- Ⓑ easy
- Ⓒ hard
- Ⓓ strange



### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Simone Biles faced difficulties in her life?

- Ⓐ And it's safe to say Biles isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been getting ready for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!
- Ⓑ You'll understand her medal count when you see Biles perform. Just prepare to be amazed. She twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind.
- Ⓒ Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care.
- Ⓓ In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world!

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**With enough hard work, anything is possible.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Who is Simone Biles and why has she been called the greatest gymnast ever? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Give Me S'more! (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many people like to make a dessert called s'mores. The gooey treats are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers. What do you think of this well-known saying?

**S'mores always leave you beggin' for s'more!**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

*This melty mix of chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers is a s'more.*

**SAVANNAH, Georgia** (Achieve3000, July 18, 2019). *S'more, j'adore!* That's French. It means, "I love a s'more." And who doesn't?

Here's how to make a s'more:

1. Break a graham cracker in half. Place part of a chocolate bar on one half.
2. Put a marshmallow on a stick. Hold it over a campfire.
3. Use the stick to set the hot marshmallow on the chocolate.
4. Take the other cracker half. Put it on the marshmallow, creating a sandwich.
5. Smoosh the crackers together and pull out the stick.
6. Devour right away!

A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*" Then you'll wonder, "Who thought of *this?*"

Whoever did, it couldn't have been *that* long ago. Some of the key ingredients haven't always been around.

Take marshmallows. They aren't new. But for hundreds of years, they were a luxury only the rich enjoyed. Today's marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make. So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

Many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker created a way to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make the milk chocolate we know today.

No one's really sure who first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers. But it might have been the Girl Scouts. A 1927 Girl Scouts manual mentions a treat called "Some More."

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.

S'more deliciousness? Yes, please!

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: Hilah Cooking*

### Dictionary

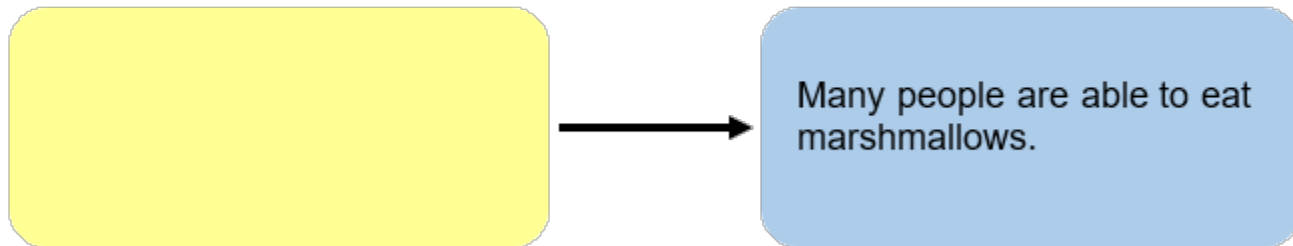
<b>devour</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	eat quickly and with greed
<b>indulge</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable
<b>luxury</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	something that costs a lot and is nice to have but is not really needed
<b>manual</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a small book that gives instructions or helpful information about something

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

**Since...**

**Then...**



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ A Swiss candy maker created a way to mix milk and sugar.
- Ⓑ Marshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- Ⓒ Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.
- Ⓓ A Girl Scouts manual explained how to make marshmallows.

Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ Some of the key ingredients in s'mores have not always been around.
- Ⓑ S'mores are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers.
- Ⓒ In 1875, a chocolate maker created a way to make the milk chocolate used in s'mores.
- Ⓓ Not everyone has tried s'mores, even though they can be made in the microwave.

Question 3

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Messy and neat
- Ⓑ Oven and microwave
- Ⓒ Sure and certain
- Ⓓ Create and make

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ S'mores are gooey, chocolatey, and crispy.
- Ⓑ Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s.
- Ⓒ Marshmallows were once eaten only by rich people.
- Ⓓ A chocolate maker created milk chocolate in 1875.

Question 5

The Article says:

**These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Prove that most people have eaten s'mores before
- Ⓑ Show different ways people can make s'mores
- Ⓒ Explain why microwaved s'mores are better than oven-baked s'mores
- Ⓓ Warn readers that using a campfire to make s'mores is not safe

Question 6

The Article says:

**A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more*!"**

Which must mean the **opposite** of *delicious*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Large
- Ⓑ Silly
- Ⓒ Nice
- Ⓓ Terrible

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why s'mores are so well-liked?

- Ⓐ Some of the key ingredients haven't always been around.
- Ⓑ It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker created a way to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make the milk chocolate we know today.
- Ⓒ A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness.
- Ⓓ Still, not everyone has tried them.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after the 1927 manual came out.
- Ⓑ It costs a lot of money to make s'mores today.
- Ⓒ S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make.
- Ⓓ Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.

#### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**S'mores always leave you beggin' for s'more!**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Find the main idea for each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Global Game Fame (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In 2019, several video games were chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame. One game came out in 1976. Two others came out in the 1990s. What do you think?

**Older video games are more fun to play.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP

*The Strong National Museum of Play chooses which games get the honor of being in the World Video Game Hall of Fame.*

**ROCHESTER, New York** (Achieve3000, May 10, 2019). Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Only the world's best and most important video games are chosen to be a part of it. It's a big honor.

The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have received the honor. Among 2019's hall-of-famers: *Super Mario Kart*, *Colossal Cave Adventure*, and *Microsoft Solitaire*.

The winners are not always new games. Often, they're old-fashioned. People don't play them anymore. But these games have withstood the test of time. And they are very important to the gaming world.

Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

*Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer card game from 1991. Along with being fun, it taught computer users how to use a mouse.

*Super Mario Kart* came out way back in 1992. It was the first of the *Mario Kart* racing series. Fun fact: The game wasn't actually meant to include Mario. But a drawing of the famous plumber in the driver's seat turned out to be a hit. The rest is history!

Which games do you think should be nominated next year? Have your say! Anyone can go online to nominate games.

Say your favorite doesn't win. You can still go to the hall of fame award ceremony. It's held every year in Rochester, New York.

*Information for this story came from AP.*

## Dictionary

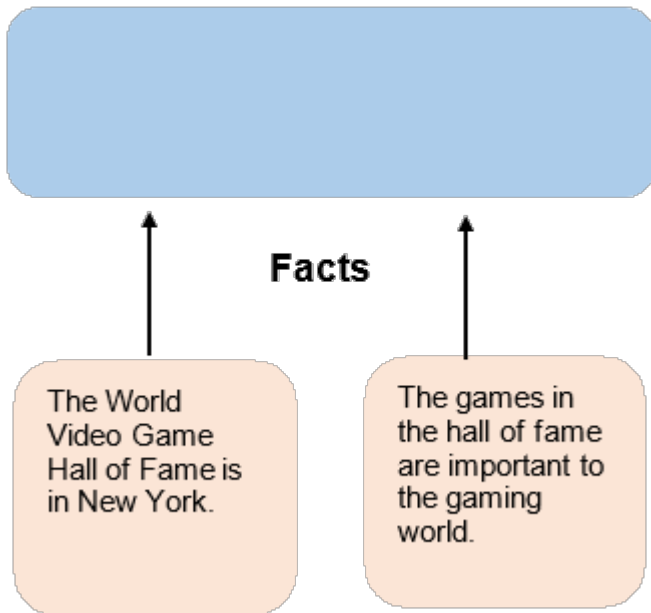
**nominate** (*verb*) to suggest someone or something for an award or honor

**plumber** (*noun*) someone who works on pipes, bathtubs, sinks, toilets, and other things that carry water

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "The World Video Game Hall of Fame is in New York." The box on the right says "The games in the hall of fame are important to the gaming world."

- (A) *Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer game that shows players how to use a mouse.
- (B) *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a video game that first came out in 1976.
- (C) Hundreds of games have been nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- (D) Each year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

#### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *nominate*, as it is used in the Article?

- (A) Trade
- (B) Name
- (C) Receive
- (D) Play

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ The World Video Game Hall of Fame began in 2015.
- Ⓑ The winners of the hall of fame are not always new games.
- Ⓒ *Super Mario Kart* is more fun than *Microsoft Solitaire*.
- Ⓓ *Colossal Cave Adventure* helped start computer gaming.

Question 4

Think about the Article. How is *Microsoft Solitaire* different from *Super Mario Kart*?

- Ⓐ *Microsoft Solitaire* is played by many people.
- Ⓑ *Super Mario Kart* is an older video game.
- Ⓒ *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.
- Ⓓ *Super Mario Kart* was very fun for gaming fans.

Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Deserve and welcome
- Ⓑ Felt and taught
- Ⓒ Honor and award
- Ⓓ Fame and star

Question 6

The Article says:

**Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Tell the reader about an exciting, new video game
- Ⓑ Show that people still like old video games
- Ⓒ Explain how to play *Colossal Cave Adventure*
- Ⓓ Give an example of an old but important game

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why the World Video Game Hall of Fame was created?

- Ⓐ Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!
- Ⓑ Say your favorite doesn't win. You can still go to the hall of fame award ceremony. It's held every year in Rochester, New York.
- Ⓒ *Super Mario Kart* came out way back in 1992. It was the first of the *Mario Kart* racing series. Fun fact: The game wasn't actually meant to include Mario.
- Ⓓ Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.



### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ The rules for choosing winners will change next year.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* will win next year's hall of fame.
- Ⓒ Several games will enter the hall of fame next year.
- Ⓓ Next year's nominees will all be new and exciting games.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Older video games are more fun to play.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a story about visiting the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Which video game did you most want to see and why? Use describing words from the Article in your answer.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly? (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many fruits and veggies are wasted because they don't look "perfect." Now, some companies are selling "ugly" fruits and veggies. They ship them to people's homes. What do you think?

**All "ugly" produce should be given away to people in need.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Joshua McKerrow/The Baltimore Sun  
*Does this carrot have a tail? A company is selling it anyway.*

**URBANDALE, Iowa** (Achieve3000, May 6, 2019). Brace yourselves, people. This may not be pretty!

You know those ugly fruits and vegetables? They may be shaped weird, or their color just isn't quite right. Would you put them in your cart? No? Well, that's why many supermarkets put out only the prettiest produce.

But ugly fruits deserve love, too, say "ugly produce" companies. They sell those supermarket rejects. And they bring them right to your door.

The companies say they want to stop ugly produce from going to waste. A banged-up banana still tastes good. So why should it be thrown away?

The ugly produce companies even offer their goods at a low price. It sounds great.

But not everyone is happy. Critics say these companies are hurting farmers.

### **The Ugly Truth?**

Ugly produce isn't really wasted, critics say. Many farmers sell it. It's used in the food service industry. And on farms, fruits can be fed to animals. Even rotted fruit is added back into soil for nutrients.

But there's more. Some say ugly produce companies are taking food away from the needy.

### **Not So Bad, After All?**

Ugly produce companies are defending themselves.

They don't take away from the needy, said one company. Food banks get their produce first. Then, the companies take what they can sell.

And food waste *is* a big problem in the United States. The government has said that about 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted. Ugly produce companies say they can help farmers reduce this waste.

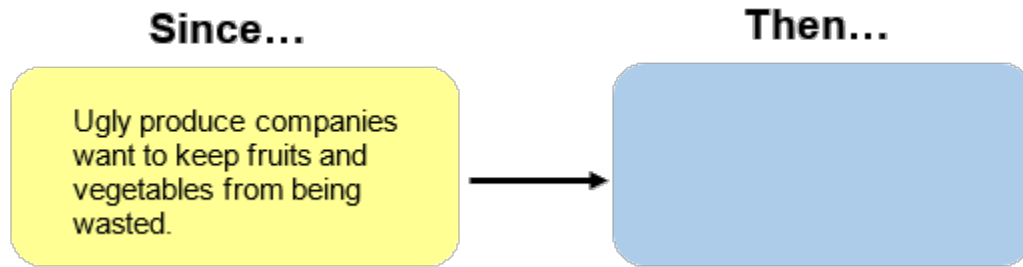
No matter whose side you're on, remember this: It's what's on the inside that counts.

## Dictionary

**food bank** (*noun*) a place that gives food to hungry people  
**industry** (*noun*) a type of trade or business  
**nutrient** (*noun*) what a living thing needs to live, such as water and minerals  
**reduce** (*verb*) to cut back on something  
**reject** (*noun*) something that is not wanted

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Since". The box says "Ugly produce companies want to keep fruits and vegetables from being wasted." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Then."

- Ⓐ These companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.
- Ⓑ These companies sell fruits and vegetables from food banks.
- Ⓒ These companies sell fruits and vegetables that feed farm animals.
- Ⓓ These companies sell fruits and vegetables from food service companies.

#### Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ Some ugly produce can be fed to farm animals, and rotted fruit can add nutrients to soil.
- Ⓑ Many farmers sell ugly produce so that it isn't wasted.
- Ⓒ Ugly produce companies say they don't take food away from the needy.
- Ⓓ Ugly produce companies say they want to stop ugly produce from going to waste.

#### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ People should not shop at supermarkets that refuse to sell fruits and vegetables because of how they look.
- Ⓑ Ugly produce companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject, and they bring the food to people's doors.
- Ⓒ The U.S. government has not done enough to keep people from wasting food.
- Ⓓ It's a waste of time to talk about ugly produce companies because they are here to stay.

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *reduce*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Hide
- Ⓑ Bury
- Ⓒ Toss
- Ⓓ Create

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Show readers that buying from farmers will end food waste
- Ⓑ Explain why some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables
- Ⓒ Show how ugly produce companies get customers to buy from them
- Ⓓ Explain how ugly produce companies don't work with food banks

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best shows why some companies are selling ugly fruits and vegetables?

- Ⓐ The ugly produce companies even offer their goods at a low price. It sounds great.
- Ⓑ Ugly produce companies are defending themselves. They don't take away from the needy, said one company. Food banks get their produce first. Then, the companies take what they can sell.
- Ⓒ But there's more. Some say ugly produce companies are taking food away from the needy.
- Ⓓ And food waste *is* a big problem in the United States. The government has said that about 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted. Ugly produce companies say they can help farmers reduce this waste.

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Waste and save
- Ⓑ Needy and poor
- Ⓒ Reject and trash
- Ⓓ Offer and announce

Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen? People in the U.S. will continue to waste some of the country's food supply.

- Ⓐ Food banks will buy from ugly produce companies that offer low costs.
- Ⓑ People in the U.S. may continue to waste some food.
- Ⓒ Farmers will save their prettiest produce for feeding animals.
- Ⓓ Ugly produce companies will not sell as much food as farmers do.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All "ugly" produce should be given away to people in need.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Are ugly produce companies causing more harm than good? Summarize both sides of the argument for and against ugly produce companies. Which side do you agree with and why? Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# Katherine the Great (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One woman did math for NASA. She started in the 1950s. Back then, many African American women were told they could not have high-level jobs. What do you think?

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP

*Katherine Johnson's work doing math for NASA made headlines.*

**HAMPTON, Virginia** (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or starred in a movie. She has not been in the Olympics or a fashion show, either. Johnson's greatness comes from her work in math.

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program forward. Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So you could say she's a hero.

The 2016 movie *Hidden Figures* tells the story of Johnson and two other African American women. They worked behind the scenes at NASA as "human computers." They did the math for trajectories. That is important work. Especially when people are being sent into space.

Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA. Her math was always correct. That year, NASA was sending astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers doing the math for Glenn's trip around Earth. Computers are usually fast and correct. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.

"If she says they're good," Johnson later remembered Glenn saying, "then I'm ready to go." Johnson did the math. And Glenn's trip went well.

Johnson worked on many other missions. Project Apollo was one. (That's the 1969 mission that first put astronauts on the moon.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018. But she hasn't slowed down much. In fact, Johnson wrote her story. In the summer of 2019, *Reaching for the Moon* will come out.

Johnson's book is an autobiography for young readers. She wants kids to believe they can do anything.

Information for this story came from AP.

Video credit: NASA

### **Dictionary**

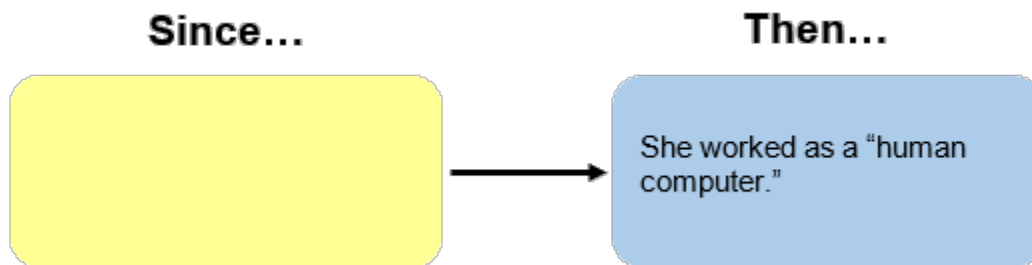
**autobiography** (*noun*) the story of someone's life written by that person

**NASA** (*noun*) a group that studies space; it is run by U.S. leaders

**trajectory** (*noun*) the path of an object through space

### **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson was great at math.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson helped create laptops.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson wants young people to do well.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson talked to John Glenn.

Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson worked on some different projects.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson worked with other African American women.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old in 2018.

Question 3

Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written?

*This question asks about when events happen. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson's story was told in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson left NASA after working there for many years.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson worked with John Glenn.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson's autobiography went on sale.

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Usually and never
- Ⓑ Young and smart
- Ⓒ Mission and trip
- Ⓓ Earth and moon

Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to read more about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In a picture showing all of NASA's "human computers"
- Ⓑ In a dictionary entry for "trajectory"
- Ⓒ In an article about NASA's work over the years
- Ⓓ In a book that has photos of the moon

Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In the 1960s, astronauts trusted programmed computers to give them correct information.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson's math skills were only recognized by astronaut John Glenn.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson was well known when she worked as a human computer.
- Ⓓ Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows how Katherine Johnson's work at NASA changed the world?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or starred in a movie.
- Ⓑ Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).
- Ⓒ Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018.
- Ⓓ But she hasn't slowed down much.

Question 8

The Article says:

**Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program *forward*.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *forward*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Ahead
- Ⓑ Over
- Ⓒ Around
- Ⓓ Outside



#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe Katherine Johnson's work at NASA. How did she help lead the way for women and African Americans to succeed in math and other technical fields? Use facts and details from the lesson in your answer.

# Ötzi the Iceman (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Ötzi the Iceman lived about 5,300 years ago. Scientists have been studying Ötzi since his body was found in 1991. What do you think?

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock  
*Ötzi the Iceman lives again in this life-size model based on his skeleton.*

**BOLZANO, Italy** (Achieve3000, November 21, 2019). It had to have been rough for Ötzi the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was: a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (157 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a mountain in Italy. And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men. Making things worse, it was very cold. Luckily, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass. But would Ötzi stay alive between the cold and his wounds?

He would not. Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world.

Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. For this reason, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow face, brown eyes, and tanned skin. He also had long dark hair and a shaggy beard.

Ötzi was carrying several things when he died. He had a copper ax, a bow, arrows, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and more. He also carried several small tools in a pouch sewn to his belt. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different areas hundreds of miles away. This suggests that trade took place. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too: a sloe berry, some mushrooms, and a few goat bones.

Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And there's still a lot to learn from Ötzi.

## Dictionary

**ancient** (*adjective*) of, coming from, or belonging to a time that was long ago in the past

**hide** (*noun*) the skin of a usually large animal

**Neolithic** (*adjective*) of or relating to the time during the Stone Age when people used stone tools and began to grow crops, raise animals, and live together in large groups but did not read or write

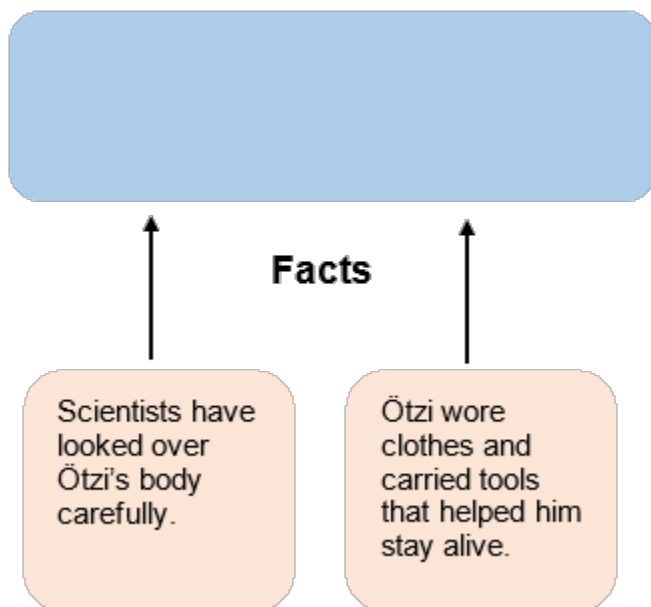
**specimen** (*noun*) something (such as an animal or plant) collected as an example of a particular kind of thing

**well-preserved** (*adjective*) kept in good condition over a long period of time

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

### Question 1

### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Scientists have looked over Ötzi's body carefully." The box on the right says "Ötzi wore clothes and carried tools that helped him stay alive."

- (A) Scientists think Ötzi was about 5 feet and 2 inches tall and 110 pounds (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms).
- (B) The world is learning about the past from a man frozen in ice for more than 5,000 years.
- (C) Clothes from the late-Neolithic period were made using grass and animal hides.
- (D) The tools Ötzi carried came from different areas hundreds of miles away.

## Question 2

The Article says:

**That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world.**

**Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more.**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ how the clothing Ötzi wore helped him survive bad weather
- Ⓑ how important it was that Ötzi's body was discovered in such good shape
- Ⓒ what scientists knew about the late-Neolithic period before Ötzi was found
- Ⓓ what scientists have been able to find out by studying Ötzi

## Question 3

Which means the **opposite** of *ancient*?

- Ⓐ hidden
- Ⓑ new
- Ⓒ dark
- Ⓓ fancy

## Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Ötzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.
- Ⓑ Ötzi's body has shown scientists how long ago he lived and what he probably looked like.
- Ⓒ Ötzi died on a mountain in Italy and was found in 1991 by two hikers.
- Ⓓ Ötzi's body is the first well-preserved body from the late-Neolithic period found in Europe.

## Question 5

Which passage from the Article best shows that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

- Ⓐ And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men.
- Ⓑ Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice. He remained that way until 1991.
- Ⓒ Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. For this reason, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him.
- Ⓓ Making things worse, it was very cold. Luckily, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass.

Question 6

The Article says:

**Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more *detail* that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice.**

Which means almost the **same** as *detail*?

- Ⓐ fact
- Ⓑ lesson
- Ⓒ moment
- Ⓓ prize

Question 7

Antonio wants to learn more about Ötzi the Iceman. He would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ looking at a map of Italy during late-Neolithic times
- Ⓑ reading a book about battles fought in Europe
- Ⓒ reading an article about how people made their own clothing long ago
- Ⓓ watching a video on important findings of the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Scientists will not share any other new findings they discover about Ötzi.
- Ⓑ Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.
- Ⓒ People will try to make their own clothing like Ötzi's, using hides and grass.
- Ⓓ People will start using the same trade routes people like Ötzi used long ago.

#### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Who was Ötzi the Iceman? What have scientists learned about Ötzi and about the time when he lived? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Sniffing Out Extinction (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Trained dogs are now being used to help save endangered species. What do you think?

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

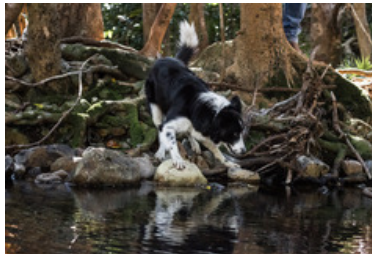


Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus

*This conservation detection dog can sniff out the scent of different animals on land and in water.*

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Achieve3000, December 4, 2019). What *can't* a dog sniff out? Dogs can find everything: from missing persons to fake money.

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

Conservationists around the world are putting dogs on the trail of at-risk animals. The hope is to find, save, and breed the animals. The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs. They can even tell if danger is near. So why not use a dog to track down a species that's endangered? The Baw Baw frog is one such species.

Baw Baw frogs live in southeastern Australia. Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.

There's an Australian conservation group named Zoos Victoria. It wants to help Baw Baw frogs. How? By breeding the frogs in zoos. Then, Baw Baw frogs and their tadpoles will be put back in the wild.

But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud. That's why two border collies are helping. The dogs learned the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Now they sniff around to find them. And they lead conservationists right to the animals.

So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours.

Dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. Koalas. Killer whales! All the dogs have to do is smell their droppings. Then, they hit the trail.

Yes, conservation can be a tough business. But someone's got to work to save endangered animals. And dogs win out by a nose.

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Video credit: Voice of America*

## Dictionary

**breed** (*verb*) to keep and take care of animals or plants in order to produce more animals or plants of a particular kind

**climate** (*noun*) the usual weather conditions in a particular place or region

**conservationist** (*noun*) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation

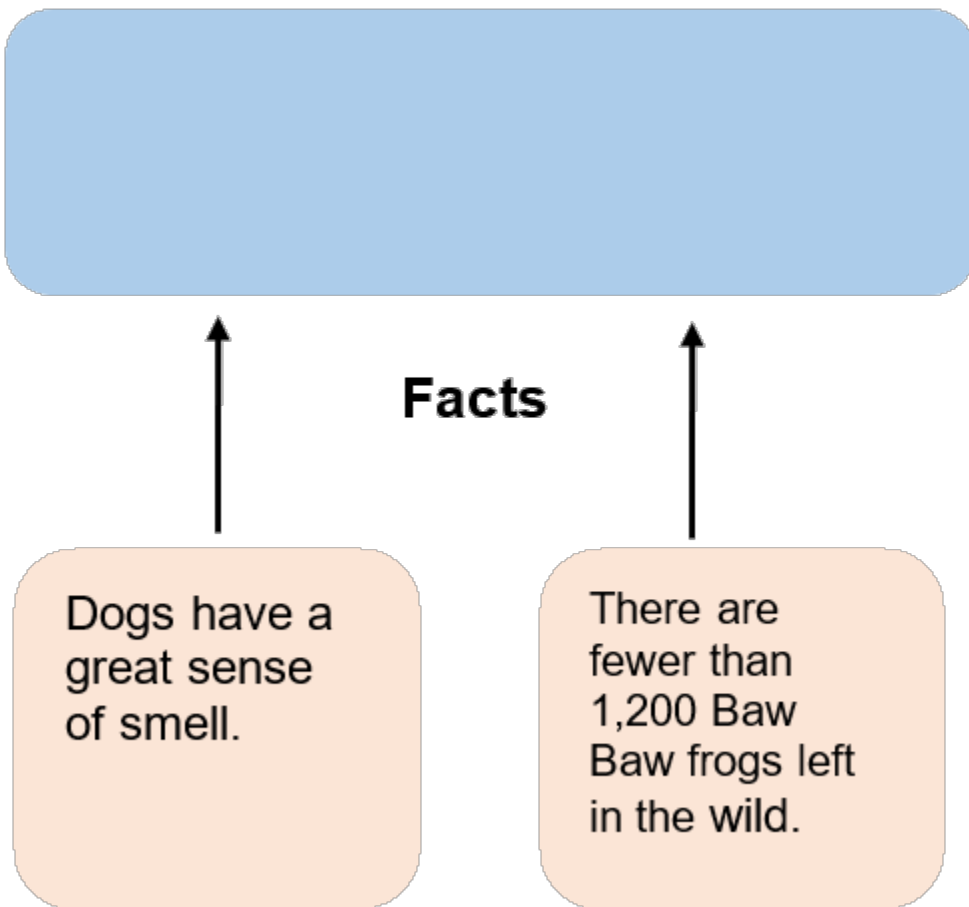
**endangered** (*adjective*) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely

**species** (*noun*) a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

### Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ Dogs find endangered species so scientists can help them.
- Ⓑ Many of the Baw Baw frogs in Australia have been wiped out.
- Ⓒ Baw Baw frogs live in hard-to-get-to forests of Australia.
- Ⓓ Dogs have been used to find fake money and missing persons.

Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists train two border collies to sniff out an endangered species?

- Ⓐ The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs.
- Ⓑ The conservationists have had a very hard time finding the Baw Baw frogs.
- Ⓒ The conservationists use the two dogs to also track down other animals.
- Ⓓ The conservationists have used dogs to find missing persons and also fake money.

Question 3

The Article says:

**But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ show how dogs are used to find endangered animals
- Ⓑ explain why it's hard to find Baw Baw frogs in the wild
- Ⓒ point out why the forests are not a good home for the frogs
- Ⓓ say why there aren't many Baw Baw frogs left

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ tough and hard
- Ⓑ super and terrible
- Ⓒ endangered and safe
- Ⓓ smell and taste

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ not all kinds of dogs have a very good sense of smell
- Ⓑ Baw Baw frogs can't live outside of their homes in the forest
- Ⓒ dogs smelled Baw Baw frog droppings before finding them
- Ⓓ silverspot butterfly caterpillars are harder to find than koalas

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ How conservationists are trying to help Baw Baw frogs
- Ⓑ Which type of dog is best at finding missing persons
- Ⓒ Where the Baw Baw frog makes its home in the wild
- Ⓓ How much stronger a dog's sense of smell is than a human's



### Question 7

The Article says:

**The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's *scent*. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs.**

Which means almost the **same** as *scent*?

- Ⓐ skin
- Ⓑ meal
- Ⓒ smell
- Ⓓ muscle

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that the Baw Baw frog is in danger of dying out completely?

- Ⓐ Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.
- Ⓑ There's an Australian conservation group named Zoos Victoria. It wants to help Baw Baw frogs. How? By breeding the frogs in zoos.
- Ⓒ The dogs learned the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Now they sniff around to find them. And they lead conservationists right to the animals.
- Ⓓ So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain how trained dogs are being used to help save endangered species, such as the Baw Baw frog. Use information from the Article in your answer.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Today, people write their thoughts on websites like Facebook. Long ago, in the ancient city of Pompeii, people scribbled their thoughts on the walls of homes and buildings. What do you think?

**People should always find a way to share their thoughts.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

*More than 11,000 graffiti samples like this have been uncovered among the ruins at Pompeii.*

**POMPEII, Italy** (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works. But did you know people who lived in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii also posted messages on walls? *Real* walls, that is. Amazingly, some of those messages are still there 2,000 years later. And so are many of the walls themselves.

In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on buildings. It was also on the inside and outside walls of homes. The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds.

All of this raises some big questions: How did these messages last so long? Better yet: Why is so much of Pompeii itself still around?

The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time. It stayed this way until the mid-1700s. That's when people started digging out Pompeii and the messages were found.

So, what did Pompeians write about? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media sites, like Facebook. They were mostly opinions, words of love, thoughts on different goods, and helpful tips. In fact, the oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE. What did it say? "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Here are more examples of messages Pompeians "posted" around their city:

Health to you, Victoria. And wherever you are, may you sneeze sweetly.  
Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

A copper pot went missing from my shop. Anyone who returns it to me will be given 65 sesterii...

The man I am having dinner with is a barbarian.

Call it social media, the Pompeii way.

*Video credit: Achieve3000*

### **Dictionary**

**ancient** (*adjective*) of, coming from, or belonging to a time that was long ago in the past

**ash** (*noun*) the soft gray powder that remains after something (such as a cigarette or wood) has been completely burned and destroyed by fire

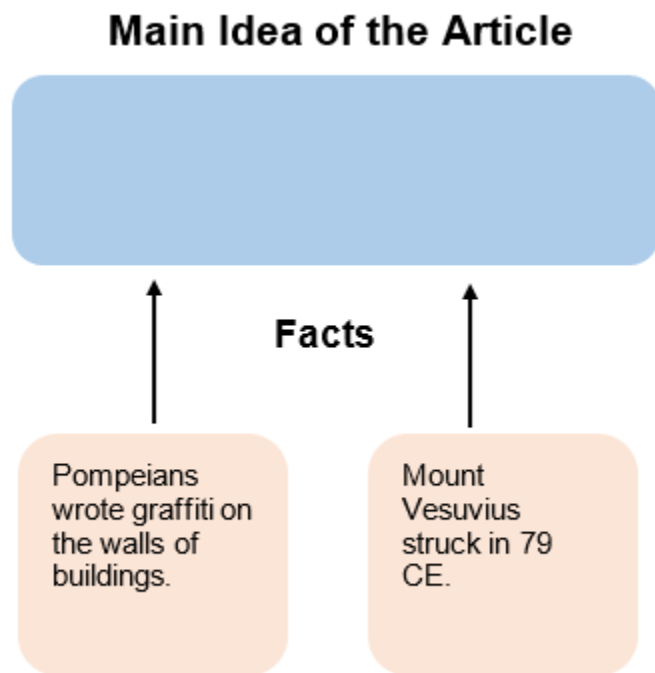
**barbarian** (*noun*) a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person

**cyber** (*adjective*) computer

**volcano** (*noun*) a mountain with a hole in the top or side that sometimes sends out rocks, ash, lava, etc., in a sudden explosion (called an eruption)

### **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ The oldest message in Pompeii was written by Gaius Pumidius Diphilus.
- Ⓑ People started digging out the city of Pompeii sometime in the mid-1700s.
- Ⓒ Stone and ash from a volcano saved messages written on Pompeian walls.
- Ⓓ When Mount Vesuvius struck in 79 CE, it destroyed Pompeii within hours.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Some of the graffiti found in Pompeii was written in charcoal.
- Ⓑ It's interesting to study messages posted on Pompeii's walls.
- Ⓒ In 79 CE, a volcano struck, covering Pompeii in stone and ash.
- Ⓓ The oldest message found in Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE.

Question 3

The Article states:

**The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time. It stayed this way until the mid-1700s. That's when people started digging out Pompeii and the messages were found.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ say that a volcano destroyed all of Pompeii's buildings
- Ⓑ give the reason why Pompeii was saved for so long
- Ⓒ explain where the old city of Pompeii can be found
- Ⓓ point out why people liked to write on Pompeian walls

Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *graffiti*?

- Ⓐ laughing
- Ⓑ dancing
- Ⓒ writing
- Ⓓ singing

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ looking at a webpage about how people escaped from Pompeii
- Ⓑ watching a movie about the largest volcano in the world
- Ⓒ watching a TV program called *Life in the City of Pompeii*
- Ⓓ looking at a map showing the location of Mount Vesuvius

Question 6

The Article says:

**The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden *thoughts* of a people with a lot on their minds.**

Which means almost the **same** as *thoughts*?

- Ⓐ books
- Ⓑ ideas
- Ⓒ plans
- Ⓓ jokes

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why many buildings in Pompeii remained after the volcano struck?

- Ⓐ So, what did Pompeians write about? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media sites, like Facebook. They were mostly opinions, words of love, thoughts on different goods, and helpful tips.
- Ⓑ The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time.
- Ⓒ In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on buildings. It was also on the inside and outside walls of homes. The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds.
- Ⓓ Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works. But did you know people who lived in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii also posted messages on walls? *Real* walls, that is.

### Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What kinds of messages were written on the walls of Pompeii
- Ⓑ Why Pompeii seems as if it were a city frozen in time
- Ⓒ Who discovered that Pompeii was buried under stone and ash
- Ⓓ When the city of Pompeii was covered in ash from a volcano

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should always find a way to share their thoughts.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what happened to the ancient city of Pompeii in 79 CE and what has been discovered centuries later for readers who haven't heard the story. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Soldier in the Wild (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A Japanese soldier stayed hidden on Guam 28 years after World War II ended. When he finally returned to Japan, he was given a hero's welcome. What do you think?

**All soldiers are heroes.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

*This photo of Shoichi Yokoi was taken shortly after his hiding ended in 1972.*

**TALOFOFO, Guam** (Achieve3000, August 27, 2019). In 1944, Shoichi Yokoi went into hiding in the jungles of Guam. Little did he know, he would one day return as a changed man in a changed world. It's one of the strangest stories in the history of World War II. It's also a tale of astonishing loyalty.

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old soldier in the Imperial Japanese Army. Yokoi was stationed on Guam. The island had been taken over by the Japanese. But U.S. soldiers arrived to free Guam in 1944. Afraid for his life, Yokoi fled to the hills. Once there, he was cut off from the rest of the world.

In August 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allied Forces. The war was over. But Yokoi had no way of knowing this. Amazingly, he remained in hiding for the next seven years. All the while, he thought that World War II was still going strong.

And that's only the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. Even so, he continued to hide for another 20 years! He spent his days in a well-hidden cave that he'd made with dirt, bamboo, and reeds.

So what made him stay in hiding for that long? Why not surrender and go back to Japan?

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.

In January 1972, Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen. He felt ashamed to return home. But when he arrived in Japan, he got a hero's welcome. Millions watched his return on television. Many were deeply moved by his loyalty to Japanese values.

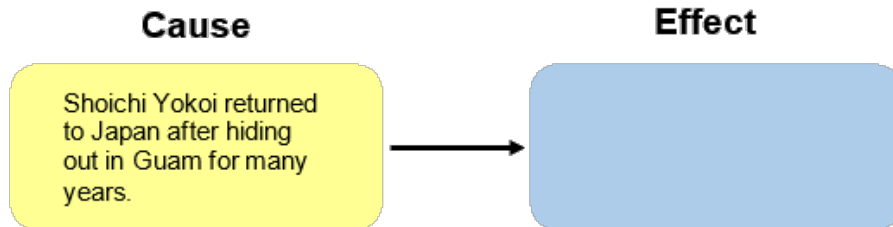
*Video Credit: AP Archive*

## Dictionary

**loyalty** (*noun*) a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something  
**surrender** (*verb*) to agree to stop fighting, hiding, resisting, etc., because you know that you will not win or succeed  
**value** (*noun*) a strongly held belief about what is valuable, important, or acceptable

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Shoichi Yokoi returned to Japan after hiding out in Guam for many years." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- Ⓐ Yokoi fled to the hills of Guam where he was cut off from the world.
- Ⓑ Yokoi stayed in a well-hidden cave made of dirt, bamboo, and reeds.
- Ⓒ Yokoi was given a hero's welcome when he returned to Japan.
- Ⓓ Yokoi learned that Japan had surrendered to the Allied Forces.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Japan.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi made a well-hidden cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam for years.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi didn't know, in 1945, that Emperor Hirohito surrendered.

#### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ Yokoi was stationed on the island of Guam.
- Ⓑ Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen.
- Ⓒ Yokoi made a cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds.
- Ⓓ Yokoi fled to the hills of Guam to hide out there.

#### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ loyalty and honor
- Ⓑ afraid and foolish
- Ⓒ hardship and trouble
- Ⓓ astonishing and usual

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Yokoi didn't take his job as a Japanese soldier seriously.
- Ⓑ Yokoi fought with many American soldiers during the war.
- Ⓒ Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan in 1972.
- Ⓓ Yokoi rejoined the Japanese Army after returning to Japan.

Question 6

The Article says:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ say that Yokoi wasn't very happy with his country
- Ⓑ show that the Japanese thought the idea of *ganbaru* was shameful
- Ⓒ explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding for so long
- Ⓓ point out why so many Japanese soldiers surrendered

Question 7

The Article says:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death.**

Which means almost the **same** as *explanation*?

- Ⓐ adventure
- Ⓑ contest
- Ⓒ diagram
- Ⓓ reason

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ How Yokoi learned that World War II had ended
- Ⓑ Why Yokoi chose to stay hidden after 1952
- Ⓒ How Yokoi felt about going home to Japan
- Ⓓ Why Yokoi decided to hide in the jungle



#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All soldiers are heroes.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Who was Shoichi Yokoi and why did he remain hidden on Guam until 1972? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In April 2019, Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world. Here's what Mason wants kids to know. What do you think?

**"Anything is possible."**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Used with permission from Mason Andrews  
*Mason Andrews flew this plane around the world and set a record.*

**MONROE, Louisiana** (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews studies aviation in college. But the U.S. teen has already made history.

In April 2019, Guinness World Records named Mason the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. The trip took 76 days. And he flew 180 hours. It was often scary.

But we'll get to the scary stuff. Let's take off at the beginning, shall we?

Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

Mason asked sponsors to help pay for the trip. He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

Mason took off on his journey in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.

Typhoons weren't the scariest part.

"I ended up in a really bad monsoon over the Bay of Bengal," Mason said. "There was no turning back. The weather had already built up behind me just as much as it was building up in front of me."

And then came the sandstorm.

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours .... I couldn't see anything."

Mason has been getting a lot of attention since his trip. His Guinness World Record made the news. But that's not the most important thing for Mason.

"It's nice [to have the record]," he said. "But that's really not what the trip was about. It's how we got the press and the support and what we needed...It was about completing a [goal] and staying alive."

Now, Mason has some advice for kids. What is it?

"Anything is possible."

*Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko*

*Published on Oct 6, 2018*

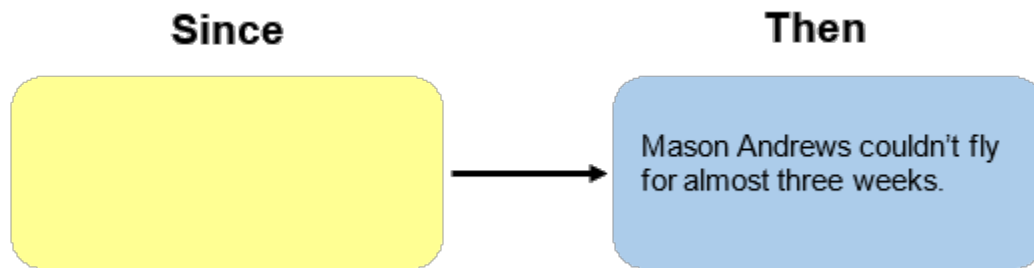
*Edited for length*

### Dictionary

<b>aviation</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	the flying, designing, or making of aircraft
<b>monsoon</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia
<b>sponsor</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a person or group that gives money to support an event or a person
<b>typhoon</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a very strong storm that forms in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

- Ⓐ A Guinness World Record made the news.
- Ⓑ A monsoon over the Bay of Bengal caused bad weather.
- Ⓒ There was a sandstorm lasting from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓓ There were bad typhoons in the Philippines.

Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews once wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly around the world.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews thought he would be gone for 40 days.
- Ⓓ Mason Andrews began his journey in July 2018.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ Mason flew through a sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓑ Mason was very brave to fly around the world when he was just 18 years old.
- Ⓒ A monsoon is a far more frightening type of storm than a typhoon.
- Ⓓ If a record holder gives people advice, it's a good idea to listen.

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Help and support
- Ⓑ Important and key
- Ⓒ Pilot and teenager
- Ⓓ Completing and starting

Question 5

The Article says:

**Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ When Mason took his trip around the world
- Ⓑ How Mason came up with the idea to fly around the world
- Ⓒ How Mason learned to fly a plane at such a young age
- Ⓓ Why Mason wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean

Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Mason would rather study something other than aviation in college.
- Ⓑ It was probably easier for Mason to fly through a typhoon than a sandstorm.
- Ⓒ It is unlikely that Mason will stop dreaming big.
- Ⓓ Mason does not deal with fear very well.

Question 7

The Article says:

**Mason took off on his *journey* in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *journey*?

- Ⓐ Dream
- Ⓑ History
- Ⓒ Trip
- Ⓓ Choice

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

- Ⓐ Mason took off on his journey in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- Ⓑ Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ⓒ In April 2019, Guinness World Records named Mason the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world.
- Ⓓ He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

**Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"Anything is possible."**

- Agree
- Disagree

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe Mason Andrews. Explain what he did. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# The Early-Late Debate (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people want later start times for middle schools and high schools. These people want start times pushed back until 8 a.m. or later. What do you think?

**Middle schools and high schools should start later.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

*It's hard to learn when you're falling asleep! Should the school day get off to a later start?*

**SACRAMENTO, California** (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Think school shouldn't start at the crack o' dawn? Lots of doctors agree.

That's why groups are working for later start times. In some places, their big push has paid off. One is Seattle. High schools there start at 8:45 or later.

Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

That's good news for teens who like to snooze! But the law doesn't cover elementary schools. Why not? The reason has to do with sleep cycles. *How much* you sleep is important. But *when* you sleep matters, too.

Research shows that most adolescents get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 a.m., they miss out on some good z's!

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They say there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. The law can't make teens go to bed! Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

Maybe the biggest roadblock for school districts looking into later start times? Buses! If all schools start near the same time, a district has to pay for more buses and drivers. That's one reason so many high schools start very early.

How about you? Wanna start school bright and early? Or would you rather snoozzzzzzzzzze?

## Dictionary

**academic** (*adjective*) of or relating to schools and education

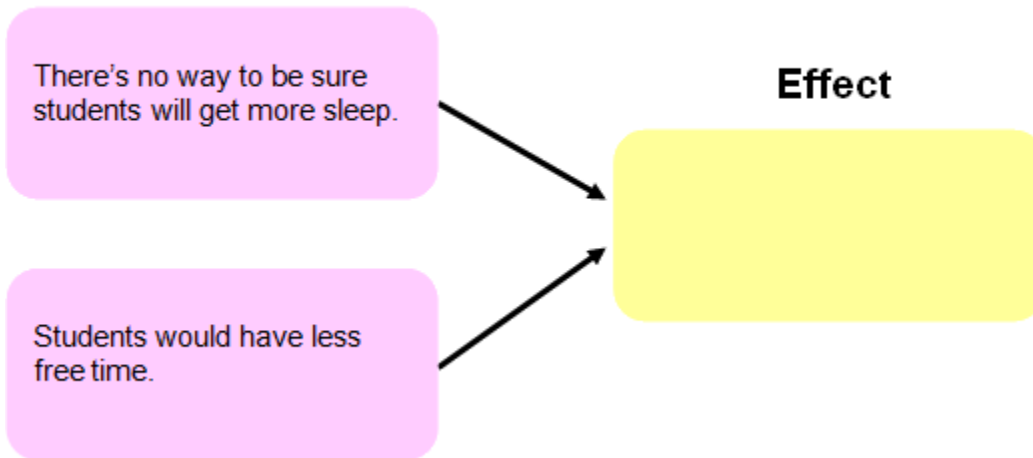
**adolescent** (*noun*) a young person who is developing into an adult : a young person who is going through adolescence

**research** (*noun*) careful study that is done to find and report new knowledge about something

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

#### Causes



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There two boxes on the left. They are labeled "Causes." The top box says "There's no way to be sure students will get more sleep." The bottom box says "Students would have less free time." Two arrows are pointing from these boxes to a box on the right. This box is labeled "Effect."

- Ⓐ Groups are working for later school start times.
- Ⓑ Students who don't sleep enough can have trouble learning.
- Ⓒ Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems.
- Ⓓ Some people think it's not smart to start school later.

Question 2

What is the Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Starting school later leaves less time for sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- Ⓑ Some people are talking about starting schools later and if it's smart to do so.
- Ⓒ Students who don't get the sleep they need can have health and learning problems.
- Ⓓ Scientists are studying how much adolescents should sleep and when they sleep best.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ A new California law says that middle schools must start no earlier than 8 a.m. in 2022.
- Ⓑ Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.
- Ⓒ The push for later start times paid off in Seattle where high schools start at 8:45 or later.
- Ⓓ How long students sleep is important, and when they sleep matters, too.

Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *research*?

- Ⓐ example
- Ⓑ prediction
- Ⓒ plan
- Ⓓ study

Question 5

The Article says all of these **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what students think about schools starting later
- Ⓑ where later school start times are already happening
- Ⓒ why some people think starting schools later isn't smart
- Ⓓ what times adolescents get their best sleep

Question 6

The Article states:

**Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ how important sleep is for adolescents
- Ⓑ how research on adolescents' sleep was done
- Ⓒ why sleep is more important to adults than adolescents
- Ⓓ problems that all students face while adolescents

Question 7

The Article says:

**Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can *suffer*, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!**

Which means almost the **same** as *suffer*?

- Ⓐ help
- Ⓑ continue
- Ⓒ worsen
- Ⓓ remain



### Question 8

Which passage from the Article shows that some school districts believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

- Ⓐ Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.
- Ⓑ Research shows that most adolescents get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 a.m., they miss out on some good z's!
- Ⓒ But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They say there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. The law can't make teens go to bed! Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less time for other stuff.
- Ⓓ Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Middle schools and high schools should start later.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Do you think middle schools and high schools should start later in the day? Why or why not?

Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# The Last Generation? (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people from the Pacific Islands are working to stop climate change. Rising seas could take away their homeland. What do you think?

**Everyone should work together to stop climate change.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

*The capital city of Majuro, Marshall Islands, is only 300 feet wide in most places. Yet the thin strip of land is home to over 27,000 people.*

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands** (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on an island might sound wonderful. But what if you left for a trip and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? For people living in the Pacific Islands, this is a real possibility. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing the sea to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

Not if the islanders have anything to do about it. These people are deeply connected to their homelands. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the separate countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.

Why is climate change such a huge threat to this part of the world? Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.

But these are small nations. When it comes to climate change, can they make a big difference? They can, and here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are brought by ships. This is very harmful to the environment. After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change.

Pacific Islanders recognize the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

How will they pull this off? They plan to use some really cool carbon-free technologies. They'll make use of solar and wind energy.

Sea levels are rising. But hopes aren't sinking in the Pacific Islands.

*Video credit: United Nations*

## Dictionary

**elevation** (*noun*) the height of a place

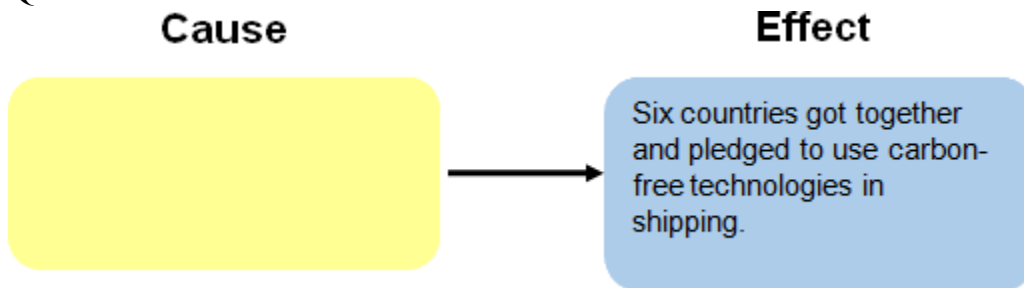
**emission** (*noun*) something sent out or given off

**generation** (*noun*) a group of people born and living during the same time

**threaten** (*verb*) to be something that is likely to cause harm to (someone or something): to be a threat to (someone or something)

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Six countries got together and pledged to use carbon-free technologies in shipping."

- Ⓐ Eleven different countries make up the Pacific Islands.
- Ⓑ Pacific Island countries don't put out many carbon emissions.
- Ⓒ Sea levels are falling fast in areas around the Pacific Islands.
- Ⓓ Pacific Island countries want to slow climate change.

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ why other countries are helping the Pacific Islanders fight climate change
- Ⓑ how Pacific Island countries are working together to fight shipping pollution
- Ⓒ why Pacific Island countries put out so much of the world's carbon emissions
- Ⓓ how some countries are working hard to develop carbon-free technologies

Question 3

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ threat and safety
- Ⓑ separate and unusual
- Ⓒ connected and tied
- Ⓓ harmful and useful

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why climate change is such a huge threat to the islands
- Ⓑ Which emissions from shipping are causing problems
- Ⓒ What some of the names are of the Pacific Island countries
- Ⓓ Why only some of the 11 Pacific Island countries made a plan

Question 5

The Article says:

**So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.**

The author uses this passage mostly to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that all shipping should stop by 2050
- Ⓑ how dangerous climate change is becoming
- Ⓒ how islanders can help fight climate change
- Ⓓ that not all Pacific Islands depend on shipping

Question 6

The Article says:

**After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change. Pacific Islanders *recognize* the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan.**

Which means almost the **same** as *recognize*?

- Ⓐ welcome
- Ⓑ allow
- Ⓒ understand
- Ⓓ create

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the water in the Pacific Ocean is polluted with trash
- Ⓑ air temperatures are falling fast in the Pacific Islands
- Ⓒ solar and wind energy don't worsen climate change
- Ⓓ it's not possible to have zero emissions from shipping

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows why climate change is such a threat to the Pacific Islands?

- Ⓐ When it comes to climate change, can they make a big difference? They can, and here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are brought by ships. This is very harmful to the environment. After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change.
- Ⓑ Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.
- Ⓒ The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the separate countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.
- Ⓓ Pacific Islanders recognize the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Everyone should work together to stop climate change.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

How is climate change affecting the Pacific Islands? What are some Pacific Island nations doing about this problem? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# The Truth About Dogs (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A new exhibit teaches about dogs. What do you think of this quote by Josh Billings?

**"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

*An exhibit at the California Science Center shows people how dogs see.*

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Dogs. They're our four-legged BFFs. But why do people and dogs get along so well? And do dogs really love their owners?

The California Science Center has answers to these and hundreds of canine questions. It opened an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail" in March 2019.

The exhibition will travel to museums across the U.S. in 2020. Here's a peek at what it teaches us about dogs:

### 1. They have a pee-culiar interest.

Why are dogs always sniffing around fire hydrants? What do they smell? A hydrant at the exhibition has the answer. With the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," said Jeffrey Rudolph. He is the Science Center's president.

But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can tell how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.

### 2. They're doggone smart.

Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually smart.

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," Rudolph said. And it goes beyond their sense of smell.

Dogs don't see color well. But they pick up movement better than people do. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

### 3. They're heroic.

Did you know that some superheroes don't wear capes, but collars?

A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

*Superpower Dogs* is a movie that plays at the exhibition. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings. Some dogs in the film even track down hunters going after elephants and rhinos.

#### 4. Yes, they love us, too.

Dogs give us many reasons to love them. But do they love us back?

They do, says Diane Perlov. She helped with the exhibit. "It's a mutual affection."

#### 5. They go way back with humans.

The dog-human thing really is special. But when and how did it start?

Scientists don't know when people and dogs first connected. But dogs are related to wolves. And humans and wolves crossed paths thousands of years ago, says Perlov.

It seems we've been best friends fur-ever.

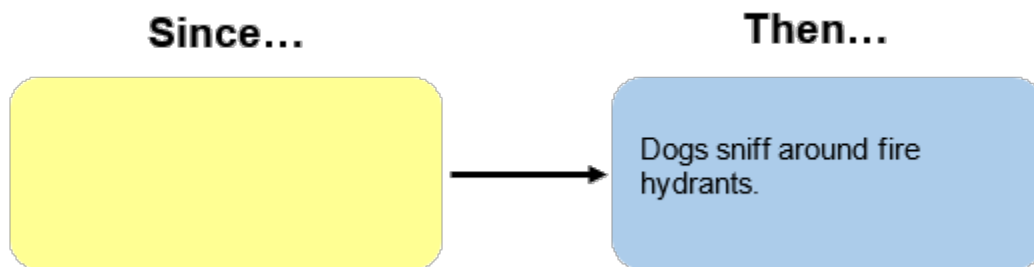
*Information for this story came from AP.*

### Dictionary

<b>ability</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	skill or power to do something
<b>canine</b> ( <i>adjective</i> )	relating to or resembling a dog
<b>exhibition</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a show
<b>mutual affection</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	shared feeling of love

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- (A) Dogs have an amazing ability to learn information beyond their sense of smell.
- (B) Dogs have the ability to sniff out bombs people would never find.
- (C) It's one of the ways dogs can be useful to humans who are in dangerous situations.
- (D) It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and tell how safe the surroundings are.

### Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

- (A) A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time.
- (B) The California Science Center opened an exhibition all about dogs.
- (C) Dogs can see movement better than people, but they don't see color well.
- (D) Scientists do not know when dogs and people first became friends.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Dogs can tell how safe an area is by smelling another dog's urine.
- Ⓑ Scientists know that dogs are related to wolves.
- Ⓒ *Superpower Dogs* shows dogs rescuing people.
- Ⓓ The cutest dogs seem to be the smartest dogs.

Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Heroic and brave
- Ⓑ Goofy and smart
- Ⓒ Safe and harmful
- Ⓓ Better and worse

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ People were closer to their dogs thousands of years ago.
- Ⓑ Most people notice things in an area before their dogs do.
- Ⓒ As dogs spend more time with people, they will not need to sniff fire hydrants.
- Ⓓ People like having dogs around partly because dogs are smart and helpful.

Question 6

The Article says:

**A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find. *Superpower Dogs* is a movie that plays at the exhibition. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings.**

The author uses this passage mostly to help the reader \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Understand how dogs learn to swim
- Ⓑ Understand how dogs can be heroic
- Ⓒ Know how people get trapped in buildings
- Ⓓ Know that dogs can't see bombs

Question 7

The Article says:

**But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can *tell* how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *tell*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Hear
- Ⓑ Choose
- Ⓒ Remember
- Ⓓ Know



### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than their strong sense of smell?

- Ⓐ Dogs give us many reasons to love them.
- Ⓑ But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said.
- Ⓒ And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.
- Ⓓ It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Think about telling a friend about the "Dogs! A Science Tail" exhibition. What would you share? Use descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

# Welcome to Batuu (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

It's been said that Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places on Earth. Now, the Disney parks in California and Florida have added an attraction from "a galaxy far, far away"—Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. What do you think?

**Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places in the galaxy.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

*There's a full-size model of the famous Millennium Falcon spaceship at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.*

**ORLANDO, Florida** (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). Disney parks may be "the happiest" places on Earth. But they have some lands that are out of this world: in a galaxy far, far away!

In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions.

Galaxy's Edge is set on Batuu, a new planet Disney dreamed up. It's a hot spot for traders and explorers. And a whole new story unfolds under its three suns.

By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* new fans on the same page. Batuu is new to everyone. And everyone can be part of the story. You don't even have to speak Wookiee!

Disney built Batuu from the ground up on 14 acres (5.67 hectares) of land. And it's based on real places. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It's like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

And once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu. The workers, food, and goods are all part of the story. So visitors feel like they're really exploring an alien planet.

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories. They aren't just Earthlings with a cool job. They're Batuu through and through.

And interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, for example. They can also work as double agents!

And, of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon. It's a full-size model of the Star Wars spaceship.

Think you're ready for some far-away fun? You know what they say: May the force be with you!

*Video credit: Courtesy Disney, with music by Valeriano Chiaravalle/proudmusiclibrary.com*

### **Dictionary**

**alien** (*adjective*) from somewhere other than the planet Earth

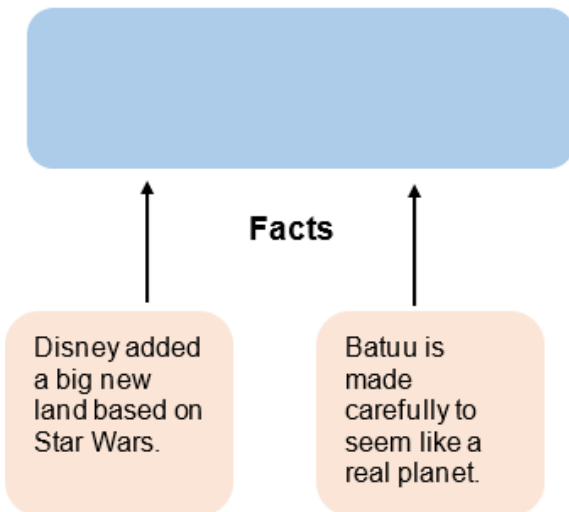
**explore** (*verb*) to travel over or through (a place) in order to learn more about it or to find something

**interact** (*verb*) to talk or do things with other people

## **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1

### **Main Idea of the Article**



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Disney added a big new land based on Star Wars." The box on the right says "Batuu is made carefully to seem like a real planet."

- Ⓐ One of the rides at Galaxy's Edge is a full-size model of the Millennium Falcon.
- Ⓑ Disney opened Galaxy's Edge where visitors feel like they're part of a Star Wars story.
- Ⓒ Galaxy's Edge is built to look like such real places as Petrified Forest National Park.
- Ⓓ Galaxy's Edge is at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Millennium Falcon is a full-size model of the Star Wars spaceship.
- Ⓑ Disney Built Batuu based on real places.
- Ⓒ For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓓ The workers in Galaxy's Edge get to choose how they will look while doing their jobs.

Question 3

The Article says:

**The workers, food, and goods are all part of the story. So visitors feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself
- Ⓑ describe that it can be hard to understand the story that is being played out on Batuu
- Ⓒ show that many visitors to Galaxy's Edge are surprised to be part of the story
- Ⓓ inform that there are only a few kinds of goods for visitors to buy in the markets of Batuu

Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *explore*?

- Ⓐ rule
- Ⓑ guard
- Ⓒ judge
- Ⓓ search

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the Batuu forest is based on a place from the Star Wars movies
- Ⓑ Disney believes many people will want to go to Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓒ the next Star Wars movie will take place on the planet of Batuu
- Ⓓ more people will go to Galaxy's Edge in California than in Florida

Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ finding Arizona on a map
- Ⓑ reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks
- Ⓒ watching a Star Wars movie
- Ⓓ reading about trees in a science textbook

Question 7

The Article says:

**And of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon. It's a full-size *model* of the Star Wars spaceship.**

Which means almost the **same** as *model*?

- Ⓐ copy
- Ⓑ story
- Ⓒ surprise
- Ⓓ painting

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

- Ⓐ The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.... And interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, for example. They can also work as double agents!
- Ⓑ Galaxy's Edge is set on Batuu, a new planet Disney dreamed up. It's a hot spot for traders and explorers. And a whole new story unfolds under its three suns. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* new fans on the same page. Batuu is new to everyone.
- Ⓒ In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions.
- Ⓓ Disney built Batuu from the ground up on 14 acres (5.67 hectares) of land. And it's based on real places. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It's like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. And once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places in the galaxy.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Imagine that you are telling a friend about Disney's new Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida. What would you say? Use describing words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

# Women Adventurers (520L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families. But some brave women chose to take off on amazing adventures around the world. What do you think?

**People should live life the way they want to, not how they're expected to.**

Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Left to right: Cristoforo Dall'Acqua, Wellcome Collection, Library of Congress

Left to right: Jeanne Baret, the first woman to sail around the globe. Lady Hester Stanhope, who led an archaeological dig. And Nellie Bly, who traveled around the world in 72 days.

**RED BANK, New Jersey** (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures. This wasn't true hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home. But that didn't stop these three women from taking off and doing big things.

**Jeanne Baret (1740-1807):** Baret was a French scientist. She studied plants. *And*, she was the first woman to sail around the world. In 1766, Baret wanted to set sail with a group of scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away!

**Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839):** Stanhope was from England. But she wanted to travel. She traveled throughout the Middle East by herself. And she led an archaeological dig there. She was the first woman to do this.

**Nellie Bly (1864-1922):** Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a story about hidden problems at a mental hospital. She disguised herself as a patient at the hospital. Then she wrote an alarming six-part report. The story made Bly well-known. It also led the way for other women journalists. Two years later, Bly set a world record. She traveled around the globe in 72 days!

### Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

**disguise** (*verb*) to change the usual appearance, sound, taste, etc., of (someone or something) so that people will not recognize that person or thing

**journalism** (*noun*) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

**mental** (*adjective*) of or relating to the mind

**navy** (*noun*) the part of a country's military forces that fights at sea using ships, submarines, airplanes, etc.

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

#### What Happened Next?

A scientist was the first woman to sail around the world.

A journalist wrote a story about the problems at a hospital.

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events show up. Look back at the Article for clues, like dates.*

- Ⓐ A woman disguised herself as a man and sailed around the world.
- Ⓑ A woman traveled through the Middle East and dug for treasures.
- Ⓒ A woman was asked to study plants on a French navy ship.
- Ⓓ A woman set a record traveling around the world in 72 days.

Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ that Nellie Bly's six-part report about life inside a hospital made her a well-known reporter
- Ⓑ that people thought women should stay at home years ago, but some took off on their own
- Ⓒ that French scientists traveled all around the world in 1766 to learn more about plants
- Ⓓ that women today go into space, sail around the world, and have all kinds of adventures

Question 3

The Article says:

**In 1766, Baret wanted to set sail with a group of scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away!**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ point out that the best scientists in France were men
- Ⓑ explain that dressing like a man made Baret a scientist
- Ⓒ describe the danger of sneaking onto a navy ship
- Ⓓ show that a scientist can be a man or a woman

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

*An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.*

- Ⓐ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East by herself.
- Ⓑ It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.
- Ⓒ Jeanne Baret studied plants and sailed around the world with scientists.
- Ⓓ Nellie Bly set a world record traveling around the world in 72 days.

Question 5

Which means the **opposite** of *navy*?

- Ⓐ pond
- Ⓑ rock
- Ⓒ army
- Ⓓ office

Question 6

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how some women live today?

- Ⓐ Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a story about hidden problems at a mental hospital.
- Ⓑ Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man.
- Ⓒ These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures.
- Ⓓ Two years later, Bly set a world record. She traveled around the globe in 72 days!

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ woman and lady
- Ⓑ sail and travel
- Ⓒ ship and boat
- Ⓓ true and false

Question 8

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ how long it took Baret to sail around the world
- Ⓑ where Nellie Bly wrote her six-part report
- Ⓒ how long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record
- Ⓓ why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man



#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should live life the way they want to, not how they're expected to.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

What's one word that describes Jeanne Baret, Lady Hester Stanhope, and Nellie Bly? What actions by these women back up your answer? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



# Achieve3000 Literacy™ At Home

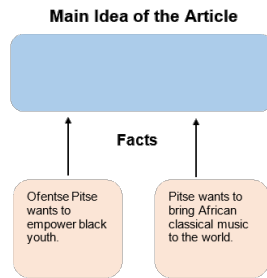
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## **ANSWER KEY**

# A Musical Pioneer

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Pitse's all-black orchestra and youth choir performs the works of African composers.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C Ofentse Pitse's grandfather was an excellent band conductor and choir leader.

### Question 3

The Article says:

What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. Are these names new to you? You're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse's group plays pieces by African composers. This lets listeners know that classical music is alive in Africa.

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

A show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's idea of what classical music is

### Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *empower*?

A weaken

### Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

A the works of Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza aren't well-known yet

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

B How Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time

### Question 7

The Article says:

[Ofentse Pitse is] the *conductor* of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.

Which means almost the **same** as *conductor*?

D leader

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that most classical conductors today are men?

A In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.

# Ancient Lines in the Sand

## Answer key

### Question 1

Main Idea of the Article

Facts

The Nazca Lines were made by removing dark rocks that covered the desert sand.

The geoglyphs show animals, plants, and more.

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

**B** The Nazca Lines are pictures made in the sands of Peru.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

**D** It's a waste of time to try to figure out why the lines were made.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

**C** point out what some of the Nazca Lines look like

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

**C** noticing and spotting

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

**A** it's hard to make out the shapes of the geoglyphs from the ground

### Question 6

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

**B** A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found.

### Question 7

The Article says:

**And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was *uncovered* in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.**

Which means almost the **same** as *uncovered*?

**D** found

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that the Nazca Lines might have been used for more than one thing?

**D** Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

# Animated Favorites Get Real

## Answer key

### Question 1

#### Cause

Parents can remember watching the characters when they were kids.



#### Effect

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Some of the remade animated movies have become hits.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Moviemakers are making live-action remakes of animated films.

### Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why adults enjoyed watching old Pokémon cartoons

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

A plenty and lots

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C fans like movies with characters they already know

### Question 6

The Article says:

So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold.

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

C point out why moviemakers remake animated movies

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that parents like the new remakes because they remind them of their own childhoods?

A The power of nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? They were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. New fans!

### Question 8

The Article says:

With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning *formula*. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold.

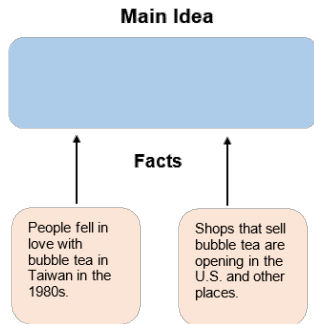
Which means almost the **same** as *formula*?

B plan

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C People now enjoy bubble tea in Asia, the U.S., and beyond.

### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *invent*, as it is used in the Article?

A Create

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *first*?

C People in Taiwan fell in love with bubble tea.

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

B Chia seeds are a tastier topping than red beans.

### Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

C Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea in America"

### Question 6

The Article says:

**You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to *chill*. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *chill*, as it is used above?

D Rest

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

B Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.

### Question 8

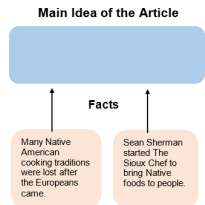
The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C It can be hard to choose which kind of bubble tea to buy.

# Cooking Up Native Traditions

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American food traditions.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B The government meant to do the right thing by giving free food to Native Americans.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

C show how Sean Sherman is addressing a serious problem

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C packed and filled

### Question 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

B People who like eating healthy will try traditional Native American cooking.

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Why it's hard to find natural ingredients, like wild rice

### Question 7

The Article says:

**In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were *lost*. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.**

Which means the **opposite** of *lost*?

C found

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

A Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history.

What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.

# Defying Gravity

## Answer key

### Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



Facts

Biles missed being on the U.S. women's junior team by one spot in 2011.

Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast.

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Simone Biles never gave up and became one of the world's best gymnasts.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B Simone Biles' super strength is the key to her success in gymnastics.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

C show that heartbreaking problems made Simone Biles try harder

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

B heartbreaking and upsetting

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with problems

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

A Who coached the U.S. women's junior team in 2013

### Question 7

The Article says:

**But Biles didn't have a completely *smooth* journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.**

Which means almost the **same** as *smooth*?

B easy

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Simone Biles faced difficulties in her life?

C Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care.



# Give Me S'more!

## Answer key

### Question 1

Since...

Then...



Many people are able to eat marshmallows.

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.

### Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

B S'mores are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers.

### Question 3

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A Messy and neat

### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

B Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s.

### Question 5

The Article says:

**These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

B Show different ways people can make s'mores

### Question 6

The Article says:

**A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more*!"**

Which must mean the **opposite** of *delicious*, as it is used above?

D Terrible

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why s'mores are so well-liked?

C A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

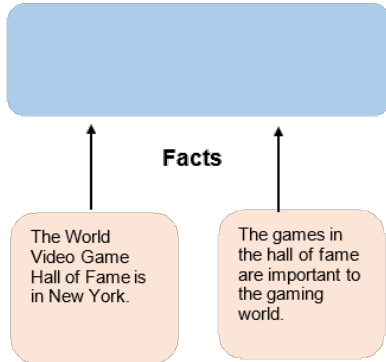
C S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

# Global Game Fame

## Answer key

### Question 1

#### Main Idea



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D Each year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

### Question 2

Which word means almost the **same** as *nominate*, as it is used in the Article?

B Name

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

C *Super Mario Kart* is more fun than *Microsoft Solitaire*.

### Question 4

Think about the Article. How is *Microsoft Solitaire* different from *Super Mario Kart*?

C *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.

### Question 5

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C Honor and award

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

D Give an example of an old but important game

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why the World Video Game Hall of Fame was created?

A Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

### Question 8

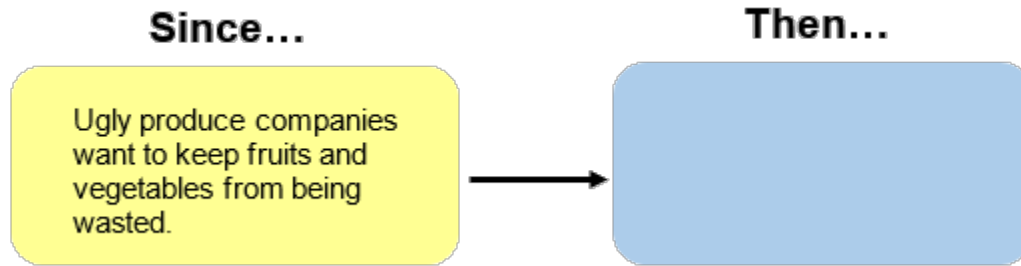
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

C Several games will enter the hall of fame next year..

# Good, Bad, or Ugly?

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

A These companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.

### Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

D Ugly produce companies say they want to stop ugly produce from going to waste.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

B Ugly produce companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject, and they bring the food to people's doors.

### Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *reduce*, as it is used in the Article?

D Create

### Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

B Explain why some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best shows why some companies are selling ugly fruits and vegetables?

D And food waste *is* a big problem in the United States. The government has said that about 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted. Ugly produce companies say they can help farmers reduce this waste.

### Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A Waste and save

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen? People in the U.S. will continue to waste some of the country's food supply.

B People in the U.S. may continue to waste some food.

# Katherine the Great

## Answer key

### Question 1

Since...

Then...



She worked as a "human computer."

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

A Katherine Johnson was great at math.

### Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

C Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.

### Question 3

Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written?

D Katherine Johnson's autobiography went on sale.

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C Mission and trip

### Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to read more about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

C In an article about NASA's work over the years

### Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows how Katherine Johnson's work at NASA changed the world?

B Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

### Question 8

The Article says:

**Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program *forward*.**

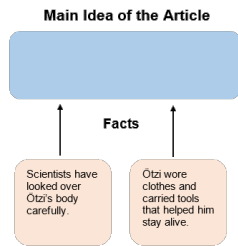
Which must mean almost the **same** as *forward*, as it is used above?

A Ahead

# Otzi the Iceman

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

**B** The world is learning about the past from a man frozen in ice for more than 5,000 years.

### Question 2

The Article says:

**That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world.**

**Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more.**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

**B** how important it was that Ötzi's body was discovered in such good shape

### Question 3

Which means the **opposite** of *ancient*?

**B** new

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

**A** Ötzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.

### Question 5

Which passage from the Article best shows that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

**A** And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more *detail* that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice.**

Which means almost the **same** as *detail*?

**A** fact

### Question 7

Antonio wants to learn more about Ötzi the Iceman. He would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

**D** watching a video on important findings of the late-Neolithic period

### Question 8

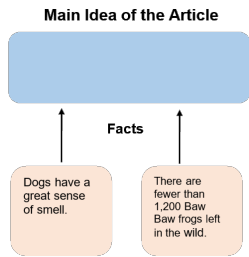
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

**B** Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.

# Sniffing Out Extinction

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

A Dogs find endangered species so scientists can help them.

### Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists train two border collies to sniff out an endangered species?

B The conservationists have had a very hard time finding the Baw Baw frogs.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

B explain why it's hard to find Baw Baw frogs in the wild

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

A tough and hard

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C dogs smelled Baw Baw frog droppings before finding them

### Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

B Which type of dog is best at finding missing persons

### Question 7

The Article says:

**The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's *scent*. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs.**

Which means almost the **same** as *scent*?

C smell

### Question 8

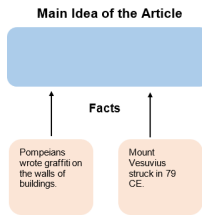
Which passage from the Article best shows that the Baw Baw frog is in danger of dying out completely?

A Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Stone and ash from a volcano saved messages written on Pompeian walls.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B It's interesting to study messages posted on Pompeii's walls.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time. It stayed this way until the mid-1700s. That's when people started digging out Pompeii and the messages were found.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

B give the reason why Pompeii was saved for so long

### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *graffiti*?

C writing

### Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

C watching a TV program called *Life in the City of Pompeii*

### Question 6

The Article says:

**The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden *thoughts* of a people with a lot on their minds.**

Which means almost the **same** as *thoughts*?

B ideas

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why many buildings in Pompeii remained after the volcano struck?

B The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time.

### Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Who discovered that Pompeii was buried under stone and ash

# Soldier in the Wild

## Answer key

### Question 1

#### Cause

Shoichi Yokoi returned to Japan after hiding out in Guam for many years.



#### Effect

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

C Yokoi was given a hero's welcome when he returned to Japan.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam for years.

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

B Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen.

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D astonishing and usual

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan in 1972.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

C explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding for so long

### Question 7

The Article says:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death.**

Which means almost the **same** as *explanation*?

D reason

### Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

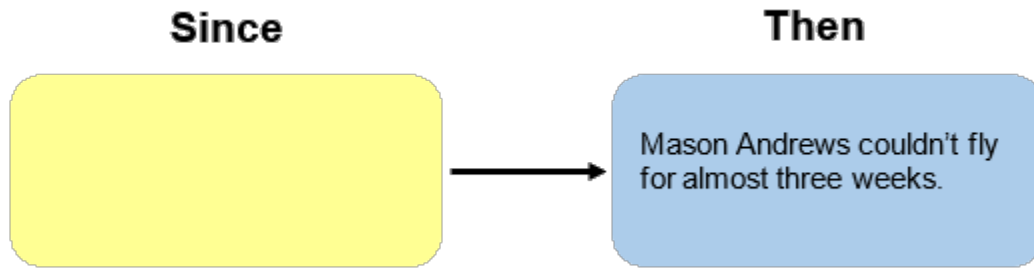
A How Yokoi learned that World War II had ended



# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

## Answer key

### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

D There were bad typhoons in the Philippines.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

B Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly around the world.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

A Mason flew through a sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.

### Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D Completing and starting

### Question 5

The Article says:

**Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

B How Mason came up with the idea to fly around the world

### Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C It is unlikely that Mason will stop dreaming big.

### Question 7

The Article says:

**Mason took off on his *journey* in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *journey*?

C Trip

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

D He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

# The Early-Late Debate

## Answer key

### Question 1

#### Causes

There's no way to be sure students will get more sleep.

Students would have less free time.

#### Effect

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D Some people think it's not smart to start school later.

### Question 2

What is the Article mainly about?

B Some people are talking about starting schools later and if it's smart to do so.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.

### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *research*?

D study

### Question 5

The Article says all of these **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

A what students think about schools starting later

### Question 6

The Article states:

**Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!**

This passage helps the reader to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

A how important sleep is for adolescents

### Question 7

The Article says:

**Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can *suffer*, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!**

Which means almost the **same** as *suffer*?

C worsen

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article shows that some school districts believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

A Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

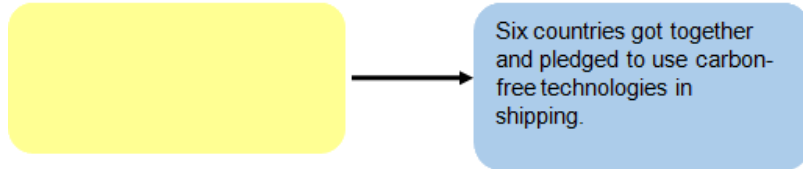
# The Last Generation?

## Answer key

### Question 1

Cause

Effect



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D Pacific Island countries want to slow climate change.

### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

B how Pacific Island countries are working together to fight shipping pollution

### Question 3

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

C connected and tied

### Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why only some of the 11 Pacific Island countries made a plan

### Question 5

The Article says:

**So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.**

The author uses this passage mostly to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

C how islanders can help fight climate change

### Question 6

The Article says:

**After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change. Pacific Islanders *recognize* the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan.**

Which means almost the **same** as *recognize*?

C understand

### Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C solar and wind energy don't worsen climate change

### Question 8

B Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.

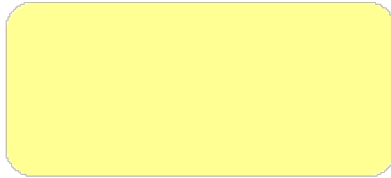
# The Truth About Dogs

## Answer key

### Question 1

Since...

Then...



Dogs sniff around fire hydrants.

Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and tell how safe the surroundings are.

### Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

B The California Science Center opened an exhibition all about dogs.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

D The cutest dogs seem to be the smartest dogs.

### Question 4

Which two words have almost the **same** meaning?

A Heroic and brave

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D People like having dogs around partly because dogs are smart and helpful.

### Question 6

The Article says:

**A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find. *Superpower Dogs* is a movie that plays at the exhibition. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings.**

The author uses this passage mostly to help the reader \_\_\_\_\_.

B Understand how dogs can be heroic

### Question 7

The Article says:

**But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can *tell* how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.**

Which must mean almost the **same** as *tell*, as it is used above?

D Know

### Question 8

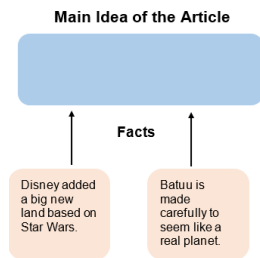
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than their strong sense of smell?

C And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

# Welcome to Batuu

## Answer key

### Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

B Disney opened Galaxy's Edge where visitors feel like they're part of a Star Wars story.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

### Question 3

The Article says:

**The workers, food, and goods are all part of the story. So visitors feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

A explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself

### Question 4

Which means almost the **same** as *explore*?

D search

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Disney believes many people will want to go to Galaxy's Edge

### Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

B reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks

### Question 7

The Article says:

**And of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon. It's a full-size *model* of the Star Wars spaceship.**

Which means almost the **same** as *model*?

A copy

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

A The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.... And interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, for example. They can also work as double agents!

# Women Adventurers

## Answer key

### Question 1

#### What Happened Next?

A scientist was the first woman to sail around the world.

A journalist wrote a story about the problems at a hospital.



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

D A woman set a record traveling around the world in 72 days.

### Question 2

Let's say you are retelling this Article. It is **most** important to tell \_\_\_\_\_.

B that people thought women should stay at home years ago, but some took off on their own

### Question 3

The Article says:

**In 1766, Baret wanted to set sail with a group of scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away!**

The author uses this passage mostly to \_\_\_\_\_.

D show that a scientist can be a man or a woman

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

B It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.

### Question 5

Which means the **opposite** of *navy*?

C army

### Question 6

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how some women live today?

C These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures.

### Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D true and false

### Question 8

The Article does **not** say \_\_\_\_\_.

A how long it took Baret to sail around the world



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# Lesson Tracker

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



## Step One

Respond to the Before Reading Poll



## Step Two

Read the Article



## Step Three

Do the Activity Questions



## Step Four

Respond to the After Reading Poll



## Step Five

Answer the Thought Question

Watch me soar! Mark off each lesson step as you finish it. Use the back of this paper if you need more space to add more lessons.

Lesson Title	Before Reading Poll	Article	First Try Activity Score	After Reading Poll	Thought Question
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			%		
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# Ancient Lines in the Sand (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are big ground drawings. They're in the desert sand. They were put there more than 1,500 years ago. But scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

**Some things should stay a secret.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

*A monkey geoglyph is seen from above. It's one of the many ground drawings known as the Nazca Lines.*

**NAZCA, Peru** (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). The greatest wonders of the ancient world are usually hard to miss. For example, it's impossible to walk past the pyramids in Egypt or Stonehenge in Great Britain without noticing them. They're right in your face. But not the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on enormous slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings") in the desert sands. There are hundreds of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building. And they spread out over nearly 190 square miles (492 square kilometers). The best way to see them is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of visitors view them each year.

Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.

But researchers still have many questions about the geoglyphs. For example, why did people who lived long before air travel create drawings best viewed from above? And why were they created in the first place? But the answers remain largely a mystery.

So here's what we *do* know: The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.

But why have the geoglyphs lasted so long? It's because there isn't much rain or wind in the area. Although many of the lines have, understandably, experienced some fading over the years. The biggest danger to these ancient masterpieces is posed by human activity like mining and unlawful farming.

Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, such as animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It shows a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths. Researchers say this suggests that the Nazca people had a taste for the magical.

So what purpose did the geoglyphs serve? Research suggests that the geoglyphs were part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been like signposts directing travelers to those places.

Then again, these are all guesses. Only one thing is clear: The Nazcas found a way to draw lasting lines in the ever-shifting sands of time.

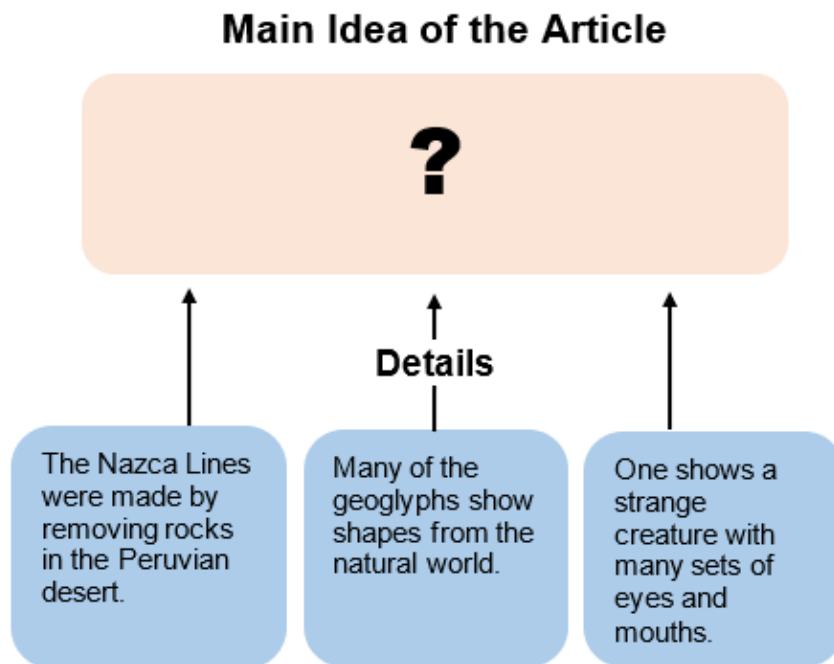
*Video credit: Achieve3000 from footage by maxuser/Creatas Video+/Getty Images*

### Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people  
**drone** (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot  
**mining** (*noun*) the process or business of digging in mines to obtain minerals, metals, jewels, etc.  
**research** (*verb*) to study (something) carefully  
**ritual** (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- (A) Research suggests that certain geoglyphs may have shown where rituals were being held.
- (B) A Peruvian archaeologist saw the Nazca Lines in 1927 but didn't discover all of them.
- (C) The Nazca Lines that are drawn in the sands of Peru show plants, animals, and more.
- (D) The geoglyphs might have played an important part in rituals for rain and crops.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The geoglyphs have lasted until today due to the small amount of rain and wind in the area.
- Ⓑ The geoglyphs were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE by the Nazca people of Peru.
- Ⓒ Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made.
- Ⓓ Some of the geoglyphs are recognizable from the window of an airplane.

Question 3

The Article states:

**So here's what we do know: The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To say that it is easier to figure out what the lines show from high in the air than on the ground
- Ⓑ To offer some proof that explains what the mysterious geoglyphs were used for long ago
- Ⓒ To point out the fact that the Nazca Lines changed a lot between 500 BCE and 500 CE
- Ⓓ To explain how the Nazca people created the geoglyphs by making lines on the desert floor

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ slabs and blocks
- Ⓑ enormous and tiny
- Ⓒ created and viewed
- Ⓓ creature and ancestor

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ some of the Nazca Lines are so faded that they are now very hard to see
- Ⓑ some of the Nazca Lines point to the best places to grow crops in the dry area
- Ⓒ the Nazca Lines are as hard to miss as many of the wonders of the ancient world
- Ⓓ the Nazca Lines were created by removing white sand from the desert floor

Question 6

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Reread the Article for clues, such as dates.*

- Ⓐ The Nazca people created drawings in the desert sand by taking away the top layer of rocks.
- Ⓑ A Peruvian archaeologist discovered groups of lines drawn on the desert floor.
- Ⓒ A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was discovered.
- Ⓓ The Nazca lines went unnoticed in the desert sands of Peru for nearly 1,500 years.

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took *technology* such as drones to find them.**

In this passage, the word *technology* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ careful study that's done to find new knowledge
- Ⓑ information learned through experience
- Ⓒ modern machines or pieces of equipment
- Ⓓ goods that are bought or sold in a store

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Nazca Lines might have served more than one purpose?

- Ⓐ Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.
- Ⓑ The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.
- Ⓒ Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, such as animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It shows a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.
- Ⓓ Research suggests that the geoglyphs were part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been like signposts directing travelers to those places.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Some things should stay a secret.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

List three reasons why the Nazca Lines are an interesting attraction to visit and/or study in Southern Peru. Explain why the Nazca Lines have left researchers with questions. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Animated Favorites Get Real (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Moviemakers are remaking old cartoon movies. The new movies have real people. *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast* are two of these live-action remakes. What do you think?

**Live-action remakes are more entertaining than the cartoon classics.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

*Many families love live-action remakes of animated movies. "Aladdin," starring Will Smith, is one of these movies.*

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*—into live-action hits. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! These are just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010. Actors have also stepped into Cinderella's glass slippers, Dora the Explorer's sneakers, and Aladdin's curly-toed kicks. And according to Hollywood buzz, we can expect the reboots to keep on comin'.

So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold. The Disney live-action remakes of *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland* are examples. These movies packed in moviegoers. Each film brought in more than a billion bucks worldwide.

The power of good ol' nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people

who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? Well, they were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (New fans!)

Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. Take *The Little Mermaid* remake. Just about everybody and their pet crab has heard the news: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel.

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as a chance to crank up the girl power. *Aladdin*'s Jasmine is an example. The movie's producer says she isn't just along for the magic carpet ride in the remake. She's a strong character who speaks up and takes a stand. Likewise, the new *Mulan* doesn't have a fast-talking dragon as her sidekick. But she's a master of kicks. And her sword fighting skills are just as amazing.

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include 2019 hit *The Lion King*, right? Well...maybe not. The movie was created by artists with computers. There were no cameras recording actors or animals. So it isn't *really* live-action. But it looks so real. For some, calling it *animation* seems wrong. What do you think?

Whatever your take on *The Lion King*, live-action remakes are part of the "Circle of Life" in movies today. They offer "A Whole New World" for moviegoers.

### **Dictionary**

**animated** (*adjective*) produced by the creation of a series of drawings, pictures, etc., that are shown quickly one after another: produced through the process of animation

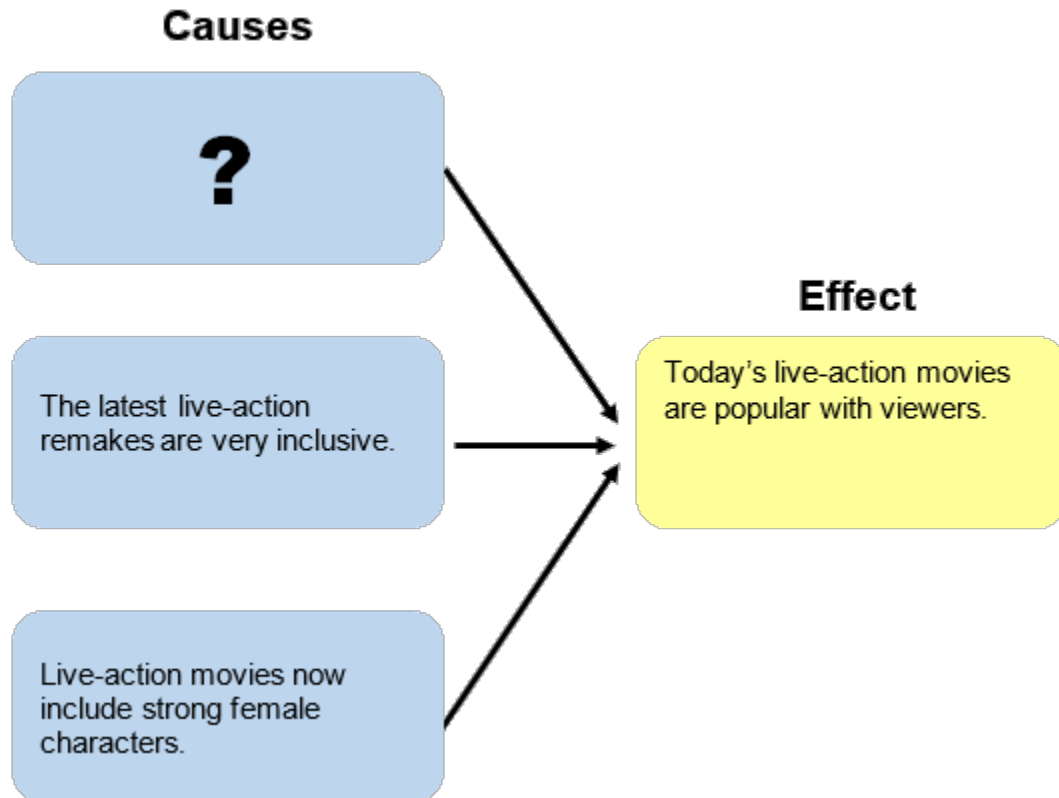
**diversity** (*noun*) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

**inclusive** (*adjective*) open to everyone: not limited to certain people

**nostalgia** (*noun*) pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There three boxes on the left. They are labeled "Causes." The top box has a question mark in it. The middle box says "The latest live-action remakes are very inclusive." The bottom box says "Live-action movies now include female characters." Three arrows are pointing from these boxes to a box on the right labeled "Effect." The box says "Today's live-action movies are popular with viewers."

- Ⓐ The use of expertly trained animals, as seen in *The Lion King*, has thrilled moviegoers.
- Ⓑ Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites take their kids to see the live-action remakes.
- Ⓒ Moviemakers have added entirely new characters to popular animated movies of the past.
- Ⓓ Ticket prices have gone up at the same time that the Internet and TV have much to offer.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The remake of the film *The Lion King* can't be considered live action.
- Ⓑ *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, and *Alice in Wonderland* all made lots of money.
- Ⓒ Halle Bailey landed a role in the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*.
- Ⓓ Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films.

Question 3

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why the latest live-action movies are so popular with more and more people
- Ⓑ Why so many adults enjoyed watching the original animated Pokémon cartoons
- Ⓒ Who landed the part of Ariel in the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*
- Ⓓ What "winning formula" movie companies are using to make live-action films

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ respectful and rude
- Ⓑ example and lesson
- Ⓒ formula and method
- Ⓓ release and mention

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Fans often like to watch movies with characters they are already familiar with
- Ⓑ people did not like the animated movie *Aladdin* because it showed Jasmine as being weak
- Ⓒ more people saw the remake of *Aladdin* than either *Beauty and the Beast* or *Dumbo*
- Ⓓ *The Lion King* was made with an interesting mix of computer animation and live-action

Question 6

The Article states:

**So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To suggest that moviemakers spend too much money on remakes of animated movies
- Ⓑ To point out why moviemakers have remade popular animated movies of the past
- Ⓒ To show ways in which today's remakes are different from the earlier animated movies
- Ⓓ To explain why so many people are still watching animated movies from the past



### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that parents like the new remakes because they remind them of their own childhoods?

- Ⓐ The power of good ol' nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? Well, they were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (New fans!)
- Ⓑ So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula.
- Ⓒ Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. Take *The Little Mermaid* remake. Just about everybody and their pet crab has heard the news: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel.
- Ⓓ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*—into live-action hits. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! These are just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.

### Question 8

Look at this passage from the Article:

**Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them.**

In this passage, the word *makeover* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the act of changing something in order to improve it
- Ⓑ a way of behaving that is not seen as being honest
- Ⓒ the careful examination of something or someone
- Ⓓ an interesting or pleasing effect or result

#### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Live-action remakes are more entertaining than the cartoon classics.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Find the main idea for each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A fairly new drink called "bubble tea" is winning fans across the world. What do you think?

**Newer is better.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images

*A bubble tea shop is a sweet spot to hang out. It's also a good place to get a sweet treat.*

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is a sweet drink is originally from Taiwan. Now, it's winning fans around the world.

To enjoy bubble tea, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice. What makes it so special, though, is that it usually includes chewy goodies. You'll find them at the bottom of your cup. Most often, they are black tapioca pearls. They're sweet. Tapioca is made from cassava. Cassava is the root of a tropical plant. Some people claim the balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others insist that the "bubbles" in the name has to do with the foam on top of the drink. This forms when the drink is shaken.

Bubble tea was invented in the 1980s. At the time, tapioca desserts and milk tea were popular in Taiwan. Some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea. The result was bubble tea.

People loved this new idea. It was like a drink and a snack in one cup! The invention soon took off like a soap bubble on a breezy day. It was a huge hit all over Taiwan. From there, it spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where a lot of people from Taiwan live. Now, the shops are on the rise elsewhere in the U.S. and in lots of other countries.

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options. Would you like a

traditional favorite, like mango, honeydew, or chocolate pudding? Or are you up for something more unusual, like matcha or cookie dough? Even when you've settled these questions, there's another important decision to chew on: toppings! You could go for black tapioca pearls, of course. But there are plenty of other choices on the table, too. How about chia seeds or red beans?

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you slurp away. In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives. Chatchawat Rienkhemaniyom once owned a bubble tea shop in California. As he put it, "[Bubble tea] has become life."

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Credit: Voice of America*

### **Dictionary**

**creative** (*adjective*) good at thinking up new ideas

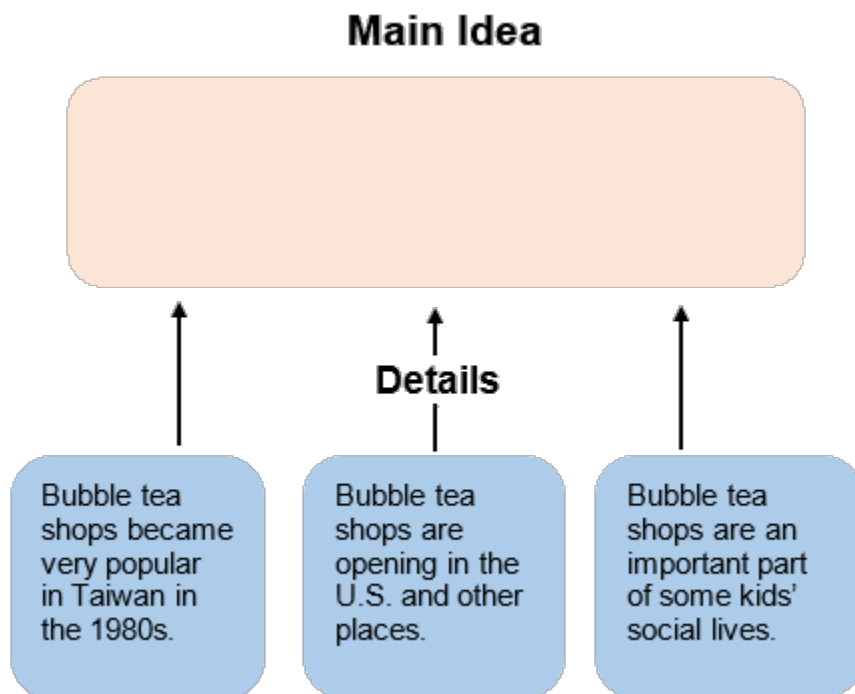
**option** (*noun*) choice

**originally** (*adverb*) in the beginning or at first

**social** (*adjective*) having to do with spending time with other people for fun

## **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Bubble tea shops became very popular in Taiwan in the 1980s." The box in the middle says "Bubble tea shops are opening in the U.S. and other places." The box on the right says "Bubble tea shoes are an important part of some kids' social lives."

- Ⓐ People can order bubble tea their own way, with some shops offering over a hundred flavors.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea shops are great places to hang out with friends, play games, or study.
- Ⓒ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be tapioca balls or the foam that forms on top of the drink.
- Ⓓ The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to much of the world.

#### Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *creative*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Popular
- Ⓑ Thrifty
- Ⓒ Clever
- Ⓓ Successful

#### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *second*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops started opening in the United States, with some offering over a hundred flavors.
- Ⓑ Tapioca, a food created from the root of a tropical plant, was used to make desserts in Taiwan.
- Ⓒ Bubble tea shops became very popular in many parts of the United States and beyond.
- Ⓓ A drink and snack made of tea, creamer, ice, and tapioca was invented in Taiwan.

#### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan.
- Ⓑ There are shops that offer over a hundred different flavors and styles of bubble tea.
- Ⓒ Some high school students go to bubble tea shops to hang out with their friends.
- Ⓓ Mango is a much tastier flavor than either matcha or chocolate pudding.

#### Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Looking up the word "tea" in a dictionary
- Ⓑ Looking on a map of the United States in an atlas
- Ⓒ Reading about how tapioca is made in a food science textbook
- Ⓓ Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

### Question 6

The Article states:

**Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty *decisions*. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *decisions*, as it is used above?

- (A) Targets
- (B) Choices
- (C) Mysteries
- (D) Doubts

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is a big part of life in the United States?

- (A) Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness.
- (B) In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.
- (C) In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where a lot of people from Taiwan live.
- (D) Bubble tea was invented in the 1980s. At the time, tapioca desserts and milk tea were popular in Taiwan. Some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea. The result was bubble tea.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) There are more bubble tea shops in the United States than in any other country in the world.
- (B) Tapioca desserts were popular in the U.S. long before they became popular in Taiwan.
- (C) Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be difficult, especially for those who have never ordered it before.
- (D) Bubble tea shops in Southern California encourage customers to finish their drinks quickly.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Newer is better.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What is bubble tea? What can you tell about the people who visit bubble tea shops? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Cooking Up Native Traditions (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Sean Sherman saw a problem in Native American communities. He came up with a plan to fix it. What do you think?

**Don't sit back when you see a problem—find ways to fix it yourself.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Amy Forliti

*Sean Sherman whips up Native American recipes for his catering business, The Sioux Chef.*

**Minneapolis, Minnesota** (Achieve3000, January 17, 2020). Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these groceries. The foods were given to them by the U.S. government. Later in life, Sherman, whose family are Oglala Lakota Sioux, raised this question: Why didn't his family have foods that came from their culture?

And Sherman would have even more questions: Why weren't Native American recipes being more widely used? Where could those recipes even be found? And why don't more restaurants serve Native American foods?

Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.

Then Sherman had an idea. He started his own catering business. He called it The Sioux Chef. He also started a group called NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems). His big plan? To bring back traditional Native American food to today's world.

But why was it lost in the first place?

Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans used traditional practices to grow and hunt many different kinds of food. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.

Making matters worse: During the late 1800s, the U.S. government sent Native American children to boarding schools. They were taught cooking and farming methods. But they never learned how to do things the way their ancestors did.

That's why Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions. His recipes avoid ingredients that were introduced by Europeans, such as beef and wheat. They use local plants and other natural ingredients. These include elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.

For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating is believed to have caused illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. Sherman wants to address this problem with the help of Native foods. They're better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. The foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients. But Native American food is *not* just a passing idea, says Sherman. It's a way of life.

*Video credit: The Sioux Chef*

### **Dictionary**

**cater** (*verb*) to provide food and drinks at a party, meeting, etc., especially as a job

**indigenous** (*adjective*) produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment

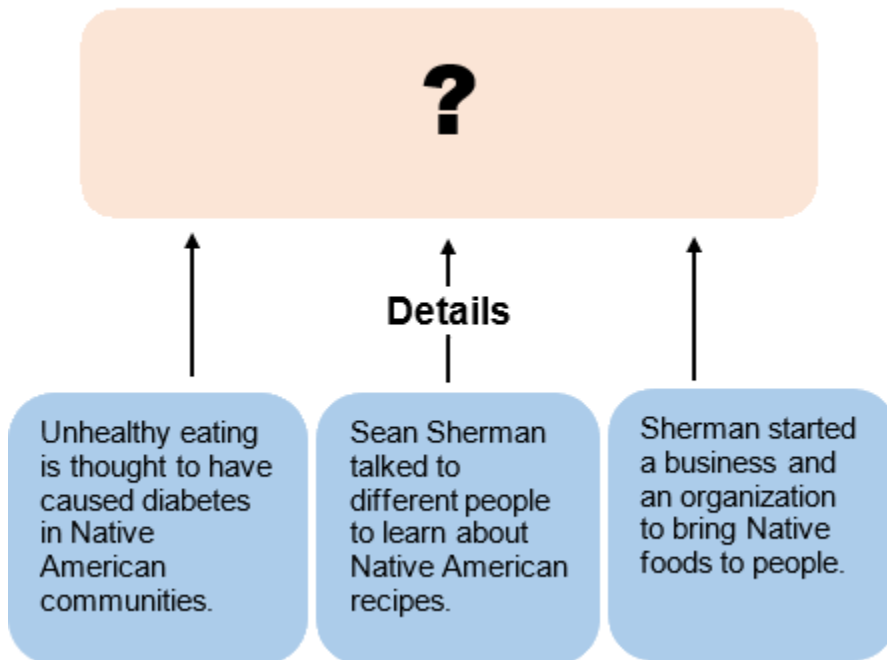
**recipe** (*noun*) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients



### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- Ⓐ Native American foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table movement, which is all about using local fresh ingredients.
- Ⓑ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American cooking traditions.
- Ⓒ When Sean Sherman was growing up, his family cupboard was packed with canned beans, boxed rice, and vegetable oil.
- Ⓓ Before the arrival of Europeans, Native peoples used traditional ways of growing and hunting food.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The government meant to do the right thing when it gave free food to Native Americans.
- Ⓑ After the Europeans arrived, many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.
- Ⓒ Sean Sherman learned about traditional foods by talking with Native American chefs.
- Ⓓ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back Native food traditions.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating is believed to have caused illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. Sherman wants to address this problem with the help of Native foods. They're better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show that traditional Native American foods are healthy because they aren't high in sodium, fat, and sugar
- Ⓑ To argue that many people avoid the traditional Native American diet because it can lead to illness
- Ⓒ To describe how Sean Sherman is using ingredients such as sodium, sugar, and fats to create new dishes
- Ⓓ To point out that the only real reason Sean Sherman has recreated Native recipes is that it connects him with his culture

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *recipe*?

- Ⓐ method
- Ⓑ council
- Ⓒ ancestor
- Ⓓ harvest

### Question 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Many Native Americans will change over to an all-meat diet that includes large amounts of beef, elk, and quail.
- Ⓑ Sean Sherman will include more canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil in his recipes.
- Ⓒ More people will become familiar with the Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef.
- Ⓓ Sean Sherman will teach university courses that show students how to prepare European dishes with natural ingredients.

### Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What foods were found in Sherman's cupboard when he was a boy
- Ⓑ Who Sherman turned to when he wanted to find out about Native foods
- Ⓒ Why it is hard to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice
- Ⓓ Which problem NATIFS hopes to address by bringing back traditional foods

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**That's why Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions. His recipes avoid ingredients that were *introduced* by Europeans, such as beef and wheat. They use local plants and other natural ingredients. These include elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.**

In this passage, the word *introduce* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ to keep someone from using or doing something
- Ⓑ to bring something to a place for the first time
- Ⓒ to prove that something is not true or real
- Ⓓ to prepare food for eating by using heat

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

- Ⓐ Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these groceries. The foods were given to them by the U.S. government.
- Ⓑ Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.
- Ⓒ Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans used traditional practices to grow and hunt many different kinds of food. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.
- Ⓓ So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. The foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients. But Native American food is *not* just a passing idea, says Sherman. It's a way of life.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Don't sit back when you see a problem—find ways to fix it yourself.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe something that Sean Sherman did and explain what that tells about him. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Defying Gravity (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Simone Biles has been called the greatest gymnast ever. However, her rise to the top has not always been easy. What do you think?

**With enough hard work, anything is possible.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP

*Simone Biles shows off her hardware. The gymnast won five gold medals at the 2019 gymnastics world championships.*

**STUTTGART, Germany** (Achieve3000, October 24, 2019). Is 25 a lot? It depends. Twenty-five days of summer vacation are not nearly enough. Twenty-five gymnastics medals? Now that's *a lot* of hardware. Just ask Simone Biles.

In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world! And as if that wasn't enough, two of the special moves she pulled off will now bear her name. One is called the "Biles." It's a mind-boggling double-double dismount from the balance beam with a double-twisting double backflip. Whew—that's even hard to *say*!

When you see Biles perform, prepare to be amazed. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand super strength. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic! But it was good ole fashioned practice and determination that took this go-getter to the top.

Born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, Biles didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. Then in 2003, her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her. Biles has said her success wouldn't be possible without their support. And they can't be missed cheering her on in the crowd at every event.

Biles discovered gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. And even from a young age, she gave her all to her sport. Her mother has said that Biles never skipped practice. She showed up even when she was sick.

But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. In 2013, she was picked for the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team after two members had to drop out. Biles stepped in for none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!

Biles continued to take part in top gymnastics meets. She went toe-to-toe with the best of the best, often capturing the gold. At age 19, she was chosen to lead Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. By then, many already recognized Biles as the greatest of all time, or GOAT. Along with a fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio. She won five medals in total. *Four* of them were gold.

Simone Biles' journey from childhood to jaw-dropping success as a gymnast is one of overcoming. She's an example to young women working to make their dreams come true. And it's safe to say this champion isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been gearing up for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!

*Credit: Video Credit: Team USA*

## **Dictionary**

**determination** (*noun*) a quality that makes you continue trying to do or achieve something that is difficult

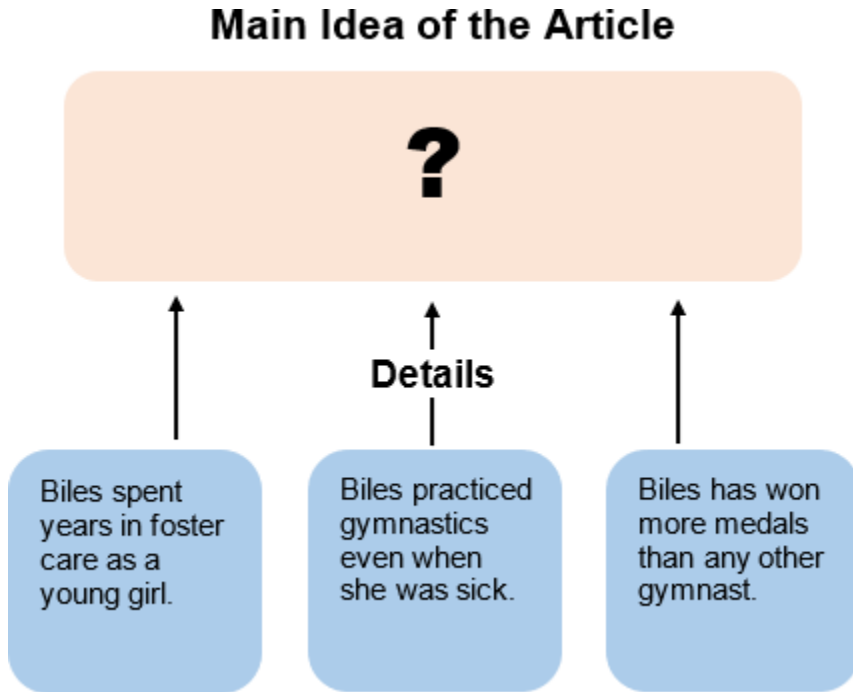
**foster** (*adjective*) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

**junior** (*adjective*) younger in age

**technique** (*noun*) the way that a person performs basic physical movements or skills

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Biles spent years in foster care as a young girl." The box in the middle says "Biles practiced gymnastics even when she was sick." The box on the right says "Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast."

- Ⓐ After spending many years in foster care, Simone Biles' grandparents adopted her in 2003.
- Ⓑ With strength and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles failed to achieve a spot on the 2011 U.S. women's junior national team.
- Ⓓ At a recent world championship, Simone Biles performed a move known as the "Biles."

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Gymnast Simone Biles spent her early years in foster care until she was adopted in 2003.
- Ⓑ Simone Biles' super strength has been the true key to her success in gymnastics.
- Ⓒ In October 2019, gymnast Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal.
- Ⓓ Simone Biles was chosen as a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013.

Question 3

The Article states:

**But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. In 2013, she was picked for the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team after two members had to drop out. Biles stepped in for none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out that Simone Biles is a better gymnast than gold medalist Kyla Ross
- Ⓑ To suggest that Simone Biles worked just as hard as any Olympic gold medalist
- Ⓒ To show that a big setback only made Simone Biles try harder to achieve success
- Ⓓ To say that Simone Biles was very happy when Kyla Ross had to drop out of the team

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *technique*?

- Ⓐ accident
- Ⓑ elegance
- Ⓒ career
- Ⓓ method

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Simone Biles' grandparents were very worried that Biles might hurt herself while practicing
- Ⓑ gymnast Simone Biles only missed gymnastics practice as a child when she was very sick
- Ⓒ Simone Biles took the place of gold medalist Kyla Ross because Biles was a better gymnast
- Ⓓ gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with heartbreaking setbacks

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Who Simone Biles took the place of to join the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013
- Ⓑ How old Simone Biles was when she was first introduced to the sport of gymnastics
- Ⓒ What are the names of the two special moves that Biles performed at the world championships
- Ⓓ How many world championship medals Simone Biles has won so far in her lifetime

### Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

**Born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, Biles didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. Then in 2003, her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, *adopted* her. Biles has said her success wouldn't be possible without their support.**

In this passage, the word *adopted* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ to say good things about someone or something
- Ⓑ to take a child of other parents legally as your own
- Ⓒ to fail to take care of or give attention to someone
- Ⓓ to cause someone to do something by asking or arguing

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties as she made her way to victory?

- Ⓐ Biles continued to take part in top gymnastics meets. She went toe-to-toe with the best of the best, often capturing the gold. At age 19, she was chosen to lead Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.
- Ⓑ When you see Biles perform, prepare to be amazed. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand super strength. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic!
- Ⓒ In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world! And as if that wasn't enough, two of the special moves she pulled off will now bear her name.
- Ⓓ But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**With enough hard work, anything is possible.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Who is Simone Biles and why has she been called the greatest gymnast ever? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



# The Early-Late Debate (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people want later start times for middle schools and high schools. These people want start times pushed back until 8 a.m. or later. What do you think?

**Middle schools and high schools should start later.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

*It's hard to learn when you're falling asleep! Should the school day get off to a later start?*

**SACRAMENTO, California** (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Ever feel like drifting back to dreamland when it's time to get up for school? If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of scientists and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. They say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and success at school.

There's good news for some teens who like to snooze. In 2019, California passed a new law. It sets rules for when schools in the U.S. state can start. High schools will start at 8:30 a.m. or later. Middle schools will start at 8 a.m. or later. The changes will happen in the 2022 school year.

So older students might get more minutes of California dreamin'. But the new law doesn't cover elementary schools. Why not? The reason has to do with changes that happen in the body in 24-hour cycles. *How much* you sleep is important. But *when* you sleep matters, too.

Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night. But unlike younger or older people, they usually get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on some tiptop z's.

Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Studies suggest students sleep more when

schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

Maybe the biggest roadblock for school districts looking into later start times? Buses! If all schools start near the same time, a district has to pay for more buses and drivers. That's one reason so many high schools start very early. Flipping the schedules so that elementary schools start first has drawbacks, too. Younger kids need more total hours of sleep. And early elementary dismissal times could be hard on working parents.

California schools will face some tough choices. People in other places will watch to see how the experiment goes. In fact, several school districts outside California have already set later start times. Seattle Public Schools is an example. High schools there start no earlier than 8:45 a.m. A new law may soon be passed in Ohio. It would push back start times in that state.

How about you? Like to start school bright and early? Or would you rather snooze till the sun is high in the sky?

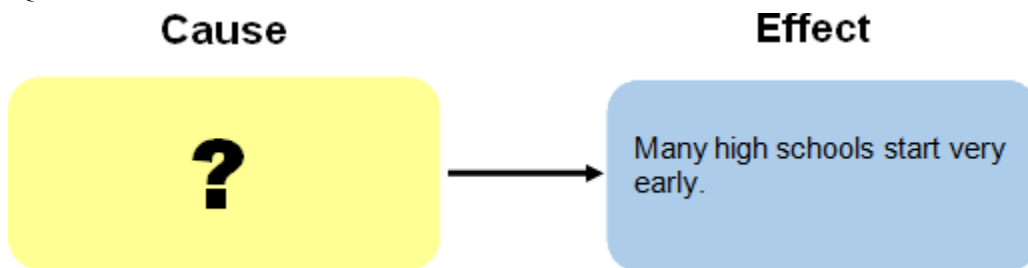
### Dictionary

**academic** (*adjective*) of or relating to schools and education

**research** (*noun*) careful study that is done to find and report new knowledge about something

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," and it has a question mark in it. There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Many high schools start very early."

- Ⓐ Going to bed earlier and waking up earlier helps teens get a better night's rest.
- Ⓑ Districts have to pay for more buses when all schools start near the same time.
- Ⓒ How much teens sleep is important, but when they sleep matters, too.
- Ⓓ Studies suggest students don't sleep more when schools start later.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ A later school start time for adolescents could cause problems such as less time for after-school sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- Ⓑ Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, and people are talking about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.
- Ⓒ Students who don't get the sleep they need can have serious health problems, and their academic success can be affected.
- Ⓓ People in other places will watch to see how starting school later goes for California, and how problems resulting from later start times are handled.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The push for later start times paid off in Seattle where high schools start at 8:45 or later.
- Ⓑ How long students sleep is important, but when they sleep matters, too.
- Ⓒ A new California law says that middle schools must start no earlier than 8 a.m. in 2022.
- Ⓓ Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *research*?

- Ⓐ examination
- Ⓑ tradition
- Ⓒ collection
- Ⓓ preparation

Question 5

The Article says all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ what problems are caused by starting elementary schools first
- Ⓑ which places have already decided to start high schools later
- Ⓒ what times elementary school children get their best sleep
- Ⓓ what problems are caused when schools finish later in the day

Question 6

The Article states:

**Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ show that sleep is more important to adults than teens
- Ⓑ tell about problems faced by all adolescents
- Ⓒ explain how important sleep is for adolescents
- Ⓓ examine the research done on the effects of sleep

### Question 7

The Article states:

**California schools will face some *tough* choices. People in other places will watch to see how the experiment goes.**

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *tough*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ leathery
- Ⓑ difficult
- Ⓒ delicate
- Ⓓ hardy

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether a later school start time will be better for students?

- Ⓐ Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night. But unlike younger or older people, they usually get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on some tiptop z's.
- Ⓑ Studies suggest students sleep more when schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!
- Ⓒ If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of scientists and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. They say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and success at school.
- Ⓓ Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Middle schools and high schools should start later.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Do you think middle schools and high schools should start later in the day? Why or why not?

Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# Give Me S'more! (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many people like to make a dessert called s'mores. The gooey treats are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers. What do you think of this well-known saying?

**S'mores always leave you beggin' for s'more!**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

*This melty mix of chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers is a s'more.*

**SAVANNAH, Georgia** (Achieve3000, July 18, 2019). *S'more, j'adore!* That's French. It means, "I love a s'more." And who doesn't?

If you've never tasted the fresh, gooey delight, now's your chance! Here's how to make a s'more:

1. Break a graham cracker in half. Place part of a chocolate bar on one half.
2. Put a marshmallow on a stick. Hold it over a campfire.
3. Use the stick to set the hot marshmallow on the chocolate.
4. Place the other graham cracker half on top of the marshmallow, creating a sandwich.
5. Smoosh everything together and pull out the stick.
6. Devour immediately!

A s'more takes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and puts them together to create melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*" Then you'll wonder, "Who thought of *this?*"

It wasn't our ancient ancestors. Think about it. It's not like they could just run over to Walmart and grab a bag of marshmallows, some chocolate, and a box of graham crackers. Plus, in order for s'mores to become a thing, some of the key ingredients had to be developed first.

Take the marshmallows. These yummy treats aren't new. But for hundreds of years, they were a luxury only the rich enjoyed. You needed eggs, sugar, and the root sap of a plant called the "marsh mallow." Each treat

was poured and molded by hand. Today's marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make. So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

As for the chocolate, many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars. Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker named Daniel Peter invented a process to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make what we know as "milk chocolate."

No one's really sure who first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers. But it might have been someone connected with the Girl Scouts. A 1927 Girl Scouts manual mentions a treat called "Some More."

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.

S'more deliciousness? Yes, please!

*Information for this story came from AP.*

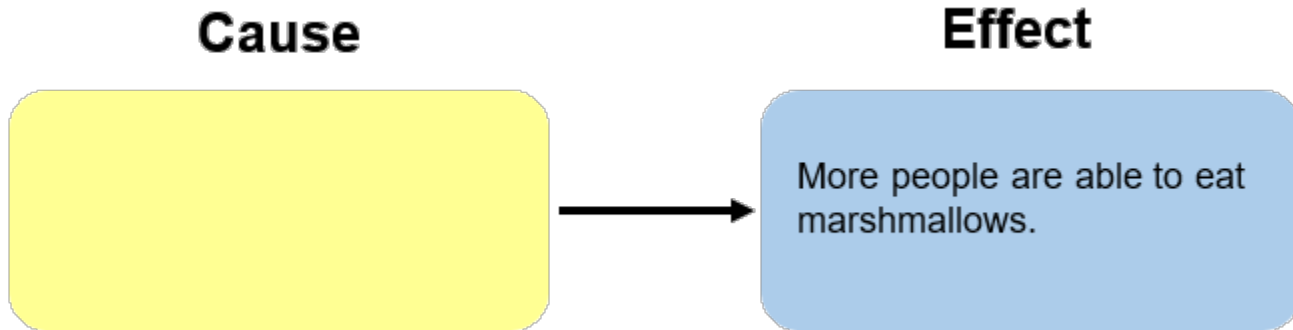
*Video credit: Hilah Cooking*

### **Dictionary**

<b>devour</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	eat quickly and with greed
<b>indulge</b> ( <i>verb</i> )	to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable
<b>luxury</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	something that costs a lot and is nice to have but is not really needed
<b>manual</b> ( <i>noun</i> )	a small book that gives instructions or helpful information about something

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "More people are able to eat marshmallows."

- Ⓐ Marshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- Ⓑ A Swiss candy maker invented a way to mix milk and sugar.
- Ⓒ Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.
- Ⓓ A Girl Scouts manual explained how to make marshmallows.

#### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ To make a s'more, roast a marshmallow and place it and chocolate between graham crackers.
- Ⓑ Ancient chocolate was made from cacao seeds and did not include sweetener.
- Ⓒ Years ago, people could not go to stores to buy the ingredients needed to make s'mores.
- Ⓓ In 1875, Daniel Peter invented an important process used to make milk chocolate.

#### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Easier and cheaper
- Ⓑ Seed and root
- Ⓒ Ancient and modern
- Ⓓ Treat and luxury

#### Question 4

The Article says all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Ancient chocolate was dark, grainy, and bitter.
- Ⓑ Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s using whole wheat flour.
- Ⓒ In 1875, a chocolate maker mixed milk, sugar, and chocolate to form milk chocolate.

- Ⓓ Marshmallows were first made using root sap from a plant called the "marsh mallow."

Question 5

The Article states:

**These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Explain how oven-baked s'mores are different from microwaved s'mores
- Ⓑ Inform readers about the dangers and drawbacks of campfire cooking
- Ⓒ Persuade readers to buy more snacks, and to use safe cooking methods
- Ⓓ Show how popular s'mores are and suggest different ways to make them

Question 6

The Article states:

**There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can *construct* a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *construct*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Prepare
- Ⓑ Imagine
- Ⓒ Skip
- Ⓓ Afford

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first used in desserts?

- Ⓐ Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more.
- Ⓑ A s'more takes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and puts them together to create melty goodness. Yes, it's messy.
- Ⓒ Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.
- Ⓓ No one's really sure who first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers. But it might have been someone connected with the Girl Scouts.



Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after their group's 1927 manual came out.
- Ⓑ Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.
- Ⓒ Daniel Peter would not have liked the current ingredients used to make s'mores.
- Ⓓ S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

#### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**S'mores always leave you beggin' for s'more!**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

**STEP 2a:** Find the main idea for each paragraph.

**STEP 2b:** Take out any facts that are not needed.

**STEP 2c:** Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Global Game Fame (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In 2019, several video games were chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame. One game came out in 1976. Two others came out in the 1990s. What do you think?

**Older video games are more fun to play.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP

*The Strong National Museum of Play chooses which games get the honor of being in the World Video Game Hall of Fame.*

**ROCHESTER, New York** (Achieve3000, May 10, 2019). Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award, kind of like a Nobel Prize for video games? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. It houses a collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games.

The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's new hall-of-famers: *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*.

The chosen winners are not always fun, new games. Often, they're often old-fashioned. People don't actually play them anymore. *Colossal Cave Adventure*, for example, is a text-based computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have added something to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.

Some winners seem unpopular. Or they seem simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games brought big changes to gaming.

Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.

*Super Mario Kart* is another game that finally made the grade in 2019. This much-loved game was the first of the *Mario Kart* racing series. It came out way back in 1992. Fun fact: The game wasn't actually meant to include Mario. But a drawing of the famous plumber in the driver's seat captured everyone's attention. The rest is history!

The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. These included cell phone games. Online and virtual games were also in the running. Some of the finalists were *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Maybe you play some of these. Or maybe your favorite didn't make the cut. Do you have strong opinions about which games should be nominated next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games. If enough people suggest the same game, it will win a nomination.

Let's hope your favorite games are chosen. But say your pick doesn't make it. You can still go to the award show. It's held each year in Rochester, NY. People play games. Bands perform songs from video games. And the world's most influential video games finally get their due.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

## **Dictionary**

**influential** (*adjective*) having an effect on people, their actions, or events

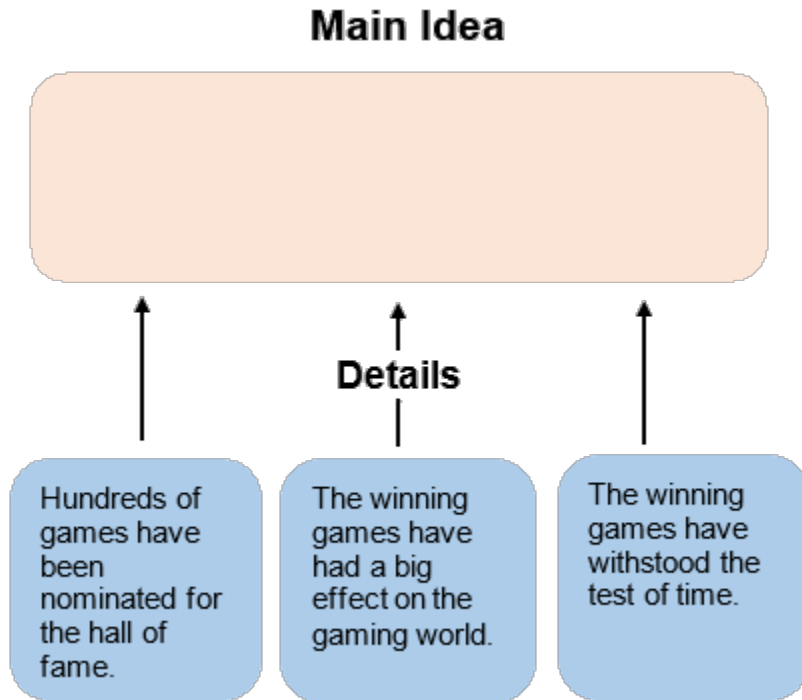
**nominate** (*verb*) to suggest someone or something for an award or honor

**plumber** (*noun*) someone who works on pipes, bathtubs, sinks, toilets, and other things that carry water

**virtual** (*adjective*) on the computer, but appearing to be real-life

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Hundreds of games have been nominated for the hall of fame." The box in the middle says "The winning games have had a big effect on the gaming world." The box on the right says "The winning games have withstood the test of time."

- Ⓐ *Microsoft Solitaire* is a game that can teach players how to use a computer mouse.
- Ⓑ *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a computer game that first came out in 1976.
- Ⓒ Some winners of the World Video Game Hall of Fame seem unpopular or simple today.
- Ⓓ Every year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

#### Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *nominate*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Imitate
- Ⓑ Admire
- Ⓒ Suggest
- Ⓓ Deliver

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The fast action video game *Super Mario Kart* is more fun to play than *Microsoft Solitaire*.
- Ⓑ *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a text-based computer game that helped start computer gaming.
- Ⓒ Anyone can go online to nominate games for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- Ⓓ The museum welcomed its first games into the World Video Game Hall of Fame in 2015.

Question 4

Think about the Article. In what way are *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* different?

- (A) Only *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players a computer skill.
- (B) Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was popular with gaming fans.
- (C) Only *Super Mario Kart* withstood the test of time.
- (D) Only *Super Mario Kart* was used on computers.

Question 5

The Article states:

**In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. It *houses* a collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *houses*, as it is used above?

- (A) Contains
- (B) Markets
- (C) Refuses
- (D) Prepares

Question 6

The Article states:

**To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have added something to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To tell the reader that the winning games are usually the very newest games
- (B) To suggest that the gaming world can have a big effect on the winning games
- (C) To describe how games are chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- (D) To explain how gaming fans can help to choose the next hall of fame winners

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that winning games should have had a big effect on the gaming industry?

- (A) Do you have strong opinions about which games should be nominated next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games.
- (B) The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. These included cell phone games. Online and virtual games were also in the running. Some of the finalists were *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.
- (C) Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.
- (D) The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated.

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ Next year's hall of fame winners may not be the most popular games around at the time.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* will be nominated for the hall of fame next year.
- Ⓒ The rules for choosing which games become hall of fame winners will change next year.
- Ⓓ All of next year's hall of fame nominees will be chosen by a team of judges at the museum.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Older video games are more fun to play.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a story about visiting the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Which video game did you most want to see and why? Use describing words from the Article in your answer.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly? (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many fruits and veggies are wasted because they don't look "perfect." Now, some companies are selling "ugly" fruits and veggies. They ship them to people's homes. What do you think?

**All "ugly" produce should be given away to people in need.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Joshua McKerrow/The Baltimore Sun  
*Does this carrot have a tail? A company is selling it anyway.*

**URBANDALE, Iowa** (Achieve3000, May 6, 2019). Brace yourselves, people. This may not be pretty!

We'd like to have a fruitful debate about the ugliest produce. You know—strawberries that have arms, apples so bruised they look like they've just come out of the boxing ring, and tomatoes that seem to have horns.

Now, be honest. Would you put these peculiar fruits and veggies in your shopping cart? Your answer might be "heck no." And that's why many supermarkets put out only the prettiest produce.

But ugly fruits deserve love, too. In recent years, a new crop of "ugly produce" companies have blossomed across the U.S. These start-ups sell those supermarket rejects. And they deliver them right to your door.

The companies say they're on a mission. They want to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste. Think of it this way: Is a banged-up banana any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich? Why should it be thrown away?

Sounds like these companies have the right idea. They even offer deep discounts. That's great news for customers. But not everyone is happy. Critics say these companies may be thinking only about themselves.

### **The Ugly Truth?**

Imperfect produce isn't always wasted, these critics say.

Many small farmers had already been selling imperfect produce to customers and farmers markets. Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.

Also, ugly fruits and veggies already have uses. Take the food service industry. There, produce is sliced, diced, blended, and more. No one cares if the fruit is pretty or ugly. On farms, fruits can be fed to animals. Rotted fruit is added back into soil for nutrients. And, what's more, ugly produce companies have been accused of taking food away from the needy.

Are these start-ups causing more harm than good?

### **Not So Bad, After All?**

What do ugly produce companies say? They are defending themselves.

In March 2019, Imperfect Produce informed people that the company doesn't take away from the needy. It sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want, it said. Also, the company often *gives* food to food banks. Put *that* in your food basket!

It is true that produce goes to waste in America. The Department of Agriculture has said that food waste is a big problem. In fact, an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted.

But Imperfect Produce says both farmers and ugly produce companies can help reduce food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.

No matter whose side you're on, remember this: It's what's on the inside that counts.

### **Dictionary**

**compete** (*verb*) to go against other companies in trying to get customers

**discount** (*noun*) a price that is lower than usual

**food bank** (*noun*) a place that gives food to hungry people

**industry** (*noun*) a type of trade or business

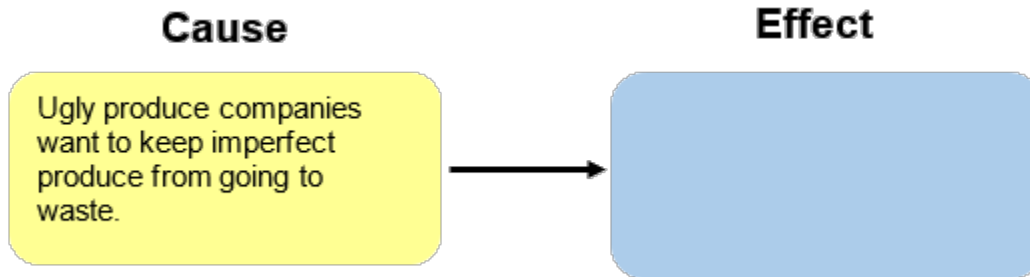
**nutrient** (*noun*) what a living thing needs to live, such as water and minerals

**reject** (*noun*) something that is not wanted



### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best fits in the empty box above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Ugly produce companies want to keep imperfect produce from going to waste." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- (A) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.
- (B) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that food service companies prepare.
- (C) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that are from food banks.
- (D) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that are used to feed farm animals.

#### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- (A) Ugly produce companies say their mission is to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.
- (B) Some ugly fruits can be fed to farm animals, and rotted fruit can be plowed back into the soil to add nutrients.
- (C) Many small farmers have been selling imperfect produce to consumers and farmers markets.
- (D) The company Imperfect Produce said in March 2019 that it often gives food to food banks for the needy.

#### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- (A) Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.
- (B) It's important for small farmers who are losing money to ugly produce companies to reach out to more customers.
- (C) It's pointless to give bad reviews of ugly produce companies because customers are very interested in avoiding food waste and saving money.
- (D) Supermarkets deserve the blame for food being wasted, because they reject good produce based on its appearance.

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *discount*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Upgrade
- Ⓑ Markdown
- Ⓒ Addition
- Ⓓ Raise

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce companies, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good
- Ⓑ Convince readers to only buy food from companies that work with small farmers to avoid food waste in the United States
- Ⓒ Explain the reasons why some ugly produce companies should be thinking of different ways to gain new customers
- Ⓓ Criticize ugly produce companies for not doing enough to support food banks that give unwanted fruits and vegetables to the needy

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that ugly produce companies are only thinking about making money for themselves?

- Ⓐ Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.
- Ⓑ But Imperfect Produce says both farmers and ugly produce companies can help reduce food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.
- Ⓒ In March 2019, Imperfect Produce informed people that the company doesn't take away from the needy. It sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want, it said.
- Ⓓ The companies say they're on a mission. They want to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste. Think of it this way: Is a banged-up banana any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich? Why should it be thrown away?

Question 7

The Article states:

**But ugly fruits deserve love, too. In recent years, a new crop of "ugly produce" companies have *blossomed* across the U.S. These start-ups sell those supermarket rejects. And they deliver them right to your door.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *blossomed*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Grown
- Ⓑ Faded
- Ⓒ Stood
- Ⓓ Struggled

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ As more customers buy from ugly produce companies, some supermarkets may start selling ugly produce in their stores.
- Ⓑ As small farmers start selling ugly fruits and vegetables to people in their neighborhoods, ugly produce companies will be forced out of business.
- Ⓒ Ugly produce companies will inform customers that food waste is no longer a problem in the U.S.
- Ⓓ

Food banks will begin to buy their fruits and vegetables from ugly produce companies.

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All "ugly" produce should be given away to people in need.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Are ugly produce companies causing more harm than good? Summarize both sides of the argument for and against ugly produce companies. Which side do you agree with and why? Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

# Katherine the Great (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One woman did math for NASA. She started in the 1950s. Back then, many African American women were told they could not have high-level jobs. What do you think?

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP

*Katherine Johnson's work doing math for NASA made headlines.*

**HAMPTON, Virginia** (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or starred in a movie. She has not been an Olympic athlete or featured in a fashion show, either. Johnson's greatness comes from her work as a math expert.

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: From the 1950s until the 1980s, Johnson worked for NASA, where her math helped push the U.S. space program forward. Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So you could say she's a hero.

The 2016 movie *Hidden Figures* tells the story of Johnson and two other African American women. They worked behind the scenes at NASA as "human computers." They did the math for orbital trajectories. That is important work. Especially when people are being sent into space.

"Human computers" had to be great at math. And Johnson was. Born in 1918, Johnson was a whiz kid. She graduated from college with a degree in math. Then, she became a teacher. In 1953, Johnson got a job as a human computer.

Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA because her math was always correct. That year, NASA was preparing for Friendship 7. It was a mission that would put astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers to do the math for Glenn's trip around Earth. Computers are usually fast and correct. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke

down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.

"If she says they're good," Johnson later remembered Glenn saying, "then I'm ready to go." Johnson did the math, and Friendship 7 was a success.

Johnson worked on many other missions. Project Apollo was one. (That's the 1969 mission that put astronauts on the moon for the first time.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

Johnson retired from NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018. But she hasn't slowed down much. In fact, Johnson wrote her story. In the summer of 2019, *Reaching for the Moon* will come out.

Johnson's book is an autobiography for young readers. She wants kids to believe they can do anything.

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: NASA*

### **Dictionary**

**autobiography** (*noun*) the story of someone's life written by that person

**retire** (*verb*) to leave a job at the end of a career

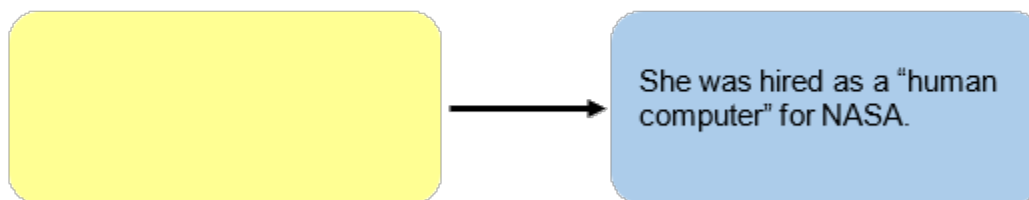
**trajectory** (*noun*) the path of an object through space

### **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

#### Question 1

**Cause**

**Effect**



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "She was hired as a "human computer" for NASA."

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson was a numbers whiz with a degree in math.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson knew astronaut John Glenn.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson was in the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson wrote an autobiography.

Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old in 2018.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson worked on Project Apollo.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson wrote a book that comes out in 2019.

Question 3

Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson worked on a mission that sent astronauts to the moon.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson retired from NASA after working there for many years.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson's autobiography called *Reaching for the Moon* came out.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Movie and film
- Ⓑ Autobiography and book
- Ⓒ Trip and journey
- Ⓓ Famous and unknown

Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to find out about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In an article about NASA's work over the years
- Ⓑ In a book that has photos of the moon
- Ⓒ In a dictionary entry for "trajectory"
- Ⓓ In a picture showing all of NASA's "human computers"

Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In the 1960s, astronauts completely trusted programmed computers to give them correct information.
- Ⓑ Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.
- Ⓒ As soon as she graduated from college, Katherine Johnson tried to get a job at NASA.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson was famous during her many years as a human computer at NASA.

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely knew at the time?

- Ⓐ Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones).
- Ⓑ Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA because her math was always correct.
- Ⓒ But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.
- Ⓓ Johnson worked on many other missions. Project Apollo was one. (That's the 1969 mission that put astronauts on the moon for the first time.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

### Question 8

The Article says:

**Computers are usually fast and *correct*. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too.**

Which would be the closest **antonym** for the word *correct*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Fun
- Ⓑ Right
- Ⓒ Dull
- Ⓓ Wrong

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe Katherine Johnson's work at NASA. How did she help lead the way for women and African Americans to succeed in math and other technical fields? Use facts and details from the lesson in your answer.

# The Last Generation? (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people from the Pacific Islands are working to stop climate change. Rising seas could take away their homeland. What do you think?

**Everyone should work together to stop climate change.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

*The capital city of Majuro, Marshall Islands, is only 300 feet wide in most places. Yet the thin strip of land is home to over 27,000 people.*

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands** (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on a tropical island might sound wonderful. But what if you left for a trip and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

Not if the islanders have anything to do about it. These people are deeply connected to their home. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the people of these separate countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.

Why is climate change such a huge threat to this part of the world? It's a matter of "first and worst." Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places harmed by rising sea levels. Scientists say sea levels have risen more in the South Pacific than in other parts of the world. The Pacific Islands will likely face some of the *worst* destruction from the effects of climate change, too. The area is more likely to have very damaging tropical storms.

The nations of the Pacific Islands recognize that they're all in the same boat. Working together, they're finding ways to address the problem. Scientists already know one way to slow climate change. That's by greatly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect. After all, the islands aren't a big source of emissions to begin with.



But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!

So Pacific Islanders came up with a plan. In 2019, the governments of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu came together. They announced the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership. They've pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And they're aiming to have zero-carbon shipping by 2050.

How will the islanders pull this off? They plan to use some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These will make use of solar and wind energy.

But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They plan to solve other problems, too. On the list: Dealing with changes in climate. Preparing for storms. And protecting fisheries and farms from rising seawater.

Sea levels are rising. But hopes aren't sinking in the Pacific Islands. People there are fighting for life and land. They're working together so they can stay and live in their homelands for generations to come.

*Video credit: United Nations*

### **Dictionary**

**elevation** (*noun*) the height of a place

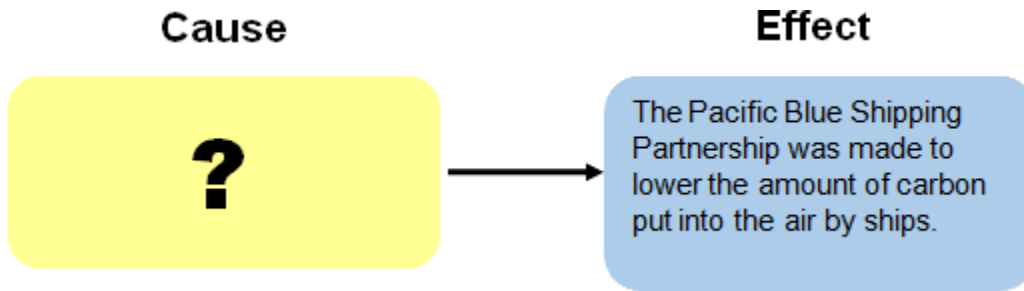
**emission** (*noun*) something sent out or given off

**generation** (*noun*) a group of people born and living during the same time

**threaten** (*verb*) to be something that is likely to cause harm to (someone or something): to be a threat to (someone or something)

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," and it has a question mark in it. There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership was made to lower the amount of carbon put into the air by ships."

- Ⓐ Pacific Islanders are increasing their ability to handle and prepare for storms.
- Ⓑ Pacific Island countries realize they are facing the effects of climate change together.
- Ⓒ The total amount of carbon emitted by the Pacific Islands is making sea levels rise.
- Ⓓ The Pacific Island countries produce about 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

#### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ the unusual natural arrangement of the 11 Pacific Island countries across the ocean
- Ⓑ the effect of climate change on the Pacific Islands, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- Ⓒ the practices of China and the United States when it comes to carbon emissions
- Ⓓ the usefulness of solar power and wind energy, which do not emit any carbon into the air

#### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ pledged and promised
- Ⓑ solve and suffer
- Ⓒ source and service
- Ⓓ destruction and danger

#### Question 4

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Which countries are working together through the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- Ⓑ Why Pacific Island countries suffer greater effects of climate change than other places
- Ⓒ Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some Pacific Island countries
- Ⓓ Which greenhouse gas emissions from ships are causing problems for Pacific Island countries

Question 5

The Article states:

**But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To explain why some Pacific Island countries made a plan for lowering ships' carbon emissions
- Ⓑ To say that Germany produces more carbon emissions than all of the Pacific Island countries
- Ⓒ To tell readers that the Pacific Islands produce almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions
- Ⓓ To point out how dangerous the Pacific Islands' carbon emissions can be for the environment

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

**Not if the islanders have anything to do about it. These people are deeply connected to their home. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the people of these *separate* countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.**

In this passage, the word *separate* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ not connected or combined
- Ⓑ not familiar with one another
- Ⓒ very cruel or violent
- Ⓓ very modern or current

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems around the entire world
- Ⓑ the countries that want to lower carbon emissions from shipping will likely fail
- Ⓒ Pacific Island countries were the first to offer solutions to the problem of climate change
- Ⓓ the Pacific Island countries each hope to put out zero carbon emissions by the year 2050

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that climate change threatens the way of life of people in Pacific Island countries?

- Ⓐ How will the islanders pull this off? They plan to use some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These will make use of solar and wind energy. But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They plan to solve other problems, too.
- Ⓑ But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!
- Ⓒ Scientists already know one way to slow climate change. That's by greatly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect. After all, the islands aren't a big source of emissions to begin with.
- Ⓓ What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Everyone should work together to stop climate change.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

How is climate change affecting the Pacific Islands? What are some Pacific Island nations doing about this problem? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# A Musical Pioneer (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In the world of classical music, most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. But South Africa's Ofentse Pitse stands out. She's a young, black, female conductor. What do you think?

**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

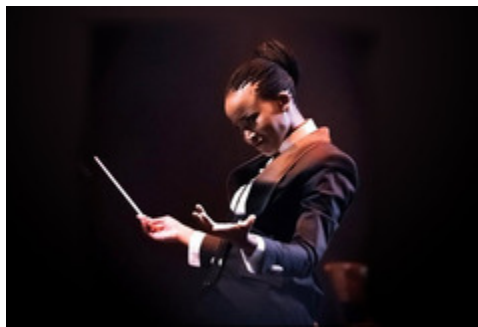


Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

*Ofentse Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and choir for young people in South Africa.*

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an all-black orchestra and youth choir in her home country of South Africa. She has set her sights on empowering black youth. And Pitse wants to showcase classical music created by African artists.

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women. And there are few conductors of color. About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S., for example, are white. Additionally, classical music started in Europe. This was hundreds of years ago. Today, it now reaches far beyond the continent. But many people still connect it with European culture. In short, as a young, black, female conductor from South Africa, Pitse is truly one of a kind.

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor. But music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she was also good at drawing. She chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse. And she listened! In 2017, she started a choir. She chose great young singers with big dreams. They were from poor communities and had few opportunities. She says the experience has changed the lives of these young people. It has allowed them to develop their gifts. Now that's something worth singing about!

And Pitse didn't stop there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. And she got help from two top-notch conductors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had sharpened her conducting skills. She had also created a 40-member orchestra of talented musicians.

What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group performs pieces by African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

*Video credit: Mesia Gumede*

### **Dictionary**

**architect** (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

**choir** (*noun*) a group of singers especially in a church

**empower** (*verb*) to give power to (someone)

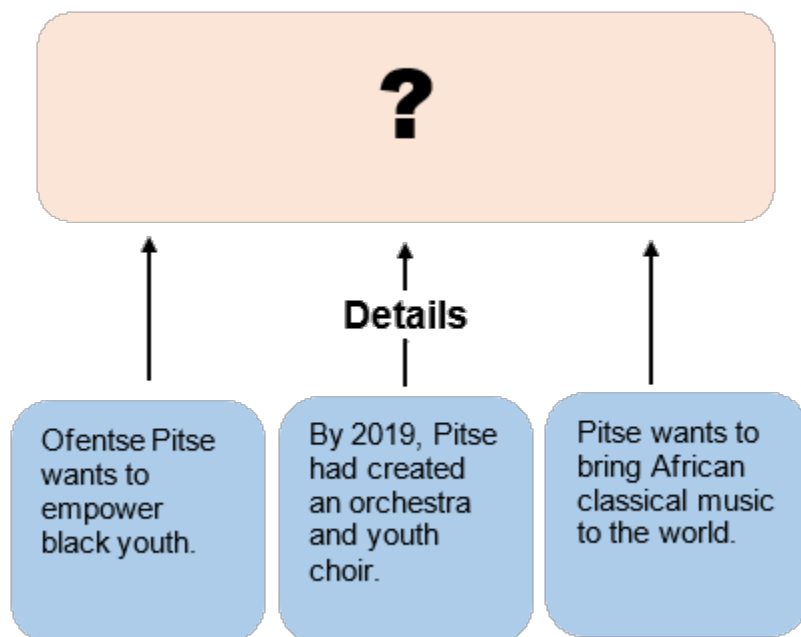
**opportunity** (*noun*) an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done: chance

**orchestra** (*noun*) a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

## **Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

### Question 1

#### **Main Idea of the Article**



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- Ⓐ Pitse chose to become an architect before she decided to create her orchestra and youth choir.
- Ⓑ Pitse founded an all-black orchestra and youth choir that performs music by African composers.
- Ⓒ Pitse got the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten.
- Ⓓ Pitse wants her audiences to enjoy the music of today's leading African composers.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Classical music started in Europe, and many people still connect it with European culture today.
- Ⓑ A recent study found that only 5 out of the top 100 conductors worldwide were women.
- Ⓒ When Ofentse Pitse wanted to form her orchestra, she got the help of two top-notch conductors.
- Ⓓ Ofentse Pitse probably became a conductor because her grandfather was a jazz band conductor.

#### Question 3

The Article states:

**What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group performs pieces by African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
- Ⓑ To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today
- Ⓒ To explain which European classical composer Ofentse Pitse wanted her orchestra to play
- Ⓓ To suggest that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are better composers than Beethoven

#### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ mastery and discovery
- Ⓑ conductor and leader
- Ⓒ skills and ideas
- Ⓓ experience and appearance

#### Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ many of the classical pieces performed by her orchestra were written by Ofentse Pitse
- Ⓑ composers Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often lead Ofentse Pitse's choir and orchestra
- Ⓒ singers in Ofentse Pitse's choir may not have been able to become performers without her help
- Ⓓ Ofentse Pitse's choir usually performs at least one piece written by Beethoven

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why Ofentse Pitse is considered a pioneer in the world of classical music
- Ⓑ How Ofentse Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
- Ⓒ How Ofentse Pitse is helping young people from poor communities in South Africa
- Ⓓ Who helped Ofentse Pitse when she wanted to form an orchestra to perform with her singers

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European *composers* like Beethoven.**

In this passage, the word *composer* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ a person who loves art
- Ⓑ a person who sings songs
- Ⓒ a person who writes music
- Ⓓ a person who plays an instrument

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts showcase the work of new or unfamiliar artists?

- Ⓐ Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor. But music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she was also good at drawing. She chose to become an architect.
- Ⓑ And Pitse didn't stop there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. And she got help from two top-notch conductors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had sharpened her conducting skills.
- Ⓒ What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.
- Ⓓ Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.



#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Imagine you are a reporter who is speaking with Ofentse Pitse. What questions might you ask her? What might her answers be? Be sure to include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and describing words, in your answer.

# Ötzi the Iceman (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Ötzi the Iceman lived about 5,300 years ago. Scientists have been studying Ötzi since his body was found in 1991. What do you think?

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock

*Ötzi the Iceman lives again in this life-size model based on his skeleton.*

**BOLZANO, Italy** (Achieve3000, November 21, 2019). It had to have been rough going for Ötzi (pronounced OET-see) the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (157 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in northern Italy. And unfortunately, the poor guy was in trouble. He suffered from a blow to his head, a serious wound on his right hand, and an arrowhead lodged in his left shoulder.

Some days were better than others in prehistory.

Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying. He also had a copper ax on hand. But escaping up a cold mountain was probably better than staying and using it. Fortunately, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass. But would he stay alive between the cold and his wounds?

He would not. Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen in ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well. The discovery made news worldwide. Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body

from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. The find gave historians helpful information about prehistoric life.

Just so you know: The Egyptian pyramids hadn't even been built yet when Ötzi was alive.

Ötzi has become the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. So have his clothing and his things. As a result, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow face, brown eyes, and tanned skin. He also had long dark hair and a shaggy beard.

Ötzi likely had health issues as well. Among them: heart disease, joint pain, and damaged lungs. He probably also had stomach worms, fleas, and Lyme disease.

So what did a Neolithic dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, a furry bearskin hat, and leather shoes.

Ötzi had other possessions, too: a flint knife, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and a deerskin case for his arrows. He also wore a calfskin belt. It had a sewn-on pouch. Inside the pouch were several small tools. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different areas hundreds of miles away. This suggests that trade took place. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too: a sloeberry, some mushrooms, and a few goat bones.

In November 2019, some new info was added to the Ötzi file. The plants found in his stomach and underfoot show his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!

## **Dictionary**

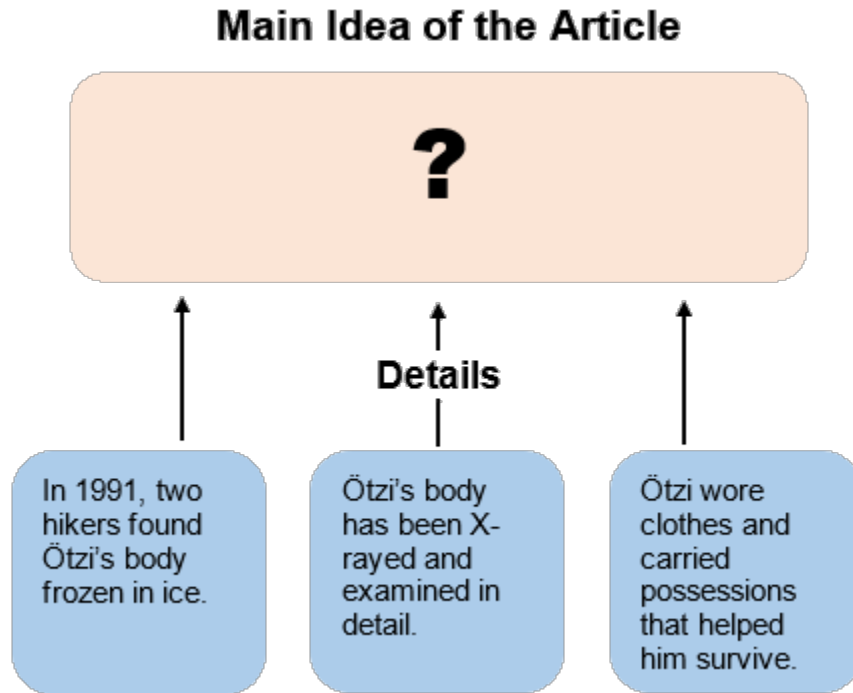
**historian** (*noun*) a person who studies or writes about history

**Neolithic** (*adjective*) of or relating to the time during the Stone Age when people used stone tools and began to grow crops, raise animals, and live together in large groups but did not read or write

**specimen** (*noun*) something (such as an animal or plant) collected as an example of a particular kind of thing

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "In 1991, two hikers found Otzi's body frozen in ice." The box in the middle says "Otzi's body has been X-rayed and examined in detail." The box on the right says "Otzi wore clothes and carried possessions that helped him survive."

- Ⓐ After being preserved for more than 5,000 years covered in ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about life long ago based on the food and tools he carried.
- Ⓑ Scientists think Ötzi had a narrow face with long dark hair, a shaggy beard, brown eyes, and tanned skin.
- Ⓒ Because of Ötzi the Iceman's wounds, it is believed he had battled with one or more other late-Neolithic men before beginning his climb up a cold mountain.
- Ⓓ Ötzi the Iceman appears to have suffered from health issues, including joint pain, heart disease, damaged lungs, Lyme disease, fleas, and stomach worms.

#### Question 2

The Article says:

**That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well. The discovery made news worldwide. Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. The find gave historians helpful information about prehistoric life.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ determine what information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman
- Ⓑ explain how important it was that Ötzi the Iceman's body was discovered in such excellent condition
- Ⓒ describe how the clothing worn by prehistoric men and women helped them survive dangerous weather conditions
- Ⓓ explore the ways in which the late-Neolithic period was responsible for advancing many modern-age tools and other belongings

### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ hides and skins
- Ⓑ ancient and current
- Ⓒ escape and avoid
- Ⓓ historian and human

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The remains of Ötzi have unearthed many discoveries, including DNA information showing that there are at least 19 modern-day people related to Ötzi.
- Ⓑ Ötzi wore clothing to help him beat the cold, including a leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats.
- Ⓒ Food discovered around Ötzi and in his stomach gave clues leading to the discovery of the route he traveled before his passing.
- Ⓓ Ötzi is the most interesting find in history because of the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery.

### Question 5

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

- Ⓐ Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying.
- Ⓑ Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen in ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well.
- Ⓒ In November 2019, some new info was added to the Ötzi file. The plants found in his stomach and underfoot show his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!
- Ⓓ So what did a Neolithic dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, a furry bearskin hat, and leather shoes.

### Question 6

The Article states:

**Ötzi had other *possessions*, too: a flint knife, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and a deerskin case for his arrows. He also wore a calfskin belt.**

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *possessions*?

- Ⓐ traditions
- Ⓑ belongings
- Ⓒ groceries
- Ⓓ accidents

### Question 7

Antonio wants to learn more about Ötzi the Iceman. He would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ reading an article about how people made their own clothing long ago
- Ⓑ reading an encyclopedia about battles during the late-Neolithic period
- Ⓒ watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period
- Ⓓ using an atlas to locate the mountains in the northern part of Italy

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Ⓐ People will start using the same trade routes people like Ötzi used long ago.
- Ⓑ Scientists will find clues about the Egyptian pyramids from Ötzi's possessions.
- Ⓒ People will try to make their own clothing like Ötzi's, using hides and grass.
- Ⓓ Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Who was Ötzi the Iceman? What have scientists learned about Ötzi and about the time when he lived? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Sniffing Out Extinction (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Trained dogs are now being used to help save endangered species. What do you think?

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus

*This conservation detection dog can sniff out the scent of different animals on land and in water.*

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Achieve3000, December 4, 2019). What *can't* a dog sniff out? Dogs can find everything from missing persons to fake money.

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

Conservationists around the world are putting dogs on the trail of at-risk animals. The hope is to find, protect, and breed the animals. The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines: from who's in the neighborhood to whether danger is near. So why not use a dog to track down a species that's endangered? The Baw Baw frog of southeastern Australia is one such species.

Since 1980, 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population has been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. If they don't, the small brown frogs might become extinct. But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

But none of this matters to two border collies, Rubble and Uda. They work for Zoos Victoria. The Australian conservation group is trying to save Baw Baw frogs. How? By learning about their habitat and breeding them in captivity. Thanks to Rubble and Uda, the results have been amazing. The dogs quickly learned to recognize the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Then they led the Zoos Victoria conservationists right to them.

In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.

And that's how you save a species.

So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours.

Conservation detection dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. Koalas. Killer whales! All the dogs have to do is smell their scat and hit the trail.

Yes, conservation can be a tough business all right. But someone's got to work to save endangered animals. And dogs win out by a nose.

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Video credit: Voice of America*

## **Dictionary**

**captivity** (*noun*) the state of being kept in a place (such as a prison or a cage) and not being able to leave or be free: the state or condition of being captive

**conservationist** (*noun*) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation

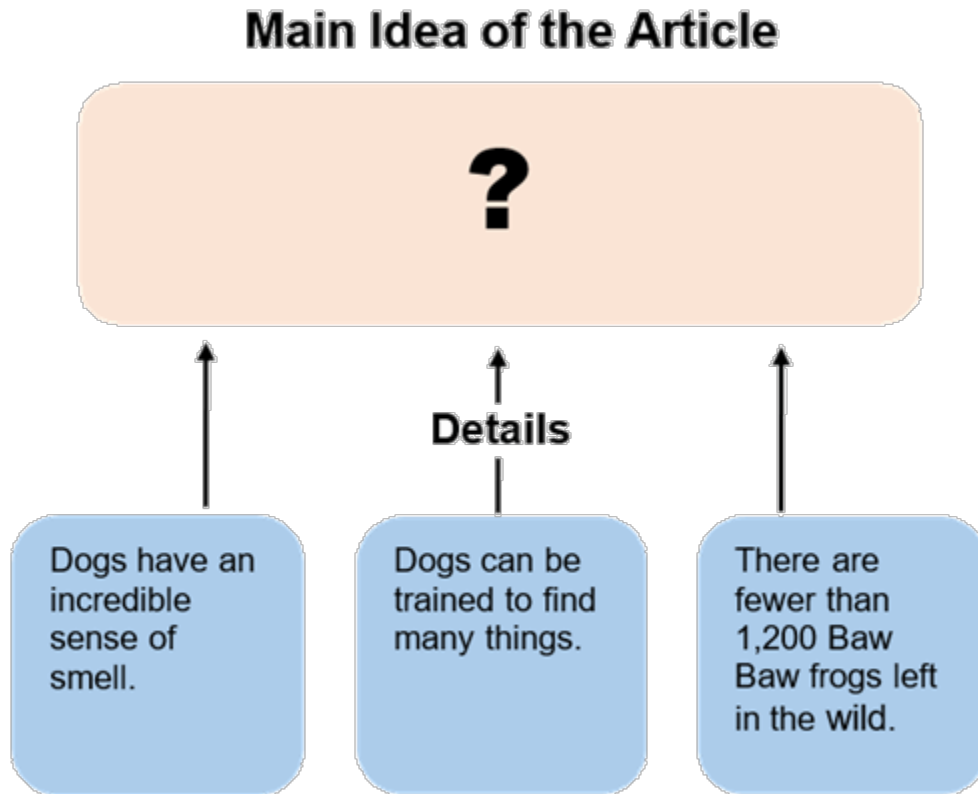
**endangered** (*adjective*) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely

**species** (*noun*) a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants



### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- Ⓐ Male Baw Baw frogs only do their frog call five to six weeks a year, and females don't call at all.
- Ⓑ Since 1980, 98 percent of the population of Baw Baw frogs in Australia have been wiped out.
- Ⓒ With their powerful sense of smell, dogs are used to find fake money and missing persons.
- Ⓓ Dogs use their noses to find endangered species so that scientists can help them to live on.

#### Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists at Zoos Victoria train two border collies to locate an endangered species using the scent of the animal?

- Ⓐ The conservationists want to use the dogs to also track down silverspot butterfly caterpillars.
- Ⓑ The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs, away from the hard-to-get-to forests of Australia.
- Ⓒ The conservationists have had difficulty finding Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily seen or heard.
- Ⓓ The conservationists have had success with K-9 dogs that have been trained to find not only missing persons but also fake money.

Question 3

The Article states:

**Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. If they don't, the small brown frogs might become extinct. But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To explain why it can be so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat
- Ⓑ To say why it is so important that all species of animals should be protected by humans
- Ⓒ To show how a dog's sense of smell can be used to find endangered animals
- Ⓓ To point out the fact that there is very little that scientists can do to save the Baw Baw frog

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ scent and sight
- Ⓑ population and nation
- Ⓒ canines and dogs
- Ⓓ danger and safety

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ none of the Baw Baw frogs released into the wild have been able to remain alive
- Ⓑ when dogs search for killer whales, they must actually get in the water to find them
- Ⓒ Silverspot butterfly caterpillars are harder for dogs to locate than killer whales are
- Ⓓ Rubble and Uda smelled Baw Baw frog scat before tracking the frogs in the wild

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why dogs have a much better sense of smell than humans do
- Ⓑ Which animals other than the Baw Baw frog have dogs been trained to find
- Ⓒ Which breed of dog has proven to be the best at sniffing out missing persons
- Ⓓ Why the Baw Baw frog is so hard for conservationists to locate on their own

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are *released* into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.**

In this passage, the word *release* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ to follow and find someone or something
- Ⓑ to protect something from harm
- Ⓒ to carefully study something
- Ⓓ to set someone or something free

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs will be needed to find animals that were raised in captivity?

- Ⓐ Conservation detection dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. Koalas. Killer whales! All the dogs have to do is smell their scat and hit the trail.
- Ⓑ In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.
- Ⓒ But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.
- Ⓓ The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines: from who's in the neighborhood to whether danger is near.

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain how trained dogs are being used to help save endangered species, such as the Baw Baw frog. Use information from the Article in your answer.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Today, people write their thoughts on websites like Facebook. Long ago, in the ancient city of Pompeii, people scribbled their thoughts on the walls of homes and buildings. What do you think?

**People should always find a way to share their thoughts.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

*More than 11,000 graffiti samples like this have been uncovered among the ruins at Pompeii.*

**POMPEII, Italy** (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). What do a 21st-century social media user and a 1st-century resident of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii have in common? They both posted messages on walls. There *is* a slight difference, though. Fans of Facebook and other social media sites post their comments on *cyber* walls. Ancient Pompeians posted theirs on *actual* walls. Amazingly, some of those messages are still there 2,000 years later. And so are many of the walls themselves.

In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings. And it was on the inside and outside walls of private homes. The messages were written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, and applied in paint. They were the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds.

All of this raises some big questions: How did these messages last so long? Better yet: Why is so much of Pompeii itself still around?

The answers date back to 79 CE. That's when a nearby volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted. It destroyed Pompeii in a matter of hours. The city was buried.

Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And it remains a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life. The messages on the walls were spotted from the beginning. In the late 19th century,

historians began copying them. And it's a good thing they did. Most of the messages have faded since the ruins were unearthed.

So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions. In fact, the oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE. It simply states: "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Here are more examples of messages Pompeians "posted" around their city:

Health to you, Victoria, and wherever you are, may you sneeze sweetly.

A copper pot went missing from my shop. Anyone who returns it to me will be given 65 sesterii...

The man I am having dinner with is a barbarian.

I beg you to elect Marcus Epidius Sabinus...a most worthy young man.

Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

Call it social media, the Pompeii way.

*Video credit: Achieve3000*

### **Dictionary**

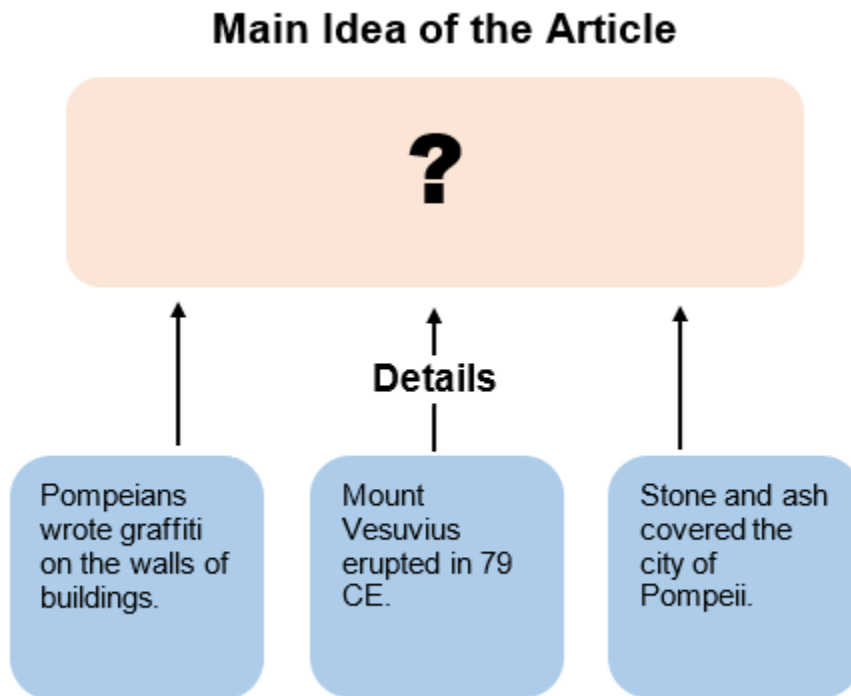
**barbarian** (*noun*) a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person

**cyber** (*adjective*) computer

**excavate** (*verb*) to uncover (something) by digging away and removing the earth that covers it

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- Ⓐ A volcanic coating protected messages that had been written on the walls of Pompeii.
- Ⓑ When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, the city of Pompeii was destroyed.
- Ⓒ Most of the graffiti that appeared on walls in the city of Pompeii has since faded.
- Ⓓ The oldest known message at Pompeii simply states: "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The graffiti found in Pompeii was written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, or applied in paint.
- Ⓑ The oldest known message found in the city of Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE.
- Ⓒ In 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius erupted, covering the ancient city of Pompeii in stone and ash.
- Ⓓ It's interesting to study the ancient words written on the walls of the city of Pompeii.

#### Question 3

The Article states:

**Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And it remains a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ describe the reason that the ancient city of Pompeii seems to be frozen in time
- Ⓑ point out why so many of the residents of Pompeii wrote on walls in that city
- Ⓒ explain the main differences between ancient graffiti and new graffiti
- Ⓓ suggest that historians should have taken more care to preserve Pompeii's graffiti

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ actual and unusual
- Ⓑ ancient and old
- Ⓒ posted and read
- Ⓓ comments and victories

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to read about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She would find **most** of her information \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ in a TV program called *Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii*
- Ⓑ in a movie about the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history
- Ⓒ on a webpage explaining how people escaped from the city of Pompeii
- Ⓓ on a map showing the location of Mount Vesuvius

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

**Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also *preserved* it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time.**

In this passage, the word *preserve* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ to cause something to end or stop
- Ⓑ to keep something in good condition
- Ⓒ to make or produce something
- Ⓓ to mark where something is located

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that modern-day Facebook users have something in common with people who wrote messages on walls in ancient Pompeii?

- Ⓐ In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings. And it was on the inside and outside walls of private homes.
- Ⓑ So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions.
- Ⓒ Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash.
- Ⓓ All of this raises some big questions: How did these messages last so long? Better yet: Why is so much of Pompeii itself still around?

### Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city
- Ⓑ What kinds of messages were written on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii
- Ⓒ Why the ancient city of Pompeii has been so well preserved right up until modern times
- Ⓓ When the city of Pompeii was covered in ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should always find a way to share their thoughts.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what happened to the ancient city of Pompeii in 79 CE and what has been discovered centuries later for readers who haven't heard the story. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.



# Soldier in the Wild (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A Japanese soldier stayed hidden on Guam 28 years after World War II ended. When he finally returned to Japan, he was given a hero's welcome. What do you think?

**All soldiers are heroes.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

*This photo of Shoichi Yokoi was taken shortly after his hiding ended in 1972.*

**TALOFOFO, Guam** (Achieve3000, August 27, 2019). In 1944, Shoichi Yokoi went into hiding in the jungles of Guam. Little did he know that he would one day return a changed man in a changed world. His stay in the jungles is one of the strangest stories in the history of World War II. It's also a tale of astonishing loyalty.

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was stationed on Guam as part of the Japanese occupation of the island. But the U.S. military arrived to free Guam in 1944. Fearing for his life, Yokoi retreated to the hills of the Talofofu River basin. Once there, he was cut off from the rest of the world.

In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito made an announcement: Japan was surrendering to the Allied Forces. The war was over. But Yokoi had no way of knowing this. Neither did about 130 other Japanese soldiers. So they all continued to hide. But Yokoi would outlive them all.

Amazingly, he remained in hiding for the next seven years. All the while, he thought that World War II was still raging. He believed American soldiers were still fighting the Japanese on Guam.

And that's only the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. Even so, he remained in hiding for another 20 years. That's two decades! He spent his days in a well-hidden cave that he'd made with dirt, bamboo, and reeds. At night, he searched for food.

A soldier by training, Yokoi stayed on the lookout until the very end. In January 1972, Yokoi was finally "captured" by two fishermen. Even though he was a weakened man of 57, he attacked the two younger men. They easily overpowered him and gently turned him in.

Throughout his time in hiding, Yokoi kept track of the days and months. He knew that 28 years had passed. So what made him stay in hiding for that long? All he ever had to do was surrender and go back to Japan. Why did he think that roughing it in the wild all those years was his only choice?

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he said he felt ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.

Still, Yokoi received a hero's welcome in Tokyo. Millions of Japanese watched his return on television. Many of his generation were deeply moved by his fierce loyalty to time-honored Japanese values. They showered him with money, gifts, and praise.

Up until his death in 1997, Yokoi remembered Guam fondly. He revisited the island several times. After all, it had been his home for much of his adult life. Although his cave in Talofofo crumbled long ago, its site still appears on Guam tourist maps. And his clothing and possessions from his time on the island have been exhibited at the Guam Museum.

No doubt, history is overflowing with amazing acts of courage and selflessness during war. But one thing is for sure: Shoichi Yokoi's time on Guam is one for the record books.

*Video Credit: AP Archive*

### **Dictionary**

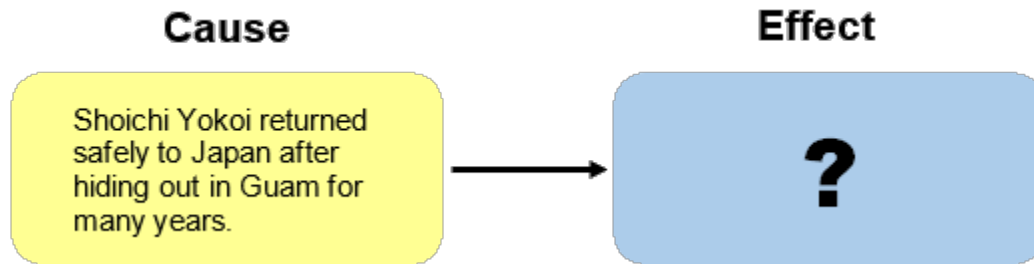
**loyalty** (*noun*) a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something

**occupation** (*noun*) a situation in which the military of a foreign government goes into an area or country and takes control of it

**value** (*noun*) a strongly held belief about what is valuable, important, or acceptable

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Shoichi Yokoi returned safely to Japan after hiding out in Guam for many years." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect," and it has a question mark in it.

- Ⓐ Yokoi returned all of the money and gifts that were given to him following his return.
- Ⓑ Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as millions watched his return on television.
- Ⓒ Yokoi never revisited Guam, even after an exhibit was made in his honor at the Guam Museum.
- Ⓓ Yokoi created a map of Guam that showed Japanese tourists where his cave was.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi made a well-hidden cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds on the island of Guam.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi didn't know in 1945 that Emperor Hirohito surrendered to the Allied Forces.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Japan in 1972.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam from 1944 until January 1972.

#### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *third*?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and turned him in.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi was stationed on Guam as a sergeant in the Japanese army.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi's countrymen honored him as a hero and gave him money and gifts.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi hid in the hills of the Talofofo River basin to avoid American soldiers.

#### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *loyalty*?

- Ⓐ encouragement
- Ⓑ cheerfulness
- Ⓒ faithfulness
- Ⓓ disappointment

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi tried to return to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi would have stayed in hiding even longer had he not been "captured."
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi brought spare uniforms with him when he went into hiding in Guam.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi made the choice to rejoin the Japanese Army after returning to Japan in 1972.

Question 6

The Article states:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he said he felt ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out why soldiers who returned home after the war were given a hero's welcome
- Ⓑ To show that the Japanese believed *ganbaru* was a shameful act that all soldiers should avoid
- Ⓒ To suggest that Yokoi wasn't very happy with the fact that his country went to war
- Ⓓ To explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding even after finding out the war was over

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

**In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito made an announcement: Japan was *surrendering* to the Allied Forces. The war was over.**

In this passage, the word *surrendering* means \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ doing something that makes it easier to do a job or solve a problem
- Ⓑ agreeing to stop fighting because there's no chance for success
- Ⓒ discussing something carefully in order to make an agreement
- Ⓓ trying to hurt, injure, or destroy someone or something

Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier
- Ⓑ Why Shoichi Yokoi decided to retreat to the hills of the Talofoto River basin in 1944
- Ⓒ How Shoichi Yokoi felt about going home to Japan after remaining hidden for so long
- Ⓓ Why Shoichi Yokoi chose to stay hidden even after finding out that the war was over

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**All soldiers are heroes.**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Who was Shoichi Yokoi and why did he remain hidden on Guam until 1972? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In April 2019, Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world. Here's what Mason wants kids to know. What do you think?

**"Anything is possible."**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Used with permission from Mason Andrews  
*Mason Andrews flew this plane around the world and set a record.*

**MONROE, Louisiana** (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews is studying aviation at Louisiana Tech University. But the U.S. teen has already made history.

In April 2019, Guinness World Records made it official: Mason is the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his single engine plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. It was the end of a globe-circling voyage that came with a hefty share of terrifying moments.

We'll get to the scary stuff later. Let's take off at the beginning, shall we?

Mason earned his pilot's license at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

"I realized that it was possible. But it would be difficult," he told Achieve3000.

Something else that would be difficult for Mason: convincing his mother and father to let him go. Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.

"I had to ask my dad three or four times before he was like, 'Alright, if we can find a way to come up with the money, we can do it,'" Mason said.

And raise money they did! With the help of sponsors, Mason started his journey in July 2018. They also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group runs free summer camps for kids with special needs.

Mason said goodbye to his parents at the Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But he didn't figure in Category 5 typhoons. The storms kept him grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks.

The trip ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.

The scariest moment of the entire journey? "I ended up in a really bad monsoon over the Bay of Bengal," Mason said. "There was no turning back because the weather had already built up behind me just as much as it was building up in front of me. So, I was just having to continue straight ahead across the ocean. I was [hundreds of] miles from the nearest piece of land, let alone an airport."

Luckily, Mason was able to get out of the situation. It was thanks, in part, to his experience.

And then came the sandstorm.

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours .... I couldn't see anything outside because of the sand. So, I was flying off my instruments alone."

Mason admits that he didn't keep his mother updated on all the frightening details. He waited until he was home safe before filling her in.

Since returning to Louisiana, Mason has been getting a lot of attention. His Guinness World Record for circumnavigating the globe solo made headlines. But the record itself isn't all that important to Mason.

"It's nice [to have the record]," he said. "But that's really not what the trip was about. It's how we got the press and the support and what we needed. But at the same time, after I [left] on the trip, it was about completing a [goal] and staying alive."

Now, Mason has some advice for kids who aim high: "Anything is possible...I would say that if you have a goal...push and push and push!"

As Mason understands especially well, the sky's the limit.

*Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko*

*Published on Oct 6, 2018*

*Edited for length*

## **Dictionary**

**aviation** (*noun*) the flying, designing, or making of aircraft

**circumnavigate** (*verb*) to go around something, often by plane or ship

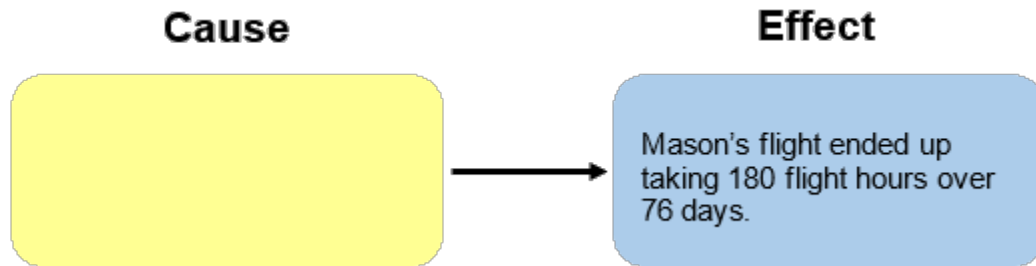
**monsoon** (*noun*) a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia

**sponsor** (*noun*) a person or group that gives money to support an event or a person

**typhoon** (*noun*) a very strong storm that forms in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Mason's flight ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days."

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews had a hard time convincing his parents to let him fly solo around the world.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews had to fly off his plane's instruments alone for most of his trip.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.
- Ⓓ Mason Andrews flew through Category 5 typhoons in the Philippines.

#### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews took off on his journey from Monroe Regional Airport in July 2018.
- Ⓑ At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews is studying aviation at Louisiana Tech University.
- Ⓓ It was hard for Mason Andrews to convince his parents to let him fly solo around the world.

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews flew through a 12-hour sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews acted bravely throughout the many scary moments on his trip around the world.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews has been getting attention since he was named a Guinness World Record holder.
- Ⓓ Mason Andrews was grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks because of typhoons.

#### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Solo and alone
- Ⓑ Convince and persuade
- Ⓒ Circumnavigate and circle
- Ⓓ Hefty and light



Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Inform people about MedCamps of Louisiana, which runs summer camps for some kids
- Ⓑ Inform readers about a young man who worked hard to complete a difficult goal
- Ⓒ Advise kids that breaking a Guinness World Record is the only goal worth trying for
- Ⓓ Suggest that Mason Andrews should have been able to complete his journey in just 40 days

Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and setting new goals.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews likely wants to study something other than aviation now that he's flown around the world.
- Ⓒ It was probably hard to convince Guinness World Records that Mason Andrews won a record.
- Ⓓ Most students at Louisiana Tech University have probably never heard of Mason Andrews or his Guinness World Record.

Question 7

The Article states:

**Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his single engine plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. It was the end of a globe-circling voyage that came with a hefty share of *terrifying* moments.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *terrifying*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Boring
- Ⓑ Frightening
- Ⓒ Amusing
- Ⓓ Delightful

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to fly solo around the world?

- Ⓐ Mason said goodbye to his parents at the Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- Ⓑ In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?
- Ⓒ Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.
- Ⓓ Luckily, Mason was able to get out of the situation. It was thanks, in part, to his experience.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"Anything is possible."**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Describe Mason Andrews. Explain what he did. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

# The Truth about Dogs (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A new exhibit teaches about dogs. What do you think of this quote by Josh Billings?

**"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

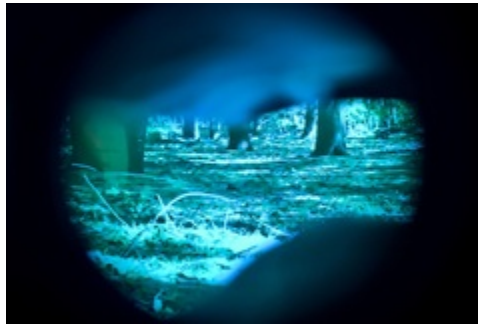


Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

*An exhibit at the California Science Center shows people how dogs see.*

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Dogs. They're our four-legged BFFs. They can melt our hearts with a loving look, a sweet snuggle, or a silly greeting at the door. But did humans domesticate dogs? And why do these two species get along so well?

The California Science Center has spent five years sniffing out answers to these and hundreds of other canine questions. What the center came up with is in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail." It opened on March 9, 2019.

"[The exhibition] is...about how dogs and humans are both social animals. About how dogs and humans have [changed] over thousands of years," said Jeffrey Rudolph. Rudolph is the center's president. He's also a dog lover.

"Dogs! A Science Tail" includes exhibits, games, artwork, and more. It will travel to museums across the U.S. in 2020. Here's a peek at what the exhibition teaches humans about dogs:

### 1. They have a pee-culiar interest.

Ever wonder what dogs are really sniffing for at fire hydrants? The exhibition includes a fire hydrant. With the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," Rudolph said, laughing.

But not dogs. By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going," Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can tell how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.

### 2. They're doggone smart.

Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually quite intelligent.

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," Rudolph said. And it goes beyond their sense of smell.

Dogs can tell what a person has just eaten by licking the person's hand. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

"In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.

The exhibition also has stations that allow people to see the way dogs do. (Dogs' color vision is limited. But they pick up motion better than we do.)

### **3. They're heroic.**

Did you know that some superheroes don't wear capes, but collars?

Thanks to dogs' senses, a rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

But those are the highly trained working dogs. Some are shown in the center's Imax Theatre in the movie *Superpower Dogs*. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings. Some heroic dogs in the film even track down hunters going after elephants and rhinos.

### **4. Yes, they love us, too.**

Dogs give us many reasons to love them. But do they love us back? Or are they just trying to get another treat when they look at us with those big puppy-dog eyes?

"If you look a dog in the eye, a dog will look back at you and you will produce oxytocin," explained Diane Perlov. She's senior vice president for exhibits at the California Science Center. Oxytocin is sometimes called the "love hormone."

"And," Perlov adds, "the dog will produce oxytocin...from looking back at you. It's a mutual affection."

### **5. They go way back with humans.**

The dog-human thing really is a love affair. But when and how did it start?

Scientists can't quite figure that out. They know dogs are related to wolves. And they know that wolves and people crossed paths more than 10,000 years ago, says Perlov. But did the wolves or the people make the first move?

Whoever did, they created a lasting bond: best friends fur-ever.

*Information for this story came from AP.*

### **Dictionary**

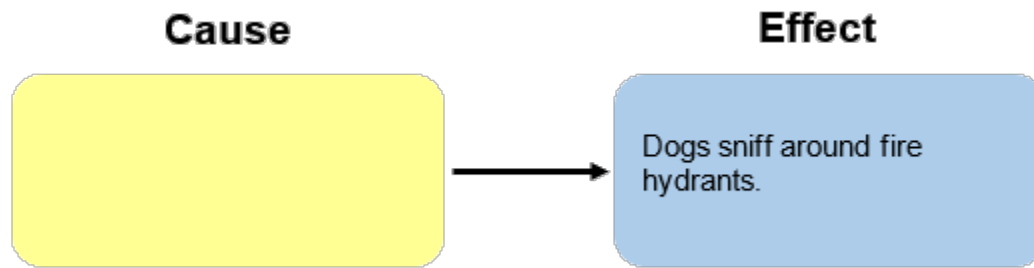
**canine** (*adjective*) relating to or resembling a dog

**domesticate** (*verb*) to get an animal used to living around people

**exhibition** (*noun*) a show

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Dogs sniff around fire hydrants."

- Ⓐ Dogs can sniff out bombs people would never find.
- Ⓑ Dogs have an amazing ability to learn information beyond their sense of smell.
- Ⓒ It's one of the ways dogs are considered social animals.
- Ⓓ It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and tell how safe the surroundings are.

#### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ An exhibition at the California Science Center called "Dogs! A Science Tail" answers questions about canine behavior.
- Ⓑ The canine exhibition at the California Science Center includes a replica of a fire hydrant.
- Ⓒ Visitors to the California Science Center will learn that dogs produce the "love hormone" called oxytocin.
- Ⓓ Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a movie about canine heroes.

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The cutest dogs are the ones that give us a silly greeting at the door.
- Ⓑ One station at the canine exhibition teaches visitors about what dogs learn when they sniff.
- Ⓒ It's still unclear how the bond between the dogs and humans began.
- Ⓓ The movie *Superpower Dogs* shows dogs rescuing people from dangerous situations.

#### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*

- Ⓐ Domesticate and desert
- Ⓑ Surroundings and area
- Ⓒ Safe and dangerous
- Ⓓ Intelligent and goofy

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Only highly trained dogs can tell which direction another dog was going by smelling its urine.
- Ⓑ The bond between a dog and a person gets stronger with time.
- Ⓒ Since their color vision is limited, dogs do not largely depend on their sense of sight.
- Ⓓ As dogs become more domesticated, they will not need to sniff fire hydrants.

Question 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Explain how dogs are trained to sniff out bombs and rescue people from dangerous situations
- Ⓑ Present some of what the California Science Center is displaying in its canine exhibition
- Ⓒ Describe when and how the first dogs and humans bonded many years ago
- Ⓓ Discuss how dogs and people use their senses in similar ways

Question 7

The Article states:

**Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually quite intelligent. "They have an amazing *ability* to learn information," Rudolph said. And it goes beyond their sense of smell. Dogs can tell what a person has just eaten by licking the person's hand. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.**

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *ability*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ Excitement
- Ⓑ Excuse
- Ⓒ Spirit
- Ⓓ Skill

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have well-developed senses aside from their sense of smell?

- Ⓐ Dogs give us many reasons to love them. But do they love us back? Or are they just trying to get another treat when they look at us with those big puppy-dog eyes?
- Ⓑ "In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.
- Ⓒ It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.
- Ⓓ By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going," Rudolph said.

#### **Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)**

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**"A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself."**

- Agree
- Disagree

#### **Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Think about telling a friend about the "Dogs! A Science Tail" exhibition. What would you share? Use descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

# Welcome to Batuu (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

It's been said that Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places on Earth. Now, the Disney parks in California and Florida have added an attraction from "a galaxy far, far away"—Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. What do you think?

**Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places in the galaxy.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

*There's a full-size model of the famous Millennium Falcon starship at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.*

**ORLANDO, Florida** (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). Disney parks may be "the happiest" places on Earth. But they have some lands that are out of this world—in a galaxy far, far away!

In 2019, Star Wars' fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history.

And not even the tiniest thing was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details! That's partly why the setting isn't from any of the movies. Star Wars fans know they aren't part of those stories. So instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu. It's a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and space explorers. A whole new story unfolds under its three suns. And you've gotta choose your alliances.

But Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* newbies on the same page. Everyone can be part of the story—even if they don't speak Wookiee!

To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape that has a history you can see: It seems weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.



With the scene set, Disney took it up another notch. Once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu. The food, the goods, the workers—it's all part of the story. So guests feel like they're really exploring an alien planet.

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members. These are the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth!

The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message. They can also work as a double agent!

And, of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon, a full-size model of the famous Star Wars spaceship, aka "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy."

For visitors who want more planetary playtime, Disney created the Galactic Starcruiser in Florida. That's a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space. It even offers lightsaber training.

You think you're ready for some far-away fun? You know what they say: May the force be with you!

*Video credit: Courtesy Disney, with music by Valeriano Chiaravalle/proudmusiclibrary.com*

## **Dictionary**

**alien** (*adjective*) from somewhere other than the planet Earth

**alliance** (*noun*) a union between people, groups, countries, etc.: a relationship in which people agree to work together

**interact** (*verb*) to talk or do things with other people

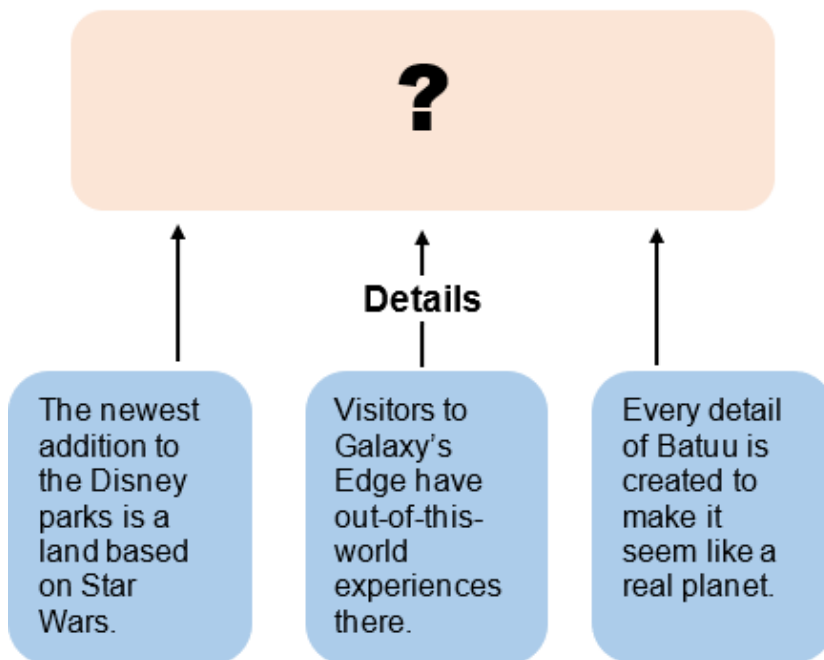
**landscape** (*noun*) an area of land that has a particular quality or appearance

**smuggle** (*verb*) to move (someone or something) from one country into another illegally and secretly

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box above?

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "The newest addition to the Disney parks is a land based on Star Wars." The box in the middle says "Visitor's to Galaxy's Edge have out-of-this-world experiences there." The box on the right says "Every details of Batuu is created to make it seem like a real planet."

- (A) Disney based the design of Galaxy's Edge on real places like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona to make it look weathered by age.
- (B) The Galactic Starcruiser is a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space that even offers lightsaber training.
- (C) One of the rides in Galaxy's Edge is a Star Wars spaceship that is a full-size model of The Millennium Falcon, which is known as "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy."
- (D) In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land where the design, workers, food, and goods make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history.
- (B) It took five years to get Galaxy's Edge ready to open for visitors in California and Florida.
- (C) The workers in Galaxy's Edge get to choose how they will look while doing their jobs.
- (D) For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

Question 3

The Article states:

**The food, the goods, the workers—it's all part of the story. So guests feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members. These are the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ describe that it can be hard to understand the story that is being played out on Batuu
- Ⓑ inform that there are only a few kinds of goods for visitors to buy in the markets of Batuu
- Ⓒ explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself
- Ⓓ show that many visitors to Galaxy's edge are surprised to see characters they know there

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *smuggle*?

- Ⓐ steer
- Ⓑ stray
- Ⓒ steal
- Ⓓ share

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Disney is moving away from having themed rides so that it can offer more role-play experiences at all of its parks in California and Florida
- Ⓑ the next Star Wars movie will include traders, smugglers, and explorers from the planet of Batuu in its story
- Ⓒ the number of visitors to the choose-your-own adventure cruise Galactic Starcruiser has been greater than the attendance at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓓ Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge to make the time spent developing the lands worthwhile

Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ reading about trees in a science textbook
- Ⓑ reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks
- Ⓒ finding Arizona on a map
- Ⓓ watching a Star Wars movie

### Question 7

The Article states:

**They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was *inspired* by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.**

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspired*?

- Ⓐ forced
- Ⓑ managed
- Ⓒ promised
- Ⓓ sparked

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

- Ⓐ To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape that has a history you can see: It seems weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.
- Ⓑ So instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu. It's a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and space explorers. A whole new story unfolds under its three suns. And you've gotta choose your alliances. But Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* newbies on the same page. Everyone can be part of the story—even if they don't speak Wookiee!
- Ⓒ And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth! The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message.
- Ⓓ In 2019, Star Wars' fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history. And not even the tiniest thing was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details!

### Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Disney parks are "the happiest" and "most magical" places in the galaxy.**

- Agree
- Disagree

### Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Imagine that you are telling a friend about Disney's new Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida. What would you say? Use describing words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

# Women Adventurers (660L)

## Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families. But some brave women chose to take off on amazing adventures around the world. What do you think?

**People should live life the way they want to, not how they're expected to.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Left to right: Cristoforo Dall'Acqua, Wellcome Collection, Library of Congress  
*Left to right: Jeanne Baret, the first woman to sail around the globe. Lady Hester Stanhope, who led an archaeological dig in the Middle East. And Nellie Bly, who traveled around the world in just 72 days.*

**RED BANK, New Jersey** (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families. That, however, didn't stop some women from taking off and blazing trails.

Take Jeanne Baret (1740-1807). She was a French scientist who studied plants. And she was the first woman to sail around the globe. In December 1766, several French scientists were invited to join a voyage. They were all men. Baret wasn't allowed to go because of a royal rule that said women couldn't travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man and sailed away!

During the journey, Baret helped collect over 6,000 types of plants. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil. She brought its seeds back to Europe.

England's Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839) also lived life her way. She acted in ways that women rarely if ever did. She traveled throughout the Middle East by herself, for example. During her lifetime, Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) was one of the nation's leading journalists, male or female, of her time. And at the time, almost all journalists were male. In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series. It made her famous. And it led the way for other female reporters.

Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. She had read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, a man accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly wanted to beat this fictional record. And she did! She finished the trip in just 72 days and set a world record.

Three women, three lives packed with adventure. And each of them lived life exactly the way they wanted to live it, not the way they were expected to.

### Dictionary

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

**challenge** (*verb*) to test the ability, skill, or strength of (someone or something): to be difficult enough to be interesting to (someone)

**disguise** (*verb*) to change the usual appearance, sound, taste, etc., of (someone or something) so that people will not recognize that person or thing

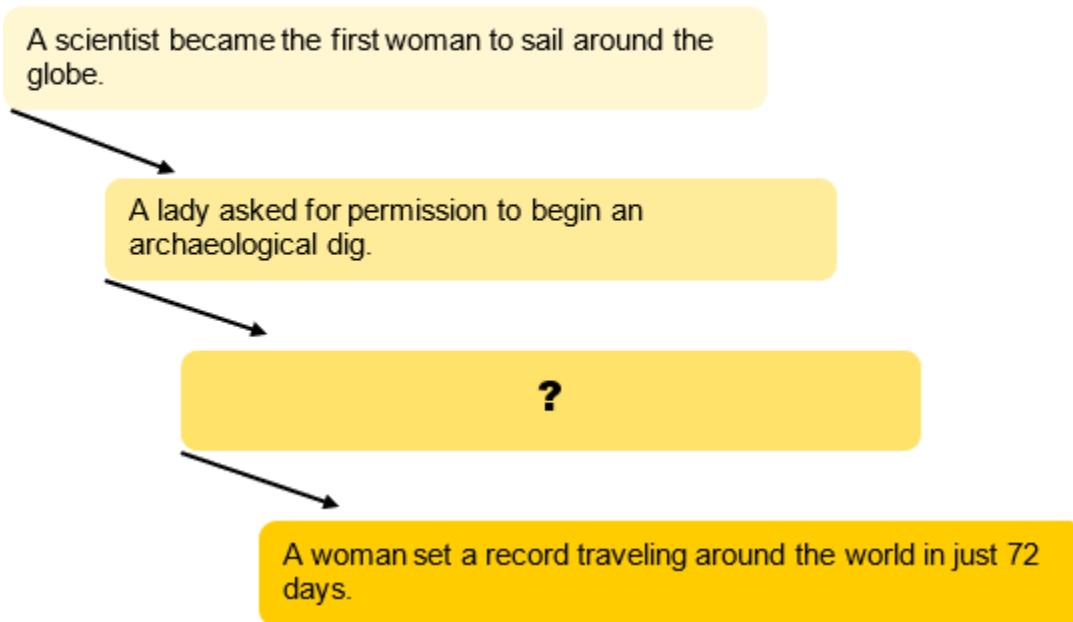
**journalism** (*noun*) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

**mental** (*adjective*) of or relating to the mind

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

#### What Happened Next?



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

- Ⓐ A scientist brought bougainvillea seeds back to Europe from Brazil.
- Ⓑ A woman disguised herself as a man to join a trip around the world.
- Ⓒ A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.
- Ⓓ A female biker was asked to cycle across the continent by herself.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- Ⓐ Several French scientists who study plants were invited to take part in a voyage on a navy ship in December 1766.
- Ⓑ Nowadays adventurous women sail alone around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space.
- Ⓒ Nellie Bly's brave six-part series about life inside a mental hospital led the way for other female reporters.
- Ⓓ Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**During her lifetime, Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.**

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ explain that women were not allowed to take part in digs in Turkey years ago
- Ⓑ show that Lady Stanhope was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer
- Ⓒ point out that Lady Stanhope uncovered many treasures in Turkey
- Ⓓ describe the positive effects that a Westerner had on archaeology

### Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, convinced Nellie Bly to take her own journey around the world.
- Ⓑ It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the voyage because she was certain to be discovered.
- Ⓒ Jeanne Baret was a French scientist who studied plants and helped collect over 6,000 types of plants.
- Ⓓ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East and arranged an archaeological dig in Ashkelon.

### Question 5

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *journalist*?

- Ⓐ expert
- Ⓑ landlord
- Ⓒ gentleman
- Ⓓ reporter

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

- Ⓐ Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.
- Ⓑ In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series.
- Ⓒ Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. She had read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, a man accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly wanted to beat this fictional record.
- Ⓓ Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there.

### Question 7

The Article states:

**The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. *Astonishing* treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.**

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *astonishing*?

- Ⓐ common
- Ⓑ expensive
- Ⓒ amazing
- Ⓓ ordinary

### Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ How long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record
- Ⓑ Why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- Ⓒ How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe
- Ⓓ Where Nellie Bly wrote a six-part article

## Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**People should live life the way they want to, not how they're expected to.**

- Agree
- Disagree

## Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What's one word that describes Jeanne Baret, Lady Hester Stanhope, and Nellie Bly? What actions by these women back up your answer? Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.





# Achieve3000 Literacy™ At Home

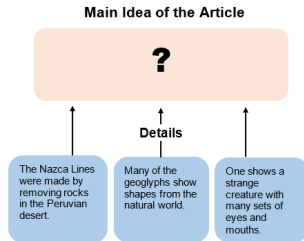
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## ANSWER KEY

# Ancient Lines in the Sand

## Answer key

### Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

**C** The Nazca Lines that are drawn in the sands of Peru show plants, animals, and more.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

**C** Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**So here's what we do know: The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.**

Why did the author include this passage?

**D** To explain how the Nazca people created the geoglyphs by making lines on the desert floor

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

**B** enormous and tiny

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

**A** some of the Nazca Lines are so faded that they are now very hard to see

### Question 6

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *last*?

**C** A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was discovered.

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took *technology* such as drones to find them.**

In this passage, the word *technology* means \_\_\_\_\_.

**C** modern machines or pieces of equipment

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Nazca Lines might have served more than one purpose?

**D** Research suggests that the geoglyphs were part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been like signposts directing travelers to those places.

# Animated Favorites Get Real

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites take their kids to see the live-action remakes.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films.

### Question 3

Which information is **not** in the Article?

B Why so many adults enjoyed watching the original animated Pokémon cartoons

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

C formula and method

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

A Fans often like to watch movies with characters they are already familiar with

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

B To point out why moviemakers have remade popular animated movies of the past

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that parents like the new remakes because they remind them of their own childhoods?

A The power of good ol' nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? Well, they were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (New fans!)

### Question 8

In this passage, the word *makeover* means \_\_\_\_\_.

A the act of changing something in order to improve it

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

D The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to much of the world.

### Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *creative*, as it is used in the Article?

C Clever

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *second*?

D A drink and snack made of tea, creamer, ice, and tapioca was invented in Taiwan.

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

D Mango is a much tastier flavor than either matcha or chocolate pudding.

### Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

D Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

### Question 6

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *decisions*, as it is used above?

B Choices

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is a big part of life in the United States?

B In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

C Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be difficult, especially for those who have never ordered it before.

# Cooking Up Native Traditions

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American cooking traditions.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

A The government meant to do the right thing when it gave free food to Native Americans.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

A To show that traditional Native American foods are healthy because they aren't high in sodium, fat, and sugar

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *recipe*?

A method

### Question 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

C More people will become familiar with the Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef.

### Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C Why it is hard to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice

### Question 7

In this passage, the word *introduce* means \_\_\_\_\_.

B to bring something to a place for the first time

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

B Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.

# Defying Gravity

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B With strength and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B Simone Biles' super strength has been the true key to her success in gymnastics.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

C To show that a big setback only made Simone Biles try harder to achieve success

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *technique*?

D method

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with heartbreaking setbacks

### Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C What are the names of the two special moves that Biles performed at the world championships

### Question 7

In this passage, the word *adopted* means \_\_\_\_\_.

B to take a child of other parents legally as your own

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties as she made her way to victory?

D But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.

# The Early-Late Debate

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Districts have to pay for more buses when all schools start near the same time.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

B Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, and people are talking about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

D Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *research*?

A examination

### Question 5

The Article says all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

C what times elementary school children get their best sleep

### Question 6

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

C explain how important sleep is for adolescents

### Question 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *tough*, as it is used above?

B difficult

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether a later school start time will be better for students?

B Studies suggest students sleep more when schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

# Give Me S'more!

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

C Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

A To make a s'more, roast a marshmallow and place it and chocolate between graham crackers.

### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

C Ancient and modern

### Question 4

The Article says all of the following **except** \_\_\_\_\_.

B Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s using whole wheat flour.

### Question 5

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

D Show how popular s'mores are and suggest different ways to make them

### Question 6

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *construct*, as it is used above?

A Prepare

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first used in desserts?

C Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that almost anyone can make.



# Global Game Fame

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

D Every year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

### Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *nominate*, as it is used in the Article?

C Suggest

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

A The fast action video game *Super Mario Kart* is more fun to play than *Microsoft Solitaire*.

### Question 4

Think about the Article. In what way are *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* different?

A Only *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players a computer skill.

### Question 5

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *houses*, as it is used above?

A Contains

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

C To describe how games are chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that winning games should have had a big effect on the gaming industry?

C Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.

### Question 8

A Next year's hall of fame winners may not be the most popular games around at the time.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly?

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best fits in the empty box above?

A These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

A Ugly produce companies say their mission is to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

A Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *discount*, as it is used in the Article?

B Markdown

### Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

A Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce companies, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that ugly produce companies are only thinking about making money for themselves?

A Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.

### Question 7

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *blossomed*, as it is used above?

AGrown

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

A As more customers buy from ugly produce companies, some supermarkets may start selling ugly produce in their stores.

# Katherine the Great

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

A Katherine Johnson was a numbers whiz with a degree in math.

### Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

A Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.

### Question 3

Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written?

D Katherine Johnson's autobiography called *Reaching for the Moon* came out.

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

D Famous and unknown

### Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to find out about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

A In an article about NASA's work over the years

### Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely knew at the time?

A Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

### Question 8

Which would be the closest **antonym** for the word *correct*, as it is used above?

D Wrong

# The Last Generation?

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Pacific Island countries realize they are facing the effects of climate change together.

### Question 2

The Article talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

B the effect of climate change on the Pacific Islands, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership

### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

A pledged and promised

### Question 4

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some Pacific Island countries

### Question 5

Why did the author include this passage?

A To explain why some Pacific Island countries made a plan for lowering ships' carbon emissions

### Question 6

In this passage, the word *separate* means \_\_\_\_\_.

A not connected or combined

### Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

A countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems around the entire world

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that climate change threatens the way of life of people in Pacific Island countries?

D What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

# A Musical Pioneer

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Pitse founded an all-black orchestra and youth choir that performs music by African composers.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Ofentse Pitse probably became a conductor because her grandfather was a jazz band conductor.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

B To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

B conductor and leader

### Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C singers in Ofentse Pitse's choir may not have been able to become performers without her help

### Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

B How Ofentse Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time

### Question 7

In this passage, the word *composer* means \_\_\_\_\_.

C a person who writes music

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts showcase the work of new or unfamiliar artists?

C What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.

# Otzi the Iceman

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A After being preserved for more than 5,000 years covered in ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about life long ago based on the food and tools he carried.

### Question 2

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

B explain how important it was that Ötzi the Iceman's body was discovered in such excellent condition

### Question 3

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

B ancient and current

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

D Ötzi is the most interesting find in history because of the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery.

### Question 5

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

A Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying.

### Question 6

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *possessions*?

B belongings

### Question 7

Antonio wants to learn more about Ötzi the Iceman. He would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

C watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period

### Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

D Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.

# Sniffing Out Extinction

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D Dogs use their noses to find endangered species so that scientists can help them to live on.

### Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists at Zoos Victoria train two border collies to locate an endangered species using the scent of the animal?

C The conservationists have had difficulty finding Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily seen or heard.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected

A To explain why it can be so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

C canines and dogs

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Rubble and Uda smelled Baw Baw frog scat before tracking the frogs in the wild

### Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C Which breed of dog has proven to be the best at sniffing out missing persons

### Question 7

D to set someone or something free

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs will be needed to find animals that were raised in captivity?

B In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A A volcanic coating protected messages that had been written on the walls of Pompeii.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D It's interesting to study the ancient words written on the walls of the city of Pompeii.

### Question 3

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

A describe the reason that the ancient city of Pompeii seems to be frozen in time

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

B ancient and old

### Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to read about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She would find **most** of her information \_\_\_\_\_.

A in a TV program called *Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii*

### Question 6

In this passage, the word *preserve* means \_\_\_\_\_.

B to keep something in good condition

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that modern-day Facebook users have something in common with people who wrote messages on walls in ancient Pompeii?

B So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions.

### Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

A What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city



# Soldier in the Wild

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as millions watched his return on television.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam from 1944 until January 1972.

### Question 3

Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened *third*?

A Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and turned him in.

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *loyalty*?

C faithfulness

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Shoichi Yokoi would have stayed in hiding even longer had he not been "captured."

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding even after finding out the war was over

### Question 7

In this passage, the word *surrendering* means \_\_\_\_\_.

B agreeing to stop fighting because there's no chance for success

### Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

A How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

C Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

B At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Mason Andrews acted bravely throughout the many scary moments on his trip around the world.

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

D Hefty and light

### Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

B Inform readers about a young man who worked hard to complete a difficult goal

### Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

A It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and setting new goals.

### Question 7

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *terrifying*, as it is used above?

B Frightening

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to fly solo around the world?

C Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.

# The Truth about Dogs

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

D It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and tell how safe the surroundings are.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

A An exhibition at the California Science Center called "Dogs! A Science Tail" answers questions about canine behavior.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

A The cutest dogs are the ones that give us a silly greeting at the door.

### Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

B Surroundings and area

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B The bond between a dog and a person gets stronger with time.

### Question 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

B Present some of what the California Science Center is displaying in its canine exhibition

### Question 7

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *ability*, as it is used above?

D Skill

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have well-developed senses aside from their sense of smell?

B "In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.

# Welcome to Batuu

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box above?

D In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land where the design, workers, food, and goods make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

### Question 3

C explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself

### Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *smuggle*?

C steal

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge to make the time spent developing the lands worthwhile

### Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

B reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks

### Question 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspired*?

D sparked

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

C And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth! The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message.

# Women Adventurers

## Answer key

### Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

C A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.

### Question 2

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

D Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.

### Question 3

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to \_\_\_\_\_.

B show that Lady Stanhope was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer

### Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the voyage because she was certain to be discovered.

### Question 5

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *journalist*?

D reporter

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

A Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.

### Question 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *astonishing*?

C amazing

### Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe