

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
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		



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

architect (noun) a person who designs buildings

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

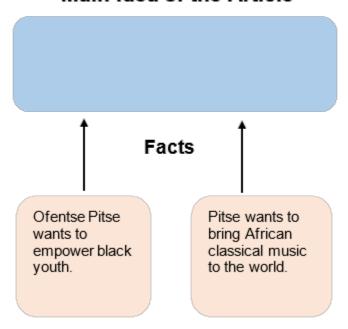
empower (*verb*) to give power to (someone)

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.
- B 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.
- Ditse 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.
- D About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the United States are white.

D leader

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
\sim	ow how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's idea of what classical music is plain which European composer's music Ofentse Pitse wanted to play
	int out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
	that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are better composers than Beethoven
Questi	on 4
_	means the opposite of <i>empower</i> ?
(A) we	
® pro	
© sta	rtle
① res	spect
Questi	
\sim	on the Article, the reader can tell that
	e works of Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza aren't well-known yet
	numalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often lead Pitse's orchestra
	se's choir usually plays at least one piece written by Beethoven
(U) Pit	se has written a number of classical works that her choir has sung
Questi	
_	is not in the Article?
	ow Pitse is helping young people from poor communities in South Africa
_	ow Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
	hy Pitse has her group play classical music by African composers
(D) WI	hy Pitse is considered to be a pioneer in classical music
Questi	
The Ar	rticle says:
	[Ofentse Pitse is] the <i>conductor</i> 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.
_	ch means almost the same as <i>conductor</i> ?
A sin	ger
® wr	ite r
© dri	ver

Which passage from the Article best shows that most classical conductors today are men?

- On 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.
- D 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.

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

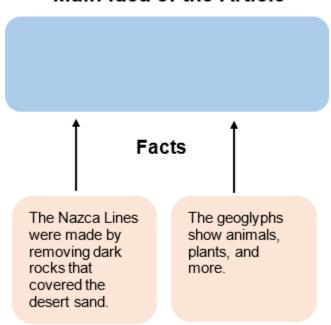
research (verb) to study (something) carefully

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)

Ouestion 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.
- B The Nazca Lines are pictures made in the sands of Peru.
- © The geoglyphs show a creature with many mouths and eyes.
- Deliver The geoglyphs were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- A The Nazca Lines were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE.
- **B** A creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found in 2019.
- © Some of the geoglyphs are recognizable from an airplane.
- D It's a waste of time to try to figure out why the lines were made.

(D) found

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
B 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
B discovered and created
© noticing and spotting
(D) 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
(D) the Nazca Lines were made by an archaeologist from Peru
Question 6
Look at the events below. Think about the Article. Which happened <i>last</i> ?
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 <i>uncovered</i> in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.
Which means almost the same as <i>uncovered</i> ?
(A) built
B wrecked
© studied

Which passage from the Article best shows that the Nazca Lines might have been used for more than one thing?

- A 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.
- (B) 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.

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

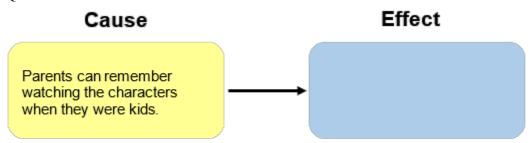
diversity (noun) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

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.
- B Some people grew up watching old Pokémon cartoons.
- © Some of the remade animated movies have become hits.
- D Live-action remakes let moviemakers crank up the girl power.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- A 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.
- D Halle Bailey landed a part in the remake of *The Little Mermaid*.

Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Who landed the part of Ariel in The Little Mermaid
- B What "winning formula" moviemakers have been using
- © Why so many people like live-action movies
- D 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. (A) plenty and lots **B** modern and everyday © strong and weak • dance and sing Question 5 The reader can tell from the Article that . . (A) Detective Pikachu made more money than The Jungle Book B Jasmine did not appear in the animated movie *Aladdin* © fans like movies with characters they already know nost 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 jawdropping 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

explain why people still watch old animated movies

Ouestion 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that parents like the new remakes because they remind them of their own childhoods?

point out why moviemakers remake animated movies

- 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!
- B 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.
- D What do *you* think about live-action remakes? Whatever your take, the movies offer a whole new world for moviegoers.

The Article says:

With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning <u>formula</u>. 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*?

- (A) example
- B plan
- © bargain
- (D) 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

decision (noun) a choice

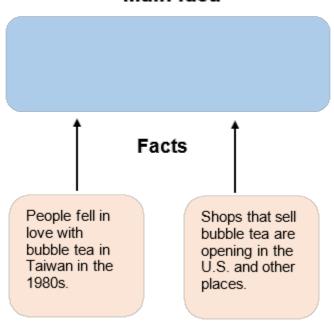
invent (verb) to make something that has never been made before

tapioca (noun) a food made from cassava, the root of a tropical plant

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

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 "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.
- Description 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?

- A Create
- B Seize
- © Need
- Trade

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.
- B People in other parts of Asia began to enjoy the tea.
- © People in Taiwan fell in love with bubble tea.
- D 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.
- B Chia seeds are a tastier topping than red beans.
- © Some people go to bubble tea shops to hang out with friends.
- D 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 ______.

- (A) Looking on a map of the United States in a history book
- B Reading about how tapioca is made
- © Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea in America"
- D Looking up the word "tea" in a dictionary

Ouestion 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?

- A Sing
- B 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.
- D In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States.

Qu	lestion 8	
The	e reader can tell from the Article that	
lack	Bubble tea shops ask people to finish their drinks	quickly.
$^{\circ}$	There are more bubble tea shops in the U.S. than	anywhere

© It can be hard to choose which kind of bubble tea to buy.

D 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.

else.

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 (Achieve 3000, 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

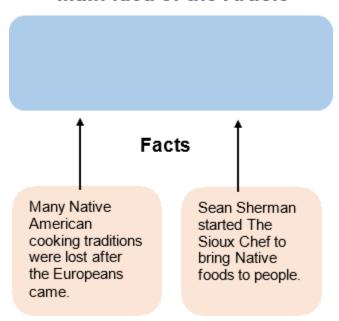
culture (noun) the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time
 local (adjective) relating to or occurring in a particular area, city, or town
 recipe (noun) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients
 reservation (noun) an area of land in the 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.
- B Sean Sherman's recipes use natural ingredients such as elk and quail.
- © Native peoples used to use traditional ways of growing and hunting food.
- D Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American food traditions.

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.
- B 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.
- D 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 _____.

- A say how Sean Sherman uses sodium, sugar, and fats in his dishes
- B explain that people avoid traditional foods because they lead to illness
- © show how Sean Sherman is addressing a serious problem
- D point out that few Native Americans eat foods with lots of sugar

Ouestion 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A chatted and cooked
- later and earlier
- © packed and filled
- questions and answers

Ouestion 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- Sherman will add more canned beans and vegetable oil to his recipes.
- B People who like eating healthy will try traditional Native American cooking.
- © Many Native Americans who eat Native foods will end up with health problems.
- D Sherman will teach some classes on European cooking at a local college.

Ouestion 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Mhat 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
- D Why traditional Native American foods are healthy

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*?

- (A) allow
- B follow
- © found
- (D) announce

Ouestion 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.
- B 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

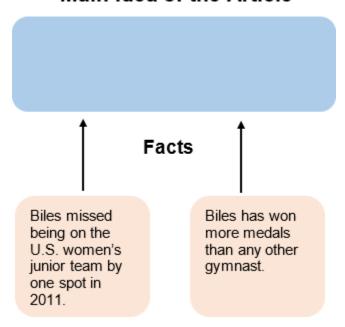
foster (adjective) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

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.
- B 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.
- D 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
- B Simone Biles' super strength is the key to her success in gymnastics.
- © Simone Biles' early years were spent in foster care.
- D Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal in 2019.

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
B say that Simone Biles should have made the team before 2013
show that heartbreaking problems made Simone Biles try harder
D 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.
(A) adopted and followed
B heartbreaking and upsetting
© completely and hardly
(D) 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
B Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with problems
© Simone Biles often missed gymnastics practice when she was sick
D 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 <i>smooth</i> 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 sai this was heartbreaking.
Which means almost the same as <i>smooth</i> ?
(A) usual
B easy C hard
© strange

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!
- B 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.
- D 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.

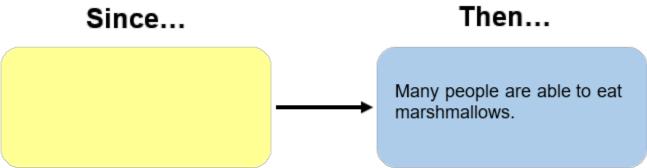
Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

devour (verb)eat quickly and with greedindulge (verb)to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyableluxury (noun)something that costs a lot and is nice to have but is not really neededmanual (noun)a small book that gives instructions or helpful information about something

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- A Swiss candy maker created a way to mix milk and sugar.
- B Marshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- © Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.
- D 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.
- B 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.
- D 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

Which is not in the Article? A S'mores are gooey, chocolatey, and crispy. B Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s. C Marshmallows were once eaten only by rich people. D 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 <u>delicious</u> . One bite, and you'll think, "I want some more!"
Which must mean the opposite of <i>delicious</i> , as it is used above? (A) Large (B) Silly (C) Nice (D) Terrible
Question 7 Which passage from the Article best shows why s'mores are so well-liked? A Some of the key ingredients haven't always been around. B 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. 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. D Still, not everyone has tried them.
Question 8 The reader can tell from the Article that A Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after the 1927 manual came out. B It costs a lot of money to make s'mores today. C S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make. D 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.

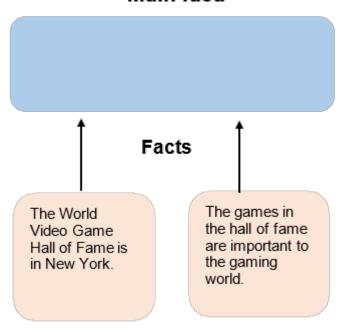
Information for this story came from AP.

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."

- Microsoft Solitaire is a computer game that shows players how to use a mouse.
- ® Colossal Cave Adventure is a video game that first came out in 1976.
- © 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?

- Trade
- B Name
- © Receive
- Play

Ouestion 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.
- B 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.
- B Super Mario Kart is an older video game.
- © Microsoft Solitaire taught players how to use a mouse.
- D Super Mario Kart was very fun for gaming fans.

Ouestion 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	The author	uses this	passage mos	stly to	
--	------------	-----------	-------------	---------	--

- A Tell the reader about an exciting, new video game
- B Show that people still like old video games
- © Explain how to play Colossal Cave Adventure
- 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!
- B 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.
- De Take Colossal Cave Adventure. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- The rules for choosing winners will change next year.
- B Microsoft Solitaire will win next year's hall of fame.
- © Several games will enter the hall of fame next year.
- D 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.

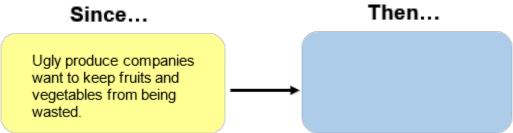
And food waste *is* a big problem in the United States. The government has said that about 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted. Ugly produce companies say they can help farmers reduce this waste.

No matter whose side you're on, remember this: It's what's on the inside that counts.

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."

- (A) 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.
- D 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.
- D 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.
- Dit's a waste of time to talk about ugly produce companies because they are here to stay.

Question 4
Which means the opposite of <i>reduce</i> , as it is used in the Article?
A Hide
B Bury
© Toss
(D) Create
Question 5
The author probably wrote this Article in order to .
Show readers that buying from farmers will end food waste
B 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
Explain now ugry 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?
A The ugly produce companies even offer their goods at a low price. It sounds great.
B 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.
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?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Waste and save
- B 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.

- A Food banks will buy from ugly produce companies that offer low costs.
- B People in the U.S. may continue to waste some food.
- © Farmers will save their prettiest produce for feeding animals.
- D 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

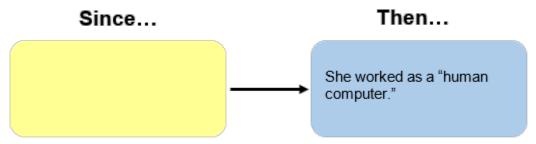
autobiography (noun) the story of someone's life written by that person

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?

- A Katherine Johnson was great at math.
- B 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?

- A Katherine Johnson worked on some different projects.
- B 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.

- A Katherine Johnson's story was told in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- B Katherine Johnson left NASA after working there for many years.
- © Katherine Johnson worked with John Glenn.
- D 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. A Usually and never B Young and smart C Mission and trip D Earth and moon	
Question 5 Suppose Kyla wants to read more about space missions. She would find most of the information A In a picture showing all of NASA's "human computers" B In a dictionary entry for "trajectory" C In an article about NASA's work over the years D In a book that has photos of the moon	•
Question 6 The reader can tell from the Article that A In the 1960s, astronauts trusted programmed computers to give them correct information. B Katherine Johnson's math skills were only recognized by astronaut John Glenn. C Katherine Johnson was well known when she worked as a human computer. 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? A Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or starred in a movie. B Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhon C Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018. D But she hasn't slowed down much.	es).
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.	1
Which must mean almost the same as <i>forward</i> , 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.

Otzi 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 sloeberry, 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

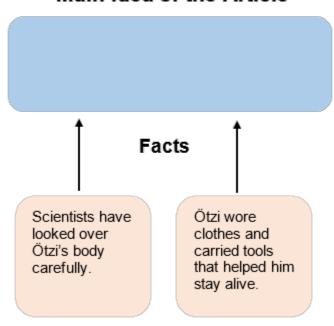
specimen (noun) something (such as an animal or plant) collected as an example of a particular kind of thing

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 Otzi's body carefully." The box on the right says "Otzi 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.
- © 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.

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 A how the clothing Ötzi wore helped him survive bad weather B how important it was that Ötzi's body was discovered in such good shape C 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? A hidden B new C dark D 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.

- Otzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.
- B 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.
- Digital Digita

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.
- B 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.
- D Making things worse, it was very cold. Luckily, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass.

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

Which means almost the same as <i>detail</i> ?	
A fact	
® lesson	
© moment	
D 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.	

- tists will not share any other new findings they discover about Otzi.
- B 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.
- Deople 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

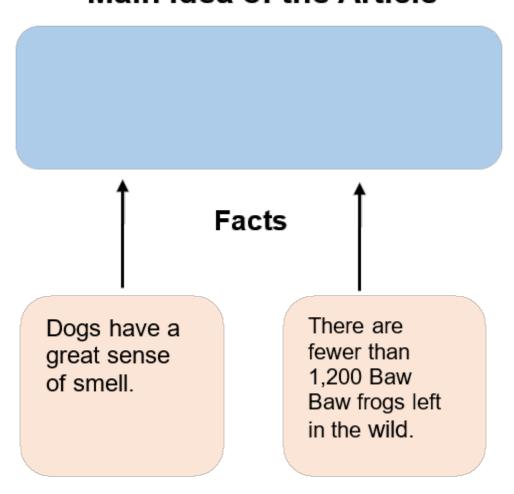
conservationist (noun) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation **endangered** (adjective) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die 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?

- Oppose Dogs find endangered species so scientists can help them.
- B 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.
B 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.
① 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
A show how dogs are used to find endangered animals
(B) 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.
(A) tough and hard
B super and terrible
© endangered and safe
(D) smell and taste
Question 5
The reader can tell from the Article that

- A not all kinds of dogs have a very good sense of smell
- B 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

Which is **not** in the Article?

- A How conservationists are trying to help Baw Baw frogs
- B Which type of dog is best at finding missing persons
- © Where the Baw Baw frog makes its home in the wild
- D How much stronger a dog's sense of smell is than a human's

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*?

- A skin
- ® meal
- © smell
- nuscle 🛈

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.
- (B) 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 Stronius knows nothing!

A copper pot went missing from my shop. Anyone who returns it to me will be given 65 sestertii...

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

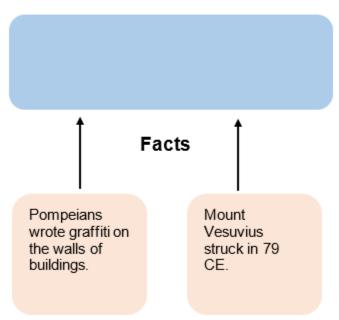
cyber (adjective) computer

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

Main Idea of the Article



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- The oldest message in Pompeii was written by Gaius Pumidius Diphilus.
- B 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.
- D 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. A Some of the graffiti found in Pompeii was written in charcoal. B It's interesting to study messages posted on Pompeii's walls. C In 79 CE, a volcano struck, covering Pompeii in stone and ash.
D 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 <i>under</i> 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 A say that a volcano destroyed all of Pompeii's buildings B give the reason why Pompeii was saved for so long c 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? (A) laughing (B) dancing (C) writing (D) 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 A looking at a webpage about how people escaped from Pompeii B watching a movie about the largest volcano in the world C watching a TV program called <i>Life in the City of Pompeii</i> D 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*?

- A books
 B ideas
 C plans
 D jokes

Which passage from the Article best shows why many buildings in Pompeii remained after the volcano struck?

- A 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.
- **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.
- © 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.
- Degree 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.

Ouestion 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Mhat kinds of messages were written on the walls of Pompeii
- B Why Pompeii seems as if it were a city frozen in time
- © Who discovered that Pompeii was buried under stone and ash
- D 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

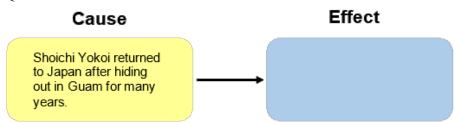
Dictionary

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."

- A Yokoi fled to the hills of Guam where he was cut off from the world.
- B 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.
- D 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.
- B Shoichi Yokoi made a well-hidden cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds.
- © Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam for years.
- D 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.

- A Yokoi was stationed on the island of Guam.
- B Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen.
- © Yokoi made a cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds.
- D 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.

- A loyalty and honor
- B afraid and foolish
- © hardship and trouble
- astonishing and usual

Question 5 The reader can tell from the Article that A Yokoi didn't take his job as a Japanese soldier seriously. B Yokoi fought with many American soldiers during the war. C Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan in 1972. D 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 fough to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.
The author uses this passage mostly to A say that Yokoi wasn't very happy with his country B show that the Japanese thought the idea of <i>ganbaru</i> was shameful C 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 <u>explanation</u> for it—ganbaru. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, ganbaru meant that Japanese soldiers fough to the death.
Which means almost the same as explanation? (A) adventure (B) contest (C) diagram (D) reason
Question 8 Which is not in the Article? A How Yokoi learned that World War II had ended B Why Yokoi chose to stay hidden after 1952 C How Yokoi felt about going home to Japan D 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."

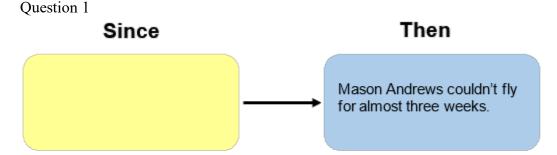
Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko Published on Oct 6, 2018

Edited for length

Dictionary

aviation (noun) the flying, designing, or making of aircraft
 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)



Based on the Article, which fits best in the empty box above?

- A Guinness World Record made the news.
- B A monsoon over the Bay of Bengal caused bad weather.
- © There was a sandstorm lasting from Egypt to Dubai.
- 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?

- Mason Andrews once wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- B Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly around the world.
- © Mason Andrews thought he would be gone for 40 days.
- D Mason Andrews began his journey in July 2018.

Question 3 Which of these is a fact? (A) Mason flew through a sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai. (B) Mason was very brave to fly around the world when he was just 18 years old. (C) A monsoon is a far more frightening type of storm than a typhoon. (D) 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. A Help and support B Important and key C Pilot and teenager C 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 A When Mason took his trip around the world B How Mason came up with the idea to fly around the world C 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 <i>journey</i> 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? A Dream B History C Trip D Choice

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.
- B 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.
- D 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)



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 snoozzzzzzzze?

Dictionary

academic (adjective) of or relating to schools and education

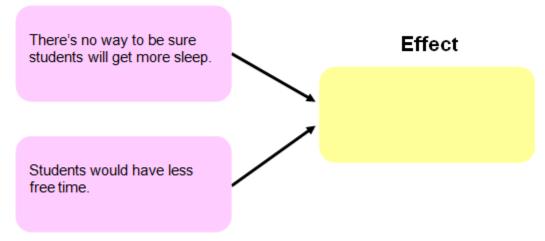
adolescent (noun) a young person who is developing into an adult : a young person who is going through adolescence

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."

- A Groups are working for later school start times.
- B Students who don't sleep enough can have trouble learning.
- © Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems.
- O Some people think it's not smart to start school later.

Ouestion 2

What is the Article mainly about?

- A Starting school later leaves less time for sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- B 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.
- B 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.
- D How long students sleep is important, and when they sleep matters, too.

Question 4
Which means almost the same as <i>research</i> ?
(A) example
B prediction
© plan
(D) 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
(D) 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
A how important sleep is for adolescents
B how research on adolescents' sleep was done
© why sleep is more important to adults than adolescents
problems that all students face while adolescents
problems that an students race while adolescents
Question 7
The Article says:
Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can <i>suffer</i> , too. It's hard
to learn when you're nodding off!
Which means almost the same as <i>suffer</i> ?
A help
A help B continue
A help
A help B continue
A help B continue C worsen

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.
- B 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.
- D 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

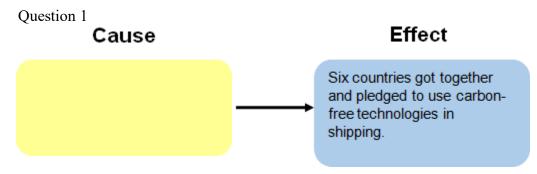
elevation (noun) the height of a place

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)



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."

- A Eleven different countries make up the Pacific Islands.
- B 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
- B 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
- D 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.

- (A) threat and safety
- B separate and unusual
- © connected and tied
- D harmful and useful

Question 4 Which is not in the Article? A Why climate change is such a huge threat to the islands B Which emissions from shipping are causing problems C What some of the names are of the Pacific Island countries 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 A that all shipping should stop by 2050 b 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 <i>recognize</i> 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? (A) welcome (B) allow (C) understand (D) create
Question 7 The reader can tell from the Article that A the water in the Pacific Ocean is polluted with trash air temperatures are falling fast in the Pacific Islands c solar and wind energy don't worsen climate change it's not possible to have zero emissions from shipping

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.
- 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 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.
- Departure 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.

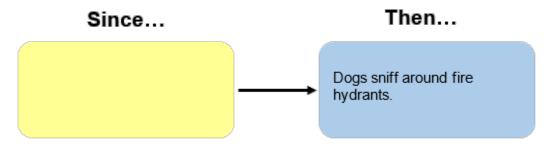
Information for this story came from AP.

Dictionary

```
ability (noun) skill or power to do something
canine (adjective) relating to or resembling a dog
exhibition (noun) a show
mutual affection (noun) shared feeling of love
```

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Think about the Article. Which fits best in the empty box above?

- Oppose 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.
- © It's one of the ways dogs can be useful to humans who are in dangerous situations.
- 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 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.
- © 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.

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.
B Scientists know that dogs are related to wolves.
© Superpower Dogs shows dogs rescuing people.
① 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. A Heroic and brave B Goofy and smart C Safe and harmful D 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.
Deople 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
(D) 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 <i>tell</i> , as it is used above?
(A) Hear
B 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?

- A 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.
- D 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 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.

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

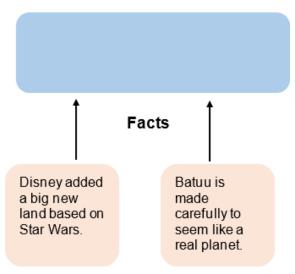
something

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.
- B Disney Built Batuu based on real places.
- © For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.
- De 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
A explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself
B 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? A rule B guard C judge D 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
D 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 <i>model</i> of the Star Wars spaceship.
Which means almost the same as <i>model</i> ?
(A) copy
® story
© surprise
D 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!
- B 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.
- **B** A woman traveled through the Middle East and dug for treasures.
- © A woman was asked to study plants on a French navy ship.
- 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 .

- A that Nellie Bly's six-part report about life inside a hospital made her a well-known reporter
- B 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 _____.

- A point out that the best scientists in France were men
- B explain that dressing like a man made Baret a scientist
- © describe the danger of sneaking onto a navy ship
- b 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. A Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East by herself. B It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man. C Jeanne Baret studied plants and sailed around the world with scientists. D Nellie Bly set a world record traveling around the world in 72 days.
Question 5 Which means the opposite of navy? A pond B rock C army D office
Question 6 Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how some women live today? A Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a story about hidden problems at a mental hospital. B Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. C These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures. D 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. A woman and lady sail and travel ship and boat true and false
Question 8 The Article does not say A 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.

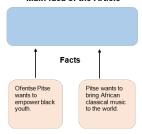


A Musical Pioneer

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

Facts

The Nazca Lines were made by removing dark crocks that covered the desert sand.

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

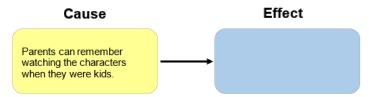
Which passage from the Article best shows that the Nazca Lines might have been used for more than one thing?

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



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 <u>formula</u>. 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.

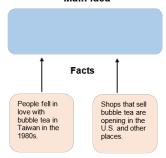
Which means almost the **same** as *formula*?

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea



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

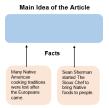
The reader can tell from the Article that . .

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.

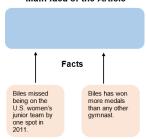
What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.

Defying Gravity

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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?

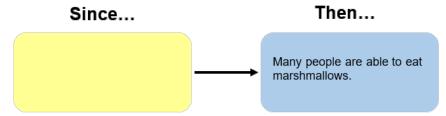
C Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in

foster care.

Give Me S'more!

Answer key

Question 1



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 <u>delicious</u>. 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 _____.

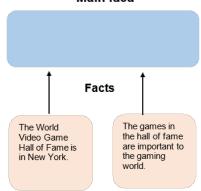
C S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

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

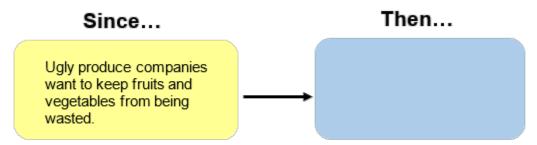
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

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.

Question 7

Which two words have opposite meanings?

A Waste and save

Question 8

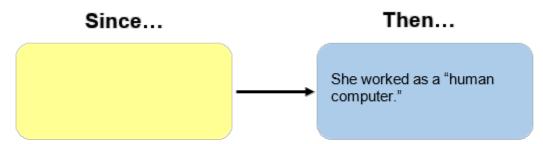
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen? People in the U.S. will continue to waste some of the country's food supply.

B People in the U.S. may continue to waste some food.

Katherine the Great

Answer key

Question 1



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*.

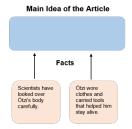
Which must mean almost the **same** as *forward*, as it is used above?

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<u>-Neolithic men.</u>

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

Main Idea of the Article

Facts

Dogs have a great sense of smell.

There are fewer than 1,200 Baw Baw frogs left

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

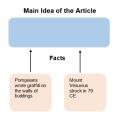
Which passage from the Article best shows that the Baw Baw frog is in danger of dying out completely?

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 Effect

Shoichi Yokoi returned to Japan after hiding out in Guam for many years.

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 <u>explanation</u> for it—<u>ganbaru</u>. 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

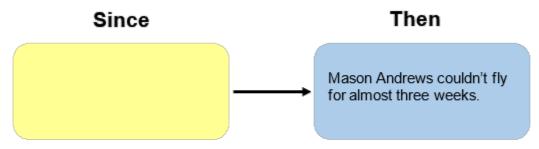
Which is **not** in the Article?

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?

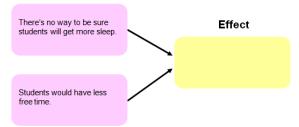
D He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

The Early-Late Debate

Answer key

Question 1

Causes



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

Six countries got together and pledged to use carbonfree technologies in shipping.

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

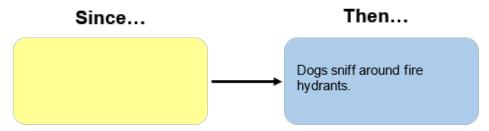
B Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific

Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.

The Truth About Dogs

Answer key

Question 1



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

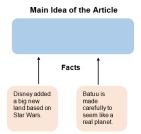
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than their strong sense of smell?

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?

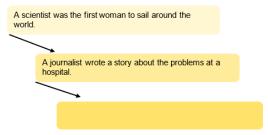
A The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.... And interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, for example. They can also work as double agents!

Women Adventurers

Answer key

Question 1

What Happened Next?



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



Lesson Tracker

Name:		Teacher:			
		Step One Respond to the Before Reading Poll			
	Ė	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
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		

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.

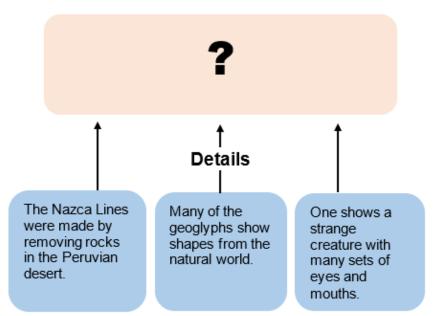
research (verb) to study (something) carefully

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

Main Idea of the Article



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.
- © 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.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) The geoglyphs have lasted until today due to the small amount of rain and wind in the area.
- B 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.
- D 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
- B 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
- ① To explain how the Nazca people created the geoglyphs by making lines on the desert floor

Ouestion 4

Which two words are the closest antonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A slabs and blocks
- B enormous and tiny
- © created and viewed
- © creature and ancestor

Ouestion 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
- B 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
- D the Nazca Lines were created by removing white sand from the desert floor

Ouestion 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.
- B 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.
- D The Nazca lines went unnoticed in the desert sands of Peru for nearly 1,500 years.

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.

Iı	n this passage, the word technology means	•
A	careful study that's done to find new knowledge	
	information learned through experience	
<u>c</u>	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?

- A 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.
- 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.

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)

The latest live-action remakes are very inclusive. Live-action movies now include strong female characters.

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."

- A The use of expertly trained animals, as seen in *The Lion King*, has thrilled moviegoers.
- B 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.
- D 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?

- A The remake of the film *The Lion King* can't be considered live action.
- B 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*.
- (D) Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films.

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- My the latest live-action movies are so popular with more and more people
- (B) 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*
- (D) 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.

- A respectful and rude
- **B** example and lesson
- © formula and method
- (D) release and mention

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- (A) Fans often like to watch movies with characters they are already familiar with
- B 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
- (D) 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?

- A To suggest that moviemakers spend too much money on remakes of animated movies
- B 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
- D To explain why so many people are still watching animated movies from the past

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!)
- **®** 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.
- D 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 <u>makeover</u>: 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	pa	SS	age,	the	word	mo	ık	eover	mea	ans		_•
_		•	4			. 1						

- (A) the act of changing something in order to improve it
- (B) a way of behaving that is not seen as being honest
- © the careful examination of something or someone
- (D) 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."

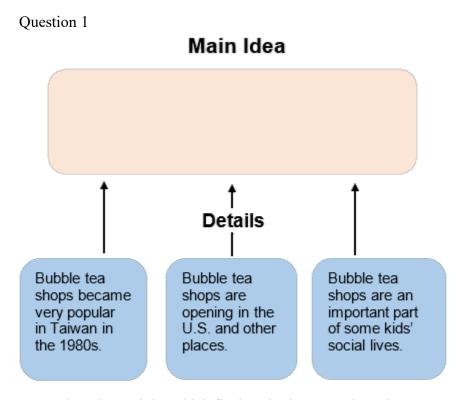
Information for this story came from VOA.

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)



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."

- A 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.
- ① 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?

- A Popular
- B Thrifty
- © Clever
- O 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.

- A Bubble tea shops started opening in the United States, with some offering over a hundred flavors.
- B 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.
- D A drink and snack made of tea, creamer, ice, and tapioca was invented in Taiwan.

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan.
- B 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.
- 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 ______.

- A Looking up the word "tea" in a dictionary
- **B** Looking on a map of the United States in an atlas
- © Reading about how tapioca is made in a food science textbook
- D Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

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
- 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.
- © 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.
- © 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

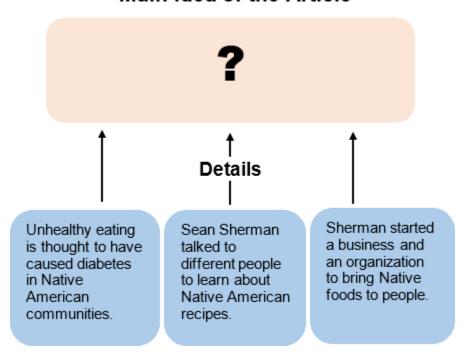
cater (*verb*) to provide food and drinks at a party, meeting, etc., especially as a job **indigenous** (*adjective*) produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment

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?

- A 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.
- D Before the arrival of Europeans, Native peoples used traditional ways of growing and hunting food.

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.
- (B) 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.
- **(D)** Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back Native food traditions.

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?

- (A) To show that traditional Native American foods are healthy because they aren't high in sodium, fat, and sugar
- B 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
- D 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*?

- (A) method
- (B) council
- (c) ancestor
- (D) 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.
- B 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.
- D 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?

- (A) What foods were found in Sherman's cupboard when he was a boy
- B 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
- (D) Which problem NATIFS hopes to address by bringing back traditional foods

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	introdi	ісе	means	 ٠
				•				

- (A) to keep someone from using or doing something
- **B** to bring something to a place for the first time
- © to prove that something is not true or real
- (D) 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?

- (A) 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.
- 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.
- © 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.
- ⑤ 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

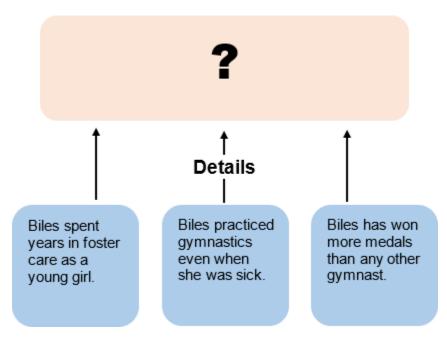
foster (adjective) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

junior (adjective) younger in age

technique (noun) the way that a person performs basic physical movements or skills

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Main Idea of the Article



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.
- (B) 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.
- D At a recent world championship, Simone Biles performed a move known as the "Biles."

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) Gymnast Simone Biles spent her early years in foster care until she was adopted in 2003.
- B 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.
- D Simone Biles was chosen as a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013.

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?

- A To point out that Simone Biles is a better gymnast than gold medalist Kyla Ross
- B 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
- D To say that Simone Biles was very happy when Kyla Ross had to drop out of the team

<u> </u>	
Question	_/I
Chiesiion	4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *technique*?

- (A) accident
- (B) elegance
- © career
- (D) method

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- A Simone Biles' grandparents were very worried that Biles might hurt herself while practicing
- B 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
- D gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with heartbreaking setbacks

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Who Simone Biles took the place of to join the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013
- (B) 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
- D How many world championship medals Simone Biles has won so far in her lifetime

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 _____.

- (A) to say good things about someone or something
- B to take a child of other parents legally as your own
- © to fail to take care of or give attention to someone
- (D) 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?

- A 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.
- B 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.
- 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.

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.

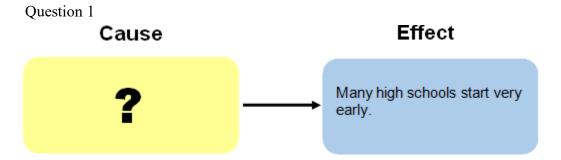
California schools will face some tough choices. People in other places will watch to see how the experiment goes. In fact, several school districts outside California have already set later start times. Seattle Public Schools is an example. High schools there start no earlier than 8:45 a.m. A new law 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)



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."

- A Going to bed earlier and waking up earlier helps teens get a better night's rest.
- B 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.
- D Studies suggest students don't sleep more when schools start later.

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.
- 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.
- © Students who don't get the sleep they need can have serious health problems, and their academic success can be affected.
- Deople 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?

- (A) The push for later start times paid off in Seattle where high schools start at 8:45 or later.
- (B) 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.
- 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 <i>research</i> ?
A examination
B tradition
© collection
preparation
Question 5
The Article says all of the following except
A what problems are caused by starting elementary schools first
B 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	
A show that sleep is more important to adults than teens	
B tell about problems faced by all adolescents	

- © explain how important sleep is for adolescents
- (D) examine the research done on the effects of sleep

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?

- (A) leathery
- (B) difficult
- (c) 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?

- A 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.
- 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!
- © 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.
- ① 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.

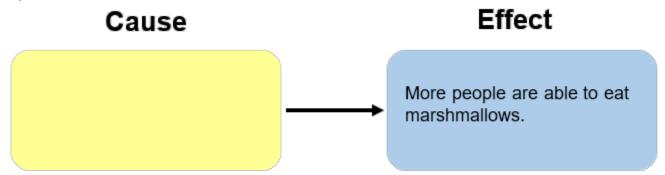
Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

devour (verb) eat quickly and with greed
 indulge (verb) to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable
 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



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."

- AMarshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- (B) A Swiss candy maker invented a way to mix milk and sugar.
- © Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.
- **(D)** 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?

- (A) To make a s'more, roast a marshmallow and place it and chocolate between graham crackers.
- B 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.
- D 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.

- A Easier and cheaper
- (B) Seed and root
- © Ancient and modern
- Treat and luxury

Ouestion 4

The Article says all of the following **except**

- Ancient chocolate was dark, grainy, and bitter.
- **B** 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.

D 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.

T1	41 1	C	11 11 11 1	4	
I ne	alithor's r	niirnose tor	writing this	passage was to	
1110	addioi 5 p	out pose for	WIIIII CIII	passage was to	•

- A Explain how oven-baked s'mores are different from microwaved s'mores
- (B) Inform readers about the dangers and drawbacks of campfire cooking
- © Persuade readers to buy more snacks, and to use safe cooking methods
- (D) Show how popular s'mores are and suggest different ways to make them

Ouestion 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?

- A Prepare
- B Imagine
- © Skip
- O 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.
- **B** 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.
- D 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.

The reader can tell from the Article that ...

- (A) Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after their group's 1927 manual came out.
- (B) Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.
- © Daniel Peter would not have liked the current ingredients used to make s'mores.
- D 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.

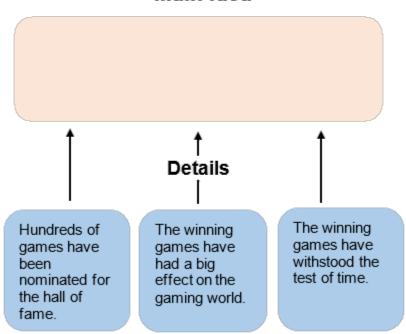
Dictionary

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)

Main Idea



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."

- (A) 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.
- 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?

- (A) Imitate
- (B) Admire
- © Suggest
- Deliver

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.
- ® 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.
- ① The museum welcomed its first games into the World Video Game Hall of Fame in 2015.

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.
- © 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
- © Refuses
- 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
- © 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*.
- © 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.
- ① 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.

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- (A) 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.
- (D) 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

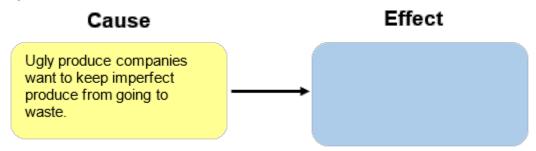
industry (noun) a type of trade or business

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.
- © 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.
- © 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?

- 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.
- © It's pointless to give bad reviews of ugly produce companies because customers are very interested in avoiding food waste and saving money.
- © 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? (A) Upgrade (B) Markdown © Addition Raise Ouestion 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 ® 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?

- 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.
- 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.
- (D) 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?

- (A) Grown
- (B) Faded
- © Stood
- Struggled

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.
- **B** 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.

(D)

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.

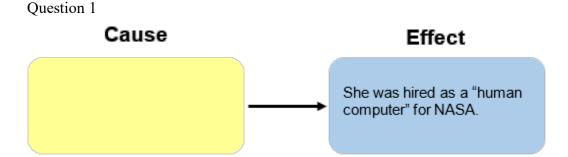
Information for this story came from AP.

Video credit: NASA

Dictionary

autobiography (noun) the story of someone's life written by that personretire (verb) to leave a job at the end of a careertrajectory (noun) the path of an object through space

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)



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."

- (A) Katherine Johnson was a numbers whiz with a degree in math.
- (B) Katherine Johnson knew astronaut John Glenn.
- © Katherine Johnson was in the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*.
- **(D)** Katherine Johnson wrote an autobiography.

\sim	. •	\sim
()ı	uestion	٠,
\mathbf{v}	acsuon	_

What is the main idea of this Article?

- (A) Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- **B** Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old in 2018.
- © Katherine Johnson worked on Project Apollo.
- (D) 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.

- A Katherine Johnson was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- (B) Katherine Johnson worked on a mission that sent astronauts to the moon.
- © Katherine Johnson retired from NASA after working there for many years.
- (D) 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.

- (A) Movie and film
- (B) Autobiography and book
- © Trip and journey
- (D) 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
B In a book that has photos of the moon
© In a dictionary entry for "trajectory"
D In a picture showing all of NASA's "human computers"
Question 6
The reader can tell from the Article that
A In the 1060s, estronguts completely trusted programmed computers to give them correct information

- (A) In the 1960s, astronauts completely trusted programmed computers to give them correct information.
- B 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.
- D Katherine Johnson was famous during her many years as a human computer at NASA.

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).
- **B** 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.
- D 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?

- (A) Fun
- B 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

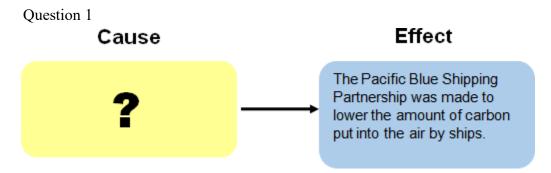
elevation (noun) the height of a place

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)



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."

- A Pacific Islanders are increasing their ability to handle and prepare for storms.
- B 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.
- ① The Pacific Island countries produce about 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about .

- (A) the unusual natural arrangement of the 11 Pacific Island countries across the ocean
- (B) 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
- D 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.

- A pledged and promised
- (B) solve and suffer
- © source and service
- (D) destruction and danger

Question 4

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- Mhich countries are working together through the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- B 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
- D Which greenhouse gas emissions from ships are causing problems for Pacific Island countries

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?

- (A) To explain why some Pacific Island countries made a plan for lowering ships' carbon emissions
- **B** 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
- D 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 <i>separate</i> 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
(A) countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems around the entire world
B 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
(D) the Pacific Island countries each hope to put out zero carbon emissions by the year 2050

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that climate change threatens the way of life of people in Pacific Island countries?

- A 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.
- 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?

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

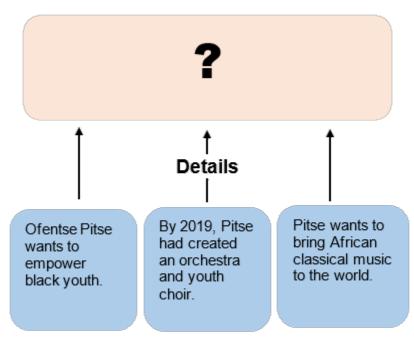
Dictionary

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?

- A Pitse chose to become an architect before she decided to create her orchestra and youth choir.
- B 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.
- D Pitse wants her audiences to enjoy the music of today's leading African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- A Classical music started in Europe, and many people still connect it with European culture today.
- (B) 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.
- ① 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?

- (A) To point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
- (B) 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
- ① 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.

- (A) mastery and discovery
- (B) conductor and leader
- © skills and ideas
- (D) experience and appearance

uestion	

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that .

- A many of the classical pieces performed by her orchestra were written by Ofentse Pitse
- (B) 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
- ① Ofentse Pitse's choir usually performs at least one piece written by Beethoven

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Why Ofentse Pitse is considered a pioneer in the world of classical music
- B 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
- (D) 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 <i>composer</i> means _	·
a person who loves art	

- (B) a person who sings songs
- © a person who writes music
- (D) 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?

- (A) 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.
- (B) 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.
- Deliase 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.

Otzi 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

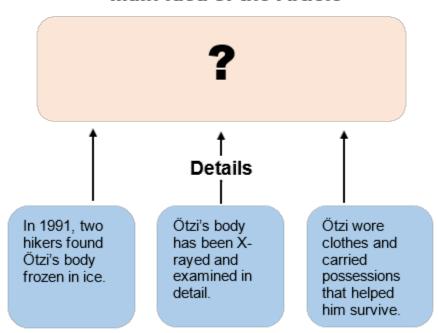
historian (noun) a person who studies or writes about history

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)

Main Idea of the Article



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.
- B 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.
- D 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 _____.

- (A) determine what information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman
- B 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.

- (A) hides and skins
- (B) ancient and current
- © escape and avoid
- (D) historian and human

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) 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.
- 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.
- B 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!
- D 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.

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?
-------------------------------------	--------------	--------------

- (A) traditions
- B belongings
- © groceries
- (D) accidents

Question 7

Antonio wants to learn more about Ötzi the Iceman. He would find the **most** information by .

- (A) reading an article about how people made their own clothing long ago
- (B) reading an encyclopedia about battles during the late-Neolithic period
- © watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period
- (D) 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?

- A People will start using the same trade routes people like Ötzi used long ago.
- B 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.
- D 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

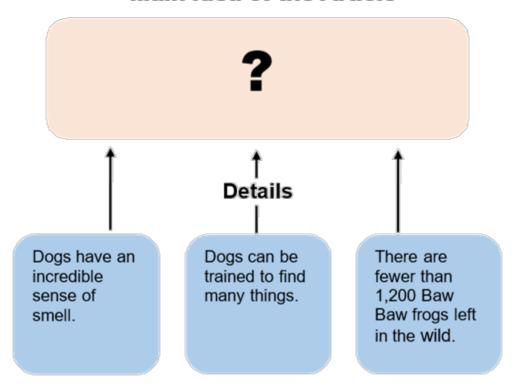
conservationist (noun) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation **endangered** (adjective) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die 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

Main Idea of the Article



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- (A) Male Baw Baw frogs only do their frog call five to six weeks a year, and females don't call at all.
- B 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?

- (A) The conservationists want to use the dogs to also track down silverspot butterfly caterpillars.
- **B** 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.
- ① The conservationists have had success with K-9 dogs that have been trained to find not only missing persons but also fake money.

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?

- (A) To explain why it can be so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat
- B 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
- D 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.

- A scent and sight
- **B** population and nation
- © canines and dogs
- D danger and safety

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- A none of the Baw Baw frogs released into the wild have been able to remain alive
- (B) 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
- (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?

- (A) Why dogs have a much better sense of smell than humans do
- (B) 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
- (D) Why the Baw Baw frog is so hard for conservationists to locate on their own

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 zoobred frogs are still alive.

In this passage, the word <i>release</i> means	
--	--

- (A) to follow and find someone or something
- (B) to protect something from harm
- © to carefully study something
- (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?

- (A) 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.
- **(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.
- © 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.
- De 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 sestertii...

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

it

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Pompeians wrote graffiti on the walls of buildings. Main Idea of the Article Pompeians Wount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE. Stone and ash covered the city of Pompeii.

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.
- B 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.
- D The oldest known message at Pompeii simply states: "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) The graffiti found in Pompeii was written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, or applied in paint.
- **B** 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.
- D 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
A describe the reason that the ancient city of Pompeii seems to be frozen in time
B 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
B ancient and old
© posted and read
D 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
(A) in a TV program called <i>Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii</i>
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 <i>preserve</i> means
(A) to cause something to end or stop
B to keep something in good condition
© to make or produce something
to mark where something is located
Commit where something is recated

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?

- (A) 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.
- ① 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?

- (A) What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city
- (B) 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
- (D) 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 Talofofo 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

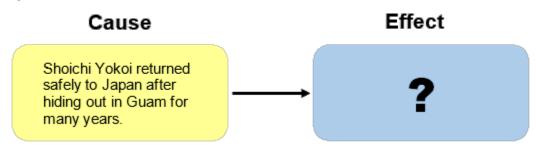
Dictionary

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.

- A Yokoi returned all of the money and gifts that were given to him following his return.
- (B) 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.
- **(D)** Yokoi created a map of Guam that showed Japanese tourists where his cave was.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- A Shoichi Yokoi made a well-hidden cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds on the island of Guam.
- B 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.
- 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*?

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 Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and turned him in.
- B 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.
- D 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?

- (A) encouragement
- (B) cheerfulness
- © faithfulness
- ① disappointment

Question 5
The reader can tell from the Article that .
A Shoichi Yokoi tried to return to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended.
B 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.
D 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?
 A To point out why soldiers who returned home after the war were given a hero's welcome B To show that the Japanese believed ganbaru was a shameful act that all soldiers should avoid C To suggest that Yokoi wasn't very happy with the fact that his country went to war D 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 <i>surrendering</i> means A doing something that makes it easier to do a job or solve a problem B agreeing to stop fighting because there's no chance for success

- © discussing something carefully in order to make an agreement
- **(D)** trying to hurt, injure, or destroy someone or something

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier
- B Why Shoichi Yokoi decided to retreat to the hills of the Talofofo River basin in 1944
- © How Shoichi Yokoi felt about going home to Japan after remaining hidden for so long
- D 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 Achieve 3000.

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.

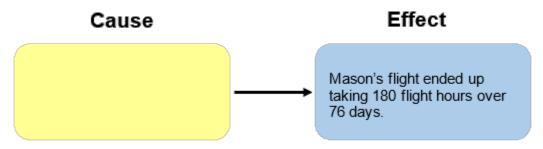
Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko Published on Oct 6, 2018 Edited for length

Dictionary

aviation (noun)the flying, designing, or making of aircraftcircumnavigate (verb)to go around something, often by plane or shipmonsoon (noun)a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asiasponsor (noun)a person or group that gives money to support an event or a persontyphoon (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."

- (A) Mason Andrews had a hard time convincing his parents to let him fly solo around the world.
- B 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.
- (D) 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.
- (B) At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.
- © Mason Andrews is studying aviation at Louisiana Tech University.
- ① 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?

- (A) Mason Andrews flew through a 12-hour sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- B 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.
- D 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.

- (A) Solo and alone
- (B) Convince and persuade
- © Circumnavigate and circle
- D Hefty and light

Question 5
The author probably wrote this Article in order to
(A) Inform people about MedCamps of Louisiana, which runs summer camps for some kids
B 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
D 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.
(B) 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.
1 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 <i>terrifying</i> moments.

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *terrifying*, as it is used above?

- A Boring
- B 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?

- (A) Mason said goodbye to his parents at the Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- **B** 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.
- D 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

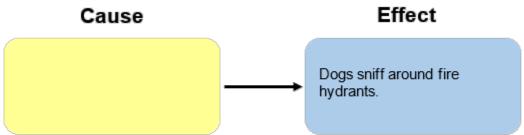
canine (adjective) relating to or resembling a dog

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."

- A Dogs can sniff out bombs people would never find.
- B Dogs have an amazing ability to learn information beyond their sense of smell.
- © It's one of the ways dogs are considered social animals.
- 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?

- An exhibition at the California Science Center called "Dogs! A Science Tail" answers questions about canine behavior.
- (B) 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.
- (D) Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a movie about canine heroes.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- A The cutest dogs are the ones that give us a silly greeting at the door.
- B 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.
- ① 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.

- A Domesticate and desert
- (B) Surroundings and area
- © Safe and dangerous
- D Intelligent and goofy

Question 5 The reader can tell from the Article that A Only highly trained dogs can tell which direction another dog was going by smelling its urine. B The bond between a dog and a person gets stronger with time. C Since their color vision is limited, dogs do not largely depend on their sense of sight. D As dogs become more domesticated, they will not need to sniff fire hydrants.
Question 6 The author probably wrote this Article in order to A Explain how dogs are trained to sniff out bombs and rescue people from dangerous situations B Present some of what the California Science Center is displaying in its canine exhibition C Describe when and how the first dogs and humans bonded many years ago D 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?

- (A) Excitement
- B Excuse
- © Spirit
- Skill

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have well-developed senses aside from their sense of smell?

- A 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?
- (B) "In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.
- © It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.
- D 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, Stars 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

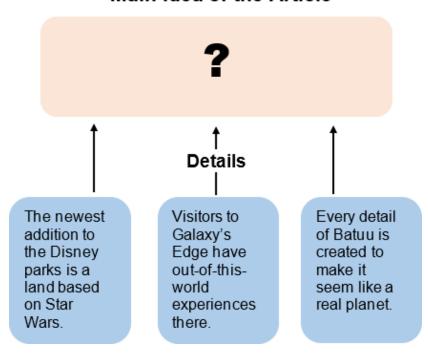
interact (verb) to talk or do things with other people

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)

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.
- **®** The Galactic Starcruiser is a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space that even offers lightsaber training.
- © 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.
- © 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.

The Article states:

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to

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.

A describe that it can be hard to understand the story that is being played out on Batuu B inform that there are only a few kinds of goods for visitors to buy in the markets of Batuu c 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 <i>smuggle</i> ? A steer
B stray C steal D 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 A reading about trees in a science textbook B reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks C finding Arizona on a map watching a Star Wars movie

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*?

- (A) forced
- B managed
- © promised
- ⑤ 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.

- B 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.
- 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

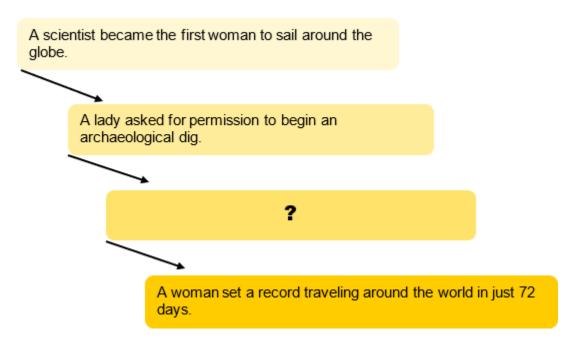
journalism (noun) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

mental (adjective) of or relating to the mind

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Ouestion 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.
- B 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.
- **(D)** A female biker was asked to cycle across the continent by herself.

Suppose you were writing a summary of the Article. Which of these would be **most** important to put in the summary?

- A Several French scientists who study plants were invited to take part in a voyage on a navy ship in December 1766.
- B 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 ar	uthor's pu	rpose for	writing this	passage	was to	

- (A) explain that women were not allowed to take part in digs in Turkey years ago
- B 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
- (D) describe the positive effects that a Westerner had on archaeology

Ouestion 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, convinced Nellie Bly to take her own journey around the world.
- (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.
- © Jeanne Baret was a French scientist who studied plants and helped collect over 6,000 types of plants.
- D 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*?

- (A) expert
- (B) landlord
- © gentleman
- (D) reporter

Ouestion 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.
- **B** 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 sixpart 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.
- ① 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*?

- (A) common
- (B) expensive
- © amazing
- O ordinary

Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- A How long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record
- (B) Why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- © How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe
- (D) 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.



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. **Ouestion 2** What is this Article mainly about? D Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films. **Ouestion 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 **Ouestion 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

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. **Ouestion 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

C Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be difficult, especially for those who have never ordered it before.

shops are an important part of their social lives.

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

Question 8

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.

Ouestion 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.

Ouestion 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C Why it is hard to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice

Question 7

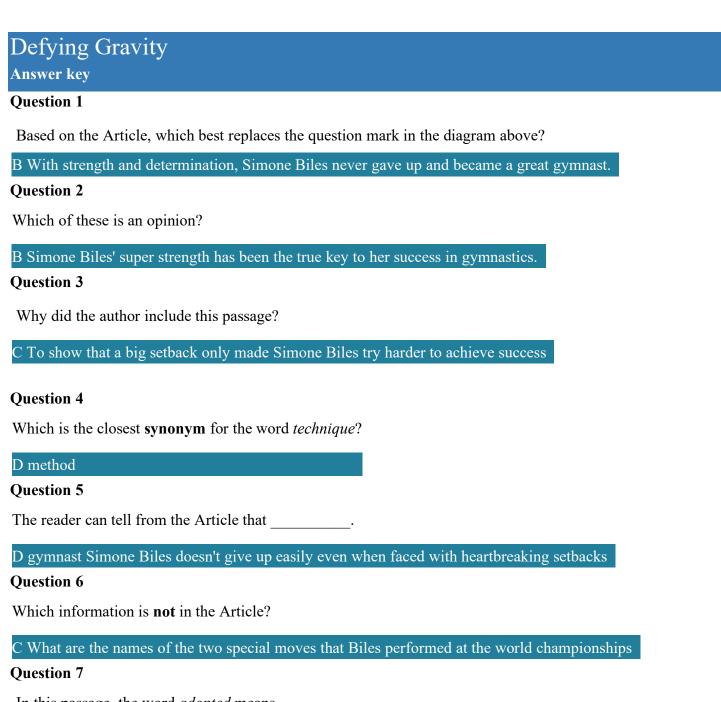
In this passage, the word *introduce* means .

B to bring something to a place for the first time

Ouestion 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.



In this passage, the word *adopted* means

B to take a child of other parents legally as your own

Ouestion 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.

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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 <i>construct</i> , 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.

Ouestion 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.

Ouestion 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.

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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. **Ouestion 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 <i>separate</i> 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. **Ouestion 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 **Ouestion 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 **Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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 **Ouestion 4** Which two words are the closest **synonyms**? B ancient and old **Ouestion 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*

Ouestion 6

In this passage, the word *preserve* means ______.

B to keep something in good condition

Question 7

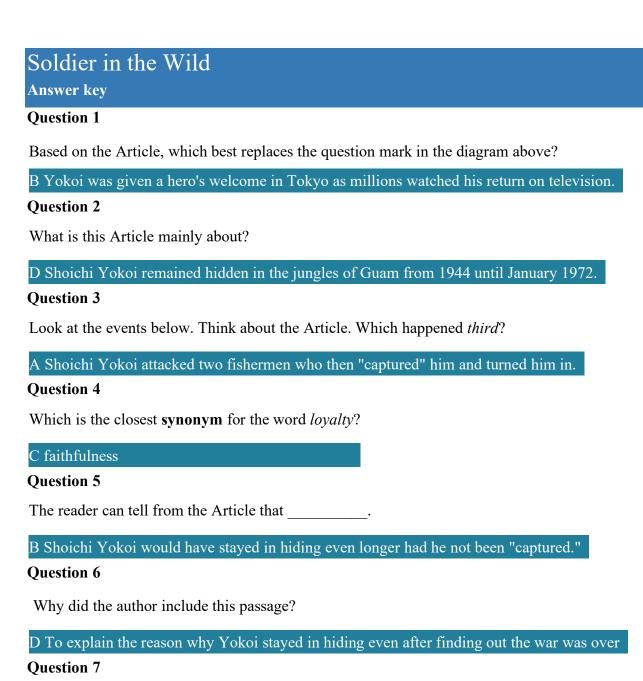
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that modern-day Facebook users have something in common with people who wrote messages on walls in ancient Pompeii?

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



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.

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

B The bond between a dog and a person gets stronger with time.

Ouestion 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

Ouestion 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.

Ouestion 5

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *journalist*?

D reporter

Ouestion 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



Lesson Tracker

Name:		Teacher:		
		Step One Respond to the Before Reading Poll		
	Ė	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
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		



Ancient Lines in the Sand (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are enormous geoglyphs (ground drawings) in the desert sand. They were created more than 1,500 years ago, but scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

Some things should remain 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 in southern Peru known as the Nazca Lines.

NAZCA, **Peru** (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). One quality common to the greatest wonders of the ancient world is their magnificent conspicuousness. It's impossible to walk past the pyramids in Egypt, for example, or Stonehenge in Great Britain without noticing them. They're right in your face, commanding your attention. And then there are the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on enormous slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings") etched into the desert sands. And they're impossible to distinguish at close range: Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building. There are hundreds of them, spread out over nearly 190 square miles (492 square kilometers). Indeed, the best way to see the geoglyphs is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of tourists view them annually.

Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist happened upon them in 1927. But it took the introduction of commercial air travel in the 1930s to bring them to the forefront. And even then, nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered for many years. That is, until 21st-century technology such as drones found them.

And therein lies some of the wonderment of the Nazca Lines: Why did a civilization that existed long before air travel create etchings best viewed from above? You might also ask why the geoglyphs were crafted in the first place and what they represent. Researchers certainly have been pondering these questions for about a century. But the answers remain largely a mystery.

So here's what we *do* know: Between approximately 500 BCE and 500 CE, the region's pre-Incan civilization created the geoglyphs. How? By selectively removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that cover the ground and exposing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath. Some scientists believe that the geoglyph designers first created scaled-down models to guide them. Others think the designers used ropes attached to wooden posts to maintain the lines' full-scale proportions and geometric precision.

The geoglyphs' astonishing longevity is due to the small amounts of rain, wind, and erosion in the region. But many of the lines have, understandably, experienced some fading over the years. Beyond this, the biggest threat to these ancient masterpieces is posed by human activity, whether by mining, illegal agriculture, or automobile accidents.

Many of the geoglyphs come from the natural world, including animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that completely defy nature. One example is the strange humanoid figure uncovered in 2019, with its multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages. Researchers note that such oddities suggest that the Nazca people had a taste for the magical.

So what purpose did the geoglyphs serve? The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs figured into specific rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have indicated where the rituals were being conducted. Others were more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.

Then again, all of this is speculation. Only one thing remains clear: The Nazca civilization found a way to draw lines in the ever-shifting sands of time that would last forever.

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

Dictionary

appendage (noun) a body part (such as an arm or a leg) connected to the main part of the body

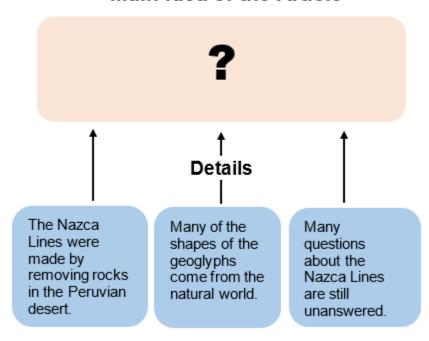
longevity (noun) the length of time that something or someone lasts or continues **ritual** (noun) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

speculation (noun) ideas or guesses about something that is not known

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?

- (A) Interest in the Nazca Lines grew with the introduction of commercial aviation in the 1930s, but nearly 150 of the geoglyphs managed to avoid discovery until the 21st-century.
- B There are a number of possible explanations for the Nazca Lines, but the most recent research suggests that some of them were used in rituals for rain and crop fertility.
- © The true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and form images of plants, animals, and humanoids drawn on the desert floor, remains unknown to this day.
- D Some of the Nazca Lines found in Peru defy nature, such as a geoglyph discovered in 2019 that features multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A Some geoglyphs, which are impossible to distinguish at close range and cover an area of 190 square miles (492 square kilometers), are identifiable from the window of an airplane.
- **®** Sometime between 500 BCE and 500 CE, the Nazca Lines were created by a pre-Incan civilization that removed dark red surface rocks to reveal lighter-colored sand below.
- © The Nazca Lines obviously formed a kind of ancient agricultural calendar because the people who created them would not go to such trouble for anything but very practical reasons.
- ① The fact that the geoglyphs still remain visible on the desert floor to this day is mainly due to the small amount of rain, wind, and erosion in the region.

The Article states:

So here's what we *do* know: Between approximately 500 BCE and 500 CE, the region's pre-Incan civilization created the geoglyphs. How? By selectively removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that cover the ground and exposing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath. Some scientists believe that the geoglyph designers first created scaled-down models to guide them. Others think the designers used ropes attached to wooden posts to maintain the lines' full-scale proportions and geometric precision.

Why did the author include this passage?

- A To show that the civilization that made the Nazca Lines must have possessed technology at least as advanced as that of the Incan people
- **(B)** To point out the fact that the images formed by the Nazca Lines evolved greatly between the years 500 BCE and 500 CE
- © To explain how a pre-Incan civilization was able to create images on the desert floor that are only distinguishable from a distance
- ① To describe the most recent evidence that helps to explain what the mysterious lines in the Peruvian desert were actually used for

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *speculation*?

- (A) satisfaction
- (B) selection
- © supposition
- superstition

<u> </u>	_
(hijaction	•
Ouestion	J

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- A some of the Nazca Lines are now so faded that they are hard to see without modern technology
- B Peru's Nazca Lines are as conspicuous as many of the wonders of the ancient world
- © Peru's Nazca Lines remained completely forgotten until the introduction of commercial air travel
- (D) some of the Nazca Lines point to the best places to grow crops in the dry region

Question 6

According to the Article, which of these 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.

- A series of lines in the Peruvian desert became well-known after flights passed overhead.
- (B) A civilization created drawings in the desert sand by stripping away the top layer of rocks.
- © A geoglyph of a human-like being with many eyes, mouths, and limbs was discovered.
- **(D)** A Peruvian archaeologist discovered groups of lines drawn on the desert floor.

Read this passage from the Article:

Many of the geoglyphs come from the natural world, including animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that completely *defy* nature. One example is the strange humanoid figure uncovered in 2019, with its multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages.

Iı	n this passage, the word <i>defy</i> means
lack	to go against something
B	to include something
©	to make something better
(D)	to represent something

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Nazca Lines might have served more than one purpose?

- (A) Many of the geoglyphs come from the natural world, including animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that completely defy nature. One example is the strange humanoid figure uncovered in 2019, with its multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages.
- **B** Between approximately 500 BCE and 500 CE, the region's pre-Incan civilization created the geoglyphs. How? By selectively removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that cover the ground and exposing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.
- © The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs figured into specific rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have indicated where the rituals were being conducted. Others were more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.
- D Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist happened upon them in 1927. But it took the introduction of commercial air travel in the 1930s to bring them to the forefront.

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 remain a secret.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

List three or more characteristics that make the Nazca Lines an interesting attraction to visit and/or study in Southern Peru. Explain why some of these characteristics have left researchers with questions. Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Animated Favorites Get Real (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Moviemakers have started releasing live-action remakes of animated films. *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast* are two examples. 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 flock to theaters to watch live-action remakes of animated movies such as "Aladdin," starring Will Smith.

LOS ANGELES, California (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Guess what's about to get real, movie fans? Your old animated favorites! That is, if they haven't already.

Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, movie studios have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-booyah!—into live-action blockbusters. *Beauty and the Beast, The Jungle Book*, and *Dumbo* 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 the big attraction to going live-action? For studios, 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 off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, studios have stumbled upon a winning formula. It starts with stories audiences love and characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers. Add some of modern technology's 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* packed in moviegoers. Each film brought in more than a billion bucks worldwide. Meanwhile, Disney's other live-

action movies like A Wrinkle in Time and Tomorrowland scored points for originality but were lucky if they broke even.

It's partly the power of good ol' nostalgia that makes the formula so profitable. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods waltzing around the living room in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons were charged up to catch (get it? catch?) *Detective Pikachu*. Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (Hello, next-gen fans!)

Treating golden oldies to a modern makeover also gives studios a chance to make them more inclusive. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes. So more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero. African American actor Will Smith is the movie's wisecracking Genie. And, as just about everybody and their pet crustacean knows: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity to crank up the girl power. The producer of *Aladdin*, for example, said Jasmine 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 impressive. Like the original film, the live-action *Mulan* tells the story of a young woman who takes her father's place in the Chinese Imperial Army. But this version aims to be more culturally respectful.

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include 2019 blockbuster *The Lion King*, right? Well...it's complicated! The footage was created by artists with computers. There were no cameras filming actors or animals. So technically, it isn't live-action. However, it all looks so real that some people believe the word *animation* feels just plain wrong. What do *you* think?

Whatever your take on *The Lion King* debate, live-action remakes are part of the "Circle of Life" in movies today. And for lots of moviegoers, they offer "A Whole New World" that looks fresh yet feels familiar and fun.

Dictionary

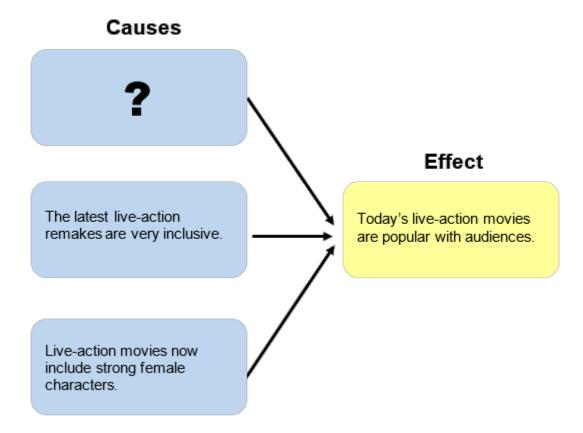
diversity (noun) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

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 audiences."

- (A) Live-action hits such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland* were popular because they used the very latest jaw-dropping special effects.
- **®** The use of expertly trained animals, as seen in *The Lion King*, thrilled audiences who flocked to theaters to watch the hit live-action remake.
- © Studios have added entirely new characters to popular animated movies that are a hit with today's viewing audience.
- D Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites when they were growing up take their kids to see the live-action remakes.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- (A) While the blockbuster remake of the film *The Lion King* cannot be considered live action because the footage was created by artists with computers, its images do appear lifelike.
- B Not all live-action films are popular with audiences as was seen in Disney's recent films *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland*, both of which were lucky to break even at the box office.

- © Live-action films such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin* were both popular because they made adult viewers remember watching them in their animated forms as children.
- D Studios have been making live-action remakes of older animated films but with greater diversity and stronger female characters than ever before.

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- A Parents who enjoyed animated films as kids are introducing a new generation to beloved characters of the past by bringing their own children to the new live-action remakes.
- **B** Live-action movies have proven popular among audiences around the world, as films such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland* have clearly demonstrated.
- © Jasmine, who speaks her mind and makes a stand in the hit Disney film *Aladdin*, is representative of the stronger female characters in the new live-action remakes.
- ① One of the reasons for the popularity of the recent live-action films is that these movies show a greater degree of diversity than earlier animated films.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest synonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) waltz and stumble
- **B** profitable and elaborate
- © originality and automation
- attraction and appeal

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- (A) the animated movie *Aladdin* was not popular among viewers because it did not show Jasmine as a strong, independent young woman
- (B) Disney's original animated film Mulan did not always show Chinese culture in a good way
- © the onscreen images seen in *The Lion King* are actually a skillful combination of computer animation and live-action sequences
- nore people saw the remade movie Aladdin than saw either Beauty and the Beast or Alice in Wonderland

Question 6

The Article states:

So what's the big attraction to going live-action? For studios, 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 off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, studios have stumbled upon a winning formula. It starts with stories audiences love and characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers. Add some of modern technology's jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching—it all equals box office gold.

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To suggest that studios do not want to spend as much money on the remakes of classic films as they did on the originals
- **®** To show ways in which today's remakes of older animated films are different from the original versions of those films
- © To point out the main reason why studios have chosen to produce remakes of some popular animated films of the past
- ① To explain why the original animated versions of popular Hollywood blockbusters remain popular to this day

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a movie's popularity can be increased when moviegoers can identify with characters in the film?

- (A) Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, movie studios have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-booyah!—into live-action blockbusters. Beauty and the Beast, The Jungle Book, and Dumbo 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.
- B Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity to crank up the girl power. The producer of *Aladdin*, for example, said Jasmine 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 impressive.
- © Treating golden oldies to a modern makeover also gives studios a chance to make them more inclusive. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes. So more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero. African American actor Will Smith is the movie's wisecracking Genie. And, as just about everybody and their pet crustacean knows: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.
- Detective Pikachu. Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (Hello, next-gen fans!)

Question 8

Look at this passage from the Article:

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include 2019 blockbuster *The Lion King*, right? Well...it's complicated! The footage was created by artists with computers. There were no cameras filming actors or animals. So technically, it isn't live-action. However, it all looks so real that some people believe the word *animation* feels just plain wrong. What do *you* think? Whatever your take on *The Lion King debate*, live-action remakes are part of the "Circle of Life" in movies today.

In this passage, the	word debate	means	•	
a series of books.	movies, etc.	that contain	the same	characters

- B something that people work together on as a team
- © a discussion in which people express different opinions
- **(D)** something that fails in an embarrassing way

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. As you write your summary, do the following:

STEP 1: Read the Article in order to understand the text.

STEP 2a: Locate the topic sentence for each paragraph.

STEP 2b: Get rid of any details that are not needed.

STEP 2c: Put the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.

STEP 3: Rethink your summary.

STEP 4: Re-read your summary. Make final corrections.

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A relatively new drink called "bubble tea" is winning followers 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, as well as a good place to get a sweet treat.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is a sweet drink is trendier than avocado toast and cooler than a cucumber-kale smoothie. Originally from Taiwan, it's winning fans around the world, from Los Angeles to London and Sweden to New Zealand.

To enjoy this treat, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, flavorings, creamer, and often ice. What makes it so special, though, is that it typically includes chewy goodies, which you'll find at the bottom of your cup. Most often, they are black tapioca pearls. They're sweet. Tapioca is a starchy food made from cassava, 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 actually refer to the foam on top of the drink. This forms when the drink gets shaken to mix the ingredients.

Tapioca is also used to make desserts, and that probably explains how bubble tea was invented. In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan. Milk tea is a drink consisting of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer. Near the end of that decade, some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea. Who was this trendsetter? Where exactly did the inspiration strike? Those are questions steeped in controversy. Different people and cities have claimed the credit.

What we do know, however, is that people loved this new combination. It was like a drink and a snack in one cup! The invention took off like a soap bubble on a breezy day. In no time at all, it was a huge hit all over Taiwan. From there, its popularity spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where there were a lot of Taiwanese immigrants, like Southern California. Now, they're on the rise elsewhere in the U.S. and in lots of other countries around the world. If there isn't a bubble tea shop near you now, look for one to pop up soon!

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Part of what people like so much about these drinks is that they can customize them to their own tastes. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong, the amount of ice, and the exact 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 consideration to chew on: toppings! You could go for black tapioca pearls, of course. But there are plenty of other options on the table, too. You might ask your bubble tea barista to throw in almond jelly, pudding, chia seeds, or red beans. (Yes, they're called "toppings" even though they typically sink to the bottom of the drink.)

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop is a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, 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. As Chatchawat Rienkhemaniyom, the former owner of one bubble tea shop in California put it, "[Bubble tea] has become life."

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

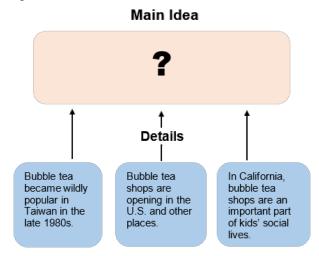
controversy (noun) disagreement

inspiration (noun) something that prompts a creative act

trendier (adjective) more in style or fashionable than something else

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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 "Bubble tea became wildly popular in Taiwan in the late 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 "In California, bubble tea shops are an important part of kids' social lives."

- (A) One of the things that people like about bubble tea is that they can customize the drink to their own tastes.
- B The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to other places around the world.
- © The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be black tapioca pearls or the foam that is made when mixing the drink.
- D Lovers of bubble tea can order toppings like almond jelly, pudding, chia seeds, and red beans.

Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *controversy*, as it is used in the Article?

- A Tradition
- B Mystery
- © Agreement
- Debate

Question 3

Look at the events below. Which of these must have 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.

- A combination drink and snack made by adding ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea became a hit in Taiwan.
- B The popularity of bubble tea spread in the United States and other countries around the world.
- © Tapioca, a food created from the root of a tropical plant, was used to make desserts in Taiwan.
- D Bubble tea shops opened in parts of the United States where there were a lot of Taiwanese immigrants.

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A bubble tea flavor option such as chocolate pudding is much tastier than matcha because it is sweeter.
- **B** In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea, a drink made by combining milk with tea, were both popular in Taiwan.
- © Exactly who invented bubble tea is a matter of debate because different cities and people have claimed the credit.
- D Bubble tea shops are popular in Southern California with high school and college students, who visit them to hang out, play games, or study.

Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find **most** of her information .

- (A) In an article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"
- B In an encyclopedia, under the entry for "bubble tea"
- © In a chapter about the United States in a world atlas
- D In a food science textbook that gives the ingredients of tapioca

Question 6

The Article states:

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Part of what people like so much about these drinks is that they can *customize* them to their own tastes. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong, the amount of ice, and the exact level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options.

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *customize*, as it is used above?

- (A) Adapt
- B Acquaint
- © Expand
- O Compare

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is becoming a big part of American life?

- (A) Customers can choose the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong, the amount of ice, and the exact level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options.
- B A bubble tea shop is a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, 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.
- © In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where there were a lot of Taiwanese immigrants, like Southern California.

Description In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan. Milk tea is a drink consisting of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer. Near the end of that decade, some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea. Who was this trendsetter? Where exactly did the inspiration strike? Those are questions steeped in controversy. Different people and cities have claimed the credit.

\sim		•	\sim
11	uest	101	×
()	ucsi	ш	()

The reader can tell from the Article that ______.

- A Bubble tea shops appeared in Southern California after they became popular in other parts of the country.
- B The rate of bubble tea shops opening in the U.S. has slowed compared to the rate they were opening in the 1990s.
- © Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be a confusing experience, especially for those who have never ordered it before.
- D Bubble tea shops in Southern California encourage customers to finish their drinks quickly to make room for more customers.

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 conclusions can you draw about the people who visit bubble tea shops? Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Cooking Up Native Traditions (880L)

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

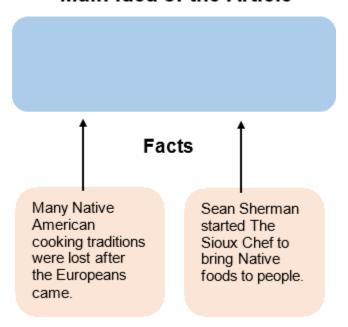
culture (noun) the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time
local (adjective) relating to or occurring in a particular area, city, or town
recipe (noun) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients
reservation (noun) an area of land in the U.S. 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?

- A The U.S. government gives Native Americans beans, rice, and vegetable oil.
- B Sean Sherman's recipes use natural ingredients such as elk and quail.
- © Native peoples used to use traditional ways of growing and hunting food.
- D 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.
- B 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.
- **(D)** 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

- A say how Sean Sherman uses sodium, sugar, and fats in his dishes
- B explain that people avoid traditional foods because they lead to illness
- © show how Sean Sherman is addressing a serious problem
- D point out that few Native Americans eat foods with lots of sugar

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) chatted and cooked
- (B) later and earlier
- © packed and filled
- (D) questions and answers

Question 5

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- A Sherman will add more canned beans and vegetable oil to his recipes.
- B People who like eating healthy will try traditional Native American cooking.
- © Many Native Americans who eat Native foods will end up with health problems.
- **(D)** Sherman will teach some classes on European cooking at a local college.

Ouestion 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- (A) What foods used to be in Sherman's family cupboard
- B Which problem Sherman is addressing with his recipes
- © Why it's hard to find natural ingredients, like wild rice
- D 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*?

- (A) allow
- (B) follow
- © found
- (D) 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?

- 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 (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Simone Biles has been called the greatest gymnast ever. However, she has had some setbacks on her path to success. 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 in Stuttgart, Germany.

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 expertly nailed her landings at the gymnastics world championships. And she also landed herself in the history books, winning her 25th world championship medal, more than any other gymnast in the world. And as if that wasn't enough, two of her moves during the competition were added to the list of signature moves bearing her name. One is now named the "Biles." It's a mind-boggling double-double dismount from the balance beam involving a double-twisting double backflip. Whew—that's even hard to *say*!

Biles' performances are so amazing, you might find yourself thinking gravity's merely a suggestion rather than a natural law. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand incredible physical strength to pull off. If you've seen Biles perform, you likely don't need much convincing that she's the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic! And yes, natural talent's got a lot to do with it. 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 until 2003, when her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her. Biles has said her success wouldn't be possible without the support of her adoptive parents. And they can't be missed cheering her on from the bleachers at every competition.

Biles discovered gymnastics during a field trip when she was just 6 years old. And even from a young age, she showed steady commitment to her sport. Her mother has said that skipping practice was never an option for Biles. She practiced even when she was sick, when, let's face it, most of us would probably crawl back into bed.

But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she finished 14th at the U.S. Junior Championships, after which the U.S. women's junior national team was named. Thirteen gymnasts made the team, meaning Biles missed by one spot. In her autobiography, *Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance*, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough her dedication began to pay off. In 2013, she was named as a replacement gymnast when two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team withdrew due to injuries. Biles replaced 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 compete against Olympic medalists in top-tier meets, where 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. But it was during her Olympic debut that she became a household name. Along with fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio, winning five medals in total and four of them gold!

Indeed, Simone Biles' journey from childhood to the Olympic Games and astonishing, jaw-dropping success as a gymnast is one of overcoming. She's an inspiration to young women striving to make their dreams come true. And with Biles gearing up to compete at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, it's safe to say this champion isn't done breaking records and dazzling audiences just yet.

Credit: Video Credit: Team USA

Dictionary

autobiography (noun) a biography written by the person it is about

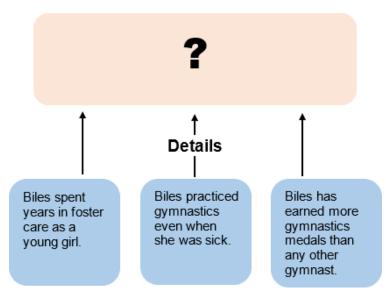
foster (adjective) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

inspiration (*noun*) something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create: a force or influence that inspires someone **technique** (*noun*) the way that a person performs basic physical movements or skills

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?

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 earned more gymnastics medals than any other gymnast."

- A Simone Biles said in her autobiography that failing to achieve a spot on the 2011 U.S. women's junior national team was a heartbreaking failure on her part.
- (B) After spending many of her early years in foster care, Simone Biles' grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her in 2003.
- © At a recent world championship, Simone Biles performed her signature move the "Biles," which is a double-double balance beam dismount with a double-twisting double backflip.
- D With an abundance of physical strength, talent, and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became what many consider to be the greatest gymnast in the world.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A Simone Biles was born in 1997 and didn't have an easy childhood, spending her early years in foster care until she was adopted by her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, in 2003.
- (B) Although her hard work and determination have no doubt contributed to her remarkable performances, Simone Biles' natural physical ability has been the true key to her success.
- © In October 2019, Simone Biles made U.S. gymnastics history when she won her 25th world championship medal, more than any other gymnast in the world.
- ① After years of hard work, Simone Biles was named as a replacement for Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross as a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013.

The Article states:

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough her dedication began to pay off. In 2013, she was named as a replacement gymnast when two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team withdrew due to injuries. Biles replaced 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?

- (A) To show how Simone Biles handled a heartbreaking failure to achieve a sought-after spot on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team
- B To point out that competition between gymnasts Simone Biles and Kyla Ross gave Biles the motivation needed to replace Ross on the United States' national gymnastics team
- © To draw emphasis to the fact that gymnast Simone Biles wouldn't have been able to join the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team without a great deal of natural athletic ability
- ① To suggest that Simone Biles worked just as hard as Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross to achieve success in gymnastics

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspiration*?

- (A) imitation
- (B) instruction
- © motivation
- (D) opposition

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that ...

- (A) Simone Biles' grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, didn't want Simone to become a gymnast at first because they worried about possible injury
- B Simone Biles only missed gymnastics practice as a child when she was very sick, in spite of the fact that her mother often urged her to attend
- © gymnast Simone Biles competed head-to-head against Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross and won her own gold medal in doing so
- D gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with what she describes as a heartbreaking failure

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) How old Simone Biles was when she was first introduced to the sport of gymnastics
- (B) Why Kyla Ross was replaced by Simone Biles on the U.S. Women's Gymnastic Team in 2013
- © How Simone Biles' poor showing at the U.S. Junior Championships affected her actions
- (D) Why Simone Biles didn't finish higher than 14th at the 2011 U.S. Junior Championships

Look at this passage from the Article:

Biles discovered gymnastics during a field trip when she was just 6 years old. And even from a young age, she showed steady *commitment* to her sport. Her mother has said that skipping practice was never an option for Biles. She practiced even when she was sick, when, let's face it, most of us would probably crawl back into bed.

In t	his passage	e, the word	commitment	means		
(A)	the act or 1	process of	making some	ething b	etter	

- (B) the attitude of someone who works very hard to do something
- © a strong feeling of disappointment that causes confusion
- (D) a natural ability to do something or to learn something

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties on her road to gymnastic success?

- A Biles' performances are so amazing, you might find yourself thinking gravity's merely a suggestion rather than a natural law. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand incredible physical strength to pull off. If you've seen Biles perform, you likely don't need much convincing that she's the greatest gymnast in the world.
- **B** By then, many already recognized Biles as the greatest of all time, or GOAT. But it was during her Olympic debut that she became a household name. Along with fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio, winning five medals in total and four of them gold!
- © In 2011, she finished 14th at the U.S. Junior Championships, after which the U.S. women's junior national team was named. Thirteen gymnasts made the team, meaning Biles missed by one spot. In her autobiography, *Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance*, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.
- ① In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast expertly nailed her landings at the gymnastics world championships. And she also landed herself in the history books, winning her 25th world championship medal, more than any other gymnast in the world. And as if that wasn't enough, two of her moves during the competition were added to the list of signature moves bearing her name. One is now named the "Biles." It's a mind-boggling double-double dismount from the balance beam involving a double-twisting double backflip.

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? Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

The Early-Late Debate (880L)

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 nodding off at your desk! 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 researchers 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.

Their efforts are paying off: There's good news for some teens who like to snooze. In October 2019, the governor of the U.S. state of California approved a new law. It regulates the start times of public schools in the state. Beginning in the 2022 school year, high schools will start at 8:30 a.m. or later. Middle schools will start at 8 a.m. or later.

So middle schoolers and high schoolers will have a chance to get more minutes of California dreamin' in the morning. But what about younger students? The reason the new law doesn't cover elementary schools has a lot to do with *circadian rhythms*. Sound like a hip-hop dance craze? The phrase actually refers to 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 typically get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So, while a 5-year-old or a 35-year-old might get a great night's rest by hitting the pillow at 7 p.m. and waking up at dawn, most teens' bodies just don't work that way. If they get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on a lot of top-quality z's.

What's more, not getting enough sleep puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues. These include eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

But not everyone agrees that starting the school day later is a smart way to go. Opponents argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—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. Another option would be shifting all school schedules later. But that could create a whole new set of problems, with elementary schools getting out much later in the day.

California schools will have to work through these and other issues. Educators and government officials in other places will be watching to see how the experiment goes and looking to apply the lessons learned. In fact, several school districts outside California have already adopted start times that meet the state's new standards. In Seattle Public Schools, high schools now start no earlier than 8:45 a.m. And an Ohio lawmaker recently introduced a bill to push back school start times there.

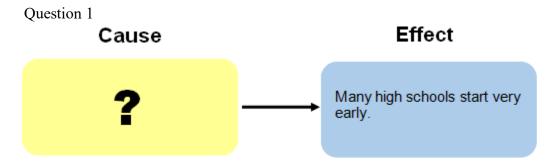
How about you? Would you rather start school bright and early or snooze till the sun is high in the sky?

Dictionary

depression (*noun*) a serious medical condition in which a person feels very sad, hopeless, and unimportant and often is unable to live in a normal way

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)



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."

- A Districts have to pay for more buses and drivers when all schools start near the same time.
- (B) Circadian rhythms are changes that happen in the body in 24-hour cycles.
- © Going to bed by 7 p.m. and waking up earlier helps teens get a better night's rest.
- D Research data suggest that students do not get more sleep when schools start later.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- A Students who don't get the sleep they need can have serious health problems, including diabetes and depression, and their academic success can be affected.
- **B** A later school start time for adolescents could cause problems such as less time for after-school sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- © 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.
- ⑤ Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, but there's debate over whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Adolescents with later school start times will take advantage of the additional time for sleeping in the morning by staying up later at night.
- B California middle schools must start their school days no earlier than 8 a.m. beginning in the 2022 school year.
- © Seattle Public Schools began having later high school start times that meet California's standards before California did.
- **(D)** Changes occur in the body according to the time of day during 24-hour cycles in response to circadian rhythms.

Which two words are the closest synonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) issues and standards
- **B** depression and encouragement
- © approve and permit
- **(D)** physical and mental

Question 5

Which of these statements is **contrary** to the ideas presented in the Article?

- (A) Sleep deprivation can interfere with academic performance and cause serious physical and mental health problems.
- B The amount of time that adolescents spend sleeping is more important than what time of day they sleep.
- © Schools in places beyond California may consider revising their school schedules based on how the experiment works.
- O Additional research is needed to determine whether students do in fact get more sleep when schools have later start times.

Question 6

The Article states:

What's more, not getting enough sleep puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues. These include eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

- A explain how important sleep is for adolescents
- B show that sleep is more important to adults than adolescents
- © identify issues common to all students during adolescence
- (D) analyze the quality of the research on adolescent sleep

Question 7

The Article states:

What's more, not getting enough sleep puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues. These include eating *disorders*, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *disorders*?

- (A) illnesses
- (B) decisions
- (c) discussions
- D emergencies

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether or not students will benefit from a later school start time?

- Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night. But unlike younger or older people, they typically get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So, while a 5-year-old or a 35-year-old might get a great night's rest by hitting the pillow at 7 p.m. and waking up at dawn, most teens' bodies just don't work that way. If they get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on a lot of top-quality z's.
- ® Opponents argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—fun.
- © What's more, not getting enough sleep puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues. These include eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!
- D If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of researchers 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.

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? Support your answer with facts and details from the Article.

Give Me S'more! (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many people like to make a dessert called s'mores, which are gooey treats 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 combo 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 of the halves.
- 2. Put a marshmallow on a stick and hold it over a campfire until it gets a little charred.
- 3. Use the stick to set the hot marshmallow on the chocolate-graham cracker combo.
- 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 the gooey goodness immediately!

A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best elements 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 the best thing you'll ever taste. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more*!" Then you'll wonder, "Who thought of *this*?"

It certainly wasn't our ancient ancestors. It's not like they could just run over to Walmart and grab a bag of marshmallows, some chocolate bars, and a box of graham crackers. Furthermore, for s'mores to become a thing, some of the key ingredients had to be refined first.

Take the marshmallows. These yummy treats aren't new. But for hundreds of years, they were hard to make. You needed eggs, sugar, and the root sap of a plant called the "marsh mallow." Each treat was poured and molded by hand. It was so much work that marshmallows were a rare luxury reserved for the rich. Thankfully, marshmallows no longer have to be crafted by hand. And they're now prepared using cheap ingredients (corn syrup, cornstarch, and gelatin). 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 from today's chocolate. For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss candlemaker-turned-chocolatier 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 what genius 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 contains a reference to the delectable treat, calling it "Some More," presumably because that's what you want after eating one.

These days, s'mores are widely known. But that doesn't mean we've all 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-inspired products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes manage to capture the essence of a true s'more. But don't fret. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more (or two, or three) 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!

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

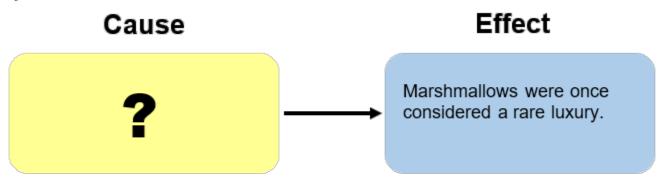
charred (adjective) burned and blackened

delectable (adjective) tasty; delicious

indulge (verb) to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box 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 "Marshmallows were once considered a rare luxury."

- A Marshmallows were made with expensive ingredients like cornstarch and corn syrup.
- **B** Each marshmallow had to be individually poured and molded by hand.
- © Marshmallow recipes required gelatin, which was produced only in Mesoamerica.
- ① Only Swiss candlemaker Daniel Peter knew how to get root sap from the marsh mallow plant.

Question 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in the summary of the Article?

- (A) Daniel Peter, the Swiss chocolatier who invented an important process used in making milk chocolate, was originally a candlemaker.
- (B) Mesoamericans were the first people known to make chocolate, harvesting cacao seeds and using them in various dishes.
- © Grocery stores today offer a variety of s'more-inspired products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to s'more-flavored candy bars, but none of them capture the essence of a true s'more.
- D Making a s'more involves roasting a marshmallow over a fire and sandwiching it and a piece of chocolate between graham crackers, but nobody knows who invented the treat.

Ouestion 3

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *delectable*, as it is used in the Article?

- (A) Odd
- (B) Horrible
- © Affordable
- Pabulous

The Article says all of the following **except** .

- A Today's marshmallows are produced using ingredients like corn syrup, corn starch, and gelatin.
- **B** The name "s'more" probably came about from the idea that the dessert was so tasty anyone who tried it would ask for "some more."
- © Graham crackers were originally created in the late 1800s using coarse whole wheat flour.
- D In 1875, Swiss candlemaker Daniel Peter developed a way to mix milk, sugar, and chocolate to create what is now called "milk chocolate."

Question 5

In the *second-to-last* paragraph, the author presents information about s'more snacks and microwave cooking in order to

- (A) Describe the products available for s'more lovers at grocery stores, as well as the disadvantages of campfire cooking
- B Advertise the variety of s'more-inspired foods at grocery stores and compare oven-baked s'mores with microwaved s'mores
- © Demonstrate the popularity of s'mores and provide readers with alternatives to traditional s'more making
- D Persuade readers to buy more breakfast snacks and candy bars, and to use safer cooking methods than campfires

Question 6

Which two words are the closest antonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) Indulge and devour
- **B** Craft and construct
- © Luxury and treat
- (D) Cheap and expensive

Ouestion 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first developed to make desserts?

- A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best elements 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 the best thing you'll ever taste.
- **B** For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.
- © Thankfully, marshmallows no longer have to be crafted by hand. And they're now prepared using cheap ingredients (corn syrup, cornstarch, and gelatin). So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.
- D No one's really sure what genius 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 contains a reference to the delectable treat, calling it "Some More," presumably because that's what you want after eating one.

Question 8	
The reader can tell from the Article that	

- A S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that even the most inexperienced cooks can make.
- B More Americans prefer s'mores to other chocolate desserts, including Hershey bars.
- © Daniel Peter would not have approved of the current ingredients used to make s'mores.
- D Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after their group's 1927 manual came out.

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. As you write your summary, do the following:

STEP 1: Read the Article in order to understand the text.

STEP 2a: Locate the topic sentence for each paragraph.

STEP 2b: Get rid of any details that are not needed.

STEP 2c: Put the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.

STEP 3: Rethink your summary.

STEP 4: Re-read your summary. Make final corrections.

Global Game Fame (880L)

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 and two others were released 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

Since 2015, The Strong National Museum of Play has accepted nominations and chosen new entrants for 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 established the World Video Game Hall of Fame. The museum is in the U.S. state of New York. It houses the official collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games. The interactive exhibit, called "eGameRevolution," gives visitors the opportunity to play their way through video game history.

In the four years since the hall of fame began, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's inductees are *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*. On May 2, 2019, these games joined an exclusive collection of all-time greats.

Winners are selected among computer, console, handheld, mobile, and arcade games. However, the chosen winners are not always the most recent or exciting games. Often, they're often old-fashioned games that few people actually play anymore. *Colossal Cave Adventure*, for instance, is a text-based computer game from 1976. But its imaginary world inspired numerous other adventure games. This helped launch the commercial computer game industry.

So how does a video game get to be a hall-of-famer? Games are judged on four basic standards: reputation as an icon, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming industry. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have maintained a presence or influence over time. That means some winners seem unpopular or simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games brought major changes to the industry.

Microsoft Solitaire, for instance, has likely been installed on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. Based on a centuries-old card game, it was *both* popular and influential. The game also taught computer users how to use a new device—the mouse.

"The game proved that sometimes...games can be even more popular in the digital world and demonstrated that a market existed for games that appeal to people of all types," said Jeremy Saucier. He is the assistant vice president for interpretation and electronic games at The Strong.

Super Mario Kart is another game that finally made the grade in 2019. This beloved game was the first of the Mario Kart racing series. It launched way back in 1992. A trip to the hall of fame exhibit will tell you that the game wasn't actually meant to feature Mario. But once a sketch of the famous plumber in the driver's seat captured everyone's attention, the rest was history.

The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. It featured cell phone, online, and virtual games. Some of the finalists included *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Maybe you play some of these, or maybe your favorite didn't make the cut. Have strong opinions about which games should be nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year? Get involved! During the first few months of each year, anyone can go online to nominate games. If enough people suggest the same game, it will win a nomination and be sent to The Strong museum committee for consideration.

So which games will get nominated next year? We could say the choice is yours! But even if your nominee doesn't make it, you can still consider attending the award ceremony. It's held annually in Rochester, NY. Attendees play interactive games, and bands perform video game theme songs. Best of all, the world's most globally influential video games finally get their due.

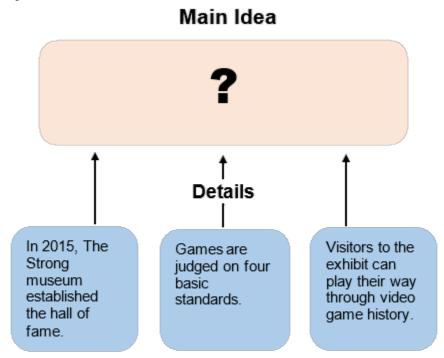
The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

icon (noun) something or someone widely recognized and greatly admired **influential** (adjective) having an effect on people, their actions, or events **nominate** (verb) to suggest someone or something for an award or honor

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 2015, The Strong museum established the hall of fame." The box in the middle says "Games are judged on four basic standards." The box on the right says "Visitors to the exhibit can play their way through video game history."

- (A) Every year, video games that have had a tremendous influence on the gaming industry are selected for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- **B** Some old-fashioned video games seem unpopular or simple to today's gamers, but they helped launch the gaming industry.
- © Candy Crush Saga, Centipede, and Dance Dance Revolution were all finalists for the World Video Game Hall of Fame in 2019.
- D *Microsoft Solitaire* is a wildly popular electronic game that has been installed on more than 1 billion computers worldwide.

Question 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *nominate*, as it is used in the Article?

- A Propose
- (B) Install
- © Format
- O Acquire

Ouestion 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) Video games that offer fast action such as *Super Mario Kart* are more enjoyable to play than games like *Microsoft Solitaire*.
- ® Colossal Cave Adventure, which came out in 1976, is a text-based computer game that helped launch the commercial computer game industry.
- © Each year, anyone can go online to nominate the games they believe should be included in the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- ① The Strong National Museum of Play in New York welcomed its first games into the World Video Game Hall of Fame in 2015.

Question 4

Based on information in the Article, how is Super Mario Kart different from Microsoft Solitaire?

- (A) Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was immediately popular with gaming fans.
- ® Only Super Mario Kart was influential in the video game industry.
- © Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was designed to teach players a computer skill.
- ① Only Super Mario Kart was available for use on personal computers.

Question 5

The Article states:

In the four years since the hall of fame began, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's inductees are *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*. On May 2, 2019, these games joined an *exclusive* collection of all-time greats.

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *exclusive*, as it is used above?

- (A) Limited
- (B) Genuine
- © Suitable
- Initial

Ouestion 6

The Article states:

So how does a video game get to be a hall-of-famer? Games are judged on four basic standards: reputation as an icon, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming industry. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have maintained a presence or influence over time. That means some winners seem unpopular or simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games brought major changes to the industry.

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To describe The Strong National Museum of Play's guidelines for selecting games to enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- **B** To explain to the reader why older, simpler games are seldom chosen as inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- © To suggest that a game's reputation as an icon is more important than its influence for entering the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- D To point out the fact that a game's popularity is the principal standard for it to be chosen as a finalist for the World Video Game Hall of Fame

Ouestion 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a game should have had a big effect on the gaming industry in order to enter the hall of fame?

- A Have strong opinions about which games should be nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year? Get involved! During the first few months of each year, anyone can go online to nominate games.
- (B) *Microsoft Solitaire*, for instance, has likely been installed on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. Based on a centuries-old card game, it was both popular and influential. The game also taught computer users how to use a new device—the mouse.
- © In 2015, the museum established the World Video Game Hall of Fame. The museum is in the U.S. state of New York.
- Description The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. It featured cell phone, online, and virtual games. Some of the finalists included *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Question 8

Based on the Article, the reader can predict that ______.

- A Next year's inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame may not be the most popular games available at the time.
- B All of next year's nominees for the World Video Game Hall of Fame will be selected by a team of judges at the Strong National Museum of Play.
- © Colossal Cave Adventure, Super Mario Kart, and Microsoft Solitaire will be among the games nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year.
- ① The standards for selecting winners for the World Video Game Hall of Fame will change next year.

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 descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

Good, Bad, or Ugly? (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The demand for "perfect" fruits and veggies means a lot of food gets wasted. Now, some companies are selling and shipping "ugly" produce 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? Well, Imperfect Produce, a company that delivers "ugly" fruits and vegetables to customers around the country, is selling it anyway.

URBANDALE, **Iowa** (Achieve 3000, May 6, 2019). Brace yourselves, people. This may not be pretty!

We'd like to have a fruitful debate about what to do with the most hideous produce. You know—strawberries that seem to be sprouting arms, apples so bruised they look like they've just come out of the boxing ring, tomatoes you're convinced have devil horns, and those mean-mugged potatoes.

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 only the most appealing choices in front of customers.

But ugly fruits deserve love, too. In recent years, a new crop of "ugly produce" start-ups have blossomed across the U.S. These companies sell those supermarket rejects. And they deliver them right to your door.

The start-ups say they're on a mission to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste each year. 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 for their goods. That's great news for customers. But not everyone is happy. Some say ugly produce peddlers—Imperfect Produce, Hungry Harvest, and Misfits Market, to name a few—may only be focused on what's best for their profits.

The Ugly Truth?

Sink your teeth into this juicy fruit scandal: Critics say that imperfect produce isn't really wasted to the extent that the startups maintain.

Case in point: Many local farmers across the country had already been selling boxes of imperfect produce directly to customers and farmers markets for years. Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. Now small farms are finding it hard to compete with these marketing machines. And the farmers are losing profits.

Also, some of the companies may fail to mention that plenty of ugly fruits and veggies do have other uses. Take the food service industry. There, produce is sliced, diced, blended, and more—regardless of what it looks like. On farms, fruits like melons can be fed to animals, and rotted fruit is plowed back into soil to add nutrients. And, maybe most importantly, ugly produce companies have been accused of cashing in on food that could otherwise be sent to food banks.

It's not that critics of ugly produce start-ups believe the companies don't have a right to exist. But they want the companies to tell people the truth about imperfect produce—the good, the bad, and the ugly. They also want to make sure the start-ups don't cause more harm than good.

Not So Bad, After All?

Clearly, the criticism of the imperfect produce movement can get ugly at times. But the companies are defending themselves.

Take Imperfect Produce, for example. In March 2019, it informed people that the company doesn't take away from food banks that help the needy. In fact, Imperfect Produce said it sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want. Not only that, but the company itself regularly donates to food banks. Now put *that* in your food basket!

It is true that some produce goes to waste in America. The Department of Agriculture has even confirmed that food waste is a major problem in the U.S. In fact, an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted.

But what about those local farmers who view ugly produce companies as competition? Imperfect Produce claims both farmers and ugly produce sellers can play a part in reducing food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.

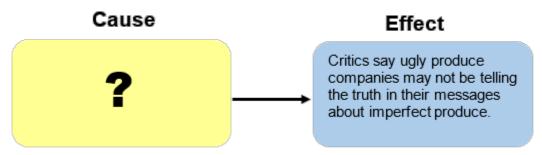
No matter whom you're siding with on this one, remember this: It's what's on the inside that counts.

Dictionary

discount (noun) a cheaper price than what a product or service customarily costs **scandal** (noun) something that happened that many people think is bad or wrong

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 "Critics say ugly produce companies may not be telling the truth in their messages about imperfect produce."

- A Some ugly produce companies do not discuss the reasons why they offer deep discounts to customers.
- B Many ugly produce companies do not admit that the Department of Agriculture states that 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted.
- © Many ugly produce companies conceal the fact that some of their produce has been rejected by supermarkets.
- D Some ugly produce companies may not mention that ugly fruits and vegetables can be used on farms and in the food service industry.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

- A Some local farmers across the country have been selling boxes of imperfect produce directly to consumers and farmers markets.
- B Imperfect Produce revealed in March 2019 that it regularly donates food to food banks that help the needy.
- © Ugly produce start-ups say their mission is to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste each year.
- © Some imperfect fruits can be fed to farm animals, and rotted fruit can be plowed back into the soil to add nutrients.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of fact?

- A Supermarkets deserve much of the blame for today's food waste problem, considering that they reject perfectly good produce based on appearance alone.
- **B** It's important for local farmers who are losing profits to ugly produce start-ups to launch online marketing campaigns in order to attract more customers.
- © Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.
- © Giving bad reviews of ugly produce start-ups is pointless because customers are more motivated than ever to prevent food waste and save money.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word <i>scandal</i> , as it is used in the Article?
(A) Disgrace
B Reflection
© Principle
(D) Disposition
Question 5
The author probably wrote this Article in order to .
A Inspire companies like Imperfect Produce to reconsider their methods of attracting new customers
B Criticize the founders of ugly produce companies for not doing enough to support food banks that
distribute unwanted fruits and vegetables to the needy
© Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce start-ups, their mission, and whether these
companies are doing more harm than good
© Convince readers to only purchase food from companies that work with small farmers in order to reduce
food waste in the United States
Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that ugly produce companies are only concerned with
what's best for their own profits?
(A) But what about those local farmers who view ugly produce companies as competition? Imperfect Produce
claims both farmers and ugly produce sellers can play a part in reducing food waste. It doesn't have to be
either-or.
B In fact, Imperfect Produce said it sources from farms only after food banks take what they want. Not only
has that, but the company itself regularly donated to food banks.
© The start-ups say they're on a mission to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to
waste each year. Think of it this way: Is a banged-up banana any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich? Why
should it be thrown away? ① Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of fruits and veggies
from large farms around the country. Now small farms are finding it hard to compete with these marketing
machines. And the farmers are losing profits.
manufacture and required and required

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *extent*, as it is used above?

Question 7

A GuaranteeB NotionC OutcomeD Degree

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

- A Food banks will begin to purchase their fruits and vegetables from ugly produce companies that offer deep discounts.
- **®** To please critics, ugly produce companies will inform customers that food waste may not be a problem in the United States.
- © As more customers buy goods from ugly produce start-ups, some supermarkets may consider adding imperfect produce to their grocery aisles.
- D Ugly produce companies will be forced out of business as local farmers start selling imperfect fruits and vegetables to people in their neighborhoods.

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 evidence from the Article to support your answer.

Katherine the Great (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One woman worked for NASA as a math expert. She started in the 1950s at a time when women and minorities were often discouraged from seeking 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 excellent work doing math for NASA made headlines in more ways than one.

HAMPTON, Virginia (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or given an Oscar-winning performance. 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 affects all our lives. Here's how: From the 1950s until the 1980s, Johnson worked for NASA. Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for satellite TV, accurate meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So while Johnson may never be on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, you could say she's a hero.

Johnson's name and work may be familiar to you if you've seen the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*. The movie tells the story of Johnson and two other African American women who worked behind the scenes at NASA as "human computers." They did things like calculate orbital trajectories. That is important work, especially when people are being sent into space. Remarkably, they did this work at a time when women and minorities were often discouraged from going after high-level jobs.

To get a job as a "human computer," Johnson had to be great at math. And she was. Born in West Virginia in 1918, Johnson was a whiz kid who skipped several grades in school. After graduating from college with high honors and a degree in math, she began teaching at a public school. In 1953, Johnson heard that jobs for African American women with math and science backgrounds were available at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA, which later became part of NASA). It was then that Johnson was offered a position.

Johnson worked on numerous space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation for the accuracy of her calculations. That year, NASA was preparing for Friendship 7, a mission that would put astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers with the equations needed to calculate the trajectory of Glenn's space capsule. Computers are known to be fast and accurate. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work properly? To guard against this, he requested a human computer to run the equations that had been programmed into the computers. 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 equations, and the mission was a success.

In her three decades at NASA, Johnson worked on many other missions. They included Project Apollo. (That's the famous one that landed astronauts on the moon for the first time, in 1969.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

Johnson has been retired from NASA since 1986. She turned 100 in 2018, but she hasn't slowed down—not too much, anyway. In fact, Johnson is finally ready to tell her own story. In the summer of 2019, she will release *Reaching for the Moon*, an autobiography for young readers.

The NASA legend believes *she* was able to reach for the moon because of a lifetime of curiosity. "You learn if you want to. So you've got to want to learn," she says. Johnson wants young people to believe that they can do anything.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

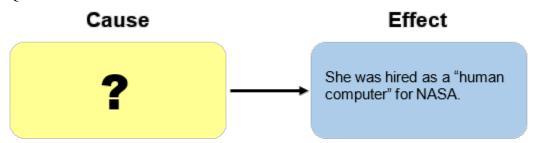
Video credit: NASA

Dictionary

accuracy (noun) how close something is to being right
autobiography (noun) the story of someone's life written by that person
calculation (noun) the act of doing math work; or the result of math work
trajectory (noun) the path of an object through space

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 "She was hired as a "human computer" for NASA."

- A Katherine Johnson knew NASA astronaut John Glenn.
- **B** Katherine Johnson was a mathematical whiz and had a degree in math.
- © Katherine Johnson wrote an autobiography for young readers.
- (D) Katherine Johnson was the subject of the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*.

Question 2

Suppose this Article could have a different title. The best one would be

- (A) From Whiz Kid to Math Hero, Katherine Johnson's Life Is Proof That Anything Is Possible
- B "Human Computer" Katherine Johnson Celebrates Turning 100 Years Old
- © Katherine Johnson Tells Her Story in an Autobiography for Young Readers
- D It's No Surprise Math Expert Katherine Johnson Skipped Several Grades in School

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.

- A Katherine Johnson released an autobiography titled Reaching for the Moon.
- B Katherine Johnson was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- © Katherine Johnson retired from NASA after three decades of work there.
- (D) Katherine Johnson worked on a mission that sent astronauts to the moon.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A Remembered and recalled
- B Accuracy and carelessness
- © Famous and unknown
- Numerous and few

Question 5 This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on . (A) The outstanding accomplishments of former NASA astronaut John Glenn (B) NASA's contributions to modern-day technology © Successful women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (D) Katherine Johnson's childhood years in West Virginia Question 6 Based on the Article, the reader can tell that . (A) In 1953, Katherine Johnson was likely not surprised to learn that the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was interested in hiring African American women. (B) Katherine Johnson was a respected public figure who enjoyed the spotlight during her career, which spanned three decades at NASA. © In the 1960s, John Glenn and other astronauts completely trusted the accuracy of the technology available at the time. (D) Many young people will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography inspiring. Question 7 Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely realized at the time? (A) Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for satellite TV, accurate meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones). (B) To guard against this, he requested a human computer to run the equations that had been programmed into the computers. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson. © Johnson worked on numerous space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation for the accuracy of her

Question 8

calculations.

The Article states:

space shuttle program.

They did things like calculate orbital trajectories. That is important work, especially when people are being sent into space. *Remarkably*, they did this work at a time when women and minorities were often discouraged from going after high-level jobs.

D In her three decades at NASA, Johnson worked on many other missions. They included Project Apollo. (That's the famous one that landed astronauts on the moon for the first time, in 1969.) She also worked on the

Which would be the closest **antonym** for the word *remarkably*, as it is used above?

- (A) Unimpressively
- B Astonishingly
- © Undoubtedly
- O Arguably

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 and how she helped lead the way for both 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? (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people from the Pacific Islands are working to stop climate change. They're afraid rising sea levels 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 fabulous. But what if you took a trip or went away for college and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll be the last generation.

But the islanders' determination is as strong as their connection to their home. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 independent countries. These include the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Now the people of the Pacific Islands' distinct nations are banding together to confront the challenges of 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 where communities are harmed by rising sea levels. And scientists have found that 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. The region is prone to very destructive tropical storms. And it's hard for small, remote countries to recover from natural disasters.

The nations of the Pacific Islands recognize that when it comes to climate change, they're all in the same boat. Working together, they set about looking for ways to take the helm and address the problem.

Scientists already know one way to slow or reverse the effects of climate change. That's by significantly 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 major source of emissions to begin with. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon annually. The United States emits 16 percent. The Marshall Islands, on the other hand, emit less than 0.00001 percent of the world's carbon!

But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact is enormous. In fact, experts say cargo ships are responsible for almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!

Realizing it was up to them to come up with solutions, Pacific Islanders came up with a plan. In 2019, the governments of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu announced the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership. The alliance pledges a 40 percent reduction in carbon emissions from shipping by 2030. It also wants to achieve zero-carbon shipping by 2050.

How will the countries meet these ambitious goals? They plan to make use of some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These include solar-powered ships and hydrogen fuel cells. The plan is to also harness wind energy for sailing and converting to electric power. Through their efforts, Pacific Island nations are leading the world by example. They're hoping their move could start a wave of change in the shipping industry.

But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They're coordinating programs to solve other problems such as increasing their ability to handle changes in climate. They are also preparing for natural disasters 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 all can survive and thrive in their homelands for generations to come.

Video credit: United Nations

Dictionary

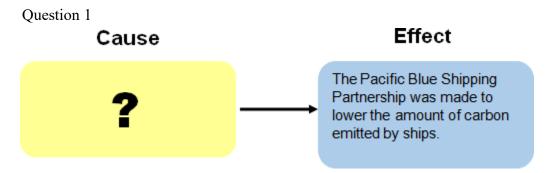
alliance (noun) a union between people, groups, countries, etc.: a relationship in which people agree to work together

convert (verb) to change (something) into a different form so that it can be used in a different way

emission (noun) something sent out or given off

prone (adjective) likely to do, have, or suffer from something

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)



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 emitted by ships."

- A Pacific Islanders are increasing their ability to handle and prepare for disasters.
- B The Pacific Island countries produce about 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions.
- © The total amount of carbon emitted by Pacific Island nations is making sea levels rise.
- D Pacific Island countries realize that they are all affected by climate change.

Question 2

The Article primarily discusses .

- (A) the geography of the Pacific Islands, including their location in the South Pacific and the 11 independent countries they contain, such as the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia
- **(B)** the effect of climate change on the Pacific Island nations, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, in which carbon-free technologies will be used to reduce carbon emitted by cargo ships that deliver goods to the islands
- © the potential of solar power, hydrogen fuel cells, and wind energy, all of which are technologies that do not emit carbon, to replace carbon-emitting technologies that cause damage to the environment in the Pacific Islands
- D the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted by the Pacific Islands compared to larger countries, including China, which emits 29 percent of the world's carbon annually, and the United States, which emits 16 percent

Question 3

Which is the closest antonym for the word alliance?

- A plot
- B community
- © decision
- D separation

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Why the countries in the Pacific Islands rely on carbon-producing cargo ships more than some other countries do
- B Why the Pacific Island countries are experiencing the effects of climate change more than some other areas
- © Why the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and other countries in the Pacific Islands have started working together
- D Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some of the countries that make up the Pacific Islands rather than all of them

Ouestion 5

Read the following passage from the Article:

But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact is enormous. In fact, experts say cargo ships are responsible for 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 information?

- A To point out the dangerous environmental impact of climate change caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions
- **®** To describe a variety of creative strategies for reducing carbon emissions in an effort to slow or reverse climate change
- © To inform readers that the Pacific Islands are responsible for producing almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions
- D To explain why the Pacific Island countries developed a plan for reducing carbon emissions from cargo ships rather than emissions from other sources

Question 6

The Article states:

The alliance pledges a 40 percent reduction in carbon emissions from shipping by 2030. It also wants to achieve zero-carbon shipping by 2050. How will the countries meet these *ambitious* goals? They plan to make use of some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies.

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *ambitious*?

- (A) suspicious
- B thrilling
- © obvious
- (D) challenging

What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

- A Zero-carbon shipping is unattainable, so the countries in the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership accept a 40 percent reduction in shipping-related carbon emissions as an achievable goal.
- B The Pacific Island countries are the first to propose solutions to the problems resulting from climate change because other countries are not affected by rising sea levels.
- © Countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems not only in their own backyards but around the entire world.
- D Small island nations are unable to reduce air pollution since their levels of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are already so low.

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the belief that the threat to the Pacific Islands resulting from climate change is critical?

- Mhat if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll be the last generation.
- But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact is enormous. In fact, experts say cargo ships are responsible for almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!
- © How will the countries meet these ambitious goals? They plan to make use of some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These include solar-powered ships and hydrogen fuel cells. The plan is to also harness wind energy for sailing and converting to electric power. Through their efforts, Pacific Island nations are leading the world by example. They're hoping their move could start a wave of change in the shipping industry.
- D Scientists already know one way to slow or reverse the effects of climate change. That's by significantly 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 major source of emissions to begin with. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon annually. The United States emits 16 percent.

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? Include information from the Article in your response.

A Musical Pioneer (880L)

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 and founder 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 orchestra and youth choir in her home country of South Africa. The visionary leader of this all-black ensemble has set her sights on empowering black youth and showcasing classical music created by African artists.

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because this go-getter is only 27 years old. In terms of diversity, classical music has lagged far behind most other kinds of music. A 2017 study about the most respected orchestras worldwide found that only 5 of the 100 most sought after conductors were women. There are relatively few conductors of color as well. About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S., for example, are white. Finally, classical music started in Europe hundreds of years ago. And although its influence and audience now extend far beyond the continent, many people still connect it with European culture. In short, as a young, black, female conductor born and raised in South Africa, Pitse is truly one of a kind.

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family: Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director. So you might guess that she picked up the baton as soon as she was old enough to stand. However, music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she also excelled at drawing and chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse...and she listened. In 2017, she started a choir. She selected young singers who had outstanding talent and big dreams. They were from disadvantaged communities and had limited opportunities. She says the experience has been transformative for these young people. It has allowed them

to develop their gifts, build their confidence, and realize their dreams. Now that's something worth singing about!

Pitse's impressive project didn't stop there: You could say she was just getting tuned up. She set out to form an orchestra to accompany her singers. And she enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired conductors at universities in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had honed her conducting skills. She had also successfully recruited accomplished musicians and financial supporters to create a 40-member orchestra.

What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear 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 centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa. So, the group's performances focus on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this former architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

Video credit: Mesia Gumede

Dictionary

empower (verb) to give power to (someone)

excel (verb) to be better than others

financial (adjective) relating to money

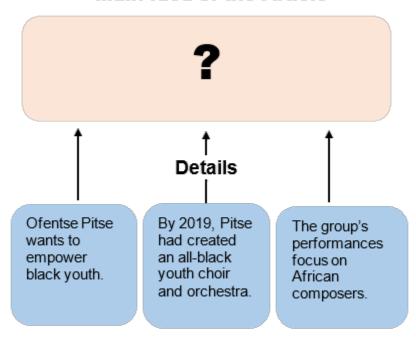
hone (verb) to make (something, such as a skill) better or more effective

mentor (noun) someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person

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?

- (A) Ofentse Pitse wants her audiences to enjoy pieces written by African composers Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, and Sibusiso Njeza.
- B Although Ofentse Pitse came from a family of musicians and enjoyed music as a little girl, she also excelled at drawing and chose to become an architect before deciding to start a choir.
- © Ofentse Pitse enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten, who are both admired conductors at universities in South Africa.
- ① Ofentse Pitse is the founder of an orchestra and youth choir that gives young black singers the chance to develop their gifts while also performing the works of leading African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) Classical music started in Europe hundreds of years ago, and many people still connect it with European culture today.
- (B) When Ofentse Pitse wanted to form her orchestra, she enlisted the help of two mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten.
- © A recent study that gathered data on the most respected orchestras worldwide found that only 5 out of the 100 most sought after conductors were women.
- D Ofentse Pitse never would have become a conductor of a classical orchestra and choir if her grandfather had not been a jazz band conductor and choir director.

The Article states:

At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa. So, the group's performances focus on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this former architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

Why	did	the	author	include	this	passage?

- A To point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven and Mozart
- B To explain who inspired Ofentse Pitse to create and lead a classical orchestra and youth choir

© To suggest that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are more talented than Beethoven and Mozart
D To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today
Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word <i>excel</i> ?
(A) stall
B dodge
© transfer
(D) oppose
Question 5
Based on the Article, the reader can tell that
(A) Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often conduct Ofentse Pitse's choir and orchestra
B Ofentse Pitse's choir usually features at least one piece written by Mozart and Beethoven
© singers in Ofentse Pitse's choir may not have been able to become performers without her help
nany of the classical pieces performed by her orchestra were written by Ofentse Pitse
Question 6
Which information is not in the Article?
Then mornadon is not in the ratiole.

- (A) What hobby Ofentse Pitse enjoyed and excelled at when she was a child
- (B) How Ofentse Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
- © Who helped Ofentse Pitse when she wanted to form an orchestra for her singers
- (D) Why Ofentse Pitse is considered a pioneer in the world of classical music

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

And she enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired conductors at universities in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had honed her conducting skills. She had also successfully *recruited* accomplished musicians and financial supporters to create a 40-member orchestra.

supporters to create a 40-member orenestra.	
In this passage, the word <i>recruit</i> means .	
A to frustrate those who are interested	
B to ignore anyone who wants to play	
© to persuade people to join an effort	

(D) to discourage others from participating

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts spotlight the work of new or unfamiliar artists?

- (A) A 2017 study about the most respected orchestras worldwide found that only 5 of the 100 most sought-after conductors were women. There are relatively few conductors of color as well.
- But music called to Pitse...and she listened. In 2017, she started a choir. She selected young singers who had outstanding talent and big dreams. They were from disadvantaged communities and had limited opportunities.
- © What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.
- ① Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family: Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director. So you might guess that she picked up the baton as soon as she was old enough to stand.

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)

Retell this story from the point of view of a journalist who is interviewing Ofentse Pitse. What questions might the reporter ask Pitse? How might she respond? Be sure to include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and descriptive phrases, in your answer.

Otzi the Iceman (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Ötzi the Iceman lived about 5,300 years ago. Scientists have been studying Ötzi's remains 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 recreation that's based on medical scans of 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 what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (thus his name). 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 another or maybe several other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't fare too well in the encounter. His wounds probably prevented him from fighting back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows that he carried with him. He also had a copper ax on hand. After all, this *was* the Copper Age. But fleeing up a cold mountain was probably preferable to using it in combat. Fortunately, he was wearing warm clothing made of leather, hides, and grass. He also had eaten a bellyful of goat meat and grain earlier. But would he survive the cold and the wounds?

He would not. So, are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him in his thawing ice tomb. He looked rather well, all things considered. Understandably, the discovery made international headlines. Here was the first well-preserved, fully attired body from the late-Neolithic period ever to be found in Europe. The find provided historians with invaluable information about prehistoric life.

Just so you know: The Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge had not even been built yet when Ötzi was alive.

Ötzi has become one of the most carefully studied ancient human specimens ever. His remains have been X-rayed, scanned, carbon-dated, and analyzed. So have his clothing and gear. As a result, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow and pointed face, brown eyes, and tanned and tattooed skin. He also had long dark hair, a shaggy beard, and type O-positive blood. And his DNA shows something amazing: He has at least 19 modern-day relatives through his father's genetic line.

Aside from his injuries and wounds, Ötzi likely had many medical issues. These included heart disease, joint pain, tooth decay, and damaged lungs. He probably also had stomach worms, fleas, and Lyme disease. The many tattoos on his body may be evidence of some prehistoric treatment to relieve body aches. And it sounds like he sure could've used the relief.

So what did a primitive dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of hides from at least four different sheep and goats stitched together with animal tissue. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, and a furry bearskin hat with chinstrap. He had leather shoes stuffed with grass and cow leather shoelaces. An analysis of the various skins indicates that animals during this era were domesticated as well as hunted.

In addition to his copper ax and bow and arrows, Ötzi had some other possessions, too. These included a flint dagger with a wooden handle and a grass net that may have also served as a mat or cape. He also had a wooden U-shaped backpack and a deerskin quiver for his arrows. And he wore a calfskin belt with a sewn-on pouch. Inside the pouch were several small tools. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different regions hundreds of miles away. This suggests some sort of trade network. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too—a sloeberry, some mushrooms, and a few gnawed goat bones.

In November 2019, some new data was added to the Ötzi file: The vegetation found in his stomach and underfoot revealed his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone but not forgotten—and still full of surprises.

Dictionary

carbon dating (noun) a scientific way of finding the age of something that is very old (such as a dinosaur bone) by measuring the amount of certain forms of carbon in it

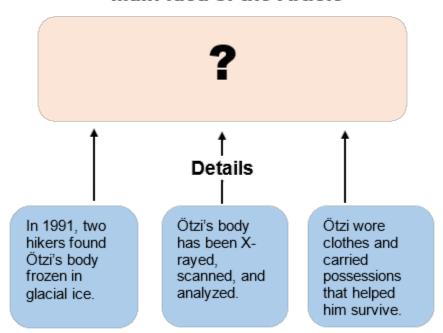
domesticate (*verb*) to breed or train (an animal) to need and accept the care of human beings: to tame (an animal)

invaluable (adjective) extremely valuable or useful

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Main Idea of the Article



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 glacial ice." The box in the middle says "Otzi's body has been X-rayed, scanned, and analyzed." The box on the right says "Otzi wore clothes and carried possessions that helped him survive."

- (A) It is thought that the many tattoos on Ötzi the Iceman's body may be evidence of some prehistoric treatment to relieve body aches.
- B After being preserved for more than 5,000 years in a tomb of ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about prehistoric life based on the food, tools, and supplies he carried.
- © Ötzi the Iceman appears to have suffered from medical conditions, including body aches, heart disease, tooth decay, Lyme disease, fleas, and stomach worms.
- Decause of Ötzi the Iceman's injuries, it is believed he had battled with one or more other late-Neolithic men before beginning his climb up the Ötztal Alps.

Question 2

Read the following passage from the Article:

Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him in his thawing ice tomb. He looked rather well, all things considered. Understandably, the discovery made international headlines. Here was the first well-preserved, fully attired body from the late-Neolithic period ever to be found in Europe. The find provided historians with invaluable information about prehistoric life.

Why did the author include this information?

- (A) To provide evidence of the effect the late-Neolithic period had on advancing modern-age tools and other belongings
- **®** To determine how much information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi
- © To describe how the attire worn by prehistoric men and women aided in their survival during harsh weather conditions
- ① To explain the importance of the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman's 5,300-year-old body in such excellent condition

Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *domesticate*?

- (A) silence
- (B) civilize
- © remove
- praise

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A Food discovered around Ötzi and in his stomach revealed clues leading to the discovery of the route he traveled before his passing.
- B The remains of Ötzi have unearthed many discoveries, including DNA and genetic information showing that there are at least 19 modern-day people related to Ötzi.
- © Ötzi is the most interesting archaeological find in history because the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery is unparalleled.
- D Ötzi was covered in tattoos, which some believe to be evidence of a treatment used to relieve body aches and pains.

Question 5

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ötzi's injuries led to his untimely death?

- Aside from his injuries and wounds, Ötzi likely had many medical issues. These included heart disease, joint pain, tooth decay, and damaged lungs. He probably also had stomach worms, fleas, and Lyme disease. The many tattoos on his body may be evidence of some prehistoric treatment to relieve body aches. And it sounds like he sure could've used the relief.
- **B** In November 2019, some new data was added to the Ötzi file: The vegetation found in his stomach and underfoot revealed his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone but not forgotten—and still full of surprises.
- © So, are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by

glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him in his thawing ice tomb. He looked rather well, all things considered.

Delta 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 (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (thus his name). 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.

Question 6

The Article states:

So what did a *primitive* dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of hides from at least four different sheep and goats stitched together with animal tissue. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, and a furry bearskin hat with chinstrap. He had leather shoes stuffed with grass and cow leather shoelaces. An analysis of the various skins indicates that animals during this era were domesticated as well as hunted.

	Which is the	closest antony	vm for the w	vord <i>primitive</i> ?
--	--------------	----------------	--------------	-------------------------

- (A) grateful
- (B) modern
- © familiar
- (D) lonesome

Question 7

This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on .

- (A) major scientific discoveries involving the late-Neolithic period
- B various trade networks established in the late-Neolithic period
- © everyday attire worn by men and women of the late-Neolithic period
- (D) ancient battles along the Ötztal Alps during the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen next?

- (A) Scientists will study the use of tattoos in therapy, as they likely provided Otzi some kind of prehistoric pain relief.
- **B** Through further study of Ötzi's remains, scientists will uncover revolutionary clues relating to the creation of the Egyptian pyramids.
- © Trade routes will be established to connect faraway places based on the routes taken by ancient people, such as Ötzi.
- © Scientists will continue to examine Ötzi in hopes of making further discoveries about the Neolithic Age.

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? Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Sniffing Out Extinction (880L)

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 species on land and in water.

MELBOURNE, **Australia** (Achieve3000, December 4, 2019). What *can't* a dog sniff out? Police K-9s can find everything from missing persons to fake money. Healthcare pup-fessionals can pick up the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers and foods that make people sick.

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

Indeed, conservationists around the world are putting dogs on the trail of at-risk animals with the hope of protecting and breeding them. The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell things like who's in the neighborhood and if danger is lurking just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines. So why not use a dog to track down a species that's critically endangered? The Baw Baw frog of southeastern Australia is one such species.

Since 1980, climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing, or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. 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 Rubble and Uda, two border collies that work for Zoos Victoria. This Australian conservation group wants to lend a paw-paw to the Baw Baw. Zoos Victoria has been trying to save the frogs by learning about their habitat and breeding them in captivity. Thanks to Rubble and Uda, the results

have been remarkable. The dogs quickly learned to identify the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Then they led the Zoos Victoria conservationists right to them.

Phase two will start after 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. But according to the dogs' trainer, Luke Edwards, Rubble and Uda have other invaluable skills that make them well suited for the job. In particular, they have stamina: "That's what we're after for a working dog, is their stamina—both mentally and physically."

Conservation detection dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. These include silverspot butterfly caterpillars, snow leopards, koalas, and even killer whales. All the dogs have to do is smell their scat and hit the trail.

Yes, conservation can be a gritty business all right. But someone's got to work to save endangered animals—and dogs win out by a nose.

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Video credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

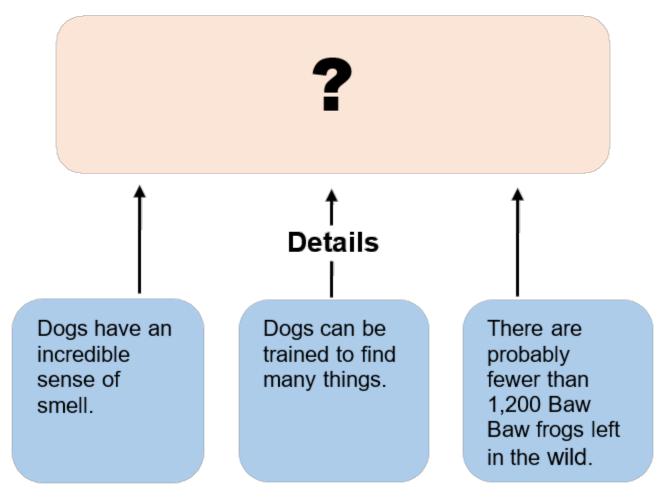
captivity (noun) the state of being kept in a place (such as a prison or a cage) and not being able to leave or be free: the state or condition of being captive

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

stamina (noun) great physical or mental strength that allows you to continue doing something for a long time

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Main Idea of the Article



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- (A) Dogs have been trained as conservation detection specialists who use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can help these rare animals to survive.
- B Since 1980, problems including climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have destroyed roughly 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population in their native Australia.
- © With a sense of smell somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 times sharper than that of humans, dogs have been used to find fake money and foods that can make people sick.
- D Besides having a powerful sense of smell, Rubble and Uda have other invaluable skills that make them particularly well suited for their job, such as an abundance of stamina.

According to the Article, why did conservationists at Zoos Victoria train two border collies to locate a critically endangered species using the scent of the animal?

- A The conservationists have had success with police K-9 dogs that have been trained to find not only missing persons but also fake money.
- **®** The conservationists want to use the dogs to also track down silverspot butterfly caterpillars, koalas, and even killer whales.
- © The conservationists have had great difficulty locating the endangered Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily reached, seen, or heard in the wild.
- D The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs, away from the remote, wild terrain of southeastern Australia.

Question 3

The Article states:

Conservationists want to stop this from continuing, or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. 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?

- (A) To point out the fact that there is little that can be done to help the Baw Baw frog because the species will be extinct in 10 years
- B To show how a dog's keen sense of smell can be used to find endangered animals such as the Baw Baw frog
- © To explain why conservationists find it so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat
- ① To say why it is important that even seemingly unimportant animals like the Baw Baw frog should be protected from extinction

Question 4

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *captivity*?

- (A) abandonment
- (B) decline
- © freedom
- © confusion

Question 5 The reader can tell from the Article that . . A scientists find it more difficult to locate female Baw Baw frogs than males during the five or six weeks that the frogs' calls occur ® none of the Baw Baw frogs that have been raised in captivity have so far been able to survive when they've been released into the wild © killer whales are some of the most difficult animals for dogs to track down because they have to swim to areas where the animals have been sighted D Rubble and Uda have been trained to find a number of different animals other than the Baw Baw frog, including koalas and even killer whales Ouestion 6 Which information is **not** in the Article? (A) Which breed of dogs has proven to be the best at sniffing out certain cancers (B) Why dogs have a much better sense of smell than humans do © Why the Baw Baw frog is so hard for conservationists to locate on their own (D) Which animals other than the Baw Baw frog have dogs been trained to track down Question 7 Read this passage from the Article: The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell things like who's in the neighborhood and if danger is lurking just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines. In this passage, the word *canine* means ______. (A) a scientist or researcher (B) any member of the dog family © any animal used in the service of humans (D) an animal trainer

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that an animal might not continue to live on as a species without help from humans?

- A 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. But according to the dogs' trainer, Luke Edwards, Rubble and Uda have other invaluable skills that make them well suited for the job. In particular, they have stamina...
- (B) What *can't* a dog sniff out? Police K-9s can find everything from missing persons to fake money. Healthcare pup-fessionals can pick up the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers and foods that make people sick.
- © Since 1980, climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing, or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years.
- D [Baw Baw frogs] live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. 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.

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 (880L)

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

This is one of the more than 11,000 graffiti samples that have been uncovered among the ruins at Pompeii.

POMPEII, Italy (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). What does a 21st-century social media user have in common with a 1st-century resident of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii? 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. Remarkably, some of their original 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 on the inside and outside walls of private homes. The messages were written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, and applied in paint. They're the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds and no hesitation about broadcasting it all in public.

All of this raises some big questions: How did anything as impermanent as charcoal and stucco scratches last so long? Better yet, why is so much of Pompeii itself still around when most of the ancient world has crumbled away?

The answers date back to 79 CE. That's when a nearby volcano called Mount Vesuvius violently erupted. It destroyed Pompeii in a matter of hours. Most of Pompeii's 20,000 residents fled before the volcanic ash and rock buried the city. But tragically, about 2,000 people perished.

Oddly enough, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic coating protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The entire city seemed to be flash-

frozen in time. And its remains offer a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life. From the beginning, archaeologists spotted the graffiti on the walls. In the late 19th century, historians began making copies of the messages. And it's a good thing they did. More than 90 percent of the graffiti has 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, complaints, expressions of love, reviews of products, advertisements, 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 sestertii. 20 more will be given for information leading to the capture of the thief.

The city block of the Arrii Pollii...is available to rent from July 1. There are shops on the first floor, upper stories, high-class rooms, and a house."

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, Pompeii style.

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

Main Idea of the Article Details **Pompeians** Mount The volcanic wrote graffiti Vesuvius coating on the walls of erupted in 79 protected the buildings. CE and ruins of destroyed Pompeii. Pompeii.

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- (A) It's a good thing that scholars took the time to copy the messages on walls in Pompeii, as more than 90 percent of the graffiti has worn away since the ruins were first unearthed.
- **B** The residents of Pompeii posted messages on walls that lasted for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius.
- © When Mount Vesuvius violently erupted in 79 CE, it killed about 2,000 people living in the city of Pompeii, but most residents of the city were able to flee to safety.
- ① The oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE and simply states, "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) In many ways, the graffiti found on the walls of the city of Pompeii were the same kinds of messages that people today write on social media.
- B The messages that have been found on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii were written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, or applied in paint.
- © It has been thought that about 2,000 of the city of Pompeii's 20,000 residents died after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.
- Dilit's a good idea for historical scholars to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning political ads and advice.

The Article states:

Oddly enough, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic coating protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The entire city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And its remains offer a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life. From the beginning, archaeologists spotted the graffiti on the walls. In the late 19th century, historians began making copies of the messages. And it's a good thing they did. More than 90 percent of the graffiti has faded since the ruins were unearthed.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to
(A) explain the differences between the type of graffiti found on the walls of Pompeii and modern-day postings
found on social media
B suggest that 19th-century scholars should have taken more care to preserve the graffiti that was once found
on walls in the ancient city of Pompeii
© describe both the reason for the destruction of the city of Pompeii and the reason that it remains so well
preserved to this day
point out why so many of the residents of the ancient city of Pompeii liked to scrawl graffiti on the walls of
that city
Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word <i>barbarian</i> ?
(A) savage
B rookie
© burglar
(D) angel
Question 5
Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before its
destruction. She would find most of her information
(A) in a movie about the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history
on a webpage describing how people escaped from the city of Pompeii
© in a TV program titled "Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii"
on a map showing the location of Mount Vesuvius
Question 6
Read this passage from the Article:
What does a 21st-century social media user have in common with a 1st-century resident of the
ancient Roman city of Pompeii? They both posted messages on walls.
In this passage, the word <i>resident</i> means
A someone who lives in a particular place
B someone who studies past cultures
© someone who creates public artwork
someone who travels to and from a place

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?

- (A) In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings and on the inside and outside walls of private homes. The messages were written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, and applied in paint.
- B All of this raises some big questions: How did anything as impermanent as charcoal and stucco scratches last so long? Better yet, why is so much of Pompeii itself still around when most of the ancient world has crumbled away?
- © Oddly enough, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic coating protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century.
- ② 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, complaints, expressions of love, reviews of products, advertisements, and helpful suggestions.

Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Where the many residents of Pompeii fled to when they escaped the city
- (B) 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
- (D) When the ancient 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 are unfamiliar with the story. Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Soldier in the Wild (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A Japanese soldier remained 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 return to civilization 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 emerge a changed man in a changed world. His stay there is one of the strangest footnotes 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 occupation ended not long after the U.S. military arrived to free Guam in 1944. Fearing for his life, Yokoi retreated to the hills of the Talofofo River basin. Once there, he was cut off from civilization and communication.

In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced that Japan was surrendering to the Allied Forces. The war was finally over. Yokoi, however, had no way of knowing this. Neither did about 130 other Japanese soldiers. They all continued to hide from an army that was no longer interested in capturing them, in a war that was no longer being waged. 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 throughout the Pacific Rim.

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 (two decades!). He spent his days in the well-concealed cave he had made of dirt, bamboo, and reeds. At night, he searched for fruit, nuts, fish, and small animals to eat. A tailor by profession, he made new clothes using burlap sacks and tree bark for fabric. He also used coconut and pago fibers for thread, plastic scraps for buttons, and handmade needles to stitch them all together.

A soldier by training and instinct, Yokoi lived in a state of constant alert until the very end. He was finally "captured" by two fishermen in January 1972, while setting shrimp traps in a river near Talofofo Falls. Even though he was a weakened man of 57, he attacked the two younger men. They easily overpowered him and gently delivered him to local authorities.

Throughout his time in isolation, Yokoi carefully counted the days and months. He was well aware that 28 years had passed. So what made him stay in hiding for that long? All he ever had to do was surrender and board a plane back to his home in Japan. And why did he think that roughing it in the wild all those years was his one and only option?

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It roughly translates as "enduring adversity without giving in to it." During World War II, the ethos of ganbaru meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. And surrendering to the enemy was as shameful as defeat. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he declared that he was ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.

Still, Yokoi received a hero's welcome in Tokyo as 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. Many younger Japanese, however, viewed ganbaru as pointless. They felt that Yokoi was a symbol of a prideful principle whose time was over.

Up until his death in 1997, Yokoi remembered Guam fondly. He revisited the island on several occasions, including his honeymoon. 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 and in a small tribute at Jeff's Pirate Cove in Ipan, where Yokoi dined as a free man.

No doubt, history brims 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.

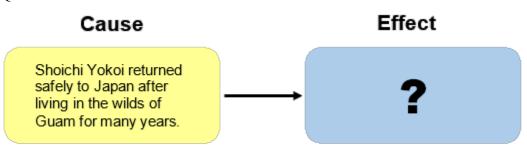
Video Credit: AP Archive

Dictionary

adversity (noun) a difficult situation or condition: misfortune or tragedyethos (noun) the guiding beliefs of a person, group, or organizationisolation (noun) the state of being in a place or situation that is separate from others: the condition of being isolated

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 living in the wilds of 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.

- A Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as many of his generation were deeply moved by his loyalty to time-honored Japanese values.
- B Yokoi remained in Japan and chose not to revisit Guam, even after an exhibit at the Guam Museum was created in his honor.
- © Yokoi was publicly honored by younger Japanese because they viewed his strict observance of ganbaru as being worthy of praise.
- ① Yokoi returned the money and gifts that were given to him following his return because he did not feel that he deserved them.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- A Shoichi Yokoi, a tailor by profession, made his clothes by using burlap bags and tree bark for fabric, coconut and pago fibers for thread, and handmade needles to stitch them together.
- B Shoichi Yokoi was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Japan in 1972, and many of his generation were so moved by his determination that they showered him with money and praise.
- © Shoichi Yokoi, a former soldier in the Japanese Imperial Army, chose to remain in the jungles of Guam and live off the land from 1944 until his "capture" by two fishermen in January 1972.
- © Shoichi Yokoi was not initially aware of the fact that Emperor Hirohito announced in August 1945 that his country was surrendering to the Allied Forces, thereby ending World War II.

Question 3

Look at the events below. According to the Article, which of these 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.

- A Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and took him to the local authorities.
- (B) Shoichi Yokoi was stationed on the Pacific island of Guam as a sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army.
- © Shoichi Yokoi went into hiding in the hills of the Talofofo River basin to avoid American soldiers.
- D Shoichi Yokoi's fellow countrymen honored him as a hero and showered him with money and gifts.

Question 4 Which is the closest antonym for the word isolation? (A) companionship (B) hibernation (C) employment (D) adolescence
Question 5
The reader can tell from the Article that A Shoichi Yokoi made the choice to rejoin the Japanese Army after returning to his homeland in January 1972
B Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen while setting shrimp traps near Talofofo Falls
© Shoichi Yokoi, a tailor by trade, brought several spare uniforms with him when he went into hiding because he wasn't sure how long he'd remain in the wild
© Shoichi Yokoi was ready to return home to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended year earlier
Question 6
The Article states: Still, Yokoi received a hero's welcome in Tokyo as 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. Many younger Japanese, however, viewed ganbaru as pointless. They felt that Yokoi was a symbol of a prideful principl whose time was over.
Why did the author include this passage?
 To point out the problems that Yokoi had in trying to adapt to life in Japan To suggest that most Japanese did not consider Yokoi's actions to be heroic To show that Yokoi did not want to return to Japan in spite of the praise he received there To describe the range of public response to Yokoi's return to Japan in 1972
Question 7
Look at this passage from the Article: A soldier by training and <i>instinct</i> , Yokoi lived in a state of constant alert until the very end. He was finally "captured" by two fishermen in January 1972, while setting shrimp traps in a river near Talofofo Falls.
In this passage, the word <i>instinct</i> means

(A) the ability to make somebody do something by the use of force or threats

B natural way of being that makes a person act in a particular way
C a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement about doing something
D the act of picking or deciding between two or more possibilities

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- (A) Why Shoichi Yokoi decided to retreat to the hills of Talofofo River basin in 1944
- B How Shoichi Yokoi made his clothing from natural elements within his environment
- © What Shoichi Yokoi had to eat in order to survive while hiding out in the wilds of Guam
- (D) How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier

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? Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In April 2019, 18-year-old Mason Andrews was named the youngest solo pilot to circle the globe. Mason was asked what he would say to kids. Below is his response. What do you think of his statement?

"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 single engine plane around the world and set a Guinness World Record.

MONROE, Louisiana (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews is studying aviation in college. But word around campus is that the teenager from the U.S. state of Louisiana has already landed in aviation history.

Don't believe the buzz? In April 2019, Guinness World Records made it official: Mason is the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world. The record was previously held by Lachlan Smart of Queensland, Australia. He completed a solo flight at age 18 in 2016.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old—71 days younger than Smart—when he landed his single engine Piper PA-32 plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018, ending a globe-circling voyage that came with a hefty share of terrifying moments.

But we'll get to the nail-biting moments shortly. Let's take off at the beginning, shall we?

Mason, who earned his pilot's license at age 17, started hatching big ideas in November 2017. At first, his goal was 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 when we caught up with him at Louisiana Tech University.

Something else that would be difficult for Mason: convincing his mother and father to let him go. Mason did his research, and he 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 generous sponsors, the teen pilot was able to embark on his journey in July 2018. They also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana, which runs free summer camps for children with disabilities.

When Mason said goodbye to his parents and his supportive community at Monroe Regional Airport, he thought he would be gone for about 40 days. Of course, he had no way of knowing about the Category 5 typhoons that would leave him grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks.

It's just one of the problems he had during the trip, which 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. That was very near a deadly situation," 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. There's nowhere to land, obviously. 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 thanks, in part, to his prior 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 in severe turbulence, to the point where I couldn't use my autopilot. I couldn't see anything outside because of the sand. So, I was flying off my instruments alone, and it was extremely hot in the airplane. It was a grueling flight."

Mason admits that he waited until he was home safe and sound to tell his mother all the frightening details of his adventure.

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 as important to Mason as people may think.

"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 departed on the trip, it was about completing a personal achievement and staying alive."

Now, Mason has some advice for kids who aim high: "My advice...is that anything is possible...I would say that if you have a goal, that you should not stop pursuing that goal until you have no other options to pursue—push and push and push!"

As Mason understands especially well, the sky's the limit.

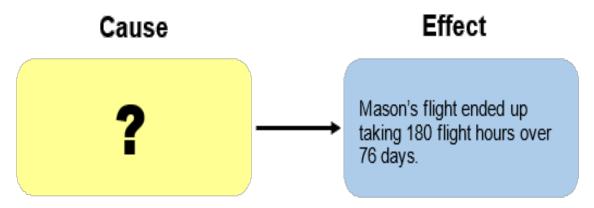
Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko Published on Oct 6, 2018 Edited for length

Dictionary

circumnavigate (verb) to go around something, often by plane or ship
grueling (adjective) extremely demanding, severe, or tiring
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 tropical cyclone that occurs in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

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 "Mason's flight ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days."

- (A) Mason Andrews had a hard time convincing his parents to let him fly solo around the world.
- **B** Mason Andrews flew through severe Category 5 typhoons in the Philippines.
- © Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.
- D Mason Andrews had to fly off his plane's instruments alone for the majority of his trip.

Question 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

- (A) Guinness World Records confirmed that Mason Andrews broke a record by a mere 71 days.
- **B** Before presenting his parents with his plan to fly solo around the world, Mason Andrews did careful research.
- © At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.
- D In July 2018, Mason Andrews took off on his journey from Monroe Regional Airport in Monroe, Louisiana.

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) Mason Andrews received help from sponsors who enabled him to achieve his goal of flying around the world.
- **®** Mason Andrews has been receiving attention since he returned to Louisiana and was named a Guinness World Record holder.
- © Mason Andrews experienced turbulence from a sandstorm that lasted 12 hours during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- D Mason Andrews acted generously when he decided to use his trip to raise money for MedCamps of Louisiana, which offers summer camps for children with disabilities.

<u> </u>	
(hipotion	/
Question	Н

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *grueling*, as it is used in the Article?

- (A) Exhausting
- (B) Inspiring
- © Miserable
- Pleasant

\sim . \cdot	_
(hijoction	•
Question	.,

The author probably wrote this Article in order to . .

- (A) Inform readers about a determined young man who worked hard to achieve a challenging goal
- B Suggest that Mason Andrews should have been able to complete his journey in just 40 days
- © Raise awareness for MedCamps of Louisiana, a cause Mason Andrews has requested that people support
- D Advise kids who aim high that breaking a Guinness World Record is the only goal worth achieving

Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that ______.

- (A) It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and attempting to achieve future goals now that he has flown solo around the world.
- B Mason Andrews likely regrets not giving his mother updates of all the frightening moments of his trip, because he would have appreciated her support.
- © It was probably difficult to convince Guinness World Records to confirm that Mason Andrews beat Lachlan Smart's record.
- Most students at Louisiana Tech University have probably never heard of Mason Andrews or his record-breaking flight.

Question 7

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A Pursue and neglect
- (B) Embark and return
- © Severe and intense
- D Generous and stingy

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to make a solo flight circumnavigating the world?

- (A) When Mason said goodbye to his parents and his supportive community at Monroe Regional Airport, he thought he would be gone for about 40 days. Of course, he had no way of knowing about the Category 5 typhoons that would leave him grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks.
- (B) Mason did his research, and he presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.
- © Mason, who earned his pilot's license at age 17, started hatching big ideas in November 2017. At first, his goal was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, but then he thought, why not fly around the world?
- ① It's just one of the problems he had during the trip, which ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.

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. Next, explain what he did. Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

The Truth About Dogs (880L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A new museum exhibit studies the relationship between people and dogs. What do you think of this quote by humorist 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 what a dog's vision is like.

LOS ANGELES, California (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Dogs. They're our four-legged BFFs, capable of melting our hearts with a loving look, a sweet snuggle, or a giddy greeting at the door. But did humans domesticate dogs, or was it the other way around? And why do these two species get along so well?

The California Science Center has spent the past five years sniffing out answers to these and hundreds of other canine questions. The center's conclusions are being shown in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail." It opened on March 9, 2019.

"[The exhibition] is really not about just dogs and science. It's really about how dogs and humans are both social animals. About how dogs and humans have evolved together over thousands of years," said Jeffrey Rudolph. Rudolph is the center's president. He's also a dog lover.

"Dogs! A Science Tail" includes interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, games, artwork, and more. It will be at the center before it travels to museums across the U.S. in 2020. Don't think you'll get to experience it in person? We've got you covered. Here's a glimpse of what the exhibition teaches humans about our canine companions:

1. They have a pee-culiar interest.

Ever wonder what dogs are really sniffing when they whiff away at fire hydrants? (You probably know that hydrants are popular spots for dogs to relieve themselves.) The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant with a button next to it. With a push of the button, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," Rudolph said with a laugh.

But not dogs. They can glean a lot of information from the scent of another pooch's pee. 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 evaluate how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches or smartphones.

2. They're doggone smart.

Dogs may look a little goofy when they're loping around. But they're more intelligent than some people think.

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," Rudolph said. He noted that the 300 million sensory receptor sites they carry in their noses far outnumber ours. We only have about 6 million.

Dogs can also determine 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 termite scratching on the wall," Rudolph says.

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' spot-on senses, an avalanche rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time, while its handlers stand there without a clue! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

But those are the highly trained working dogs, like those shown in the center's Imax Theatre, where the film *Superpower Dogs* will play throughout the exhibit's run. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning off the coast of Italy, rescue people trapped in collapsed buildings, and even track down Kenyan poachers preying on elephants and rhinos.

4. Yes, they love us, too.

Dogs give us plenty of reasons to love them. But do they love us back? Or are they just trying to get another treat when they stare 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, senior vice president for exhibits at the California Science Center. Oxytocin is a hormone (sometimes called the "love hormone") released in our brains that plays an important role in bonding and social communication.

"And," Perlov adds, "the dog will produce oxytocin in his own body 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 descended from wolves and that wolves and people crossed paths more than 10,000 years ago, says Perlov. Wolves and people could each see that the other was pretty good at hunting for food. But did the wolves walk up and offer their help? Or did people make the first move?

Whoever did, they created an enduring bond: best friends fur-ever.

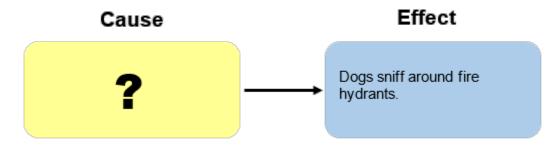
The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

canine (adjective) relating to or resembling a dog
 domesticate (verb) to get an animal used to living around people
 interactive (adjective) involving the viewer or user; inviting participation
 poacher (noun) a person who breaks the law by hunting animals or stealing wild plants
 sensory receptor (noun) nerve endings that respond to changes in the environment

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 "Dogs sniff around fire hydrants."

- (A) It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and evaluate how safe the surroundings are.
- B Dogs can sniff out bombs people would never find.
- © It's one of the ways dogs are considered social animals.
- Dogs have an amazing ability to learn information beyond their sense of smell.

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

- (A) Visitors to the California Science Center will discover that dogs produce a hormone called oxytocin just as humans do.
- B The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition that will travel to museums across the country in 2020.
- © The canine exhibition at the California Science Center features a replica of a fire hydrant that allows humans to smell what dogs smell.
- D Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a movie about canine heroism in the center's Imax Theatre.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A Dogs are adorable when they lick our faces, give us a heart-melting look, or rush up to us the moment we come through the door.
- B The film *Superpower Dogs* shows canines from around the world rescuing people from collapsed buildings and other life-threatening situations.
- © The exhibition at the California Science Center has stations that allow people to experience sights and smells the way dogs experience them.
- Dogs and humans have evolved together over thousands of years, but it's still unclear how the bond between the two species began.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A Intelligent and foolish
- **B** Enduring and lasting
- © Domesticate and abandon
- (D) Evaluate and ignore

Ų	u	esi	[10)I	ı ɔ

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

- (A) The more domesticated dogs become, the less need they will have for sniffing fire hydrants.
- (B) Dogs are only capable of behaving heroically because people have trained them to perform lifesaving tasks.
- © Since their color vision is limited, dogs do not largely depend on their sense of sight.
- D The strong bond between dogs and humans probably formed because the two species helped one another hunt.

Question 6 The author probably wrote this Article in order to A Discuss the similarities and differences in the way dogs and people experience affection B Explain how dogs are trained to sniff out bombs and rescue people from dangerous situations © Present some of the findings on display at the California Science Center's canine exhibition Describe when and how dogs and humans first developed a relationship Question 7 Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *glean*, as it is used above? (A) Confuse B Require © Request Obtain Question 8 Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the canine exhibition at the California Science Center attempts to show people how dogs experience the world? A The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant with a button next to it. With a push of the button, you can smell what a dog smells. (B) But did humans domesticate dogs, or was it the other way around? And why do these two species get along so well? © The center's conclusions are being revealed in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail." It opened on

Dogs may look a little goofy when they're loping around. But they're more intelligent than some 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.

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

Agree

March 9, 2019.

think.

Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Retell this news story as if you were telling a friend all about the "Dogs! A Science Tail" exhibition. Use descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

Welcome to Batuu (880L)

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

A full-size model of the famous Millennium Falcon starship is just one of the attractions at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

ORLANDO, Florida (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). Disney parks may be "the happiest" and "most magical" places on Earth. But they have some lands that are out of this world—in a galaxy far, far away! And unlike other parks where cast members are on the same team, at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, you've gotta choose your alliances.

In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true with land openings at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. This was after 4,000 people sweated the small stuff for five years to create these twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history. And not even the tiniest feature 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, because fans know they aren't part of those stories. But on the planet of Batuu—a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and intergalactic explorers—a whole new story unfolds under its three suns.

Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind, though. 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. The land, the rocks, the trees—designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape with a visible history, weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. For instance, the

forest where the Resistance hides out was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Crews also went to Morocco and Turkey and took thousands of pictures for inspiration. Buildings got the same detailed dedication. Some were built to look like leftovers from ancient cultures, while others stand new and stark against the antique structures. This is meant to mark the emergence of the First Order and the Resistance.

With the scene set, Disney cranked it up another notch. Once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu. The food, the merchandise, the workers—it's all part of the story. So guests feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. That means no Mickey ears or logos on the merch. In fact, the markets only have stuff Batuu merchants would be hawking, like droid parts, lightsabers, and Jedi robes.

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game where everyone has unique backgrounds, motivations, and allegiances. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with assembling their own look and developing their own back stories as well. 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 Resistance spy might ask them to deliver a message. They can also sign up for a job to help a cause or work as a double agent!

And of course there are the rides, including the Millennium Falcon, a full-size model of the famous Star Wars spaceship, aka "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy." And there's Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance, which has four types of ride technologies and uses 5 million lines of code!

For visitors who want more interplanetary playtime, Disney created the Galactic Starcruiser in Florida. That's a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space,

You think you're ready for some stellar interstellar fun? You know what they say: May the force be with you!

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

Dictionary

alliance (noun) a union between people, groups, countries, etc.: a relationship in which people agree to work together

landscape (noun) an area of land that has a particular quality or appearance

merchandise (noun) goods that are bought and sold

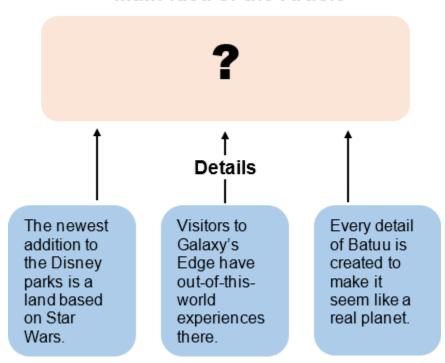
stark (adjective) having a very plain and often cold or empty appearance

stellar (adjective) very good: excellent

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) The forest where the Resistance hides out in Batuu was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.
- **®** In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, where the appearance, workers, food, and products are designed to make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.
- © Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge has a full-size replica of The Millennium Falcon and a ride called Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance that uses four types of ride technologies.
- D The Galactic Starcruiser is a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space that includes lightsaber training.

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- (A) Visitors can choose which team of cast members they will have alliances with while at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- **®** Disney included rides at Galaxy's Edge because rides are the most entertaining part of going to a theme park.
- © Disney has traditionally been in control of how the workers on rides, in stores, and in restaurants look in each land.
- ① To account for the First Order and the Resistance, Batuu was created to include both modern and antique structures.

Question 3

The Article states:

That's partly why the setting isn't from any of the movies, because fans know they aren't part of those stories. But on the planet of Batuu—a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and intergalactic explorers—a whole new story unfolds under its three suns. Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind, though. 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!

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

- (A) describe the types of visitors that tend to be drawn to Galaxy's Edge to participate in the fresh story that is played out on Batuu
- **®** explain that every aspect of Galaxy's Edge was developed to be true to Star Wars since some visitors are Jedi masters about the details of the movies
- © emphasize that Galaxy's Edge was designed to provide enjoyment for all visitors experiencing life on the planet of Batuu, regardless of their familiarity with Star Wars
- (D) inform that visitors to Galaxy's Edge should not expect to understand the Wookiee language used in everything that is written or spoken in the land

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *alliance*?

- (A) association
- (B) discussion
- © navigation
- (D) satisfaction

Question 5 The reader can tell from the Article that . . (A) more people have been participating in the choose-your-own adventure cruise Galactic Starcruiser instead of visiting Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge (B) the next Star Wars movie will include traders, smugglers, and explorers from the planet of Batuu in its plot © Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida to make the time and effort in developing the lands worthwhile Disney is shifting its focus from themed rides to realistic role- play experiences at all of its parks in California and Florida Question 6 This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on ______. A strategies Disney uses to provide theme park visitors with unique and realistic experience (B) how weathering creates a visual history in places like the Petrified Forest National Park © features of Star Wars movies that make them appealing across age groups (D) advancements in ride technology since Disney opened its first park until now Question 7 The Article states: They based it on real places, too. For instance, the forest where the Resistance hides out was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Crews also went to Morocco and Turkey and took thousands of pictures for inspiration. Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspiration*? (A) motivation (B) celebration © humor generosity Question 8 Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Disney wanted Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge to look like an actual planet to visitors? A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game where everyone has unique

- A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game where everyone has unique backgrounds, motivations, and allegiances. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with assembling their own look and developing their own back stories as well.
- (B) And of course there are the rides, including the Millennium Falcon, a full-size model of the famous Star Wars spaceship, aka "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy." And there's Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance, which has four types of ride technologies and uses 5 million lines of code!
- © In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true with land openings at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. This was after 4,000 people sweated the small stuff for five years to create these twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history. And not even the tiniest feature was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details!

D For instance, the forest where the Resistance hides out was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Crews also went to Morocco and Turkey and took thousands of pictures for inspiration. Buildings got the same detailed dedication. Some were built to look like leftovers from ancient cultures, while others stand new and stark against the antique structures. This is meant to mark the emergence of the First Order and the Resistance.

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 lands in California and Florida. What would you say? Include descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your answer.

Women Adventurers (880L)

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, who was the first woman to sail around the globe. Lady Hester Stanhope, who led
an archaeological dig in the Middle East. And Nellie Bly, a respected journalist who traveled around the world
in just 72 days.

RED BANK, **New Jersey** (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). Nowadays, women sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of groundbreaking female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago, when 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), a French botanist and the first woman to sail around the globe. The voyage was undertaken by French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. He invited several French scientists to join him on his ship, the *Étoile*, in December 1766. One of the invitees was royal botanist Philibert Commerson. Baret was his assistant. But Baret wasn't permitted to go because of a royal decree. It forbade women from traveling on French navy vessels. So she disguised herself as a man, called herself Jean, and sailed away.

During the journey, Baret helped Commerson collect over 6,000 plant specimens. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil and bringing its seeds back to Europe.

British socialite Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839) was also never one to be bound by the conventions that limited other women of her time. She acted in ways that women rarely if ever did: traveling throughout the Middle East by herself and wearing men's clothing, for example. During her lifetime, Stanhope accomplished something that only men had achieved up until then. She organized an archaeological dig in the Middle East. This made her a groundbreaker in every sense of the word.

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks regularly denied other Westerners this request. But Stanhope was a persuasive woman. Unfortunately, she never found any treasures in Ashkelon. But she did unearth rare artifacts.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) was one of the nation's leading journalists, male or female, of her time. This was a remarkable accomplishment, given the all-male club that was late 19th- and early 20th-century journalism. In 1887, Bly's editor challenged her to write an expose' about a mental hospital on Blackwell's Island in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill inmate for ten days. And she wrote a harrowing six-part series. The expose' made her famous and paved the way for other female investigative reporters.

Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. This was after she read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, the male central character accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly was convinced she could beat this fictional record. And she did, finishing the trip in just 72 days and setting a world record. Bly later returned to journalism, covering the women's voting movement and World War I.

Three women, three lives packed with adventure, and there are many others as well. Among them: Isabella Byrd and Freya Stark (explorers), Annie Smith Peck (mountaineer), and Bessie Coleman (aviator). These women lived life exactly the way they wanted to live it, not the way they were expected to.

Dictionary

artifact (noun) a simple object (such as a tool or weapon) that was made by people in the past

botany (noun) a branch of science that deals with plant life

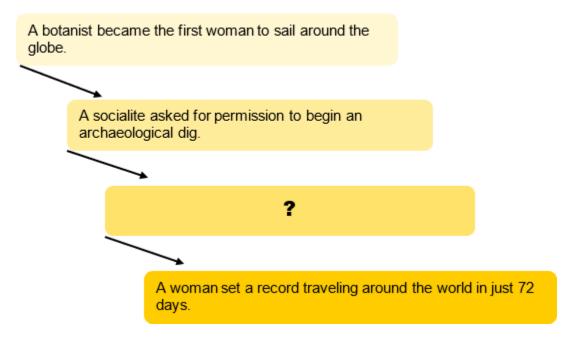
expose' (noun) a news report or broadcast that reveals something illegal or dishonest to the public

harrowing (adjective) very painful or upsetting

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Ouestion 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. Reread the Article for clues, such as dates.

- A scientist disguised herself as a man to join a trip around the world.
- **B** A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.
- © A captain invited a botanist to join him on a voyage around the world.
- **(D)** A writer covered the women's voting movement and World War I.

Question 2

Which of these is most important to include in a summary of the Article?

- (A) Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.
- B Nellie Bly's six-part series about life inside a mental hospital paved the way for other female investigative reporters.
- © Philibert Commerson was invited to take part in a scientific voyage on the French vessel *Étoile* in December 1766.
- D Nowadays adventurous women sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space.

Question 3

The Article states:

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks regularly denied other Westerners this request. But Stanhope was a persuasive woman.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

- A show that women were not allowed to take part in digs in Turkey years ago
- B point out that Lady Stanhope uncovered many rare artifacts in Turkey
- © suggest that Lady Stanhope was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer
- (D) describe the positive effects that a Westerner had on archaeology

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- A French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville invited several French scientists to join him on a scientific voyage in 1766.
- B It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the $\acute{E}toile$ because it was almost certain she would have been discovered.
- © Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, convinced Nellie Bly to take her own journey around the world.
- D Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East and organized an archaeological dig in Ashkelon.

Question 5

Which two words are the closest antonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- A achieve and obtain
- (B) persuasive and convincing
- © disguised and exposed
- (D) journalism and reporting

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 solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of groundbreaking female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago, when women were expected to stay at home and raise families.
- **(B)** In 1887, Bly's editor challenged her to write an expose' about a mental hospital on Blackwell's Island in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill inmate for ten days. And she wrote a harrowing six-part series.
- © Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. This was after she read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, the male central character accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly was convinced she could beat this fictional record.

① Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks regularly denied other Westerners this request.

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

One of the invitees was royal botanist Philibert Commerson. Baret was his assistant. But Baret wasn't permitted to go because of a royal decree. It *forbade* women from traveling on French navy vessels. So she disguised herself as a man, called herself Jean, and sailed away.

In this passage, the word *forbid* means ______.

- A to order someone not to do something
- **B** to reward someone for doing something
- © to punish someone for not doing something
- (D) to force someone to do something

Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

- A How long it took Nellie Bly to set a world-record
- B Why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- © How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe
- D 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)

Explain one quality that describes Jeanne Baret, Lady Hester Stanhope, and Nellie Bly. What actions by these women support this quality? Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.



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 true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and form images of plants, animals, and humanoids drawn on the desert floor, remains unknown to this day.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C The Nazca Lines obviously formed a kind of ancient agricultural calendar because the people who created them would not go to such trouble for anything but very practical reasons.

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

C To explain how a pre-Incan civilization was able to create images on the desert floor that are only distinguishable from a distance

Ouestion 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *speculation*?

C supposition

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

A some of the Nazca Lines are now so faded that they are hard to see without modern technology

Ouestion 6

According to the Article, which of these happened *last*?

C A geoglyph of a human-like being with many eyes, mouths, and limbs was discovered.

Question 7

A to go against something

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Nazca Lines might have served more than one purpose?

C The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs figured into specific rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have indicated where the rituals were being conducted. Others were more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.

Animated Favorites Get Real

Answer key

Ouestion 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites when they were growing up take their kids to see the live-action remakes.

Ouestion 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Studios have been making live-action remakes of older animated films but with greater diversity and stronger female characters than ever before.

Question 3

Which information is **not** in the Article?

B Live-action movies have proven popular among audiences around the world, as films such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland* have clearly demonstrated.

Ouestion 4

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

D attraction and appeal

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that

B Disney's original animated film *Mulan* did not always show Chinese culture in a good way

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

C To point out the main reason why studios have chosen to produce remakes of some popular animated films of the past

Ouestion 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a movie's popularity can be increased when moviegoers can identify with characters in the film?

C Treating golden oldies to a modern makeover also gives studios a chance to make them more inclusive. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes. So more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero. African American actor Will Smith is the movie's wisecracking Genie. And, as just about everybody and their pet crustacean knows: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.

Ouestion 8

T	ı1 ·	passage,	.1	1	11.		
In	thic	naccane	the	Word	dohata	meane	
111	ums	Dassage.	uic	woru	uevuie	means	

C a discussion in which people express different opinions

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box above?

B The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to other places around the world.

Ouestion 2

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *controversy*, as it is used in the Article?

D Debate

Question 3

Look at the events below. Which of these must have happened *second*?

A A combination drink and snack made by adding ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea became a hit in Taiwan.

Ouestion 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A A bubble tea flavor option such as chocolate pudding is much tastier than matcha because it is sweeter.

Question 5

Suppose Rosa wants to find out about bubble tea shops in the United States. She would find **most** of her information .

A In an article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

Ouestion 6

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *customize*, as it is used above?

A Adapt

Ouestion 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is becoming a big part of American life?

B A bubble tea shop is a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, 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 a confusing experience, especially for those who have never ordered it before.

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.

Ouestion 3

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

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

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D With an abundance of physical strength, talent, and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became what many consider to be the greatest gymnast in the world.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B Although her hard work and determination have no doubt contributed to her remarkable performances, Simone Biles' natural physical ability has been the true key to her success.

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 show how Simone Biles handled a heartbreaking failure to achieve a sought-after spot on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspiration*?

\sim					ation		
<i>(</i> '	122	\circ 1	1	T70	-	On	
U /		O	ш	va.	ш	OH	

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that .

D gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with what she describes as a heartbreaking failure

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

D Why Simone Biles didn't finish higher than 14th at the 2011 U.S. Junior Championships

Ouestion 7

Look at this passage from the Article:
In this passage, the word *commitment* means

B the attitude of someone who works very hard to do something

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties on her road to gymnastic success?

C In 2011, she finished 14th at the U.S. Junior Championships, after which the U.S. women's junior national team was named. Thirteen gymnasts made the team, meaning Biles missed by one spot. In her autobiography, *Courage to Soar: A Body in Motion, A Life in Balance*, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.

The Early-Late Debate

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A Districts have to pay for more buses and drivers when all schools start near the same time.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, but there's debate over whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.

Ouestion 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Adolescents with later school start times will take advantage of the additional time for sleeping in the morning by staying up later at night.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest synonyms?

C approve and permit

Question 5

Which of these statements is **contrary** to the ideas presented in the Article?

B The amount of time that adolescents spend sleeping is more important than what time of day they sleep.

Ouestion 6

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

A explain how important sleep is for adolescents

Question 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *disorders*?

A illnesses

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether or not students will benefit from a later school start time?

B Opponents argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—fun.

Give Me S'more! Answer key **Question 1** Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box above? B Each marshmallow had to be individually poured and molded by hand. **Ouestion 2** Which of these is **most** important to include in the summary of the Article? D Making a s'more involves roasting a marshmallow over a fire and sandwiching it and a piece of chocolate between graham crackers, but nobody knows who invented the treat. **Ouestion 3** Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *delectable*, as it is used in the Article? B Horrible **Ouestion 4** The Article says all of the following **except** . C Graham crackers were originally created in the late 1800s using coarse whole wheat flour. **Ouestion 5** In the second-to-last paragraph, the author presents information about s'more snacks and microwave cooking in order to _____. C Demonstrate the popularity of s'mores and provide readers with alternatives to traditional s'more making

Question 6

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

D Cheap and expensive

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first developed to make desserts?

B For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.

Ouestion 8

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

A S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that even the most inexperienced cooks can make.

Global Game Fame Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A Every year, video games that have had a tremendous influence on the gaming industry are selected for 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?

A Propose

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Video games that offer fast action such as *Super Mario Kart* are more enjoyable to play than games like *Microsoft Solitaire*.

Question 4

Based on information in the Article, how is Super Mario Kart different from Microsoft Solitaire?

C Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was designed to teach players a computer skill.

Question 5

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *exclusive*, as it is used above?

A Limited

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

A To describe The Strong National Museum of Play's guidelines for selecting games to enter the World Video
Game Hall of Fame

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a game should have had a big effect on the gaming industry in order to enter the hall of fame?

B *Microsoft Solitaire*, for instance, has likely been installed on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. Based on a centuries-old card game, it was b*oth* popular and influential. The game also taught computer users how to use a new device—the mouse.

Question 8

Based on the Article, the reader can predict that

A Next year's inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame may not be the most popular games available at the time.

Good, Bad, or Ugly?

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D Some ugly produce companies may not mention that ugly fruits and vegetables can be used on farms and in the food service industry.

Question 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

C Ugly produce start-ups say their mission is to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste each year.

Ouestion 3

Which of these is a statement of fact?

C 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 scandal, as it is used in the Article?

A Disgrace

Ouestion 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to . .

C Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce start-ups, 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 concerned with what's best for their own profits?

D Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. Now small farms are finding it hard to compete with these marketing machines. And the farmers are losing profits.

Question 7

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *extent*, as it is used above?

D Degree

Ouestion 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

C As more customers buy goods from ugly produce start-ups, some supermarkets may consider adding imperfect produce to their grocery aisles.

Katherine the Great Answer key **Question 1** Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above? B Katherine Johnson was a mathematical whiz and had a degree in math. **Ouestion 2** Suppose this Article could have a different title. The best one would be A From Whiz Kid to Math Hero, Katherine Johnson's Life Is Proof That Anything Is Possible **Question 3** Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written? A Katherine Johnson released an autobiography titled *Reaching for the Moon*. **Ouestion 4** Which two words are the closest **synonyms**? A Remembered and recalled **Question 5** This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on C Successful women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math **Ouestion 6** Based on the Article, the reader can tell that . D Many young people will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography inspiring.

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely realized at the time?

A Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for satellite TV, accurate meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

Question 8

Which would be the closest **antonym** for the word *remarkably*, as it is used above?

A Unimpressively

The Last Generation?

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D Pacific Island countries realize that they are all affected by climate change.

Question 2

The Article primarily discusses .

B the effect of climate change on the Pacific Island nations, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, in which carbon-free technologies will be used to reduce carbon emitted by cargo ships that deliver goods to the islands

Question 3

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *alliance*?

D separation

Ouestion 4

Which information is **not** in the Article?

D Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some of the countries that make up the Pacific Islands rather than all of them

Question 5

Why did the author include this information?

D To explain why the Pacific Island countries developed a plan for reducing carbon emissions from cargo ships rather than emissions from other sources

Ouestion 6

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *ambitious*?

D challenging

Ouestion 7

What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

C Countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems not only in their own backyards but around the entire world.

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the belief that the threat to the Pacific Islands resulting from climate change is critical?

A What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll 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?

D Ofentse Pitse is the founder of an orchestra and youth choir that gives young black singers the chance to develop their gifts while also performing the works of leading African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Ofentse Pitse never would have become a conductor of a classical orchestra and choir if her grandfather had not been a jazz band conductor and choir director.

Ouestion 3

Why did the author include this passage?

D To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today

Question 4

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *excel*?

A stall

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

Ouestion 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 *recruit* means . .

C to persuade people to join an effort

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts spotlight the work of new or unfamiliar artists?

CWhat's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear 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?

B After being preserved for more than 5,000 years in a tomb of ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about prehistoric life based on the food, tools, and supplies he carried.

Question 2

Why did the author include this information?

D To explain the importance of the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman's 5,300-year-old body in such excellent condition

Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *domesticate*?

B civilize

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C Ötzi is the most interesting archaeological find in history because the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery is unparalleled.

Ouestion 5

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ötzi's injuries led to his untimely death?

D 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 (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (thus his name). 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.

Ouestion 6

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *primitive*?

B modern

Question 7

This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on .

A major scientific discoveries involving the late-Neolithic period

Ouestion 8

Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen next?

D Scientists will continue to examine Ötzi in hopes of making further discoveries about the Neolithic Age.

Sniffing Out Extinction

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A Dogs have been trained as conservation detection specialists who use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can help these rare animals to survive.

Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists at Zoos Victoria train two border collies to locate a critically endangered species using the scent of the animal?

C The conservationists have had great difficulty locating the endangered Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily reached, seen, or heard in the wild.

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

C To explain why conservationists find it so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat

Ouestion 4

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *captivity*?

C freedom

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that ...

A scientists find it more difficult to locate female Baw Baw frogs than males during the five or six weeks that the frogs' calls occur

Question 6

Which information is **not** in the Article?

A Which breed of dogs has proven to be the best at sniffing out certain cancers

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that an animal might not continue to live on as a species without help from humans?

C Since 1980, climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing, or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years.

Social Media, Pompeii Style

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B The residents of Pompeii posted messages on walls that lasted for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D It's a good idea for historical scholars to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning political ads and advice.

Ouestion 3

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

C describe both the reason for the destruction of the city of Pompeii and the reason that it remains so well preserved to this day

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *barbarian*?

A savage

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before its destruction. She would find **most** of her information

C in a TV program titled "Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii"

Ouestion 6

In this passage, the word *resident* means

A someone who lives in a particular place

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?

D 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, complaints, expressions of love, reviews of products, advertisements, and helpful suggestions.

Ouestion 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

A Where the many residents of Pompeii fled to when they escaped the city

Soldier in the Wild

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as many of his generation were deeply moved by his loyalty to time-honored Japanese values.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Shoichi Yokoi, a former soldier in the Japanese Imperial Army, chose to remain in the jungles of Guam and live off the land from 1944 until his "capture" by two fishermen in January 1972.

Question 3

Look at the events below. According to the Article, which of these happened third?

A Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and took him to the local authorities.

Question 4

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *isolation*?

A companionship

Ouestion 5

The reader can tell from the Article that ...

B Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen while setting shrimp traps near Talofofo Falls

Ouestion 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To describe the range of public response to Yokoi's return to Japan in 1972

Question 7

In this passage, the word *instinct* means .

B a natural way of being that makes a person act in a particular way

Question 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

D 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 best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

C Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

C At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Mason Andrews acted generously when he decided to use his trip to raise money for MedCamps of Louisiana, which offers summer camps for children with disabilities.

Ouestion 4

Which is the closest antonym for the word grueling, as it is used in the Article?

D Pleasant

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to . .

A Inform readers about a determined young man who worked hard to achieve a challenging goal

Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that .

A It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and attempting to achieve future goals now that he has flown solo around the world.

Question 7

Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?

C Severe and intense

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to make a solo flight circumnavigating the world?

B Mason did his research, and he 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 best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

A It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and evaluate how safe the surroundings are.

Ouestion 2

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

B The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition that will travel to museums across the country in 2020.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Dogs are adorable when they lick our faces, give us a heart-melting look, or rush up to us the moment we come through the door.

Question 4

Which two words are the closest synonyms?

B Enduring and lasting

Ouestion 5

The reader can tell from the Article that ______.

D The strong bond between dogs and humans probably formed because the two species helped one another hunt.

Ouestion 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to . .

C Present some of the findings on display at the California Science Center's canine exhibition

Question 7

Which would be the closest **synonym** for the word *glean*, as it is used above?

D Obtain

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the canine exhibition at the California Science Center attempts to show people how dogs experience the world?

A The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant with a button next to it. With a push of the button, you can smell what a dog smells.

Welcome to Batuu

Answer key

Question 1

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the box above?

B In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, where the appearance, workers, food, and products are designed to make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B Disney included rides at Galaxy's Edge because rides are the most entertaining part of going to a theme park.

Question 3

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

C emphasize that Galaxy's Edge was designed to provide enjoyment for all visitors experiencing life on the planet of Batuu, regardless of their familiarity with Star Wars

Question 4

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *alliance*?

A association

Ouestion 5

The reader can tell from the Article that . .

C Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida to make the time and effort in developing the lands worthwhile

Ouestion 6

This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on .

A strategies Disney uses to provide theme park visitors with unique and realistic experience

Ouestion 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *inspiration*?

A motivation

Ouestion 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Disney wanted Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge to look like an actual planet to visitors?

D For instance, the forest where the Resistance hides out was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Crews also went to Morocco and Turkey and took thousands of pictures for inspiration. Buildings got the same detailed dedication. Some were built to look like leftovers from ancient cultures, while others stand new and stark against the antique structures. This is meant to mark the emergence of the First Order and the Resistance.

Women Adventurers

Answer key

Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

B A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.

Question 2

Which of these is most important to include in a summary of the Article?

A Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.

Ouestion 3

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to . .

C suggest that Lady Stanhope was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer

Ouestion 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the $\acute{E}toile$ because it was almost certain she would have been discovered.

Question 5

Which two words are the closest antonyms?

C disguised and exposed

Ouestion 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 solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of groundbreaking female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago, when women were expected to stay at home and raise families.

Ouestion 7

In this passage, the word *forbid* means .

A to order someone not to do something

Ouestion 8

Which information is **not** in the Article?

C How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe