



Achieve3000 **Literacy**[™]
At Home

Lexile 520

2ND B • 3RD B • 4TH C

Lesson Tracker

Name: _____ Teacher: _____



Step One

Respond to the Before Reading Poll



Step Two

Read the Article



Step Three

Do the Activity Questions



Step Four

Respond to the After Reading Poll



Step Five

Answer the Thought Question

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

Lesson Title	Before Reading Poll	Article	First Try Activity Score	After Reading Poll	Thought Question
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A Musical Pioneer (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

Ofentse Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and choir for young people in South Africa.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women. And there are few conductors of color. For example, about 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S. are white. In short, as a young, black, female conductor from South Africa, Pitse is one of a kind.

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a band conductor and led a choir. But music wasn't Pitse's first job choice. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she was also good at drawing. She chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse. And she listened! In 2017, she started a choir. She chose great singers with big dreams. They lived in poor communities. And they had few opportunities. Pitse says Anchored Sound has changed the lives of these young people. It has allowed them to use their gifts. Now that's something worth singing about!

And Pitse hasn't stopped there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. By 2019, Pitse had done it. She had created a 40-member orchestra.

What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. Are these names new to you? You're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse's group plays pieces by African composers. This lets listeners know that classical music is alive in Africa.

Video credit: Mesia Gumede

Dictionary

architect (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

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

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

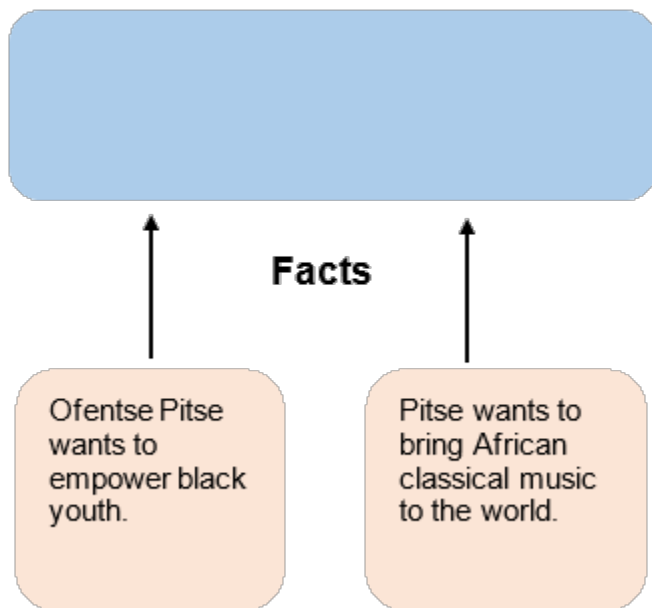
opportunity (*noun*) an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done: chance

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- Ⓐ Pitse wants people around the world to enjoy the music of today's African composers.
- Ⓑ Pitse's grandfather was a band conductor who also led a choir.
- Ⓒ Pitse's all-black orchestra and youth choir performs the works of African composers.
- Ⓓ Pitse was an architect before she started an orchestra and youth choir.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ A recent study found that only 5 out of the top 100 conductors were women.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse started a youth choir in 2017 and formed an orchestra two years later.
- Ⓒ Ofentse Pitse's grandfather was an excellent band conductor and choir leader.
- Ⓓ About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the United States are white.

Question 3

The Article says:

What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, 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
- (B) explain which European composer's music Ofentse Pitse wanted to play
- (C) point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
- (D) say that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are better composers than Beethoven

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *empower*?

- (A) weaken
- (B) promise
- (C) startle
- (D) respect

Question 5

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

- (A) the works of Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza aren't well-known yet
- (B) Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often lead Pitse's orchestra
- (C) Pitse's choir usually plays at least one piece written by Beethoven
- (D) Pitse has written a number of classical works that her choir has sung

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- (A) How Pitse is helping young people from poor communities in South Africa
- (B) How Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
- (C) Why Pitse has her group play classical music by African composers
- (D) Why Pitse is considered to be a pioneer in classical music

Question 7

The Article says:

[Ofentse Pitse is] the *conductor* of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.

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

- (A) singer
- (B) writer
- (C) driver
- (D) leader

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir.
- Ⓒ And there are few conductors of color. For example, about 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S. are white.
- Ⓓ And Pitse hasn't stopped there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. By 2019, Pitse had done it. She had created a 40-member orchestra.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Ancient Lines in the Sand (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Some things should stay a secret.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

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

NAZCA, Peru (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). The greatest wonders of the ancient world are usually hard to miss. For example, you can't walk past Egypt's pyramids without noticing them. They're right in your face. But not the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on huge slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings"). They're seen in the desert sands. There are hundreds of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty! And the best way to see them is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of visitors view them each year.

Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.

Researchers still have many questions about the geoglyphs. And the answers are unclear.

Here's what we *do* know: The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make them? By removing some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.

Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths. Researchers say this shows that the Nazca people may have had a taste for the magical.

So why were the geoglyphs created in the first place? Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

Then again, these are all guesses. Only one thing is clear: The Nazcas found a way to draw lasting lines in the always-changing sands of time.

Dictionary

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

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

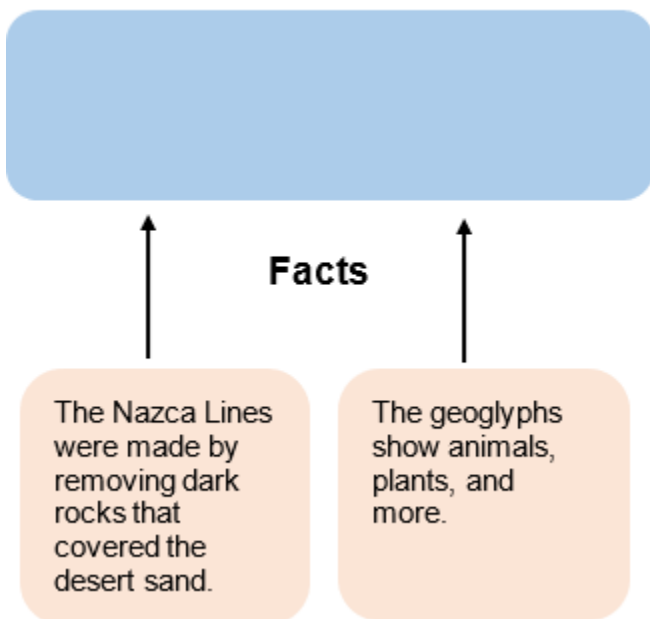
research (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- Ⓐ The Nazca Lines were found by an archaeologist in 1927.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines are pictures made in the sands of Peru.
- Ⓒ The geoglyphs show a creature with many mouths and eyes.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

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

Question 3

The Article says:

Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- (A) say that finding the lines was not very easy
- (B) explain the reason for making the strange lines
- (C) point out what some of the Nazca Lines look like
- (D) 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.

- (A) wonders and rituals
- (B) discovered and created
- (C) noticing and spotting
- (D) technology and wisdom

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
- (B) some of the Nazca Lines point to good places to grow crops
- (C) 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 *last*?

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

- (A) The Nazca lines went unnoticed in the desert sands of Peru for nearly 1,500 years.
- (B) A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found.
- (C) The Nazca people created drawings in the desert sand by taking away the top layer of rocks.
- (D) A Peruvian archaeologist found groups of lines drawn on the desert floor.

Question 7

The Article says:

And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was *uncovered* in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.

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

- (A) built
- (B) wrecked
- (C) studied
- (D) found

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Yet these wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist first found some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later. It took technology such as drones to find them.
- Ⓑ Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.
- Ⓒ The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they make them? By removing some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored desert sand underneath
- Ⓓ Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

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

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

Some things should stay a secret.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

List three reasons why the Nazca Lines are an interesting attraction to visit and/or study in Southern Peru. Explain why the Nazca Lines have left researchers with questions. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Animated Favorites Get Real (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

Many families love live-action remakes of animated movies. "Aladdin," starring Will Smith, is one of these movies.

LOS ANGELES, California (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. Bibbidi-bobbidi-booyah! They've changed them into live-action hits. They're made with real people. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! They're just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.

So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold.

The power of nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? They were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. New fans!

Here's another reason golden oldies are getting a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity. So more kids are seeing characters who look like them. Take *The Little Mermaid* remake. Just about everybody and their pet crab has heard the news: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel.

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as a chance to crank up the girl power. *Aladdin's* Jasmine is an example. The movie's producer says she isn't just along for the magic carpet ride in the remake. She's a strong character. She speaks up. She takes a stand.

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

Dictionary

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

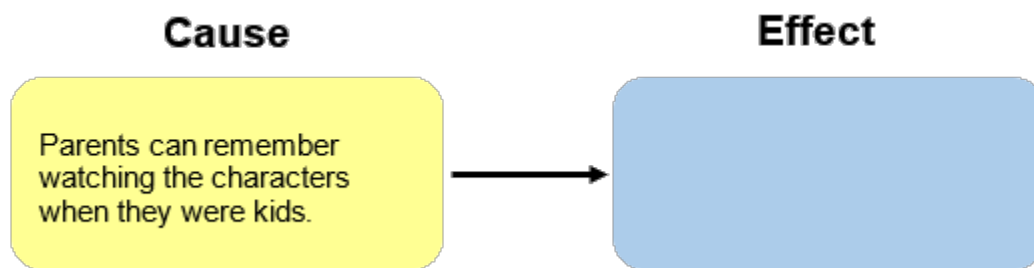
diversity (*noun*) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

inclusive (*adjective*) open to everyone: not limited to certain people

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Parents can remember watching the characters when they were kids." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- Ⓐ Moviemakers have added new characters to old movies.
- Ⓑ Some people grew up watching old Pokémon cartoons.
- Ⓒ Some of the remade animated movies have become hits.
- Ⓓ Live-action remakes let moviemakers crank up the girl power.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The remake of *The Lion King* is not really a live-action movie.
- Ⓑ *Beauty and the Beast* and *Dumbo* have been released since 2010.
- Ⓒ Moviemakers are making live-action remakes of animated films.
- Ⓓ Halle Bailey landed a part in the remake of *The Little Mermaid*.

Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Who landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*
- Ⓑ What "winning formula" moviemakers have been using
- Ⓒ Why so many people like live-action movies
- Ⓓ Why adults enjoyed watching old Pokémon cartoons

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) plenty and lots
- (B) modern and everyday
- (C) strong and weak
- (D) 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*
- (C) fans like movies with characters they already know
- (D) most kids don't care about diversity in the movies

Question 6

The Article says:

So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- (A) give reasons why fans don't always like live-action
- (B) say why Hollywood actors can make so much money
- (C) point out why moviemakers remake animated movies
- (D) explain why people still watch old animated movies

Question 7

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

- (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!
- (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.
- (C) 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.

Question 8

The Article says:

With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold.

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

- Ⓐ example
- Ⓑ plan
- Ⓒ bargain
- Ⓓ reply

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

STEP 1: First, read the Article.

STEP 2a: Find the main idea for each paragraph.

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

STEP 2c: Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

STEP 3: Re-read your summary.

STEP 4: Check your work. Make final changes.

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Newer is better.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images

A bubble tea shop is a sweet spot to hang out. It's also a good place to get a sweet treat.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is from Taiwan. It's like a drink and a snack in one cup. It's winning fans around the world.

To enjoy bubble tea, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice. But here's what makes bubble tea *really* special: There are chewy goodies in it. They're usually at the bottom of the cup. Most often, they are balls of black tapioca. They're sweet. Some people think the balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others say it's called bubble tea because of the bubbles on top of the drink. They form when the drink is shaken.

Bubble tea was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s. People loved it. From Taiwan, it spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Now, the shops are on the rise all over the U.S. They're found in lots of other countries, too.

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors. Would you like mango or chocolate pudding? Or maybe you're up for cookie dough?

And don't forget about the toppings! You could go for the black tapioca, of course. But there are plenty of other choices, too. How about chia seeds or red beans?

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.

Information for this story came from VOA.

Credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

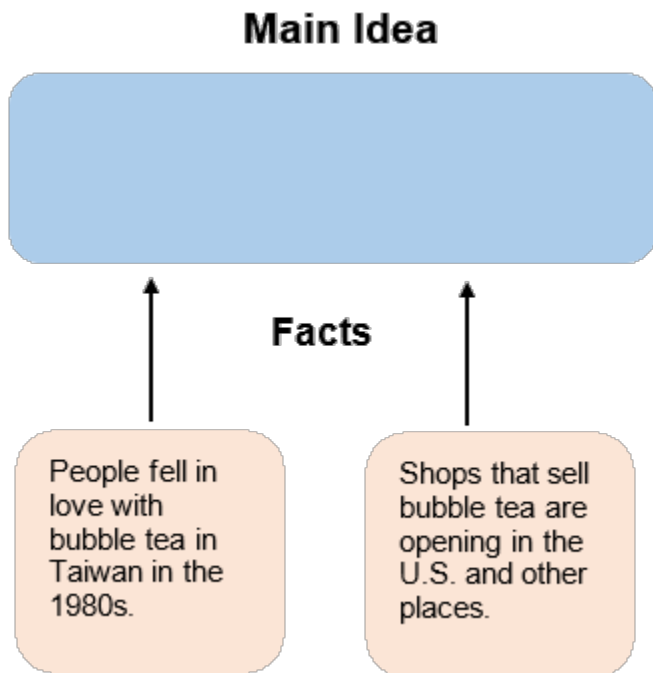
decision (*noun*) a choice

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

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "People fell in love with bubble tea in Taiwan in the 1980s." The box on the right says "Shops that sell bubble tea are opening in the U.S. and other places."

- Ⓐ Bubble tea lovers can order toppings like chia seeds and red beans.
- Ⓑ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be black tapioca balls or the bubbles on top of the drink.
- Ⓒ People now enjoy bubble tea in Asia, the U.S., and beyond.
- Ⓓ Some people like going to bubble tea shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Create
- Ⓑ Seize
- Ⓒ Need
- Ⓓ Trade

Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops were found around the world.
- Ⓑ People in other parts of Asia began to enjoy the tea.
- Ⓒ People in Taiwan fell in love with bubble tea.
- Ⓓ Bubble tea shops opened in the United States.

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ There are over a hundred different flavors of bubble tea.
- Ⓑ Chia seeds are a tastier topping than red beans.
- Ⓒ Some people go to bubble tea shops to hang out with friends.
- Ⓓ In the 1980s, bubble tea was made in Taiwan.

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

The Article says:

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to *chill*. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.

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

- Ⓐ Sing
- Ⓑ Cook
- Ⓒ Pretend
- Ⓓ Rest

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

- Ⓐ Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions.
- Ⓑ Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.
- Ⓒ A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice.
- Ⓓ In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops ask people to finish their drinks quickly.
- Ⓑ There are more bubble tea shops in the U.S. than anywhere else.
- Ⓒ It can be hard to choose which kind of bubble tea to buy.
- Ⓓ Tapioca was first made in the United States.

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

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

Newer is better.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Cooking Up Native Traditions (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Amy Forliti

Sean Sherman whips up Native American recipes for his catering business, The Sioux Chef.

Minneapolis, Minnesota (Achieve3000, January 17, 2020). Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these foods. They were given to the family by the U.S. government. Later in life, Sherman, whose family are Oglala Lakota Sioux, raised this question: Why didn't his family have foods that came from their culture?

And Sherman would have even more questions: Why weren't Native American recipes being more widely used? Where could those recipes even be found? And why don't more restaurants serve Native American foods?

Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history. What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.

Then Sherman had an idea. He started a cooking business. He called it The Sioux Chef. His plan? To bring back Native American food to today's world.

But why was it lost in the first place?

In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were lost. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.

So Sherman is bringing the traditions and foods back. His recipes leave out ingredients that were brought by Europeans. He uses local plants and other natural ingredients, such as elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.

There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients. But Native American food is *not* just a passing idea, says Sherman. It's a way of life.

Video credit: The Sioux Chef

Dictionary

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

local (*adjective*) relating to or occurring in a particular area, city, or town

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

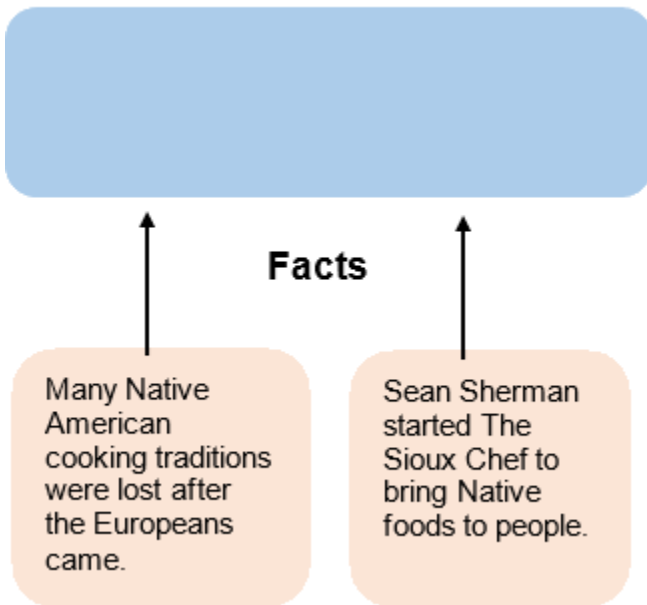
reservation (*noun*) an area of land in the U.S. that is kept separate as a place for Native Americans to live

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- (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.
- (C) 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.
- Ⓑ The government meant to do the right thing by giving free food to Native Americans.
- Ⓒ Sean Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions with his recipes.
- Ⓓ Sherman spoke with Native American chefs to learn about traditional foods.

Question 3

The Article says:

There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

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

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ chatted and cooked
- Ⓑ later and earlier
- Ⓒ packed and filled
- Ⓓ questions and answers

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What foods used to be in Sherman's family cupboard
- Ⓑ Which problem Sherman is addressing with his recipes
- Ⓒ Why it's hard to find natural ingredients, like wild rice
- Ⓓ Why traditional Native American foods are healthy

Question 7

The Article says:

In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were *lost*. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.

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

- Ⓐ allow
- Ⓑ follow
- Ⓒ found
- Ⓓ announce

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

- Ⓐ Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history. What did he learn? How his people grew, hunted, and prepared food in the past.
- Ⓑ So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients.
- Ⓒ In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were lost.
- Ⓓ Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these foods.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Defying Gravity (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

With enough hard work, anything is possible.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP

Simone Biles shows off her hardware. The gymnast won five gold medals at the 2019 gymnastics world championships.

STUTTGART, Germany (Achieve3000, October 24, 2019). Is 25 a lot? It depends. Twenty-five days of summer vacation are not nearly enough. Twenty-five gymnastics medals? Now that's *a lot* of hardware. Just ask Simone Biles.

In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world!

You'll understand her medal count when you see Biles perform. Just prepare to be amazed. She twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, she has to use super strength to pull off her moves. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world.

Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. But in 2003, her grandparents adopted her.

Biles discovered gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. Even from a young age, she gave her all to her sport. She showed up for practice even when she was sick.

But Biles didn't have a completely smooth journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.

She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!

Then, at age 19, Biles led Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. *She and swimmer Katie Ledecky were the female athletes who won the most medals in Rio. Biles won five medals. Four of them were gold.*

And it's safe to say Biles isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been getting ready for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!

Credit: Video Credit: Team USA

Dictionary

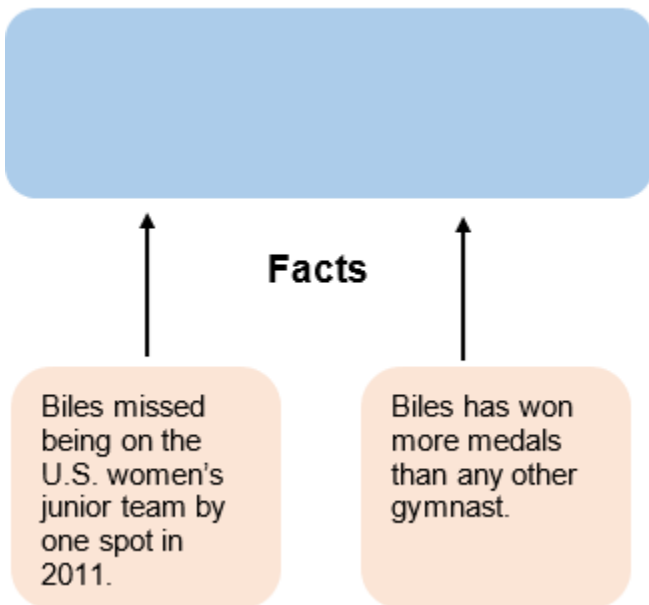
foster (*adjective*) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

junior (*adjective*) younger in age

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Biles missed on being on the U.S. women's junior team by one spot in 2011." The box on the right says "Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast."

- Ⓐ Sickness did not keep Simone Biles from going to gymnastics practice.
- Ⓑ Simone Biles discovered gymnastics when she was a 6-year-old girl.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles never gave up and became one of the world's best gymnasts.
- Ⓓ After spending years in foster care, Simone Biles' grandparents adopted her.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ Simone Biles led Team U.S.A. at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics
- Ⓑ Simone Biles' super strength is the key to her success in gymnastics.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles' early years were spent in foster care.
- Ⓓ Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal in 2019.

Question 3

The Article says:

She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- (A) explain that Simone Biles was surprised when she made the team
- (B) say that Simone Biles should have made the team before 2013
- (C) 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
- (C) completely and hardly
- (D) amazed and disappointed

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- (A) 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
- (C) 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?

- (A) Who coached the U.S. women's junior team in 2013
- (B) What sport Katie Ledecky won her Olympic medals in
- (C) How many world championship medals Simone Biles has won
- (D) How old Simone Biles was when she discovered gymnastics

Question 7

The Article says:

But Biles didn't have a completely *smooth* journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.

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

- (A) usual
- (B) easy
- (C) hard
- (D) strange

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Simone Biles faced difficulties in her life?

- Ⓐ And it's safe to say Biles isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been getting ready for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!
- Ⓑ You'll understand her medal count when you see Biles perform. Just prepare to be amazed. She twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind.
- Ⓒ Biles was born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio. She didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care.
- Ⓓ In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world!

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

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

With enough hard work, anything is possible.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Give Me S'more! (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

This melty mix of chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers is a s'more.

SAVANNAH, Georgia (Achieve3000, July 18, 2019). *S'more, j'adore!* That's French. It means, "I love a s'more." And who doesn't?

Here's how to make a s'more:

1. Break a graham cracker in half. Place part of a chocolate bar on one half.
2. Put a marshmallow on a stick. Hold it over a campfire.
3. Use the stick to set the hot marshmallow on the chocolate.
4. Take the other cracker half. Put it on the marshmallow, creating a sandwich.
5. Smoosh the crackers together and pull out the stick.
6. Devour right away!

A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*" Then you'll wonder, "Who thought of *this?*"

Whoever did, it couldn't have been *that* long ago. Some of the key ingredients haven't always been around.

Take marshmallows. They aren't new. But for hundreds of years, they were a luxury only the rich enjoyed. Today's marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make. So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

Many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker created a way to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make the milk chocolate we know today.

No one's really sure who first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers. But it might have been the Girl Scouts. A 1927 Girl Scouts manual mentions a treat called "Some More."

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.

S'more deliciousness? Yes, please!

Information for this story came from AP.

Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

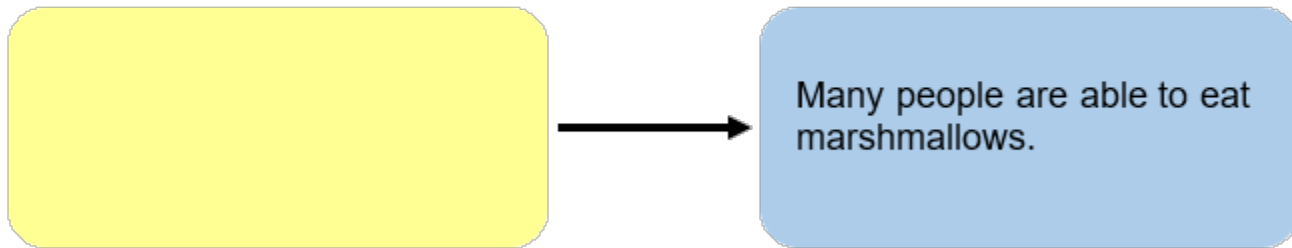
devour (<i>verb</i>)	eat quickly and with greed
indulge (<i>verb</i>)	to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable
luxury (<i>noun</i>)	something that costs a lot and is nice to have but is not really needed
manual (<i>noun</i>)	a small book that gives instructions or helpful information about something

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Since...

Then...



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

- (A) A Swiss candy maker created a way to mix milk and sugar.
- (B) Marshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- (C) 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?

- (A) Some of the key ingredients in s'mores have not always been around.
- (B) S'mores are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers.
- (C) 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.

- (A) Messy and neat
- (B) Oven and microwave
- (C) Sure and certain
- (D) Create and make

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ S'mores are gooey, chocolatey, and crispy.
- Ⓑ Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s.
- Ⓒ Marshmallows were once eaten only by rich people.
- Ⓓ A chocolate maker created milk chocolate in 1875.

Question 5

The Article says:

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- Ⓐ Prove that most people have eaten s'mores before
- Ⓑ Show different ways people can make s'mores
- Ⓒ Explain why microwaved s'mores are better than oven-baked s'mores
- Ⓓ Warn readers that using a campfire to make s'mores is not safe

Question 6

The Article says:

A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*"

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

- Ⓐ Large
- Ⓑ Silly
- Ⓒ Nice
- Ⓓ Terrible

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why s'mores are so well-liked?

- Ⓐ Some of the key ingredients haven't always been around.
- Ⓑ It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker created a way to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make the milk chocolate we know today.
- Ⓒ A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness.
- Ⓓ Still, not everyone has tried them.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after the 1927 manual came out.
- Ⓑ It costs a lot of money to make s'mores today.
- Ⓒ S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make.
- Ⓓ Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. To write a summary, you should do these things:

STEP 1: First, read the Article.

STEP 2a: Find the main idea for each paragraph.

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

STEP 2c: Put all the details—in your own words—in one paragraph.

STEP 3: Re-read your summary.

STEP 4: Check your work. Make final changes.

Global Game Fame (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Older video games are more fun to play.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP

The Strong National Museum of Play chooses which games get the honor of being in the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

ROCHESTER, New York (Achieve3000, May 10, 2019). Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. Only the world's best and most important video games are chosen to be a part of it. It's a big honor.

The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have received the honor. Among 2019's hall-of-famers: *Super Mario Kart*, *Colossal Cave Adventure*, and *Microsoft Solitaire*.

The winners are not always new games. Often, they're old-fashioned. People don't play them anymore. But these games have withstood the test of time. And they are very important to the gaming world.

Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming. *Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer card game from 1991. Along with being fun, it taught computer users how to use a mouse.

Super Mario Kart came out way back in 1992. It was the first of the *Mario Kart* racing series. Fun fact: The game wasn't actually meant to include Mario. But a drawing of the famous plumber in the driver's seat turned out to be a hit. The rest is history!

Which games do you think should be nominated next year? Have your say! Anyone can go online to nominate games.

Say your favorite doesn't win. You can still go to the hall of fame award ceremony. It's held every year in Rochester, New York.

Information for this story came from AP.

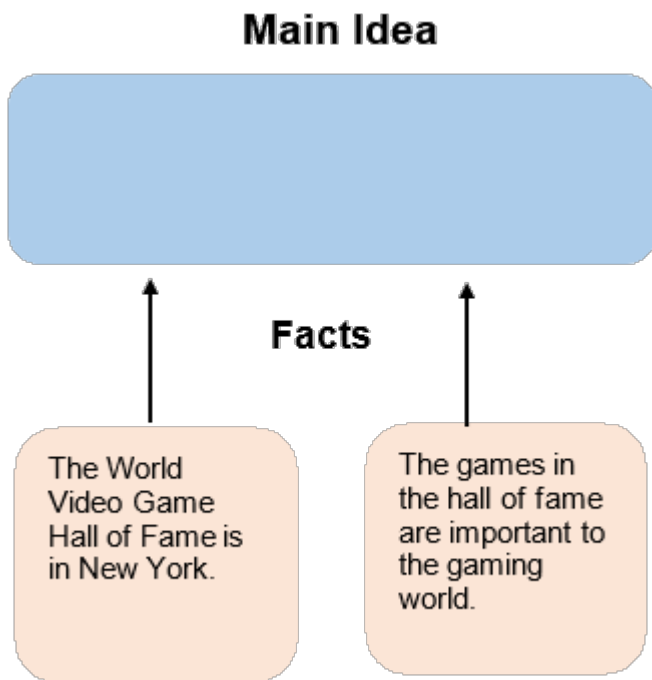
Dictionary

nominate (*verb*) to suggest someone or something for an award or honor

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "The World Video Game Hall of Fame is in New York." The box on the right says "The games in the hall of fame are important to the gaming world."

- (A) *Microsoft Solitaire* is a computer game that shows players how to use a mouse.
- (B) *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a video game that first came out in 1976.
- (C) Hundreds of games have been nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- (D) Each year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

Question 2

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

- (A) Trade
- (B) Name
- (C) Receive
- (D) Play

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

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

Question 4

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

- (A) *Microsoft Solitaire* is played by many people.
- (B) *Super Mario Kart* is an older video game.
- (C) *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.
- (D) *Super Mario Kart* was very fun for gaming fans.

Question 5

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) Deserve and welcome
- (B) Felt and taught
- (C) Honor and award
- (D) 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 _____.

- (A) Tell the reader about an exciting, new video game
- (B) Show that people still like old video games
- (C) 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.
- (C) *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.
- (D) Take *Colossal Cave Adventure*. It's a computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ The rules for choosing winners will change next year.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* will win next year's hall of fame.
- Ⓒ Several games will enter the hall of fame next year.
- Ⓓ Next year's nominees will all be new and exciting games.

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

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

Older video games are more fun to play.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Good, Bad, or Ugly? (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



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

URBANDALE, Iowa (Achieve3000, May 6, 2019). Brace yourselves, people. This may not be pretty!

You know those ugly fruits and vegetables? They may be shaped weird, or their color just isn't quite right. Would you put them in your cart? No? Well, that's why many supermarkets put out only the prettiest produce.

But ugly fruits deserve love, too, say "ugly produce" companies. They sell those supermarket rejects. And they bring them right to your door.

The companies say they want to stop ugly produce from going to waste. A banged-up banana still tastes good. So why should it be thrown away?

The ugly produce companies even offer their goods at a low price. It sounds great.

But not everyone is happy. Critics say these companies are hurting farmers.

The Ugly Truth?

Ugly produce isn't really wasted, critics say. Many farmers sell it. It's used in the food service industry. And on farms, fruits can be fed to animals. Even rotted fruit is added back into soil for nutrients.

But there's more. Some say ugly produce companies are taking food away from the needy.

Not So Bad, After All?

Ugly produce companies are defending themselves.

They don't take away from the needy, said one company. Food banks get their produce first. Then, the companies take what they can sell.

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

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

Dictionary

food bank (*noun*) a place that gives food to hungry people

industry (*noun*) a type of trade or business

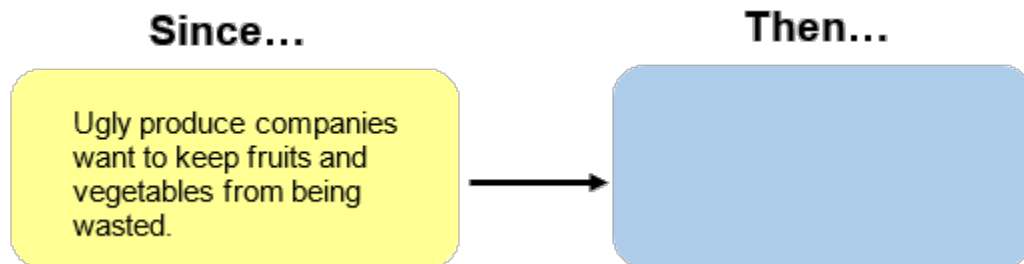
nutrient (*noun*) what a living thing needs to live, such as water and minerals

reduce (*verb*) to cut back on something

reject (*noun*) something that is not wanted

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Since". The box says "Ugly produce companies want to keep fruits and vegetables from being wasted." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Then."

- (A) These companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.
- (B) These companies sell fruits and vegetables from food banks.
- (C) 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?

- (A) Some ugly produce can be fed to farm animals, and rotted fruit can add nutrients to soil.
- (B) Many farmers sell ugly produce so that it isn't wasted.
- (C) 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?

- (A) People should not shop at supermarkets that refuse to sell fruits and vegetables because of how they look.
- (B) Ugly produce companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject, and they bring the food to people's doors.
- (C) The U.S. government has not done enough to keep people from wasting food.
- (D) It's a waste of time to talk about ugly produce companies because they are here to stay.

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *reduce*, as it is used in the Article?

- Ⓐ Hide
- Ⓑ Bury
- Ⓒ Toss
- Ⓓ Create

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ Show readers that buying from farmers will end food waste
- Ⓑ Explain why some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables
- Ⓒ Show how ugly produce companies get customers to buy from them
- Ⓓ Explain how ugly produce companies don't work with food banks

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best shows why some companies are selling ugly fruits and vegetables?

- Ⓐ The ugly produce companies even offer their goods at a low price. It sounds great.
- Ⓑ Ugly produce companies are defending themselves. They don't take away from the needy, said one company. Food banks get their produce first. Then, the companies take what they can sell.
- Ⓒ But there's more. Some say ugly produce companies are taking food away from the needy.
- Ⓓ And food waste *is* a big problem in the United States. The government has said that about 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted. Ugly produce companies say they can help farmers reduce this waste.

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ Waste and save
- Ⓑ Needy and poor
- Ⓒ Reject and trash
- Ⓓ Offer and announce

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Food banks will buy from ugly produce companies that offer low costs.
- Ⓑ People in the U.S. may continue to waste some food.
- Ⓒ Farmers will save their prettiest produce for feeding animals.
- Ⓓ Ugly produce companies will not sell as much food as farmers do.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Are ugly produce companies causing more harm than good? Summarize both sides of the argument for and against ugly produce companies. Which side do you agree with and why? Use facts and details from the Article to back up your answer.

Katherine the Great (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP

Katherine Johnson's work doing math for NASA made headlines.

HAMPTON, Virginia (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or starred in a movie. She has not been in the Olympics or a fashion show, either. Johnson's greatness comes from her work in math.

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program forward. Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So you could say she's a hero.

The 2016 movie *Hidden Figures* tells the story of Johnson and two other African American women. They worked behind the scenes at NASA as "human computers." They did the math for trajectories. That is important work. Especially when people are being sent into space.

Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA. Her math was always correct. That year, NASA was sending astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers doing the math for Glenn's trip around Earth. Computers are usually fast and correct. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.

"If she says they're good," Johnson later remembered Glenn saying, "then I'm ready to go." Johnson did the math. And Glenn's trip went well.

Johnson worked on many other missions. Project Apollo was one. (That's the 1969 mission that first put astronauts on the moon.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018. But she hasn't slowed down much. In fact, Johnson wrote her story. In the summer of 2019, *Reaching for the Moon* will come out.

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

Information for this story came from AP.

Video credit: NASA

Dictionary

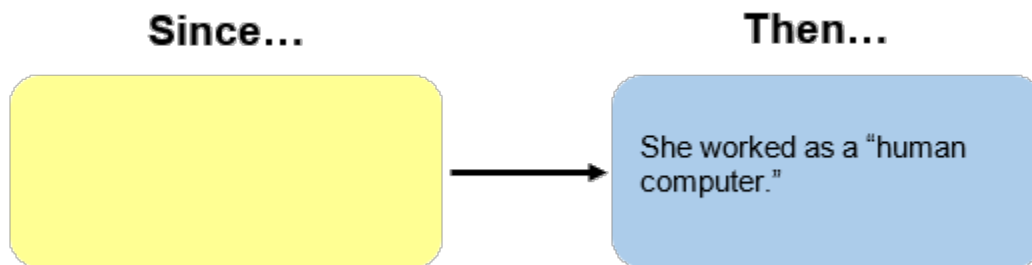
autobiography (*noun*) the story of someone's life written by that person

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

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

- A Katherine Johnson was great at math.
- B Katherine Johnson helped create laptops.
- C Katherine Johnson wants young people to do well.
- D 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.
- C Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- D 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.
- C 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 iPhones).
- (C) Johnson left NASA in 1986. She turned 100 in 2018.
- (D) But she hasn't slowed down much.

Question 8

The Article says:

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program *forward*.

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

- (A) Ahead
- (B) Over
- (C) Around
- (D) Outside

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

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

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Ötzi the Iceman (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Ötzi should be left alone.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock
Ötzi the Iceman lives again in this life-size model based on his skeleton.

BOLZANO, Italy (Achieve3000, November 21, 2019). It had to have been rough for Ötzi the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was: a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (157 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a mountain in Italy. And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men. Making things worse, it was very cold. Luckily, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass. But would Ötzi stay alive between the cold and his wounds?

He would not. Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world.

Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. For this reason, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow face, brown eyes, and tanned skin. He also had long dark hair and a shaggy beard.

Ötzi was carrying several things when he died. He had a copper ax, a bow, arrows, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and more. He also carried several small tools in a pouch sewn to his belt. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different areas hundreds of miles away. This suggests that trade took place. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too: a sloe berry, some mushrooms, and a few goat bones.

Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And there's still a lot to learn from Ötzi.

Dictionary

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

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

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

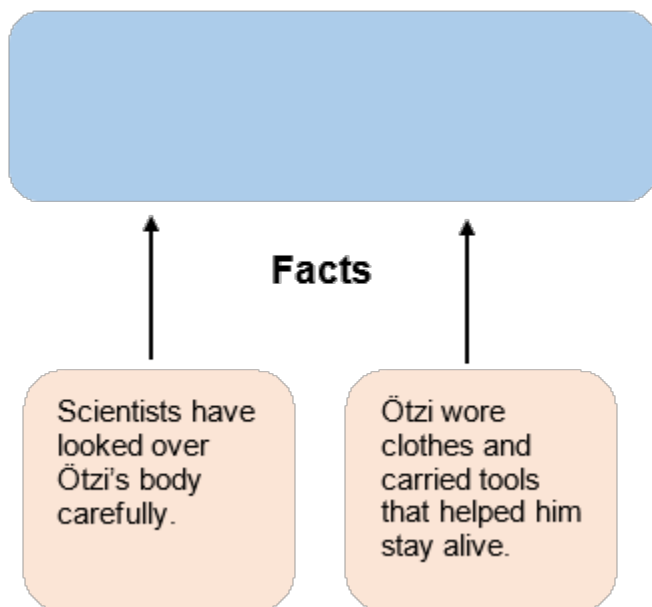
specimen (*noun*) something (such as an animal or plant) collected as an example of a particular kind of thing

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Scientists have looked over 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.
- (C) Clothes from the late-Neolithic period were made using grass and animal hides.
- (D) The tools Ötzi carried came from different areas hundreds of miles away.

Question 2

The Article says:

That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world.

Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more.

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

- Ⓐ how the clothing Ötzi wore helped him survive bad weather
- Ⓑ how important it was that Ötzi's body was discovered in such good shape
- Ⓒ what scientists knew about the late-Neolithic period before Ötzi was found
- Ⓓ what scientists have been able to find out by studying Ötzi

Question 3

Which means the **opposite** of *ancient*?

- Ⓐ hidden
- Ⓑ new
- Ⓒ dark
- Ⓓ fancy

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ Ötzi is the most interesting find ever because of what he has taught scientists.
- Ⓑ Ötzi's body has shown scientists how long ago he lived and what he probably looked like.
- Ⓒ Ötzi died on a mountain in Italy and was found in 1991 by two hikers.
- Ⓓ Ötzi's body is the first well-preserved body from the late-Neolithic period found in Europe.

Question 5

Which passage from the Article best shows that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

- Ⓐ And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men.
- Ⓑ Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice. He remained that way until 1991.
- Ⓒ Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. For this reason, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him.
- Ⓓ Making things worse, it was very cold. Luckily, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass.

Question 6

The Article says:

Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more *detail* that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice.

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

- Ⓐ fact
- Ⓑ lesson
- Ⓒ moment
- Ⓓ prize

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ looking at a map of Italy during late-Neolithic times
- Ⓑ reading a book about battles fought in Europe
- Ⓒ reading an article about how people made their own clothing long ago
- Ⓓ watching a video on important findings of the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Scientists will not share any other new findings they discover about Ötzi.
- Ⓑ Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.
- Ⓒ People will try to make their own clothing like Ötzi's, using hides and grass.
- Ⓓ People will start using the same trade routes people like Ötzi used long ago.

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

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

Ötzi should be left alone.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Sniffing Out Extinction (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

All endangered species are worth saving.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus

This conservation detection dog can sniff out the scent of different animals on land and in water.

MELBOURNE, Australia (Achieve3000, December 4, 2019). What *can't* a dog sniff out? Dogs can find everything: from missing persons to fake money.

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

Conservationists around the world are putting dogs on the trail of at-risk animals. The hope is to find, save, and breed the animals. The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs. They can even tell if danger is near. So why not use a dog to track down a species that's endangered? The Baw Baw frog is one such species.

Baw Baw frogs live in southeastern Australia. Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.

There's an Australian conservation group named Zoos Victoria. It wants to help Baw Baw frogs. How? By breeding the frogs in zoos. Then, Baw Baw frogs and their tadpoles will be put back in the wild.

But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud. That's why two border collies are helping. The dogs learned the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Now they sniff around to find them. And they lead conservationists right to the animals.

So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours.

Dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. Koalas. Killer whales! All the dogs have to do is smell their droppings. Then, they hit the trail.

Yes, conservation can be a tough business. But someone's got to work to save endangered animals. And dogs win out by a nose.

Information for this story came from VOA.

Video credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

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

climate (*noun*) the usual weather conditions in a particular place or region

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

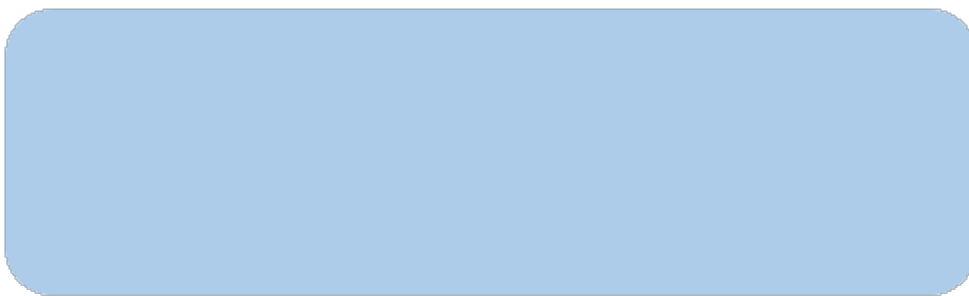
endangered (*adjective*) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



Facts

Dogs have a great sense of smell.

There are fewer than 1,200 Baw Baw frogs left in the wild.

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

- (A) Dogs find endangered species so scientists can help them.
- (B) Many of the Baw Baw frogs in Australia have been wiped out.
- (C) Baw Baw frogs live in hard-to-get-to forests of Australia.
- (D) Dogs have been used to find fake money and missing persons.

Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists train two border collies to sniff out an endangered species?

- Ⓐ The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs.
- Ⓑ The conservationists have had a very hard time finding the Baw Baw frogs.
- Ⓒ The conservationists use the two dogs to also track down other animals.
- Ⓓ The conservationists have used dogs to find missing persons and also fake money.

Question 3

The Article says:

But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- Ⓐ show how dogs are used to find endangered animals
- Ⓑ explain why it's hard to find Baw Baw frogs in the wild
- Ⓒ point out why the forests are not a good home for the frogs
- Ⓓ say why there aren't many Baw Baw frogs left

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ tough and hard
- Ⓑ super and terrible
- Ⓒ endangered and safe
- Ⓓ smell and taste

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ not all kinds of dogs have a very good sense of smell
- Ⓑ Baw Baw frogs can't live outside of their homes in the forest
- Ⓒ dogs smelled Baw Baw frog droppings before finding them
- Ⓓ silverspot butterfly caterpillars are harder to find than koalas

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

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

Question 7

The Article says:

The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's *scent*. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs.

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

- Ⓐ skin
- Ⓑ meal
- Ⓒ smell
- Ⓓ muscle

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.
- Ⓑ There's an Australian conservation group named Zoos Victoria. It wants to help Baw Baw frogs. How? By breeding the frogs in zoos.
- Ⓒ The dogs learned the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Now they sniff around to find them. And they lead conservationists right to the animals.
- Ⓓ So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours.

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

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

All endangered species are worth saving.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain how trained dogs are being used to help save endangered species, such as the Baw Baw frog. Use information from the Article in your answer.

Social Media, Pompeii Style (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

People should always find a way to share their thoughts.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

More than 11,000 graffiti samples like this have been uncovered among the ruins at Pompeii.

POMPEII, Italy (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works. But did you know people who lived in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii also posted messages on walls? *Real* walls, that is. Amazingly, some of those messages are still there 2,000 years later. And so are many of the walls themselves.

In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on buildings. It was also on the inside and outside walls of homes. The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds.

All of this raises some big questions: How did these messages last so long? Better yet: Why is so much of Pompeii itself still around?

The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time. It stayed this way until the mid-1700s. That's when people started digging out Pompeii and the messages were found.

So, what did Pompeians write about? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media sites, like Facebook. They were mostly opinions, words of love, thoughts on different goods, and helpful tips. In fact, the oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE. What did it say? "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Here are more examples of messages Pompeians "posted" around their city:

Health to you, Victoria. And wherever you are, may you sneeze sweetly.
Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

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

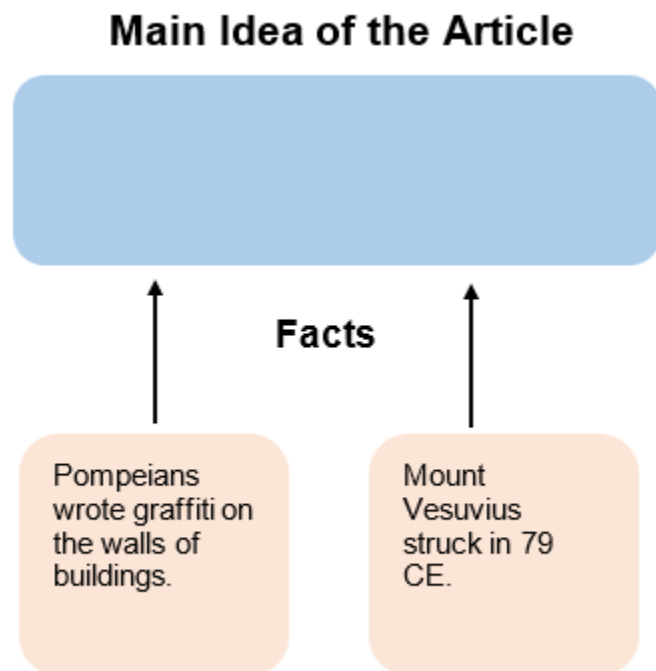
barbarian (*noun*) a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person

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



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

- Ⓐ The oldest message in Pompeii was written by Gaius Pumidius Diphilus.
- Ⓑ People started digging out the city of Pompeii sometime in the mid-1700s.
- Ⓒ Stone and ash from a volcano saved messages written on Pompeian walls.
- Ⓓ When Mount Vesuvius struck in 79 CE, it destroyed Pompeii within hours.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- (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 *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 _____.

- (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
- (D) 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 *Life in the City of Pompeii*
- (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

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ So, what did Pompeians write about? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media sites, like Facebook. They were mostly opinions, words of love, thoughts on different goods, and helpful tips.
- Ⓑ The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time.
- Ⓒ In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on buildings. It was also on the inside and outside walls of homes. The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden thoughts of a people with a lot on their minds.
- Ⓓ Today, people post messages on cyber walls. Facebook fans know how *that* works. But did you know people who lived in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii also posted messages on walls? *Real* walls, that is.

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What kinds of messages were written on the walls of Pompeii
- Ⓑ Why Pompeii seems as if it were a city frozen in time
- Ⓒ Who discovered that Pompeii was buried under stone and ash
- Ⓓ When the city of Pompeii was covered in ash from a volcano

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

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

People should always find a way to share their thoughts.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what happened to the ancient city of Pompeii in 79 CE and what has been discovered centuries later for readers who haven't heard the story. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Soldier in the Wild (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

All soldiers are heroes.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

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

TALOFOFO, Guam (Achieve3000, August 27, 2019). In 1944, Shoichi Yokoi went into hiding in the jungles of Guam. Little did he know, he would one day return as a changed man in a changed world. It's one of the strangest stories in the history of World War II. It's also a tale of astonishing loyalty.

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old soldier in the Imperial Japanese Army. Yokoi was stationed on Guam. The island had been taken over by the Japanese. But U.S. soldiers arrived to free Guam in 1944. Afraid for his life, Yokoi fled to the hills. Once there, he was cut off from the rest of the world.

In August 1945, Japan surrendered to the Allied Forces. The war was over. But Yokoi had no way of knowing this. Amazingly, he remained in hiding for the next seven years. All the while, he thought that World War II was still going strong.

And that's only the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. Even so, he continued to hide for another 20 years! He spent his days in a well-hidden cave that he'd made with dirt, bamboo, and reeds.

So what made him stay in hiding for that long? Why not surrender and go back to Japan?

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.

In January 1972, Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen. He felt ashamed to return home. But when he arrived in Japan, he got a hero's welcome. Millions watched his return on television. Many were deeply moved by his loyalty to Japanese values.

Video Credit: AP Archive

Dictionary

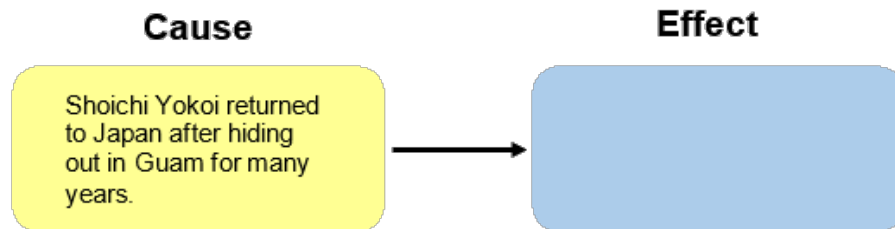
loyalty (*noun*) a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something

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

value (*noun*) a strongly held belief about what is valuable, important, or acceptable

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Shoichi Yokoi returned to Japan after hiding out in Guam for many years." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- (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.
- (C) 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?

- (A) 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.
- (C) 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.
- (C) 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
- (C) hardship and trouble
- (D) astonishing and usual

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Yokoi didn't take his job as a Japanese soldier seriously.
- Ⓑ Yokoi fought with many American soldiers during the war.
- Ⓒ Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan in 1972.
- Ⓓ Yokoi rejoined the Japanese Army after returning to Japan.

Question 6

The Article says:

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- Ⓐ say that Yokoi wasn't very happy with his country
- Ⓑ show that the Japanese thought the idea of *ganbaru* was shameful
- Ⓒ explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding for so long
- Ⓓ point out why so many Japanese soldiers surrendered

Question 7

The Article says:

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death.

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

- Ⓐ adventure
- Ⓑ contest
- Ⓒ diagram
- Ⓓ reason

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ How Yokoi learned that World War II had ended
- Ⓑ Why Yokoi chose to stay hidden after 1952
- Ⓒ How Yokoi felt about going home to Japan
- Ⓓ Why Yokoi decided to hide in the jungle

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

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

All soldiers are heroes.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

"Anything is possible."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Used with permission from Mason Andrews
Mason Andrews flew this plane around the world and set a record.

MONROE, Louisiana (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews studies aviation in college. But the U.S. teen has already made history.

In April 2019, Guinness World Records named Mason the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. The trip took 76 days. And he flew 180 hours. It was often scary.

But we'll get to the scary stuff. Let's take off at the beginning, shall we?

Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

Mason asked sponsors to help pay for the trip. He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

Mason took off on his journey in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.

Typhoons weren't the scariest part.

"I ended up in a really bad monsoon over the Bay of Bengal," Mason said. "There was no turning back. The weather had already built up behind me just as much as it was building up in front of me."

And then came the sandstorm.

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours I couldn't see anything."

Mason has been getting a lot of attention since his trip. His Guinness World Record made the news. But that's not the most important thing for Mason.

"It's nice [to have the record]," he said. "But that's really not what the trip was about. It's how we got the press and the support and what we needed...It was about completing a [goal] and staying alive."

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

"Anything is possible."

Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko

Published on Oct 6, 2018

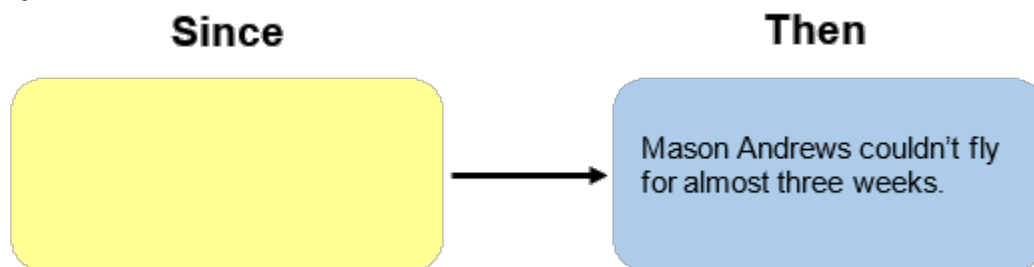
Edited for length

Dictionary

aviation (<i>noun</i>)	the flying, designing, or making of aircraft
monsoon (<i>noun</i>)	a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia
sponsor (<i>noun</i>)	a person or group that gives money to support an event or a person
typhoon (<i>noun</i>)	a very strong storm that forms in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

- Ⓐ A Guinness World Record made the news.
- Ⓑ A monsoon over the Bay of Bengal caused bad weather.
- Ⓒ There was a sandstorm lasting from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓓ There were bad typhoons in the Philippines.

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ Mason flew through a sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓑ Mason was very brave to fly around the world when he was just 18 years old.
- Ⓒ A monsoon is a far more frightening type of storm than a typhoon.
- Ⓓ If a record holder gives people advice, it's a good idea to listen.

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ Help and support
- Ⓑ Important and key
- Ⓒ Pilot and teenager
- Ⓓ Completing and starting

Question 5

The Article says:

Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

- Ⓐ When Mason took his trip around the world
- Ⓑ How Mason came up with the idea to fly around the world
- Ⓒ How Mason learned to fly a plane at such a young age
- Ⓓ Why Mason wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Mason would rather study something other than aviation in college.
- Ⓑ It was probably easier for Mason to fly through a typhoon than a sandstorm.
- Ⓒ It is unlikely that Mason will stop dreaming big.
- Ⓓ Mason does not deal with fear very well.

Question 7

The Article says:

Mason took off on his *journey* in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.

Which must mean almost the **same** as *journey*?

- Ⓐ Dream
- Ⓑ History
- Ⓒ Trip
- Ⓓ Choice

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

- Ⓐ Mason took off on his journey in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- Ⓑ Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.
- Ⓒ In April 2019, Guinness World Records named Mason the youngest pilot to fly alone around the world.
- Ⓓ He also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group helps kids with special needs.

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

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

"Anything is possible."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe Mason Andrews. Explain what he did. Use facts and details from the Article in your answer.

The Early-Late Debate (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Middle schools and high schools should start later.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

It's hard to learn when you're falling asleep! Should the school day get off to a later start?

SACRAMENTO, California (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Think school shouldn't start at the crack o' dawn? Lots of doctors agree.

That's why groups are working for later start times. In some places, their big push has paid off. One is Seattle. High schools there start at 8:45 or later.

Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

That's good news for teens who like to snooze! But the law doesn't cover elementary schools. Why not? The reason has to do with sleep cycles. *How much* you sleep is important. But *when* you sleep matters, too.

Research shows that most adolescents get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 a.m., they miss out on some good z's!

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They say there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. The law can't make teens go to bed! Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

Maybe the biggest roadblock for school districts looking into later start times? Buses! If all schools start near the same time, a district has to pay for more buses and drivers. That's one reason so many high schools start very early.

How about you? Wanna start school bright and early? Or would you rather snoozzzzzzzzzze?

Dictionary

academic (*adjective*) of or relating to schools and education

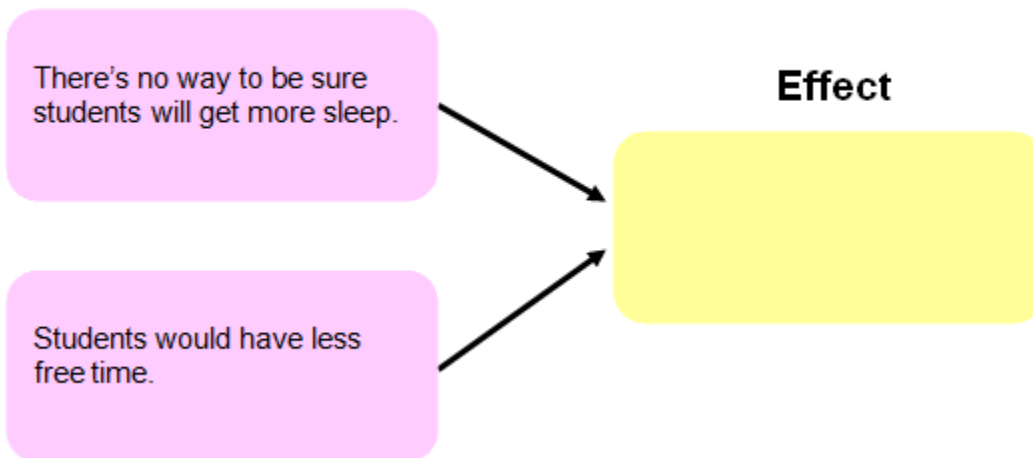
adolescent (*noun*) a young person who is developing into an adult : a young person who is going through adolescence

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Causes



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

There two boxes on the left. They are labeled "Causes." The top box says "There's no way to be sure students will get more sleep." The bottom box says "Students would have less free time." Two arrows are pointing from these boxes to a box on the right. This box is labeled "Effect."

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

Question 2

What is the Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Starting school later leaves less time for sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- Ⓑ Some people are talking about starting schools later and if it's smart to do so.
- Ⓒ Students who don't get the sleep they need can have health and learning problems.
- Ⓓ Scientists are studying how much adolescents should sleep and when they sleep best.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ A new California law says that middle schools must start no earlier than 8 a.m. in 2022.
- Ⓑ Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.
- Ⓒ The push for later start times paid off in Seattle where high schools start at 8:45 or later.
- Ⓓ How long students sleep is important, and when they sleep matters, too.

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ example
- Ⓑ prediction
- Ⓒ plan
- Ⓓ study

Question 5

The Article says all of these **except** _____.

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

Question 6

The Article states:

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

- Ⓐ how important sleep is for adolescents
- Ⓑ how research on adolescents' sleep was done
- Ⓒ why sleep is more important to adults than adolescents
- Ⓓ problems that all students face while adolescents

Question 7

The Article says:

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can *suffer*, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

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

- Ⓐ help
- Ⓑ continue
- Ⓒ worsen
- Ⓓ remain

Question 8

Which passage from the Article shows that some school districts believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

- Ⓐ Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.
- Ⓑ Research shows that most adolescents get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 a.m., they miss out on some good z's!
- Ⓒ But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They say there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. The law can't make teens go to bed! Schools that start later finish later, too. That leaves students with less time for other stuff.
- Ⓓ Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

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

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

Middle schools and high schools should start later.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

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

The Last Generation? (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Everyone should work together to stop climate change.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

The capital city of Majuro, Marshall Islands, is only 300 feet wide in most places. Yet the thin strip of land is home to over 27,000 people.

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on an island might sound wonderful. But what if you left for a trip and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? For people living in the Pacific Islands, this is a real possibility. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing the sea to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

Not if the islanders have anything to do about it. These people are deeply connected to their homelands. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the separate countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.

Why is climate change such a huge threat to this part of the world? Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.

But these are small nations. When it comes to climate change, can they make a big difference? They can, and here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are brought by ships. This is very harmful to the environment. After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change.

Pacific Islanders recognize the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

How will they pull this off? They plan to use some really cool carbon-free technologies. They'll make use of solar and wind energy.

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

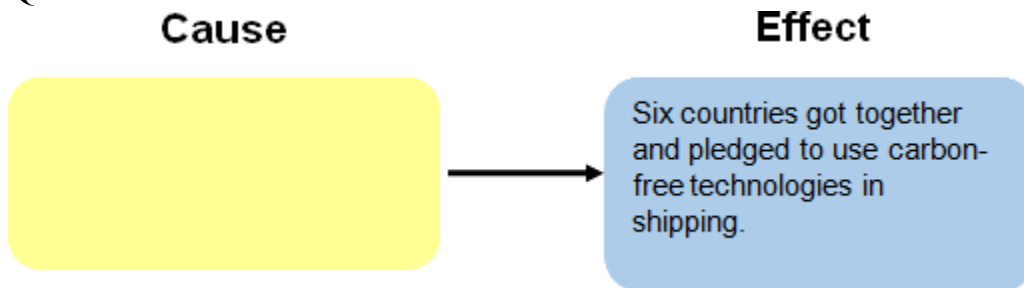
Video credit: United Nations

Dictionary

elevation (*noun*) the height of a place
emission (*noun*) something sent out or given off
generation (*noun*) a group of people born and living during the same time
threaten (*verb*) to be something that is likely to cause harm to (someone or something): to be a threat to (someone or something)

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Six countries got together and pledged to use carbon-free technologies in shipping."

- Ⓐ Eleven different countries make up the Pacific Islands.
- Ⓑ Pacific Island countries don't put out many carbon emissions.
- Ⓒ Sea levels are falling fast in areas around the Pacific Islands.
- Ⓓ Pacific Island countries want to slow climate change.

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about _____.

- Ⓐ why other countries are helping the Pacific Islanders fight climate change
- Ⓑ how Pacific Island countries are working together to fight shipping pollution
- Ⓒ why Pacific Island countries put out so much of the world's carbon emissions
- Ⓓ how some countries are working hard to develop carbon-free technologies

Question 3

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ threat and safety
- Ⓑ separate and unusual
- Ⓒ connected and tied
- Ⓓ harmful and useful

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why climate change is such a huge threat to the islands
- Ⓑ Which emissions from shipping are causing problems
- Ⓒ What some of the names are of the Pacific Island countries
- Ⓓ Why only some of the 11 Pacific Island countries made a plan

Question 5

The Article says:

So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

The author uses this passage mostly to explain _____.

- Ⓐ that all shipping should stop by 2050
- Ⓑ how dangerous climate change is becoming
- Ⓒ how islanders can help fight climate change
- Ⓓ that not all Pacific Islands depend on shipping

Question 6

The Article says:

After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change. Pacific Islanders *recognize* the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan.

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

- Ⓐ welcome
- Ⓑ allow
- Ⓒ understand
- Ⓓ create

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ the water in the Pacific Ocean is polluted with trash
- Ⓑ air temperatures are falling fast in the Pacific Islands
- Ⓒ solar and wind energy don't worsen climate change
- Ⓓ it's not possible to have zero emissions from shipping

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows why climate change is such a threat to the Pacific Islands?

- Ⓐ When it comes to climate change, can they make a big difference? They can, and here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are brought by ships. This is very harmful to the environment. After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change.
- Ⓑ Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.
- Ⓒ The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 different countries: the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and others. But now, the separate countries are banding together. They're joining forces to take on climate change.
- Ⓓ Pacific Islanders recognize the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

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

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

Everyone should work together to stop climate change.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

The Truth About Dogs (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

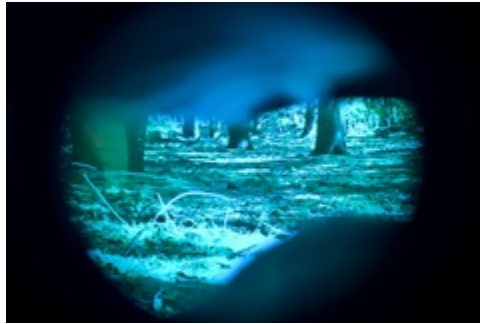


Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

An exhibit at the California Science Center shows people how dogs see.

LOS ANGELES, California (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Dogs. They're our four-legged BFFs. But why do people and dogs get along so well? And do dogs really love their owners?

The California Science Center has answers to these and hundreds of canine questions. It opened an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail" in March 2019.

The exhibition will travel to museums across the U.S. in 2020. Here's a peek at what it teaches us about dogs:

1. They have a pee-culiar interest.

Why are dogs always sniffing around fire hydrants? What do they smell? A hydrant at the exhibition has the answer. With the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," said Jeffrey Rudolph. He is the Science Center's president.

But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can tell how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.

2. They're doggone smart.

Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually smart.

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," Rudolph said. And it goes beyond their sense of smell.

Dogs don't see color well. But they pick up movement better than people do. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

3. They're heroic.

Did you know that some superheroes don't wear capes, but collars?

A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

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) Dogs can tell how safe an area is by smelling another dog's urine.
- (B) Scientists know that dogs are related to wolves.
- (C) *Superpower Dogs* shows dogs rescuing people.
- (D) 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 _____.

- (A) People were closer to their dogs thousands of years ago.
- (B) Most people notice things in an area before their dogs do.
- (C) As dogs spend more time with people, they will not need to sniff fire hydrants.
- (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 _____.

- (A) Understand how dogs learn to swim
- (B) Understand how dogs can be heroic
- (C) 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 *tell*, as it is used above?

- (A) Hear
- (B) Choose
- (C) Remember
- (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?

- Ⓐ Dogs give us many reasons to love them.
- Ⓑ But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said.
- Ⓒ And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.
- Ⓓ It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Welcome to Batuu (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

There's a full-size model of the famous Millennium Falcon spaceship at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

ORLANDO, Florida (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). Disney parks may be "the happiest" places on Earth. But they have some lands that are out of this world: in a galaxy far, far away!

In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions.

Galaxy's Edge is set on Batuu, a new planet Disney dreamed up. It's a hot spot for traders and explorers. And a whole new story unfolds under its three suns.

By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* new fans on the same page. Batuu is new to everyone. And everyone can be part of the story. You don't even have to speak Wookiee!

Disney built Batuu from the ground up on 14 acres (5.67 hectares) of land. And it's based on real places. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It's like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

And once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu. The workers, food, and goods are all part of the story. So visitors feel like they're really exploring an alien planet.

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories. They aren't just Earthlings with a cool job. They're Batuu through and through.

And interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, for example. They can also work as double agents!

And, of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon. It's a full-size model of the Star Wars spaceship.

Think you're ready for some far-away fun? You know what they say: May the force be with you!

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

Dictionary

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

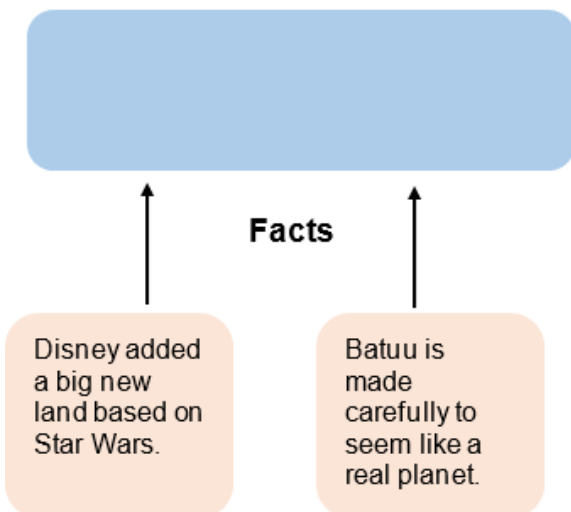
explore (*verb*) to travel over or through (a place) in order to learn more about it or to find something

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are two smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a fact from the Article. The box on the left says "Disney added a big new land based on Star Wars." The box on the right says "Batuu is made carefully to seem like a real planet."

- (A) One of the rides at Galaxy's Edge is a full-size model of the Millennium Falcon.
- (B) Disney opened Galaxy's Edge where visitors feel like they're part of a Star Wars story.
- (C) Galaxy's Edge is built to look like such real places as Petrified Forest National Park.
- (D) 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.

- (A) Millennium Falcon is a full-size model of the Star Wars spaceship.
- (B) Disney Built Batuu based on real places.
- (C) For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.
- (D) 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
- (C) show that many visitors to Galaxy's Edge are surprised to be part of the story
- (D) 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 _____.

- (A) the Batuu forest is based on a place from the Star Wars movies
- (B) Disney believes many people will want to go to Galaxy's Edge
- (C) the next Star Wars movie will take place on the planet of Batuu
- (D) 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 _____.

- (A) finding Arizona on a map
- (B) reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks
- (C) 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 *model* of the Star Wars spaceship.

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

- (A) copy
- (B) story
- (C) 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!
- Ⓑ Galaxy's Edge is set on Batuu, a new planet Disney dreamed up. It's a hot spot for traders and explorers. And a whole new story unfolds under its three suns. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* new fans on the same page. Batuu is new to everyone.
- Ⓒ In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions.
- Ⓓ Disney built Batuu from the ground up on 14 acres (5.67 hectares) of land. And it's based on real places. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It's like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. And once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Women Adventurers (520L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



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

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

RED BANK, New Jersey (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures. This wasn't true hundreds of years ago. Back then, women were expected to stay home. But that didn't stop these three women from taking off and doing big things.

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

Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839): Stanhope was from England. But she wanted to travel. She traveled throughout the Middle East by herself. And she led an archaeological dig there. She was the first woman to do this.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922): Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a story about hidden problems at a mental hospital. She disguised herself as a patient at the hospital. Then she wrote an alarming six-part report. The story made Bly well-known. It also led the way for other women journalists. Two years later, Bly set a world record. She traveled around the globe in 72 days!

Dictionary

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

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

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

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

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What Happened Next?

A scientist was the first woman to sail around the world.

A journalist wrote a story about the problems at a hospital.



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

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

- Ⓐ A woman disguised herself as a man and sailed around the world.
- Ⓑ A woman traveled through the Middle East and dug for treasures.
- Ⓒ A woman was asked to study plants on a French navy ship.
- Ⓓ A woman set a record traveling around the world in 72 days.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ that Nellie Bly's six-part report about life inside a hospital made her a well-known reporter
- Ⓑ that people thought women should stay at home years ago, but some took off on their own
- Ⓒ that French scientists traveled all around the world in 1766 to learn more about plants
- Ⓓ that women today go into space, sail around the world, and have all kinds of adventures

Question 3

The Article says:

In 1766, Baret wanted to set sail with a group of scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away!

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

- Ⓐ point out that the best scientists in France were men
- Ⓑ explain that dressing like a man made Baret a scientist
- Ⓒ describe the danger of sneaking onto a navy ship
- Ⓓ show that a scientist can be a man or a woman

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

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

- Ⓐ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East by herself.
- Ⓑ It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.
- Ⓒ Jeanne Baret studied plants and sailed around the world with scientists.
- Ⓓ Nellie Bly set a world record traveling around the world in 72 days.

Question 5

Which means the **opposite** of *navy*?

- Ⓐ pond
- Ⓑ rock
- Ⓒ army
- Ⓓ office

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Bly was a journalist. In 1887, she wrote a story about hidden problems at a mental hospital.
- Ⓑ Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man.
- Ⓒ These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures.
- Ⓓ Two years later, Bly set a world record. She traveled around the globe in 72 days!

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ woman and lady
- Ⓑ sail and travel
- Ⓒ ship and boat
- Ⓓ true and false

Question 8

The Article does **not** say _____.

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

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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



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At Home

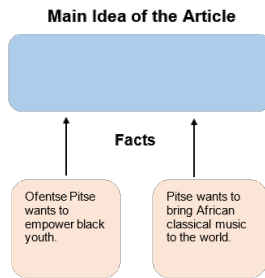
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ANSWER KEY

A Musical Pioneer

Answer key

Question 1



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

C Pitse's all-black orchestra and youth choir performs the works of African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C Ofentse Pitse's grandfather was an excellent band conductor and choir leader.

Question 3

The Article says:

What will you hear at an Anchored Sound show? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. Are these names new to you? You're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse's group plays pieces by African composers. This lets listeners know that classical music is alive in Africa.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

A show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's idea of what classical music is

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *empower*?

A weaken

Question 5

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

A the works of Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza aren't well-known yet

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

B How Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time

Question 7

The Article says:

[Ofentse Pitse is] the *conductor* of Anchored Sound. That's an all-black orchestra and youth choir. Pitse started the group in her home country of South Africa. It's part of her plan to empower young black people and bring African classical music to the world.

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

D leader

Question 8

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

A In 2017 there was a study. It was about the world's most respected orchestras. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.

Ancient Lines in the Sand

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article

Facts

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

The geoglyphs show animals, plants, and more.

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

B The Nazca Lines are pictures made in the sands of Peru.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D It's a waste of time to try to figure out why the lines were made.

Question 3

The Article says:

Many of the geoglyphs show the natural world, like animals and plants. And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was uncovered in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

C point out what some of the Nazca Lines look like

Question 4

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

C noticing and spotting

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A it's hard to make out the shapes of the geoglyphs from the ground

Question 6

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

B A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was found.

Question 7

The Article says:

And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example was *uncovered* in 2019. It's of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.

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

D found

Question 8

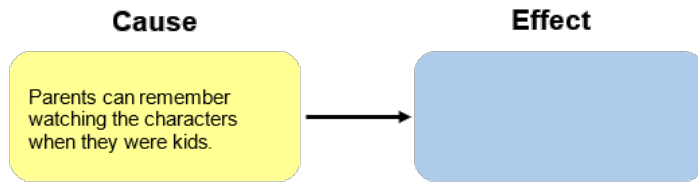
Which passage from the Article best shows that the Nazca Lines might have been used for more than one thing?

D Researchers think they may have been part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others could have led travelers to those places.

Animated Favorites Get Real

Answer key

Question 1



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

C Some of the remade animated movies have become hits.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Moviemakers are making live-action remakes of animated films.

Question 3

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why adults enjoyed watching old Pokémon cartoons

Question 4

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

A plenty and lots

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

C fans like movies with characters they already know

Question 6

The Article says:

So what's so great about going live-action? For one thing, these movies can make a lot of money. With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

C point out why moviemakers remake animated movies

Question 7

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

A The power of nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? They were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. New fans!

Question 8

The Article says:

With the remakes, moviemakers have a winning *formula*. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.

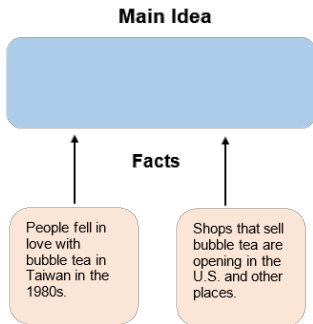
Which means almost the **same** as *formula*?

B plan

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

Answer key

Question 1



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

C People now enjoy bubble tea in Asia, the U.S., and beyond.

Question 2

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

A Create

Question 3

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

C People in Taiwan fell in love with bubble tea.

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

B Chia seeds are a tastier topping than red beans.

Question 5

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

C Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea in America"

Question 6

The Article says:

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to *chill*. Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study. So in more ways than one, bubble tea can be a sweet part of life.

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

D Rest

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows that bubble tea shops can be fun places to go?

B Young people in some places go to these shops to hang out with friends, play games, or study.

Question 8

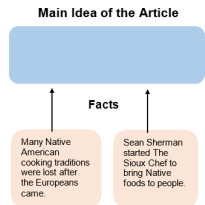
The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Cooking Up Native Traditions

Answer key

Question 1



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

D Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American food traditions.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B The government meant to do the right thing by giving free food to Native Americans.

Question 3

The Article says:

There's another reason Sherman is bringing Native food traditions back. He wants to address a problem in Native American communities. That's unhealthy eating. It causes health problems like diabetes. Native foods are better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

C show how Sean Sherman is addressing a serious problem

Question 4

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

C packed and filled

Question 5

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

B People who like eating healthy will try traditional Native American cooking.

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Why it's hard to find natural ingredients, like wild rice

Question 7

The Article says:

In the past, Native Americans used traditional food practices. They grew and hunted different kinds of food. Then things changed. Europeans came, and many Native American food traditions were *lost*. Their food sources, such as bison, were also nearly wiped out.

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

C found

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Sean Sherman asked others for help when he wanted to learn more about traditional Native American foods?

A Sherman wanted to find answers. He spoke with Native American chefs. He chatted with people who knew Native American history.

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

Defying Gravity

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article

Facts

Biles missed being on the U.S. women's junior team by one spot in 2011.

Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast.

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

C Simone Biles never gave up and became one of the world's best gymnasts.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B Simone Biles' super strength is the key to her success in gymnastics.

Question 3

The Article says:

She didn't give up, though. She worked harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. And in 2013, she made the team!

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

C show that heartbreaking problems made Simone Biles try harder

Question 4

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

B heartbreaking and upsetting

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

B Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with problems

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

A Who coached the U.S. women's junior team in 2013

Question 7

The Article says:

But Biles didn't have a completely *smooth* journey to the top. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles said this was heartbreaking.

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

B easy

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Simone Biles faced difficulties in her life?

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

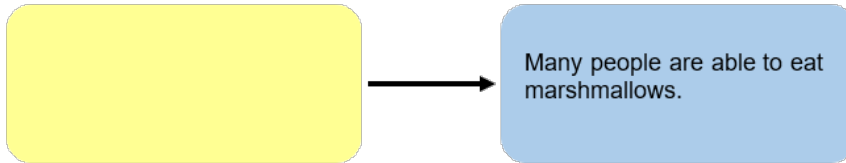
Give Me S'more!

Answer key

Question 1

Since...

Then...



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

C Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.

Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

B S'mores are made with marshmallows, chocolate, and graham crackers.

Question 3

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A Messy and neat

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

B Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s.

Question 5

The Article says:

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire? You can make a s'more in the oven or microwave. It's not quite the same. But it's still gooey. And yummy.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

B Show different ways people can make s'mores

Question 6

The Article says:

A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness. Yes, it's messy. And yes, it's delicious. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*"

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

D Terrible

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why s'mores are so well-liked?

C A s'more includes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy. Put them together, and you're in for some melty goodness.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

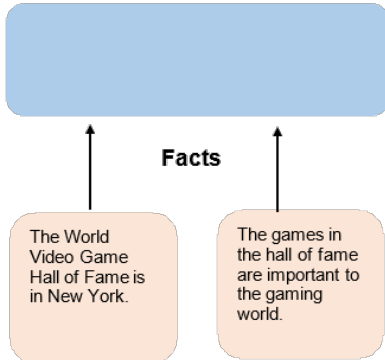
C S'mores are an easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

Global Game Fame

Answer key

Question 1

Main Idea



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

D Each year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

Question 2

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

B Name

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 4

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

C *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players how to use a mouse.

Question 5

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

C Honor and award

Question 6

The Article says:

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

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

D Give an example of an old but important game

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows why the World Video Game Hall of Fame was created?

A Have you ever felt a video game was so good or important that it deserves some special honor? Maybe even a really big award? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

Question 8

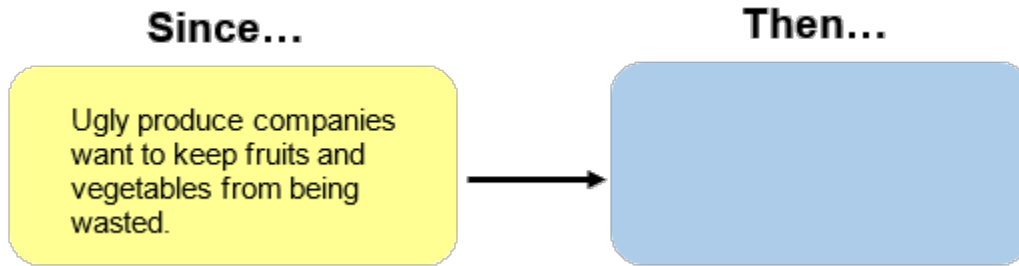
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

C Several games will enter the hall of fame next year.

Good, Bad, or Ugly?

Answer key

Question 1



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

A These companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.

Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

D Ugly produce companies say they want to stop ugly produce from going to waste.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

B Ugly produce companies sell fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject, and they bring the food to people's doors.

Question 4

Which means the **opposite** of *reduce*, as it is used in the Article?

D Create

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

B Explain why some companies sell ugly fruits and vegetables

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best shows why some companies are selling ugly fruits and vegetables?

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

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

A Waste and save

Question 8

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

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

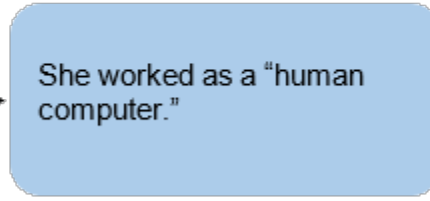
Katherine the Great

Answer key

Question 1

Since...

Then...



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

A Katherine Johnson was great at math.

Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

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

Question 3

Which of these had **not** yet happened when this Article was written?

D Katherine Johnson's autobiography went on sale.

Question 4

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

C Mission and trip

Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to read more about space missions. She would find **most** of the information _____.

C In an article about NASA's work over the years

Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

D Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best shows how Katherine Johnson's work at NASA changed the world?

B Her math also helped scientists learn to create satellite TV and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

Question 8

The Article says:

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: Johnson started working for NASA in the 1950s. Her math helped push the space program *forward*.

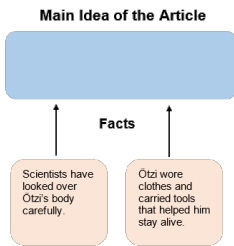
Which must mean almost the **same** as *forward*, as it is used above?

A Ahead

Otzi the Iceman

Answer key

Question 1



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

B The world is learning about the past from a man frozen in ice for more than 5,000 years.

Question 2

The Article says:

That's when two hikers found him. And, surprise. He looked rather well! He was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. This made news all over the world. Ötzi is now the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more.

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

B how important it was that Ötzi's body was discovered in such good shape

Question 3

Which means the **opposite** of *ancient*?

B new

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 5

Which passage from the Article best shows that Ötzi had been seriously hurt before he died?

A And the poor guy was in trouble. He had wounds on his body. Maybe he got them from battling other late-Neolithic men.

Question 6

The Article says:

Are you wondering how so much is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more *detail* that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen by ice.

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

A fact

Question 7

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

D watching a video on important findings of the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

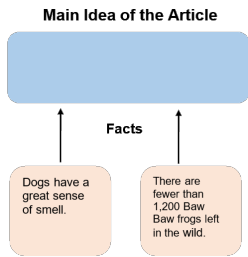
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

B Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.

Sniffing Out Extinction

Answer key

Question 1



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

A Dogs find endangered species so scientists can help them.

Question 2

According to the Article, why did conservationists train two border collies to sniff out an endangered species?

B The conservationists have had a very hard time finding the Baw Baw frogs.

Question 3

The Article says:

But the first step is to find the frogs in the wild. That's not easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow deep under mud.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

B explain why it's hard to find Baw Baw frogs in the wild

Question 4

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

A tough and hard

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

C dogs smelled Baw Baw frog droppings before finding them

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

B Which type of dog is best at finding missing persons

Question 7

The Article says:

The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's *scent*. That usually means its droppings. After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of other dogs.

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

C smell

Question 8

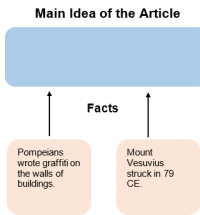
Which passage from the Article best shows that the Baw Baw frog is in danger of dying out completely?

A Since 1980, 98 percent of the frogs have been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild.

Social Media, Pompeii Style

Answer key

Question 1



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

C Stone and ash from a volcano saved messages written on Pompeian walls.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B It's interesting to study messages posted on Pompeii's walls.

Question 3

The Article states:

The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time. It stayed this way until the mid-1700s. That's when people started digging out Pompeii and the messages were found.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

B give the reason why Pompeii was saved for so long

Question 4

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

C writing

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before it was covered in stone and ash. She would find the **most** information by _____.

C watching a TV program called *Life in the City of Pompeii*

Question 6

The Article says:

The messages were written in charcoal and paint and scratched into plaster. They were the sudden *thoughts* of a people with a lot on their minds.

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

B ideas

Question 7

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

B The answer dates back to 79 CE. That's when the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius struck. It destroyed Pompeii within hours. The city was covered with stone and ash. But *under* all of this, Pompeii kept standing. It's as if it were frozen in time.

Question 8

Which is **not** in the Article?

C Who discovered that Pompeii was buried under stone and ash

Soldier in the Wild

Answer key

Question 1

Cause

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



Effect



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

C Yokoi was given a hero's welcome when he returned to Japan.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam for years.

Question 3

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

B Yokoi was "captured" by two fishermen.

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D astonishing and usual

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

C Yokoi didn't feel good about going back to Japan in 1972.

Question 6

The Article says:

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

C explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding for so long

Question 7

The Article says:

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death.

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

D reason

Question 8

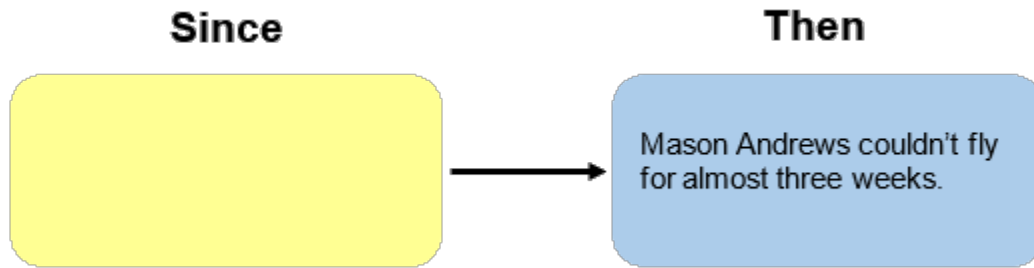
Which is **not** in the Article?

A How Yokoi learned that World War II had ended

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

Answer key

Question 1



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

D There were bad typhoons in the Philippines.

Question 2

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

B Mason Andrews became the youngest pilot to fly around the world.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

A Mason flew through a sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D Completing and starting

Question 5

The Article says:

Mason became a pilot at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

B How Mason came up with the idea to fly around the world

Question 6

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

C It is unlikely that Mason will stop dreaming big.

Question 7

The Article says:

Mason took off on his *journey* in July 2018. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But there were bad typhoons in the Philippines. The storms kept him grounded for nearly three weeks.

Which must mean almost the **same** as *journey*?

C Trip

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best shows that Mason's trip did more than break a flying record?

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

The Early-Late Debate

Answer key

Question 1

Causes

There's no way to be sure students will get more sleep.

Students would have less free time.

Effect



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

D Some people think it's not smart to start school later.

Question 2

What is the Article mainly about?

B Some people are talking about starting schools later and if it's smart to do so.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Students who start school later would probably stay up later instead of sleeping longer.

Question 4

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

D study

Question 5

The Article says all of these **except** _____.

A what students think about schools starting later

Question 6

The Article states:

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

This passage helps the reader to understand _____.

A how important sleep is for adolescents

Question 7

The Article says:

Not getting enough sleep can cause health problems. Academic success can *suffer*, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off!

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

C worsen

Question 8

Which passage from the Article shows that some school districts believe the research about how adolescents sleep best?

A Another example is California. In 2019, the state passed a law. It sets new rules for California schools. High schools won't start before 8:30 a.m. Middle schools won't start before 8 a.m.

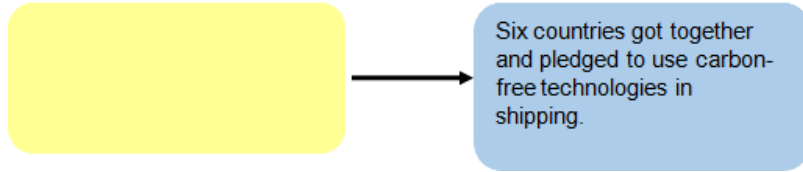
The Last Generation?

Answer key

Question 1

Cause

Effect



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

D Pacific Island countries want to slow climate change.

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about _____.

B how Pacific Island countries are working together to fight shipping pollution

Question 3

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

C connected and tied

Question 4

Which is **not** in the Article?

D Why only some of the 11 Pacific Island countries made a plan

Question 5

The Article says:

So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan. They pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And by 2050, they expect zero-carbon shipping.

The author uses this passage mostly to explain _____.

C how islanders can help fight climate change

Question 6

The Article says:

After all, cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. And carbon emissions worsen climate change. Pacific Islanders *recognize* the problem. So, in 2019, six countries got together: Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. They came up with a plan.

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

C understand

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

C solar and wind energy don't worsen climate change

Question 8

B Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places affected by rising sea levels. That's why countries of the Pacific Islands are working together. They want to do their part to address climate change.

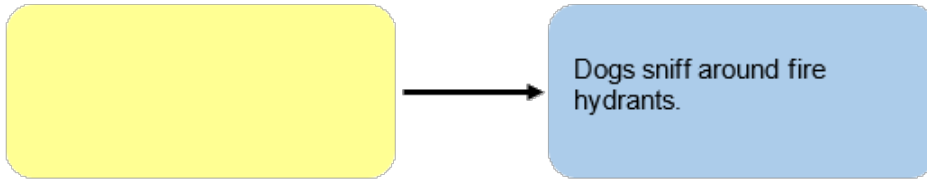
The Truth About Dogs

Answer key

Question 1

Since...

Then...



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

D It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and tell how safe the surroundings are.

Question 2

Let's say you are writing a summary of the Article. Which is **most** important to put in the summary?

B The California Science Center opened an exhibition all about dogs.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

D The cutest dogs seem to be the smartest dogs.

Question 4

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

A Heroic and brave

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

D People like having dogs around partly because dogs are smart and helpful.

Question 6

The Article says:

A rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find. *Superpower Dogs* is a movie that plays at the exhibition. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings.

The author uses this passage mostly to help the reader _____.

B Understand how dogs can be heroic

Question 7

The Article says:

But dogs learn from smelling urine, Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can *tell* how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.

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

D Know

Question 8

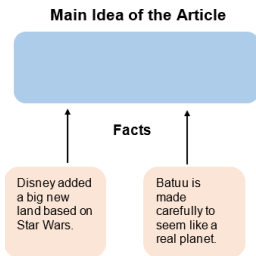
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs have good senses other than their strong sense of smell?

C And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

Welcome to Batuu

Answer key

Question 1



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

B Disney opened Galaxy's Edge where visitors feel like they're part of a Star Wars story.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

Question 3

The Article says:

The workers, food, and goods are all part of the story. So visitors feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. The people working the rides, stores, and restaurants are all part of the cast. They put together their own look. They even come up with their own back stories.

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

A explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself

Question 4

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

D search

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

B Disney believes many people will want to go to Galaxy's Edge

Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by _____.

B reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks

Question 7

The Article says:

And of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon. It's a full-size *model* of the Star Wars spaceship.

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

A copy

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

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

Women Adventurers

Answer key

Question 1

What Happened Next?

A scientist was the first woman to sail around the world.

A journalist wrote a story about the problems at a hospital.

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

D A woman set a record traveling around the world in 72 days.

Question 2

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

B that people thought women should stay at home years ago, but some took off on their own

Question 3

The Article says:

In 1766, Baret wanted to set sail with a group of scientists. But they were all men. Women weren't allowed to travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man. And she sailed away!

The author uses this passage mostly to _____.

D show that a scientist can be a man or a woman

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

B It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man.

Question 5

Which means the **opposite** of *navy*?

C army

Question 6

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

C These days, women go to space. They sail around the world. They have all kinds of adventures.

Question 7

Which two words have **opposite** meanings?

D true and false

Question 8

The Article does **not** say _____.

A how long it took Baret to sail around the world