



# Achieve3000 Literacy™ At Home

Lexile 660

2<sup>ND</sup> A • 3<sup>RD</sup> B • 4<sup>TH</sup> C

# Lesson Tracker

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



## Step One

Respond to the Before Reading Poll



## Step Two

Read the Article



## Step Three

Do the Activity Questions



## Step Four

Respond to the After Reading Poll



## Step Five

Answer the Thought Question

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

| Lesson Title | Before Reading Poll | Article | First Try Activity Score | After Reading Poll | Thought Question |
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# Ancient Lines in the Sand (660L)

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

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

**Some things should stay a secret.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

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

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

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on enormous slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings") in the desert sands. There are hundreds of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty and Empire State Building. And they spread out over nearly 190 square miles (492 square kilometers). The best way to see them is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of visitors view them each year.

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

But researchers still have many questions about the geoglyphs. For example, why did people who lived long before air travel create drawings best viewed from above? And why were they created in the first place? But the answers remain largely a mystery.

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

But why have the geoglyphs lasted so long? It's because there isn't much rain or wind in the area. Although many of the lines have, understandably, experienced some fading over the years. The biggest danger to these ancient masterpieces is posed by human activity like mining and unlawful farming.

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

So what purpose did the geoglyphs serve? Research suggests that the geoglyphs were part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been like signposts directing travelers to those places.

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

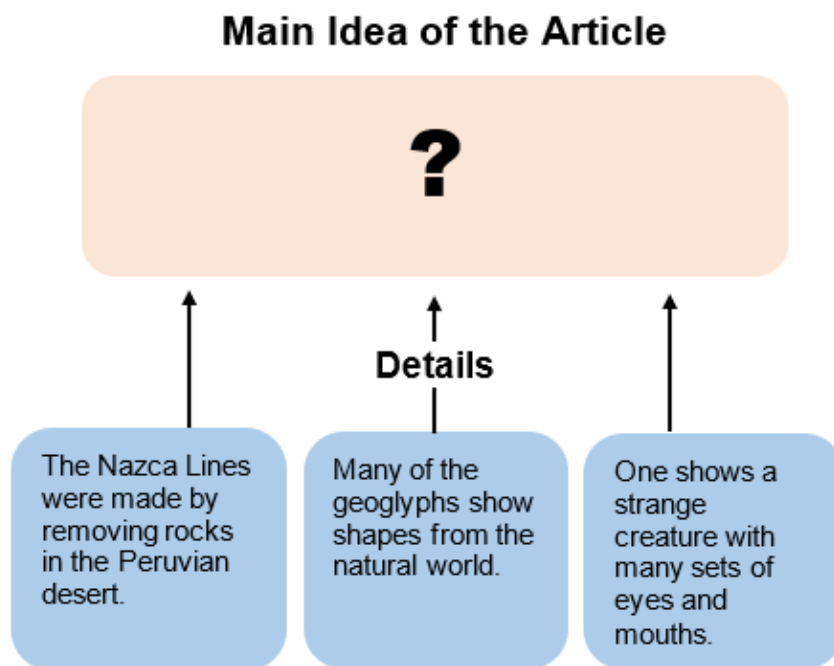
*Video credit: Achieve3000 from footage by maxuser/Creatas Video+/Getty Images*

### **Dictionary**

**archaeology** (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people  
**drone** (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot  
**mining** (*noun*) the process or business of digging in mines to obtain minerals, metals, jewels, etc.  
**research** (*verb*) to study (something) carefully  
**ritual** (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

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

### Question 1



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

- Ⓐ Research suggests that certain geoglyphs may have shown where rituals were being held.
- Ⓑ A Peruvian archaeologist saw the Nazca Lines in 1927 but didn't discover all of them.
- Ⓒ The Nazca Lines that are drawn in the sands of Peru show plants, animals, and more.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs might have played an important part in rituals for rain and crops.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) The geoglyphs have lasted until today due to the small amount of rain and wind in the area.
- (B) The geoglyphs were made between 500 BCE and 500 CE by the Nazca people of Peru.
- (C) Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made.
- (D) Some of the geoglyphs are recognizable from the window of an airplane.

Question 3

The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To say that it is easier to figure out what the lines show from high in the air than on the ground
- (B) To offer some proof that explains what the mysterious geoglyphs were used for long ago
- (C) To point out the fact that the Nazca Lines changed a lot between 500 BCE and 500 CE
- (D) To explain how the Nazca people created the geoglyphs by making lines on the desert floor

Question 4

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

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

- (A) slabs and blocks
- (B) enormous and tiny
- (C) created and viewed
- (D) creature and ancestor

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) some of the Nazca Lines are so faded that they are now very hard to see
- (B) some of the Nazca Lines point to the best places to grow crops in the dry area
- (C) the Nazca Lines are as hard to miss as many of the wonders of the ancient world
- (D) the Nazca Lines were created by removing white sand from the desert floor

Question 6

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

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Reread the Article for clues, such as dates.*

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

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

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

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

- Ⓐ careful study that's done to find new knowledge
- Ⓑ information learned through experience
- Ⓒ modern machines or pieces of equipment
- Ⓓ goods that are bought or sold in a store

### Question 8

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

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

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

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

**Some things should stay a secret.**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Animated Favorites Get Real (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

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

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, August 20, 2019). Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*—into live-action hits. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! These are just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010. Actors have also stepped into Cinderella's glass slippers, Dora the Explorer's sneakers, and Aladdin's curly-toed kicks. And according to Hollywood buzz, we can expect the reboots to keep on comin'.

So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And *ka-ching!* It all equals box office gold. The Disney live-action remakes of *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland* are examples. These movies packed in moviegoers. Each film brought in more than a billion bucks worldwide.

The power of good ol' nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people

who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? Well, they were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (New fans!)

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

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as a chance to crank up the girl power. *Aladdin*'s Jasmine is an example. The movie's producer says she isn't just along for the magic carpet ride in the remake. She's a strong character who speaks up and takes a stand. Likewise, the new *Mulan* doesn't have a fast-talking dragon as her sidekick. But she's a master of kicks. And her sword fighting skills are just as amazing.

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include 2019 hit *The Lion King*, right? Well...maybe not. The movie was created by artists with computers. There were no cameras recording actors or animals. So it isn't *really* live-action. But it looks so real. For some, calling it *animation* seems wrong. What do you think?

Whatever your take on *The Lion King*, live-action remakes are part of the "Circle of Life" in movies today. They offer "A Whole New World" for moviegoers.

### **Dictionary**

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

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

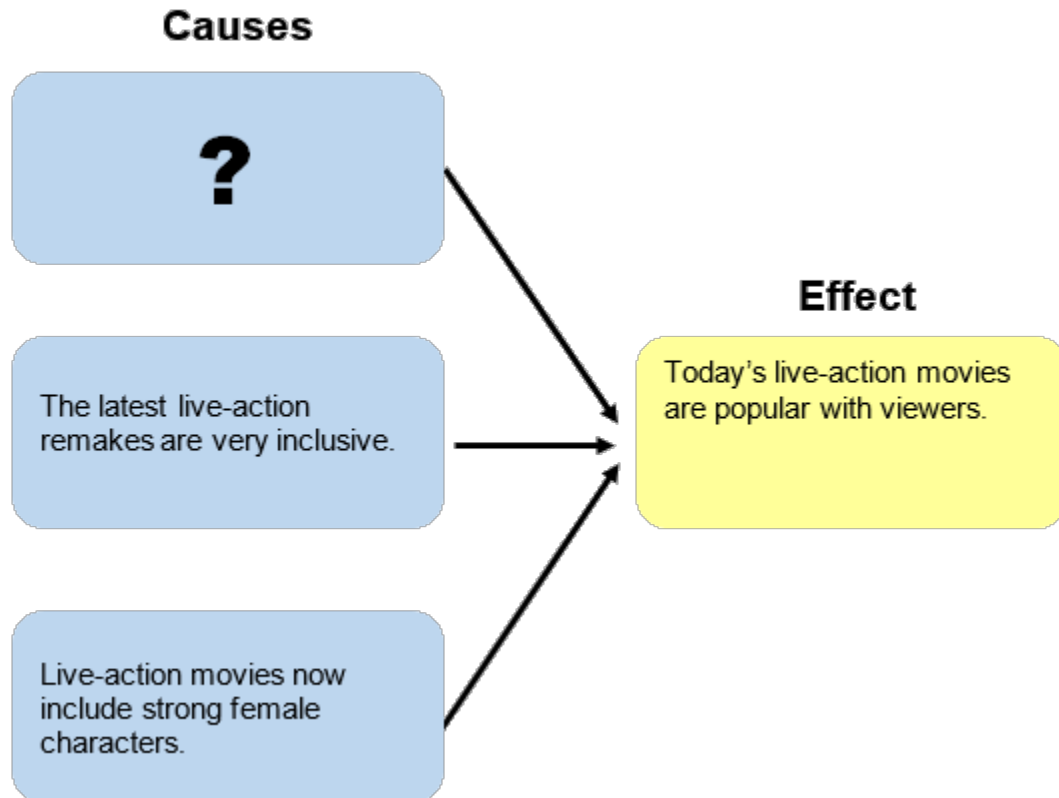
**inclusive** (*adjective*) open to everyone: not limited to certain people

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



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

#### Question 1



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

There three boxes on the left. They are labeled "Causes." The top box has a question mark in it. The middle box says "The latest live-action remakes are very inclusive." The bottom box says "Live-action movies now include female characters." Three arrows are pointing from these boxes to a box on the right labeled "Effect." The box says "Today's live-action movies are popular with viewers."

- Ⓐ The use of expertly trained animals, as seen in *The Lion King*, has thrilled moviegoers.
- Ⓑ Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites take their kids to see the live-action remakes.
- Ⓒ Moviemakers have added entirely new characters to popular animated movies of the past.
- Ⓓ Ticket prices have gone up at the same time that the Internet and TV have much to offer.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The remake of the film *The Lion King* can't be considered live action.
- Ⓑ *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, and *Alice in Wonderland* all made lots of money.
- Ⓒ Halle Bailey landed a role in the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*.
- Ⓓ Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films.

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ Why the latest live-action movies are so popular with more and more people
- Ⓑ Why so many adults enjoyed watching the original animated Pokémon cartoons
- Ⓒ Who landed the part of Ariel in the live-action remake of *The Little Mermaid*
- Ⓓ What "winning formula" movie companies are using to make live-action films

Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ respectful and rude
- Ⓑ example and lesson
- Ⓒ formula and method
- Ⓓ release and mention

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Fans often like to watch movies with characters they are already familiar with
- Ⓑ people did not like the animated movie *Aladdin* because it showed Jasmine as being weak
- Ⓒ more people saw the remake of *Aladdin* than either *Beauty and the Beast* or *Dumbo*
- Ⓓ *The Lion King* was made with an interesting mix of computer animation and live-action

Question 6

The Article states:

**So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula. It starts with stories fans love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few big stars. Mix in the latest jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To suggest that moviemakers spend too much money on remakes of animated movies
- Ⓑ To point out why moviemakers have remade popular animated movies of the past
- Ⓒ To show ways in which today's remakes are different from the earlier animated movies
- Ⓓ To explain why so many people are still watching animated movies from the past

### Question 7

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

- Ⓐ The power of good ol' nostalgia helps the remakes become big hits. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods dancing around in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And the people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons? Well, they were charged up to catch *Detective Pikachu*. (Get it? Catch?) Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (New fans!)
- Ⓑ So what's so great about going live-action? For moviemakers, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up. And the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people into theaters. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have a winning formula.
- Ⓒ Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. Take *The Little Mermaid* remake. Just about everybody and their pet crab has heard the news: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel.
- Ⓓ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, moviemakers have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah*—into live-action hits. Take *Beauty and the Beast*. Take *The Jungle Book*. Take *Dumbo*! These are just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.

### Question 8

Look at this passage from the Article:

**Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Now, they have more diversity, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them.**

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

- Ⓐ the act of changing something in order to improve it
- Ⓑ a way of behaving that is not seen as being honest
- Ⓒ the careful examination of something or someone
- Ⓓ an interesting or pleasing effect or result

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

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

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

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

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (660L)

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

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

**Newer is better.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images

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

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is a sweet drink is originally from Taiwan. Now, it's winning fans around the world.

To enjoy bubble tea, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, of course. It also has flavorings, creamer, and often ice. What makes it so special, though, is that it usually includes chewy goodies. You'll find them at the bottom of your cup. Most often, they are black tapioca pearls. They're sweet. Tapioca is made from cassava. Cassava is the root of a tropical plant. Some people claim the balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others insist that the "bubbles" in the name has to do with the foam on top of the drink. This forms when the drink is shaken.

Bubble tea was invented in the 1980s. At the time, tapioca desserts and milk tea were popular in Taiwan. Some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea. The result was bubble tea.

People loved this new idea. It was like a drink and a snack in one cup! The invention soon took off like a soap bubble on a breezy day. It was a huge hit all over Taiwan. From there, it spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where a lot of people from Taiwan live. Now, the shops are on the rise elsewhere in the U.S. and in lots of other countries.

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options. Would you like a

traditional favorite, like mango, honeydew, or chocolate pudding? Or are you up for something more unusual, like matcha or cookie dough? Even when you've settled these questions, there's another important decision to chew on: toppings! You could go for black tapioca pearls, of course. But there are plenty of other choices on the table, too. How about chia seeds or red beans?

You might need a break after making all those decisions. But guess what? A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you slurp away. In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives. Chatchawat Rienkhemaniyom once owned a bubble tea shop in California. As he put it, "[Bubble tea] has become life."

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Credit: Voice of America*

### **Dictionary**

**creative** (*adjective*) good at thinking up new ideas

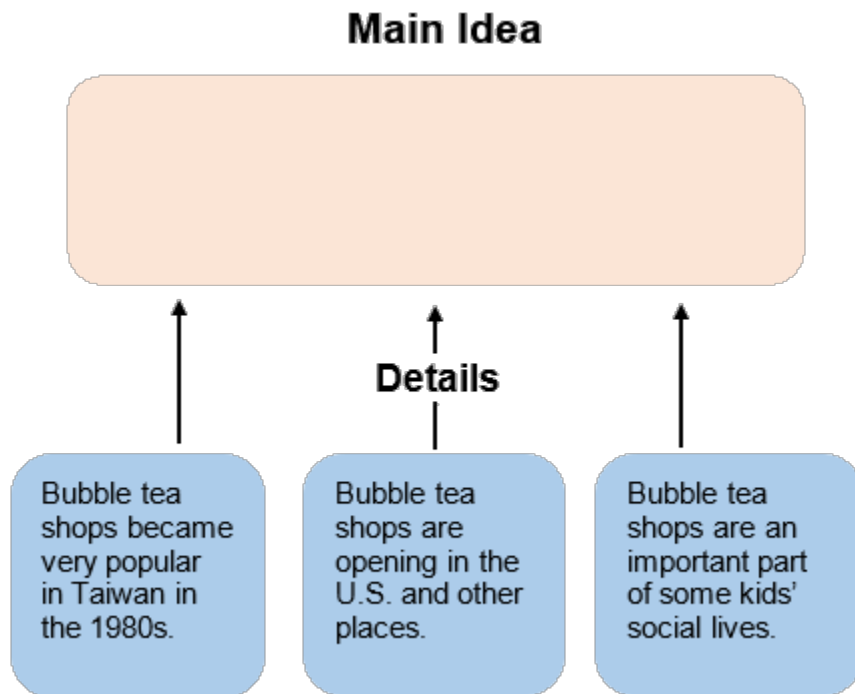
**option** (*noun*) choice

**originally** (*adverb*) in the beginning or at first

**social** (*adjective*) having to do with spending time with other people for fun

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

### Question 1



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Bubble tea shops became very popular in Taiwan in the 1980s." The box in the middle says "Bubble tea shops are opening in the U.S. and other places." The box on the right says "Bubble tea shoes are an important part of some kids' social lives."

- Ⓐ People can order bubble tea their own way, with some shops offering over a hundred flavors.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea shops are great places to hang out with friends, play games, or study.
- Ⓒ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be tapioca balls or the foam that forms on top of the drink.
- Ⓓ The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to much of the world.

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Popular
- Ⓑ Thrifty
- Ⓒ Clever
- Ⓓ Successful

#### Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops started opening in the United States, with some offering over a hundred flavors.
- Ⓑ Tapioca, a food created from the root of a tropical plant, was used to make desserts in Taiwan.
- Ⓒ Bubble tea shops became very popular in many parts of the United States and beyond.
- Ⓓ A drink and snack made of tea, creamer, ice, and tapioca was invented in Taiwan.

#### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan.
- Ⓑ There are shops that offer over a hundred different flavors and styles of bubble tea.
- Ⓒ Some high school students go to bubble tea shops to hang out with their friends.
- Ⓓ Mango is a much tastier flavor than either matcha or chocolate pudding.

#### Question 5

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

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

### Question 6

The Article states:

**Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty *decisions*. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options.**

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

- (A) Targets
- (B) Choices
- (C) Mysteries
- (D) Doubts

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is a big part of life in the United States?

- (A) Customers can choose the type of tea, for example. They can also choose the amount of ice and the level of sweetness.
- (B) In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.
- (C) In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where a lot of people from Taiwan live.
- (D) Bubble tea was invented in the 1980s. At the time, tapioca desserts and milk tea were popular in Taiwan. Some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to milk tea. The result was bubble tea.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) There are more bubble tea shops in the United States than in any other country in the world.
- (B) Tapioca desserts were popular in the U.S. long before they became popular in Taiwan.
- (C) Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be difficult, especially for those who have never ordered it before.
- (D) Bubble tea shops in Southern California encourage customers to finish their drinks quickly.

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

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

**Newer is better.**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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



# Cooking Up Native Traditions (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Amy Forliti

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

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

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

Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.

Then Sherman had an idea. He started his own catering business. He called it The Sioux Chef. He also started a group called NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems). His big plan? To bring back traditional Native American food to today's world.

But why was it lost in the first place?

Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans used traditional practices to grow and hunt many different kinds of food. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.

Making matters worse: During the late 1800s, the U.S. government sent Native American children to boarding schools. They were taught cooking and farming methods. But they never learned how to do things the way their ancestors did.

That's why Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions. His recipes avoid ingredients that were introduced by Europeans, such as beef and wheat. They use local plants and other natural ingredients. These include elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.

For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating is believed to have caused illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. Sherman wants to address this problem with the help of Native foods. They're better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.

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

*Video credit: The Sioux Chef*

### **Dictionary**

**cater** (*verb*) to provide food and drinks at a party, meeting, etc., especially as a job

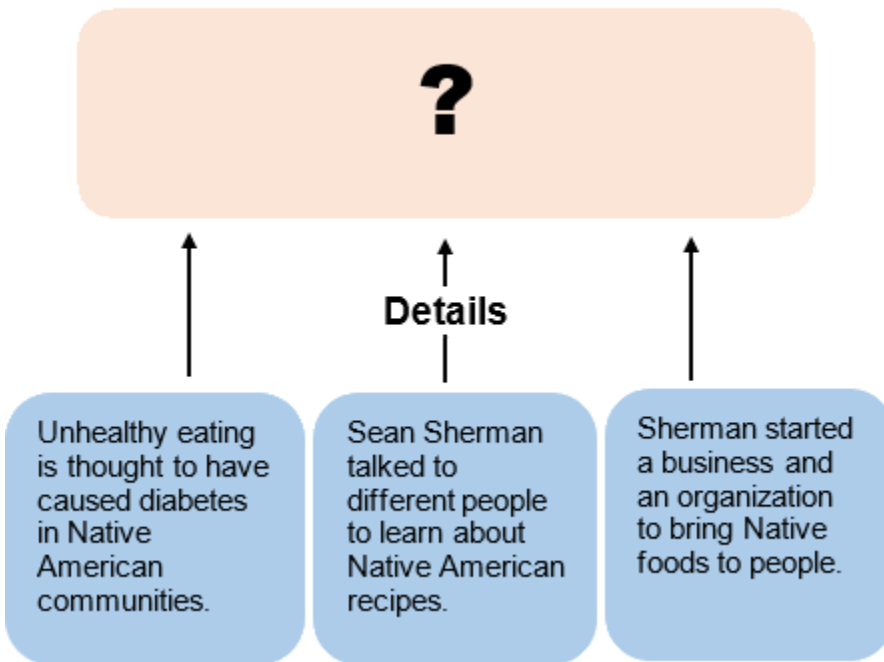
**indigenous** (*adjective*) produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment

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

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

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



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

- Ⓐ Native American foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table movement, which is all about using local fresh ingredients.
- Ⓑ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American cooking traditions.
- Ⓒ When Sean Sherman was growing up, his family cupboard was packed with canned beans, boxed rice, and vegetable oil.
- Ⓓ Before the arrival of Europeans, Native peoples used traditional ways of growing and hunting food.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The government meant to do the right thing when it gave free food to Native Americans.
- Ⓑ After the Europeans arrived, many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.
- Ⓒ Sean Sherman learned about traditional foods by talking with Native American chefs.
- Ⓓ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back Native food traditions.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating is believed to have caused illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. Sherman wants to address this problem with the help of Native foods. They're better for people's health. They aren't loaded with salt, sugar, and bad fats.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show that traditional Native American foods are healthy because they aren't high in sodium, fat, and sugar
- Ⓑ To argue that many people avoid the traditional Native American diet because it can lead to illness
- Ⓒ To describe how Sean Sherman is using ingredients such as sodium, sugar, and fats to create new dishes
- Ⓓ To point out that the only real reason Sean Sherman has recreated Native recipes is that it connects him with his culture

### Question 4

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

- Ⓐ method
- Ⓑ council
- Ⓒ ancestor
- Ⓓ harvest

### Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Many Native Americans will change over to an all-meat diet that includes large amounts of beef, elk, and quail.
- Ⓑ Sean Sherman will include more canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil in his recipes.
- Ⓒ More people will become familiar with the Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef.
- Ⓓ Sean Sherman will teach university courses that show students how to prepare European dishes with natural ingredients.

### Question 6

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

- Ⓐ What foods were found in Sherman's cupboard when he was a boy
- Ⓑ Who Sherman turned to when he wanted to find out about Native foods
- Ⓒ Why it is hard to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice
- Ⓓ Which problem NATIFS hopes to address by bringing back traditional foods

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**That's why Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions. His recipes avoid ingredients that were *introduced* by Europeans, such as beef and wheat. They use local plants and other natural ingredients. These include elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.**

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

- Ⓐ to keep someone from using or doing something
- Ⓑ to bring something to a place for the first time
- Ⓒ to prove that something is not true or real
- Ⓓ to prepare food for eating by using heat

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Canned beans. Boxed rice. Powdered milk. Jugs of vegetable oil. When he was growing up on a reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family cupboards were packed with these groceries. The foods were given to them by the U.S. government.
- Ⓑ Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.
- Ⓒ Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans used traditional practices to grow and hunt many different kinds of food. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources, such as bison, were nearly destroyed.
- Ⓓ So far, not many chefs serve traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. The foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table idea, which is all about using local fresh ingredients. But Native American food is *not* just a passing idea, says Sherman. It's a way of life.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Defying Gravity (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP

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

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

In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world! And as if that wasn't enough, two of the special moves she pulled off will now bear her name. One is called the "Biles." It's a mind-boggling double-double dismount from the balance beam with a double-twisting double backflip. Whew—that's even hard to *say*!

When you see Biles perform, prepare to be amazed. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand super strength. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic! But it was good ole fashioned practice and determination that took this go-getter to the top.

Born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, Biles didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. Then in 2003, her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her. Biles has said her success wouldn't be possible without their support. And they can't be missed cheering her on in the crowd at every event.

Biles discovered gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. And even from a young age, she gave her all to her sport. Her mother has said that Biles never skipped practice. She showed up even when she was sick.

But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. In 2013, she was picked for the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team after two members had to drop out. Biles stepped in for none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!

Biles continued to take part in top gymnastics meets. She went toe-to-toe with the best of the best, often capturing the gold. At age 19, she was chosen to lead Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. By then, many already recognized Biles as the greatest of all time, or GOAT. Along with a fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio. She won five medals in total. *Four* of them were gold.

Simone Biles' journey from childhood to jaw-dropping success as a gymnast is one of overcoming. She's an example to young women working to make their dreams come true. And it's safe to say this champion isn't done breaking records just yet: She's been gearing up for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo!

*Credit: Video Credit: Team USA*

## **Dictionary**

**determination** (*noun*) a quality that makes you continue trying to do or achieve something that is difficult

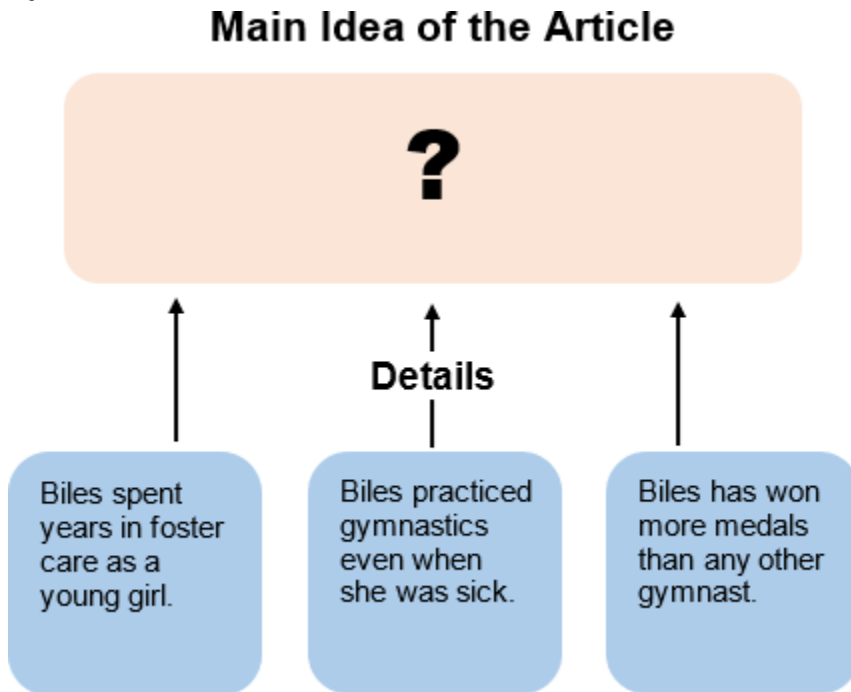
**foster** (*adjective*) used to describe a situation in which for a period of time a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's parents

**junior** (*adjective*) younger in age

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

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

#### Question 1



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

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Biles spent years in foster care as a young girl." The box in the middle says "Biles practiced gymnastics even when she was sick." The box on the right says "Biles has won more medals than any other gymnast."

- Ⓐ After spending many years in foster care, Simone Biles' grandparents adopted her in 2003.
- Ⓑ With strength and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.
- Ⓒ Simone Biles failed to achieve a spot on the 2011 U.S. women's junior national team.
- Ⓓ At a recent world championship, Simone Biles performed a move known as the "Biles."

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Gymnast Simone Biles spent her early years in foster care until she was adopted in 2003.
- Ⓑ Simone Biles' super strength has been the true key to her success in gymnastics.
- Ⓒ In October 2019, gymnast Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal.
- Ⓓ Simone Biles was chosen as a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013.



Question 3

The Article states:

**But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her hard work began to pay off. In 2013, she was picked for the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team after two members had to drop out. Biles stepped in for none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out that Simone Biles is a better gymnast than gold medalist Kyla Ross
- Ⓑ To suggest that Simone Biles worked just as hard as any Olympic gold medalist
- Ⓒ To show that a big setback only made Simone Biles try harder to achieve success
- Ⓓ To say that Simone Biles was very happy when Kyla Ross had to drop out of the team

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ accident
- Ⓑ elegance
- Ⓒ career
- Ⓓ method

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Simone Biles' grandparents were very worried that Biles might hurt herself while practicing
- Ⓑ gymnast Simone Biles only missed gymnastics practice as a child when she was very sick
- Ⓒ Simone Biles took the place of gold medalist Kyla Ross because Biles was a better gymnast
- Ⓓ gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with heartbreaking setbacks

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Who Simone Biles took the place of to join the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013
- Ⓑ How old Simone Biles was when she was first introduced to the sport of gymnastics
- Ⓒ What are the names of the two special moves that Biles performed at the world championships
- Ⓓ How many world championship medals Simone Biles has won so far in her lifetime

### Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

**Born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, Biles didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care. Then in 2003, her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, *adopted* her. Biles has said her success wouldn't be possible without their support.**

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

- Ⓐ to say good things about someone or something
- Ⓑ to take a child of other parents legally as your own
- Ⓒ to fail to take care of or give attention to someone
- Ⓓ to cause someone to do something by asking or arguing

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties as she made her way to victory?

- Ⓐ Biles continued to take part in top gymnastics meets. She went toe-to-toe with the best of the best, often capturing the gold. At age 19, she was chosen to lead Team U.S.A. at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.
- Ⓑ When you see Biles perform, prepare to be amazed. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand super strength. It's no wonder she's been called the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic!
- Ⓒ In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast landed herself in the history books: She won her 25th world championship medal. That's more than any other gymnast in the world! And as if that wasn't enough, two of the special moves she pulled off will now bear her name.
- Ⓓ But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# The Early-Late Debate (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

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

**SACRAMENTO, California** (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Ever feel like drifting back to dreamland when it's time to get up for school? If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of scientists and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. They say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and success at school.

There's good news for some teens who like to snooze. In 2019, California passed a new law. It sets rules for when schools in the U.S. state can start. High schools will start at 8:30 a.m. or later. Middle schools will start at 8 a.m. or later. The changes will happen in the 2022 school year.

So older students might get more minutes of California dreamin'. But the new law doesn't cover elementary schools. Why not? The reason has to do with changes that happen in the body in 24-hour cycles. *How much* you sleep is important. But *when* you sleep matters, too.

Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night. But unlike younger or older people, they usually get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on some tiptop z's.

Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

But some people think starting schools later isn't so smart. They argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Studies suggest students sleep more when

schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

Maybe the biggest roadblock for school districts looking into later start times? Buses! If all schools start near the same time, a district has to pay for more buses and drivers. That's one reason so many high schools start very early. Flipping the schedules so that elementary schools start first has drawbacks, too. Younger kids need more total hours of sleep. And early elementary dismissal times could be hard on working parents.

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

How about you? Like to start school bright and early? Or would you rather snooze till the sun is high in the sky?

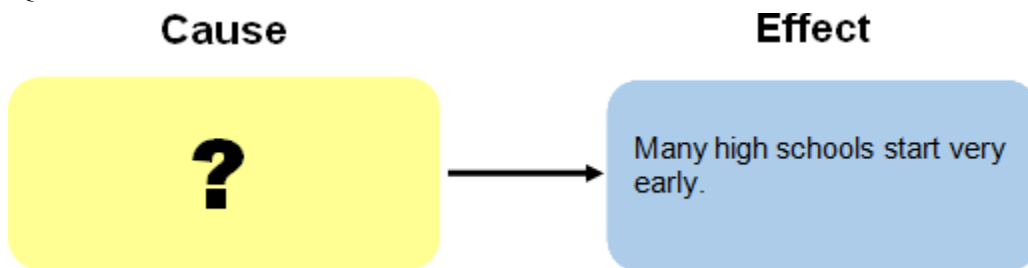
### Dictionary

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

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

## Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," and it has a question mark in it. There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Many high schools start very early."

- Ⓐ Going to bed earlier and waking up earlier helps teens get a better night's rest.
- Ⓑ Districts have to pay for more buses when all schools start near the same time.
- Ⓒ How much teens sleep is important, but when they sleep matters, too.
- Ⓓ Studies suggest students don't sleep more when schools start later.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ A later school start time for adolescents could cause problems such as less time for after-school sports, jobs, chores, homework, and fun.
- Ⓑ Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, and people are talking about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.
- Ⓒ Students who don't get the sleep they need can have serious health problems, and their academic success can be affected.
- Ⓓ People in other places will watch to see how starting school later goes for California, and how problems resulting from later start times are handled.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ examination
- Ⓑ tradition
- Ⓒ collection
- Ⓓ preparation

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ what problems are caused by starting elementary schools first
- Ⓑ which places have already decided to start high schools later
- Ⓒ what times elementary school children get their best sleep
- Ⓓ what problems are caused when schools finish later in the day

Question 6

The Article states:

**Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!**

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

- Ⓐ show that sleep is more important to adults than teens
- Ⓑ tell about problems faced by all adolescents
- Ⓒ explain how important sleep is for adolescents
- Ⓓ examine the research done on the effects of sleep

### Question 7

The Article states:

**California schools will face some *tough* choices. People in other places will watch to see how the experiment goes.**

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *tough*, as it is used above?

- Ⓐ leathery
- Ⓑ difficult
- Ⓒ delicate
- Ⓓ hardy

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether a later school start time will be better for students?

- Ⓐ Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night. But unlike younger or older people, they usually get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So if teens get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on some tiptop z's.
- Ⓑ Studies suggest students sleep more when schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!
- Ⓒ If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of scientists and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. They say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and success at school.
- Ⓓ Students who don't get enough sleep can develop serious health problems. Academic success can suffer, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

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

# Give Me S'more! (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

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

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

If you've never tasted the fresh, gooey delight, now's your chance! Here's how to make a s'more:

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

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

It wasn't our ancient ancestors. Think about it. It's not like they could just run over to Walmart and grab a bag of marshmallows, some chocolate, and a box of graham crackers. Plus, in order for s'mores to become a thing, some of the key ingredients had to be developed first.

Take the marshmallows. These yummy treats aren't new. But for hundreds of years, they were a luxury only the rich enjoyed. You needed eggs, sugar, and the root sap of a plant called the "marsh mallow." Each treat

was poured and molded by hand. Today's marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make. So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

As for the chocolate, many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars. Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolate maker named Daniel Peter invented a process to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make what we know as "milk chocolate."

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

These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.

S'more deliciousness? Yes, please!

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: Hilah Cooking*

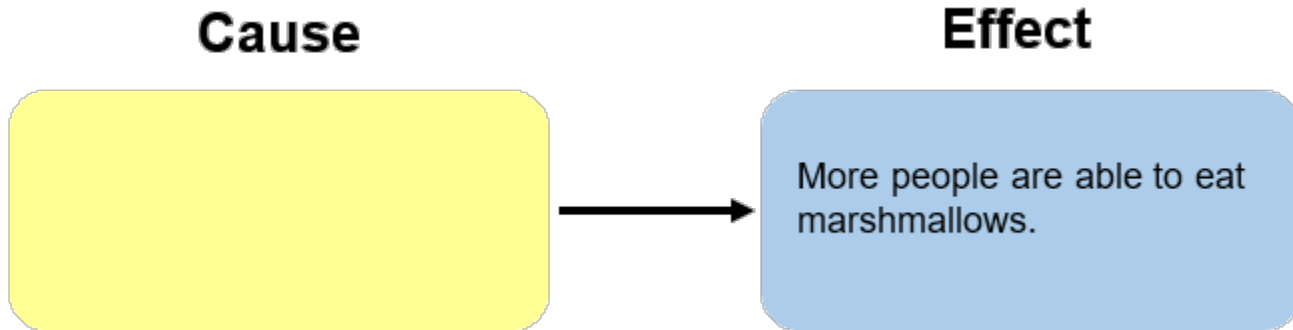
### **Dictionary**

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



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

#### Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "More people are able to eat marshmallows."

- Ⓐ Marshmallows can be cooked in an oven or microwave.
- Ⓑ A Swiss candy maker invented a way to mix milk and sugar.
- Ⓒ Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.
- Ⓓ A Girl Scouts manual explained how to make marshmallows.

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ To make a s'more, roast a marshmallow and place it and chocolate between graham crackers.
- Ⓑ Ancient chocolate was made from cacao seeds and did not include sweetener.
- Ⓒ Years ago, people could not go to stores to buy the ingredients needed to make s'mores.
- Ⓓ In 1875, Daniel Peter invented an important process used to make milk chocolate.

#### Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ Easier and cheaper
- Ⓑ Seed and root
- Ⓒ Ancient and modern
- Ⓓ Treat and luxury

#### Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Ancient chocolate was dark, grainy, and bitter.
- Ⓑ Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s using whole wheat flour.
- Ⓒ In 1875, a chocolate maker mixed milk, sugar, and chocolate to form milk chocolate.

- Ⓓ Marshmallows were first made using root sap from a plant called the "marsh mallow."

Question 5

The Article states:

**These days, s'mores are well known. Still, not everyone has tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.**

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

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

Question 6

The Article states:

**There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more. But don't worry. In a pinch, you can *construct* a s'more and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same. But it's still got the goo factor.**

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

- Ⓐ Prepare
- Ⓑ Imagine
- Ⓒ Skip
- Ⓓ Afford

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first used in desserts?

- Ⓐ Many stores have s'more-flavored products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes are quite as special as a true s'more.
- Ⓑ A s'more takes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and puts them together to create melty goodness. Yes, it's messy.
- Ⓒ Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.
- Ⓓ No one's really sure who first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers. But it might have been someone connected with the Girl Scouts.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Very few Girl Scouts made s'mores after their group's 1927 manual came out.
- Ⓑ Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.
- Ⓒ Daniel Peter would not have liked the current ingredients used to make s'mores.
- Ⓓ S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

**STEP 1:** First, read the Article.

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

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

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

**STEP 3:** Re-read your summary.

**STEP 4:** Check your work. Make final changes.

# Global Game Fame (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP

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

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

In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. It houses a collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games.

The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated. But only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's new hall-of-famers: *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*.

The chosen winners are not always fun, new games. Often, they're often old-fashioned. People don't actually play them anymore. *Colossal Cave Adventure*, for example, is a text-based computer game from 1976. It helped start computer gaming.

To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have added something to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.

Some winners seem unpopular. Or they seem simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games brought big changes to gaming.

Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.

*Super Mario Kart* is another game that finally made the grade in 2019. This much-loved game was the first of the *Mario Kart* racing series. It came out way back in 1992. Fun fact: The game wasn't actually meant to include Mario. But a drawing of the famous plumber in the driver's seat captured everyone's attention. The rest is history!

The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. These included cell phone games. Online and virtual games were also in the running. Some of the finalists were *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Maybe you play some of these. Or maybe your favorite didn't make the cut. Do you have strong opinions about which games should be nominated next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games. If enough people suggest the same game, it will win a nomination.

Let's hope your favorite games are chosen. But say your pick doesn't make it. You can still go to the award show. It's held each year in Rochester, NY. People play games. Bands perform songs from video games. And the world's most influential video games finally get their due.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

## **Dictionary**

**influential** (*adjective*) having an effect on people, their actions, or events

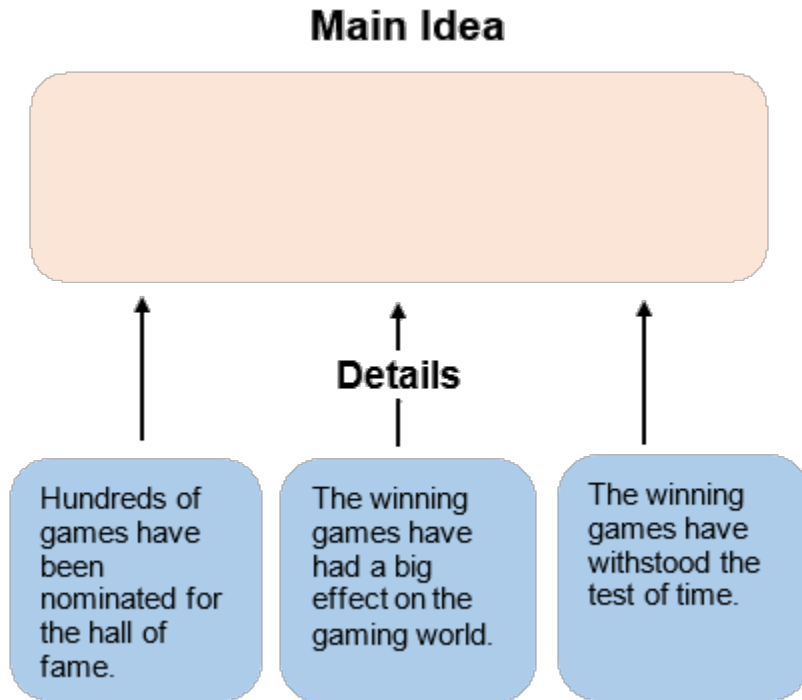
**nominate** (*verb*) to suggest someone or something for an award or honor

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

**virtual** (*adjective*) on the computer, but appearing to be real-life

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

#### Question 1



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

There is a large, empty rectangle. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "Hundreds of games have been nominated for the hall of fame." The box in the middle says "The winning games have had a big effect on the gaming world." The box on the right says "The winning games have withstood the test of time."

- Ⓐ *Microsoft Solitaire* is a game that can teach players how to use a computer mouse.
- Ⓑ *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a computer game that first came out in 1976.
- Ⓒ Some winners of the World Video Game Hall of Fame seem unpopular or simple today.
- Ⓓ Every year, the world's best video games enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Imitate
- Ⓑ Admire
- Ⓒ Suggest
- Ⓓ Deliver

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The fast action video game *Super Mario Kart* is more fun to play than *Microsoft Solitaire*.
- Ⓑ *Colossal Cave Adventure* is a text-based computer game that helped start computer gaming.
- Ⓒ Anyone can go online to nominate games for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- Ⓓ The museum welcomed its first games into the World Video Game Hall of Fame in 2015.

Question 4

Think about the Article. In what way are *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* different?

- (A) Only *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players a computer skill.
- (B) Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was popular with gaming fans.
- (C) Only *Super Mario Kart* withstood the test of time.
- (D) Only *Super Mario Kart* was used on computers.

Question 5

The Article states:

**In 2015, the museum created the World Video Game Hall of Fame. It *houses* a collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games.**

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

- (A) Contains
- (B) Markets
- (C) Refuses
- (D) Prepares

Question 6

The Article states:

**To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have added something to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To tell the reader that the winning games are usually the very newest games
- (B) To suggest that the gaming world can have a big effect on the winning games
- (C) To describe how games are chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- (D) To explain how gaming fans can help to choose the next hall of fame winners

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that winning games should have had a big effect on the gaming industry?

- (A) Do you have strong opinions about which games should be nominated next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games.
- (B) The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. These included cell phone games. Online and virtual games were also in the running. Some of the finalists were *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.
- (C) Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.
- (D) The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. Since it started the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated.

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Next year's hall of fame winners may not be the most popular games around at the time.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* will be nominated for the hall of fame next year.
- Ⓒ The rules for choosing which games become hall of fame winners will change next year.
- Ⓓ All of next year's hall of fame nominees will be chosen by a team of judges at the museum.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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



# Good, Bad, or Ugly? (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



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

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

We'd like to have a fruitful debate about the ugliest produce. You know—strawberries that have arms, apples so bruised they look like they've just come out of the boxing ring, and tomatoes that seem to have horns.

Now, be honest. Would you put these peculiar fruits and veggies in your shopping cart? Your answer might be "heck no." And that's why many supermarkets put out only the prettiest produce.

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

The companies say they're on a mission. They want to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste. Think of it this way: Is a banged-up banana any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich? Why should it be thrown away?

Sounds like these companies have the right idea. They even offer deep discounts. That's great news for customers. But not everyone is happy. Critics say these companies may be thinking only about themselves.

### **The Ugly Truth?**

Imperfect produce isn't always wasted, these critics say.

Many small farmers had already been selling imperfect produce to customers and farmers markets. Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.

Also, ugly fruits and veggies already have uses. Take the food service industry. There, produce is sliced, diced, blended, and more. No one cares if the fruit is pretty or ugly. On farms, fruits can be fed to animals. Rotted fruit is added back into soil for nutrients. And, what's more, ugly produce companies have been accused of taking food away from the needy.

Are these start-ups causing more harm than good?

### **Not So Bad, After All?**

What do ugly produce companies say? They are defending themselves.

In March 2019, Imperfect Produce informed people that the company doesn't take away from the needy. It sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want, it said. Also, the company often *gives* food to food banks. Put *that* in your food basket!

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

But Imperfect Produce says both farmers and ugly produce companies can help reduce food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.

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

### **Dictionary**

**compete** (*verb*) to go against other companies in trying to get customers

**discount** (*noun*) a price that is lower than usual

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

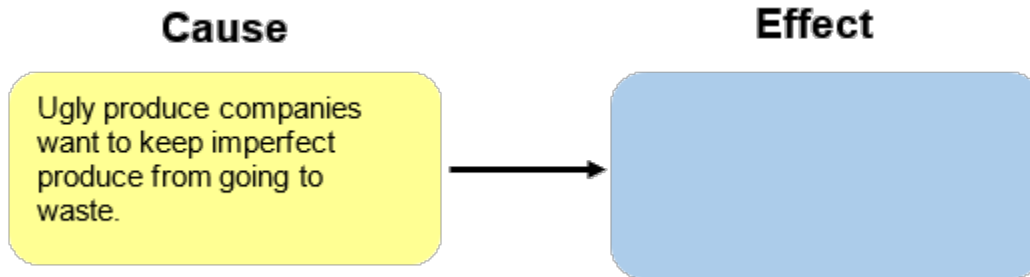
**industry** (*noun*) a type of trade or business

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

**reject** (*noun*) something that is not wanted

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

#### Question 1



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

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Ugly produce companies want to keep imperfect produce from going to waste." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. It is labeled "Effect."

- (A) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.
- (B) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that food service companies prepare.
- (C) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that are from food banks.
- (D) These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that are used to feed farm animals.

#### Question 2

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

- (A) Ugly produce companies say their mission is to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.
- (B) Some ugly fruits can be fed to farm animals, and rotted fruit can be plowed back into the soil to add nutrients.
- (C) Many small farmers have been selling imperfect produce to consumers and farmers markets.
- (D) The company Imperfect Produce said in March 2019 that it often gives food to food banks for the needy.

#### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- (A) Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.
- (B) It's important for small farmers who are losing money to ugly produce companies to reach out to more customers.
- (C) It's pointless to give bad reviews of ugly produce companies because customers are very interested in avoiding food waste and saving money.
- (D) Supermarkets deserve the blame for food being wasted, because they reject good produce based on its appearance.

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Upgrade
- Ⓑ Markdown
- Ⓒ Addition
- Ⓓ Raise

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce companies, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good
- Ⓑ Convince readers to only buy food from companies that work with small farmers to avoid food waste in the United States
- Ⓒ Explain the reasons why some ugly produce companies should be thinking of different ways to gain new customers
- Ⓓ Criticize ugly produce companies for not doing enough to support food banks that give unwanted fruits and vegetables to the needy

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that ugly produce companies are only thinking about making money for themselves?

- Ⓐ Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.
- Ⓑ But Imperfect Produce says both farmers and ugly produce companies can help reduce food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.
- Ⓒ In March 2019, Imperfect Produce informed people that the company doesn't take away from the needy. It sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want, it said.
- Ⓓ The companies say they're on a mission. They want to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste. Think of it this way: Is a banged-up banana any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich? Why should it be thrown away?

Question 7

The Article states:

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

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

- Ⓐ Grown
- Ⓑ Faded
- Ⓒ Stood
- Ⓓ Struggled

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ As more customers buy from ugly produce companies, some supermarkets may start selling ugly produce in their stores.
- Ⓑ As small farmers start selling ugly fruits and vegetables to people in their neighborhoods, ugly produce companies will be forced out of business.
- Ⓒ Ugly produce companies will inform customers that food waste is no longer a problem in the U.S.
- Ⓓ

Food banks will begin to buy their fruits and vegetables from ugly produce companies.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Katherine the Great (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP

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

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

Johnson's math has changed all our lives. Here's how: From the 1950s until the 1980s, Johnson worked for NASA, where her math helped push the U.S. space program forward. Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So you could say she's a hero.

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

"Human computers" had to be great at math. And Johnson was. Born in 1918, Johnson was a whiz kid. She graduated from college with a degree in math. Then, she became a teacher. In 1953, Johnson got a job as a human computer.

Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA because her math was always correct. That year, NASA was preparing for Friendship 7. It was a mission that would put astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers to do the math for Glenn's trip around Earth. Computers are usually fast and correct. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke

down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.

"If she says they're good," Johnson later remembered Glenn saying, "then I'm ready to go." Johnson did the math, and Friendship 7 was a success.

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

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

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

*Information for this story came from AP.*

*Video credit: NASA*

### **Dictionary**

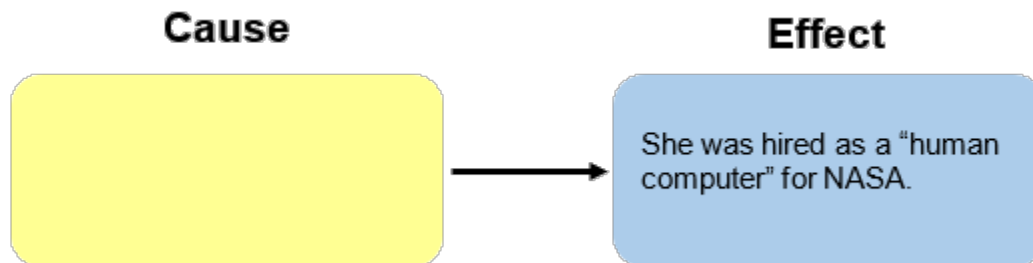
**autobiography** (*noun*) the story of someone's life written by that person

**retire** (*verb*) to leave a job at the end of a career

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

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

#### Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "She was hired as a "human computer" for NASA."

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

Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson is a hero for her work at NASA.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson turned 100 years old in 2018.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson worked on Project Apollo.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson wrote a book that comes out in 2019.

Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.
- Ⓑ Katherine Johnson worked on a mission that sent astronauts to the moon.
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson retired from NASA after working there for many years.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson's autobiography called *Reaching for the Moon* came out.

Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ Movie and film
- Ⓑ Autobiography and book
- Ⓒ Trip and journey
- Ⓓ Famous and unknown

Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to find out about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In an article about NASA's work over the years
- Ⓑ In a book that has photos of the moon
- Ⓒ In a dictionary entry for "trajectory"
- Ⓓ In a picture showing all of NASA's "human computers"

Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ In the 1960s, astronauts completely trusted programmed computers to give them correct information.
- Ⓑ Some young people will likely feel hopeful after reading Katherine Johnson's autobiography.
- Ⓒ As soon as she graduated from college, Katherine Johnson tried to get a job at NASA.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson was famous during her many years as a human computer at NASA.



### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely knew at the time?

- Ⓐ Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones).
- Ⓑ Johnson worked on many space projects. By 1962, she was well known at NASA because her math was always correct.
- Ⓒ But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.
- Ⓓ Johnson worked on many other missions. Project Apollo was one. (That's the 1969 mission that put astronauts on the moon for the first time.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

### Question 8

The Article says:

**Computers are usually fast and *correct*. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work correctly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the numbers, too.**

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

- Ⓐ Fun
- Ⓑ Right
- Ⓒ Dull
- Ⓓ Wrong

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# The Last Generation? (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

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

**MAJURO, Marshall Islands** (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on a tropical island might sound wonderful. But what if you left for a trip and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

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

Why is climate change such a huge threat to this part of the world? It's a matter of "first and worst." Islands have low elevations. So they are among the *first* places harmed by rising sea levels. Scientists say sea levels have risen more in the South Pacific than in other parts of the world. The Pacific Islands will likely face some of the *worst* destruction from the effects of climate change, too. The area is more likely to have very damaging tropical storms.

The nations of the Pacific Islands recognize that they're all in the same boat. Working together, they're finding ways to address the problem. Scientists already know one way to slow climate change. That's by greatly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect. After all, the islands aren't a big source of emissions to begin with.

But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!

So Pacific Islanders came up with a plan. In 2019, the governments of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu came together. They announced the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership. They've pledged to cut carbon emissions from shipping by 40 percent by 2030. And they're aiming to have zero-carbon shipping by 2050.

How will the islanders pull this off? They plan to use some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These will make use of solar and wind energy.

But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They plan to solve other problems, too. On the list: Dealing with changes in climate. Preparing for storms. And protecting fisheries and farms from rising seawater.

Sea levels are rising. But hopes aren't sinking in the Pacific Islands. People there are fighting for life and land. They're working together so they can stay and live in their homelands for generations to come.

*Video credit: United Nations*

### **Dictionary**

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

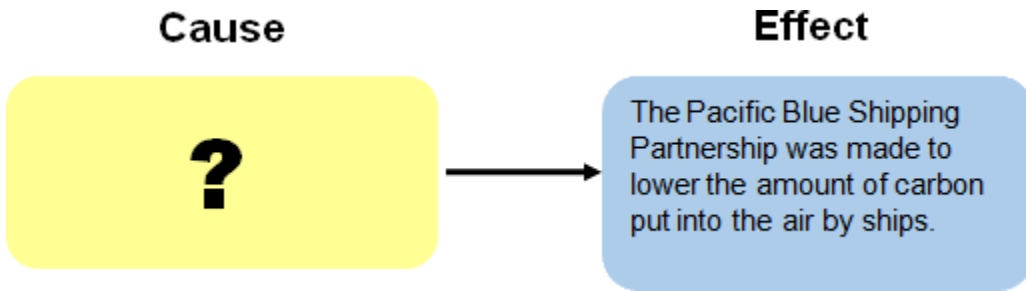
**emission** (*noun*) something sent out or given off

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

**threaten** (*verb*) to be something that is likely to cause harm to (someone or something): to be a threat to (someone or something)

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

#### Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," and it has a question mark in it. There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership was made to lower the amount of carbon put into the air by ships."

- Ⓐ Pacific Islanders are increasing their ability to handle and prepare for storms.
- Ⓑ Pacific Island countries realize they are facing the effects of climate change together.
- Ⓒ The total amount of carbon emitted by the Pacific Islands is making sea levels rise.
- Ⓓ The Pacific Island countries produce about 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ the unusual natural arrangement of the 11 Pacific Island countries across the ocean
- Ⓑ the effect of climate change on the Pacific Islands, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- Ⓒ the practices of China and the United States when it comes to carbon emissions
- Ⓓ the usefulness of solar power and wind energy, which do not emit any carbon into the air

#### Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ pledged and promised
- Ⓑ solve and suffer
- Ⓒ source and service
- Ⓓ destruction and danger

#### Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Which countries are working together through the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership
- Ⓑ Why Pacific Island countries suffer greater effects of climate change than other places
- Ⓒ Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some Pacific Island countries
- Ⓓ Which greenhouse gas emissions from ships are causing problems for Pacific Island countries

Question 5

The Article states:

**But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To explain why some Pacific Island countries made a plan for lowering ships' carbon emissions
- Ⓑ To say that Germany produces more carbon emissions than all of the Pacific Island countries
- Ⓒ To tell readers that the Pacific Islands produce almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions
- Ⓓ To point out how dangerous the Pacific Islands' carbon emissions can be for the environment

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

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

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

- Ⓐ not connected or combined
- Ⓑ not familiar with one another
- Ⓒ very cruel or violent
- Ⓓ very modern or current

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems around the entire world
- Ⓑ the countries that want to lower carbon emissions from shipping will likely fail
- Ⓒ Pacific Island countries were the first to offer solutions to the problem of climate change
- Ⓓ the Pacific Island countries each hope to put out zero carbon emissions by the year 2050

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ How will the islanders pull this off? They plan to use some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These will make use of solar and wind energy. But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They plan to solve other problems, too.
- Ⓑ But these small nations still have a chance to make a difference. Here's why: Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. And shipping can cause a great deal of harm to the environment. In fact, experts say cargo ships put out almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!
- Ⓒ Scientists already know one way to slow climate change. That's by greatly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect. After all, the islands aren't a big source of emissions to begin with.
- Ⓓ What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# A Musical Pioneer (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

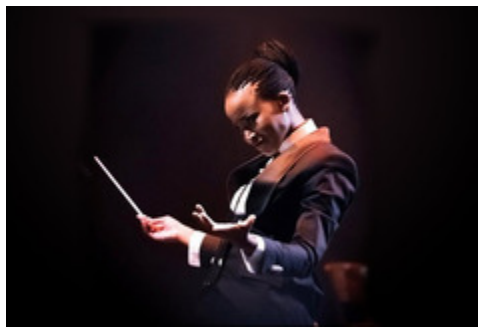


Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

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

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an all-black orchestra and youth choir in her home country of South Africa. She has set her sights on empowering black youth. And Pitse wants to showcase classical music created by African artists.

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women. And there are few conductors of color. About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S., for example, are white. Additionally, classical music started in Europe. This was hundreds of years ago. Today, it now reaches far beyond the continent. But many people still connect it with European culture. In short, as a young, black, female conductor from South Africa, Pitse is truly one of a kind.

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

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

And Pitse didn't stop there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. And she got help from two top-notch conductors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had sharpened her conducting skills. She had also created a 40-member orchestra of talented musicians.

What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group performs pieces by African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

*Video credit: Mesia Gumede*

### **Dictionary**

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

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

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

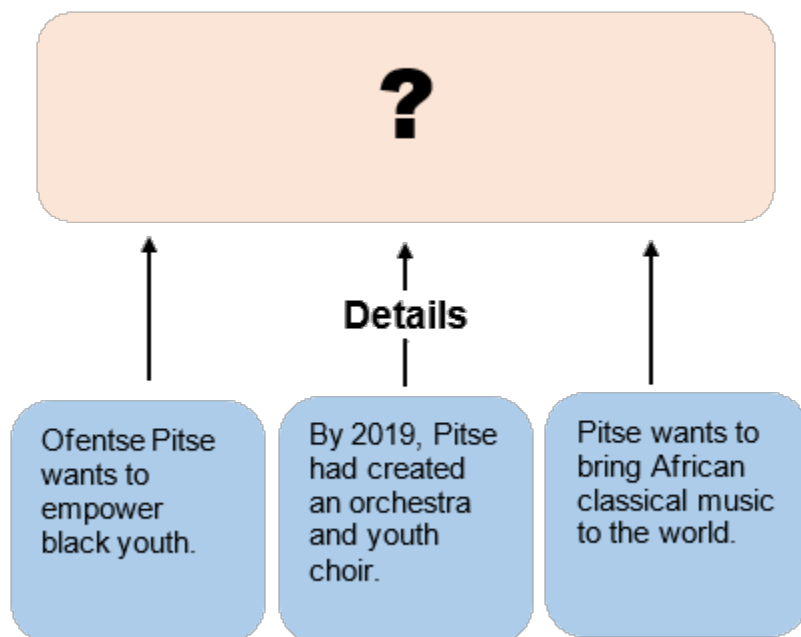
**opportunity** (*noun*) an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done: chance

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

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

### Question 1

#### **Main Idea of the Article**





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

- Ⓐ Pitse chose to become an architect before she decided to create her orchestra and youth choir.
- Ⓑ Pitse founded an all-black orchestra and youth choir that performs music by African composers.
- Ⓒ Pitse got the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten.
- Ⓓ Pitse wants her audiences to enjoy the music of today's leading African composers.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Classical music started in Europe, and many people still connect it with European culture today.
- Ⓑ A recent study found that only 5 out of the top 100 conductors worldwide were women.
- Ⓒ When Ofentse Pitse wanted to form her orchestra, she got the help of two top-notch conductors.
- Ⓓ Ofentse Pitse probably became a conductor because her grandfather was a jazz band conductor.

#### Question 3

The Article states:

**What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European composers like Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group performs pieces by African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out ways that classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven
- Ⓑ To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today
- Ⓒ To explain which European classical composer Ofentse Pitse wanted her orchestra to play
- Ⓓ To suggest that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are better composers than Beethoven

#### Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ mastery and discovery
- Ⓑ conductor and leader
- Ⓒ skills and ideas
- Ⓓ experience and appearance

#### Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ many of the classical pieces performed by her orchestra were written by Ofentse Pitse
- Ⓑ composers Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often lead Ofentse Pitse's choir and orchestra
- Ⓒ singers in Ofentse Pitse's choir may not have been able to become performers without her help
- Ⓓ Ofentse Pitse's choir usually performs at least one piece written by Beethoven

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Why Ofentse Pitse is considered a pioneer in the world of classical music
- Ⓑ How Ofentse Pitse felt when she heard her orchestra and choir for the first time
- Ⓒ How Ofentse Pitse is helping young people from poor communities in South Africa
- Ⓓ Who helped Ofentse Pitse when she wanted to form an orchestra to perform with her singers

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written long ago by European *composers* like Beethoven.**

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

- Ⓐ a person who loves art
- Ⓑ a person who sings songs
- Ⓒ a person who writes music
- Ⓓ a person who plays an instrument

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor. But music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she was also good at drawing. She chose to become an architect.
- Ⓑ And Pitse didn't stop there. She also set out to form an orchestra to join her singers. And she got help from two top-notch conductors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had sharpened her conducting skills.
- Ⓒ What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.
- Ⓓ Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because she's only 27 years old. In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the top 100 conductors were women.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Ötzi the Iceman (660L)

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

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

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock

*Ötzi the Iceman lives again in this life-size model based on his skeleton.*

**BOLZANO, Italy** (Achieve3000, November 21, 2019). It had to have been rough going for Ötzi (pronounced OET-see) the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (157 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in northern Italy. And unfortunately, the poor guy was in trouble. He suffered from a blow to his head, a serious wound on his right hand, and an arrowhead lodged in his left shoulder.

Some days were better than others in prehistory.

Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying. He also had a copper ax on hand. But escaping up a cold mountain was probably better than staying and using it. Fortunately, he was wearing warm clothing. It was made of leather, hides, and grass. But would he stay alive between the cold and his wounds?

He would not. Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen in ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well. The discovery made news worldwide. Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body

from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. The find gave historians helpful information about prehistoric life.

Just so you know: The Egyptian pyramids hadn't even been built yet when Ötzi was alive.

Ötzi has become the most carefully studied ancient human specimen ever. His remains have been looked over, X-rayed, and more. So have his clothing and his things. As a result, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow face, brown eyes, and tanned skin. He also had long dark hair and a shaggy beard.

Ötzi likely had health issues as well. Among them: heart disease, joint pain, and damaged lungs. He probably also had stomach worms, fleas, and Lyme disease.

So what did a Neolithic dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, a furry bearskin hat, and leather shoes.

Ötzi had other possessions, too: a flint knife, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and a deerskin case for his arrows. He also wore a calfskin belt. It had a sewn-on pouch. Inside the pouch were several small tools. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different areas hundreds of miles away. This suggests that trade took place. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too: a sloe berry, some mushrooms, and a few goat bones.

In November 2019, some new info was added to the Ötzi file. The plants found in his stomach and underfoot show his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!

## **Dictionary**

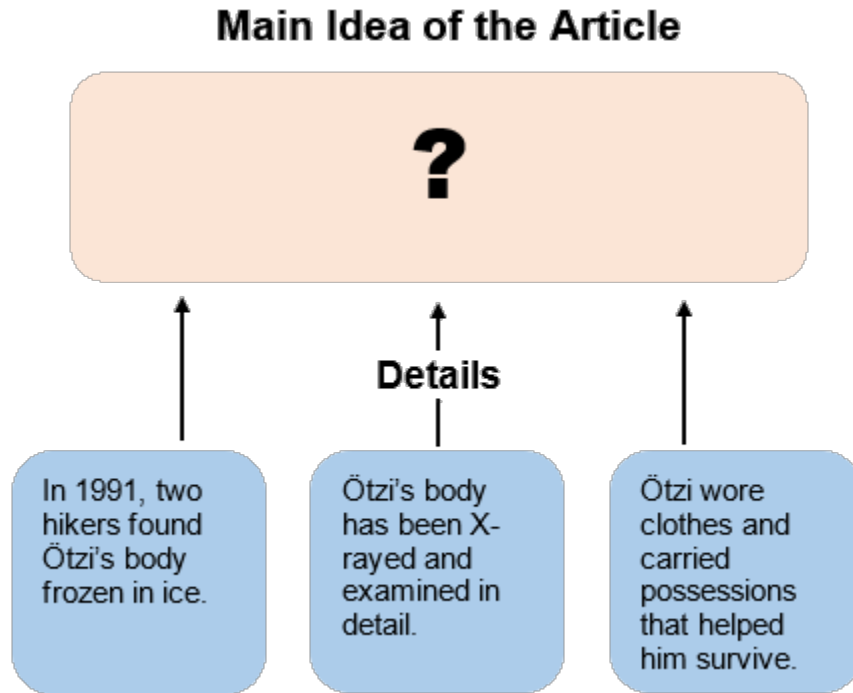
**historian** (*noun*) a person who studies or writes about history

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

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

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

#### Question 1



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

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "In 1991, two hikers found Otzi's body frozen in ice." The box in the middle says "Otzi's body has been X-rayed and examined in detail." The box on the right says "Otzi wore clothes and carried possessions that helped him survive."

- Ⓐ After being preserved for more than 5,000 years covered in ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about life long ago based on the food and tools he carried.
- Ⓑ Scientists think Ötzi had a narrow face with long dark hair, a shaggy beard, brown eyes, and tanned skin.
- Ⓒ Because of Ötzi the Iceman's wounds, it is believed he had battled with one or more other late-Neolithic men before beginning his climb up a cold mountain.
- Ⓓ Ötzi the Iceman appears to have suffered from health issues, including joint pain, heart disease, damaged lungs, Lyme disease, fleas, and stomach worms.

#### Question 2

The Article says:

**That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well. The discovery made news worldwide. Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever found in Europe. The find gave historians helpful information about prehistoric life.**

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

- Ⓐ determine what information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman
- Ⓑ explain how important it was that Ötzi the Iceman's body was discovered in such excellent condition
- Ⓒ describe how the clothing worn by prehistoric men and women helped them survive dangerous weather conditions
- Ⓓ explore the ways in which the late-Neolithic period was responsible for advancing many modern-age tools and other belongings

### Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ hides and skins
- Ⓑ ancient and current
- Ⓒ escape and avoid
- Ⓓ historian and human

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The remains of Ötzi have unearthed many discoveries, including DNA information showing that there are at least 19 modern-day people related to Ötzi.
- Ⓑ Ötzi wore clothing to help him beat the cold, including a leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats.
- Ⓒ Food discovered around Ötzi and in his stomach gave clues leading to the discovery of the route he traveled before his passing.
- Ⓓ Ötzi is the most interesting find in history because of the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery.

### Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying.
- Ⓑ Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who died so long ago? Here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen in ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him. And, surprisingly, he looked rather well.
- Ⓒ In November 2019, some new info was added to the Ötzi file. The plants found in his stomach and underfoot show his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone. But he's not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!
- Ⓓ So what did a Neolithic dude-on-the-go like Ötzi wear to beat the cold? A leather overcoat made of the hides of sheep and goats. He also wore a sheepskin loincloth, goatskin leggings, a furry bearskin hat, and leather shoes.

### Question 6

The Article states:

**Ötzi had other *possessions*, too: a flint knife, a grass net, a wooden backpack, and a deerskin case for his arrows. He also wore a calfskin belt.**

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

- Ⓐ traditions
- Ⓑ belongings
- Ⓒ groceries
- Ⓓ accidents

### Question 7

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

- Ⓐ reading an article about how people made their own clothing long ago
- Ⓑ reading an encyclopedia about battles during the late-Neolithic period
- Ⓒ watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period
- Ⓓ using an atlas to locate the mountains in the northern part of Italy

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ People will start using the same trade routes people like Ötzi used long ago.
- Ⓑ Scientists will find clues about the Egyptian pyramids from Ötzi's possessions.
- Ⓒ People will try to make their own clothing like Ötzi's, using hides and grass.
- Ⓓ Scientists will continue to study Ötzi in hopes of finding new information.

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

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

**Ötzi should be left alone.**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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



# Sniffing Out Extinction (660L)

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

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

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus

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

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

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

Conservationists around the world are putting dogs on the trail of at-risk animals. The hope is to find, protect, and breed the animals. The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines: from who's in the neighborhood to whether danger is near. So why not use a dog to track down a species that's endangered? The Baw Baw frog of southeastern Australia is one such species.

Since 1980, 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population has been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Today, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. If they don't, the small brown frogs might become extinct. But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

But none of this matters to two border collies, Rubble and Uda. They work for Zoos Victoria. The Australian conservation group is trying to save Baw Baw frogs. How? By learning about their habitat and breeding them in captivity. Thanks to Rubble and Uda, the results have been amazing. The dogs quickly learned to recognize the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Then they led the Zoos Victoria conservationists right to them.

In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.

And that's how you save a species.

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

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

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

*Information for this story came from VOA.*

*Video credit: Voice of America*

## **Dictionary**

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

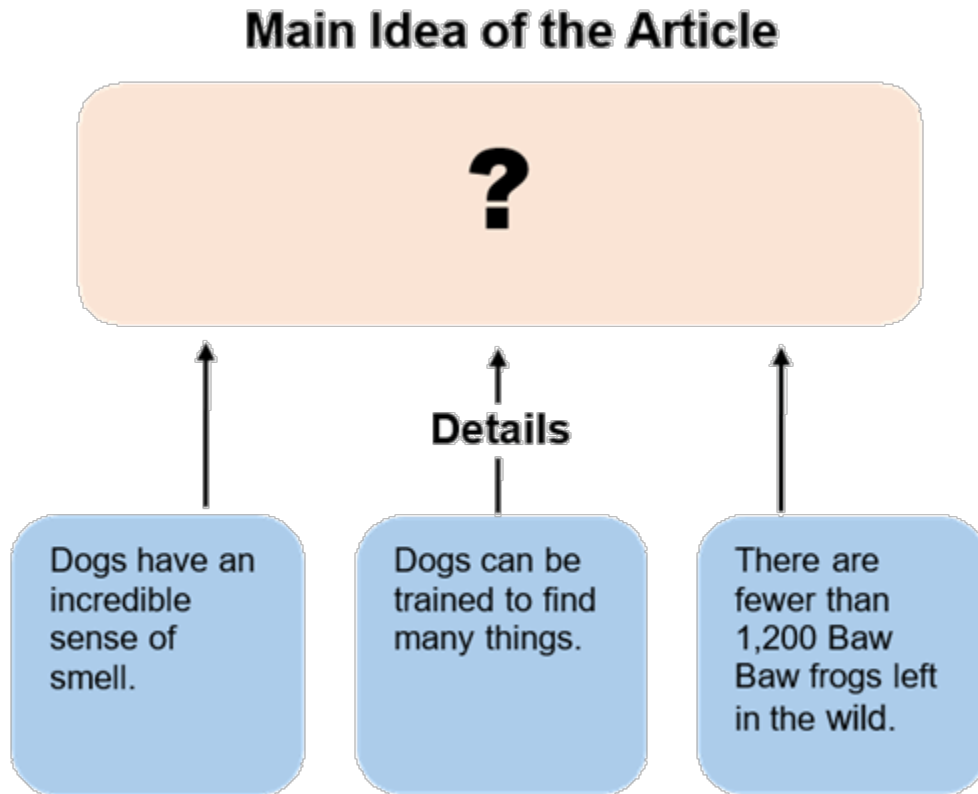
**conservationist** (*noun*) someone who works to protect animals, plants, and natural resources or to prevent the loss or waste of natural resources: a person who is involved in conservation

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

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

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

#### Question 1



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

- Ⓐ Male Baw Baw frogs only do their frog call five to six weeks a year, and females don't call at all.
- Ⓑ Since 1980, 98 percent of the population of Baw Baw frogs in Australia have been wiped out.
- Ⓒ With their powerful sense of smell, dogs are used to find fake money and missing persons.
- Ⓓ Dogs use their noses to find endangered species so that scientists can help them to live on.

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ The conservationists want to use the dogs to also track down silverspot butterfly caterpillars.
- Ⓑ The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs, away from the hard-to-get-to forests of Australia.
- Ⓒ The conservationists have had difficulty finding Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily seen or heard.
- Ⓓ The conservationists have had success with K-9 dogs that have been trained to find not only missing persons but also fake money.

Question 3

The Article states:

**Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. If they don't, the small brown frogs might become extinct. But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To explain why it can be so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat
- Ⓑ To say why it is so important that all species of animals should be protected by humans
- Ⓒ To show how a dog's sense of smell can be used to find endangered animals
- Ⓓ To point out the fact that there is very little that scientists can do to save the Baw Baw frog

Question 4

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

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

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

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ none of the Baw Baw frogs released into the wild have been able to remain alive
- Ⓑ when dogs search for killer whales, they must actually get in the water to find them
- Ⓒ Silverspot butterfly caterpillars are harder for dogs to locate than killer whales are
- Ⓓ Rubble and Uda smelled Baw Baw frog scat before tracking the frogs in the wild

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Why dogs have a much better sense of smell than humans do
- Ⓑ Which animals other than the Baw Baw frog have dogs been trained to find
- Ⓒ Which breed of dog has proven to be the best at sniffing out missing persons
- Ⓓ Why the Baw Baw frog is so hard for conservationists to locate on their own

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

**In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are *released* into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.**

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

- Ⓐ to follow and find someone or something
- Ⓑ to protect something from harm
- Ⓒ to carefully study something
- Ⓓ to set someone or something free

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs will be needed to find animals that were raised in captivity?

- Ⓐ Conservation detection dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. On the list: Silverspot butterfly caterpillars. Snow leopards. Koalas. Killer whales! All the dogs have to do is smell their scat and hit the trail.
- Ⓑ In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.
- Ⓒ But finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in hard-to-get-to forests. And they burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.
- Ⓓ The dogs' hunt begins with a whiff of an animal's scent. That usually means its scat (droppings). After all, dogs can tell a lot of things just by sniffing the scents of fellow canines: from who's in the neighborhood to whether danger is near.

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

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

**All endangered species are worth saving.**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Social Media, Pompeii Style (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

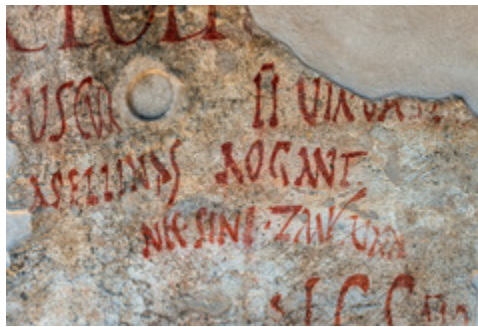


Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

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

**POMPEII, Italy** (Achieve3000, January 28, 2020). What do a 21st-century social media user and a 1st-century resident of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii have in common? They both posted messages on walls. There *is* a slight difference, though. Fans of Facebook and other social media sites post their comments on *cyber* walls. Ancient Pompeians posted theirs on *actual* walls. Amazingly, some of those messages are still there 2,000 years later. And so are many of the walls themselves.

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

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

The answers date back to 79 CE. That's when a nearby volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted. It destroyed Pompeii in a matter of hours. The city was buried.

Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And it remains a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life. The messages on the walls were spotted from the beginning. In the late 19th century,

historians began copying them. And it's a good thing they did. Most of the messages have faded since the ruins were unearthed.

So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions. In fact, the oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE. It simply states: "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

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

Health to you, Victoria, and wherever you are, may you sneeze sweetly.

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

The man I am having dinner with is a barbarian.

I beg you to elect Marcus Epidius Sabinus...a most worthy young man.

Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

Call it social media, the Pompeii way.

*Video credit: Achieve3000*

### **Dictionary**

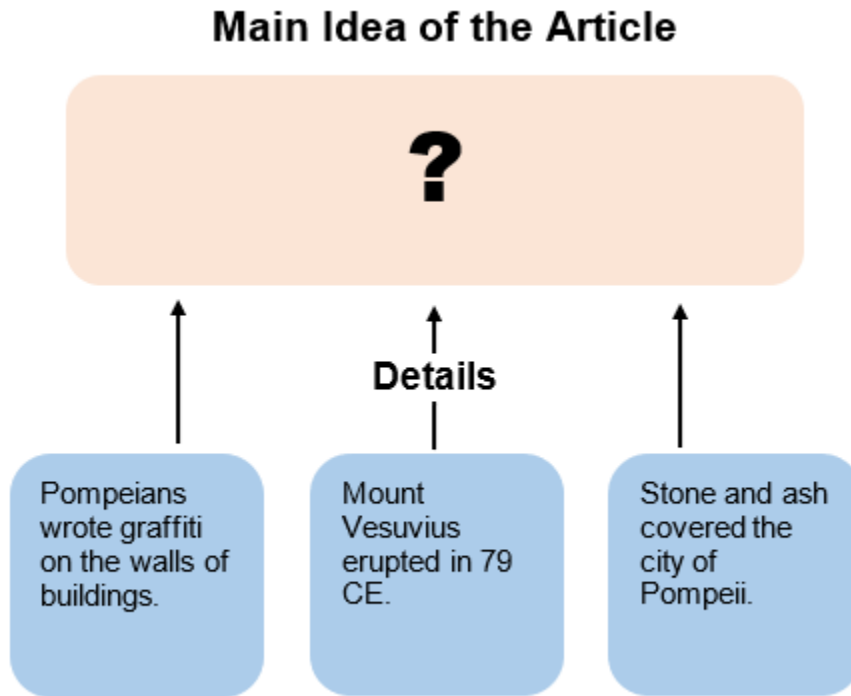
**barbarian** (*noun*) a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person

**cyber** (*adjective*) computer

**excavate** (*verb*) to uncover (something) by digging away and removing the earth that covers it

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

#### Question 1



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

- Ⓐ A volcanic coating protected messages that had been written on the walls of Pompeii.
- Ⓑ When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, the city of Pompeii was destroyed.
- Ⓒ Most of the graffiti that appeared on walls in the city of Pompeii has since faded.
- Ⓓ The oldest known message at Pompeii simply states: "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The graffiti found in Pompeii was written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, or applied in paint.
- Ⓑ The oldest known message found in the city of Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE.
- Ⓒ In 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius erupted, covering the ancient city of Pompeii in stone and ash.
- Ⓓ It's interesting to study the ancient words written on the walls of the city of Pompeii.

#### Question 3

The Article states:

**Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And it remains a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life.**



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

- Ⓐ describe the reason that the ancient city of Pompeii seems to be frozen in time
- Ⓑ point out why so many of the residents of Pompeii wrote on walls in that city
- Ⓒ explain the main differences between ancient graffiti and new graffiti
- Ⓓ suggest that historians should have taken more care to preserve Pompeii's graffiti

Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ actual and unusual
- Ⓑ ancient and old
- Ⓒ posted and read
- Ⓓ comments and victories

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ in a TV program called *Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii*
- Ⓑ in a movie about the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history
- Ⓒ on a webpage explaining how people escaped from the city of Pompeii
- Ⓓ on a map showing the location of Mount Vesuvius

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

**Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also *preserved* it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The city seemed to be flash-frozen in time.**

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

- Ⓐ to cause something to end or stop
- Ⓑ to keep something in good condition
- Ⓒ to make or produce something
- Ⓓ to mark where something is located

### Question 7

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

- Ⓐ In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings. And it was on the inside and outside walls of private homes.
- Ⓑ So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions.
- Ⓒ Oddly enough, the volcano that buried Pompeii also preserved it. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash.
- Ⓓ All of this raises some big questions: How did these messages last so long? Better yet: Why is so much of Pompeii itself still around?

### Question 8

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

- Ⓐ What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city
- Ⓑ What kinds of messages were written on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii
- Ⓒ Why the ancient city of Pompeii has been so well preserved right up until modern times
- Ⓓ When the city of Pompeii was covered in ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Soldier in the Wild (660L)

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

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

**All soldiers are heroes.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

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

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

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was stationed on Guam as part of the Japanese occupation of the island. But the U.S. military arrived to free Guam in 1944. Fearing for his life, Yokoi retreated to the hills of the Talofofu River basin. Once there, he was cut off from the rest of the world.

In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito made an announcement: Japan was surrendering to the Allied Forces. The war was over. But Yokoi had no way of knowing this. Neither did about 130 other Japanese soldiers. So they all continued to hide. But Yokoi would outlive them all.

Amazingly, he remained in hiding for the next seven years. All the while, he thought that World War II was still raging. He believed American soldiers were still fighting the Japanese on Guam.

And that's only the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. Even so, he remained in hiding for another 20 years. That's two decades! He spent his days in a well-hidden cave that he'd made with dirt, bamboo, and reeds. At night, he searched for food.

A soldier by training, Yokoi stayed on the lookout until the very end. In January 1972, Yokoi was finally "captured" by two fishermen. Even though he was a weakened man of 57, he attacked the two younger men. They easily overpowered him and gently turned him in.

Throughout his time in hiding, Yokoi kept track of the days and months. He knew that 28 years had passed. So what made him stay in hiding for that long? All he ever had to do was surrender and go back to Japan. Why did he think that roughing it in the wild all those years was his only choice?

The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he said he felt ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.

Still, Yokoi received a hero's welcome in Tokyo. Millions of Japanese watched his return on television. Many of his generation were deeply moved by his fierce loyalty to time-honored Japanese values. They showered him with money, gifts, and praise.

Up until his death in 1997, Yokoi remembered Guam fondly. He revisited the island several times. After all, it had been his home for much of his adult life. Although his cave in Talofofo crumbled long ago, its site still appears on Guam tourist maps. And his clothing and possessions from his time on the island have been exhibited at the Guam Museum.

No doubt, history is overflowing with amazing acts of courage and selflessness during war. But one thing is for sure: Shoichi Yokoi's time on Guam is one for the record books.

*Video Credit: AP Archive*

### **Dictionary**

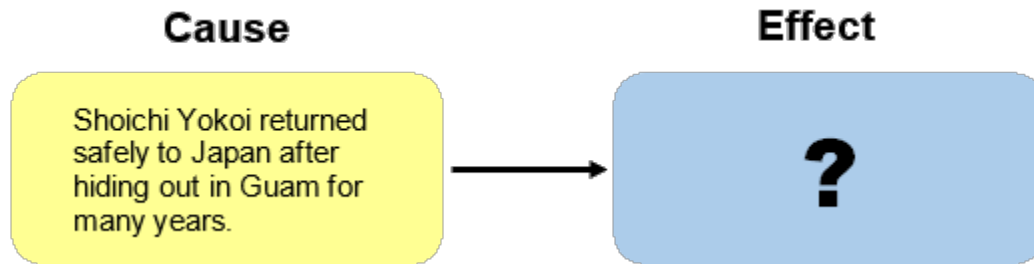
**loyalty** (*noun*) a loyal feeling : a feeling of strong support for someone or something

**occupation** (*noun*) a situation in which the military of a foreign government goes into an area or country and takes control of it

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

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

#### Question 1



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

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

- Ⓐ Yokoi returned all of the money and gifts that were given to him following his return.
- Ⓑ Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as millions watched his return on television.
- Ⓒ Yokoi never revisited Guam, even after an exhibit was made in his honor at the Guam Museum.
- Ⓓ Yokoi created a map of Guam that showed Japanese tourists where his cave was.

#### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi made a well-hidden cave from dirt, bamboo, and reeds on the island of Guam.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi didn't know in 1945 that Emperor Hirohito surrendered to the Allied Forces.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Japan in 1972.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam from 1944 until January 1972.

#### Question 3

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

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

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and turned him in.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi was stationed on Guam as a sergeant in the Japanese army.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi's countrymen honored him as a hero and gave him money and gifts.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi hid in the hills of the Talofofo River basin to avoid American soldiers.

#### Question 4

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

- Ⓐ encouragement
- Ⓑ cheerfulness
- Ⓒ faithfulness
- Ⓓ disappointment

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi tried to return to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi would have stayed in hiding even longer had he not been "captured."
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi brought spare uniforms with him when he went into hiding in Guam.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi made the choice to rejoin the Japanese Army after returning to Japan in 1972.

Question 6

The Article states:

**The Japanese have a word and an explanation for it—*ganbaru*. It means getting through hardship without giving in. During World War II, *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death. Surrendering to the enemy was a shameful act. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he said he felt ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.**

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out why soldiers who returned home after the war were given a hero's welcome
- Ⓑ To show that the Japanese believed *ganbaru* was a shameful act that all soldiers should avoid
- Ⓒ To suggest that Yokoi wasn't very happy with the fact that his country went to war
- Ⓓ To explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding even after finding out the war was over

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

**In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito made an announcement: Japan was *surrendering* to the Allied Forces. The war was over.**

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

- Ⓐ doing something that makes it easier to do a job or solve a problem
- Ⓑ agreeing to stop fighting because there's no chance for success
- Ⓒ discussing something carefully in order to make an agreement
- Ⓓ trying to hurt, injure, or destroy someone or something

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier
- Ⓑ Why Shoichi Yokoi decided to retreat to the hills of the Talofoto River basin in 1944
- Ⓒ How Shoichi Yokoi felt about going home to Japan after remaining hidden for so long
- Ⓓ Why Shoichi Yokoi chose to stay hidden even after finding out that the war was over

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

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

**All soldiers are heroes.**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (660L)

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

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

**"Anything is possible."**

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



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

**MONROE, Louisiana** (Achieve3000, April 12, 2019). Mason Andrews is studying aviation at Louisiana Tech University. But the U.S. teen has already made history.

In April 2019, Guinness World Records made it official: Mason is the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his single engine plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. It was the end of a globe-circling voyage that came with a hefty share of terrifying moments.

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

Mason earned his pilot's license at age 17. In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

"I realized that it was possible. But it would be difficult," he told Achieve3000.

Something else that would be difficult for Mason: convincing his mother and father to let him go. Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.

"I had to ask my dad three or four times before he was like, 'Alright, if we can find a way to come up with the money, we can do it,'" Mason said.



And raise money they did! With the help of sponsors, Mason started his journey in July 2018. They also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group runs free summer camps for kids with special needs.

Mason said goodbye to his parents at the Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days. But he didn't figure in Category 5 typhoons. The storms kept him grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks.

The trip ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.

The scariest moment of the entire journey? "I ended up in a really bad monsoon over the Bay of Bengal," Mason said. "There was no turning back because the weather had already built up behind me just as much as it was building up in front of me. So, I was just having to continue straight ahead across the ocean. I was [hundreds of] miles from the nearest piece of land, let alone an airport."

Luckily, Mason was able to get out of the situation. It was thanks, in part, to his experience.

And then came the sandstorm.

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours .... I couldn't see anything outside because of the sand. So, I was flying off my instruments alone."

Mason admits that he didn't keep his mother updated on all the frightening details. He waited until he was home safe before filling her in.

Since returning to Louisiana, Mason has been getting a lot of attention. His Guinness World Record for circumnavigating the globe solo made headlines. But the record itself isn't all that important to Mason.

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

Now, Mason has some advice for kids who aim high: "Anything is possible...I would say that if you have a goal...push and push and push!"

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

*Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko*

*Published on Oct 6, 2018*

*Edited for length*

## **Dictionary**

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

**circumnavigate** (*verb*) to go around something, often by plane or ship

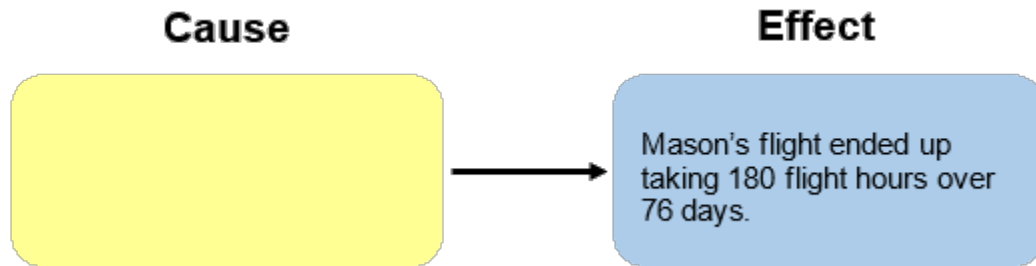
**monsoon** (*noun*) a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia

**sponsor** (*noun*) a person or group that gives money to support an event or a person

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

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

#### Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Mason's flight ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days."

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

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews took off on his journey from Monroe Regional Airport in July 2018.
- Ⓑ At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews is studying aviation at Louisiana Tech University.
- Ⓓ It was hard for Mason Andrews to convince his parents to let him fly solo around the world.

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Mason Andrews flew through a 12-hour sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews acted bravely throughout the many scary moments on his trip around the world.
- Ⓒ Mason Andrews has been getting attention since he was named a Guinness World Record holder.
- Ⓓ Mason Andrews was grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks because of typhoons.

#### Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ Solo and alone
- Ⓑ Convince and persuade
- Ⓒ Circumnavigate and circle
- Ⓓ Hefty and light

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Inform people about MedCamps of Louisiana, which runs summer camps for some kids
- Ⓑ Inform readers about a young man who worked hard to complete a difficult goal
- Ⓒ Advise kids that breaking a Guinness World Record is the only goal worth trying for
- Ⓓ Suggest that Mason Andrews should have been able to complete his journey in just 40 days

Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and setting new goals.
- Ⓑ Mason Andrews likely wants to study something other than aviation now that he's flown around the world.
- Ⓒ It was probably hard to convince Guinness World Records that Mason Andrews won a record.
- Ⓓ Most students at Louisiana Tech University have probably never heard of Mason Andrews or his Guinness World Record.

Question 7

The Article states:

**Mason was 18 years and 163 days old when he landed his single engine plane in Monroe, Louisiana, on October 6, 2018. It was the end of a globe-circling voyage that came with a hefty share of *terrifying* moments.**

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

- Ⓐ Boring
- Ⓑ Frightening
- Ⓒ Amusing
- Ⓓ Delightful

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to fly solo around the world?

- Ⓐ Mason said goodbye to his parents at the Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- Ⓑ In November 2017, he decided he wanted to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?
- Ⓒ Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.
- Ⓓ Luckily, Mason was able to get out of the situation. It was thanks, in part, to his experience.

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

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

**"Anything is possible."**

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# The Truth about Dogs (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

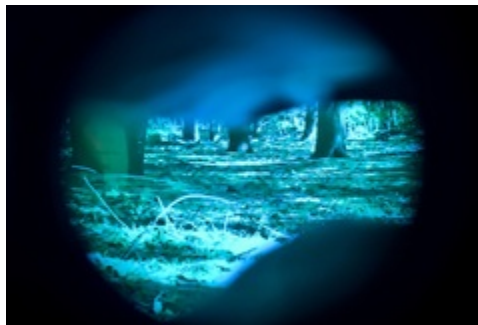


Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

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

**LOS ANGELES, California** (Achieve3000, May 5, 2019). Dogs. They're our four-legged BFFs. They can melt our hearts with a loving look, a sweet snuggle, or a silly greeting at the door. But did humans domesticate dogs? And why do these two species get along so well?

The California Science Center has spent five years sniffing out answers to these and hundreds of other canine questions. What the center came up with is in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail." It opened on March 9, 2019.

"[The exhibition] is...about how dogs and humans are both social animals. About how dogs and humans have [changed] over thousands of years," said Jeffrey Rudolph. Rudolph is the center's president. He's also a dog lover.

"Dogs! A Science Tail" includes exhibits, games, artwork, and more. It will travel to museums across the U.S. in 2020. Here's a peek at what the exhibition teaches humans about dogs:

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

Ever wonder what dogs are really sniffing for at fire hydrants? The exhibition includes a fire hydrant. With the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," Rudolph said, laughing.

But not dogs. By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going," Rudolph said. It's one of the ways dogs can tell how safe the surroundings are. It's also how they mark time without watches.

### 2. They're doggone smart.

Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually quite intelligent.

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

Dogs can tell what a person has just eaten by licking the person's hand. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.

"In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.

The exhibition also has stations that allow people to see the way dogs do. (Dogs' color vision is limited. But they pick up motion better than we do.)

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

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

Thanks to dogs' senses, a rescue dog can sniff out a person buried in snow in a minute's time! It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.

But those are the highly trained working dogs. Some are shown in the center's Imax Theatre in the movie *Superpower Dogs*. Viewers can watch dogs save people from drowning. Other dogs rescue people trapped in buildings. Some heroic dogs in the film even track down hunters going after elephants and rhinos.

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

Dogs give us many reasons to love them. But do they love us back? Or are they just trying to get another treat when they look at us with those big puppy-dog eyes?

"If you look a dog in the eye, a dog will look back at you and you will produce oxytocin," explained Diane Perlov. She's senior vice president for exhibits at the California Science Center. Oxytocin is sometimes called the "love hormone."

"And," Perlov adds, "the dog will produce oxytocin...from looking back at you. It's a mutual affection."

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

The dog-human thing really is a love affair. But when and how did it start?

Scientists can't quite figure that out. They know dogs are related to wolves. And they know that wolves and people crossed paths more than 10,000 years ago, says Perlov. But did the wolves or the people make the first move?

Whoever did, they created a lasting bond: best friends fur-ever.

*Information for this story came from AP.*

## **Dictionary**

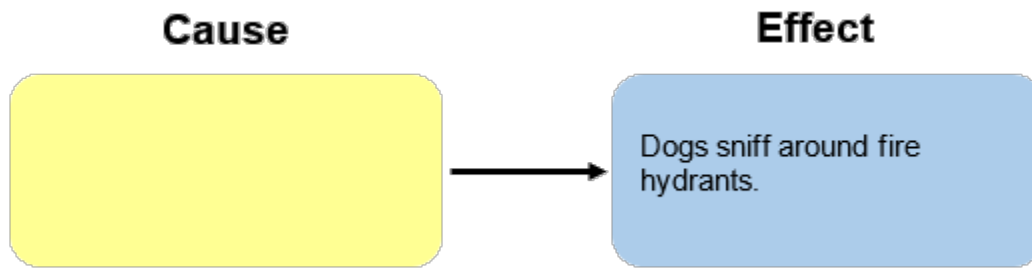
**canine** (*adjective*) relating to or resembling a dog

**domesticate** (*verb*) to get an animal used to living around people

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

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

#### Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," there is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Dogs sniff around fire hydrants."

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

#### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ An exhibition at the California Science Center called "Dogs! A Science Tail" answers questions about canine behavior.
- Ⓑ The canine exhibition at the California Science Center includes a replica of a fire hydrant.
- Ⓒ Visitors to the California Science Center will learn that dogs produce the "love hormone" called oxytocin.
- Ⓓ Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a movie about canine heroes.

#### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ The cutest dogs are the ones that give us a silly greeting at the door.
- Ⓑ One station at the canine exhibition teaches visitors about what dogs learn when they sniff.
- Ⓒ It's still unclear how the bond between the dogs and humans began.
- Ⓓ The movie *Superpower Dogs* shows dogs rescuing people from dangerous situations.

#### Question 4

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

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

- Ⓐ Domesticate and desert
- Ⓑ Surroundings and area
- Ⓒ Safe and dangerous
- Ⓓ Intelligent and goofy

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Only highly trained dogs can tell which direction another dog was going by smelling its urine.
- Ⓑ The bond between a dog and a person gets stronger with time.
- Ⓒ Since their color vision is limited, dogs do not largely depend on their sense of sight.
- Ⓓ As dogs become more domesticated, they will not need to sniff fire hydrants.

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Explain how dogs are trained to sniff out bombs and rescue people from dangerous situations
- Ⓑ Present some of what the California Science Center is displaying in its canine exhibition
- Ⓒ Describe when and how the first dogs and humans bonded many years ago
- Ⓓ Discuss how dogs and people use their senses in similar ways

Question 7

The Article states:

**Dogs may seem goofy. But they're actually quite intelligent. "They have an amazing *ability* to learn information," Rudolph said. And it goes beyond their sense of smell. Dogs can tell what a person has just eaten by licking the person's hand. And they can hear very soft sounds that we can't.**

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

- Ⓐ Excitement
- Ⓑ Excuse
- Ⓒ Spirit
- Ⓓ Skill

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Dogs give us many reasons to love them. But do they love us back? Or are they just trying to get another treat when they look at us with those big puppy-dog eyes?
- Ⓑ "In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.
- Ⓒ It can also sniff out bombs people would never find.
- Ⓓ By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going," Rudolph said.



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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Welcome to Batuu (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

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

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

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

And not even the tiniest thing was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details! That's partly why the setting isn't from any of the movies. Star Wars fans know they aren't part of those stories. So instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu. It's a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and space explorers. A whole new story unfolds under its three suns. And you've gotta choose your alliances.

But Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* newbies on the same page. Everyone can be part of the story—even if they don't speak Wookiee!

To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape that has a history you can see: It seems weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

With the scene set, Disney took it up another notch. Once you're in Batuu, you're *in* Batuu. The food, the goods, the workers—it's all part of the story. So guests feel like they're really exploring an alien planet.

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members. These are the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth!

The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message. They can also work as a double agent!

And, of course, there are the rides. One is the Millennium Falcon, a full-size model of the famous Star Wars spaceship, aka "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy."

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

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

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

## **Dictionary**

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

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

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

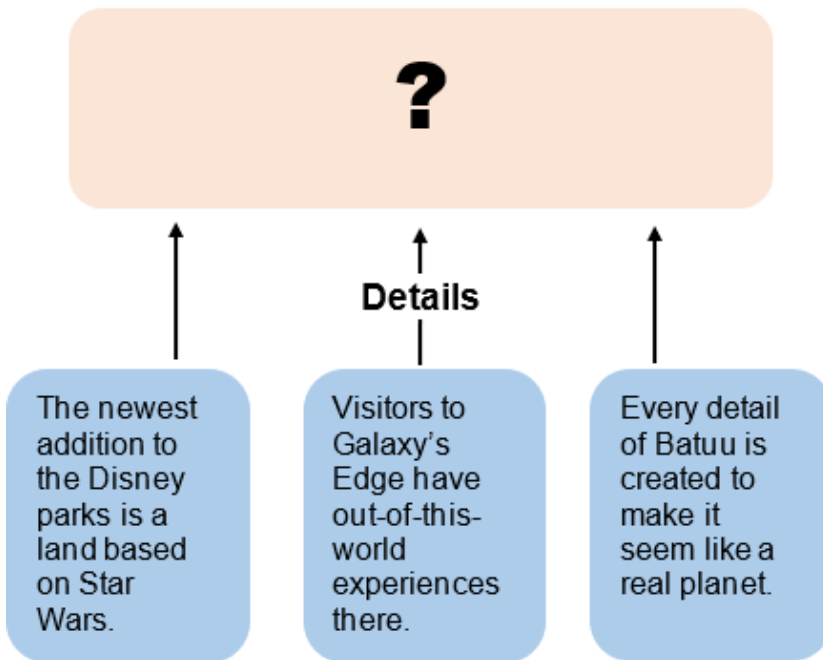
**landscape** (*noun*) an area of land that has a particular quality or appearance

**smuggle** (*verb*) to move (someone or something) from one country into another illegally and secretly

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

#### Question 1

#### Main Idea of the Article



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

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "The newest addition to the Disney parks is a land based on Star Wars." The box in the middle says "Visitor's to Galaxy's Edge have out-of-this-world experiences there." The box on the right says "Every details of Batuu is created to make it seem like a real planet."

- Ⓐ Disney based the design of Galaxy's Edge on real places like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona to make it look weathered by age.
- Ⓑ The Galactic Starcruiser is a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space that even offers lightsaber training.
- Ⓒ One of the rides in Galaxy's Edge is a Star Wars spaceship that is a full-size model of The Millennium Falcon, which is known as "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy."
- Ⓓ In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land where the design, workers, food, and goods make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

#### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history.
- Ⓑ It took five years to get Galaxy's Edge ready to open for visitors in California and Florida.
- Ⓒ The workers in Galaxy's Edge get to choose how they will look while doing their jobs.
- Ⓓ For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

Question 3

The Article states:

**The food, the goods, the workers—it's all part of the story. So guests feel like they're really exploring an alien planet. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members. These are the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories.**

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

- Ⓐ describe that it can be hard to understand the story that is being played out on Batuu
- Ⓑ inform that there are only a few kinds of goods for visitors to buy in the markets of Batuu
- Ⓒ explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself
- Ⓓ show that many visitors to Galaxy's edge are surprised to see characters they know there

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ steer
- Ⓑ stray
- Ⓒ steal
- Ⓓ share

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ Disney is moving away from having themed rides so that it can offer more role-play experiences at all of its parks in California and Florida
- Ⓑ the next Star Wars movie will include traders, smugglers, and explorers from the planet of Batuu in its story
- Ⓒ the number of visitors to the choose-your-own adventure cruise Galactic Starcruiser has been greater than the attendance at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓓ Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge to make the time spent developing the lands worthwhile

Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ reading about trees in a science textbook
- Ⓑ reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks
- Ⓒ finding Arizona on a map
- Ⓓ watching a Star Wars movie

### Question 7

The Article states:

**They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was *inspired* by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.**

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

- (A) forced
- (B) managed
- (C) promised
- (D) sparked

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

- (A) To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape that has a history you can see: It seems weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.
- (B) So instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu. It's a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and space explorers. A whole new story unfolds under its three suns. And you've gotta choose your alliances. But Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars fans in mind. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* newbies on the same page. Everyone can be part of the story—even if they don't speak Wookiee!
- (C) And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth! The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message.
- (D) In 2019, Star Wars' fans' dreams came true: Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. It took five years to create the twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme addition in Disney history. And not even the tiniest thing was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details!

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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

# Women Adventurers (660L)

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

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

## Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Left to right: Cristoforo Dall'Acqua, Wellcome Collection, Library of Congress  
*Left to right: Jeanne Baret, the first woman to sail around the globe. Lady Hester Stanhope, who led an archaeological dig in the Middle East. And Nellie Bly, who traveled around the world in just 72 days.*

**RED BANK, New Jersey** (Achieve3000, January 31, 2020). Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families. That, however, didn't stop some women from taking off and blazing trails.

Take Jeanne Baret (1740-1807). She was a French scientist who studied plants. And she was the first woman to sail around the globe. In December 1766, several French scientists were invited to join a voyage. They were all men. Baret wasn't allowed to go because of a royal rule that said women couldn't travel on French navy ships. So, Baret disguised herself as a man and sailed away!

During the journey, Baret helped collect over 6,000 types of plants. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil. She brought its seeds back to Europe.

England's Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839) also lived life her way. She acted in ways that women rarely if ever did. She traveled throughout the Middle East by herself, for example. During her lifetime, Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) was one of the nation's leading journalists, male or female, of her time. And at the time, almost all journalists were male. In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series. It made her famous. And it led the way for other female reporters.

Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. She had read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, a man accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly wanted to beat this fictional record. And she did! She finished the trip in just 72 days and set a world record.

Three women, three lives packed with adventure. And each of them lived life exactly the way they wanted to live it, not the way they were expected to.

### Dictionary

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

**challenge** (*verb*) to test the ability, skill, or strength of (someone or something): to be difficult enough to be interesting to (someone)

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

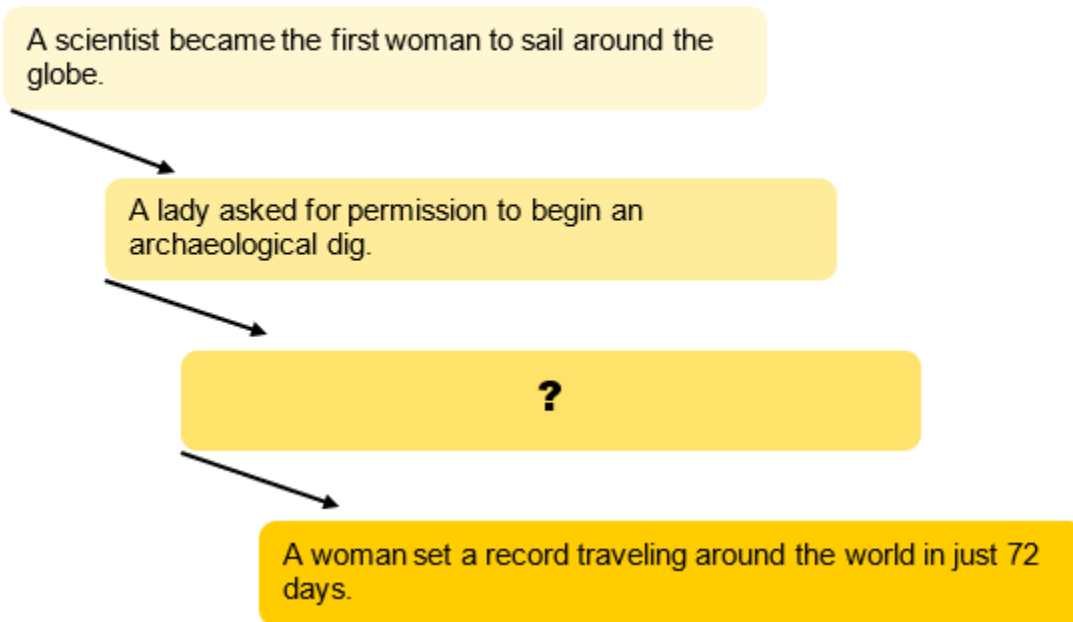
**journalism** (*noun*) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

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

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

Question 1

#### What Happened Next?



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

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

- Ⓐ A scientist brought bougainvillea seeds back to Europe from Brazil.
- Ⓑ A woman disguised herself as a man to join a trip around the world.
- Ⓒ A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.
- Ⓓ A female biker was asked to cycle across the continent by herself.



### Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Several French scientists who study plants were invited to take part in a voyage on a navy ship in December 1766.
- Ⓑ Nowadays adventurous women sail alone around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space.
- Ⓒ Nellie Bly's brave six-part series about life inside a mental hospital led the way for other female reporters.
- Ⓓ Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.

### Question 3

The Article states:

**During her lifetime, Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.**

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

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

### Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, convinced Nellie Bly to take her own journey around the world.
- Ⓑ It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the voyage because she was certain to be discovered.
- Ⓒ Jeanne Baret was a French scientist who studied plants and helped collect over 6,000 types of plants.
- Ⓓ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East and arranged an archaeological dig in Ashkelon.

### Question 5

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

- Ⓐ expert
- Ⓑ landlord
- Ⓒ gentleman
- Ⓓ reporter

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

- (A) Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.
- (B) In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series.
- (C) Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. She had read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, a man accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly wanted to beat this fictional record.
- (D) Stanhope did something only men had done up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there.

### Question 7

The Article states:

**The Turkish government gave her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. *Astonishing* treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a convincing woman.**

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

- (A) common
- (B) expensive
- (C) amazing
- (D) ordinary

### Question 8

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

- (A) How long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record
- (B) Why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- (C) How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe
- (D) Where Nellie Bly wrote a six-part article

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

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

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



# Achieve3000 Literacy™ At Home

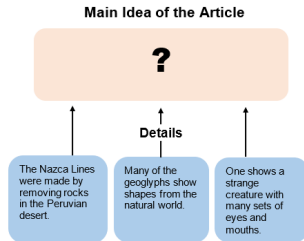
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## ANSWER KEY

# Ancient Lines in the Sand

## Answer key

### Question 1



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

**C** The Nazca Lines that are drawn in the sands of Peru show plants, animals, and more.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

**C** Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made.

### Question 3

The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

**D** To explain how the Nazca people created the geoglyphs by making lines on the desert floor

### Question 4

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

**B** enormous and tiny

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

**A** some of the Nazca Lines are so faded that they are now very hard to see

### Question 6

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

**C** A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was discovered.

### Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

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

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

**C** modern machines or pieces of equipment

### Question 8

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

**D** Research suggests that the geoglyphs were part of rituals for rain and crops. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been like signposts directing travelers to those places.

# Animated Favorites Get Real

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites take their kids to see the live-action remakes.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Moviemakers have been making popular live-action remakes of older animated films.

### Question 3

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

B Why so many adults enjoyed watching the original animated Pokémon cartoons

### Question 4

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

C formula and method

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

A Fans often like to watch movies with characters they are already familiar with

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

B To point out why moviemakers have remade popular animated movies of the past

### Question 7

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

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

### Question 8

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

A the act of changing something in order to improve it

# Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

D The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to much of the world.

### Question 2

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

C Clever

### Question 3

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

D A drink and snack made of tea, creamer, ice, and tapioca was invented in Taiwan.

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

D Mango is a much tastier flavor than either matcha or chocolate pudding.

### Question 5

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

D Reading a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

### Question 6

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

B Choices

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is a big part of life in the United States?

B In fact, for many people, the fun, laid-back environment is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. This is true in Southern California, for example. There, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

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

# Cooking Up Native Traditions

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back healthy Native American cooking traditions.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

A The government meant to do the right thing when it gave free food to Native Americans.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

A To show that traditional Native American foods are healthy because they aren't high in sodium, fat, and sugar

### Question 4

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

A method

### Question 5

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

C More people will become familiar with the Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef.

### Question 6

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

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

### Question 7

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

B to bring something to a place for the first time

### Question 8

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

B Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with the oldest members of the community. He spoke with Native American chefs. And he chatted with people who knew Native American history. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food.

# Defying Gravity

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B With strength and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became a great gymnast.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

B Simone Biles' super strength has been the true key to her success in gymnastics.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

C To show that a big setback only made Simone Biles try harder to achieve success

### Question 4

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

D method

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with heartbreaking setbacks

### Question 6

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

C What are the names of the two special moves that Biles performed at the world championships

### Question 7

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

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

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Simone Biles faced difficulties as she made her way to victory?

D But Biles' path to success didn't come without setbacks. In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In a book about her life, Biles describes the defeat as heartbreaking.



# The Early-Late Debate

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

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

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

B Some schools around the U.S. are moving to later start times, and people are talking about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

### Question 4

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

A examination

### Question 5

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

C what times elementary school children get their best sleep

### Question 6

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

C explain how important sleep is for adolescents

### Question 7

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *tough*, as it is used above?

B difficult

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that it's too soon to tell whether a later school start time will be better for students?

B Studies suggest students sleep more when schools start later. But more research is needed. And schools that start later finish later. That leaves students with less time for other stuff. Like what? Sports, jobs, chores, and homework. And let's not forget fun!

# Give Me S'more!

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

C Marshmallows are cheaper and easier to make today.

### Question 2

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

A To make a s'more, roast a marshmallow and place it and chocolate between graham crackers.

### Question 3

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

C Ancient and modern

### Question 4

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

B Graham crackers were created in the late 1800s using whole wheat flour.

### Question 5

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

D Show how popular s'mores are and suggest different ways to make them

### Question 6

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

A Prepare

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not first used in desserts?

C Ancient chocolate was very different. It was made from cacao seeds, like it is now. But sweetener wasn't added. The chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.

### Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that almost anyone can make.

# Global Game Fame

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

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

### Question 2

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

C Suggest

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

A The fast action video game *Super Mario Kart* is more fun to play than *Microsoft Solitaire*.

### Question 4

Think about the Article. In what way are *Microsoft Solitaire* and *Super Mario Kart* different?

A Only *Microsoft Solitaire* taught players a computer skill.

### Question 5

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

A Contains

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

C To describe how games are chosen for the World Video Game Hall of Fame

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that winning games should have had a big effect on the gaming industry?

C Take *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example. The game has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. It was *both* popular and influential. Believe it or not, it also taught computer users how to use a mouse.

### Question 8

A Next year's hall of fame winners may not be the most popular games around at the time.

# Good, Bad, or Ugly?

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

A These companies sell the fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.

### Question 2

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

A Ugly produce companies say their mission is to stop billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.

### Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

A Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.

### Question 4

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

B Markdown

### Question 5

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

A Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce companies, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that ugly produce companies are only thinking about making money for themselves?

A Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. These companies, such as Imperfect Produce, can offer more fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. They make it harder for smaller farms to compete. So the farmers are losing money.

### Question 7

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

AGrown

### Question 8

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

A As more customers buy from ugly produce companies, some supermarkets may start selling ugly produce in their stores.

# Katherine the Great

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

A Katherine Johnson was a numbers whiz with a degree in math.

### Question 2

What is the main idea of this Article?

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

### Question 3

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

D Katherine Johnson's autobiography called *Reaching for the Moon* came out.

### Question 4

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

D Famous and unknown

### Question 5

Suppose Kyla wants to find out about space missions. She would find **most** of the information \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### Question 6

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Katherine Johnson's work at NASA was more important than most astronauts likely knew at the time?

A Her math also led to scientists learning how to create satellite TV, predict the weather, and build small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

### Question 8

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

D Wrong

# The Last Generation?

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B Pacific Island countries realize they are facing the effects of climate change together.

### Question 2

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

B the effect of climate change on the Pacific Islands, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership

### Question 3

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

A pledged and promised

### Question 4

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

C Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some Pacific Island countries

### Question 5

Why did the author include this passage?

A To explain why some Pacific Island countries made a plan for lowering ships' carbon emissions

### Question 6

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

A not connected or combined

### Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

A countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems around the entire world

### Question 8

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

D What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? Believe it or not, that's a real possibility for people living in the Pacific Islands. Why? Climate change. Climate change is causing sea levels to rise. And it's threatening the very future of the Pacific Islands. Young people on the islands are even starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?

# A Musical Pioneer

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B Pitse founded an all-black orchestra and youth choir that performs music by African composers.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Ofentse Pitse probably became a conductor because her grandfather was a jazz band conductor.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

B To show how Ofentse Pitse is changing people's ideas of what classical music is today

### Question 4

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

B conductor and leader

### Question 5

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

C singers in Ofentse Pitse's choir may not have been able to become performers without her help

### Question 6

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

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

### Question 7

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

C a person who writes music

### Question 8

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

C What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Perhaps pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.

# Otzi the Iceman

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

A After being preserved for more than 5,000 years covered in ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about life long ago based on the food and tools he carried.

### Question 2

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

B explain how important it was that Ötzi the Iceman's body was discovered in such excellent condition

### Question 3

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

B ancient and current

### Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

D Ötzi is the most interesting find in history because of the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery.

### Question 5

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

A Chances are, Ötzi had battled with other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't do too well. His wounds probably made it hard to fight back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows he was carrying.

### Question 6

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

B belongings

### Question 7

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

C watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period

### Question 8

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

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



# Sniffing Out Extinction

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

D Dogs use their noses to find endangered species so that scientists can help them to live on.

### Question 2

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

C The conservationists have had difficulty finding Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily seen or heard.

### Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

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

A To explain why it can be so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat

### Question 4

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

C canines and dogs

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Rubble and Uda smelled Baw Baw frog scat before tracking the frogs in the wild

### Question 6

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

C Which breed of dog has proven to be the best at sniffing out missing persons

### Question 7

D to set someone or something free

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that dogs will be needed to find animals that were raised in captivity?

B In stage two, the frogs and tadpoles are released into the wild. Then, Rubble and Uda will seek out the Baw Baw frog community once again. That way, conservationists can find out if the zoo-bred frogs are still alive.

# Social Media, Pompeii Style

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

A A volcanic coating protected messages that had been written on the walls of Pompeii.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D It's interesting to study the ancient words written on the walls of the city of Pompeii.

### Question 3

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

A describe the reason that the ancient city of Pompeii seems to be frozen in time

### Question 4

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

B ancient and old

### Question 5

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

A in a TV program called *Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii*

### Question 6

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

B to keep something in good condition

### Question 7

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

B So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media. They were mostly opinions, words of love, reviews of goods, ads, and helpful suggestions.

### Question 8

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

A What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city

# Soldier in the Wild

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

B Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as millions watched his return on television.

### Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Shoichi Yokoi remained hidden in the jungles of Guam from 1944 until January 1972.

### Question 3

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

A Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and turned him in.

### Question 4

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

C faithfulness

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

B Shoichi Yokoi would have stayed in hiding even longer had he not been "captured."

### Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To explain the reason why Yokoi stayed in hiding even after finding out the war was over

### Question 7

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

B agreeing to stop fighting because there's no chance for success

### Question 8

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

A How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier

# Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

C Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.

### Question 2

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

B At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Mason Andrews acted bravely throughout the many scary moments on his trip around the world.

### Question 4

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

D Hefty and light

### Question 5

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

B Inform readers about a young man who worked hard to complete a difficult goal

### Question 6

Based on the Article, the reader can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

A It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and setting new goals.

### Question 7

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

B Frightening

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mason Andrews' parents had to be convinced to allow Mason to fly solo around the world?

C Mason presented them with a well-thought-out plan. But they didn't agree right away.

# The Truth about Dogs

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

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

### Question 2

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

A An exhibition at the California Science Center called "Dogs! A Science Tail" answers questions about canine behavior.

### Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

### Question 4

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

B Surroundings and area

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### Question 6

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

B Present some of what the California Science Center is displaying in its canine exhibition

### Question 7

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

D Skill

### Question 8

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

B "In a bedroom, they can hear a [bug] scratching on the wall," Rudolph said.

# Welcome to Batuu

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

D In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land where the design, workers, food, and goods make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

### Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

### Question 3

C explain that the story played out in Galaxy's Edge is as important as the land itself

### Question 4

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

C steal

### Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that \_\_\_\_\_.

D Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge to make the time spent developing the lands worthwhile

### Question 6

Suppose Anna Maria wants to learn more about Petrified Forest National Park. She would find the **most** information by \_\_\_\_\_.

B reading a visitor's guide for Arizona parks

### Question 7

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

D sparked

### Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Galaxy's Edge?

C And, in a Disney first, cast members put together their own look and develop their own back stories. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig. They're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth! The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper. Or a spy might ask them to deliver a message.

# Women Adventurers

## Answer key

### Question 1

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

C A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.

### Question 2

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

D Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.

### Question 3

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

B show that Lady Stanhope was a woman who did not take "no" for an answer

### Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B It wasn't a good idea for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the voyage because she was certain to be discovered.

### Question 5

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

D reporter

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

A Nowadays, women sail alone around the world. They bicycle across continents. They travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.

### Question 7

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

C amazing

### Question 8

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

C How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe