



Achieve3000 **Literacy**TM
At Home

Lexile 780

2ND A • 3RD B • 4TH B • 5TH 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 (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Some things should remain a secret.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

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

NAZCA, Peru (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). The greatest wonders of the ancient world are generally hard to miss. It's impossible to walk past the pyramids in Egypt or Stonehenge in Great Britain, for example, without noticing them. They're right in your face, commanding your attention. But then there are the Nazca Lines in southern Peru.

These ancient drawings don't rise before you on enormous slabs of stone. They're geoglyphs ("ground drawings") 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). Indeed, the best way to see the geoglyphs is from the window of an airplane. That's how thousands of tourists view them each year.

Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist happened upon some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later—it took 21st-century technology such as drones to find them.

And that's part of the wonderment of the Nazca Lines: Why did people who lived long before air travel create drawings that are best viewed from above? You might also ask why the geoglyphs were crafted in the first place. Researchers certainly have been trying to answer these questions for about a century.

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 create the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish

surface rocks that covered the ground and showing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath. Some scientists believe that the geoglyph designers first created scaled-down models to guide them.

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 threat to these ancient masterpieces is posed by human activity like mining and unlawful agriculture.

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, uncovered in 2019, 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? The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs played a part in rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.

Then again, these are all guesses. Only one thing remains clear: The Nazca people 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

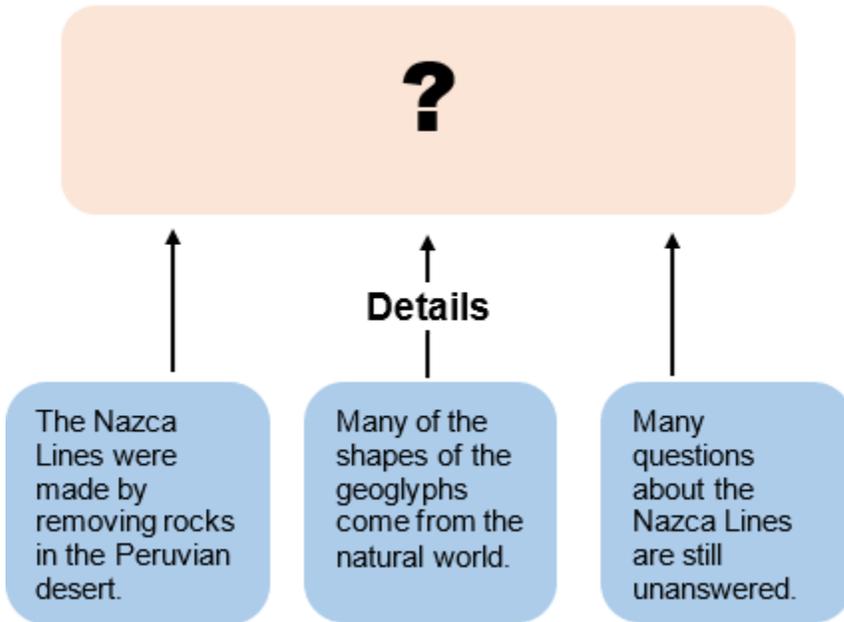
research (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- (A) Some of the Nazca Lines show things that aren't seen in nature, such as a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths found in 2019.
- (B) A Peruvian archaeologist noticed the Nazca Lines in 1927, but nearly 150 of the geoglyphs escaped discovery until the 21st-century.
- (C) The most recent research into the meaning of the Nazca Lines suggests that the geoglyphs played a part in rituals for rain and crop fertility.
- (D) The true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and show plants, animals, and a strange creature, remains unknown.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) Sometime between 500 BCE and 500 CE, the Nazca Lines were made by people who removed dark red surface rocks to show lighter-colored sand below.
- (B) Some geoglyphs, which cover an area of 190 square miles (492 square kilometers), are recognizable from the window of an airplane.
- (C) The fact that the mysterious geoglyphs can still be seen today is mainly due to the small amount of rain and wind in southern Peru.
- (D) Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made because it's impossible to know after so much time.

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 create the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that covered the ground and showing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath. Some scientists believe that the geoglyph designers first created scaled-down models to guide them.

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To describe the most recent evidence that explains what the geoglyphs were used for
- (B) To point out the fact that the Nazca Lines changed a great deal between 500 BCE and 500 CE
- (C) To say that it is easier to figure out what the lines show from high in the air than on the ground
- (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 **synonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) posed and transported
- (B) threat and danger
- (C) wonderment and attention
- (D) crafted and viewed

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

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

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

- (A) A geoglyph of a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths was discovered.
- (B) The Nazca people created drawings in the desert sand by taking away the top layer of rocks.
- (C) A Peruvian archaeologist discovered groups of lines drawn on the desert floor.
- (D) Researchers began to ask why people created the mysterious geoglyphs in the first place.

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

And then there are the geoglyphs that aren't from nature. One example, uncovered in 2019, 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.

In this passage, the word *suggest* means _____.

- Ⓐ to refuse to accept or admit something
- Ⓑ to end discussion on a topic
- Ⓒ to make something better
- Ⓓ to show that something is likely true

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years. A Peruvian archaeologist happened upon some in 1927. But nearly 150 geoglyphs weren't discovered until many years later—it took 21st-century technology such as drones to find them.
- Ⓑ 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, uncovered in 2019, shows a strange creature with many sets of eyes and mouths.
- Ⓒ The area's pre-Incan Nazca people created the geoglyphs. This was between 500 BCE and 500 CE. How did they create the ground drawings? By removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that covered the ground and showing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath.
- Ⓓ The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs played a part in rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial 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 remain a secret.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Animated Favorites Get Real (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Moviemakers have started releasing live-action remakes of animated films. *The Jungle Book* and *Beauty and the Beast* are two examples. What do you think?

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tinseltown/Shutterstock

Many families flock to theaters to watch live-action remakes of animated movies such as "Aladdin," starring Will Smith.

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

So what's the big draw to 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 off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have stumbled upon a winning formula. It starts with stories audiences love. Add characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers. Mix in modern technology's jaw-dropping special effects. And ka-ching! It all equals box office gold. The Disney live-action remakes of *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland* packed in moviegoers. Each film brought in more than a billion bucks worldwide.

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 people who

grew up watching Pokémon cartoons 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. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes. So more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero. African American actor Will Smith is the movie's wisecracking Genie. And, as just about everybody and their pet crab knows: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity to crank up the girl power. *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. Like the original film, the live-action *Mulan* tells the story of a young woman who takes her father's place in the Chinese Imperial Army. But the remake aims to be more respectful when it comes to culture.

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include 2019 blockbuster *The Lion King*, right? Well...it's not that simple. The footage 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. And 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

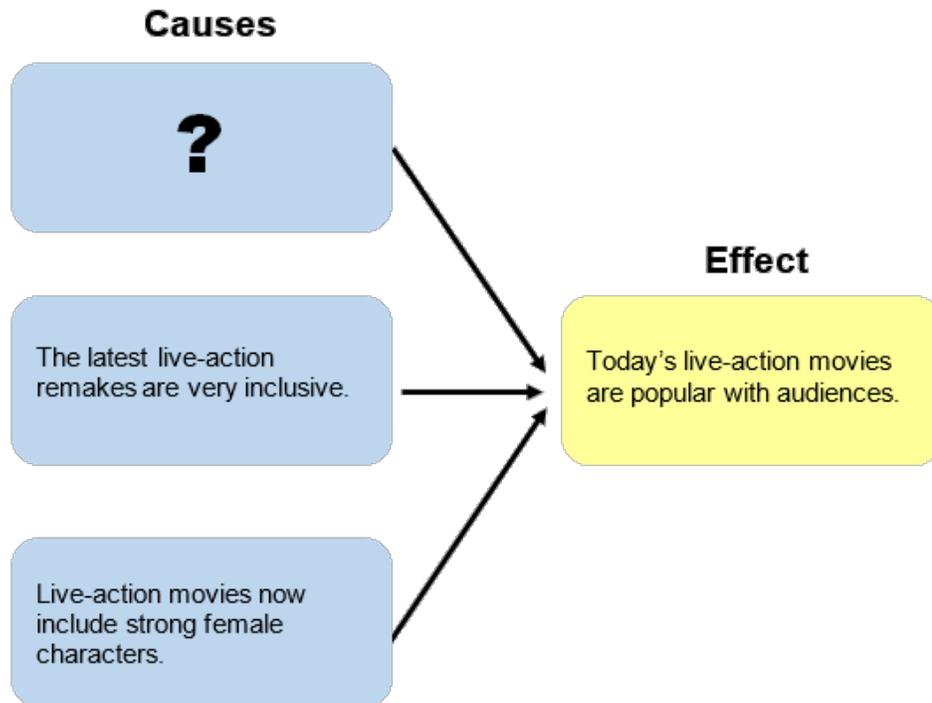
diversity (*noun*) the state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

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 audiences."

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

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- (A) Will Smith is a popular African American actor who played the role of a wisecracking genie in a recent live-action movie.
- (B) The remake of the movie *The Lion King* cannot be considered live action because the footage was created by artists with computers.
- (C) Studios have been making live-action remakes of older animated movies but with greater diversity and stronger female characters.
- (D) *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin* were popular because they made adult viewers remember watching the animated movies as children.

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ Parents who enjoyed animated films as kids are introducing a new generation to characters of the past by bringing their own children to the live-action remakes.
- Ⓑ One of the reasons for the popularity of the recent live-action films is that they are more inclusive than ever before.
- Ⓒ Jasmine, in the hit Disney film *Aladdin*, is representative of the stronger female characters in the new live-action remakes.
- Ⓓ Updated animated versions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Aladdin* have come out at theaters since 2010.

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ offer and consider
- Ⓑ stumble and benefit
- Ⓒ sidekick and partner
- Ⓓ original and brilliant

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ the scenes in *The Lion King* are actually an entertaining mix of computer animation and live-action footage
- Ⓑ the animated movie *Aladdin* was not popular among viewers because it did not show Jasmine as a strong young woman
- Ⓒ Disney's original animated film *Mulan* did not always show Chinese culture in a good way
- Ⓓ more people saw the remade movie *Aladdin* than saw either *Beauty and the Beast* or *Alice in Wonderland*

Question 6

The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show ways in which today's remakes of older animated films are different from the original movies
- Ⓑ To suggest that studios do not want to spend as much money on the remakes of animated movies as they did on the originals
- Ⓒ To explain why original animated Hollywood favorites remain popular to this day
- Ⓓ To point out the main reason why studios have chosen to produce remakes of some 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?

- Ⓐ Here's another reason moviemakers are giving golden oldies a modern makeover: It's a chance to make the films more inclusive. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes. So more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero. African American actor Will Smith is the movie's wisecracking Genie.
- Ⓑ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, movie studios have been bringing new life to old animated favorites. They've changed them—bibbidi-bobbidi-*booyah!*—into live-action hits. *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Dumbo* are just some of the live-action remakes released since 2010.
- Ⓒ 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 people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons 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 the big draw to 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 off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, moviemakers have stumbled upon a winning formula.

Question 8

Look at this passage from the Article:

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity 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.

In this passage, the word *opportunity* means _____.

- Ⓐ a way of looking or thinking about something
- Ⓑ the chance to do or complete something
- Ⓒ a group of related parts that work together
- Ⓓ the act of trying but failing to achieve something

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, do the following:

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

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

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

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

STEP 3: Rethink your summary.

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

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Newer is better.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: jarenwicklund/iStock/Getty Images

A bubble tea shop is a sweet spot to hang out, as well as a good place to get a sweet treat.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (Achieve3000, May 7, 2019). Bubble tea is a sweet drink is trendier than avocado toast. And it's cooler than a cucumber-kale smoothie. Originally from Taiwan, it's winning fans around the world.

To enjoy this treat, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise! A bubble tea is made with tea, 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 a starchy food made from cassava, the root of a tropical plant. Some people claim the balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others insist that the "bubbles" in the name has to do with the foam on top of the drink. This forms when the drink is shaken.

Tapioca is also used to make desserts. And that probably explains how bubble tea was invented. In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan. Milk tea is a drink made of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer. Near the end of that decade, some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea.

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 there were a lot of people from Taiwan, like Southern California. Now, they're on the rise elsewhere in the U.S. and in lots of other countries. If there isn't a bubble tea shop near you now, look for one to pop up soon!

Thinking of trying a bubble tea? Get ready to face a lot of tough-but-tasty decisions. Part of what people like so much about these drinks is that they can customize them to their own tastes. Some shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles. Customers can choose the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong. They can also choose the amount of ice and the exact level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options. Would you like a traditional favorite, like mango, honeydew, or chocolate pudding? Or are you up for something more unusual, like matcha or cookie dough? Even when you've settled these questions, there's another important decision to chew on: toppings! You could go for black tapioca pearls, of course. But there are plenty of other options on the table, too. You might ask your bubble tea barista to throw in almond jelly, pudding, chia seeds, or red beans. (The "toppings" usually sink to the bottom of the drink.)

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 enjoy your drink. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives. Chatchawat Rienkhemaniyom is the former owner of one bubble tea shop in California. As he put it, "[Bubble tea] has become life."

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

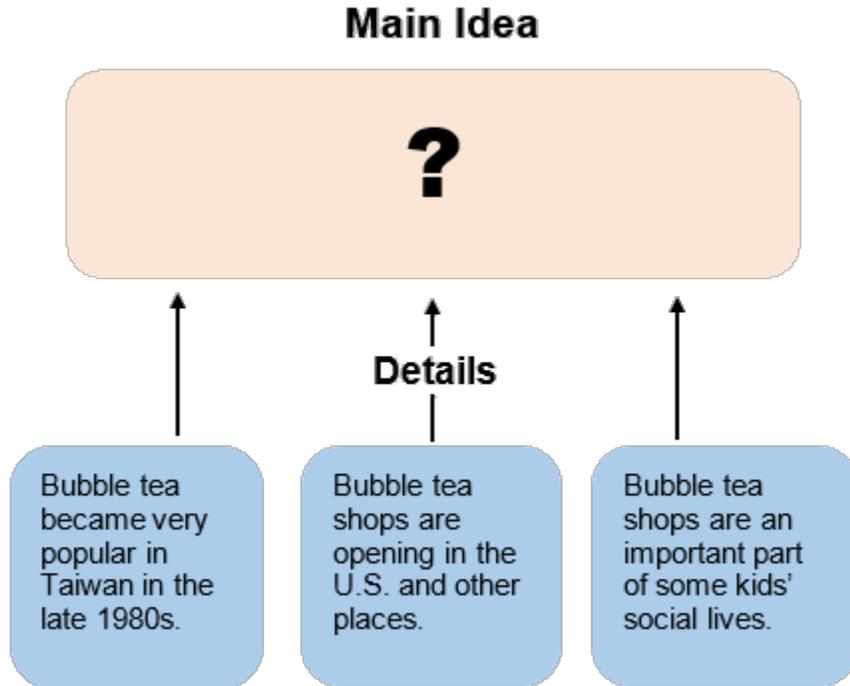
customize (*verb*) to make according to a person's wishes

former (*adjective*) having once been

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

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

- Ⓐ Lovers of bubble tea can order toppings like almond jelly, pudding, chia seeds, and red beans.
- Ⓑ People like the fact that some bubble tea shops offer over a hundred flavors and styles.
- Ⓒ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could be black tapioca pearls or the foam on top of the drink.
- Ⓓ The popularity of bubble tea has spread from Taiwan to other places around the world.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Divide
- Ⓑ Adjust
- Ⓒ Force
- Ⓓ Compare

Question 3

Look at the events below. Which event in the Article took place *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.

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

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ In a food science textbook that gives the ingredients of tapioca pudding
- Ⓑ In a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"
- Ⓒ In a chapter about the United States in a world atlas
- Ⓓ In a dictionary, under the entry for "tea"

Question 6

The Article states:

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 enjoy your drink. In fact, for many people, the fun, *relaxing* atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study.

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

- Ⓐ Entertaining
- Ⓑ Frustrating
- Ⓒ Welcoming
- Ⓓ Soothing

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ Tapioca is also used to make desserts. And that probably explains how bubble tea was invented. In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea were both popular in Taiwan. Milk tea is a drink made of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer. Near the end of that decade, some creative snacker added ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea.
- Ⓑ A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you enjoy your drink. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.
- Ⓒ Customers can choose the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong. They can also choose the amount of ice and the exact level of sweetness.
- Ⓓ In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States. Many were in areas where there were a lot of people from Taiwan, like Southern California.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops in Southern California encourage customers to finish their drinks quickly to make room for more customers.
- Ⓑ Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be a confusing experience, especially for those who have never ordered it before.
- Ⓒ Bubble tea shops opened in Southern California after they became popular in other parts of the country.
- Ⓓ The number of bubble tea shops that open each year in the United States is greater than the number of shops that open overseas.

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

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

Newer is better.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Cooking Up Native Traditions (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

When Sean Sherman noticed a problem in Native American communities, he came up with a plan to address 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 recipes using traditional Native American ingredients. That's what his catering business, The Sioux Chef, is known for.

Minneapolis, Minnesota (Achieve3000, January 17, 2020). When he was growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family pantry was packed with canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and jugs of vegetable oil. These foods were provided by the U.S. government. Sherman, whose family are Oglala Lakota Sioux, would later raise this question: Why didn't these foods reflect his family's 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 aren't there more restaurants serving Native American foods?

Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with community elders. He also spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food. And he discovered how to regain an understanding of Native American food practices: by using local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment. The idea was to make food taste like where it's from. Sherman felt encouraged. He established his own Minnesota-based catering business. It's called The Sioux Chef. He also started NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems). His mission? 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 different kinds of food. They also developed methods of food preservation. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources were almost destroyed. Bison—an important part of many Native diets—nearly died out.

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. So years of generational knowledge of Native American food traditions disappeared.

Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sherman is bringing back Native American food traditions. His recipes avoid ingredients that were introduced by Europeans, such as beef and wheat. Instead, he uses ingredients like elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice.

For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating has led to illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. NATIFS hopes to address this problem by bringing back Native food practices. This is because Native foods also have health benefits. They aren't loaded with sodium, sugar, and bad fats.

Sherman is one of a small number of chefs serving traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native American foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table movement. It's all about using local fresh ingredients. Plus, Native American foods aren't processed and can easily be made vegetarian. One thing Native American food is *not*, says Sherman, is a trend. It's a way of life.

Video credit: The Sioux Chef

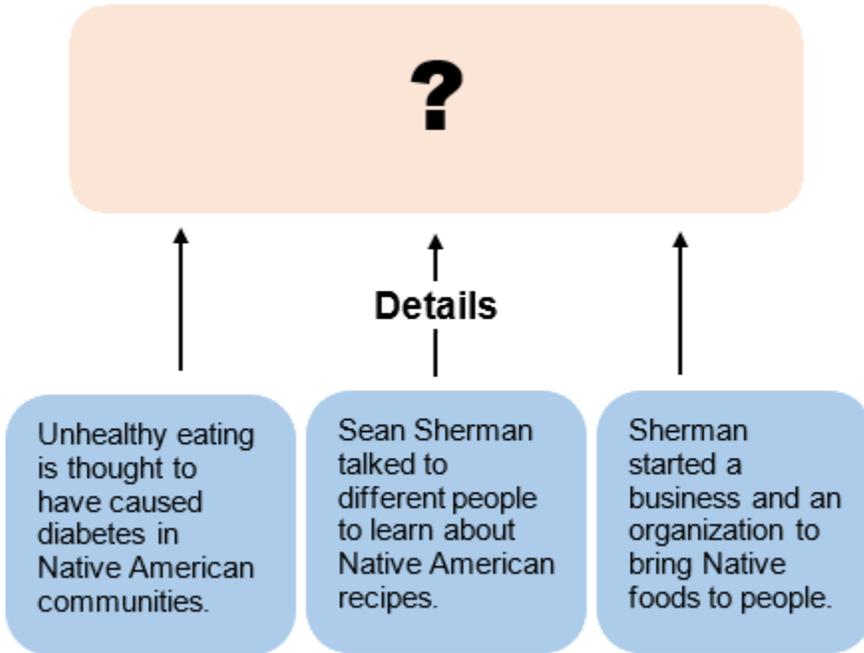
Dictionary

<p>cater (<i>verb</i>) to provide food and drinks at a party, meeting, etc., especially as a job</p> <p>indigenous (<i>adjective</i>) produced, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment</p> <p>recipe (<i>noun</i>) a set of instructions for making something from various ingredients</p> <p>trend (<i>noun</i>) something that is currently popular or fashionable</p>

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.
- Ⓑ When he was growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family pantry was packed with canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil.
- Ⓒ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is reviving Native American cooking traditions and practices to both reconnect with his culture and to create food with health benefits.
- Ⓓ Before contact with Europeans, Native peoples used traditional ways of growing and hunting food and also developed their own methods of food preservation.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ In the late 1800s, the government sent Native American children to boarding schools where they were taught cooking and farming methods that were different from their traditional methods.
- Ⓑ Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is bringing back Native food traditions while avoiding the use of ingredients that were introduced by Europeans.
- Ⓒ Although the government meant to do the right thing, it didn't really help anyone when it gave free canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil to Native Americans.
- Ⓓ Sean Sherman wanted to learn what foods were included in the traditional Native American diet, so he met with community elders and Native American chefs and historians to get some answers.

Question 3

The Article states:

For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about connecting with his culture. Unhealthy eating has led to illnesses such as diabetes in Native American communities. NATIFS hopes to address this problem by bringing back Native food practices. This is because Native foods also have health benefits. They aren't loaded with sodium, sugar, and bad fats.

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

- (A) automatic
- (B) delicate
- (C) ceremonial
- (D) foreign

Question 5

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

- (A) Sean Sherman will teach university courses that show students how to prepare traditional Native American dishes using European ingredients
- (B) more and more people will become familiar with the benefits of a Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef
- (C) Sean Sherman will include more canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil in the foods prepared at The Sioux Chef
- (D) many Native Americans will slowly change over to an all-meat diet that includes large amounts of beef, elk, and quail

Question 6

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

- (A) Why it is so difficult to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice
- (B) What foods were commonly found in Sean Sherman's pantry when he was a boy
- (C) Who Sean Sherman turned to when he wanted to find out more about the food of his ancestors
- (D) Which problem NATIFS hopes to address by bringing back Native American food practices

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

[Sherman] met with community elders. He also spoke with Native American *chefs* and historians. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food. And he discovered how to regain an understanding of Native American food practices: by using local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment.

In this passage, the word *chef* means _____.

- (A) a person who studies or writes about history
- (B) a professional cook who is in charge of a kitchen
- (C) a respected person who is usually older than others
- (D) a farmer who only grows natural foods

Question 8

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

- (A) When he was growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Sean Sherman's family pantry was packed with canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and jugs of vegetable oil. These foods were provided by the U.S. government. Sherman, whose family are Oglala Lakota Sioux, would later raise this question: Why didn't these foods reflect his family's culture?
- (B) Sherman is one of a small number of chefs serving traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native American foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table movement. It's all about using local fresh ingredients. Plus, Native American foods aren't processed and can easily be made vegetarian.
- (C) Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with community elders. He also spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food. And he discovered how to regain an understanding of Native American food practices: by using local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment.
- (D) Before Europeans arrived, Native Americans used traditional practices to grow and hunt different kinds of food. They also developed methods of food preservation. But the arrival of Europeans changed things. Many traditional food sources were almost destroyed. Bison—an important part of many Native diets—nearly died out.

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

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

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

Defying Gravity (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Simone Biles has been called the greatest gymnast ever. However, she has had some setbacks on her path to success. What do you think?

With enough hard work, anything is possible.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marijan Murat/dpa via AP

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

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

In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast expertly nailed her landings at the gymnastics world championships. She also landed herself in the history books! She won her 25th world championship medal, 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*!

Biles' performances are so amazing, gravity might seem like merely a suggestion rather than a natural law. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand mind-blowing physical strength. It's no wonder some believe she's the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic! And yes, natural talent's got a lot to do with it. But it was good ole fashioned practice and determination that took this go-getter to the top.

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

Biles discovered gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. And even from a young age, she gave her all to the sport. Her mother has said that skipping practice was never an option for Biles. She practiced 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 her autobiography, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her dedication began to pay off. In 2013, she was named as a replacement gymnast for two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team who got hurt and withdrew. Biles replaced none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!

Biles continued to compete 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. But it was during the Olympics that she became a household name. *Along with a fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio. She won five medals in total—and four of them were gold!*

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

Credit: Video Credit: Team USA

Dictionary

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

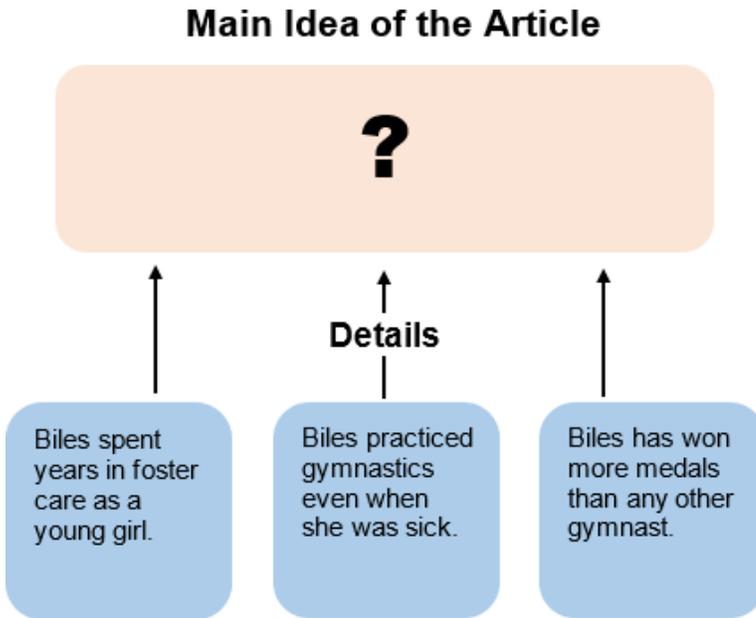
determination (*noun*) a quality that makes you continue trying to do or achieve something that is difficult

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

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."

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

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) In October 2019, Simone Biles won her 25th world championship medal, more than any other gymnast in the world.
- (B) Simone Biles was chosen to replace Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross as a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013.
- (C) Simone Biles spent many of her early years in foster care until she was adopted by her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, in 2003.
- (D) Although hard work and determination have been important, Simone Biles' natural physical ability has been the true key to her success.

Question 3

The Article states:

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her dedication began to pay off. In 2013, she was named as a replacement gymnast for two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team who got hurt and withdrew. Biles replaced none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill. But then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To point out that gymnast Simone Biles was finally ready to compete against Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross by 2013
- (B) To show how Simone Biles handled a heartbreaking failure to achieve a sought-after spot on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team
- (C) To suggest that Simone Biles worked just as hard as Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross to achieve success in gymnastics
- (D) To say that gymnast Simone Biles couldn't have joined the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team without a great deal of natural athletic ability

Question 4

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

- (A) cooperation
- (B) distress
- (C) doubt
- (D) creativity

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

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

- (A) How old Simone Biles was when she was first introduced to the sport of gymnastics
- (B) What are the names of the two special moves Biles performed at the world championships
- (C) Why Kyla Ross was replaced by Simone Biles on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team in 2013
- (D) How Simone Biles' poor showing at the U.S. Junior nationals affected her actions

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

But Biles' disappointment pushed her to work that much harder. And soon enough, her *dedication* began to pay off. In 2013, she was named as a replacement gymnast for two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team who got hurt and withdrew.

In this passage, the word *dedication* means _____.

- Ⓐ a feeling of strong support for something
- Ⓑ the ability to create new things
- Ⓒ the act of making something better
- Ⓓ great disappointment or discouragement

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ In October 2019, the 22-year-old gymnast expertly nailed her landings at the gymnastics world championships. She also landed herself in the history books! She won her 25th world championship medal, more than any other gymnast in the world.
- Ⓑ Biles continued to compete 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.
- Ⓒ In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In her autobiography, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.
- Ⓓ Biles' performances are so amazing, gravity might seem like merely a suggestion rather than a natural law. She flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand mind-blowing physical strength.

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

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

With enough hard work, anything is possible.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

The Early-Late Debate (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Middle schools and high schools should start later.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk! Should the school day get off to a later start?

SACRAMENTO, California (Achieve3000, October 30, 2019). Ever feel like drifting back to dreamland when it's time to get up for school? If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of 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.

In fact, there's good news for some teens who like to snooze. In 2019, the governor of the U.S. state of California signed a new law. It limits start times of public schools in the state. 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' in the morning. But the new law doesn't cover elementary schools. Why not? The reason has to do with *circadian rhythms*. Sound like a hip-hop dance craze? Nope! Circadian rhythms are 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 a lot of top-quality z's.

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

But not everyone agrees that starting the school day later is a smart way to go. Opponents argue there's no way to be sure students will get more sleep. After all, the law can't make teens go to bed! Although studies suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—fun.

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

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

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

Dictionary

anxiety (*noun*) fear or nervousness about what might happen

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."

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

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

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

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

Question 4

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

- (A) honesty
- (B) creativity
- (C) calmness
- (D) kindness

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

The Article states:

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

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

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

Question 7

The Article states:

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

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

- Ⓐ scholarly
- Ⓑ visible
- Ⓒ practical
- Ⓓ daily

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ 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.
- Ⓑ Although studies suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—fun.
- Ⓒ 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 a lot of top-quality z's.
- Ⓓ What's more, not getting enough sleep puts students at risk of developing serious health problems. These include eating disorders, heart problems, and anxiety. Academic success is affected, 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? Support your answer with facts and details from the Article.

Give Me S'more! (780L)

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 combo of chocolate, marshmallows, and graham crackers is a s'more.

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

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

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

A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best 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 bars, 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 hard to make. You needed eggs, sugar, and the root sap of a plant called the "marsh mallow." Each treat was

poured and molded by hand. It was a lot of work. So marshmallows were a rare luxury only the rich enjoyed. Thankfully, marshmallows no longer have to be crafted by hand. And they're now prepared using cheap ingredients (corn syrup, cornstarch, and gelatin). So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

As for the chocolate, many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars. Ancient chocolate was very different. For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But they didn't add sweetener. Their chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss chocolatier named Daniel Peter invented a process to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make what we know as "milk chocolate."

No one's really sure 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 the delectable treat, calling it "Some More."

These days, s'mores are well known. But that doesn't mean we've all tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-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!

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

delectable (*adjective*) tasty; delicious

devour (*verb*) eat quickly and with greed

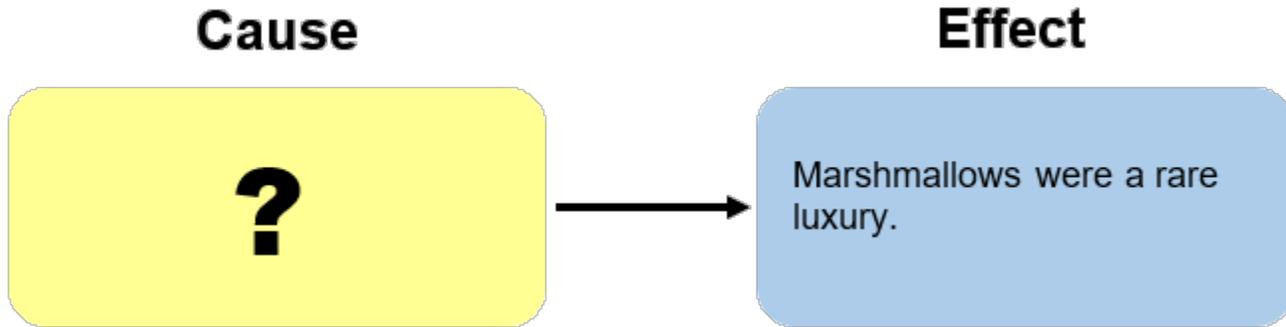
indulge (*verb*) to allow yourself or someone else to do something enjoyable

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

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There are two boxes. The box on the left is labeled "Cause," and it has a question mark in it. There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right. The box on the right is labeled "Effect," and it says "Marshmallows were a rare luxury ."

- (A) Marshmallows were made with expensive ingredients like cornstarch and corn syrup.
- (B) Each marshmallow had to be poured and molded by hand.
- (C) Marshmallow recipes called for gelatin produced in Mesoamerica.
- (D) Only Swiss inventor Daniel Peter knew how to get root sap from the marsh mallow plant.

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 over a fire and sandwich it and a piece of chocolate between graham crackers.
- (B) Years ago, people could not go to stores to buy the ingredients needed for s'mores.
- (C) In 1875, Daniel Peter invented an important process used in making milk chocolate.
- (D) Mesoamericans were the first people known to make chocolate, growing cacao seeds and using them in many dishes.

Question 3

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

- (A) Uncommon
- (B) Dreadful
- (C) Simple
- (D) Inexpensive

Question 4

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

- (A) The chocolate once made by Mesoamericans was grainy and bitter.
- (B) Graham crackers were originally created in the late 1800s using whole wheat flour.
- (C) In 1875, a chocolate maker mixed milk, sugar, and chocolate to form milk chocolate.
- (D) Today's marshmallows are made with ingredients like corn syrup, corn starch, and gelatin.

Question 5

The Article states:

These days, s'mores are well known. But that doesn't mean we've all tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have s'more-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 _____.

- Ⓐ Discuss foods at grocery stores and compare oven-baked s'mores with microwaved s'mores
- Ⓑ Describe s'more products available in stores, as well as the drawbacks of campfire cooking
- Ⓒ Persuade readers to buy more breakfast snacks and candy bars, and to use safe cooking methods
- Ⓓ Show how popular s'mores are and provide readers with 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
- Ⓑ Skip
- Ⓒ Imagine
- Ⓓ Afford

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ As for the chocolate, many Americans say that real s'mores are made with Hershey's milk chocolate bars.
- Ⓑ For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But they didn't add sweetener. Their chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.
- Ⓒ A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best parts of dessert—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and puts them together to create melty goodness.
- Ⓓ Thankfully, marshmallows no longer have to be crafted by hand. And they're now prepared using cheap ingredients (corn syrup, cornstarch, and gelatin). So more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

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.
- Ⓑ S'mores are a quick and easy dessert that almost anyone can make.
- Ⓒ Most Americans like Swiss milk chocolate better than Hershey bars.
- Ⓓ Daniel Peter would not have liked the current ingredients used to make s'mores.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, do the following:

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

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

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

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

STEP 3: Rethink your summary.

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

Global Game Fame (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Older video games are more fun to play.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: The Strong National Museum of Play via AP

Since 2015, The Strong National Museum of Play has accepted nominations and chosen new entrants for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

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

In 2015, the museum established the World Video Game Hall of Fame. It houses a collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games. The exhibit is called "eGameRevolution." It gives visitors the opportunity to play their way through video game history.

The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. In the four years since it created 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 inductees: *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*. On May 2, 2019, these games joined a collection of all-time greats.

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

So how does a video game get to be a hall-of-famer? Games are judged on four basic standards: reputation as an icon, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.

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

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

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 launched way back in 1992. A trip to the hall of fame exhibit will tell you that the game wasn't actually meant to include Mario. But a sketch 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. It included cell phone, online, and virtual games. 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 for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games. If enough people suggest the same game, it will win a nomination.

But even if your nominee doesn't make it, you can still consider attending the award ceremony. It's held each year in Rochester, NY. Attendees play games, and bands perform video game theme songs. Best of all, the world's most globally influential video games finally get their due.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

icon (*noun*) something or someone widely recognized and greatly admired

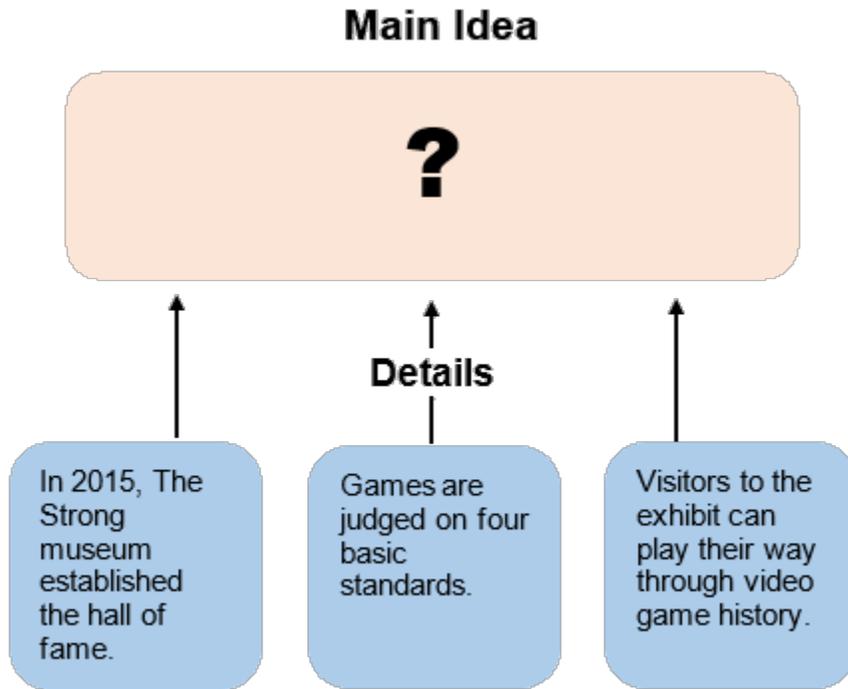
influential (*adjective*) having an effect on people, their actions, or events

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

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

There is a large rectangle with a question mark in it. Above the rectangle, it says "Main Idea of the Article." Under the rectangle, there are three smaller boxes with arrows pointing up to the rectangle. Each small box includes a detail from the Article. The first box on the left says "In 2015, The Strong museum established the hall of fame." The box in the middle says "Games are judged on four basic standards." The box on the right says "Visitors to the exhibit can play their way through video game history."

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

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Appreciate
- Ⓑ Suggest
- Ⓒ Describe
- Ⓓ Supply

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 4

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

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

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Virtual and natural
- Ⓑ Nominate and ignore
- Ⓒ Influential and original
- Ⓓ Establish and create

Question 6

The Article states:

So how does a video game get to be a hall-of-famer? Games are judged on four basic standards: reputation as an icon, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a big effect on the gaming world. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have withstood the test of time.

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To describe the Strong National Museum of Play's guidelines for selecting games to enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓑ To suggest that a game's reputation as an icon is more important than its influence for entering the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓒ To explain to the reader why older games are seldom chosen as winners in the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓓ To point out the fact that a game's popularity is the main standard to be chosen as a finalist for the World Video Game Hall of Fame

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ The remaining field of this year's nominees was narrowed down to just 12 games. It included cell phone, online, and virtual games. Some of the finalists were *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire*, for example, has likely been played on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. Based on a centuries-old card game, it was *both* popular and influential. The game also taught computer users how to use a new device—the mouse.
- Ⓒ Do you have strong opinions about which games should be nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year? Get involved! Anyone can go online to nominate games.
- Ⓓ The Strong museum is in the U.S. state of New York. In the four years since it created the hall of fame, hundreds of games have been nominated.

Question 8

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

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

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

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

Older video games are more fun to play.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Good, Bad, or Ugly? (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The demand for "perfect" fruits and veggies means a lot of food gets wasted. Now, some companies are selling and shipping "ugly" produce to people's homes. What do you think?

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Joshua McKerrow/The Baltimore Sun

Does this carrot have a tail? Well, Imperfect Produce, a company that delivers "ugly" fruits and vegetables to customers around the country, is selling it anyway.

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

We'd like to have a fruitful debate about what to do with ugly produce. You know—strawberries that seem to be sprouting arms, apples so bruised they look like they've just come out of the boxing ring, and tomatoes you're convinced have devil 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 only the most appealing choices in front of customers.

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

The start-ups say they're on a mission. They want to prevent 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 for their goods. That's great news for customers. But not everyone is happy. Some say ugly produce companies—Imperfect Produce, Hungry Harvest, and Misfits Market, to name a few—may only be thinking about themselves.

The Ugly Truth?

Critics say that imperfect produce isn't really wasted as much as you'd think.

Case in point: Many local farmers had already been selling boxes of imperfect produce to customers and farmers markets. Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of

fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. That makes it harder for smaller farms to compete. These farmers are losing profits.

Also, ugly fruits and veggies do have other uses. Take the food service industry. There, produce is sliced, diced, blended, and more—no matter what it looks like. On farms, fruits can be fed to animals. Rotted fruit is plowed back into soil to add **nutrients**. And, maybe most importantly, ugly produce companies have been accused of taking food away from food banks.

It's not that critics of ugly produce start-ups believe the companies don't have a right to exist. But they want to make sure the start-ups don't cause more harm than good.

Not So Bad, After All?

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

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

It is true that some produce goes to waste in America. The Department of Agriculture has even 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 what about those local farmers who view ugly produce companies as competition? Imperfect Produce claims both farmers and ugly produce sellers can play a part in reducing food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.

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

Dictionary

competition (*noun*) the act of two or more companies or stores trying to win business from shoppers

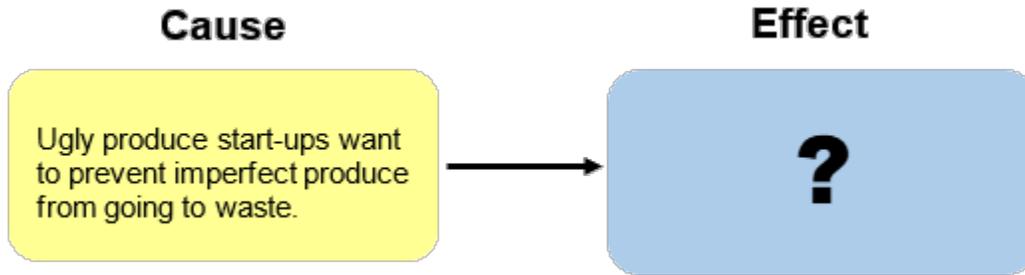
discount (*noun*) a price that is lower than usual

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 replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

There is a box on the left that is labeled "Cause". The box says "Ugly produce start-ups want to prevent imperfect produce from going to waste." There is an arrow pointing to a box on the right with a question mark in it. It is labeled "Effect."

- (A) These companies believe they can sell the fruits and vegetables that come from food banks.
- (B) These companies hope to sell the fruits and vegetables rejected by those in the food service industry.
- (C) These companies decided to sell the fruits and vegetables that supermarkets reject.
- (D) These companies offered to sell the fruits and vegetables that are used to feed animals on farms.

Question 2

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

- (A) Many local farmers have been selling boxes of imperfect produce to consumers and farmers markets.
- (B) Imperfect Produce informed people in March 2019 that it often gives food to food banks that help the needy.
- (C) Ugly produce start-ups say their mission is to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.
- (D) Some imperfect fruits can be fed to animals on farms, and rotted fruit is plowed back into the soil to add nutrients.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- (A) It's important for local farmers who are losing profits to ugly produce companies to attract more customers.
- (B) Ugly produce companies not only sell produce that has been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.
- (C) Giving poor reviews of ugly produce companies is pointless because customers are very interested in preventing food waste and saving money.
- (D) Supermarkets deserve much of the blame for today's food waste problem, considering that they reject perfectly good produce based on appearance alone.

Question 4

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

- (A) Castoff
- (B) Challenge
- (C) Program
- (D) Setback

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce start-ups, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good
- Ⓑ Explain how companies like Imperfect Produce need to reconsider their methods for attracting customers
- Ⓒ Criticize ugly produce companies for not doing enough to support food banks that provide unwanted fruits and vegetables to the needy
- Ⓓ Convince readers to only purchase food from companies that work with small farmers to reduce food waste in the United States

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ The start-ups say they're on a mission. They want to prevent 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?
- Ⓑ In March 2019, Imperfect Produce informed people that the company doesn't take away from food banks that help the needy. In fact, it said it sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want.
- Ⓒ Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. That makes it harder for smaller farms to compete. These farmers are losing profits.
- Ⓓ But what about those local farmers who view ugly produce companies as competition? Imperfect Produce claims both farmers and ugly produce sellers can play a part in reducing food waste. It doesn't have to be either-or.

Question 7

The Article states:

Now, be honest. Would you put these peculiar fruits and veggies in your shopping cart? Your answer might be "heck no." And that's why many supermarkets put only the most *appealing* choices in front of customers.

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

- Ⓐ Sickening
- Ⓑ Thrilling
- Ⓒ Shocking
- Ⓓ Inviting

Question 8

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

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

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Katherine the Great (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One woman worked for NASA as a math expert. She started in the 1950s at a time when women and minorities were often discouraged from seeking high-level jobs. What do you think?

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Joseph Rodriguez/AP

Katherine Johnson's excellent work doing math for NASA made headlines in more ways than one.

HAMPTON, Virginia (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or 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 affects all our lives. Here's how: From the 1950s until the 1980s, Johnson worked for NASA. Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for creating satellite TV, predicting weather, and building small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So you could say she's a hero in her own right.

Johnson's name and work may be familiar to you from the 2016 movie *Hidden Figures*. It tells part of her story. Johnson and two other African American women worked behind the scenes at NASA as "human computers." They did things like calculate orbital trajectories. That is important work, especially when people are being sent into space. Remarkably, they did this work at a time when women and minorities were not normally considered for high-level jobs.

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

Johnson worked on many space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation. Her calculations were 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 with the equations needed to calculate the trajectory of Glenn's space capsule. Computers are usually fast, and they're usually correct. But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work properly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the equations, 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 equations, and the mission was a success.

In three decades at NASA, Johnson worked on many other missions. They included Project Apollo. (That's the famous 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—not too much, anyway. In fact, Johnson is finally ready to tell her own story. In the summer of 2019, she will release *Reaching for the Moon*, an autobiography for young readers.

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

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Video credit: NASA

Dictionary

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

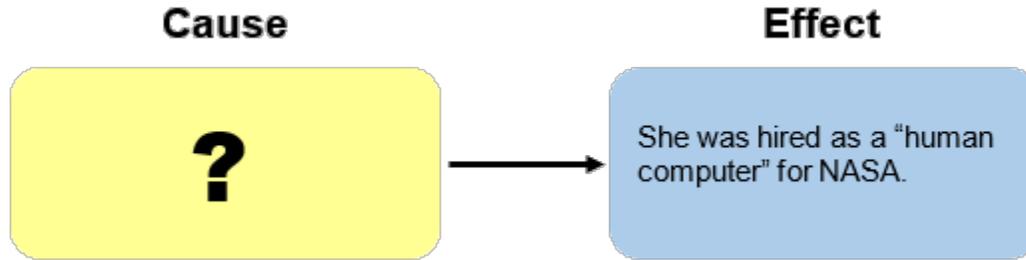
calculation (*noun*) the act of doing math work; or the result of math work

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 best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

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

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

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

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

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

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

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) Success and failure
- (B) Considered and ignored
- (C) Famous and unknown
- (D) Necessary and needed

Question 5

This Article would help a student write an essay on _____.

- Ⓐ Successful women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math
- Ⓑ Inventions that were developed in the U.S. space program
- Ⓒ Katherine Johnson's childhood years in West Virginia
- Ⓓ The remarkable accomplishments of NASA astronaut John Glenn

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Many young people will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography encouraging.
- Ⓑ In 1953, Katherine Johnson was likely not surprised to learn that the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics was interested in hiring African American women.
- Ⓒ In the 1960s, John Glenn and other astronauts completely trusted the accuracy of the technology available at the time.
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson was a respected public figure who enjoyed the spotlight during her career, which lasted three decades at NASA.

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ But Glenn wondered: What if the computers broke down or didn't work properly? Just in case, he asked for a human computer to run the equations, too. And he wanted it to be Katherine Johnson.
- Ⓑ Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for creating satellite TV, predicting weather, and building small computers (like laptops and iPhones).
- Ⓒ Johnson worked on many space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation. Her calculations were always correct.
- Ⓓ In three decades at NASA, Johnson worked on many other missions. They included Project Apollo. (That's the famous 1969 mission that put astronauts on the moon for the first time.) She also worked on the space shuttle program.

Question 8

The Article states:

They did things like calculate orbital trajectories. That is important work, especially when people are being sent into space. Remarkably, they did this work at a time when women and minorities were not normally considered for high-level jobs.

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

- Ⓐ Unsurprisingly
- Ⓑ Arguably
- Ⓒ Comfortably
- Ⓓ Shockingly

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

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

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

The Last Generation? (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people from the Pacific Islands are working to stop climate change. They're afraid rising sea levels could take away their homeland. What do you think?

Everyone should work together to stop climate change.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

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

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on a tropical island might sound fabulous. But what if you left for a trip and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the future of these island nations. And young people on the islands are 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, including the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and Samoa. Now the people of these separate nations 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 where communities are harmed by rising sea levels. And scientists have found that sea levels have risen more in the South Pacific than in other parts of the world. The Pacific Islands will likely face some of the *worst* destruction from the effects of climate change, too. The region is more likely to have very damaging tropical storms.

The nations of the Pacific Islands recognize that when it comes to climate change, they're all in the same boat. Working together, they set about looking for ways to address the problem. Scientists already know one way to slow or undo the effects of 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. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon each year. The United States emits 16 percent. The Marshall Islands, on the other hand, emit less than 0.00001 percent of the world's carbon!

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

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

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

But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They're planning programs to solve other problems, too. On the list: Increasing their ability to handle changes in climate. Preparing for natural disasters. And protecting fisheries and farms from rising seawater.

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

Video credit: United Nations

Dictionary

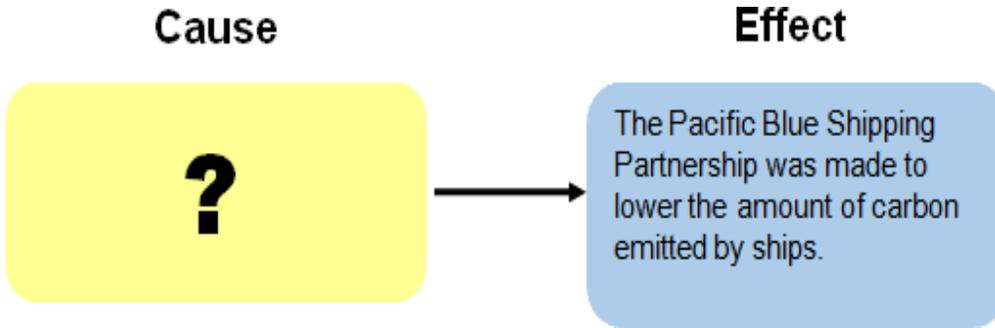
convert (*verb*) to change (something) into a different form so that it can be used in a different way

elevation (*noun*) the height of a place

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

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 emitted by ships."

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

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about _____.

- Ⓐ the effect of climate change on Pacific Island nations, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, which aims to reduce carbon emitted by cargo ships
- Ⓑ the geography that defines the Pacific Islands and the 11 countries they contain, such as the Marshall Islands, Fiji, and Samoa
- Ⓒ the reasons why countries such as China and the United States emit so much more carbon than the island nations of the Pacific Ocean
- Ⓓ the need to improve upon current solar and wind power technologies so that they can become more practical generators of electricity

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ cooperate
- Ⓑ concentrate
- Ⓒ alter
- Ⓓ barter

Question 4

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

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

Question 5

The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To explain why the Pacific Island countries developed a plan for reducing carbon emissions from cargo ships
- (B) To inform readers that the Pacific Islands are responsible for producing almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions
- (C) To point out the dangerous environmental impact of climate change caused by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in the Pacific Islands
- (D) To suggest that Germany should follow the lead of Pacific Island countries and reduce its total amount of carbon emissions even more

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

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? This isn't the plot of a movie or video game. It's a painfully real *possibility* faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the future of these island nations.

In this passage, the word *possibility* means _____.

- (A) something that is a source of trouble or disagreement between nations
- (B) something that is known by a large number of people
- (C) a chance that something might exist, happen, or be true
- (D) an opportunity to solve something that affects another region

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems not only in their own backyards but around the entire world
- Ⓑ small island nations are unable to reduce air pollution since their levels of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are already so low
- Ⓒ the Pacific Island countries are the first to offer solutions to the problem of climate change because other countries are not affected by rising sea levels
- Ⓓ zero-carbon shipping is an impossible goal, so the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership accepts a 40 percent decrease in carbon emissions from shipping as an achievable goal

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ How will the islanders ever meet such goals? They plan to use some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These include solar-powered ships. The plan is to also harness wind energy for sailing and converting to electric power. Through these efforts, Pacific Island nations are leading the world by example. They're hoping their move could start a wave of change in the shipping business.
- Ⓑ What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the future of these island nations. And young people on the islands are starting to wonder: Will *they* be the last generation?
- Ⓒ 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. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon each year. The United States emits 16 percent. The Marshall Islands, on the other hand, emit less than 0.00001 percent of the world's carbon!
- Ⓓ But there is one thing about island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact is enormous. In fact, experts say cargo ships are responsible for almost 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions. That's about the same amount emitted from the entire country of Germany!

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

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

Everyone should work together to stop climate change.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

How is climate change affecting the Pacific Islands? What are some Pacific Island nations doing about this problem? Include information from the Article in your response.

A Musical Pioneer (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

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

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

Pitse is a pioneer in classical music. And that's not just because this go-getter is only 27 years old. In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the 100 most sought after conductors were women. There are relatively few conductors of color as well. About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S., for example, are white. Additionally, classical music started in Europe 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 born and raised in South Africa, Pitse is truly one of a kind.

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. In fact, her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director. However, music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she also excelled at drawing. She chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse...and she listened. In 2017, she started a choir. She selected young singers with great talent and big dreams. They were from poor communities and had limited opportunities. She says the

experience has changed the lives of these young people. It has allowed them to develop their gifts, build their confidence, and realize their dreams. Now that's something worth singing about!

Pitse's project didn't stop there: You could say she was just getting tuned up. She set out to form an orchestra to accompany her singers. And she got the help of two top-notch mentors: Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten. Both are admired conductors at universities in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had 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? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group's performances focus on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

Video credit: Mesia Gumede

Dictionary

architect (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

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

excel (*verb*) to be better than others

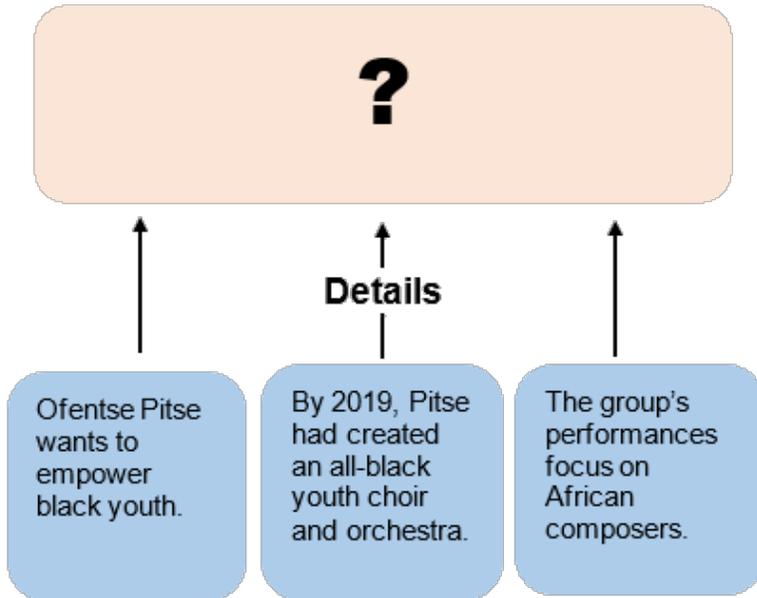
mentor (*noun*) someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- (A) Ofentse Pitse founded an orchestra and choir that lets young black singers develop their gifts while performing the works of African composers.
- (B) Ofentse Pitse got the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten, who are both admired conductors in South Africa.
- (C) Although Ofentse Pitse came from a musical family, she was also good at drawing and chose to become an architect before creating Anchored Sound.
- (D) Ofentse Pitse wants her audiences to enjoy the music of African composers Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, and Sibusiso Njeza.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 3

The Article states:

Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven. But Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive in Africa. So, the group's performances focus on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this trained architect's not afraid to orchestrate change!

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

- (A) pardon
- (B) prevent
- (C) perplex
- (D) picket

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

[Ofentse Pitse is] the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and youth choir in her home country of South Africa. The forward-thinking leader of this all-black *ensemble* has set her sights on empowering black youth and showcasing classical music created by African artists.

In this passage, the word *ensemble* means _____.

- Ⓐ a school in which students are taught music, theater, or dance
- Ⓑ a traditional or common style used in theater, music, or art
- Ⓒ a collection of people who make up a complete musical group
- Ⓓ a group of people who gather together to listen to a concert

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. In fact, her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director. However, music wasn't her first career path. Although she enjoyed music as a child, she also excelled at drawing. She chose to become an architect.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse is making waves. Sound waves, that is! She's the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and youth choir in her home country of South Africa.
- Ⓒ In 2017, there was a study about the most respected orchestras worldwide. It found that only 5 of the 100 most sought-after conductors were women. There are relatively few conductors of color as well.
- Ⓓ What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Ötzi the Iceman (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Ötzi should be left alone.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Sergio Monti Photography/Shutterstock

Ötzi the Iceman lives again in this life-size recreation that's based on medical scans of his skeleton.

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

Some days were better than others in prehistory.

Chances are, Ötzi had battled with another or maybe several other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't fare too well in the encounter. His wounds probably prevented him from fighting back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows that he carried with him. He also had a copper ax on hand. After all, this *was* the Copper Age. But fleeing up a cold mountain was probably better than using it. Fortunately, he was wearing warm clothing made of leather, hides, and grass. He also had eaten a bellyful of goat meat and grain earlier. But would he survive the cold and the wounds?

He would not. Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago? Well here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered

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

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

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

Ötzi likely had many 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, and a furry bearskin hat. And he had leather shoes stuffed with grass. Examining the various skins show that animals back then were domesticated as well as hunted.

Ötzi had other possessions, too. These included a grass net and a flint knife with a wooden handle. He also had a wooden U-shaped backpack and a deerskin case for his arrows. And he wore a calfskin belt with a sewn-on pouch. Inside the pouch were several small tools. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different regions hundreds of miles away. This suggests some sort of trade system. Oh, yes, Ötzi had a few snacks on hand, too: a sloe berry, some mushrooms, and a few gnawed 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 not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!

Dictionary

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

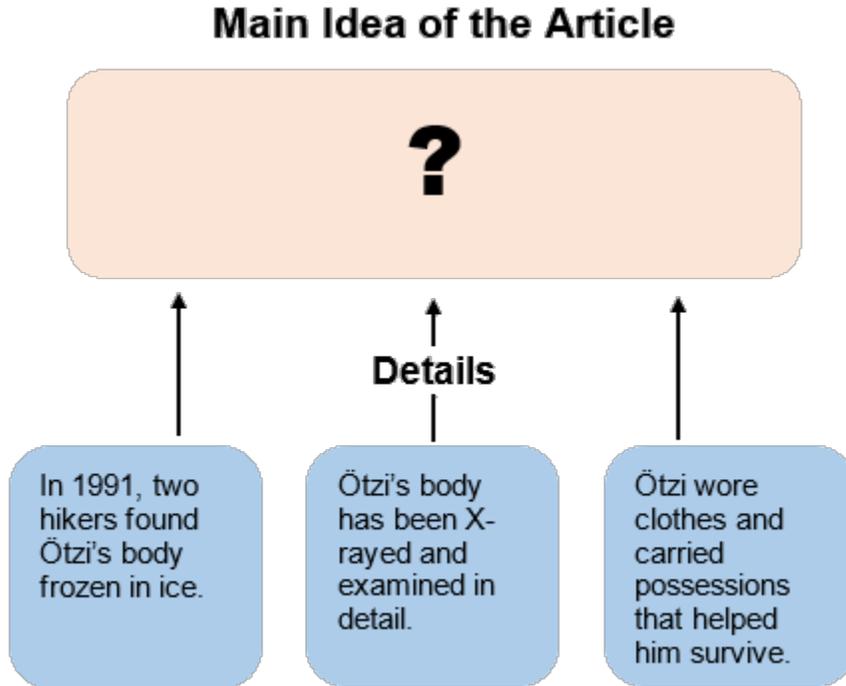
domesticate (*verb*) to breed or train (an animal) to need and accept the care of human beings: to tame (an animal)

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."

- Ⓐ 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.
- Ⓑ Scientists think Ötzi had a narrow face with long dark hair, a shaggy beard, brown eyes, and tanned skin.
- Ⓒ 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.
- Ⓓ 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 in his thawing ice tomb. He looked rather well, all things considered. Understandably, the discovery made international headlines. Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever to be found in Europe. The find provided historians with helpful information about prehistoric life.

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

- Ⓐ explore the ways in which the late-Neolithic period was responsible for advancing many modern-age tools
- Ⓑ 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 aided in their survival during severe weather conditions
- Ⓓ determine what information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ situation
- Ⓑ sample
- Ⓒ system
- Ⓓ souvenir

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ Food discovered around Ötzi and in his stomach gave clues leading to the discovery of the route he traveled before his passing.
- Ⓑ 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.
- Ⓓ 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?

- Ⓐ Ötzi has become one of the most carefully studied ancient human specimens ever. His remains have been X-rayed, scanned, carbon-dated, and examined in detail. So have his clothing and gear. As a result, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him.
- Ⓑ Are you wondering how *this* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago? Well here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991. That's when two hikers found him in his thawing ice tomb. He looked rather well, all things considered.
- Ⓒ Chances are, Ötzi had battled with another or maybe several other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't fare too well in the encounter. His wounds probably prevented him from fighting back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows that he carried with him.
- Ⓓ 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 not forgotten. And he's still full of surprises!

Question 6

The Article states:

Here was the first well-preserved, fully dressed body from the late-Neolithic period ever to be found in Europe. The find provided historians with helpful information about *prehistoric* life. Just so you know: The Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge had not even been built yet when Ötzi was alive.

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

- Ⓐ convenient
- Ⓑ modern
- Ⓒ general
- Ⓓ mysterious

Question 7

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

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

Question 8

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

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

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

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

Ötzi should be left alone.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Sniffing Out Extinction (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

All endangered species are worth saving.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Marina Makouskaya/iStock/Getty Images Plus

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

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

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 these 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. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. Or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. They burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

But none of this matters to two border collies, Rubble and Uda. They work for Zoos Victoria. This Australian conservation group has been 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 remarkable. The

dogs quickly learned to recognize the smell of Baw Baw frogs. Then they led the Zoos Victoria conservationists right to them.

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

And that's how you save a species.

So what makes border collies such super sniffers? Most importantly, they're dogs. So their sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than ours. According to Rubble and Uda's trainer, they also have the stamina needed for the job.

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

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

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Video credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

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

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

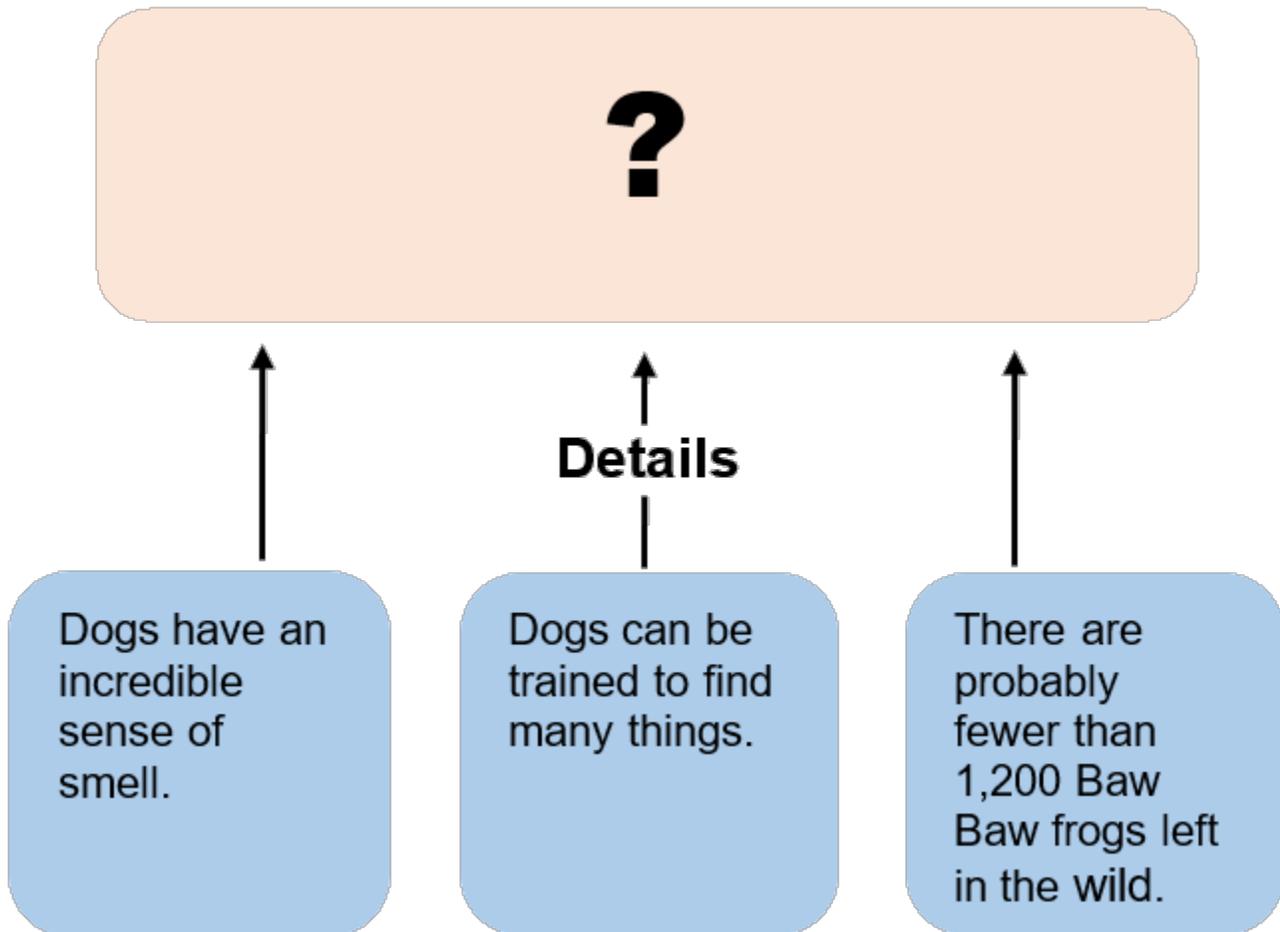
endangered (*adjective*) used to describe a type of animal or plant that has become very rare and that could die out completely

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Main Idea of the Article



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

- Ⓐ Besides having a powerful sense of smell, Rubble and Uda have other skills that make them well suited for their job, such as plenty of stamina.
- Ⓑ With a sense of smell 10,000 to 100,000 times sharper than a human's, dogs are used to find fake money and early-stage cancers.
- Ⓒ Dogs have been trained to use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can help these rare animals to live on.
- Ⓓ Since 1980, climate change and other problems have destroyed roughly 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population in their native Australia.

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

Question 3

The Article states:

Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. Or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. They burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ community
- Ⓑ liberty
- Ⓒ dignity
- Ⓓ majesty

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ scientists find it more difficult to locate female Baw Baw frogs than males during the five or six weeks that the frogs' calls occur
- Ⓑ none of the Baw Baw frogs that have been raised in captivity have so far been able to live on when they've been released into the wild
- Ⓒ killer whales are some of the most difficult animals for dogs to find because they have to swim to areas where the animals have been sighted
- Ⓓ Rubble and Uda have been trained to find a number of different animals other than the Baw Baw frog, including koalas and even killer whales

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

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

In this passage, the word *detection* means _____.

- Ⓐ the ability to communicate with an animal
- Ⓑ the act of discovering, finding, or noticing something
- Ⓒ the process of training an animal to help the disabled
- Ⓓ the protection of various natural resources

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that an animal might not continue to live on as 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. According to Rubble and Uda's trainer, they also have the stamina needed for the job.
- Ⓑ What *can't* a dog sniff out? Police K-9s can find everything from missing persons to fake money. Healthcare pup-fessionals can even pick up the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers.
- Ⓒ The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy. They live in the hard-to-get-to forests of Mount Baw Baw. They burrow in mud about 3 feet (1 meter) deep. The males do their frog call only five to six weeks a year. The females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

Ⓓ Since 1980, 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population has been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. Or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years.

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 (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

People should always find a way to share their thoughts.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Karl Allen Lugmayer/Shutterstock

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

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

In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings. And 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 when most of the ancient world has crumbled away?

The answers date back to 79 CE. That's when a nearby volcano called Mount Vesuvius violently erupted. It tragically destroyed Pompeii in a matter of hours. Volcanic ash and rock buried the city.

Oddly enough, the volcano that destroyed Pompeii was also the reason for the city's preservation. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash. The entire city seemed to be flash-frozen in time. And its remains offer a rare window into ancient Roman everyday life. From the beginning,

archaeologists spotted the graffiti on the walls. In the late 19th century, historians began making copies of the messages. And it's a good thing they did. Most of the graffiti has faded since the ruins were unearthed.

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

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

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

A copper pot went missing from my shop. Anyone who returns it to me will be given 65 sestertii. 20 more will be given for information leading to the capture of the thief.

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

The man I am having dinner with is a barbarian.

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

Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

Call it social media, Pompeii style.

Video credit: Achieve3000

Dictionary

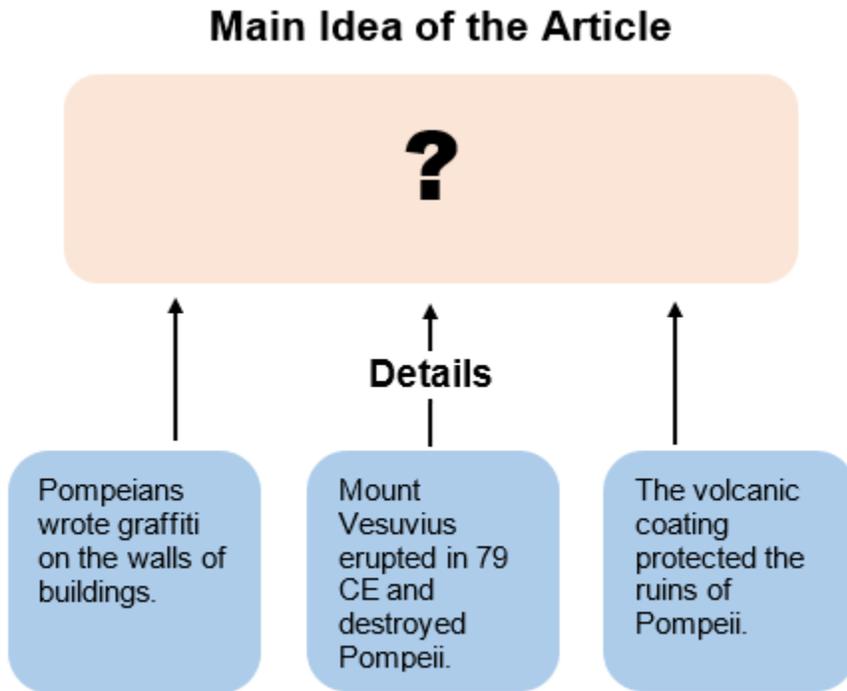
barbarian (*noun*) a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person

cyber (*adjective*) computer

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

- Ⓐ It's a good thing that 19th-century historians took the time to copy the messages found on Pompeii's walls, because most of the graffiti has since faded.
- Ⓑ The residents of Pompeii posted messages on walls that lasted for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius.
- Ⓒ When Mount Vesuvius violently erupted in 79 CE, the city of Pompeii was destroyed in a matter of hours.
- Ⓓ The oldest known message at Pompeii dates back to 78 BCE and simply states, "Gaius Pumidius Diphilus was here."

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ In 79 CE, Mount Vesuvius violently erupted, covering the ancient Roman city of Pompeii with a huge amount of rock and ash.
- Ⓑ The messages that have been found on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii were written in charcoal, scratched into plaster, or applied in paint.
- Ⓒ It's a good idea for historians to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning opinions and helpful suggestions.
- Ⓓ In many ways, the graffiti found on the walls of the city of Pompeii were the same kinds of messages that people today write on social media.

Question 3

The Article states:

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

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

- Ⓐ explain the differences between the graffiti found on the walls of Pompeii and modern-day postings found on social media
- Ⓑ suggest that 19th-century scholars should have taken more care to preserve the graffiti found on the walls of Pompeii
- Ⓒ say why the city of Pompeii was covered in ash and rock and give the reason that it remained so well preserved over time
- Ⓓ point out why so many of the residents of the ancient city of Pompeii liked to write graffiti on the walls of that city

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ applied and advised
- Ⓑ public and automatic
- Ⓒ ancient and convenient
- Ⓓ resident and inhabitant

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to learn about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before Mount Vesuvius erupted. She would find **most** of her information _____.

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

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

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.

In this passage, the word *graffiti* means _____.

- Ⓐ a tool used to scratch into the surface of something
- Ⓑ rules that tell people what to do or not to do
- Ⓒ pictures or words drawn on a wall, building, etc.
- Ⓓ a type of plaster that is used to cover walls

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?

- Ⓐ Oddly enough, the volcano that destroyed Pompeii was also the reason for the city's preservation. The volcanic coating protected the ruins until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century.
- Ⓑ 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, expressions of love, reviews of goods, advertisements, and helpful suggestions.
- Ⓒ 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.
- Ⓓ 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 when most of the ancient world has crumbled away?

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ 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 ancient city of Pompeii was covered in ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius
- Ⓓ What language did the people of Pompeii use to write on the walls of their city

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

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

People should always find a way to share their thoughts.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what happened to the ancient city of Pompeii in 79 CE and what has been discovered centuries later for readers who are unfamiliar with the story. Include facts and details from the Article in your answer.

Soldier in the Wild (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

All soldiers are heroes.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP Photo

This photo of Shoichi Yokoi was taken shortly after his return to civilization in 1972.

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

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was stationed on Guam as part of the Japanese occupation of the island. But the occupation ended not long after the U.S. military arrived to free Guam in 1944. Fearing for his life, Yokoi retreated to the hills of the 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 finally over. Yokoi, however, had no way of knowing this. Neither did about 130 other Japanese soldiers. They all continued to hide from an army that was no longer interested in capturing them. But Yokoi would outlive them all.

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

And that's only the half of it.

In 1952, Yokoi learned that the war had ended. Even so, he remained in hiding for another 20 years (two decades!). He spent his days in the well-hidden cave he had made of dirt, bamboo, and reeds. At night, he searched for fruit, nuts, fish, and small animals to eat. Yokoi, who had been a tailor before the war, made new clothes using burlap sacks and tree bark for fabric. He used coconut and pago fibers for thread and plastic scraps for buttons. And he used handmade needles to stitch them all together.

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

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

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

Still, Yokoi received a hero's welcome in Tokyo. Millions of Japanese watched his return on television. Many of his generation were deeply moved by his fierce loyalty to time-honored Japanese values. They showered him with money, gifts, and praise. Many younger Japanese, however, viewed *ganbaru* as pointless. They felt that Yokoi was a symbol of a prideful idea whose time was over.

Up until his death in 1997, Yokoi remembered Guam fondly. He revisited the island several times, including on his honeymoon. After all, it had been his home for much of his adult life. Although his cave in Talofofu 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

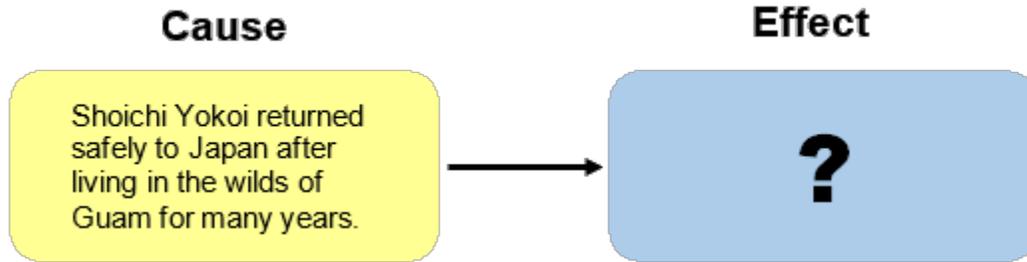
Dictionary

emerge (*verb*) to rise or appear from a hidden or unknown place or condition: to come out into view

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

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

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

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi was given a hero's welcome upon his return to Japan in 1972, and many of his generation were moved by his loyalty to traditional values.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi made clothes by using burlap bags and tree bark for fabric, coconut and pago fibers for thread, and handmade needles to stitch them together.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi chose to remain in the jungles of Guam and live off the land from 1944 until his "capture" by two fishermen in January 1972.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi wasn't aware that Emperor Hirohito announced in August 1945 that his country was surrendering to the Allied Forces.

Question 3

Look at the events below. According to the Article, which of these happened *third*?

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

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

Question 4

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

- (A) vanish
- (B) develop
- (C) celebrate
- (D) apologize

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- (A) Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen.
- (B) Shoichi Yokoi brought spare uniforms with him when he went into hiding because he wasn't sure how long he'd remain in the wild.
- (C) Shoichi Yokoi tried to return home to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended years earlier.
- (D) Shoichi Yokoi made the choice to rejoin the Japanese Army after returning to his homeland in January 1972.

Question 6

The Article states:

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. Many younger Japanese, however, viewed ganbaru as pointless. They felt that Yokoi was a symbol of a prideful idea whose time was over.

Why did the author include this passage?

- (A) To describe the range of public reaction to Yokoi's return to Japan in 1972
- (B) To point out the problems that Yokoi had in trying to adapt to life in Japan
- (C) To show that Yokoi didn't want to return to Japan in spite of the praise he received there
- (D) To suggest that most Japanese didn't consider Yokoi's actions to be heroic

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

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

In this passage, the word *declared* means _____.

- (A) expressed pride in something that one has done
- (B) said something in an official or public way
- (C) kept something secret or private
- (D) refused to accept something to be true

Question 8

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

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

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

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

All soldiers are heroes.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

"Anything is possible."

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: Used with permission from Mason Andrews

Mason Andrews flew this single engine plane around the world and set a Guinness World Record.

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

In April 2019, Guinness World Records made it official: Mason is the youngest pilot to fly solo around the world. The record used to be held by Lachlan Smart of Australia. He completed a solo flight at age 18 in 2016.

Mason was 18 years and 163 days old—71 days younger than Smart—when he landed his single engine 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 shortly. Let's take off at the beginning, shall we?

Mason earned his pilot's license at age 17. He got a big idea in November 2017. At first, his goal was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?

"I realized that it was possible. But it would be difficult," he told Achieve3000 when we caught up with him at Louisiana Tech University.

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

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

And raise money they did! With the help of generous sponsors, Mason was able to start his journey in July 2018. They also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group runs free summer camps for children with disabilities.

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

It's just one of the problems he had during the trip, which ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.

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

Luckily, Mason was able to get out of the situation thanks, in part, to his 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, and it was extremely hot in the airplane."

Mason admits that he didn't share all the frightening updates with his mother until he was home safe and sound.

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 personal achievement and staying alive."

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

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

Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko

Published on Oct 6, 2018

Edited for length

Dictionary

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

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

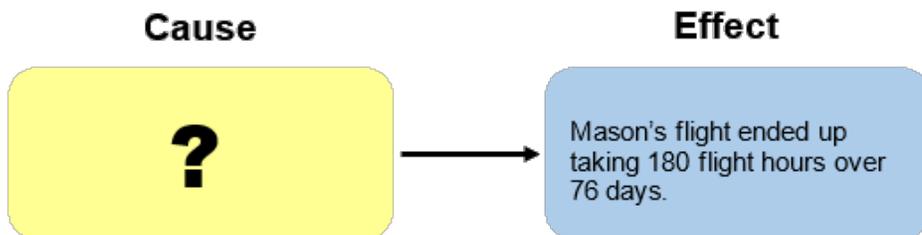
monsoon (*noun*) a wind that carries heavy rains to southern Asia

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

typhoon (*noun*) a tropical cyclone that occurs in the western Pacific or Indian Oceans

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

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

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

- (A) Guinness World Records said that Mason Andrews broke a record by a mere 71 days.
- (B) In July 2018, Mason Andrews took off on his journey from Monroe Regional Airport in Monroe, Louisiana.
- (C) At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.
- (D) Mason Andrews presented a well-thought-out plan to his parents to convince them to let him fly solo around the world.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- (A) Mason Andrews has been receiving attention since he returned to Louisiana and was named a Guinness World Record holder.
- (B) Mason Andrews flew through a 12-hour sandstorm during his flight from Egypt to Dubai.
- (C) Mason Andrews acted generously when he decided to use his trip to raise money for MedCamps of Louisiana.
- (D) Mason Andrews was grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks because of typhoons.

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ Circumnavigate and circle
- Ⓑ Solo and alone
- Ⓒ Supportive and unhelpful
- Ⓓ Convince and persuade

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

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

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

The Article states:

With the help of *generous* sponsors, Mason was able to start his journey in July 2018. They also raised over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana. The group runs free summer camps for children with disabilities.

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

- Ⓐ Brave
- Ⓑ Cowardly
- Ⓒ Kind
- Ⓓ Miserly

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Mason earned his pilot's license at age 17. He got a big idea in November 2017. At first, his goal was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. But then he thought, why not fly around the world?
- Ⓑ Mason said goodbye to his parents and his supportive community at Monroe Regional Airport. He thought he would be gone for about 40 days.
- Ⓒ It's just one of the problems he had during the trip, which ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.
- Ⓓ "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.

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

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

"Anything is possible."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

The Truth about Dogs (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A new museum exhibit studies the relationship between people and dogs. What do you think of this quote by humorist Josh Billings?

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

An exhibit at the California Science Center shows people what a dog's vision is like.

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

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

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

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

1. They have a pee-culiar interest.

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

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

But not dogs. They get a lot of information from the scent. 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 more intelligent than some people think.

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

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

"In a bedroom, they can hear a termite scratching on the wall," Rudolph 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' spot-on senses, an avalanche 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, rescue people trapped in fallen buildings, and even track down poachers going after elephants and rhinos.

4. Yes, they love us, too.

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

"If you look a dog in the eye, a dog will look back at you and you will produce oxytocin," explained Diane Perlov. She's senior vice president for exhibits at the California Science Center. Oxytocin is sometimes called the "love hormone." That's because it is released in our brains to help with bonding and social communication.

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

5. They go way back with humans.

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

Scientists can't quite figure that out. They know dogs descended from wolves and that wolves and people crossed paths more than 10,000 years ago, says Perlov. Wolves and people could each see that the other was pretty good at hunting for food. But did the wolves walk up and offer their help? Or did people make the first move?

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

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

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

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

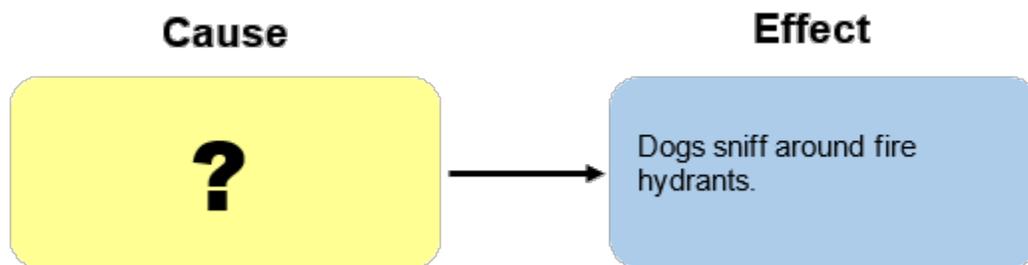
evolve (*verb*) to change gradually over generations or a long period of time

poacher (*noun*) a person who breaks the law by hunting animals or stealing wild plants

sensory receptor (*noun*) nerve endings that respond to changes in the environment

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1



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

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

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

Question 2

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

- (A) The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition.
- (B) The canine exhibition at the California Science Center features a fire hydrant that allows humans to smell what dogs smell.
- (C) Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a movie about canine heroes.
- (D) Visitors to the California Science Center will discover that dogs produce a hormone called oxytocin just as humans do.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

- Ⓐ It's still unclear how the bond between dogs and humans began.
- Ⓑ Dogs are adorable when they rush up to us the moment we come through the door.
- Ⓒ The exhibition at the California Science Center has stations that allow people to experience sights and smells the way dogs experience them.
- Ⓓ The movie *Superpower Dogs* shows canines from around the world rescuing people from life-threatening situations.

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ Surroundings and area
- Ⓑ Domesticate and neglect
- Ⓒ Produce and destroy
- Ⓓ Popular and ignored

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ Describe when and how the first dogs and humans bonded many years ago
- Ⓑ Discuss the similarities and differences in the way dogs and people have evolved
- Ⓒ Explain how dogs are trained to sniff out bombs and rescue people from dangerous situations
- Ⓓ Present some of the findings on display at the California Science Center's canine exhibition

Question 7

The Article states:

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

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

- Ⓐ Forget
- Ⓑ Learn
- Ⓒ Demonstrate
- Ⓓ Disguise

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the canine exhibition at the California Science Center attempts to show people how dogs experience the world?

- Ⓐ The exhibition includes a fire hydrant. And with the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.
- Ⓑ Dogs may seem goofy. But they're more intelligent than some people think.
- Ⓒ It will be at the center before it travels to museums across the U.S. in 2020.
- Ⓓ The California Science Center has spent five years sniffing out answers to these and hundreds of other canine questions.

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)

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

Welcome to Batuu (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo Credit: Disney Parks

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

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

In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true when Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. For five years, 4,000 people sweated the small stuff to create these twin attractions—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. Instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu—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—the land, the rocks, and the trees. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape with a visible history, weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

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

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds, goals, and loyalties. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with putting together their own look and developing 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 Resistance spy might ask them to deliver a message. They can also work as a double agent!

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

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

You think you're ready for some far-away galaxy 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

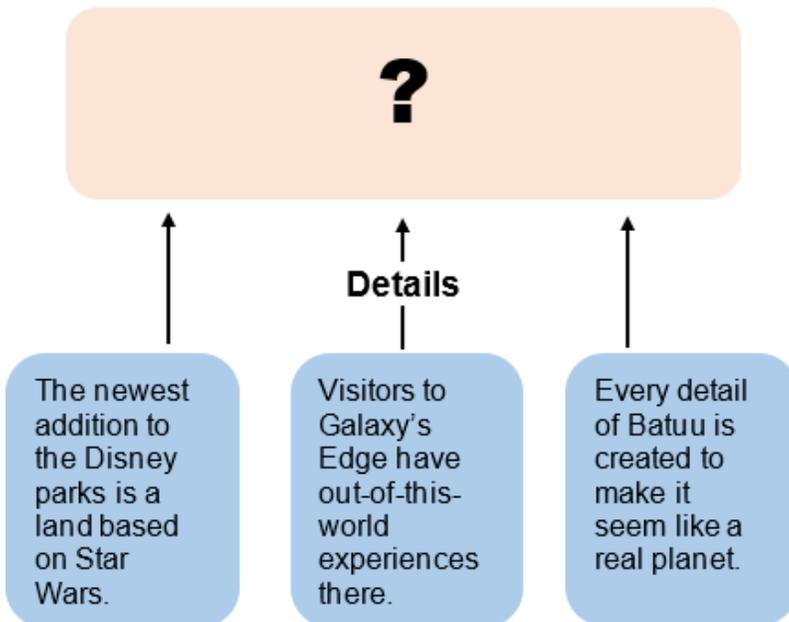
merchandise (*noun*) goods that are bought and sold

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 Disney parks is a land based on Star Wars." The box in the middle says "Visitors to Galaxy's Edge have out-of-this-world experiences there." The box on the right says "Every details of Batuu is created to make it seem like a real planet."

- (A) Disney based the design of Galaxy's Edge on real places like Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona to make it look weathered by age.
- (B) The Galactic Starcruiser is a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space that even offers lightsaber training.
- (C) 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.
- (D) 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."

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 3

The Article states:

In fact, the markets only have stuff Batuu merchants would be selling, like lightsabers and Jedi robes. And you never know who you might meet. A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game. Everyone has different backgrounds, goals, and loyalties. It took three years to design the costumes for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants. And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with putting together their own look and developing their own back stories.

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

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

- Ⓐ ceremony
- Ⓑ system
- Ⓒ product
- Ⓓ entertainment

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida to make the time and effort in developing the lands worthwhile
- Ⓑ the number of visitors to the choose-your-own adventure cruise Galactic Starcruiser is greater than the attendance in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓒ Disney is moving away from having themed rides so 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

Question 6

This Article would help a student write an essay on _____.

- Ⓐ how people of different ages feel about Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓑ how the rides in Disney's parks have changed since they opened
- Ⓒ how Disney goes to great lengths to give its visitors an experience like no other
- Ⓓ how weathering similar to that seen in Petrified Forest National Park happens

Question 7

The Article states:

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

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

- Ⓐ forgotten
- Ⓑ hidden
- Ⓒ impossible
- Ⓓ ugly

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge?

- Ⓐ Instead, the setting is a planet called Batuu—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!
- Ⓑ In 2019, Star Wars fans' dreams came true when Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge. It's a themed area at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida. For five years, 4,000 people sweated the small stuff to create these twin attractions—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!
- Ⓒ And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with putting together their own look and developing 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 Resistance spy might ask them to deliver a message.
- Ⓓ To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up—the land, the rocks, and the trees. Designers used their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape with a visible history, weathered by age. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too. Take the forest where the Resistance hides out. It was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona.

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Women Adventurers (780L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



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

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

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

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

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a persuasive woman.

Nellie Bly (1864-1922) was one of the nation's leading journalists, male or female, of her time. And at the time, journalists were almost all male. In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital on Blackwell's Island in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series. The series 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. She 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

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

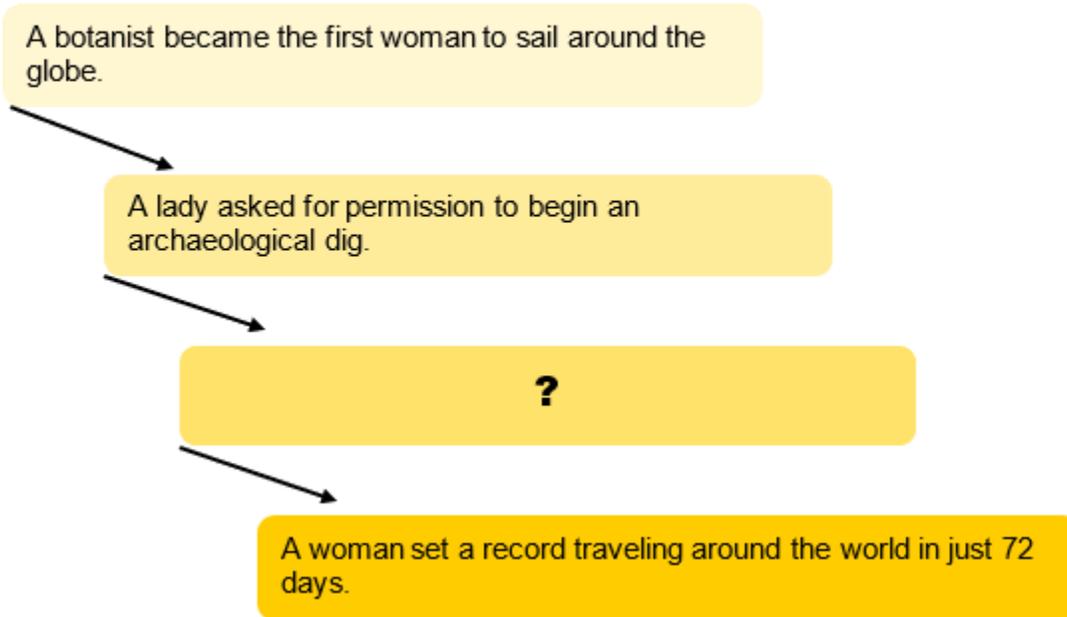
journalism (*noun*) the activity or job of collecting, writing, and editing news stories for newspapers, magazines, television, or radio

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 disguised herself as a man to join a trip around the world.
- Ⓑ A botanist brought bougainvillea seeds back to Europe from Brazil.
- Ⓒ A journalist wrote six articles about a mental hospital in New York.
- Ⓓ A captain invited a botanist to join him on a voyage around the world.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop some from blazing their own trails.
- Ⓑ Nowadays adventurous women sail solo 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.
- Ⓓ Philibert Commerson was invited to take part in a scientific voyage on the French vessel *Étoile* in December 1766.

Question 3

The Article states:

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon. But Stanhope was a persuasive woman.

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

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

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.
- Ⓑ Lady Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East and organized an archaeological dig in Ashkelon.
- Ⓒ It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the *Étoile* because she was certain to be discovered.
- Ⓓ French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville invited several French scientists to join him on a scientific voyage in 1766.

Question 5

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ mental and physical
- Ⓑ nowadays and currently
- Ⓒ granted and allowed
- Ⓓ challenge and dare

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

- Ⓐ In 1887, Bly's boss challenged her to write a news report about the hidden problems at a mental hospital on Blackwell's Island in New York. Bly disguised herself as a mentally ill patient for ten days. Afterwards, she wrote a disturbing six-part series.
- Ⓑ Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear. She had read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*. In the book, a man accepts a challenge to travel the globe in 80 days. Bly wanted to beat this fictional record.
- Ⓒ Nowadays, women sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of groundbreaking female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.
- Ⓓ Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to dig in Ashkelon. This was an ancient city. Astonishing treasures were supposedly buried there. The Turks didn't often allow Westerners to dig in Ashkelon.

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

During her lifetime, Stanhope *accomplished* something that only men had achieved up until then. She arranged an archaeological dig in the Middle East. This made her a groundbreaker in every sense of the word.

In this passage, the word *accomplish* means _____.

- Ⓐ to succeed in doing something
- Ⓑ to hesitate before doing something
- Ⓒ to destroy most of something
- Ⓓ to struggle with something

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Where Nellie Bly wrote a six-part article
- Ⓑ Why Jeanne Baret disguised herself as a man
- Ⓒ How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe
- Ⓓ How long it took Nellie Bly to set a world record

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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



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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?

D The true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and show plants, animals, and a strange creature, remains unknown.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Researchers are wasting their time in trying to figure out why the Nazca Lines were made because it's impossible to know after so much time.

Question 3

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 **synonyms**?

B threat and danger

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A some of the Nazca Lines are so faded that they are hard to see even from the air

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

In this passage, the word *suggest* means _____.

D to show that something is likely true

Question 8

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

D The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs played a part in rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have shown where the rituals were being held. Others may have been more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.

Animated Favorites Get Real

Answer key

Question 1

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

C Adults who enjoyed the animated favorites take their kids to see the live-action remakes.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Studios have been making live-action remakes of older animated movies but with greater diversity and stronger female characters.

Question 3

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

D Updated animated versions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book*, and *Aladdin* have come out at theaters since 2010.

Question 4

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

C sidekick and partner

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To point out the main reason why studios have chosen to produce remakes of some 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?

C 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 people who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons 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 *opportunity* means _____.

B the chance to do or complete something

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

Answer key

Question 1

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

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

Question 2

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

B Adjust

Question 3

Look at the events below. Which event in the Article took place *second*?

C A drink made of ice, tea, milk, and tapioca pearls was invented in Taiwan.

Question 4

Which of these is an opinion?

B Mango is a much tastier flavor option 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 **most** of her information _____.

B In a magazine article called "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

Question 6

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

B Frustrating

Question 7

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

B A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you enjoy your drink. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, bubble tea shops are especially popular with high school and college students. They go there to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

B Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be a confusing experience, especially for those who have never ordered it before.

Cooking Up Native Traditions

Answer key

Question 1

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

C Through NATIFS and The Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman is reviving Native American cooking traditions and practices to both reconnect with his culture and to create food with health benefits.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C Although the government meant to do the right thing, it didn't really help anyone when it gave free canned beans, boxed rice, powdered milk, and vegetable oil 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 **antonym** for the word *indigenous*?

D foreign

Question 5

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

B more and more people will become familiar with the benefits of a Native American diet through the work of NATIFS and The Sioux Chef

Question 6

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

A Why it is so difficult to find traditional ingredients, like mushrooms and wild rice

Question 7

In this passage, the word *chef* means _____.

B a professional cook who is in charge of a kitchen

Question 8

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

C Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with community elders. He also spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors grew, hunted, and prepared their food. And he discovered how to regain an understanding of Native American food practices: by using local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment.

Defying Gravity

Answer key

Question 1

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

B With strength, talent, and determination, Simone Biles never gave up and became what many think is the world's greatest gymnast.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Although hard work and determination have been important, Simone Biles' natural physical ability has been the true key to her success.

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

C doubt

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

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

B What are the names of the two special moves Biles performed at the world championships

Question 7

In this passage, the word *dedication* means _____.

A a feeling of strong support for something

Question 8

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

C In 2011, she didn't make the cut for the U.S. women's junior national team. She missed it by one spot. In her autobiography, Biles describes the defeat as a heartbreaking failure.

The Early-Late Debate

Answer key

Question 1

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

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

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

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

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

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

Question 4

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

C calmness

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 _____.

B explain how important sleep is for adolescents

Question 7

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

A scholarly

Question 8

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

B Although studies suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, more research is needed. And schools that start later will finish later. That will leave students with less time for things like sports, jobs, chores, homework, and—last but not least—fun.

Give Me S'more!

Answer key

Question 1

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

B Each marshmallow had to be poured and molded by hand.

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 over a fire and sandwich it and a piece of chocolate between graham crackers.

Question 3

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

B Dreadful

Question 4

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

B Graham crackers were originally 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 provide readers with 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 made for use in desserts?

B For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do. But they didn't add sweetener. Their chocolate was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.

Question 8

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

B 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 best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

D Every year, games that have had a big influence on the gaming industry are selected for the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

Question 2

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

B Suggest

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

D Video games that offer fast action such as *Super Mario Kart* are more enjoyable to play than games like *Microsoft Solitaire*.

Question 4

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

D Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was designed to teach players a computer skill.

Question 5

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

D Establish and create

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

A To describe the Strong National Museum of Play's guidelines for selecting games to enter the World Video Game Hall of Fame

Question 7

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

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

Question 8

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

A Next year's winners in the World Video Game Hall of Fame may not be the most popular games available at the time.

Good, Bad, or Ugly?

Answer key

Question 1

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

C These companies decided to 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?

C Ugly produce start-ups say their mission is to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from going to waste.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

B Ugly produce companies not only sell produce that has been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doors.

Question 4

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

A Castoff

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

A Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce start-ups, their mission, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good

Question 6

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

C Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. They offer a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country. That makes it harder for smaller farms to compete. These farmers are losing profits.

Question 7

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

D Inviting

Question 8

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

A As more customers buy goods from ugly produce companies, some supermarkets may add ugly produce to their stores.

Katherine the Great

Answer key

Question 1

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

B Katherine Johnson was a mathematical whiz and had a degree in math.

Question 2

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

C From Whiz Kid to Math Hero, Katherine Johnson's Life Is Proof That Anything Is Possible

Question 3

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

D Katherine Johnson released an autobiography titled *Reaching for the Moon*.

Question 4

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

D Necessary and needed

Question 5

This Article would help a student write an essay on _____.

A Successful women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math

Question 6

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

A Many young people will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography encouraging.

Question 7

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

B Her calculations helped push the U.S. space program forward. But they also led to the technology necessary for creating satellite TV, predicting weather, and building small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

Question 8

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

A Unsurprisingly

The Last Generation?

Answer key

Question 1

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

A Pacific Island countries realize that they are all affected by climate change.

Question 2

The Article talks mainly about _____.

A the effect of climate change on Pacific Island nations, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, which aims to reduce carbon emitted by cargo ships

Question 3

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

C alter

Question 4

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

D Why the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership includes only some of the countries that make up the Pacific Islands rather than all of them

Question 5

Why did the author include this passage?

A To explain why the Pacific Island countries developed a plan for reducing carbon emissions from cargo ships

Question 6

In this passage, the word *possibility* means _____.

C a chance that something might exist, happen, or be true

Question 7

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A countries that emit high levels of carbon cause problems not only in their own backyards but around the entire world

Question 8

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

B What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a movie or video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the future of these island nations. And young people on the islands are 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?

A Ofentse Pitse founded an orchestra and choir that lets young black singers develop their gifts while performing the works of African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

D Ofentse Pitse never would have become a conductor if her grandfather had not been a jazz band conductor and choir director.

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 is the closest **antonym** for the word *empower*?

B prevent

Question 5

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

A 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 *ensemble* means _____.

C a collection of people who make up a complete musical group

Question 8

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

D What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone.

Otzi the Iceman

Answer key

Question 1

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

C 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 is the closest **synonym** for the word *specimen*?

B sample

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?

C Chances are, Ötzi had battled with another or maybe several other late-Neolithic men in the valley below. Clearly, he didn't fare too well in the encounter. His wounds probably prevented him from fighting back. Otherwise, he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows that he carried with him.

Question 6

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

B modern

Question 7

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

A watching a video on important discoveries of the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

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

C 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?

C Dogs have been trained to use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can help these rare animals 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?

D The conservationists have had great difficulty locating the endangered Baw Baw frogs because the animals aren't easily reached, seen, or heard in the wild.

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

A To explain why conservationists find it so difficult to locate the Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat

Question 4

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

B liberty

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A scientists find it more difficult to locate female Baw Baw frogs than males during the five or six weeks that the frogs' calls occur

Question 6

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

A Which breed of dog has proven to be the best at sniffing out certain cancers

Question 7

In this passage, the word *detection* means _____.

B the act of discovering, finding, or noticing something

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that an animal might not continue to live on as a species?

D Since 1980, 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population has been wiped out. That's partly because of climate change. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists want to stop this from continuing. Or the small brown frogs might be extinct within the next 10 years.

Social Media, Pompeii Style

Answer key

Question 1

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

B The residents of Pompeii posted messages on walls that lasted for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

C It's a good idea for historians to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning opinions and helpful suggestions.

Question 3

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

C say why the city of Pompeii was covered in ash and rock and give the reason that it remained so well preserved over time

Question 4

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

D resident and inhabitant

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to learn about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before Mount Vesuvius erupted. She would find **most** of her information _____.

B in a TV program titled *Everyday Life in the City of Pompeii*

Question 6

In this passage, the word *graffiti* means _____.

C pictures or words drawn on a wall, building, etc.

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, expressions of love, reviews of goods, advertisements, and helpful suggestions.

Question 8

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

D 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?

A Yokoi was given a hero's welcome in Tokyo as many of his generation were deeply moved by his loyalty to time-honored Japanese values.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Shoichi Yokoi chose to remain in the jungles of Guam and live off the land from 1944 until his "capture" by two fishermen in January 1972.

Question 3

Look at the events below. According to the Article, which of these happened *third*?

A Shoichi Yokoi attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and took him to the local authorities.

Question 4

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

A vanish

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen.

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

A To describe the range of public reaction to Yokoi's return to Japan in 1972

Question 7

In this passage, the word *declared* means _____.

B said something in an official or public way

Question 8

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

C How Shoichi Yokoi came to realize that World War II had ended years earlier

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

Answer key

Question 1

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

C Mason Andrews was grounded for nearly three weeks and flew through terrifying weather.

Question 2

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

C At age 18, Mason Andrews became the youngest solo pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

C Mason Andrews acted generously when he decided to use his trip to raise money for MedCamps of Louisiana.

Question 4

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

C Supportive and unhelpful

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

C Inform readers about a determined young man who worked hard to achieve a challenging goal

Question 6

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

C It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and attempting to achieve future goals.

Question 7

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

C Kind

Question 8

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

D "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.

The Truth About Dogs

Answer key

Question 1

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

B It's one of the ways dogs can mark time and evaluate 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 The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition.

Question 3

Which of these is an opinion?

B Dogs are adorable when they rush up to us the moment we come through the door.

Question 4

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

A Surroundings and area

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A The bond between dogs and humans probably formed because the two species helped one another hunt.

Question 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

D Present some of the findings on display at the California Science Center's canine exhibition

Question 7

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

B Learn

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the canine exhibition at the California Science Center attempts to show people how dogs experience the world?

A The exhibition includes a fire hydrant. And with the push of a button, you can smell what a dog smells.

Welcome to Batuu

Answer key

Question 1

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

C In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land where the design, workers, food, and goods make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

A For children, the Millennium Falcon ride is the best part of going to Galaxy's Edge.

Question 3

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

D 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 *merchandise*?

C product

Question 5

The reader can tell from the Article that _____.

A Disney believes that the popularity of Star Wars will draw enough visitors to Galaxy's Edge in California and Florida to make the time and effort in developing the lands worthwhile

Question 6

This Article would help a student write an essay on _____.

C how Disney goes to great lengths to give its visitors an experience like no other

Question 7

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

B hidden

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that acting is part of the workers' jobs in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge?

C And, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with putting together their own look and developing 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 Resistance 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?

A 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 _____.

A 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?

C It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on the *Étoile* because she was certain to be discovered.

Question 5

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

A mental and physical

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women adventurers are more accepted today than in the past?

C Nowadays, women sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of groundbreaking female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago. Back then, women were expected to stay at home and raise families.

Question 7

In this passage, the word *accomplish* means _____.

A to succeed in doing something

Question 8

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

C How long it took Jeanne Baret to sail around the globe