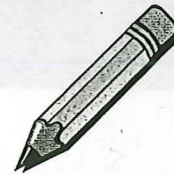




Reading Comprehension

Read each story. Then fill in the circle that best completes each sentence or answers each question.



SAMPLE

Have you ever seen someone on the beach with a sunburn? A sunburn can be quite painful. If the burn is really bad, the skin might blister and peel. Sunburn is caused by the sun's powerful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Wearing sunscreen can **shield** your skin from those damaging rays.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. What is the main idea of this story?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A. Ultraviolet rays cause sunburn.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. Sunburn can cause fever.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. Sunscreen makes skin peel.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. It gets hot at the beach.</p> | <p>2. In this story, the word shield means</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A. burn</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B. lift.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C. protect.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D. open.</p> |
|--|---|

A. For thousands of years, the Inuit people have lived in what is now the northwest part of Canada. For the last 150 years, the Canadian government has ruled the land. Recently, the government has agreed to let the Inuit **govern** part of Canada's Northwest Territory.

Since April 1, 1999, the Canadian map has included the land of Nunavut, which means "our land" in Inuktitut, the Inuit language. The Inuit want control of this land because it is the land of their ancestors. They plan to set up their own government.

1. In this story, the word **govern** means
- A. build.
- B. map.
- C. rule.
- D. live.

2. You can guess from the story that
- A. Canada's government once took over Inuit land.
- B. Canada's government is unfair.
- C. the Inuit cannot speak English.
- D. many Canadian people will soon be homeless.
3. Which would come first on a time line?
- A. The Inuit make a deal with Canada's government.
- B. The Canadian government begins ruling the Inuit's land.
- C. The Inuit settle in Canada.
- D. Nunavut appears on a map.



Vocabulary

In each of the following paragraphs, a word is missing. First, read each paragraph. Then choose the missing word from the list beneath the paragraph. Fill in the circle next to the word that is missing.

Sample:

The car suddenly stopped in the middle of the road. It had run out of _____

The driver had forgotten to fill up the gas tank.

- A. miles C. water
 B. fuel D. popcorn

1. Some really large animals live on the plains of Africa. You might think the biggest ones would be the mightiest hunters, but that's not the case at all. Some of the world's biggest animals eat nothing but leaves, grasses, and shrubs. Instead of hunting other animals, these huge creatures _____ on plant life to survive.

- A. dwell C. grow
 B. sit D. graze

2. The largest plant eater of all is the African Elephant. In fact, the African elephant is the largest land _____ in the entire world! An adult elephant can weigh as much as 12,000 pounds. And a baby elephant is not exactly tiny: It can weigh up to 250 pounds at birth!

- A. shark C. mammal
 B. soil D. farmer

3. Another very large African plant eater is the white rhinoceros. It is second in size only to the elephant. The adult white rhino can weigh up to 5,000 pounds, or two-and-a-half _____

- A. pounds C. ounces
 B. tons D. feet

4. The black rhino is a _____ of the white rhino. Although the two are kin, the black rhino doesn't get nearly as large. At 3,000 pounds, though, the adult black rhino is still pretty big. Both rhinos are very good at using their horns to break off tree branches for dinner.

- A. relative C. friend
 B. neighbor D. killer

5. A somewhat smaller African plant eater is the hippopotamus. At 700 pounds, the adult hippo seems almost _____ compared with an elephant or a rhino—but you'd still feel pretty small standing next to one! A hippo has teeth about 20 inches long. They are excellent tools for munching coarse plants.

- A. giant C. dainty
 B. desperate D. loyal

6. The hippo's teeth also come in handy for fighting off crocodiles. That's important, because hippos spend lots of time in rivers, where crocs live. Hippos have sensitive skin that can easily get too dry. They hang out in the river to keep their skin _____

- A. nasty C. brown
 B. moist D. clean



B. Animals depend on plants and other animals for food. The relationship among these animals and plants is called a food chain. The food chain keeps nature in balance. Here's how it works:

1. Producers: Plants and other organisms that provide food for animals make up the first link in a food chain.
2. Herbivores: These are animals that eat only plants. Called "prey," they are hunted by meat eaters.
3. Carnivores: These meat eaters feed on herbivores. They are also called "predators." When they die, their remains fertilize the ground and help plants grow.

1. What is the best title for this story?
 A. "Plant-Eating Animals"
 B. "Understanding the Food Chain"
 C. "Predators"
 D. "Plants That Need Animals"
2. Animals that eat meat are called
 A. herbivores.
 B. producers.
 C. prey.
 D. carnivores
3. You can guess from this story that
 A. herbivores are hungrier than carnivores.
 B. herbivores are small animals.
 C. Carnivores eat lots of vegetables.
 D. each link in the food chain is important.

C. In Greek mythology, Zeus and Hera were the leaders of the Greek gods. They were husband and wife. Hera sometimes became angry with Zeus when he spent too much time away from home.

Sometimes, Zeus went to the mountains to play with the forest creatures who lived there. Hera always chased after him because she thought Zeus was wasting time. But every time Hera entered the forest, a charming creature named Echo chatted with her and distracted her until Zeus had escaped.

When Hera figured out the Echo had been tricking her, she was **furious**. "Your talk has made a fool of me!" she screamed. "From now on you will have nothing to say, except what others say to you first!"

From that day on, poor Echo could only repeat the last word of what others said.

1. This story is mostly about
 A. Greek gods.
 B. Greece.
 C. forests.
 D. tricks.
2. You can guess from the story that
 A. Zeus was tall and handsome.
 B. Echo lost her voice.
 C. Hera was very gentle.
 D. Echo lived in the forest.
3. In this story, the word **furious** means
 A. angry.
 B. happy.
 C. foolish.
 D. tricky.
4. Zeus and Hera were
 A. soldiers.
 B. forest creatures.
 C. married.
 D. human.



D. When you play a sport, do you feel that you must win—or else? The Youth Sports Institute in Michigan surveyed 26,000 boys and girls on this topic, and found that many feel pushed to be the best.

Where does the pressure come from? Some kids put pressure on themselves, but many say that parents and coaches are also to blame.

They say these adults care only about the final score—not whether kids tried hard or had a good time.

I. What is the main idea of this article?

- A. Fewer kids should play baseball.
- B. Youth sports are always fun.
- C. Many kids feel a lot of pressure to win at sports.
- D. Parents should be banned from going to kids' games.

2. Which of the statements is a *fact*?

- A. Sports pressure is the worst part of kids' sports.
- B. The Youth Sports Institute surveyed 26,000 kids.
- C. Winning is important.
- D. Coaches should not be allowed to pressure players.

3. The author wrote this article to

- A. tell why baseball is good exercise.
- B. tell kids to quit playing sports.
- C. tell about the history of youth sports.
- D. tell about a problem in youth sports.

4. The article probably goes on to talk about

- A. solving the problem of sports pressure.
- B. baseball training camps for kids.
- C. ways for teams to win more games.
- D. youth football programs.

E. In 1844, young Elizabeth Blackwell dreamed of becoming a doctor. There was just one problem: No medical school in the U.S. would accept a woman as a student.

Blackwell convinced several doctors to teach her privately. Then, in 1847, she was accepted by a small college in New York. She graduated at the top of her class.

Blackwell traveled to Paris, France, where she studied at a hospital. Even after losing her sight in one eye, Blackwell did not give up her work as a doctor. In the 1850s, she returned to the U.S. and **established** a hospital for women and children. Today, we remember Elizabeth Blackwell as the trailblazer who opened the field of medicine for women in America.

I. In this story, the word **established** means

- A. set up.
- B. cured.
- C. named.
- D. lost.

2. What is the best title for this story?

- A. "Elizabeth Blackwell: Opening College Doors"
- B. "Elizabeth Blackwell: First Woman Doctor"
- C. "The Autobiography of Elizabeth Blackwell"
- D. "Famous Doctors in History"

3. Which of these is an *opinion*?

- A. Blackwell lost sight in one eye.
- B. Blackwell became a doctor.
- C. Blackwell lived in the 1800s.
- D. Blackwell was very brave.

4. You can guess from this story that Elizabeth Blackwell

- A. got good grades in college.
- B. had French parents.
- C. eventually became totally blind.
- D. died in 1860.



Reading Comprehension

Read each story. Then fill in the circle that best completes each sentence or answers each question.



SAMPLE

To turn 16 dogs to the right, yell, "Come gee!" To turn them to the left, say, "Come haw!" You'll need to know that to enter the Iditarod, the world's longest dogsled race. During the Iditarod, your dogs will have to pull you and your sled over 1,000 miles of frozen ground, from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

1. The Iditarod is
 - A. a command to turn dogs to the right.
 - B. a type of sled.
 - C. the world's longest dogsled race.
 - D. a route from Nome to Anchorage, Alaska.
2. From this story, you can conclude that the Iditarod is
 - A. easy.
 - B. difficult.
 - C. something anyone can do.
 - D. hated outside of Alaska.

A. Although he held an important research job, Billy Jo the chimpanzee was headed for life in a warehouse, with no friends and nothing to do. Then two Canadians gave him and 14 other chimps in similar situations a home on their farm. They felt that Billy Jo and his friends deserved a nice retirement home.

That's because these chimps were part of a research project at New York University to find cures for AIDS and hepatitis. Life at the lab was painful and lonely. The chimps had many operations, tests, and shots. One chimp had 137 liver operations. Another was tranquilized, or knocked out with drugs, 279 times.

1. Why did Billy Jo deserve a nice retirement home?
 - A. He wore purple boxer shorts.
 - B. He withstood painful research.
 - C. He was 30 years old.
 - D. He had lots of friends.
2. What is the best title for this story?
 - A. "How We Find Cures For Diseases"
 - B. "Chimps Retire to Life on the Farm"
 - C. "Research Projects at New York University"
 - D. "AIDS and Hepatitis: Two Deadly Diseases"
3. The next paragraph might talk about
 - A. other animals used in tests.
 - B. life in New York City.
 - C. how Billy Jo and his friends do on the farm.
 - D. cures for AIDS and Hepatitis