



Achieve3000 Literacy™
At Home

Lexile 1080

6TH A • 7TH B • 8TH B • 9TH B/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
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		
			%		

Ancient Lines in the Sand (1080L)

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

This is an aerial view of a monkey geoglyph, one of the many ground drawings in southern Peru known as the Nazca Lines.

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

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

Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years, until a Peruvian archaeologist happened upon them in 1927. But it took the introduction of commercial air travel in the 1930s to bring them to the fore. And even then, nearly 150 geoglyphs eluded discovery for many years. That is until 21st-century technology like satellite imagery, drones, and artificial intelligence found them.

And therein lies some of the wonderment of the Nazca Lines: Why did the artists of a civilization that most likely couldn't have foreseen air travel create etchings that required an airborne perspective? More

fundamentally, you might also ask why the geoglyphs were crafted in the first place and what they represent. Researchers certainly have been pondering these questions for about a century, but the answers remain largely a mystery.

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

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

Many of the geoglyphs are derived from the natural world. There are depictions of a hummingbird, dog, and monkey, to name just a few of the animals represented, as well as plants and trees. And then there are the geoglyphs that completely defy nature. One example is the strange humanoid figure uncovered in 2019, with its multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages. Researchers note that such oddities suggest that the Nazca people had a taste for the magical as well as the natural.

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

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

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

Dictionary

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

longevity (*noun*) the length of time that something or someone lasts or continues

perspective (*noun*) the angle or direction that a person uses to look at an object

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

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ There are a number of possible explanations for the Nazca Lines, but the most recent research suggests that some of the geoglyphs were used in specific rituals for rain and crop fertility, while others were used as signposts directing travelers to ceremonial places.
- Ⓑ Some of the Nazca Lines defy anything found in nature, such as a geoglyph discovered in 2019 that features multiple sets of eyes, mouths, and appendages, suggesting that its creators had a taste for the magical as well as the natural.
- Ⓒ The true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and form images of plants, animals, humanoids, imaginary beings, and straight and squiggly lines etched onto the desert floor, remains open to speculation to this day.
- Ⓓ Interest in the Nazca Lines grew with the introduction of commercial aviation in the 1930s, but nearly 150 of the geoglyphs managed to elude detection until 21st-century technology like satellite imagery, drones, and artificial intelligence helped find them.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ The Nazca Lines were created sometime between 500 BCE and 500 CE by a pre-Incan civilization that removed dark red surface rocks to reveal lighter-colored sand below.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines obviously formed a kind of ancient agricultural calendar because the people who created them would not go to such trouble for anything but very practical reasons.
- Ⓒ Some geoglyphs represent animals found in nature, including depictions of a hummingbird, dog, and monkey, just to name a few.
- Ⓓ Some geoglyphs, which are impossible to distinguish at close range and cover an area of 190 square miles (492 square kilometers), are identifiable from the window of an airplane.

Question 3

The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show that the civilization that made the Nazca Lines must have possessed technology at least as advanced as that of the Incan people
- Ⓑ To point out the fact that the images formed by the Nazca Lines evolved greatly over the course of their development from 500 BCE to 500 CE

- Ⓒ To describe the most recent evidence that helps to explain what the mysterious lines in the Peruvian desert were actually used for
- Ⓓ To explain how a pre-Incan civilization was able to create images on the desert floor that are only distinguishable from a distance

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ ceremony
- Ⓑ agenda
- Ⓒ regulation
- Ⓓ basis

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Geoglyphs mainly served agricultural purposes, with some of the Nazca Lines pointing to the best places to grow crops in the dry region.
- Ⓑ Some of the Nazca Lines are now so faded that they cannot even be recognized from the window of an airplane.
- Ⓒ Peru's Nazca Lines remained completely forgotten until the introduction of commercial air travel in the 1930s made them widely known.
- Ⓓ The Nazca Lines are as conspicuous as many of the wonders of the ancient world, including the pyramids of Egypt and Mexico and Stonehenge in England.

Question 6

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

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

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

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

Many of the geoglyphs are *derived* from the natural world. There are depictions of a hummingbird, dog, and monkey, to name just a few of the animals represented, as well as plants and trees.

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

- (A) to have something as a source
- (B) to produce something in a factory
- (C) to make a smaller model of something
- (D) to create confusion or misunderstanding

Question 8

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

- (A) Between approximately 500 BCE and 500 CE, the pre-Incan civilization that flourished in the region created the geoglyphs. How? By selectively removing some of the dark, reddish surface rocks that cover the terrain and exposing the lighter-colored desert sand underneath them.
- (B) Small wonder, then, that these big wonders went unnoticed for nearly 1,500 years, until a Peruvian archaeologist happened upon them in 1927. But it took the introduction of commercial air travel in the 1930s to bring them to the fore.
- (C) The most recent research suggests that the geoglyphs figured into specific rituals for rain and crop fertility. Certain geoglyphs may have indicated where the rituals were being conducted, while others were more like signposts directing travelers to those ceremonial places.
- (D) Many of the geoglyphs are derived from the natural world. There are depictions of a hummingbird, dog, and monkey, to name just a few of the animals represented, as well as plants and trees.

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 how some of these characteristics have left researchers with questions. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.

Animated Favorites Get Real (1080L)

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

These days, many families flock to theaters to watch live-action remakes of animated movie classics such as "Aladdin," starring Will Smith.

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

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

So what's the big attraction to going live-action? For studios, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up, and the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, studios have stumbled upon a winning formula. It starts with stories audiences love and characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers, add some of modern technology's jaw-dropping special effects, and *ka-ching*, it all equals box office gold. The Disney live-action remakes of *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Alice in Wonderland* each brought in more than a billion bucks worldwide. Meanwhile, Disney's other live-action movies like *A Wrinkle in*

Time and *Tomorrowland* scored points for originality but were lucky if they broke even, let alone make some cash.

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

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

Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity to crank up the girl power. The producer of *Aladdin*, for example, said one reason the remake was such a big hit was because Jasmine isn't just along for the magic carpet ride. 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 stellar. Like the original film, the live-action *Mulan* tells the story of a young woman who takes her father's place in the Chinese Imperial Army, but this version aims to be more culturally respectful and accurate.

Any list of live-action remakes has gotta include the 2019 blockbuster *The Lion King*, right? Well...it's complicated! The footage was created by artists with computers, not by cameras filming actors or animals (we know, not exactly spoiler alert material). So technically, it isn't live-action, but it all looks so real that some people believe the word *animation* feels just plain wrong. What do *you* think?

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

Dictionary

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

According to the Article, what is one reason that the new live-action blockbusters are so popular with fans?

- Ⓐ Adults who grew up watching animated versions of the movies enjoy the sense of nostalgia that they get from watching the new crop of live-action movies.
- Ⓑ Studios have added entirely new characters to classic animated features that are a hit with today's viewing audience.
- Ⓒ Live-action hits such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland* were popular because they used the very latest jaw-dropping special effects.
- Ⓓ The use of expertly trained animals, as seen in *The Lion King*, thrilled audiences who flocked to theaters to watch the hit live-action remake.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Not all live-action films are popular with audiences as was shown in Disney's recent films *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland*, both of which were lucky to break even at the box office.
- Ⓑ While the blockbuster remake of the film *The Lion King* cannot technically be considered live action because the footage was created by artists with computers, its images do appear amazingly lifelike.
- Ⓒ Live-action films such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Detective Pikachu* were both popular because they made adult viewers remember watching them in their animated forms as children.
- Ⓓ Studios have stumbled onto a winning formula by making live-action remakes of classic animated films but with greater diversity and stronger female characters than ever before.

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ One of the reasons for the popularity of the recent live-action films is that these movies show a greater degree of diversity than earlier animated films and can therefore appeal to a wider audience than ever before.
- Ⓑ Live-action movies have proven universally popular among theater-going audiences around the world, as films such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Tomorrowland* have clearly demonstrated.
- Ⓒ Parents who grew up enjoying the animated versions of films such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin* introduce a new generation to the beloved characters by bringing their own children to the live-action remakes.
- Ⓓ The character of Jasmine, who speaks her mind and makes a stand in the hit Disney film *Aladdin*, is representative of the stronger female characters seen in the latest crop of live-action remakes of classic animated films.

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ diversity and variation
- Ⓑ accurate and universal
- Ⓒ complicated and deceptive
- Ⓓ formula and substitute

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ The original animated version of Disney's *Mulan* did not correctly portray some of the events from Chinese history.
- Ⓑ The onscreen images seen in *The Lion King* are actually a skillful combination of computer animation and live-action sequences.
- Ⓒ The first version of the movie *Aladdin* was not popular among viewers because it did not show Jasmine as a strong, independent young woman.
- Ⓓ More people saw the remade version of *Aladdin* than saw either *Beauty and the Beast* or *Alice in Wonderland*.

Question 6

The Article states:

So what's the big attraction to going live-action? For studios, it's mostly about the math. Ticket prices have gone up, and the Internet and TV have a lot to offer. So it takes something special to get people off the couch and into the megaplex. But with live-action remakes, studios have stumbled upon a winning formula. It starts with stories audiences love and characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers, add some of modern technology's jaw-dropping special effects, and ka-*ching*, it all equals box office gold.

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To point out the main reason why studios have chosen to produce remakes of some of the classic animated films of the past
- Ⓑ To show ways in which today's remakes of classic animated films contrast with the original versions of those films
- Ⓒ To explain why the original animated versions of popular Hollywood blockbusters remain popular to this day
- Ⓓ To suggest that studios do not want to invest as much money in the remade versions of classic films as they did in the originals

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ Some moviemakers also see these do-overs as an opportunity to crank up the girl power. The producer of *Aladdin*, for example, said one reason the remake was such a big hit was because Jasmine isn't just along for the magic carpet ride. 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 stellar.
- Ⓑ Like the Fairy Godmother waving her magic wand over a pumpkin, movie studios have been bringing new life to animated classics. They've transformed them—bubbidi-bobbidi-*booyah!*—into live-action blockbusters. *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Jungle Book*, *Alice in Wonderland*, 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'.
- Ⓒ Treating their golden oldies to a modern makeover also gives studios a chance to make them more inclusive. Diversity plays a starring role in Disney's latest remakes, so more kids are seeing characters on the big screen who look like them. In *Aladdin*, Egyptian-Canadian actor Mena Massoud plays the lovable hero and African American actor and rapper Will Smith is the wisecracking Genie. And, as just about everybody and their pet crustacean knows: African American singer and actress Halle Bailey landed the part of Ariel in *The Little Mermaid*.
- Ⓓ It's partly the power of good ol' nostalgia that makes the formula so profitable. Plenty of adults who spent their childhoods waltzing around the living room in Belle ball gowns bought tix to 2017's *Beauty and the Beast*. And millennials who grew up watching Pokémon cartoons were charged up to catch (get it? catch?) *Detective Pikachu*. Of course, the parents among them likely took their kiddos to the theater. (Hello, next-gen fans!)

Question 8

Look at this passage from the Article:

But with live-action remakes, studios have stumbled upon a winning *formula*. It starts with stories audiences love and characters who seem like old friends. Throw in a few A-listers, add some of modern technology's jaw-dropping special effects, and *ka-ching*, it all equals box office gold.

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

- Ⓐ an agreement that allows people, groups, etc. to work together
- Ⓑ a plan or method for doing, making, or achieving something
- Ⓒ a general fact or rule expressed in numbers and symbols
- Ⓓ an abbreviated form of an article, book, or movie

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, complete the following steps:

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

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

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

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

STEP 3: Rethink your summary and the Article.

STEP 4: Check your summary. Then double-check it.

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up (1080L)

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 refreshing drink.

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

To enjoy this treat, you will likely need an extra-wide straw. Why? To slurp up a fun surprise at the bottom of your cup! In addition to tea, flavorings, creamer, and often ice, a bubble tea typically includes some round, chewy goodies. They're most often black tapioca pearls, which are balls of sweetened tapioca. Tapioca is a starchy food made from cassava, the root of a tropical plant. Some people claim these balls of gummy goodness are the "bubbles" that give the drink its name. Others insist that the "bubbles" are the froth that forms on the top of the drink when it's shaken to mix its ingredients.

Tapioca is also used to make desserts, and that probably explains how bubble tea was invented. In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea, a drink consisting of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer, were both popular in Taiwan. Exactly who brewed up the very first bubble tea and where are questions steeped in controversy. Different people and cities have claimed the credit. We can be pretty certain, however, that near the end of that decade, some innovative snacker decided to add ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea.

People loved this new combination, which was like a drink and a snack in one cup. The invention took off like a soap bubble on a breezy day. In no time at all, it was a huge hit all over Taiwan. From there, its popularity spread to other places in Asia.

In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States, especially in areas where there were a lot of Taiwanese immigrants, like Southern California. Now, they're on the rise elsewhere in the U.S. and in

many other countries around the world. If there isn't a bubble tea shop near you now, look for one to pop up soon!

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

If you're afraid you'll be worn out after making all these decisions, don't worry. A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, regular customers, especially high school and college students, go to their favorite bubble tea shop to hang out with friends, play games, or study. For these young people, the shops are an important part of their social lives. As Chatchawat Rienkhemaniyom, the former owner of one bubble tea shop in California put it, "[Bubble tea] has become life."

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

dilemma (*noun*) a situation in which a difficult choice must be made

froth (*noun*) a layer of bubbles

innovative (*adjective*) imaginative and creative

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Optional additions to bubble tea such as almond jelly, pudding, chia seeds, and red beans are called "toppings" even though they typically sink to the bottom of the drink.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea, a sweet beverage typically made from tea, milk, ice, and tapioca pearls, was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s but has now spread to the United States and other places.
- Ⓒ One of the characteristics of bubble tea that people find so appealing is that they can customize the drink to their own tastes, with some shops offering more than a hundred flavors and styles.
- Ⓓ The "bubbles" in bubble tea could refer to balls of sweetened black tapioca, a chewy food made from the root of a tropical plant, or to the froth that forms when the drink is shaken and mixed.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Mellow
- Ⓑ Cooperative
- Ⓒ Impractical
- Ⓓ Inspired

Question 3

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

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

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

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops are very popular in Southern California with high school and college students, who visit them to hang out, play games, or study.
- Ⓑ In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea, a drink made by combining milk with tea, were both popular in Taiwan.
- Ⓒ Exactly who invented bubble tea is a subject of controversy because different cities and people have claimed the credit.
- Ⓓ Bubble tea toppings like almond jelly and pudding are tastier than toppings like chia seeds and red beans because they are sweeter.

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 chapter about the United States in a world atlas
- Ⓑ In an encyclopedia, under the entry for "bubble tea"
- Ⓒ In a food science textbook that gives nutritional data for tapioca
- Ⓓ In an article entitled "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

Question 6

The Article states:

Exactly who brewed up the very first bubble tea and where are questions steeped in *controversy*. Different people and cities have claimed the credit. We can be pretty certain, however, that near the end of that decade, some innovative snacker decided to add ice and tapioca pearls to a milk tea.

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

- Ⓐ Indifference
- Ⓑ Enthusiasm
- Ⓒ Bliss
- Ⓓ Dispute

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is now becoming a part of life for some kids in America?

- Ⓐ Tapioca is also used to make desserts, and that probably explains how bubble tea was invented. In the 1980s, tapioca desserts and milk tea, a drink consisting of—you guessed it—tea and milk or creamer, were both popular in Taiwan. Exactly who brewed up the very first bubble tea and where are questions steeped in controversy. Different people and cities have claimed the credit.
- Ⓑ A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, regular customers, especially high school and college students, go to their favorite bubble tea shop 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 specify the type of tea, for example, black, green, jasmine, or oolong, the amount of ice, and the precise level of sweetness. There's also a flurry of flavor options.
- Ⓓ In the 1990s, bubble tea shops started opening in the United States, especially in areas where there were a lot of Taiwanese immigrants, like Southern California.

Question 8

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ Bubble tea shops became popular in Southern California after they had established a widespread following in other parts of the country.
- Ⓑ Bubble tea shops in Southern California encourage customers to consume their beverages quickly in order to make room for more customers.
- Ⓒ The rate that bubble tea shops are opening in the U.S. has slowed compared to the rate that they were opening in the 1990s.
- Ⓓ Ordering a cup of bubble tea can be a baffling experience, especially for those who have never ordered it before.

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 response.

Cooking Up Native Traditions (1080L)

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 about their collection of groceries: Why didn't the foods reflect their culture?

As Sherman immersed himself in the study of cuisine, yet more questions arose: If North America's history begins with Native Americans, why weren't indigenous 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 and spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors foraged, grew, hunted, fished, preserved, and prepared their food. And he discovered the way to reclaim an understanding of Native American foodways: by utilizing local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment. The idea to make food taste like where it's from inspired Sherman. He established his own Minnesota-based catering business, The Sioux Chef. He also started the culinary non-profit, NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems). His mission is to bring traditional Native American cuisine back to today's world.

But why was it lost in the first place?

Before contact with Europeans, Native peoples employed traditional agricultural and butchering techniques. They also developed methods of food preservation. And the many foods they ate were as varied as North America's geography.

But as Europeans arrived, many traditional food sources, including heirloom seeds, were destroyed. Bison—which was vital to many Native diets—nearly became extinct. And making matters worse, during the late 1800s, the U.S. government sent Native American children to boarding schools, where they were taught cooking and farming methods. But they never learned how to forage, farm, and hunt, as their ancestors did. So years of generational knowledge of Native American food traditions disappeared.

Through NATIFS and *The Sioux Chef*, Sherman is restoring that knowledge and reviving Native American culinary traditions and practices. His recipes avoid wheat, beef, pork, chicken, and other ingredients that were introduced by Europeans, in favor of elk, quail, mushrooms, and wild rice. Sherman also helps teach people how to forage indigenous ingredients like wild dandelion, hyssop, cedar, and bergamot. The results have been traditional Native American dishes with a modern flair: bison meatballs, corn and seed crusted walleye, deviled duck eggs, and other culinary creations.

For Sherman, going back to his roots is not just about reconnecting with his culture. Native American foods also have health benefits. Many of the processed and canned foods provided to Native American reservations through government programs are full of sodium. And they're loaded with bad fats and brimming with sugar. It's believed these foods have contributed to serious health issues plaguing Native American communities, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

NATIFS hopes to address this health crisis by re-establishing Native foodways. It provides opportunities for people to learn about Native cuisine. It also helps tribes to develop culturally unique restaurants in their own communities.

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

Video credit: The Sioux Chef

Dictionary

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

culinary (*adjective*) used in or relating to cooking

forage (*verb*) to search for something (such as food or supplies)

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

Based on information in the Article, in what way do traditional native cuisine and the food commonly eaten today by Native Americans contrast?

- Ⓐ Foods provided to Native Americans today are higher in fats and sodium than traditional native cuisine.
- Ⓑ The traditional Native American diet includes wheat, beef, chicken, and pork.
- Ⓒ Most Native Americans today eat foods such as duck eggs, bison meatballs, and walleye.
- Ⓓ The traditional Native American diet includes canned beans, boxed rice, and vegetable oil.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ 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.
- Ⓑ 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.
- Ⓒ Sean Sherman teaches people how to forage for traditional food ingredients, such as wild dandelion, hyssop, cedar, and bergamot, to create Native American dishes with a modern flair.
- Ⓓ 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 reconnecting with his culture. Native American foods also have health benefits. Many of the processed and canned foods provided to Native American reservations through government programs are full of sodium. And they're loaded with bad fats and brimming with sugar. It's believed these foods have contributed to serious health issues plaguing Native American communities, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To suggest that the government has actually contributed to the health problems of some Native Americans
- Ⓑ To point out that the rate of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer has been falling steadily in Native American communities
- Ⓒ To describe a way in which the United States government has come to the aid of Native Americans and achieved beneficial effects
- Ⓓ To assert that Native Americans are now taking more responsibility for the health issues that currently plague their communities

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- (A) techniques and approaches
- (B) chefs and clients
- (C) foodways and ceremonies
- (D) recipe and delicatessen

Question 5

The reader can predict from the Article that _____.

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

Question 6

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

- (A) Why it is so difficult to find indigenous ingredients, like hyssop, cedar, and bergamot
- (B) Who Sean Sherman turned to when he wanted to find out more about indigenous diets
- (C) What foods were commonly found in Sean Sherman's pantry when he was a boy
- (D) What harmful effects a diet high in sodium, fat, and sugar can impose on one's health

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

The idea to make food taste like where it's from *inspired* Sherman. He established his own Minnesota-based catering business, The Sioux Chef. He also started the culinary non-profit, NATIFS (North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems).

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

- (A) to suggest that something is not true
- (B) to consider something after careful thought
- (C) to make someone want to do something
- (D) to continually bother or annoy someone

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?

- Ⓐ 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 about their collection of groceries: Why didn't the foods reflect their culture?
- Ⓑ But as Europeans arrived, many traditional food sources, including heirloom seeds, were destroyed. Bison—which was vital to many Native diets—nearly became extinct. And making matters worse, during the late 1800s, the U.S. government sent Native American children to boarding schools, where they were taught cooking and farming methods. But they never learned how to forage, farm, and hunt, as their ancestors did.
- Ⓒ Sherman was determined to find answers. He met with community elders and spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors foraged, grew, hunted, fished, preserved, and prepared their food. And he discovered the way to reclaim an understanding of Native American foodways: by utilizing local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment.
- Ⓓ Sherman is one of a small number of chefs serving and promoting traditional Native American ingredients. But this might be changing. Native American foods fit perfectly into the growing farm-to-table movement, which promotes local fresh ingredients. Plus, Native American foods aren't processed and can easily be made vegetarian, gluten-free, or vegan.

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 response.

Defying Gravity (1080L)

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

Biles' performances are so death-defying, you might find yourself thinking gravity's merely a suggestion rather than a natural law; she flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand stupendous physical strength to pull off. If you've seen her perform, you likely don't need much convincing that she's the greatest gymnast in the world. Seems like magic, and yes, natural talent's got a lot to do with it, but chalk it up to good ole fashioned practice and perseverance that skyrocketed this go-getter to the top.

Born on March 14, 1997, in Columbus, Ohio, Biles didn't have a picture-perfect childhood. She spent her early years in foster care until 2003, when her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her. Biles has

said her success wouldn't be possible without the support of her adoptive parents, and they can't be missed cheering her on from the bleachers at every competition.

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

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

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

Biles continued competing against Olympic medalists in top-tier meets, where she went toe-to-toe with the best of the best, often capturing the gold. At age 19, she was chosen to lead Team U.S.A at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. By then, many already recognized Biles as the greatest of all time, or GOAT, but it was during her Olympic debut that she became a household name. *Along with fellow American, swimmer Katie Ledecky, Biles was the most decorated female athlete at Rio, winning five medals in total and four of them gold!*

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

Credit: Video Credit: Team USA

Dictionary

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

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

perseverance (*noun*) the quality that allows someone to continue trying to do something even though it is difficult

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Gymnast Simone Biles said in her autobiography that failing to achieve a spot on the 2011 U.S. women's junior national team was a devastating, heartbreaking failure on her part.
- Ⓑ At a recent world championship, Simone Biles performed her trademark move the "Biles," which is a double-double balance beam dismount with a double-twisting double backflip.
- Ⓒ With an abundance of physical strength, talent, and persistence, Simone Biles overcame obstacles and difficulties to become what many consider to be the greatest gymnast in the world.
- Ⓓ Simone Biles' childhood was far from perfect, and, in fact, she spent her early years in foster care until her grandparents, Ron and Nellie Biles, adopted her in 2003.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

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 when two members of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team withdrew due to injuries. Biles replaced none other than Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross. You could say she had big shoes to fill, but then again, gymnasts usually perform barefoot!

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To draw emphasis to the fact that gymnast Simone Biles wouldn't have been able to join the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team without a great deal of natural athletic ability
- Ⓑ To point out that a rivalry between gymnasts Simone Biles and Kyla Ross gave Biles the motivation needed to replace Ross on the United States' national gymnastics team
- Ⓒ To show how Simone Biles was able to overcome a devastating, heartbreaking failure and achieve a sought-after spot on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team

Ⓓ To suggest that Simone Biles worked just as hard as Olympic gold medalist Kyla Ross to achieve success in gymnastics

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ consolation
- Ⓑ reluctance
- Ⓒ aggravation
- Ⓓ vengeance

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

One [signature move], now officially named the "Biles," is a mind-boggling double-double dismount from the balance beam involving a double-twisting double backflip. Whew—that's even hard to say!

Biles' performances are so death-defying, you might find yourself thinking gravity's merely a suggestion rather than a natural law; she flawlessly twists and turns in the air like a leaf in the wind. And yet, her techniques demand stupendous physical strength to pull off.

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

- Ⓐ the method of doing something using a special skill
- Ⓑ something that happens as the result of a particular action
- Ⓒ the ability to understand something difficult or confusing
- Ⓓ success in defeating an opponent or competitor

Question 8

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

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

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 response.

The Early-Late Debate (1080L)

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 instead of bouncing out of bed when it's time to get up for school? If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of researchers and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. Advocates say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and academic achievement.

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

So middle schoolers and high schoolers will have a chance to get more minutes of California dreamin' in the morning, but what about younger students? The reason the new law doesn't cover elementary schools has a lot to do with *circadian rhythms*. While that might sound like a hip-hop dance craze, it actually refers to changes that happen in the body in 24-hour cycles. *How much* you sleep is important, but *when* you sleep matters, too.

Research shows that most adolescents need about nine hours of sleep a night, but unlike younger or older people, they typically get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So, while a 5-year-old or a 35-year-old might get a great night's rest by hitting the pillow at 7 p.m. and waking up at dawn, most teens' bodies just don't work that way. If they get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on a lot of top-quality z's.

What's more, sleep deprivation puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues, like eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

But not everyone concurs that starting the school day later is a smart way to go. Opponents argue there's no guarantee that students will get more sleep. (A law that mandated bedtimes would be a real nightmare, right?!) Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, additional 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 needs to pay for more buses and drivers. That's one reason so many high schools start very early. Flipping the schedules so that elementary schools start first has drawbacks, too. Younger kids need more total hours of sleep. And early elementary dismissal times could be hard on working parents. Another option would be shifting all school schedules later, but that could create a whole new set of problems, with elementary schools getting out much later in the day.

California schools will have to work through these and other issues as they implement the new rules in 2022. Educators and government officials in other places will be watching to see how the experiment goes and looking to apply the lessons learned. In fact, several school districts outside California have already implemented start times that meet California's new standards. In Seattle Public Schools, high schools now start no earlier than 8:45 a.m. And an Ohio legislator recently introduced a bill to push back school start times there.

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

Dictionary

<p>concur (<i>verb</i>) to agree with someone or something</p> <p>legislation (<i>noun</i>) a law or set of laws made by a government</p>

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What cause and effect relationship is described in this Article?

- Ⓐ If the new school start times work well for California, all other states in the U.S. will implement similar changes to their school start times.
- Ⓑ If all schools in a district start around the same time, the cost of providing buses and drivers will increase.
- Ⓒ If high schools start earlier, students will have energy levels high enough to enable more of them to participate in afterschool activities.
- Ⓓ If adolescents are able to sleep later and start the school day at a later time, their school attendance will be more consistent.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ A later school start time for adolescents could have such unintended consequences as reduced time for after-school activities and responsibilities, additional transportation expenses for districts, and negative impacts on younger children.
- Ⓑ Students who get too little sleep risk physical and mental health issues like diabetes, cardiovascular problems, eating disorders, anxiety, and depression, and may perform worse academically than students who get adequate sleep.
- Ⓒ Some schools in the U.S. are moving to later start times, but there's ongoing debate about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school and whether the predicted benefits justify the problems caused by implementing the shift.
- Ⓓ Officials across the country are delaying decisions about starting high schools earlier by observing the outcomes and implications of the shift in California, rather than accepting the risks of experimenting with earlier start times themselves.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ consideration
- Ⓑ regulation
- Ⓒ prevention
- Ⓓ determination

Question 5

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

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

Question 6

The Article states:

What's more, sleep deprivation puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues, like eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!

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

- Ⓐ emphasize how important sleep is for adolescents
- Ⓑ illustrate that sleep is more important to adults than adolescents
- Ⓒ analyze the quality of the research on adolescent sleep
- Ⓓ identify issues common to all students during adolescence

Question 7

The Article states:

Opponents argue there's no guarantee that students will get more sleep. (A law that *mandated* bedtimes would be a real nightmare, right?!) Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, additional research is needed.

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

- Ⓐ accelerated
- Ⓑ dictated
- Ⓒ eliminated
- Ⓓ nominated

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

- Ⓐ What's more, sleep deprivation puts students at risk of developing serious physical and mental health issues, like eating disorders, diabetes, heart problems, anxiety, and depression. Academic performance is affected, too. It's hard to learn when you're nodding off at your desk!
- Ⓑ Opponents argue there's no guarantee that students will get more sleep. (A law that mandated bedtimes would be a real nightmare, right?!) Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, additional 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 typically get their best sleep between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m. So, while a 5-year-old or a 35-year-old might get a great night's rest by hitting the pillow at 7 p.m. and waking up at dawn, most teens' bodies just don't work that way. If they get up at 5 or 6 a.m., they miss out on a lot of top-quality z's.
- Ⓓ If you think school shouldn't kick off at the crack o' dawn, you're not alone. Lots of researchers and doctors agree. That's why some groups are pushing for later start times. Advocates say a little extra shut-eye makes a big difference in students' health and academic achievement.

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 response with evidence from the Article.

Give Me S'more! (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

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

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: kellyvandellen/iStock/Getty Images

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

SAVANNAH, Georgia (Achieve3000, July 18, 2019). *S'more, j'adore!* Roughly translated from French, that 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 craft a proper s'more:

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

A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best elements of dessert-dom—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and combines them to create melty bliss. Yes, it's messy—everyone knows some of the world's best foods are the ones that dribble down your chin. And yes, it's the best thing you'll ever taste. One bite, and you'll think, "I want *some more!*" Then you'll wonder, "Who thought of *this?*"

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

Take the marshmallows. These yummy treats aren't new, but for hundreds of years, they were complicated to make. Marshmallow recipes called for eggs, sugar, and the root sap of a plant called the "marsh mallow."

Additionally, each individual treat had to be poured and molded by hand. The process was so laborious that marshmallows were a rare luxury reserved for the wealthy. Thankfully, marshmallows no longer have to be crafted by hand. And since they're now prepared using inexpensive ingredients (corn syrup, cornstarch, and gelatin), more people can indulge in marshmallow snacks.

As for the chocolate, many Americans say that a s'more isn't the real deal unless it's made with a Hershey's milk chocolate bar. Ancient chocolate was very different from the modern chocolate many of us know and love. For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do, but while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter. It wasn't until 1875 that a Swiss candlemaker-turned-chocolatier named Daniel Peter invented a process to mix milk and sugar with chocolate to make what we know as "milk chocolate."

No one's really sure what genius first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers, but it might have been someone associated with the Girl Scouts organization. A 1927 edition of a Girl Scouts manual contains a reference to the delectable treat, calling it "Some More," presumably because that's what you want after eating one.

These days, s'mores are widely known, but that doesn't mean we've all tried them. What if you don't have a campfire handy? There are ways to satisfy your craving for s'mores without ever lifting a stick. Many stores have a slew of s'more-inspired products, from s'more Pop-Tarts to candy bars. Sadly, none of these wannabes manage to capture the essence of an authentic s'more. But don't fret. In a pinch, you can construct a s'more (or two, or three) and zap it in the microwave for a bit or toast it in the oven. It's not quite the same, but it's still got the goo factor.

S'more deliciousness? Yes, please!

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Video credit: Hilah Cooking

Dictionary

delectable (*adjective*) tasty; delicious

laborious (*adjective*) requiring a great amount of work and effort

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

According to the Article, why were marshmallows once considered a rare luxury?

- Ⓐ Marshmallow recipes required significant amounts of gelatin and root sap, which for 3,000 years were produced only in Mesoamerica.
- Ⓑ Candy makers reserved marshmallows for their wealthiest clients because they were made with expensive ingredients like corn syrup and cornstarch.
- Ⓒ The process for making marshmallows was complicated and involved pouring and molding each individual marshmallow by hand.

Ⓓ Until 1875, only Swiss candlemaker Daniel Peter knew the secret to extracting root sap from the marsh mallow plant.

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ Disagreeable
- Ⓑ Desirable
- Ⓒ Distinctive
- Ⓓ Dramatic

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ The name "s'more" probably came about from the idea that the dessert was so delicious anyone who tried it would automatically ask for "some more."
- Ⓑ In 1875, Swiss candlemaker Daniel Peter developed a way to mix milk, sugar, and chocolate to create what is now called "milk chocolate."
- Ⓒ Today's marshmallows are produced using lower-cost ingredients such as corn syrup, corn starch, and gelatin, making the sweet treat more affordable.
- Ⓓ Graham crackers, originally created in the late 1800s using coarse whole wheat flour, have become more popular with the addition of molasses and sugar.

Question 5

In the *second-to-last* paragraph, the author presents information regarding s'more-inspired snacks and microwave cooking processes in order to _____.

- Ⓐ Describe the inspirational products available for s'more lovers at grocery stores, as well as the disadvantages of campfire cooking
- Ⓑ Demonstrate the popularity of s'mores among consumers and provide readers with alternatives to traditional s'more making
- Ⓒ Analyze the variety of s'more-inspired foods at grocery markets and compare oven-baked s'mores with microwaved s'mores

- Ⓓ Convince readers to purchase more breakfast snacks and candy bars, and to use safer cooking methods than campfires

Question 6

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ Authentic and inexpensive
Ⓑ Slew and absence
Ⓒ Complicated and elaborate
Ⓓ Indulge and partake

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not initially cultivated to create desserts?

- Ⓐ A s'more (pronounced "smore" or "sa-MORE") takes the three best elements of dessert-dom—the gooey, the chocolatey, and the crispy—and combines them to create melty bliss.
Ⓑ For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do, but while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.
Ⓒ As for the chocolate, many Americans say that a s'more isn't the real deal unless it's made with a Hershey's milk chocolate bar.
Ⓓ No one's really sure what genius first thought of sticking marshmallows and chocolate between two graham crackers, but it might have been someone associated with the Girl Scouts organization. A 1927 edition of a Girl Scouts manual contains a reference to the delectable treat, calling it "Some More," presumably because that's what you want after eating one.

Question 8

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

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

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

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

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

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

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

STEP 3: Rethink your summary and the Article.

STEP 4: Check your summary. Then double-check it.

Global Game Fame (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In 2019, several video games were inducted into 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 selected an elite group of 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 the gamer's equivalent of the Nobel Prize? If so, The Strong National Museum of Play agrees with you!

In 2015, the museum established the very first World Video Game Hall of Fame. The museum is in the U.S. state of New York. It houses the official collection of the world's most awesome and influential video games. The interactive exhibit, called "eGameRevolution," allows visitors the opportunity to play their way through video game history.

In the four years since the hall of fame began, hundreds of games have been nominated, but only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's inductees are *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*. On May 2, 2019, these games joined an elite collection of previous winners selected among computer, console, handheld, mobile, and arcade games.

The chosen winners are not always the most recent or exciting games but can often be old-fashioned games that few people actually play anymore. *Colossal Cave Adventure*, for instance, is a text-based computer game from 1976. Its imaginary world inspired numerous other adventure games that helped launch the commercial computer game industry.

So what does it take for a video game to earn hall-of-famer status? Nominated games are judged on four basic criteria: icon-status, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a substantial impact on the gaming industry. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have maintained a presence or influence over time. That means games are frequently chosen that may seem obscure or simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games helped transform the industry.

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

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

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

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

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

So which games will get nominated next year? We could say the choice is yours! But even if your nominee doesn't make it, you can still consider attending the award ceremony. It's held annually in Rochester, NY. Attendees play interactive trivia, 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

equivalent (*adjective*) having the same value or meaning

obscure (*adjective*) not well known or often seen

status (*noun*) how good something is thought to be

trivia (*noun*) odd or little-known facts

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ In 2019, *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution* were all finalists for induction into the World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- Ⓑ Every year, The Strong National Museum of Play inducts video games that have had a substantial influence on the gaming industry into its World Video Game Hall of Fame.
- Ⓒ Games inducted into the World Video Game Hall of Fame are not always exciting, new games but instead are games that display icon-status, popularity, geographical reach, and influence over time.
- Ⓓ *Microsoft Solitaire* is an inductee into the World Video Game Hall of Fame that has tremendous geographical reach, having been installed on more than 1 billion computers worldwide.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Coincidental
- Ⓑ Sophisticated
- Ⓒ Authentic
- Ⓓ Prominent

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 4

Based on information in the Article, in what way do *Super Mario Kart* and *Microsoft Solitaire* contrast?

- Ⓐ Only *Microsoft Solitaire* gained immediate popularity among gaming enthusiasts.
- Ⓑ Only *Super Mario Kart* had a significant influence on the video game industry.
- Ⓒ Only *Microsoft Solitaire* was designed to teach players a valuable computer skill.
- Ⓓ Only *Super Mario Kart* was available for use on personal computers.

Question 5

The Article states:

In the four years since the hall of fame began, hundreds of games have been nominated, but only a few have earned a place of honor along these halls. Among this year's inductees are *Colossal Cave Adventure*, *Super Mario Kart*, and the computer card game *Microsoft Solitaire*. On May 2, 2019, these games joined an elite collection of previous winners selected among computer, console, handheld, mobile, and arcade games.

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

- Ⓐ Exclusive
- Ⓑ Adequate
- Ⓒ External
- Ⓓ Haphazard

Question 6

The Article states:

So what does it take for a video game to earn hall-of-famer status? Nominated games are judged on four basic criteria: icon-status, long-term popularity, geographical reach, and influence. To earn a place among the best, games must have had a substantial impact on the gaming industry. They need to have contributed to world culture. The games must also have maintained a presence or influence over time. That means games are frequently chosen that may seem obscure or simple to today's gamers. Once, though, these games helped transform the industry.

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To emphasize the fact that a game's popularity is the principal standard for it to be chosen as a finalist for induction into the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓑ To suggest that a video game's icon-status is more important than its longevity for being inducted into the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓒ To describe The Strong National Museum of Play's standards for selecting inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame
- Ⓓ To explain to the reader why older, outdated games are often overlooked as inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a game should have significantly impacted the gaming industry in order to be inducted into the hall of fame?

- Ⓐ Have strong opinions about which games should be nominated for the World Video Game Hall of Fame next year? Get involved! During the first few months of each year, anyone can go online to nominate games.
- Ⓑ *Microsoft Solitaire*, for instance, has likely been installed on more than 1 billion computers around the world since 1991. Based on a centuries-old card game, it was *both* popular and influential, and even taught computer users how to use a new device—the mouse.
- Ⓒ On May 2, 2019, these games joined an elite collection of previous winners selected among computer, console, handheld, mobile, and arcade games.
- Ⓓ The remaining field of this year's nominees, which was narrowed down to just 12 games, featured cell phone, online, and virtual games. Some of the finalists included *Candy Crush Saga*, *Centipede*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ 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 criteria for selecting inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame will change significantly next year.
- Ⓒ *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.
- Ⓓ Next year's inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame may not be the most popular games available at the time.

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 response.

Good, Bad, or Ugly? (1080L)

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 the most hideous produce. You know—strawberries that seem to be sprouting arms, apples so bruised they look like they've just staggered out of the boxing ring, tomatoes you're convinced have devil horns, and those mean-mugged potatoes.

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

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

The start-ups say they're on a mission to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from needlessly going to waste each year. Think of it this way: A banged-up banana isn't any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich, so why should it be thrown away?

On the surface, these companies may seem to have the right idea. They even offer deep discounts for their misfit goods, which is great news for customers. But skeptics say ugly produce peddlers—Imperfect Produce, Hungry Harvest, and Misfits Market, to name a few—may only be focused on what's best for their profits.

The Ugly Truth?

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

Case in point: Many local farmers across the country had already been selling boxes of imperfect produce directly to consumers and farmers markets for years. Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. And since the start-ups are able to provide a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country, critics complain that it's gotten difficult for small farms to compete with these marketing machines—and the farmers are losing profits fast.

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

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

Not So Bad, After All?

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

Take Imperfect Produce, for example. In March 2019, it clapped back at critics on its website, letting people know that the company doesn't take away from food banks that help the needy. Imperfect Produce said it sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want. Furthermore, the company itself regularly donates food to food banks. Now put *that* in your food basket!

As for the companies' messaging that they save unwanted produce from being wasted, it's true that some produce goes to waste in America. The Department of Agriculture has confirmed that food waste is a major problem in the U.S. In fact, they say an estimated 30 to 40 percent of the country's food supply is wasted.

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

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

Dictionary

denounce (*verb*) to accuse publicly

skeptic (*noun*) a person who questions if something is true

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

According to the Article, what is one reason why skeptics believe ugly produce companies aren't being completely forthcoming in their messaging?

- Ⓐ Ugly produce companies have refused to discuss why their business model allows them to offer such deep discounts to customers.
- Ⓑ Some ugly produce companies conceal the fact that some of their produce has previously been rejected by supermarkets.
- Ⓒ Some ugly produce companies do not acknowledge the results of a Department of Agriculture study about food waste in the United States.
- Ⓓ Ugly produce companies may fail to mention that ugly fruits and vegetables are also utilized on farms and in the food industry.

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

- Ⓐ Supermarkets deserve much of the blame for today's food waste problem, considering that they reject perfectly good produce based on appearance alone.
- Ⓑ It's important for local farmers who view ugly produce companies as competition to launch online marketing campaigns in order to attract more customers.
- Ⓒ The criticism piled on imperfect produce companies is pointless because consumers are more motivated than ever to prevent food waste and save money.
- Ⓓ Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that may have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doorsteps.

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Belittle
- Ⓑ Acclaim
- Ⓒ Expel
- Ⓓ Retain

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

- Ⓐ Inspire companies like Imperfect Produce and Hungry Harvest to reconsider their marketing messaging
- Ⓑ Criticize the founders of ugly produce companies for not doing enough to support food banks that distribute 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
- Ⓓ Offer readers both sides of a debate about ugly produce start-ups, their intentions, and whether these companies are doing more harm than good

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that imperfect produce companies are only concerned with what's best for their own profits?

- Ⓐ Imperfect Produce said it sources from farms only *after* food banks take what they want. Furthermore, the company itself regularly donates food to food banks. Now put *that* in your food basket!
- Ⓑ The start-ups say they're on a mission to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from needlessly going to waste each year. Think of it this way: A banged-up banana isn't any less tasty in a peanut butter sandwich, so why should it be thrown away?
- Ⓒ Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. And since the start-ups are able to provide a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country, critics complain that it's gotten difficult for small farms to compete with these marketing machines—and the farmers are losing profits fast.
- Ⓓ 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:

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

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

- Ⓐ Exceptional
- Ⓑ Defective
- Ⓒ Flawless
- Ⓓ Changeable

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Ugly produce companies will be forced out of business as local farmers start selling imperfect fruits and vegetables to people in their neighborhoods.
- Ⓑ As more consumers start buying goods from ugly produce start-ups, some supermarkets may consider adding imperfect produce to their grocery aisles.
- Ⓒ To please critics who question if they are always truthful, ugly produce companies will inform customers that food waste may not be a problem in the U.S.
- Ⓓ Food banks will begin to purchase their fruits and vegetables from ugly produce companies that offer deep discounts.

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? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

Katherine the Great (1080L)

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 pursuing 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 expert work as a mathematician for NASA made headlines in more ways than one.

HAMPTON, Virginia (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Katherine Johnson has never had a hit song or given an Oscar-winning performance. She has not been an Olympic athlete or a fashion icon, either. Johnson's greatness comes from her work as a math expert.

Math directly impacts all our lives, whether we're aware of it or not. Here's how Johnson's math affects your life: From the 1950s until the 1980s, Johnson worked for NASA, the U.S. space agency. Without NASA's space program, which her calculations helped push forward, we wouldn't have the technology necessary for things like satellite TV, sophisticated meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones). So while Johnson may never be on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, you could say she's quite a hero.

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

To get a job as a "human computer," of course, Johnson had to be really good at math—and she was. Born in West Virginia in 1918, Johnson was a whiz kid who skipped several grades in school. After graduating from college with high honors and a degree in mathematics, she began teaching at a public school. In 1953, Johnson heard that jobs for African American women with math and science backgrounds were available at

the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA, which later became part of NASA). It was then that Johnson applied and was offered a position.

Johnson worked on numerous space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation for the accuracy of her calculations. That year, NASA was preparing for Friendship 7, a mission that would put astronaut John Glenn into orbit around Earth. NASA had programmed computers with the necessary equations to calculate the trajectory of Glenn's space capsule. Anyone who has ever used a computer knows how fast and accurate they are. But Glenn wondered what would happen if the computers broke down or malfunctioned. To guard against this, he requested a human computer—specifically, Katherine Johnson—to run the equations that had been programmed into the computers.

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

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

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

The NASA legend believes *she* was able to reach for the moon because of a lifetime of curiosity. "You learn if you want to. So you've got to want to learn," she says. Johnson wants young people to be able to follow in her impressive footsteps and 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

malfunction (*verb*) to fail to work properly

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

- Ⓐ Because women and minorities were encouraged to pursue high-level jobs in the 1950s, Katherine Johnson was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.
- Ⓑ Because NASA did not yet have computers programmed to calculate the trajectory of astronaut John Glenn's space capsule, he asked Katherine Johnson to run the equations for his mission.
- Ⓒ Because Katherine Johnson was good at math, she was hired as a "human computer" for NASA and earned a reputation for the accuracy of her calculations.
- Ⓓ Because Katherine Johnson was the subject of the 2016 hit movie *Hidden Figures*, her name appears on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Question 2

The best alternate headline for this Article would be _____.

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

Question 3

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

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

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

Question 4

If a computer *malfunctions*, it does **not** _____ as expected.

- Ⓐ Collapse
- Ⓑ Infuriate
- Ⓒ Console
- Ⓓ Perform

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ The extraordinary accomplishments of former NASA astronaut John Glenn
- Ⓑ Groundbreaking women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math
- Ⓒ NASA's contributions to modern-day technology
- Ⓓ Katherine Johnson's childhood years in West Virginia

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ Katherine Johnson was a respected public figure who enjoyed the spotlight during her career, which spanned three decades at NASA.
- Ⓑ 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.
- Ⓓ Many young people, especially those who have experienced race or gender discrimination, will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography inspirational.

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?

- Ⓐ Johnson worked on numerous space missions. By 1962, she had earned a reputation for the accuracy of her calculations.
- Ⓑ Without NASA's space program, which her calculations helped push forward, we wouldn't have the technology necessary for things like satellite TV, sophisticated meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).
- Ⓒ In her three decades at NASA, Johnson worked on many other missions. They included Project Apollo's lunar lander (the famous one that landed astronauts on the moon for the first time, in 1969), as well as the space shuttle program.
- Ⓓ To guard against this, he requested a human computer—specifically, Katherine Johnson—to run the equations that had been programmed into the computers.

Question 8

The Article states:

They did things like calculate orbital trajectories—important work when you're preparing to send people into space. Remarkably, they did this work at a time when women and minorities were often discouraged from *pursuing* high-level jobs.

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

- Ⓐ Occupying
- Ⓑ Performing
- Ⓒ Abandoning
- Ⓓ Maintaining

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 response.

The Last Generation? (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

Everyone should work together to stop climate change.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)



Photo credit: maloff/Shutterstock

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

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Living on a tropical island might sound fabulous, but what if you took a trip or went away for college and found you could never return? What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or the premise of a video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll be the last generation.

But the islanders' determination is as strong as their connection to their home. The Pacific Islands are made up of 11 independent countries, including the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Now the people of these distinct nations are banding together to confront the challenges of climate change.

Why is climate change such a huge threat to this part of the world? It's a matter of "first and worst." Because of their low elevations, islands 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* devastation from the impacts of climate change. The region is susceptible to very destructive tropical storms, and it's hard for small, remote countries to recover from natural disasters.

The nations of the Pacific Islands, which are home to more than 2 million people, recognize that when it comes to climate change, they're all in the same boat. Working together, they set about looking for ways to take the helm and address the problem. Scientists already know one way to slow or reverse the impacts of climate change. That's by significantly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But

cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect because they aren't a major source of emissions to begin with. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon annually. The United States emits 16 percent. The Marshall Islands, on the other hand, emit less than 0.00001 percent of the world's carbon!

But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact of these seafaring vessels 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 attributed to the entire country of Germany!

Realizing it was up to them to come up with solutions in their own backyards—or bays and harbors—Pacific Islanders came up with a plan. At the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019, the governments of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu announced the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership. The alliance pledges a 40 percent reduction in carbon emissions from shipping by 2030. It also wants to achieve zero-carbon shipping by 2050.

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

But Pacific Islanders aren't stopping there! They're coordinating programs to focus attention on 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, where people are fighting for life and land. The citizens of these island nations are inspired to work together so they all can survive and thrive in their homelands for generations to come.

Video credit: United Nations

Dictionary

devastate (*verb*) to destroy much or most of (something): to cause great damage or harm to (something)

leverage (*verb*) to use (something valuable) to achieve a desired result

premise (*noun*) a statement or idea that is accepted as being true and that is used as the basis of an argument

susceptible (*adjective*) easily affected, influenced, or harmed by something

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

- Ⓐ Because the Pacific Island region is coordinating programs to increase its ability to effectively react to destructive tropical storms, some Pacific Island countries pledged to achieve zero-carbon emissions from shipping by 2050.
- Ⓑ Because China emits high levels of carbon as compared with the rest of the world, communities in China will be some of the first places to experience the harmful results of rising sea levels due to climate change.
- Ⓒ Because Pacific Island countries contribute only a minor part of the world's carbon emissions, reducing air pollution on the islands is unlikely to significantly lower the amount of carbon worldwide.
- Ⓓ Because cargo ships are responsible for approximately 3 percent of the world's carbon emissions, the United Nations Climate Action Summit made a plan called the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership in 2019.

Question 2

The Article primarily discusses _____.

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

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ backward
- Ⓑ doomed
- Ⓒ customary
- Ⓓ resistant

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Why the Pacific Island countries are experiencing the effects of climate change more than some other areas
- Ⓑ Why the Marshall Islands, Fiji, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and other countries in the Pacific Islands have started working together
- Ⓒ Why the countries in the Pacific Islands rely on carbon-producing cargo ships more than some other countries do
- Ⓓ 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

Read the following passage from the Article:

But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact of these seafaring vessels 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 attributed to the entire country of Germany!

Why did the author include this information?

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

Question 6

The Article states:

Scientists already know one way to slow or reverse the impacts of climate change. That's by significantly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas *emissions*. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect because they aren't a major source of emissions to begin with.

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

- Ⓐ discharge
- Ⓑ dislocation
- Ⓒ displacement
- Ⓓ disapproval

Question 7

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

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

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ How will the countries meet these ambitious goals for going green with Pacific Blue? They plan to leverage some really cool, environmentally friendly, carbon-free technologies. These include solar-powered ships and hydrogen fuel cells. The plan is to also harness wind energy for sailing and converting to electric power. Through the partnership and their efforts to assemble a fleet of these greener ships, Pacific Island nations are leading the world by example. They're hoping their move could start a wave of change in the shipping industry.
- Ⓑ What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or the premise of a video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll be the last generation.
- Ⓒ Scientists already know one way to slow or reverse the impacts of climate change. That's by significantly reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. But cutting back air pollution on the islands is unlikely to have a big effect because they aren't a major source of emissions to begin with. China, for example, emits 29 percent of the world's carbon annually. The United States emits 16 percent.
- Ⓓ But there's one feature of island life that gives these small nations an opportunity to make a big difference. Most of the things that people on islands buy are delivered by ships. So the environmental impact of these seafaring vessels 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 attributed to 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 (1080L)

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 disadvantaged youth in South Africa.

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

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

Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director who played the trumpet. So you might guess that she picked up the baton as soon as she was old enough to stand. However, music wasn't even her first career path, and unlike most conductors, she didn't go through years of formal training before taking the stage. Although she enjoyed singing as a child and learned to play the English horn at age 12, she also excelled at drawing and chose to become an architect.

But music called to Pitse...and she listened. In 2017, she started a choir, selecting young singers who had exceptional talent and big aspirations. They were from disadvantaged communities and therefore had limited opportunities for success. She says the experience has been transformative for these young people, allowing them a chance to develop their gifts, build their confidence, and realize their dreams. Now that's something worth singing about!

Pitse's impressive project didn't stop there: You could say she was just getting tuned up. With the intention of forming an orchestra to accompany her singers, she enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten, both admired conductors at universities in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had honed her conducting skills and recruited a number of accomplished musicians and financial supporters, creating a 40-member orchestra.

What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven, but Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa, so the group's repertoire focuses on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this former architect's not afraid to orchestrate change on a big scale!

Video credit: Mesia Gumede

Dictionary

aspiration (*noun*) something that a person wants very much to achieve

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

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

repertoire (*noun*) all the plays, songs, dances, etc., that a performer or group of performers knows and can perform

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Ofentse Pitse is the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and youth choir that gives disadvantaged young singers with exceptional talent and big aspirations the chance to develop their gifts while performing the works of leading African composers.
- Ⓑ Although Ofentse Pitse enjoyed singing as a little girl and learned to play the English horn at the age of 12, she also excelled at drawing and chose to become an architect before she decided to pick up a baton and lead an orchestra.
- Ⓒ Most people are familiar with the works of Mozart and Beethoven, but Ofentse Pitse wants to include the works of African composers in her concerts, so her audiences can enjoy pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza.
- Ⓓ With the intention of forming an orchestra to accompany her singers, Ofentse Pitse enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten, both admired conductors at universities in South Africa.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ When Ofentse Pitse needed help forming her orchestra, she enlisted two mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten.
- Ⓑ Classical music started in Europe hundreds of years ago, and although its influence and audience now extend far beyond the continent, many people associate it with European culture.
- Ⓒ Ofentse Pitse never would have become a conductor of a classical orchestra and choir if her grandfather had not been a trumpet player and jazz band conductor.
- Ⓓ A recent study that gathered data on the most respected orchestras worldwide found that only 5 out of the 100 most sought after conductors were women.

Question 3

The Article states:

What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomiya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven, but Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa, so the group's repertoire focuses on African composers. It's all part of Pitse's plan to bring the beauty and artistry of African classical music to the world. Clearly, this former architect's not afraid to orchestrate change on a big scale!

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show how Ofentse Pitse is trying to change people's ideas of what classical music is in the world today
- Ⓑ To explain who had originally inspired Ofentse Pitse to create and lead a classical orchestra and youth choir
- Ⓒ To suggest that Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza are more talented composers than many of the European composers from long ago
- Ⓓ To point out different ways in which the sound of classical music has changed since the days of Beethoven and Mozart

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ ambassador
- Ⓑ conveyor
- Ⓒ advisor
- Ⓓ competitor

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Khumalo, Mnomiya, and Njeza often take the role of conductor and lead Ofentse Pitse's choir and 40-member orchestra.
- Ⓑ Ofentse Pitse has written many of the classical pieces that are often performed by her orchestra and choir.
- Ⓒ Many of the young people in Ofentse Pitse's choir might not have been able to pursue their musical gifts without her help.
- Ⓓ The performances of Ofentse Pitse's choir typically feature at least one piece written by Mozart and Beethoven.

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ What musical instrument Ofentse Pitse learned to play when she was just 12 years old
- Ⓑ How Ofentse Pitse felt when she directed her orchestra and choir for the first time
- Ⓒ Who helped Ofentse Pitse when she wanted to form an orchestra to accompany her singers
- Ⓓ Why Ofentse Pitse is considered a pioneer in the world of classical music conductors

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

With the intention of forming an orchestra to accompany her singers, she enlisted the help of two top-notch mentors, Thami Zungu and Gerben Grooten, both admired conductors at universities in South Africa. By 2019, Pitse had *honed* her conducting skills and recruited a number of accomplished musicians and financial supporters, creating a 40-member orchestra.

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

- Ⓐ to mend and repair
- Ⓑ to postpone and put in storage
- Ⓒ to sharpen and make more effective
- Ⓓ to break down and sort out

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts feature classical music that some listeners might not be familiar with?

- Ⓐ Pitse is a pioneer in the world of classical music, and not just because this go-getter is only 27 years old. In terms of diversity, classical music has lagged far behind most other kinds of music. A 2017 study about the most respected orchestras worldwide found that only 5 of the 100 most sought-after conductors were women. There are relatively few people of color on the podium as well. About 80 percent of classical music conductors in the U.S., for example, are white.
- Ⓑ What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomyi, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven, but Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa, so the group's repertoire focuses on African composers.
- Ⓒ Musical mastery runs in Pitse's family. Her grandfather was a jazz band conductor and choir director who played the trumpet. So you might guess that she picked up the baton as soon as she was old enough to stand. However, music wasn't even her first career path, and unlike most conductors, she didn't go through years of formal training before taking the stage. Although she enjoyed singing as a child and learned to play the English horn at age 12, she also excelled at drawing and chose to become an architect.
- Ⓓ But music called to Pitse...and she listened. In 2017, she started a choir, selecting young singers who had exceptional talent and big aspirations. They were from disadvantaged communities and therefore had limited opportunities for success. She says the experience has been transformative for these young people, allowing them a chance to develop their gifts, build their confidence, and realize their dreams. Now that's something worth singing about!

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. Indicate what questions the reporter might ask Pitse, as well as the answers she might give. Be sure to include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and descriptive phrases, in your response.

Ötzi the Iceman (1080L)

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 and 3-D modeling techniques.

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 (hence his name). And, unfortunately, the poor guy was suffering 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, or he would've finished the half-made wooden bow and arrows that he carried with him. He also had a copper ax on hand. After all, this *was* the Copper Age. But fleeing up a cold mountain was probably preferable to using it in combat. Fortunately, he was wearing warm clothing made of leather, hides, and grass. He also had eaten a bellyful of goat meat and grain earlier. But would he survive the cold and the wounds? He would not. And if you're wondering how *so* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago, here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991, when two hikers found him in his partially thawed ice tomb looking rather well, all things considered. Understandably, the discovery made international headlines. Here was the first well-preserved body from the late-Neolithic period ever to be

found in Europe. And it was fully attired and complete with accessories, too. The find provided historians with invaluable information about prehistoric life.

Just as a frame of reference—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, CAT-scanned, carbon-dated, and analyzed. So have his clothing and gear. As a result, scientists have been able to learn quite a lot about him. He had a narrow and pointed face, brown eyes, tanned and tattooed skin, long dark hair, a shaggy beard, and type O-positive blood. And amazingly, his DNA shows that he has at least 19 modern-day relatives through his father's genetic line.

Aside from his injuries and wounds, Ötzi likely had a slew of medical issues. These included heart disease, joint pain, tooth decay, damaged lungs, stomach worms, fleas, and probably Lyme disease as well. It's speculated that the many tattoos on his body are evidence of some prehistoric treatment to relieve body aches, like acupuncture. And it sounds like he sure could've used the relief.

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

In addition to his copper ax and bow and arrows, Ötzi's possessions included a flint dagger with a wooden handle, a grass net that may have also served as a mat or cape, a wooden U-shaped backpack, and a deerskin quiver for his arrows. He also wore a calfskin belt with a sewn-on pouch that contained several small tools. Interestingly, the materials used in Ötzi's tools came from different regions hundreds of miles away, suggesting some sort of trade network. 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 data was added to the Ötzi file: An analysis of the vegetation found in his stomach and underfoot reveals his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone but not forgotten—and still full of surprises.

Dictionary

acupuncture (*noun*) a method of relieving pain or curing illness by placing needles into a person's skin at particular points on the body

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

invaluable (*adjective*) extremely valuable or useful

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ It is speculated that the many tattoos on Ötzi the Iceman's body are evidence of some prehistoric therapeutic technique to relieve body aches, which was possibly the first occurrence of modern-day acupuncture.
- Ⓑ Ötzi the Iceman appears to have suffered from a host of medical conditions, including severe body aches, heart disease, tooth decay, Lyme disease, and parasites, such as fleas and stomach worms.
- Ⓒ After being preserved for more than 5,000 years in a tomb of ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about prehistoric life based on the food, tools, and accessories he carried, along with an analysis of his many health issues.
- Ⓓ Because of the injuries sustained by Ötzi the Iceman, including a blow to his head, a serious wound on his right hand, and an arrowhead lodged in his left shoulder, it is believed he had battled with one or more other late-Neolithic men before beginning his trek up the Ötztal Alps.

Question 2

Read the following passage from the Article:

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

Why did the author include this information?

- Ⓐ To provide evidence of the impact the late-Neolithic period had on the advancement of modern-age tools and other accessories
- Ⓑ To describe how the attire worn by prehistoric men and women aided in their survival during harsh weather conditions
- Ⓒ To determine how much information historians already knew about the late-Neolithic period before the discovery of Ötzi
- Ⓓ To explain the significance of the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman's 5,300-year-old body in such excellent condition

Question 3

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

- Ⓐ notorious
- Ⓑ miscellaneous
- Ⓒ priceless
- Ⓓ ruthless

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ It had to have been rough going for Ötzi (pronounced OET-see) the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was, a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (hence his name). And, unfortunately, the poor guy was suffering from a blow to his head, a serious wound on his right hand, and an arrowhead lodged in his left shoulder.
- Ⓑ And if you're wondering how *so* much detailed info is known about a man who lived and died so long ago, here's one more detail that explains it all: Shortly after his death, Ötzi's body was covered and frozen solid by glacial ice. He remained that way until 1991, when two hikers found him in his partially thawed ice tomb looking rather well, all things considered.
- Ⓒ In November 2019, some new data was added to the Ötzi file: An analysis of the vegetation found in his stomach and underfoot reveals his actual travel route in the days before his death. Alas, poor Ötzi is long gone but not forgotten—and still full of surprises.
- Ⓓ Aside from his injuries and wounds, Ötzi likely had a slew of medical issues. These included heart disease, joint pain, tooth decay, damaged lungs, stomach worms, fleas, and probably Lyme disease as well. It's speculated that the many tattoos on his body are evidence of some prehistoric treatment to relieve body aches, like acupuncture. And it sounds like he sure could've used the relief.

Question 6

The Article states:

It had to have been rough going for Ötzi (pronounced OET-see) the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was, a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (*hence* his name).

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

- Ⓐ formerly
- Ⓑ decidedly
- Ⓒ consequently
- Ⓓ periodically

Question 7

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

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

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ Trade routes will be established to connect faraway places based on the routes taken by ancient people, such as Ötzi.
- Ⓑ Acupuncture will increase in popularity as people learn it was administered during the late-Neolithic period and likely provided Ötzi with substantial relief of pain.
- Ⓒ Through further study of Ötzi's remains, scientists will uncover revolutionary clues relating to the creation of the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge.
- Ⓓ Scientists will continue to examine Ötzi in hopes of making further groundbreaking discoveries about the Neolithic Age.

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

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

Ötzi should be left alone.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Sniffing Out Extinction (1080L)

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 once it puts its snout to the task? Police K-9s detect everything from missing persons to counterfeit money. Healthcare pup-fessionals can pick up the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers and dangerous allergens in foods.

Now add another smellable to the list: endangered species.

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

Since 1980, problems stemming from climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists fear that unless the trend is reversed soon, these small brown amphibians will 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 and females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

But none of this is of any consequence to Rubble and Uda. These two border collies have been enlisted by Zoos Victoria, an Australian conservation group, to lend a paw-paw to the Baw Baw. Zoos Victoria has

been trying to save the frogs by learning about their habitat and breeding them in captivity. With Rubble and Uda's help, the results have been note- and nose-worthy. As soon as the dogs were trained to identify the smell of Baw Baw frogs, they led the Zoos Victoria conservationists straight to the home of the slippery frogs.

Phase two of their mission will begin as conservationists refine their method for releasing frogs and tadpoles into the wild. Rubble and Uda will be re-enlisted periodically to find the Baw Baw frog community once again so that conservationists can see if the zoo-bred frogs are surviving.

And that's how you save a species.

So what makes border collies such superb sniffers? First and foremost, they're dogs. That means their noses have about 50 times more olfactory receptors than people's noses. Dogs also use proportionally 40 times more brainpower than we do to analyze smells. The net result is a living, breathing "scent-alyzer" whose sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than ours.

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

Conservation detection dogs are being used to track down other animals, too. These include Chinese pangolins, Pacific pocket mice, 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

olfactory (*adjective*) of, relating to, or connected with the sense of smell

receptor (*noun*) a nerve ending that senses changes in light, temperature, pressure, etc., and causes the body to react in a particular way

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Dogs have such an incredible sense of smell that they have been recruited as conservation detection specialists who use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can find these rare animals, breed them in captivity, and later release them into the wild.
- Ⓑ With a sense of smell somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than that of humans, dogs have been used to detect counterfeit money, the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers, and even sudden changes in diabetics' blood-sugar levels.
- Ⓒ Since 1980, problems stemming from climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have destroyed roughly 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population in Australia, and scientists now estimate that there are fewer than 1,200 of the species left in their native habitats.
- Ⓓ Dogs have roughly 50 times more olfactory receptors in their noses than human beings do, and the part of their brains that analyze smells is proportionally 40 times larger than it is in humans, which means that dogs have an amazing sense of smell.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ The conservationists have had success with police K-9 dogs that have been trained to detect not only missing persons but also counterfeit money.
- Ⓑ The conservationists want to use the dogs to also track down Pacific pocket mice, silverspot butterfly caterpillars, and koalas.
- Ⓒ 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.
- Ⓓ The conservationists want to find a better home for the Baw Baw frogs, away from the remote, wild terrain of southeastern Australia.

Question 3

The Article states:

Conservationists fear that unless the trend is reversed soon, these small brown amphibians will 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 and females don't call at all. So the frogs aren't easily reached, seen, or heard.

Why did the author include this passage?

- Ⓐ To show how a dog's keen sense of smell can be used to find endangered animals such as the Baw Baw frog
- Ⓑ 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 say why it is important that even seemingly unimportant animals like the Baw Baw frog should be protected from extinction
- Ⓓ To explain why conservationists find it so difficult to locate the slippery Baw Baw frog in its natural habitat

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ allergens and blemishes
- Ⓑ captivity and sanctuary
- Ⓒ counterfeit and authentic
- Ⓓ proportionally and consequently

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ None of the Baw Baw frogs that have been raised in captivity have so far been able to survive when they've been released into the wild.
- Ⓑ 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.
- Ⓒ Killer Whales are some of the most difficult animals for dogs to detect because they have to swim to areas where the killer whales have been sighted.
- Ⓓ 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?

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

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

So what makes border collies such *superb* sniffers? First and foremost, they're dogs. That means their noses have about 50 times more olfactory receptors than people's noses. Dogs also use proportionally 40 times more brainpower than we do to analyze smells. The net result is a living, breathing "scent-alyzer" whose sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than ours.

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

- Ⓐ excellent or brilliant in a very noticeable way
- Ⓑ causing strong feelings of sadness to occur
- Ⓒ avoiding behavior that goes beyond what is normal
- Ⓓ unusually energetic or hard working

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ And according to the dogs' trainer, Luke Edwards, Rubble and Uda have other invaluable skills that make them well suited for the job, in particular, their stamina: "That's what we're after for a working dog, is their stamina—both mentally and physically."
- Ⓑ What *can't* a dog sniff out once it puts its snout to the task? Police K-9s detect everything from missing persons to counterfeit money. Healthcare pup-fessionals can pick up the scent markers of certain early-stage cancers and dangerous allergens in foods.
- Ⓒ Since 1980, problems stemming from climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists fear that unless the trend is reversed soon, these small brown amphibians will be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy.
- Ⓓ So what makes border collies such superb sniffers? First and foremost, they're dogs. That means their noses have about 50 times more olfactory receptors than people's noses. Dogs also use proportionally 40 times more brainpower than we do to analyze smells. The net result is a living, breathing "scent-alyzer" whose sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than ours.

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

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

All endangered species are worth saving.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

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

Social Media, Pompeii Style (1080L)

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 ancient graffiti samples that have been uncovered in the excavations of 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* ones, the kind that form houses and hold up roofs. Remarkably, some of their original messages are still there 2,000 years later. And so are many of the walls themselves.

In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings, doors, archways, gladiator bunkhouses, water distribution towers, bathhouses, and on the interior and exterior walls of private homes. The messages were written in charcoal, scratched into stucco, and applied in paint. They represent the spur-of-the-moment expression of a people with a lot on their minds and no hesitation about broadcasting it all in public.

All of this raises some big questions: How did anything as impermanent as charcoal and stucco scratches survive the ravages of time? 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, destroying Pompeii in a matter of hours. (Incidentally, it was a scrawl on a Pompeian wall that helped archaeologists determine when the eruption occurred.) Most of Pompeii's 20,000 residents fled before the volcanic ash and rock entombed the city. But tragically, about 2,000 people perished.

Paradoxically, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic debris protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash, an entire city seemingly flash-frozen in time, offering a unique window into ancient Roman everyday life. From the beginning, archaeologists spotted the graffiti on the walls. In the late 19th century, scholars began making copies of the messages. And it's a good thing they did, as more than 90 percent of the graffiti has eroded 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—opinions, complaints, pronouncements of love, consumer reviews, political endorsements, recommendations, advertisements, and advice. In fact, the oldest known message at Pompeii—dating back to 78 BCE—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 senior magistrate with judicial power, a most worthy young man.

Stronius Stronnius knows nothing!

Call it social media, Pompeii style.

Video credit: Achieve3000

Dictionary

erode (*verb*) to gradually destroy (something) or to be gradually destroyed by natural forces (such as water, wind, or ice)

paradox (*noun*) something (such as a situation) that is made up of two opposite things and that seems impossible but is actually true or possible

ravage (*verb*) to damage or harm (something) very badly

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ When Mount Vesuvius violently erupted in 79 CE, it destroyed the city of Pompeii in a matter of hours, and though it tragically killed about 2,000 people, it is estimated that approximately 18,000 residents of the city were able to flee to safety.
- Ⓑ The cause of the city of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation, as the debris ejected from the volcano covered the city and protected it from the elements until excavations of the site began in the middle of the 18th century.
- Ⓒ In the late 19th century, scholars began making copies of the messages that appeared on walls all over the city of Pompeii, and it's a good thing that they took the time to do so, as more than 90 percent of the graffiti has worn away since the ruins were first unearthed.
- Ⓓ Like today's social media users who post messages on cyber walls, the residents of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii posted messages on actual walls that survived for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano, Mount Vesuvius.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ It's advantageous for historical scholars to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning political endorsements and advice.
- Ⓑ The messages that have been found on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii were written in charcoal, scratched into the stucco, or applied in paint.
- Ⓒ A scrawl on a Pompeian wall helped archaeologists to determine that nearby Mount Vesuvius erupted in the year 79 CE.
- Ⓓ In many ways, the graffiti found on the walls of the city of Pompeii include the same kinds of messages that people today write on social media.

Question 3

The Article states:

Paradoxically, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic debris protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash, an entire city seemingly flash-frozen in time, offering a unique window into ancient Roman everyday life. From the beginning, archaeologists spotted the graffiti on the walls. In the late 19th century, scholars began making copies of the messages. And it's a good thing they did, as more than 90 percent of the graffiti has eroded since the ruins were unearthed.

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

- Ⓐ describe both the reason for the destruction of the city of Pompeii and the reason that it remained so well preserved

- Ⓐ point out why so many of the residents of the ancient city of Pompeii liked to scrawl graffiti on the walls of that city
- Ⓑ suggest that 19th-century scholars should have taken more care to preserve the graffiti that once adorned walls in the ancient city of Pompeii
- Ⓒ explain the differences between the type of graffiti found on the walls of Pompeii and modern-day postings found on social media

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ restore
- Ⓑ circulate
- Ⓒ vanish
- Ⓓ transform

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before its destruction. She would find **most** of her information _____.

- Ⓐ 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 documentary about the largest volcanic eruptions in recorded history

Question 6

Read this passage from the Article:

Read this passage from the Article:

Paradoxically, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic debris protected the ruins from the elements until *excavations* of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash, an entire city seemingly flash-frozen in time, offering a unique window into ancient Roman everyday life.

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

- Ⓐ an action or event witnessed by a number of people
- Ⓑ the act of digging away the earth that covers something
- Ⓒ a plan that comes together after a great deal of effort
- Ⓓ the process of creating something new or unusual

Question 7

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

- Ⓐ So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media—opinions, complaints, pronouncements of love, consumer reviews, political endorsements, recommendations, advertisements, and advice.
- Ⓑ Paradoxically, the cause of Pompeii's destruction was also the reason for its preservation. The volcanic debris protected the ruins from the elements until excavations of the site began in the mid-18th century. And there it was, under about 20 feet (about 6 meters) of stone and ash, an entire city seemingly flash-frozen in time...
- Ⓒ All of this raises some big questions: How did anything as impermanent as charcoal and stucco scratches survive the ravages of time? Better yet, why is so much of Pompeii itself still around when most of the ancient world has crumbled away?
- Ⓓ In fact, wall graffiti was all over Pompeii. It appeared on public buildings, doors, archways, gladiator bunkhouses, water distribution towers, bathhouses, and on the interior and exterior walls of private homes.

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ When the ancient city of Pompeii was covered in ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius
- Ⓑ What kinds of messages were scrawled on the walls of the ancient city of Pompeii
- Ⓒ Where the many residents of Pompeii fled to when they escaped the city
- Ⓓ Why the ancient city of Pompeii has been so well preserved right up until modern times

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 response.

Soldier in the Wild (1080L)

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). When Shoichi Yokoi went into hiding in the jungles of Guam in 1944, 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 and a tale of astonishing loyalty.

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army, stationed on Guam as part of the Japanese occupation of the island. The occupation turned into evacuation not long after the U.S. military arrived to liberate Guam in 1944. Fearing for his life, Yokoi retreated to the hills of the Talofofu River basin. Once there, he was cut off from civilization and communication.

In August 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced that Japan was surrendering to the Allied Forces, thus bringing the war to a close. Yokoi, however, had no way of knowing this. Neither did about 130 other Japanese soldiers who continued to elude an army that was no longer interested in capturing them, in a war that was no longer being waged. But Yokoi would outlive them all.

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

And that's only the half of it.

Even *after* learning that the war had ended—in 1952—Yokoi remained in hiding for another 20 years (two decades!). He spent his days in the well-concealed cave he had made of dirt, bamboo, and reeds. At night, he searched for fruit, nuts, fish, and small animals to eat. A tailor by profession, he made new clothes using burlap sacks and tree bark for fabric, coconut and pago fibers for thread, discarded plastic for buttons, and handmade needles to stitch them all together.

A soldier by training and instinct, Yokoi lived in a state of constant vigilance. Even when he was finally "captured" by two fishermen in January 1972, while setting shrimp traps in a river near Talofofu Falls, his impulse was to attack the two younger men. They easily overpowered him, by then a weakened man of 57, and gently delivered him to local authorities.

Throughout his time in isolation, Yokoi had been carefully calculating the days and months. He was well aware that 28 years had passed. So what compelled him to stay in hiding for that long, when all he had to do was surrender and board a plane back to his home in Japan? What dint of character convinced him 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*, which roughly translates as "enduring adversity without giving in to it." During World War II, the ethos of *ganbaru* meant that Japanese soldiers fought to the death and that surrendering to the enemy was as shameful and dishonorable as defeat. Indeed, when Yokoi was safely returned to Japan, he declared that he was ashamed to come back to his homeland alive.

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

Up until his death in 1997, Yokoi remembered Guam affectionately and revisited the island on several occasions, including his honeymoon. After all, it had been his home for much of his adult life. Although his cave in 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 and in a small tribute at Jeff's Pirate Cove in Ipan, where Yokoi dined as a free man.

No doubt, history brims with incredible acts of bravery and selflessness during war. But one thing is for sure—Shoichi Yokoi's time on Guam is one for the record books.

Video Credit: AP Archive

Dictionary

adversity (*noun*) a difficult situation or condition: misfortune or tragedy

ethos (*noun*) the guiding beliefs of a person, group, or organization

unstinting (*adjective*) used to say that someone gives something (such as praise or support) in a very strong and generous way

vigilant (*adjective*) carefully noticing problems or signs of danger

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

According to the Article, what happened as a result of Shoichi Yokoi's safe return to Japan after living so many years undetected in the wilds of Guam?

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

Question 3

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

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 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 attacked two fishermen who then "captured" him and took him to the local authorities.
- Ⓓ Shoichi Yokoi's fellow countrymen honored him as a hero and showered him with money and gifts.

Question 4

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ surrender and resign
- Ⓑ isolation and aggravation
- Ⓒ adversity and prosperity
- Ⓓ impulse and contempt

Question 5

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

- Ⓐ Shoichi Yokoi, a tailor by trade, brought several spare uniforms with him when he went into hiding because he wasn't sure how long he'd remain in the wild.
- Ⓑ Shoichi Yokoi was ready to return home to Japan in 1952 after learning that World War II had ended years earlier.
- Ⓒ Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen while setting shrimp traps near Talofofa Falls.
- Ⓓ 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 as millions of Japanese watched his return on television. Many of his generation were deeply moved by his unstinting loyalty to time-honored Japanese values. They showered him with money, gifts, and praise. Many younger Japanese, however, viewed ganbaru as pointless. They felt that Yokoi was a symbol of a prideful principle whose time was over.

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 7

Look at this passage from the Article:

Yokoi's story began in February 1943. He was a 27-year-old sergeant in the Imperial Japanese Army, stationed on Guam as part of the Japanese occupation of the island. The occupation turned into *evacuation* not long after the U.S. military arrived to liberate Guam in 1944.

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

- Ⓐ a sudden surprise that causes confusion
- Ⓑ active fighting, especially in war
- Ⓒ the act of fleeing a dangerous place
- Ⓓ success in beating an enemy or opponent

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ 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
- Ⓒ How Shoichi Yokoi made his clothing from natural elements within his environment
- Ⓓ What Shoichi Yokoi had to eat in order to survive while hiding out in the wilds of Guam

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

Explain why you voted the way you did. Then read and respond to what others have to say.

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 response.

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record (1080L)

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 Piper PA-32 plane around the world and set a Guinness World Record.

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

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

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

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

Mason, who managed to earn his pilot's license at age 17, started hatching big ideas in November 2017. At first, his goal was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, but then he thought, why not fly around the world?

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

Convincing his mother and father to let him go would also prove difficult, but Mason was ready to turn their "nos" into "yeses" by diligently doing his research and presenting them with a well-thought-out plan.

Still, "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 recalled.

And raise money they did! With the help of generous sponsors, the teen pilot was able to embark on his journey in July 2018, as well as raise over \$30,000 for MedCamps of Louisiana, which runs free summer camps for children with disabilities.

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

It's just one of the hiccups he encountered 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 to his prior experience and some help from another airliner.

And then came the sandstorm.

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours in severe turbulence, to the point where I couldn't use my autopilot. I couldn't see anything outside because of the sand. So, I was flying off my instruments alone, and it was extremely hot in the airplane. It was a grueling flight."

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

Since returning to Louisiana, Mason has been receiving a lot of attention. His Guinness World Record for circumnavigating the globe solo made headlines, but the record itself isn't as important to Mason as people may think.

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

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

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

Video Credit: Taylor Yakowenko

Published on Oct 6, 2018

Edited for length

Dictionary

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

diligently (*adverb*) steadily and with great concentration

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What cause and effect relationship is described in this Article?

- Ⓐ Because he's already made aviation history, officials at Louisiana Tech University, where Mason Andrews is a student, have allowed him to skip some courses in his study of aviation.
- Ⓑ Because of the bad weather Mason Andrews experienced throughout his solo flight around the world, the teen pilot encountered some frightening moments.
- Ⓒ Because Mason Andrews neglected to fully update his mother during his adventures, she has indicated that she would not want him circumnavigating the globe again.
- Ⓓ Because of a severe sandstorm taking place between Egypt and Dubai, Mason Andrews was grounded for three weeks during his trip around the world.

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Enviously
- Ⓑ Carelessly
- Ⓒ Industriously
- Ⓓ Confidently

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 an ambitious young man who worked diligently to achieve a challenging goal
- Ⓒ Raise awareness for MedCamps of Louisiana, a cause Mason Andrews has requested that people support

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

The Article states:

"That was my flight from Egypt to Dubai," Mason said. "I was in the sandstorm for like 12 hours in severe turbulence, to the point where I couldn't use my autopilot. I couldn't see anything outside because of the sand. So, I was flying off my instruments alone, and it was extremely hot in the airplane. It was a *grueling* flight."

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

- Ⓐ Boring
- Ⓑ Strenuous
- Ⓒ Inspiring
- Ⓓ Effortless

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, who managed to earn his pilot's license at age 17, started hatching big ideas in November 2017. At first, his goal was to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, but then he thought, why not fly around the world?
- Ⓑ When Mason said goodbye to his parents and his supportive community at Monroe Regional Airport, he thought he would be gone for about 40 days. Of course, he had no way of knowing about the Category 5 typhoons that would leave him grounded in the Philippines for nearly three weeks.
- Ⓒ It's just one of the hiccups he encountered during the trip, which ended up taking 180 flight hours over 76 days.
- Ⓓ Still, "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 recalled.

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 response.

The Truth About Dogs (1080L)

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)

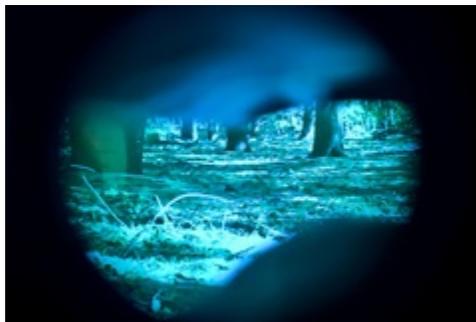


Photo credit: AP/Richard Vogel

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

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

The California Science Center has spent the past five years sniffing out answers to these and hundreds of other canine questions. The center's conclusions are being revealed in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail," which 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, the center's president and a dog devotee.

"Dogs! A Science Tail" includes interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, games, artwork, and more. It will be housed at the center before it travels to museums across the U.S. in 2020. But don't fret if you can't 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? The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant—a popular spot for dogs to relieve themselves, as you may know. With the push of a button next to the replica, you can smell what a dog smells.

"We just smell pee," Rudolph said with a laugh, but not dogs. They can glean a lot of information from the scent of another pooch's pee. By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going." It's one of the ways dogs can evaluate how safe the surroundings are, and how they manage to mark time without wristwatches or smartphones.

2. They're doggone smart.

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

"They have an amazing ability to learn information," Rudolph said, noting that the 300 million sensory receptor sites they carry in their noses far outnumber our 6 million.

Dogs can also determine what a person has just eaten by licking the person's hand. And they can hear sounds so subtle that we're oblivious to them.

"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, while its handlers stand there without a clue! And it can sniff out bombs people would never find until it's too late.

But those are the highly trained working dogs, like those shown in the center's Imax Theatre, where the film *Superpower Dogs* will play throughout the exhibition's run. Viewers can watch dogs from around the world save people from drowning off the coast of Italy, rescue people trapped in collapsed buildings, and even track down Kenyan poachers preying on endangered 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 wheedle another treat when they open those big puppy-dog eyes of theirs and give us that heart-melting look?

"If you look a dog in the eye, a dog will look back at you and you will produce oxytocin," explained Diane Perlov, senior vice president for exhibits at the California Science Center. Oxytocin is a hormone (sometimes called the "love hormone") released in our brains that plays an important role in bonding and social interactions.

"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 in that endeavor? Or did people make the first move?

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

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dictionary

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

compatible (*adjective*) well suited

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

According to the Article, why do dogs smell the urine of other dogs?

- Ⓐ Dogs smell the urine of other dogs because they have as many as 300 million sensory receptors in their noses, so they are compelled to sniff strong scents.
- Ⓑ Dogs smell the urine of other dogs because they have descended from wolves and therefore have many of the traits and qualities that wolves have.
- Ⓒ Smelling urine is one of the many ways dogs sharpen their sense of smell so that they can be more useful to humans who are in dangerous situations.
- Ⓓ Smelling urine provides dogs with important information about when other dogs were in the area, where they were going, and whether the surroundings are safe.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Visitors to the California Science Center will discover that a hormone called oxytocin is released in a dog's brain in much the same way that it is released in a human's brain.
- Ⓑ The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition that will travel to museums across the country in 2020.
- Ⓒ The canine exhibition at the California Science Center features an interactive replica of a fire hydrant that allows humans to smell what dogs smell at the popular canine spot.
- Ⓓ Visitors to the California Science Center can watch a live-action movie about canine heroism in the center's Imax Theatre.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ Accessible
- Ⓑ Impractical
- Ⓒ Controversial
- Ⓓ Agreeable

Question 5

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ The more domesticated dogs become, the less need they will have for sniffing fire hydrants.
- Ⓑ Dogs are only capable of behaving heroically because people have trained them to perform lifesaving tasks.
- Ⓒ The strong bond between dogs and humans probably formed because the two species helped one another with survival.
- Ⓓ 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 _____.

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

Question 7

The Article states:

"We just smell pee," Rudolph said with a laugh. But not dogs. They can *glean* a lot of information from the scent of another pooch's pee. By smelling urine, "a dog can tell what dog was there, what time they were there, and actually which direction they were going," Rudolph said.

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

- Ⓐ Implement
- Ⓑ Obtain
- Ⓒ Discount
- Ⓓ Complicate

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?

- Ⓐ But did humans domesticate dogs, or was it the other way around? And what makes these two species so compatible?
- Ⓑ Dogs may look a little goofy when they're loping around, but they're more intelligent than some people think.
- Ⓒ The center's conclusions are being revealed in an exhibition called "Dogs! A Science Tail," which opened on March 9, 2019.
- Ⓓ The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant—a popular spot for dogs to relieve themselves, as you may know. With the push of a button next to the replica, you can smell what a dog smells.

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

Explain why you voted the way you did. Then read and respond to what others have to say.

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Retell this 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 (1080L)

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 replica of the famous Millennium Falcon starship is just one of the attractions at Disney's Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

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

Before Star Wars fans' dreams came true in 2019, with land openings at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida, 4,000 people sweated the small stuff for five years to create these twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme expansion in Disney history. And not even the tiniest feature was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details! That's partly why the setting isn't from any of the movies, because fans know they aren't part of those stories. But on the planet of Batuu—a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and intergalactic explorers—a whole new narrative unfolds under its three suns.

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

To bring Batuu to life, Disney had to build a new world from the ground up. The land, the rocks, the trees—designers used all their best tricks to create a 14-acre (5.67-hectare) landscape with a visible history, weathered by age and the elements. You know, like any other real place! They based it on real places, too.

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

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

And you never know who you might meet.

A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game where everyone has unique backgrounds, motives, and allegiances. It took three years to design the costumes and accessories for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants—and, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with assembling their own look and developing their own back stories as well. They aren't Earthlings working a cool gig, they're Batuu through and through. In fact, if asked, they've never even *heard* of Earth!

The interaction is a big part of the fun. Visitors may be questioned by a stormtrooper, or a Resistance spy might ask them to deliver a message. They can also sign up for a job to help a cause or work as a double agent!

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

For visitors who want more interplanetary playtime, Disney created the Galactic Starcruiser in Florida, a two-night, choose-your-own-adventure cruise through outer space, including lightsaber training and secret meetings.

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

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

Dictionary

expansion (*noun*) the act of becoming bigger or of making something bigger

icon (*noun*) a widely known symbol

replica (*noun*) an exact or very close copy of something

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

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Disney attempts to individualize each visitor's experience at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge with interactions in which cast members may ask visitors to deliver a message, and visitors can sign up to help a cause or work as a double agent.
- Ⓑ Since Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge is Disney's biggest single-theme expansion in the entire history of Disney, 4,000 people worked for five years to prepare every detail of the attraction before opening its doors at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida.
- Ⓒ Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge has a full-size replica of The Millennium Falcon and a ride called Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance that uses four types of ride technologies requiring 5 million lines of code to make the experience seem real to visitors.
- Ⓓ In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land in Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida and at Disneyland in California where the appearance, workers, food, and products are designed to make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ Visitors to Batuu are tasked with choosing which of the opposing teams of cast members they will align themselves with during their visit to Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓑ Disney has traditionally dictated the appearance of employees operating the rides, working in retail, and serving visitors in restaurants according to the theme of each unique land.
- Ⓒ Since rides are a primary source of entertainment and attraction for younger visitors, kids will have the most fun visiting Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.
- Ⓓ To keep the experience in Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge in line with the First Order and the Resistance, structures with a contemporary design are intermingled with those that mimic relics.

Question 3

The Article states:

But on the planet of Batuu—a hot spot for traders, smugglers, and intergalactic explorers—a whole new narrative unfolds under its three suns. Batuu wasn't planned with just Star Wars aficionados in mind, though. By creating a new planet, Disney put longtime fans *and* newbies on the same page, so everyone can be a part of the story—even if they don't speak Wookiee!

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

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

Question 4

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

- Ⓐ elaborate
- Ⓑ durable
- Ⓒ jagged
- Ⓓ formal

Question 5

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

- Ⓐ the next Star Wars movie will include traders, smugglers, and explorers from the planet of Batuu in its plot
- Ⓑ Disney believes that Galaxy's Edge's popularity will draw enough visitors to their parks in California and Florida to justify their time and effort in developing the lands
- Ⓒ more people have been participating in the choose-your-own adventure cruise Galactic Starcruiser instead of visiting Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge
- Ⓓ Disney is shifting its focus from themed rides to authentic role-play interactions at all of its other parks in California and Florida

Question 6

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

- Ⓐ features of Star Wars movies that make them appealing across age groups
- Ⓑ advancements in ride technology since Disney opened its first park until now
- Ⓒ strategies Disney uses to provide theme park visitors with unique and realistic experiences
- Ⓓ how weathering creates a visual history in places like the Petrified Forest National Park

Question 7

The Article states:

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 this passage, the word *galaxy* means _____.

- Ⓐ a large group of stars or a cluster of space bodies
- Ⓑ a period of time that hasn't yet taken place
- Ⓒ a vivid imagination or a creative thought
- Ⓓ a surprising event or an unexpected occurrence

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Disney wanted Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge to look like an actual planet to visitors?

- Ⓐ And of course there are the rides, including The Millennium Falcon, a full-size replica of the iconic Star Wars spaceship, aka "the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy," and Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance, which has four types of ride technologies and uses 5 million lines of code!
- Ⓑ Before Star Wars fans' dreams came true in 2019, with land openings at Disneyland in California and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida, 4,000 people sweated the small stuff for five years to create these twin attractions. It was the biggest single-theme expansion in Disney history and not even the tiniest feature was overlooked. After all, Star Wars lovers are Jedi masters when it comes to the details!
- Ⓒ For instance, the forest where the Resistance hides out was inspired by Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona. Crews also went to Morocco and Turkey and took thousands of pictures for inspiration. Buildings got the same detailed dedication. Some were built to look like leftovers from ancient cultures, while others stand new and stark against the antique relics, marking the emergence of the First Order and the Resistance.
- Ⓓ A visit to Batuu is like being dropped into a live-action role-play game where everyone has unique backgrounds, motives, and allegiances. It took three years to design the costumes and accessories for the cast members—the people working the rides, stores, and restaurants—and, in a Disney first, they are each tasked with assembling their own look and developing their own back stories as well.

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 response.

Women Adventurers (1080L)

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 female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago, when women were expected to stay at home and raise families. That, however, didn't stop some women from taking off and blazing trails.

Take Jeanne Baret (1740-1807), a French botanist and the first woman to circumnavigate the globe. The voyage was undertaken by French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, who invited several French scientists to join him on his ship, the *Étoile*, in December 1766. One of the invitees was Philibert Commerson, royal botanist and naturalist. Baret was his assistant. But Baret wasn't permitted to go because of a royal decree that forbade women from traveling on French navy vessels. So she disguised herself as a man, called herself Jean, and sailed away.

During the journey, Baret helped Commerson collect over 6,000 botanical specimens. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil and bringing its seeds back to Europe. Even so, Commerson received all the credit. And when shipmates on the *Étoile* discovered that Jean was really Jeanne, it's believed that Commerson lied, proclaiming he'd been fooled as well. To this day, 70 plants, insects, and mollusks bear Commerson's name only. There is, however, one plant named after Baret, an honor that was finally bestowed two centuries after her death.

British socialite Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839) was also never one to be bound by the conventions that restricted other women of her time. She acted in ways that women rarely if ever did, like traveling

throughout the Middle East by herself, wearing men's clothing, and riding a horse astride rather than sidesaddle, and creating commotion wherever she went. During her lifetime, Stanhope accomplished something that only men had achieved up until then: She organized an archaeological dig in the Middle East. This made her a groundbreaker in every sense of the word.

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to excavate in Ashkelon, an ancient city where astonishing treasures were supposedly buried. The Turks routinely denied other Westerners this request, but Stanhope was a persuasive woman. Unfortunately, she never found any treasures there. However, she did unearth rare artifacts. And her dig sparked international archaeological interest in the region.

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

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

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

Dictionary

astride (*adjective*) with one leg or part on each side of (something)

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

circumnavigate (*verb*) to travel all the way around (something) in a ship, airplane, etc.

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

harrowing (*adjective*) very painful or upsetting

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

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

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 British socialite asked the Turkish government to let her excavate an ancient city.
- Ⓑ A female journalist traveled around the world in just 72 days, setting a world record.
- Ⓒ A woman disguised herself as a mentally ill inmate to write six articles about a mental hospital.
- Ⓓ A French botanist became the first woman in history to sail completely around the world.

Question 2

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

- Ⓐ Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop three daring women from blazing trails of their own and embarking on some amazing adventures.
- Ⓑ Nowadays, it's not completely unheard of for very adventurous women to sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and even travel into outer space.
- Ⓒ Nellie Bly's harrowing six-part expose' on life inside a notorious mental hospital on Blackwell's Island in New York paved the way for other female investigative reporters.
- Ⓓ Philibert Commerson, a royal botanist and naturalist, was invited to take part in a scientific expedition aboard the French navy vessel *Étoile* in December 1766.

Question 3

The Article states:

Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to excavate in Ashkelon, an ancient city where astonishing treasures were supposedly buried. The Turks routinely denied other Westerners this request, but Stanhope was a persuasive woman.

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

- Ⓐ point out the fact that Lady Hester Stanhope unearthed a number of treasures and rare artifacts in Turkey
- Ⓑ say that women were not allowed to take part in archaeological studies in Turkey in the 18th and 19th centuries
- Ⓒ suggest that Lady Hester Stanhope was a very convincing woman who refused to take "no" for an answer
- Ⓓ describe the positive effects that an Englishwoman had on archaeological studies undertaken around the world

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Ⓐ French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville invited several French scientists to join him on a voyage of scientific discovery aboard the *Étoile* in 1766.
- Ⓑ It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on a voyage aboard the *Étoile* because it was almost certain she would have been found out sooner or later.
- Ⓒ Lady Hester Stanhope traveled throughout the Middle East wearing men's clothing, riding a horse astride, and creating commotion along the way.
- Ⓓ Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, inspired female journalist Nellie Bly to take her own journey around the world.

Question 5

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

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ harrowing and hilarious
- Ⓑ bestow and confer
- Ⓒ proclaiming and concealing
- Ⓓ foremost and minor

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women were not always publicly acknowledged for their significant contributions in the past?

- Ⓐ Two years later, Bly's taste for adventure kicked into high gear when she read Jules Verne's 1873 novel, *Around the World in 80 Days*, in which the male central character accepts a challenge to travel the globe in so many days. Bly was convinced she could beat this fictional record, and she did, finishing the trip in just 72 days and setting a world record. Later in life, Bly returned to journalism, covering the women's voting movement and World War I.
- Ⓑ British socialite Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839) was also never one to be bound by the conventions that restricted other women of her time. She acted in ways that women rarely if ever did, like traveling throughout the Middle East by herself, wearing men's clothing, and riding a horse astride rather than sidesaddle, and creating commotion wherever she went. During her lifetime, Stanhope accomplished something that only men had achieved up until then: She organized an archaeological dig in the Middle East. This made her a groundbreaker in every sense of the word.
- Ⓒ During the journey, Baret helped Commerson collect over 6,000 botanical specimens. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil and bringing its seeds back to Europe. Even so, Commerson received all the credit. And when shipmates on the *Étoile* discovered that Jean was really Jeanne, it's believed that Commerson lied, proclaiming he'd been fooled as well. To this day, 70 plants, insects, and mollusks bear Commerson's name only.
- Ⓓ Stanhope's adventure began when the Turkish government granted her permission to excavate in Ashkelon, an ancient city where astonishing treasures were supposedly buried. The Turks routinely denied other Westerners this request, but Stanhope was a persuasive woman. Unfortunately, she never found any treasures

there. However, she did unearth rare artifacts. And her dig sparked international archaeological interest in the region.

Question 7

Read this passage from the Article:

Nowadays, women sail solo around the world, bicycle across continents, and travel into space. But this kind of female adventure was almost unheard of centuries ago, when women were expected to stay at home and raise families. That, however, didn't stop some women from taking off and *blazing* trails.

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

- Ⓐ to flounder in uncharted waters
- Ⓑ to mark the way ahead for others
- Ⓒ to observe from a safe distance
- Ⓓ to lead astray and out of the way

Question 8

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

- Ⓐ What project Lady Stanhope was able to get permission to pursue
- Ⓑ Who named a plant after Jeanne Baret two centuries after her death
- Ⓒ What record-setting achievement Nellie Bly was able to accomplish
- Ⓓ Why Jeanne Baret was not allowed to take part in a voyage on the *Étoile*

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



Achieve3000 Literacy™
At Home

Lexile 1080

ANSWER KEY

Ancient Lines in the Sand

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

C The true meaning of the Nazca Lines, which are found in southern Peru and form images of plants, animals, humanoids, imaginary beings, and straight and squiggly lines etched onto the desert floor, remains open to speculation to this day.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

A ceremony

Question 5

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

B Some of the Nazca Lines are now so faded that they cannot even be recognized from the window of an airplane.

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

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

A to have something as a source

Question 8

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

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

Animated Favorites Get Real

Question 1

According to the Article, what is one reason that the new live-action blockbusters are so popular with fans?

A Adults who grew up watching animated versions of the movies enjoy the sense of nostalgia that they get from watching the new crop of live-action movies.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Studios have stumbled onto a winning formula by making live-action remakes of classic animated films but with greater diversity and stronger female characters than ever before.

Question 3

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

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

Question 4

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

A diversity and variation

Question 5

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

A The original animated version of Disney's *Mulan* did not correctly portray some of the events from Chinese history.

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 7

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

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

Question 8

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

B a plan or method for doing, making, or achieving something

Bubble Tea Is Blowing Up

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

B Bubble tea, a sweet beverage typically made from tea, milk, ice, and tapioca pearls, was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s but has now spread to the United States and other places.

Question 2

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

D Inspired

Question 3

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

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

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Bubble tea toppings like almond jelly and pudding are tastier than toppings like chia seeds and red beans because they are sweeter.

Question 5

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

D In an article entitled "Bubble Tea Takes America by Storm"

Question 6

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

D Dispute

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that bubble tea is now becoming a part of life for some kids in America?

B A bubble tea shop can be a great place to chill out while you enjoy your concoction. In fact, for many people, the fun, relaxing atmosphere is as much of a draw as the bubble tea itself. In Southern California, for example, regular customers, especially high school and college students, go to their favorite bubble tea shop 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 infer from the Article that _____.

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

Cooking Up Native Traditions

Question 1

Based on information in the Article, in what way do traditional native cuisine and the food commonly eaten today by Native Americans contrast?

A Foods provided to Native Americans today are higher in fats and sodium than traditional native cuisine.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A 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 suggest that the government has actually contributed to the health problems of some Native Americans

Question 4

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

A techniques and approaches

Question 5

The reader can predict from the Article that _____.

A 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 indigenous ingredients, like hyssop, cedar, and bergamot

Question 7

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

C to make someone want to do something

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 and spoke with Native American chefs and historians. He learned how his ancestors foraged, grew, hunted, fished, preserved, and prepared their food. And he discovered the way to reclaim an understanding of Native American foodways: by utilizing local plants and other natural ingredients in the environment.

Defying Gravity

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

C With an abundance of physical strength, talent, and persistence, Simone Biles overcame obstacles and difficulties to become what many consider to be the greatest gymnast in the world.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

C To show how Simone Biles was able to overcome a devastating, heartbreaking failure and achieve a sought-after spot on the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team

Question 4

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

C reluctance

Question 5

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

C Gymnast Simone Biles doesn't give up easily even when faced with what she describes as a devastating, heartbreaking failure.

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

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

A the method of doing something using a special skill

Question 8

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

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

The Early-Late Debate

Answer key

Question 1

What cause and effect relationship is described in this Article?

B If all schools in a district start around the same time, the cost of providing buses and drivers will increase.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Some schools in the U.S. are moving to later start times, but there's ongoing debate about whether starting school later will make a difference in students' health and success at school and whether the predicted benefits justify the problems caused by implementing the shift.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Adolescents with later school start times will take advantage of the additional time for sleeping in the morning by staying up later at night.

Question 4

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

B regulation

Question 5

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

C The amount of time that adolescents spend sleeping is more important than what time of day they sleep.

Question 6

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

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected

A emphasize how important sleep is for adolescents

Question 7

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

B dictated

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 Opponents argue there's no guarantee that students will get more sleep. (A law that mandated bedtimes would be a real nightmare, right?!) Although data suggest students do get more sleep when schools start later, additional 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

According to the Article, why were marshmallows once considered a rare luxury?

C The process for making marshmallows was complicated and involved pouring and molding each individual marshmallow by hand.

Question 2

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

B Making a s'more involves roasting a marshmallow over a fire and sandwiching it and a piece of chocolate between graham crackers, but nobody knows who invented the treat.

Question 3

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

A Disagreeable

Question 4

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

D Graham crackers, originally created in the late 1800s using coarse whole wheat flour, have become more popular with the addition of molasses and sugar.

Question 5

In the *second-to-last* paragraph, the author presents information regarding s'more-inspired snacks and microwave cooking processes in order to _____.

B Demonstrate the popularity of s'mores among consumers and provide readers with alternatives to traditional s'more making

Question 6

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

B Slew and absence

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that chocolate was not initially cultivated to create desserts?

B For 3,000 years, Mesoamericans made chocolate from cacao seeds, like we do, but while they may have added other ingredients to the cacao, they didn't add sweetener. The resulting product was dark, grainy, and somewhat bitter.

Question 8

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

D S'mores are a relatively quick and easy dessert that even the most inexperienced cooks can make.

Global Game Fame

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

B Every year, The Strong National Museum of Play inducts video games that have had a substantial influence on the gaming industry into its World Video Game Hall of Fame.

Question 2

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

D Prominent

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

Question 4

Based on information in the Article, in what way do *Super Mario Kart* and *Microsoft Solitaire* contrast?

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

Question 5

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

A Exclusive

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

C To describe The Strong National Museum of Play's standards for selecting inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame

Question 7

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a game should have significantly impacted the gaming industry in order to be inducted into the hall of fame?

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

Question 8

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

D Next year's inductees into the World Video Game Hall of Fame may not be the most popular games available at the time.

Good, Bad, or Ugly?

Answer key

Question 1

According to the Article, what is one reason why skeptics believe ugly produce companies aren't being completely forthcoming in their messaging?

D Ugly produce companies may fail to mention that ugly fruits and vegetables are also utilized on farms and in the food industry.

Question 2

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

D Ugly produce start-ups say their mission is to prevent billions of pounds of imperfect produce from needlessly going to waste each year.

Question 3

Which of these is a fact?

D Ugly produce companies not only sell fruits and vegetables that may have been rejected by supermarkets, but they also deliver them right to customers' doorsteps.

Question 4

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

B Acclaim

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

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

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that imperfect produce companies are only concerned with what's best for their own profits?

C Then the ugly produce companies started sprouting up. And since the start-ups are able to provide a wide assortment of fruits and veggies from large farms around the country, critics complain that it's gotten difficult for small farms to compete with these marketing machines—and the farmers are losing profits fast.

Question 7

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

B Defective

Question 8

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

B As more consumers start buying goods from ugly produce start-ups, some supermarkets may consider adding imperfect produce to their grocery aisles.

Katherine the Great

Answer

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

C Because Katherine Johnson was good at math, she was hired as a "human computer" for NASA and earned a reputation for the accuracy of her calculations.

Question 2

The best alternate headline for this Article would be _____.

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

Question 3

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

Question 4

If a computer *malfunctions*, it does **not** _____ as expected.

D Perform

Question 5

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

B Groundbreaking women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math

Question 6

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

D Many young people, especially those who have experienced race or gender discrimination, will likely find Katherine Johnson's autobiography inspirational.

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 Without NASA's space program, which her calculations helped push forward, we wouldn't have the technology necessary for things like satellite TV, sophisticated meteorology, and small computers (like laptops and iPhones).

Question 8

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

C Abandoning

The Last Generation?

Answer key

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

C Because Pacific Island countries contribute only a minor part of the world's carbon emissions, reducing air pollution on the islands is unlikely to significantly lower the amount of carbon worldwide.

Question 2

The Article primarily discusses _____.

C the effect of climate change on the Pacific Island nations, and the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership, in which carbon-free technologies will be used to reduce carbon emitted by cargo ships that deliver goods to the islands

Question 3

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

D resistant

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 information?

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

Question 6

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

A discharge

Question 7

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

B Countries that emit high levels of carbon cause negative consequences 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 critical?

B What if your home, and even the land it stood on, was gone forever? This isn't the plot of a fantasy movie or the premise of a video game. It's a painfully real possibility faced by people living in the Pacific Islands. Rising sea levels, due to the arrival of climate change, threaten the very existence of these island nations. And young people whose families have deep roots on the islands are starting to wonder if they'll be the last generation.

A Musical Pioneer

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

A Ofentse Pitse is the conductor and founder of Anchored Sound, an orchestra and youth choir that gives disadvantaged young singers with exceptional talent and big aspirations the chance to develop their gifts while performing the works of leading African composers.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C Ofentse Pitse never would have become a conductor of a classical orchestra and choir if her grandfather had not been a trumpet player and jazz band conductor.

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

A To show how Ofentse Pitse is trying to change people's ideas of what classical music is in the world today

Question 4

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

C advisor

Question 5

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

C Many of the young people in Ofentse Pitse's choir might not have been able to pursue their musical gifts without her help.

Question 6

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

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

Question 7

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

C to sharpen and make more effective

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Ofentse Pitse's concerts feature classical music that some listeners might not be familiar with?

B What's on the program at an Anchored Sound performance? Audiences might get to hear pieces written by Mzilikazi Khumalo, Phelelani Mnomya, or Sibusiso Njeza. If these names are new to you, you're not alone. At classical music concerts, it's more common to hear music written centuries ago by European composers like Mozart and Beethoven, but Pitse wants listeners to know that classical music is alive and well in Africa, so the group's repertoire focuses on African composers.

Otzi the Iceman

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

C After being preserved for more than 5,000 years in a tomb of ice, Ötzi the Iceman is teaching the world about prehistoric life based on the food, tools, and accessories he carried, along with an analysis of his many health issues.

Question 2

Why did the author include this information?

D To explain the significance of the discovery of Ötzi the Iceman's 5,300-year-old body in such excellent condition

Question 3

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

C priceless

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C Ötzi is the most interesting archaeological find in history because the knowledge scientists are gaining from his discovery is unparalleled.

Question 5

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

A It had to have been rough going for Ötzi (pronounced OET-see) the Iceman those last few days of his life some 5,300 years ago. There he was, a 46-ish-year-old man about 5 feet and 2 inches and 110 pounds (158 centimeters and 50 kilograms). He was climbing up a steep mountain in what is now called the Ötztal Alps of northern Italy (hence his name). And, unfortunately, the poor guy was suffering from a blow to his head, a serious wound on his right hand, and an arrowhead lodged in his left shoulder.

Question 6

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

C consequently

Question 7

A major scientific discoveries involving the late-Neolithic period

Question 8

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

D Scientists will continue to examine Ötzi in hopes of making further groundbreaking discoveries about the Neolithic Age.

Sniffing Out Extinction

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

A Dogs have such an incredible sense of smell that they have been recruited as conservation detection specialists who use their noses to locate endangered species so that scientists can find these rare animals, breed them in captivity, and later release them into the wild.

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

Why did the author include this passage?

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

Question 4

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

C counterfeit and authentic

Question 5

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

D 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?

B Which breed of dogs has proven to be the best at sniffing out certain illnesses

Question 7

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

A excellent or brilliant in a very noticeable way

Question 8

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

C Since 1980, problems stemming from climate change, non-native species, and a deadly fungus have wiped out about 98 percent of the Baw Baw frog population. Now, fewer than 1,200 of them remain in the wild. Conservationists fear that unless the trend is reversed soon, these small brown amphibians will be extinct within the next 10 years. The problem is, finding Baw Baw frogs isn't easy.

Social Media, Pompeii Style

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

D Like today's social media users who post messages on cyber walls, the residents of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii posted messages on actual walls that survived for thousands of years after being buried in the rock and ash from the eruption of nearby volcano, Mount Vesuvius.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A It's advantageous for historical scholars to direct their studies of Pompeian messages to ones concerning political endorsements and advice.

Question 3

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

A describe both the reason for the destruction of the city of Pompeii and the reason that it remained so well preserved

Question 4

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

A restore

Question 5

Suppose Camila wants to find out about the daily lives of the people who lived in Pompeii before its destruction. She would find **most** of her information _____.

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

Question 6

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

B the act of digging away the earth that covers something

Question 7

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

A So what messages did Pompeians write, exactly? In many ways, they were the same kinds of messages people write today on social media—opinions, complaints, pronouncements of love, consumer reviews, political endorsements, recommendations, advertisements, and advice.

Question 8

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

C Where the many residents of Pompeii fled to when they escaped the city

Soldier in the Wild

Answer key

Question 1

According to the Article, what happened as a result of Shoichi Yokoi's safe return to Japan after living so many years undetected in the wilds of Guam?

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

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

D Shoichi Yokoi, a former soldier in the Japanese Imperial Army, chose to remain in the jungles of Guam and live off the land from 1944 until his "capture" by two fishermen in January 1972.

Question 3

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

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

Question 4

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

C adversity and prosperity

Question 5

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

C Shoichi Yokoi would have remained in hiding even longer had he not been "captured" by two fishermen while setting shrimp traps near Talofof Falls.

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To describe the range of public response to Yokoi's return to Japan in 1972

Question 7

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

C the act of fleeing a dangerous place

Question 8

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

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

Teen Pilot Breaks World Record

Answer

Question 1

What cause and effect relationship is described in this Article?

B Because of the bad weather Mason Andrews experienced throughout his solo flight around the world, the teen

Question 2

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

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

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B Mason Andrews acted generously when he decided to use his trip to raise money for MedCamps of Louisiana, which offers summer camps for children with disabilities.

Question 4

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

B Carelessly

Question 5

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

C Inform readers about an ambitious young man who worked diligently to achieve a challenging goal

Question 6

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

C It is unlikely that Mason Andrews will stop dreaming big and attempting to achieve future goals now that he has flown solo around the world.

Question 7

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

B Strenuous

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 Still, "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 recalled.

The Truth About Dogs

Answer key

Question 1

According to the Article, why do dogs smell the urine of other dogs?

D Smelling urine provides dogs with important information about when other dogs were in the area, where they were going, and whether the surroundings are safe.

Question 2

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

B The California Science Center is presenting its findings about canine behavior in an exhibition that will travel to museums across the country in 2020.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Dogs are adorable when they lick our faces, give us a heart-melting look, or rush up to us the moment we come through the door.

Question 4

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

D Agreeable

Question 5

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

C The strong bond between dogs and humans probably formed because the two species helped one another with survival.

Question 6

The author probably wrote this Article in order to _____.

A Present some of the findings on display at the California Science Center's canine exhibition

Question 7

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

B Obtain

Question 8

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

D The exhibition includes a replica of a fire hydrant—a popular spot for dogs to relieve themselves, as you may know. With the push of a button next to the replica, you can smell what a dog smells.

Welcome to Batuu

Answer key

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected

D In 2019, Disney opened Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a new land in Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida and at Disneyland in California where the appearance, workers, food, and products are designed to make visitors feel like they're exploring the alien planet of Batuu.

Question 2

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C Since rides are a primary source of entertainment and attraction for younger visitors, kids will have the most fun visiting Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge.

Question 3

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

B emphasize that Galaxy's Edge was designed to ensure enjoyment for all visitors experiencing life on the planet of Batuu, regardless of their familiarity with Star Wars

Question 4

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

A elaborate

Question 5

The reader can infer from the Article that _____.

B Disney believes that Galaxy's Edge's popularity will draw enough visitors to their parks in California and Florida to justify their time and effort in developing the lands

Question 6

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

C strategies Disney uses to provide theme park visitors with unique and realistic experiences

Question 7

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

A a large group of stars or a cluster of space bodies

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Disney wanted Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge to look like an actual planet to visitors?

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

Women Adventurers

Answer key

Question 1

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

D A French botanist became the first woman in history to sail completely around the world.

Question 2

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

A Centuries ago, women were expected to stay home and raise families, but that didn't stop three daring women from blazing trails of their own and embarking on some amazing adventures.

Question 3

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

C suggest that Lady Hester Stanhope was a very convincing woman who refused to take "no" for an answer

Question 4

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B It wasn't wise for Jeanne Baret to disguise herself as a man on a voyage aboard the *Étoile* because it was almost certain she would have been found out sooner or later.

Question 5

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

B bestow and confer

Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that women were not always publicly acknowledged for their significant contributions in the past?

C During the journey, Baret helped Commerson collect over 6,000 botanical specimens. And some historians credit her, and her alone, with discovering the bougainvillea plant in Brazil and bringing its seeds back to Europe. Even so, Commerson received all the credit. And when shipmates on the *Étoile* discovered that Jean was really Jeanne, it's believed that Commerson lied, proclaiming he'd been fooled as well. To this day, 70 plants, insects, and mollusks bear Commerson's name only.

Question 7

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

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected

B to mark the way ahead for others

Question 8

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

B Who named a plant after Jeanne Baret two centuries after her death