

HSPE

High School Proficiency Exam



Reading High School

**Sample Reading Materials
Student Edition
2011**

Student's Name

Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Rushing for Gold” from *Treasure Hunters: The Search for Gold* by Nicola Barber, photo by Mike White, © 1998 Hachette Children’s Books. “The Search for Gold” by Mike White © 1998 by Raintree-Steck-Vaughn Publishers. All rights reserved. “Sutter’s Mill” © Bettmann/CORBIS # BE064951.

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Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Rushing for Gold

by Nicola Barber

1 One January morning in 1848, a man names James Marshall was examining the bed of a stream in California. A glint of something yellow caught his eye. It was a piece of gold, about half the size of a pea. Marshall’s discovery sparked an era of gold madness. Here was a chance for ordinary people to go to the goldfields and make a claim, and they flocked from all over the world, lured by the prospect of “getting rich quick.” However, as we shall see, Marshall and his partner, John Sutter, were not entirely happy about their amazing find.

2 John Sutter originally came from Switzerland, but he settled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, in 1839, and built a small estate that became known as Sutter’s Fort. He and James Marshall teamed up to construct a sawmill, about 37 miles (60 km) from Sutter’s Fort. They built it on a fast-flowing stream in order to use the power of the water to turn the mill wheel. But when the sawmill was completed, Marshall found that the water was too shallow to turn the wheel fast enough, so he ordered his men to dig out the bed of the stream to make it deeper. It was as he was inspecting their work that he made his important discovery.



In 1848 gold was found in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. This discovery started the biggest gold rush in history.

Is it Gold?

3 Marshall gathered several pieces of metal, then returned to the camp where his men were eating breakfast. The question in Marshall’s mind was—is this gold? He knew that another mineral called iron pyrite looks like gold; in fact, its

nickname is “fool’s gold.” So Marshall decided to do some simple experiments to test his find. First he hammered the “gold.” It was soft and easily workable. Then he put a piece in the center of the campfire. It came out unchanged. Finally the camp cook dropped the gold into boiling water with a type of acid. Again, the gold was unchanged. Marshall saddled his horse and rode as fast as he could to tell Sutter the news.

The Secret Is Out

- 4 Marshall demanded an immediate, secret meeting with Sutter. In the privacy of Sutter’s office, with the doors locked, Marshall showed his partner the gold. Neither of them was overjoyed about the find. Sutter didn’t own the land on which the sawmill was built, and he knew the reports of gold would probably bring hordes of treasure seekers to the area. The two men decided to keep their find a secret at least until the work digging out the stream was finished. In the meantime, Sutter would try to secure ownership of the land. But any hopes of secrecy soon faded. Word leaked out and strangers began to pour into the area. So began the biggest gold rush in history.



Marshall found gold in the stream running through this sawmill.

Gold for Everyone

- 5 People came to California from all over America, and then from all over the world. A report in the *New York Daily Tribune* stated: “The only machinery necessary in the new gold mines of California is a stout pair of arms, a shovel

and a tin pan.” There was gold for everyone—shopkeepers, farmers, soldiers, sailors, professors, or judges. By the end of 1849, the population of California had risen by more than 89,000, and still people kept coming.

Poverty and Ruin

- 6 What happened to John Sutter and James Marshall? As the discoverers of the gold, they should have become rich men. But as he had foreseen, Sutter’s land was overrun by prospectors and his estate was ruined. He died a poor man in 1880. James Marshall turned to drink and also died a pauper in 1885.

Panning for Gold

How did the prospectors find the gold? The simplest way was by using a flat dish called a “pan.” This was filled with sand and gravel from the bottom of a river, together with some water. Then the prospector swilled the pan around in a circular motion, washing out the light sand and gravel while any gold remained behind, because it is very heavy. As you can imagine, panning was a long and back-breaking job.

- 1** Why did John Sutter want to keep the discovery of gold a secret?
- A.** John Sutter wanted to test the metal to make sure it was gold.
 - B.** John Sutter wanted to purchase the land where the gold was found.
 - C.** John Sutter was afraid that James Marshall would receive credit for the discovery.
 - D.** John Sutter was interested in finding an easier way to remove the gold from the land.
- 2** Which idea is best supported by information in the selection?
- A.** James Marshall's discovery had life-changing results.
 - B.** John Sutter and James Marshall were overjoyed about their find.
 - C.** James Marshall's discovery led to new methods of searching for gold.
 - D.** John Sutter and James Marshall established new settlements for gold seekers.



- 3 Which sentence summarizes paragraph 2 in the selection?
- A. John Sutter settled in California, built Sutter’s Fort and teamed with James Marshall to construct a sawmill.
 - B. James Marshall’s discovery sparked a gold rush that caused the population of California to increase.
 - C. James Marshall tested the gold by hammering it, putting it in a campfire and dropping it into water.
 - D. John Sutter’s men were ordered to search for gold while digging a riverbed at Sutter’s mill.
- 4 Why does the author include the quote, “The only machinery necessary in the new gold mines of California is a stout pair of arms, a shovel, and a tin pan,” from the *New York Daily Tribune*?
- A. To explain the process of panning for gold
 - B. To describe where gold miners should search
 - C. To describe how easy it was for people to find gold
 - D. To explain why keeping the gold a secret was impossible



- 5 Based on the information in the selection, what inference can the reader make about people who search for gold? Include information from the selection in your inference.

- 6 What is the purpose of the text box at the end of the selection?
- A. To explain how easy it was to find gold in California
 - B. To explain the process used to identify gold in the river
 - C. To explain the steps used to determine if a metal is gold
 - D. To explain the main events of the gold rush in California



- 7 Based on the information in the selection, which conclusion can the reader draw about John Sutter and James Marshall?
- A. John Sutter and James Marshall were interested in sharing their knowledge of panning for gold.
 - B. John Sutter and James Marshall were unable to discuss their discovery with each other.
 - C. John Sutter and James Marshall were proud of helping other prospectors find gold.
 - D. John Sutter and James Marshall were unable to enjoy the wealth others found.
- 8 Which two things does the author contrast in the selection?
- A. Panning and digging for gold
 - B. Sawmills and goldfields
 - C. Iron pyrite and gold
 - D. Sand and gravel
- 9 Why did James Marshall test several pieces of the metal he found?
- A. To decide whether to continue building the sawmill
 - B. To decide whether his men were trustworthy
 - C. To make sure he had found real gold
 - D. To make sure the area was safe

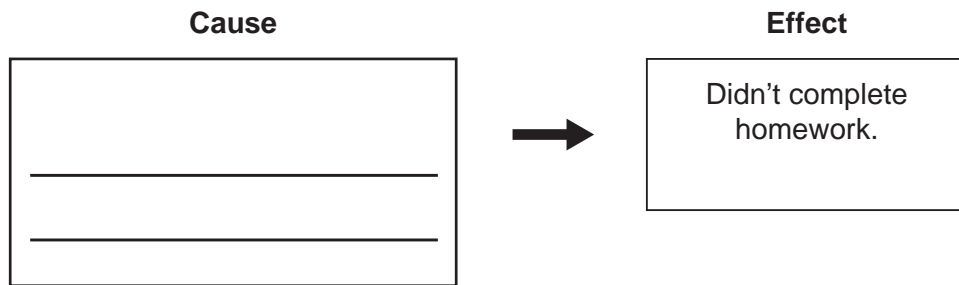


Questions 10 and 11 are not connected to a passage.

10 Read the paragraph.

Yesterday after school, Jenna practiced her guitar instead of doing her homework assignment. This morning her ride to school never showed up and she had to walk in the rain. Consequently, she arrived at school soaking wet, frustrated and without her homework.

Use information from the text to provide the cause for the given effect.



11 Read the poster.

Crestwood High School Fall Production
Join the Cast as an Actor or Crew Member

Students interested in becoming involved in the Crestwood High School Fall play should follow the guidelines listed below.

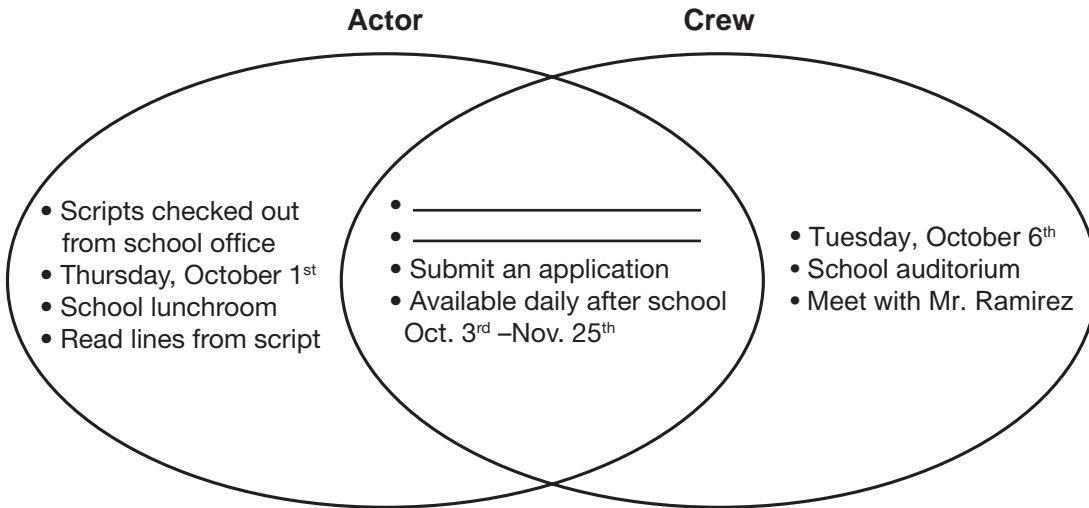
Applications for both positions, actors and crew, can be picked up in the school office. Acting scripts may be checked out from the office and returned after auditions.

Thursday, October 1st, students interested in acting roles should meet in the school lunchroom at 3:00 prepared to submit their application and audition by reading lines from pages 1 or 2 of the script.

Tuesday, October 6th, students interested in crew member jobs should meet in the school auditorium at 3:00 to submit their application and meet with the stage crew supervisor, Mr. Ramirez.

All production members need to be available daily after school from October 3rd–November 25th.

Use information from the poster to complete the Venn diagram by providing two similarities.



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“North Mountain State Park Hiking Tips.” Used by permission of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

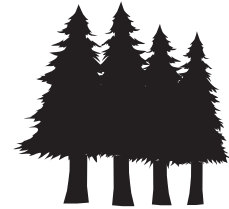
“Marathon Man” by Randy Stowell, from *Highlights for Children*, August 2004, copyright © by Highlights for Children, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Used by permission. Photo of Spiridon Louis 1873-1940, copyright © International Olympic Committee (IOC). Used by permission.

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North Mountain State Park Hiking Tips

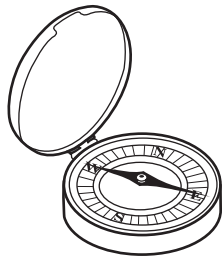


A good hiking expedition should be planned out in advance. Whether it is a hike on a mountain trail or through the woods, an enjoyable hiking excursion can easily turn into a dangerous situation if safety precautions are not taken. North Mountain State Park recommends hikers consider the following tips before hitting any trails:

- **Make a copy of your itinerary to give to a family member or a friend.**

Make sure that someone close to you knows where you are and how long you will be gone.

- **Wear a good pair of hiking boots or durable athletic shoes.** The right footwear will keep you safe, warm, and comfortable.
- **Prepare for various types of weather conditions.** Check the forecast before you leave; take along sunglasses and extra clothing (e.g., a hat and/or a jacket for a day hike) and wear sunscreen.
- **Pack plenty of food and water.** Consider the length of your hike and pack accordingly.



- **Pack basic and essential supplies.** Bring a first-aid kit, a flashlight, a pocket knife, a map of the area (if available), and a compass. You may need other supplies, such as matches or bug repellent, depending on the length of your hike.
- **Determine what time the sun sets.** This information is available in most local newspapers. Most people become lost after nightfall, so it is important to know this information in advance.
- **Stay on properly marked trails.** Stay on established trails to decrease the odds of becoming lost. Staying on established trails also lowers the risk of trampling rare and endangered plants.
- **Carry a whistle.** Using a loud whistle is a good way to call attention to your location if you get lost.
- **Keep an eye out for wildlife.** Do not approach animals in the wild, even if they seem friendly.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) manages a diverse system of more than 120 parks. The 90-year-old park system, which receives nearly 48 million visits a year, ranks fourth nationally in day-use attendance, 10th in overnight attendance, and the WSPRC has a smaller budget than most states.



- 1** Which sentence from the selection is irrelevant to hiker safety?
- A. Determine what time the sun sets.
 - B. Do not approach animals in the wild, even if they seem friendly.
 - C. Make a copy of your itinerary to give to a family member or friend.
 - D. Staying on established trails also lowers the risk of trampling rare and endangered plants.
- 2** After reading this selection, which generalization can the reader make about Washington State parks?
- A. They are operated with efficiency.
 - B. They provide search and rescue services.
 - C. They provide trail and wildlife restoration.
 - D. They are only accessible during summer months.



3 According to the document, what could happen if hikers ignore what time the sun sets?

- A. Hikers may need extra clothing.
- B. Hikers may become lost in the dark.
- C. Hikers may encounter wild animals.
- D. Hikers may have difficulty finding supplies.

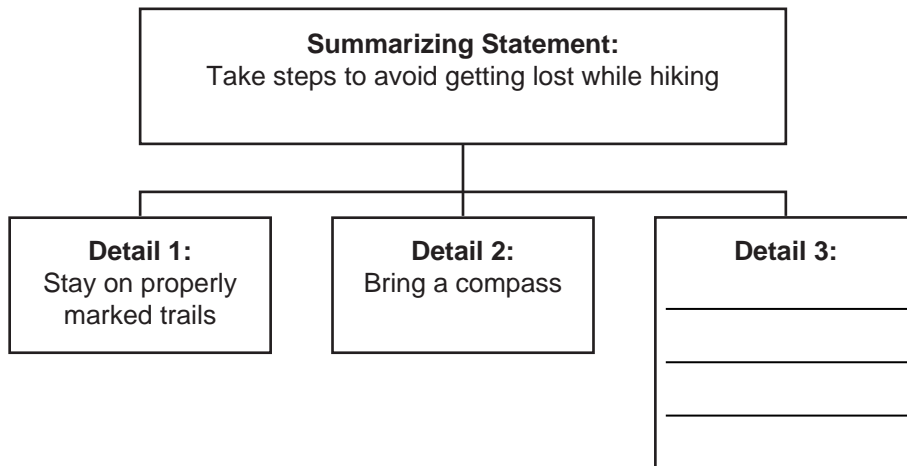
4 Suppose you are responsible for collecting supplies for hikers to wear. Provide **two** details from the selection that are examples of appropriate supplies.



5 Which statement is the most important conclusion the reader may draw about North Mountain State Park?

- A. The park features a variety of different types of trails.
- B. The park is committed to promoting safety.
- C. The park has many visitors annually.
- D. The park employs many rangers.

6 Read the chart below. Use information from the selection to provide another detail that supports the summarizing statement.



Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Marathon Man
by Randy Stowell

- 1 In 1896, a young man from Greece named Spiridon Louis ran one of the most exciting footraces ever.
- 2 Not much is known about Spiridon's early life. He was born in 1873 in a small house in the rocky hills above Athens. His father was a shepherd, and from a very young age Spiridon helped tend the sheep.
- 3 In winter, Spiridon watched the lambs to make sure they did not wander away from their mothers. In spring, he gathered the wool into bags as his father sheared the sheep.
- 4 When the wool was collected, Spiridon and his father walked to the Athens market to sell it. It was there that Spiridon saw the ancient buildings and heard the stories of the great civilization that had existed in Athens many centuries before.



Spiridon Louis
1873–1940

- 5 Perhaps it was in Athens that Spiridon's father told him the legend of Pheidippides (fy-DIP-ih-deez).
- 6 "Pheidippides ran from the village of Marathon to Athens, to tell his people that the Greeks had won a great battle," his father said.
- 7 The legend also says that Pheidippides had fought hard in the battle and that he died after delivering the message. The run of nearly 25 miles had been too much for him.
- 8 The story of Pheidippides has inspired athletes for many years.

Running with a Mule

- 9 By the time he was in his early twenties, Spiridon was making a living selling fresh water from the hills. Twice a day he would load two barrels full of



water on his mule and run alongside the mule to Athens, a trip of more than eight miles.

- 10 Spiridon's legs and heart grew strong from all that running. When he heard that a long race would be part of the Olympic Games, he decided to enter. The race would be called the marathon, in honor of the legend of Pheidippides.
- 11 The Olympics had been a festival of sports in ancient Greece, but the Games had not been held for centuries. There was great excitement in Greece when the decision was made to revive the Games in 1896.
- 12 The marathon was held on the last day of the Olympics. Greek athletes had not fared as well in the other events as hoped, so spectators were eager to see a Greek runner win. But the race included runners from Australia, the United States, and France, and they had done very well in shorter races at the Games.
- 13 The marathon began, and Albin Lermusiaux of France set a fast pace over the hilly dirt roads. He had a huge lead by the halfway point of the 40-kilometer race (that's just a little less than 25 miles). But he became exhausted and could not continue much farther. Soon he was out of the race.

- 14 With six miles to go, Edwin Flack of Australia was in the lead. But Spiridon Louis, who had started out at a slower, steady pace, was beginning to gain ground. Crowds of people lined the streets, urging Spiridon on.

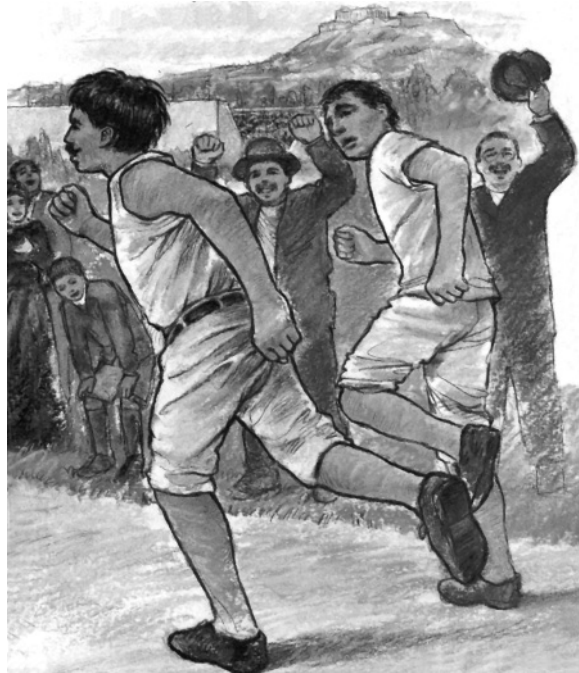
- 15 "How many are in front of me?" Spiridon called to the crowd.

- 16 "Six," came the reply, "but they are well out front."

- 17 "I will catch them," Spiridon said.

Spiridon Surges

- 18 Spiridon soon passed several runners who had started too fast and were now exhausted. Only Edwin Flack was still ahead.



Spiridon took the lead as they neared the stadium.



- 19 Meanwhile, at the Olympic Stadium in Athens, more than 40,000 spectators were waiting anxiously for the marathoners to arrive. When it was announced that the first runner was approaching, all eyes turned to the entrance of the stadium.
- 20 “Sound runs faster than man or horse, and before the runner appeared to those who were in the stadium they had caught the cry,” wrote a reporter for the *New York Times*. “‘It is a Greek!’ The rest was quickly seen—the weary, yet steady strides of the victor, till he made the goal.”
- 21 Spiridon Louis had won the first Olympic marathon.
- 22 Many years later, Spiridon recalled his victory.
- 23 “That hour was something unimaginable, and it still appears to me in my memory like a dream,” he said in 1936. “Twigs and flowers were raining down on me. Everybody was calling out my name and throwing their hats in the air.”
- 24 The Summer Olympic Games take place once every four years, bringing together athletes from all over the world.
- 25 Perhaps the story of Spiridon Louis will inspire the next winner of the Olympic marathon, just as Spiridon was inspired by the legend of Pheidippides so long ago.



- 7** Based on the selection, what inference can the reader make about Spiridon?
- A. He brought the Olympics to Athens.
 - B. He relied on his father for training.
 - C. He was a courageous soldier.
 - D. He planned his race well.
-
- 8** According to the section **Running with a Mule**, which statement is true?
- A. Spiridon went to Athens to buy wool.
 - B. Spiridon ran into the stadium in Athens.
 - C. Spiridon lived in a small house near Athens.
 - D. Spiridon traveled to Athens to sell fresh water.



- 9** Why did Spiridon Louis decide to enter the Olympic Marathon? Include **two** details from the selection in your answer.

- 10** Which statement is the most important conclusion that the reader may draw from the selection?

- A.** People enjoy watching the Olympic Games.
- B.** People who want to compete begin training at early ages.
- C.** People who work hard and have confidence are successful.
- D.** People respect the history and the culture of great civilizations.



11 Which title could be another title for the selection?

- A. “Pheidippides’s Son”
- B. “The Village of Marathon”
- C. “A Greek Athlete Triumphs”
- D. “The Summer Olympic Games”

Questions 12–15 are not connected to a passage.

12 Which sentence contains an example of personification?

- A. The annoyed cat, curled up on his bed, gave a wide, cavernous yawn, and with a final glare to the noisy room, went back to sleep.
- B. Like a neon rooster, the alarm clock fills my room each morning with a dreadful screech and a sickening green light.
- C. The sun winked from behind the bank of gray clouds.
- D. Softly, slowly, the spider slipped behind the sofa

13 Use the sentence below to answer the question.

After *tabulating* the judges’ final scores for all the contestants, the principal proudly announced the winner of this year’s talent show.

What does *tabulating* mean? _____



14 Amber has chosen the construction of Egyptian pyramids as the topic for her research paper. Which of these books would be the best source of information for her paper?

- A. *Egyptian Geography: A Study of an Ancient Land*
- B. *Egyptian Pharaohs: Growing Up as a Leader*
- C. *Egyptian Society: An In-depth Look at Egypt*
- D. *Egyptian Architecture: Tombs and Treasures*

15 Read the paragraph below.

“I’ve done my best.” Nathaniel smiled to himself as he stapled the papers together for his geography report. All his hard work had finally paid off. He checked the papers one last time and carefully placed them in Mr. Richardson’s turn-in box.

Which word best describes Nathaniel’s attitude?

- A. Proud
- B. Critical
- C. Nervous
- D. Tranquil



WCAP

WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



Reading High School

**Sample Items
Student Materials**

Student's Name

Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Directions: Read this selection and answer the questions.

Enro Rubik—“Exponent” of Play

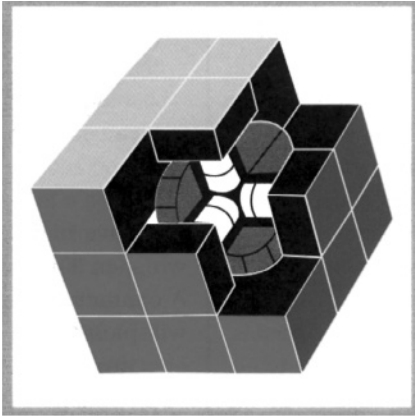
by Natalie M. Rosinsky

- 1 As a boy in the 1950s, Hungarian Enro Rubik played with the Fifteen Square. He has said that this brainteaser may have inspired his own invention, in 1974, of the Cube that today remains the world’s best-selling puzzle. A Rubik’s Cube consists of 26 little cubes (or “cubies”)—12 edge and eight corner pieces (all twistable), with six unmovable center pieces. In the center of the large cube is a small, unmovable mechanism to which each of the six center faces is attached. A trained sculptor and architect, Rubik was also inspired by forms in nature to figure out the best way to hold these pieces together. Watching rounded pebbles swirl in the Danube River, which flows through his homeland, Rubik came up with the cylindrical interior mechanism. This device, together with precise construction of each piece, sets his Cube apart from comparable puzzles.

Popularity of the Cube

- 2 Each of the Cube’s six surfaces displays nine facets of the same color. The fun begins when—after mixing up these colors by twisting the little cubes—someone tries to return each side of the Cube to one solid face of color! As people soon discovered after the Cube came out in 1977, this is an addictive and frustrating activity. People would interrupt both work and play to toy with the Cube. Restaurants began to place Rubik’s Cubes on tables right next to the salt and pepper shakers. Some addicts spent so much time continuously manipulating their Cubes that they developed repetitive stress injuries called “Rubik’s wrist” and “Cubist’s thumb”! In 1980, one recovering addict even started a “Cubaholics Anonymous” group to help others kick their habit!
- 3 Clubs were formed for fans of the Cube; more than 60 books were printed that offered tips on solving the puzzle; and competitions were held to see how quickly someone could restore order to the Cube. The 1982 World Rubik’s Cube Championship competition was won by the U.S. champion, 16-year-old Minh Thai from Los Angeles. That teen’s world record—since broken—was an astonishing 22.95 seconds! By 1982, this puzzle was so much a part of everyday life that the term “Rubik’s Cube” was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary*.
- 4 Between 1980 and 1982, it is estimated that more than 100 million Cubes were sold internationally. Ironically, while Enro Rubik became Hungary’s first millionaire, he—like Sam Loyd—also experienced problems in patenting his invention. Outside of Hungary, Rubik was able to patent only the name and image of “Rubik’s Cube” and not the actual device itself.





Mathematical Solutions

Mathematics holds the key to the fascinating difficulty of Rubik's Cube. Because a change to any individual cubie of the Cube affects other individual cubies in it, the number of possible configurations is astronomical. The nine cubies forming one face can be rotated through 45 rotations. There are 45,252,003,274,489,856,000 different arrangements of the small cubes, only one of these arrangements being the initial position

5

in which all colors match on each of the six sides. (A column of Cubes showing all the possible Cube positions would stretch out about 250 light-years!)

Mathematicians use Rubik's Cube as a tool for studying group theory, which is the branch of algebra concerned with symmetry and transformations. They have also become involved in determining the shortest method of restoring order to the Cube. So far, using a computer and the rules of group theory, British mathematician Morwen Thistlethwaite has been able to unscramble Rubik's puzzle in just 52 moves. Although the minimum number of moves required from an arbitrary starting position is still unknown, in 1995 Michael Reid proved that the minimum number is less than or equal to 29 turns.



- 1** What would be the most appropriate heading for the first paragraph of “Enro Rubik—‘Exponent’ of Play”?
- A. Development of the Cube
 - B. Enro Rubik’s Childhood
 - C. Pebbles of the Danube
 - D. Cubes Galore
- 2** According to the selection, what type of physical problem would a person who plays with a Rubik’s Cube daily most likely experience?
- A. Hand injuries
 - B. Blurred vision
 - C. Headaches
 - D. Back pain



- 3** Write a summary of “Enro Rubik—‘Exponent’ of Play.” Include **three** important ideas from the selection in your summary.

- 4** What is the meaning of the word *brainteaser* in the first paragraph of “Enro Rubik—‘Exponent’ of Play”?
- A.** A brain-shaped puzzle
 - B.** A puzzle that is for adults
 - C.** A mentally challenging puzzle
 - D.** A puzzle that is made of pebbles



- 5** In paragraph 5 of “Enro Rubik—‘Exponent’ of Play,” why did the author most likely include the actual number of different arrangements of the small cubes?
- A.** To explain how Rubik designed the puzzle
 - B.** To show the amazing complexity of the puzzle
 - C.** To suggest a particular theory about solving the puzzle
 - D.** To indicate how easy it is to become an expert at the puzzle
- 6** According to the selection, how was Rubik inspired by watching the Danube River?
- A.** He used its many colors for the design of his famous cube.
 - B.** He based his puzzle’s design on the contours of the river valley.
 - C.** He imitated in his puzzle the pattern of ice on the river.
 - D.** He designed a mechanism based on the motion of its pebbles.



Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Emme Loves Bees

by Jane Resides

1 Emme Bryer doesn't suffer the heebie-jeebies when honey bees crawl up her arm. Her spine doesn't tingle when honey bees land on her hand. Beekeeping is 15-year-old Emme's hobby, and she has learned to love the buzz.

2 Emme is not the first in her family to have this hobby. Emme's grandfather was a beekeeper long before she was born. When Emme was nine, she and her father decided to become beekeepers.



Emme uses a smoker to quiet the bees in a hive.

“Granddad had given up his bees, but he got more when Dad and I got ours,” says Emme. “Now we help each other with our hives. It’s fun working together.” 3

“I chose the gentlest colony,” Emme says of her hive. Bees that are quiet and stay calm when handled are not as likely to sting. 4

Suiting Up

“When people find out I’m a beekeeper, they ask me, ‘Do you wear those space-like outfits?’ I tell them I wear gloves, a long white suit, and a veil. The veil is a hat with fine netting to keep the bees from crawling on my bare neck.” 5

And Emme says there is a reason for wearing light-colored clothing. “Bees are more likely to sting dark colors because most of their predators are dark, like bears and skunks,” she says. 6

“My dad wore dark brown socks with his white outfit one day, and he got more than ten bee stings on his ankles!” 7



8 Emme rarely gets stung. She burns dry pine needles in a smoker with bellows, and pumps smoke around and into the hive. The smoke calms the bees, in part by causing them to load up on honey. With full stomachs, they are more relaxed and are less protective of their hive.

Starting a New Hive

9 “When we want to start a new hive, we buy three pounds of bees and a new queen,” Emme explains.

10 The bees are mailed from southern states, such as Georgia and Alabama. They are shipped in a wooden box with open mesh sides. “Some mail carriers are afraid to handle them,” says Emme.

11 The queen and her four or five attendant bees are shipped together in a small “cage,” separate from the other bees inside the box. The queen and attendant worker bees were raised together, and the attendants are loyal to her.

12 The queen has a spot of color painted on her back by bee suppliers. Each year a different color is chosen so that beekeepers can know the age of their queen.

13 The queen’s cage has an exit plugged by sugar candy. When the bees arrive, Emme punches a tiny hole in the outside of the plug and places this cage and the three pounds of bees in a hive. Bees then nibble at the candy plug from the outside, making the hole larger.

14 In a day or two, the queen is free. By this time, the queen and the workers have gotten to know one another, and the workers have accepted her. She starts laying eggs to build the colony.

15 Even when Emme and her father are not starting a new hive, they still buy a new queen for each hive every year. Younger queens lay more eggs and ensure a productive colony that makes more honey. Beekeepers must remove and dispose of the old queen, but all other bees can stay.

Harvesting Honey

16 Emme says they harvest the honey in July by taking the frames out of the hives. Then they slice the wax cap off the hexagonal (six-sided) cells and remove the honey in a rapidly spinning machine called an extractor.



- 17 Once the honey has been separated, it's put into containers such as plastic squeeze bottles or glass jars. "The beeswax is melted and used to make candles and other products," Emme says.

Prize-Winning Honey

- 18 Emme and her father take honey and beeswax to the county fair in the fall. They have won ribbons for both. Emme has also won blue ribbons from the Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association for her baked goods and other honey products.
- 19 Each year, Emme gives a presentation about honey bees and beekeeping to about one hundred third-graders. Emme says she always encourages them to try her unusual hobby.
- 20 Emme believes that beekeeping is an entertaining and fascinating hobby that other families—who don't suffer honey-bee heebie-jeebies—could also enjoy.



Emme has won several awards for the quality of her honey.

Bee Facts

- A hive colony is made up of one queen, 20,000 to 60,000 workers, and about 500 drones.
- The queen is the largest honey bee and the only one to lay fertilized eggs.
- All worker bees are females. They feed the queen, guard the hive, collect nectar and pollen, make wax, and so on.
- Male honey bees are called drones. Their sole purpose is to mate with new queens. In the fall, the workers force the drones out of the hive, where they die. That leaves more food for the queen and workers.



- 7** According to the selection “Emme Loves Bees,” why do beekeepers wear light-colored clothing?
- A.** Bees are less likely to sting light colors.
 - B.** Bees can see light colors better than dark colors.
 - C.** Bees will associate their predators with light colors.
 - D.** Bees are more visible to beekeepers when landing on light colors.
- 8** Which sentence summarizes how Emme and her father start a new hive in the selection “Emme Loves Bees”?
- A.** They buy queens marked with paint dots and keep track of the queens’ ages by selecting a different color from their supplier every year.
 - B.** They remove the old queen from an existing hive and place her in a new hive with new attendants and other worker bees from southern states.
 - C.** They travel to Georgia or Alabama to select a new queen, remove some bees from an existing hive and combine the old and new bees in a new hive.
 - D.** They purchase bees from southern states, keep the queen and her attendants separate from the others and introduce the queen to the other new bees in a new hive.



9 According to the text box in the selection “Emme Loves Bees,” which statement is true?

- A.** Drones are raised with the queen bee and are loyal to her.
- B.** Worker bees are shipped separately from the queen bee.
- C.** Drones force worker bees out of the hive each fall.
- D.** Worker bees feed the queen and guard the hive.

10 The author’s purpose for writing the selection “Emme Loves Bees” may have been to show that beekeeping can be rewarding. Provide two details from the selection “Emme Loves Bees” to support this purpose.

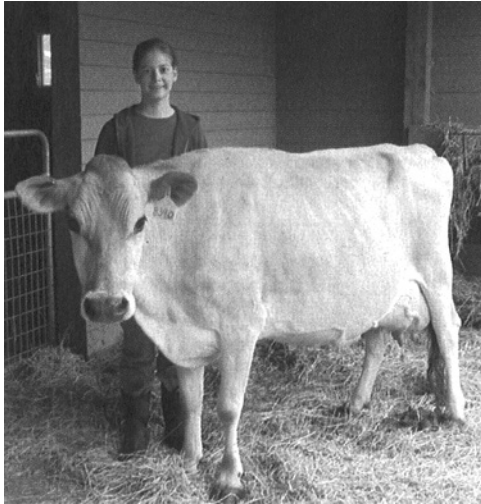


Directions: Read the selection, which goes with the selection you just read. Then answer the questions.

Kelsey's Cash Cow

by Frances Robinson

- 1 Kelsey Kozak of Vashon Island, Washington, was 8 years old when she got a subscription to *Fine Cooking* magazine and started talking about buying a cow so she could make her own cheese. Brie was what she had in mind—a



traditional soft French cheese with a distinctive white rind.

Now 16 years old, Kelsey has her cow—Iris, a 6-year-old Jersey with a silky tan coat and soulful brown eyes. She also has established Fort Bantam Creamery, a one-cow dairy based on a self-designed and profitable cow-share program. With Iris' milk, Kelsey makes deep-golden (no color added!) butter, creamy yogurt, luscious ice cream and an array of flavorful cheeses, including her personal favorite (brie), as well as farmer's cheese and mozzarella.

Prior to milking, Kelsey Kozak gets ready to give Iris a much-enjoyed brushing.

To find Iris, Kelsey says, she researched raising cows, particularly dairy breeds, and visited dairy farms in her

area. She settled on a Jersey because it's one of the oldest dairy breeds and is well-known for high-quality milk and butterfat production.

- 4 The visits to dairy farms proved useful in another, unexpected way. Some of the dairies fed the cows a grain-based diet. Kelsey had her own ideas for Iris' care. She says she wanted her cow to be grass-fed because milk from grass-fed cows is higher in beta carotene and vitamin E than milk from grain-fed cows. In part, that's because fresh pasture has more of these nutrients than grain or hay. Another factor behind the high nutrient content is that a grazing cow produces less milk than a grain-fed cow, and because any given cow has only a set amount of vitamins to transfer to her milk; the less milk she produces, the more vitamins are in each glass.



5 Today, Iris, along with her current calf, Mo, are pastured on Vashon, a 12-mile-long island in Puget Sound, just west of Seattle, where the animals eat a cow's natural grass diet supplemented in the off season by high-quality mixed-grass hay.

6 On that diet, Iris produces about 6 gallons of milk a day. Kelsey and her family—mom and dad, Linda and Chuck, and 18-year-old sister, Kristen—use what they need, and the rest goes into Kelsey's creamery cow-share program. Here's how it works:

7 Because Washington, like most states, has strict regulations governing the sale of raw milk, Kelsey's Fort Bantam Creamery customers purchase a share of Iris for \$15, and then pay a fee to Kelsey (\$3.50 per half gallon of milk) to board, care for and milk that share of the cow.

8 At \$3.50 per half gallon, Iris' milk is about double the cost of milk from grocery stores in the area, but no one is complaining. Kelsey says customers are happy to pay the price, and are willing to travel as part of the bargain. One of Iris' shareholders drives more than 100 miles round trip to get the milk, on top of paying a \$15 ferry toll—the only way to get on and off the island.



Fort Bantam Creamery produces raw whole milk, yogurt, butter, fresh mozzarella, and crème fraiche.

9 In addition to being the centerpiece of Kelsey's creamery operation, Iris also is the focus of Kelsey's independent study class through which the teenager earns academic credit. Called "Dairying and Cheese Making," Kelsey's school project has helped her develop her culinary, business and animal husbandry skills, as well as improved her time management and expanded her library of dairying books.

10 "One thing that people should know before they get a dairy cow," Kelsey says, "is that they take a lot of your time." Kelsey milks Iris by hand twice a day, 305 days a year. (Iris is not milked for 60 days of the year in preparation for giving birth to a calf.)



- 11 When Kelsey started, she says, it took her about 45 minutes to milk the cow; today, she gets the job done in less than half that time. She also has slotted the independent study project as her first class of the school day, allowing her to sleep a little later each morning and still milk Iris before going to school.
- 12 Having a cow to milk every day also means little time off. “If you do go on vacation,” Kelsey says, “you have to get someone to do the milking for you, which is not as easy as getting a neighbor to watch your dog or cat.” When she goes away, Kelsey is fortunate to have a cheese-making friend, Charlene Osman, who gladly milks Iris in exchange for the milk.
- 13 Next year, if Iris’ calf is a female, Kelsey’s Fort Bantam Creamery will double in size. In anticipation of such an event, she has been experimenting with some new product recipes. So far, decaffeinated coffee ice cream, ricotta and other soft cheeses, and a variety of traditional hard cheeses such as cheddar look promising, Kelsey says. And sometime in the future, despite her already fast-accumulating experience, Kelsey plans to formally study the art of cheese making in the heart of her beloved Brie region in France.



11 According to the captions in “Kelsey’s Cash Cow,” which statement is true?

- A. Iris is a 6-year-old Jersey cow.
- B. Iris enjoys being brushed by Kelsey.
- C. Kelsey makes brie cheese with Iris’ milk.
- D. Kelsey tastes the new products she makes.

12 According to the selection “Kelsey’s Cash Cow,” which sentence best explains why Kelsey feeds Iris a natural grass diet?

- A. Jersey cows prefer a grass-based diet.
- B. Grass-fed cows produce more milk than grain-fed cows.
- C. Milk from grass-fed cows contains more vitamins than milk from grain fed cows.
- D. Brie cheese can only be made with milk from cows that have been fed a grass-based diet.



- 13** What is the meaning of the word *shareholders* in paragraph 8 of the selection “Kelsey’s Cash Cow”?
- A. People who pay Kelsey for partial ownership of Iris
 - B. People who take care of Iris when Kelsey is away
 - C. People who transport milk products for Kelsey
 - D. People who govern Kelsey’s sales of raw milk
- 14** After reading both selections, which generalization can the reader make about people who have hobbies?
- A. People pursue hobbies to gain recognition.
 - B. People enjoy hobbies that require little time.
 - C. People value certain hobbies more as children.
 - D. People gain specialized knowledge from hobbies.



15 Based on **both** selections, what inference can the reader make about Emme and Kelsey?

- A. Emme and Kelsey have learned much from their hobbies.
- B. Emme and Kelsey hope their hobbies will create income.
- C. Emme and Kelsey hope to raise other types of animals.
- D. Emme and Kelsey have good public-speaking skills.

16 **Both** selections show that working with animals requires planning. Provide one detail from each selection that supports this idea.



- 17** Which sentence best describes the authors' feelings about Emme and Kelsey in **both** selections?
- A.** The authors are surprised by the sacrifices the girls make to pursue their interests.
 - B.** The authors question the girls' decision to begin their hobbies at such young ages.
 - C.** The authors are impressed by how the girls teach their hobbies to others.
 - D.** The authors admire the girls' commitment to their interests.
- 18** How are Emme and Kelsey in the selections similar?
- A.** Emme and Kelsey both produce goods with their hobbies.
 - B.** Emme and Kelsey both earn school credit for their hobbies.
 - C.** Emme and Kelsey both began their hobbies by helping family members.
 - D.** Emme and Kelsey both want their hobbies to become their full-time careers.



WASL - Washington Assessment of Student Learning

A Component of the Washington State
Assessment System

Reading High School

Sample Items



Dr. Terry Bergeson
State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Student's Name

Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

The Trailblazer: Jackie Robinson
by Larry Canale

Introduction:

In 1947, Jackie Robinson took a bold, fearless step into the major leagues, paving the way for African Americans who dreamed of playing our nation's highest caliber of baseball.

1 When a truly outstanding baseball player decides his career is over, one way his team honors him is to retire his uniform number. Some day, for example, the Baltimore Orioles will put away Cal Ripkin Jr.'s No. 8 and the St. Louis Cardinals will retire Mark McGwire's No. 25.

2 Jackie Robinson may have received the ultimate honor, however, when *all of baseball* retired his number in 1998. That means no major-league baseball player will ever again sport No. 42 on his uniform.

3 So why did baseball honor Jackie Robinson with such a special tribute? Certainly, his accomplishments on the field were impressive. During his 10-year career (1947–56), he hit .311, with 137 home runs and 197 stolen bases. Still, other players before and after Robinson's era far exceeded his numbers. Baseball retired Robinson's No. 42 both for his skill and because of the courage he demonstrated in breaking baseball's color line.

Time to Address Racism in Baseball

4 Such key baseball figures as Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who was the commissioner from 1919 to 1944, did all they could to keep African Americans from playing in the majors. Then came Branch Rickey. In the 1940s, Rickey had a plan to help African Americans get a shot at playing in the big leagues, and he aimed to make it happen.



Jackie Robinson
1919–1972

Reading

- 5 Rickey believed Jackie Robinson, who at the time was a star shortstop in the Negro Leagues, could compete with the best in the major leagues. But Rickey wanted to make sure Robinson had the composure to withstand the racial taunts of fans and opposing players.
- 6 Robinson asked Rickey whether he wanted a player who would fight back when provoked. Rickey answered, “No, Jackie, I want a player with guts enough *not* to fight back. You will symbolize a crucial cause. One incident, just one incident, can set it back 20 years.”
- 7 Rickey also said, “I’ve been looking for a great black ball player, but I need more than a great player, I need a man who will carry the flag for his race.” After the meeting, Rickey knew that he had his man.

Jackie Robinson and His Career

- 8 Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia. His grandfather was a slave, and his father was a sharecropper who left the family when Jackie was young. Robinson, his mother, and his siblings relocated to Pasadena, California, where Jackie went on to attend the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). He starred in four sports at the university—track, basketball, football, and baseball. He later joined the U.S. Army and served as an officer in World War II.
- 9 In 1944, Robinson signed with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues. He received \$400 a month. It was during this period that he caught Branch Rickey’s attention and earned a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- 10 For seasoning, Rickey sent Robinson to the Dodgers’ Montreal farm team in 1946. That year, he led the team to the Little World Series. The following season, Robinson made the step up to the major leagues. He won a job as the Dodgers’ starting first baseman and had a spectacular year, leading the National League in stolen bases (29) while hitting .297, with 12 home runs, 125 runs, and 48 runs batted in.
- 11 For Robinson, playing baseball was the easy part. The hard part was staying calm when racist players called him names, spiked him, or tried to pick fights.



Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson following through with his swing as catcher Yogi Berra crouches behind the plate during the 6th game of the World Series in Yankee Stadium.

Even some of his teammates resented him. Fred “Dixie” Walker, who was raised in the South, asked to be traded.

- 12 True to his word to Branch Rickey, Robinson let his bat and glove do his talking. During his career, he became known as an excellent hitter and daring baserunner who made things happen. He was a six-time All-Star.

An American Legend

- 13 Then, at age 37, he hung up his spikes. Six years later, in 1962, he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Sadly, Robinson died in 1972 at the age of 53, having suffered from high blood pressure, heart trouble, diabetes, and blindness in one eye.

- 14 When Major League Baseball retired Robinson’s number, it was attempting to recognize his permanent contributions to baseball. Without Robinson’s resolve and inner strength, many more years might have passed before African Americans took that first courageous step at gaining equality in major-league baseball.

Batting Average

A player’s batting average is determined by dividing the total number of base hits by the number of official times at bat. For example, a batting average of .250 means that a player gets a hit once in every four times at bat. The best major league players have batting averages of .300 or higher. Ty Cobb’s lifetime batting average of .366 is the highest in major league baseball history.

Reading

- 1 Which sentence from the selection is an opinion?
- A. “For Robinson, playing baseball was the easy part.”
 - B. “That year, he led the team to the Little World Series.”
 - C. “Fred ‘Dixie’ Walker, who was raised in the South, asked to be traded.”
 - D. “Still, other players before and after Robinson’s era far exceeded his numbers.”

2 How did Jackie Robinson's character influence the sport of baseball?
Include **four** details from the selection in your answer.

Reading

- 3 What is the meaning of the word *composure* in paragraph 5?
- A. Creativity
 - B. Strength
 - C. Talent
 - D. Agility
- 4 What is the main idea of the selection?
- A. A baseball player should work hard.
 - B. A baseball player can make a difference.
 - C. A baseball player has a shorter life span.
 - D. A baseball player can receive many honors.

- 5 Write a summary of the section entitled “Jackie Robinson and His Career.” Include **three** main ideas from the section in your summary.

- 6 According to the selection, how were Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson similar?

- A. Both wanted to use the bat and glove to speak louder than words.
- B. Both wanted to become the greatest player in baseball.
- C. Both wanted to fight back when taunted by players.
- D. Both wanted to play baseball in the Major Leagues.

Reading

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Mystery Flight

by Dee DeTarsio

- 1 Amelia Earhart, born in Atchison, Kansas, on July 24, 1897, recorded many firsts in aviation history before attempting her greatest feat of all—the first round-the-world flight via the equator. Earhart carefully mapped her route, originally heading west from Oakland, California, only to crash in Hawaii.
- 2 She survived, but her Lockheed Electra 10E plane was shipped back and repaired. On May 21, 1937, Earhart set off again, this time heading east. The trip was going well, with all America watching and waiting to hear news of her progress. But, on one of the last legs of her 30,000-mile trip, 20 hours after leaving New Guinea with her navigator, Fred Noonan, Earhart was lost.
- 3 On July 2, 1937, the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Itasca intercepted brief, desperate transmissions for help. But the ship couldn't home in on her navigational position and problems with Earhart's radio left her unable to receive messages.
- 4 Over sixty years after her disappearance, and over 100 years after her birth, no one knows what really happened. No trace of her plane was ever found. Stories about her tragic end are still being talked about and investigated. The most widely accepted theory is that she ran out of gas, crashed and drowned. Other accounts have Earhart and her navigator straying off course on purpose to go on a secret spy mission for President Franklin Roosevelt.
- 5 Currently, a group of researchers is combing a desolate island in the Pacific Ocean called Nikumaroro. They have found intriguing clues: the heel of a woman's shoe that matches Earhart's size, and pieces of aluminum and parts that may have come from her plane.

Amelia Earhart: A Life of Accomplishments

- 1921**—Completed her first flying lesson and bought her first aircraft, the Kinner Airster
- 1922**—Set an unofficial women’s flying altitude record of 14,000 feet
- 1928**—Completed the first transcontinental flight by a woman
- 1930**—Organized and was elected president of The Ninety-Nines, the first national organization of female pilots
- 1930**—Set the women’s world flying speed record of 181.18 mph
- 1931**—Completed her first solo transcontinental flight in an Autogiro for the Beechnut Company
- 1932**—Became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in her single-engine Lockheed Vega
- 1933**—Broke her own transcontinental record with a flying time of 17 hours, 7 minutes and 30 seconds
- 1935**—Was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, California
- 1937**—Began her around-the-world flight, completing 22,000 miles before disappearing

Reading

- 7 What is the meaning of the word *navigator* in paragraph 2 of the selection?
- A. One who pilots the plane
 - B. One who sends messages
 - C. One who plots the course of a plane
 - D. One who leads the U.S. Coast Guard
- 8 What problem made it almost impossible for the Coast Guard to locate Amelia Earhart?
- A. The Coast Guard never heard from Amelia Earhart.
 - B. Amelia Earhart had lost her navigator, Fred Noonan.
 - C. The Coast Guard was too far away from Amelia Earhart.
 - D. Amelia Earhart was unable to hear the Coast Guard's communications.
- 9 Based on its title, what information do you expect to find in the timeline?
- A. A detailed record of Amelia Earhart's last flight
 - B. Memorable events honoring Amelia Earhart
 - C. Amelia Earhart's important achievements
 - D. Amelia Earhart's family history

- 10** Is this sentence a reasonable conclusion to draw after reading the selection?

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan crashed on an island in the Pacific Ocean.

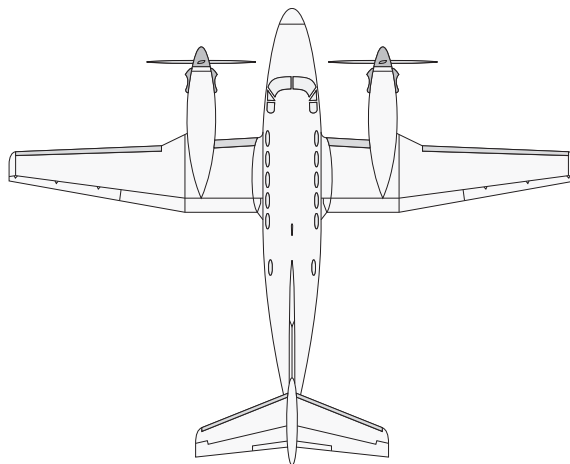
Support your response with **two** details from the selection.

Reading

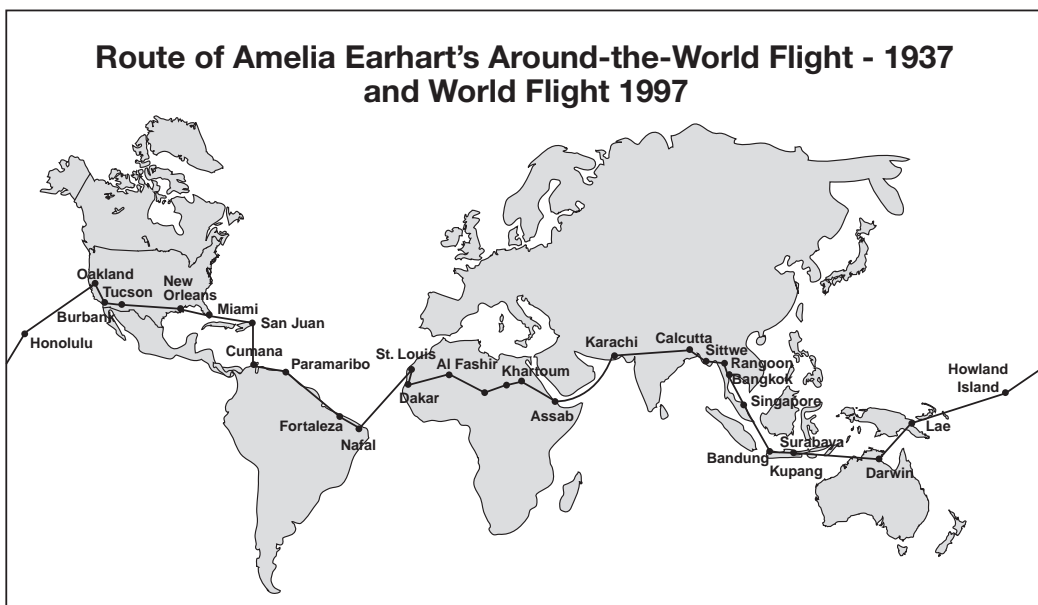
Directions: Read this selection, which goes with to the selection you just read. Then answer the questions.

In the Air for Amelia by Dee DeTarsio

- 1 Many of us have a hero in history, someone we think was totally amazing. Forty-six-year-old Linda Finch of San Antonio, Texas, retraced her hero's footsteps, or in this case, flight paths.
- 2 This spring Finch followed her dream of re-creating the round-the-world flight attempted 60 years ago by legendary aviator Amelia Earhart. Earhart never completed her journey and her disappearance remains a mystery to this day.
- 3 Finch's plane is almost an exact replica of Earhart's—a gleaming 1935 Lockheed Electra 10E. Finch spent the last two years painstakingly restoring and modernizing the plane. She even sheltered it in the same hangar from which Earhart's craft was rolled out in 1937. Other pilots have completed the Earhart flight, but not in an Electra.
- 4 Calling the adventure World Flight 1997, Finch's flight took about two and one-half months and covered about 30,000 miles. Following a route similar to the one planned for Earhart, she made more than 30 stops in 20 countries.
- 5 Finch reported that the memory of Earhart was particularly inspirational to her when she crossed the Atlantic. It was a long trip, nearly 13 hours, through thunderstorms and in the dark. She said it was like flying into a black hole, with no way to tell the difference between the water and the sky. To think of Amelia Earhart doing this 60 years ago is amazing.



- 6 “World Flight was created to share Amelia Earhart’s vision with young people. The heart of the World Flight project is its outreach to inner city and at-risk youth with her message about reaching above and beyond perceived limitations,” Finch said.
- 7 As part of World Flight 1997, engine-maker Pratt & Whitney spent \$4.5 million for the education program “You Can Soar.” Half a million students participated, learning about geography, science, the weather and aviation.



Reading

- 11** Which of these sentences best summarizes “In the Air for Amelia”?
- A.** A female flyer researches what happened to aviator Amelia Earhart.
 - B.** A woman pilot recreates Amelia Earhart’s unfinished round-the-world journey.
 - C.** An organization called World Flight 1997 restores Amelia Earhart’s plane.
 - D.** Many young people learn to fly, thanks to the contributions of Amelia Earhart.
- 12** Why does Linda Finch compare flying across the Atlantic to flying into a black hole?
- A.** To describe the appearance of a 1935 airplane
 - B.** To express the joy she felt when flying
 - C.** To emphasize the dangers in her flight
 - D.** To explain the length of the flight

- 13** Based on the timeline “Amelia Earhart: A Life of Accomplishments,” and the information in the selection “In the Air for Amelia,” explain how Amelia Earhart might have inspired young people during her lifetime. Include **one** detail from the timeline and **one** detail from the selection in your answer.

- 14** According to the timeline and the selections, in what year did Amelia Earhart set an aviation record for both men and women?

- A. 1922
- B. 1930
- C. 1933
- D. 1935

Reading

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

Silk: The Caterpillar Thread

by Laurel Kendall

1 Thousands of tiny jaws crunch mulberry leaves, hour after hour and day after day, all day and all night, with a pause now and again to shed an outgrown skin. This is the lifelong banquet of the *Bombyx mori*, the tiny caterpillar we call “silkworm.” In twenty-five days or more, the feast is done, and the silkworm spins its thick cocoon, a



A silkworm caterpillar spins the framework for a cocoon.

continuous strand of liquid silk that hardens when it touches the air. If left undisturbed in its waterproof sleeping bag, the well-fed caterpillar will become a moth in about two weeks. It will emerge from its wrapping and fly away to lay eggs that will become more hungry silkworms. Cocoons for silk, however, are steamed or boiled before the full-grown moth can destroy the silk thread.



An inspector at a silk factory in Liaoning, China, examines silk cloth.

2 The cocoons must be washed in very hot water to remove the sticky coating from the silken strand. Nimble fingers, usually women’s fingers, gather thin threads from several cocoons and reel them into a single long and lustrous thread, strong enough for sewing or weaving. One hundred ten cocoons yield enough thread to weave a silk

necktie, six hundred thirty make a blouse, and three thousand make a Japanese woman's fine kimono.

3 Silk is perhaps the world's most wondrous fabric. We say "silky" or "silken" to describe lovely skin and hair and often use the expression "as soft as silk." But silk is also strong, stronger than a steel wire the same size as a thin silken thread. Japanese samurai used silk cords to bind together the pieces of their armor. Surgeons use silk thread to stitch wounds and incisions. Pilots trust their lives to the sturdy silk of their parachutes. And silk is beautiful. Sometimes we say "silken" when we mean luxurious. Silk robes embroidered with dragons of silk thread were clothing fit for a Chinese emperor. Today, even a simple dress or shirt made of silk is a very special piece of clothing.

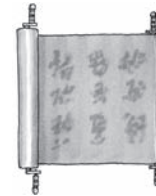
4 Nearly four thousand years ago, Chinese farmers living along the Yellow River in north-central China unraveled the caterpillar's threads and began to spin and weave silk. From at least the second century B.C., Chinese silk was traded over great distances to the world outside China. Silk reached the Roman Empire nearly two thousand years ago, and the luxury-loving Romans paid great sums of gold to clothe themselves in silk. For many centuries, Chinese silk was worn in Persia, in Indian kingdoms, in the Middle East, and around the Mediterranean Sea.

5 Brave traders traveled the Silk Road, a network of difficult, often dangerous roads over mountains and across deserts. Some silk traveled a distance of nearly forty-five hundred miles from western China, over the high Pamir Mountains, and through what is now Iran. Silk for the European and North African market was carried to ports in the eastern Mediterranean and shipped by sea.

Brought to You by the Silk Road

Silk was only one of many items traded along the routes of the Silk Road. Listed below are just a few of the precious goods that these trade routes introduced and spread to the rest of the world.

Glass
Ivory
Apples
Carrots
Pomegranates



Paper



Jade



Pearls

Reading

- 6 No single merchant caravan traveled the entire length of the Silk Road. Silk and other valuable goods changed hands many times as they were traded and retraded along the way. If merchants survived attacks by bandits, hunger, thirst, and exhaustion, they would grow rich. States along the Silk Road encouraged trade by protecting caravans, and through trade, their cities prospered.
- 7 As a link between East and West, the Silk Road influenced world history. Buddhist monks followed the Silk Road and brought Buddhism to China. Many splendid Buddhist shrines still remain in central Asia. Other travelers began to venture further along the trade routes and to write about the peoples they encountered. The most famous Western traveler was Marco Polo, who left Venice as a boy in 1271 and followed the Silk Road to China. He returned twenty-four years later and wrote about his adventures in the land of Kublai Khan. The wonders he described were so fantastic that many refused to believe him. Others, such as Christopher Columbus, wanted nothing more than to follow in Marco Polo's footsteps. Columbus, seeking a route to China by sea, bumped into the New World before he ever reached the Orient.
- 8 Even though silk cloth traveled thousands of miles, the marvel of the silk-producing caterpillar was, for a long time, China's secret. Romans thought that the shimmering cloth came from "the hair of a sea shrimp." Eventually, the secret reached other lands—Japan and Korea in the third century, central Asia in the fourth, Byzantium, in the eastern Mediterranean, in the sixth. According to one legend, monks arrived in Byzantium with the silkworm hidden in their hollow walking sticks. Even though silk could be manufactured outside China, Chinese silk remained a very special commodity. Today, although the secret is out, China is still the world's foremost producer of silk.

15 What is the purpose of the text box **Brought to You by the Silk Road**?

- A.** To identify some items traded on the Silk Road
- B.** To describe the trade routes on the Silk Road
- C.** To explain how silk was traded for jade
- D.** To list some products made from silk

16 Each of these words could describe the Silk Road in the selection. Choose the word you think best describes the Silk Road.

Risky Profitable Influential

Provide **two** details from the selection to support your choice.

Reading

17 Which opinion can be supported with information from the selection?

- A. The Silk Road was a safe route for travelers.
- B. Silk is the world's most wondrous fabric.
- C. Well-fed caterpillars make the best silk.
- D. Korea produces the finest silk.

Directions: Read this story, which goes with the selection you just read. Then answer the questions.

Journey on the Silk Road

by Luann Hankom

- 1 My name is Fa Zang. I am 12 years old, and the year is A.D. 742. I am excited! I am joining my father on my first caravan to a far-off city called Dunhuang. My father has obtained porcelain, rhubarb, herbal medicine, and silk cloth to trade. What treasures will we find on our journey?
- 2 We begin our journey in Chang'an, China, where we live. Chang'an is a bustling city with two million people. Our caravan includes private merchants such as my father, Chinese government officials, and of course, camels. Camels may be slow, but they are sturdy animals that can carry our heavy loads.



- 3 Our prized trading item is silk, which comes from silkworms. People in foreign lands use our silk cloth for fancy clothes.
- 4 We leave Chang'an and travel through the Wei River Valley along the Imperial Highway. The landscape is green and yellow—bright green fields and mulberry trees. The ground is yellow with loess, a fine dust that blows in the wind. If the wind is harsh, I will put a mask over my face, so the dust doesn't get inside my mouth or eyes.

Reading

- 5 At night, my feet are sore from walking. Our caravan stops at a shelter, so we don't have to sleep out in the open. Other traders are at the shelter, too. They have dates, pistachio nuts, peaches, and pears. Someone tosses me a pear. Its sweet, slippery juice drips down my chin while I eat it.
- 6 The days and nights continue. We stop at farms for food along the way and meet caravans coming and going. We continue northwest through forests and hills and cross the Huang River, sloshing through the water. We travel the foothills of the Nan Shan Mountains until we reach Dunhuang. I am tired and sore from the journey that has lasted many weeks. I am intrigued as my father starts exchanging goods with caravans from the West.
- 7 There are rare items such as green and white jade, fine-colored glass, and exotic perfumes. My father trades his silk for white jade and Persian metalwork. He trades the rhubarb for pistachio nuts and walnuts. He exchanges the herbal medicine for musical instruments. The government officials trade silk for horses. The officials are pleased—the horses will be for the emperor's army.
- 8 The men from the West describe unusual, foreign places on their journeys: Tyre and Byzantium. I have not heard of these cities before. They speak of the difficult journeys through the Taklamaken Desert and the Pamirs. Such adventures!
- 9 I can barely fall asleep, for thoughts of these exotic places and peoples fill my brain. I will travel to these cities someday! My father and I will travel back to Chang'an, so I must get my rest. It has been an exciting journey. I dream of the travels yet to come.

- 18** According to the story, which word best describes Fa Zang?
- A. Respected
 - B. Confused
 - C. Worried
 - D. Amazed
- 19** What is the main idea of the story?
- A. Fa Zang learns how to ride a camel.
 - B. Fa Zang receives gifts while traveling.
 - C. Fa Zang takes her first caravan trip with her father.
 - D. Fa Zang travels through the scenic Wei River Valley.
- 20** Based on the information in the story, what inference can the reader make about Fa Zang's attitude toward her journey?
- A. She embraces the new experience.
 - B. She distrusts the merchants from the West.
 - C. She is unaware of the significance of the trip.
 - D. She is invigorated by the long walk to Dunhuang.

Reading

21 What is the main similarity between travelers on the Silk Road in **both** the selection and the story?

- A.** Travelers endured hardships along the Silk Road.
- B.** Travelers slept in shelters along the Silk Road.
- C.** Travelers rode camels along the Silk Road.
- D.** Travelers were safe along the Silk Road.

22 **Both** the selection and the story show that silk is a valuable product to trade. Provide **one** detail from the selection and **one** detail from the story that support this idea.

- 23** According to **both** the selection and the story, which sentence best explains why silk cloth is popular around the world?
- A.** Silk cloth is a sturdy material.
 - B.** Silk cloth is easy for workers to produce.
 - C.** Silk cloth is a common material accessible to most people.
 - D.** Silk cloth is considered a luxurious fabric used for clothes.

WASL - Washington Assessment of Student Learning

A Component of the Washington State
Assessment System

Reading High School

Sample Items



Dr. Terry Bergeson
State Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Student's Name

Date

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Directions: Read the story and answer the questions.

Turkeys
by Bailey White

- 1 Something about my mother attracts ornithologists. It all started years ago when a couple of them discovered she had a rare species of woodpecker coming to her bird feeder. They came in the house and sat around the window, exclaiming and taking pictures with big fancy cameras. But long after the red cockaded woodpeckers had gone to roost in their sticky little holes in the red hearts of our big old pine trees, and the chuck-will's-widows had started to sing their night chorus, the ornithologists were still there. There always seemed to be three or four of them wandering around our place, discussing the body fat of hummingbirds, telling cruel jokes about people who couldn't tell a pileated woodpecker from an ivory bill, and staying for supper.
- 2 In those days, during the 1950s, the big concern of ornithologists in our area was the wild turkey. They were rare, and the pure-strain wild turkeys had begun to interbreed with farmers' domestic stock. The species was being degraded. It was extinction by dilution, and to the ornithologists it was just as tragic as the more dramatic demise of the passenger pigeon or the Carolina parakeet.
- 3 One ornithologist had devised a formula to compute the ratio of domestic to pure-strain wild turkey in an individual bird by comparing the angle of flight at takeoff and the rate of acceleration. And in those sad days, the turkeys were flying low and slow.
- 4 It was during that time, the spring when I was six years old, that I caught the measles. I had a high fever, and my mother was worried about me. She kept the house quiet and dark and crept around silently, trying different methods of cooling me down.
- 5 Even the ornithologists stayed away—but not out of fear of the measles or respect for a household with sickness. The fact was, they had discovered a wild turkey nest. According to the formula, the hen was pure-strain wild—not a taint of the sluggish domestic bird in her blood—and the ornithologists were camping in the woods, protecting her nest from predators and taking pictures.
- 6 One night our phone rang. It was one of the ornithologists. “Does your little girl still have measles?” he asked.

Reading

7 “Yes,” said my mother. “She’s very sick. Her temperature is 102.”

8 “I’ll be right over,” said the ornithologist.

9 In five minutes a whole carload of them arrived. They marched solemnly into the house, carrying a cardboard box. “A hundred two, did you say? Where is she?” they asked my mother.

10 They crept into my room and set the box down on the bed. I was barely conscious, and when I opened my eyes, their worried faces hovering over me seemed to float out of the darkness like giant, glowing eggs. They snatched the covers off me and felt me all over. They consulted in whispers.

11 “Feels just right, I’d say.”

12 “A hundred two—can’t miss if we tuck them up close and she lies still.”

13 I closed my eyes then, and after a while the ornithologists drifted away, their pale faces bobbing up and down on the black wave of fever.

14 The next morning I was better. For the first time in days I could think. The memory of the ornithologists with their whispered voices and their bony, cool hands was like a dream from another life. But when I pulled down the covers, there staring up at me with googly eyes and wide mouths, were sixteen fuzzy baby turkeys and the cracked chips and caps of sixteen brown speckled eggs.

15 I was a sensible child. I gently stretched myself out. The eggshells crackled, and the turkey babies fluttered and cheeped and snuggled against me. I laid my aching head back on the pillow and closed my eyes. “The ornithologists,” I whispered. “The ornithologists have been here.”

16 It seems the turkey hen had been so disturbed by the elaborate protective measures that had been undertaken in her behalf that she had abandoned her nest on the night the eggs were due to hatch. It was a cold night. The ornithologists, not having an incubator on hand, used their heads and came up with the next best thing.

17 The baby turkeys and I gained our strength together. When I was finally able to get out of bed and feebly creep around the house, the turkeys peeped and cheeped around my ankles, scrambling to keep up with me and tripping over their own big spraddle-toed feet. When I went outside for the first time, the turkeys tumbled after me down the steps and scratched around in the yard while I sat in the sun.

- 18 Finally, in late summer, the day came when they were ready to fly for the first time as adult birds. The ornithologists gathered. I ran down the hill, and the turkeys ran too. Then, one by one, they took off. They flew high and fast. The ornithologists made V's with their thumbs and forefingers, measuring angles. They consulted their stopwatches and paced off distances. They scribbled in their tiny notebooks. Finally they looked at each other. They sighed. They smiled. They jumped up and down and hugged each other. "One hundred percent pure wild turkey!" they said.
- 19 Nearly forty years have passed since then. In many ways the world is a worse place now. But there's a vaccine for measles. And the woods where I live are full of pure wild turkeys. I like to think they are all descendants of those sixteen birds I saved from the vigilance of the ornithologists.



Reading

- 1 Write a summary of the story. Include **three** main events from the story in your summary.

- 2 What does the narrator most likely mean when she says, “I was a sensible child” in paragraph 15 of the story?
- A. She welcomed the ornithologists’ visits to her home.
 - B. She allowed the baby turkeys to follow her in the yard.
 - C. She moved slowly because her head still ached from the fever.
 - D. She reacted calmly to the presence of the baby turkeys next to her.

- 3 What problem do the ornithologists experience in the story? What are **three** events that contribute to the resolution of the problem? Include information from the story in your answer.

Reading

- 4 Which word could the author have used in paragraph 2 instead of the word *demise*?
- A. End
 - B. Growth
 - C. Surplus
 - D. Preservation
- 5 Which opinion can be supported with information from the story?
- A. All change is for the better.
 - B. No good can come from being sick.
 - C. Ensuring the survival of native birds is important.
 - D. Woodpeckers are more interesting than wild turkeys.

- 6 One conclusion a reader can draw from the story is that the ornithologists' good intentions lead to unexpected results. Provide **two** details from the story that support this conclusion.

- 7 Which sentence best states the main idea of the story?

- A. The mother helps raise the wild turkeys.
- B. The community helps protect the wild turkeys.
- C. The narrator unknowingly saves the wild turkeys.
- D. The ornithologist diligently studies the wild turkeys.

Reading

- 8 Which sentence best describes why the ornithologists want to protect the wild turkeys?
- A. Wild turkeys are interbreeding with domestic animals.
 - B. Wild turkey eggs have special incubation needs.
 - C. Wild turkey habitats are declining.
 - D. Wild turkeys abandon their nests.

Directions: Read the selection and answer the questions.

In the Beginning

by Janet Wyman Coleman with Elizabeth V. Warren

Bats and Balls

- 1 Before there was a game called baseball, Americans had discovered the fun of swinging a stick at a ball. In the early 1800s, children held tree limbs above their shoulders and swatted at walnuts wrapped in rags. Adults swung at balls with the same enthusiasm. Broomsticks made great bats, as did large pieces of wood called “wagon tongues,” named after the part of a wagon that jugged out



This ball, made from old mattress fabric, was probably sewn by a player’s mother.

and held the horses’ reins. If players had the skill and time, they carved and sanded pieces of ash or hickory into long, graceful bats. Sometimes the bats were painted with a faux (false) grain to imitate the look of expensive woods and then used as trophies of good games. Balls were also made by hand, of rags, pieces of old mattress fabric, or horsehide.

The simple equipment made it possible to play “ball” almost anywhere. Soldiers enjoyed a game at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, and the Indian leader Geronimo fielded a team of Apaches against the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in the late 1800s. The Apaches won.

2

Everyone Wants to Play

- 3 In the 1840s and 1850s, thousands of ambitious young men left their families in Europe and immigrated to New York. They took jobs as policemen, firemen, and shipbuilders, and discovered baseball. Many of the immigrants were proud to be Americans and they wanted to play the American game. Teams evolved out of the different professions. Shipbuilders pitched to firemen. Undertakers caught fly balls hit by doctors. Schoolteachers tagged out bartenders on fields and lots around the city.

Reading



This pigskin ball looks like it was well used.

However, there was a problem with the balls. They couldn't be thrown very far, because they were so light. Doc Adams of the Knickerbocker Club found a saddler who taught him how to sew horsehide and stuff it with rubber cuttings. At first, Adams made the balls himself "not only for our club but for other clubs when they were organized," but soon workers in the leather trade were also producing and selling balls. By the late 1860s, demand was so great, baseballs had to be mass-produced in factories.

4

- 5 In 1857, the Knickerbockers and fifteen other clubs that played by the same rules created a league, the National Association of Base Ball Players. Doc Adams was the president. It was decided that baseball must continue to be an amateur game. Money would be its ruination, so the players should never be paid.

Historical Note:

By 1861, there were sixty-two teams in various states. In 1869, admission was charged and players were paid for the first time. As heroes of the game emerged in the 1880s, baseball cards were created and circulated among fans. In America, baseball remains a popular sport and continues to grow in popularity in other parts of the world.

- 9** What is the most important idea the author presents in the selection “In the Beginning”?
- A.** Interest in baseball increased during the 1800s.
 - B.** Factories began producing baseballs in the 1860s.
 - C.** In the late 1800s, U.S. soldiers played baseball with Apache Indians.
 - D.** In the 1840s and 1850s, many immigrants played baseball in New York.
-
- 10** Based on the information in the selection “In the Beginning,” what conclusion can the reader draw about the impact of baseball in America?
- A.** Baseball inspired young men to join the military.
 - B.** Baseball was a model for other amateur sports.
 - C.** Baseball was unappealing to immigrants.
 - D.** Baseball acted as a unifying force.

Reading

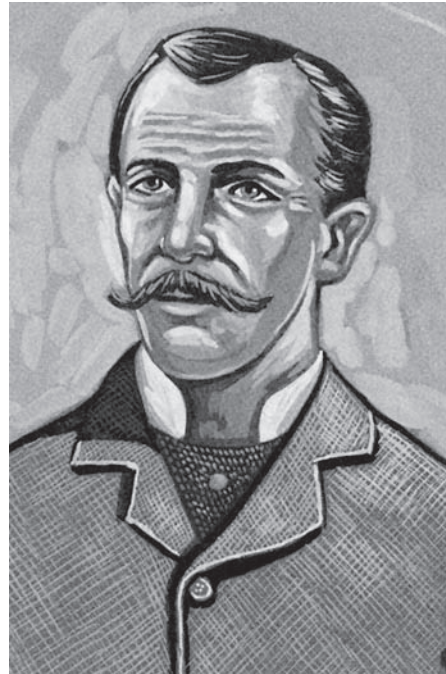
- 11** Write a summary of the section **Everyone Wants to Play**. Include **three** important ideas from the section in your summary.

Directions: Read this selection, which goes with the selection you just read. Then answer the questions.

Baseball Smarts

by Bill Wise

- 1 Put yourself in Charlie Waitt's shoes for a moment.
- 2 It's 1875 and you play big-league baseball for the St. Louis Brown Stockings. You're a 21-year-old rookie outfielder who'll be filling in at first base for your team's next game.
- 3 The thought of playing first base makes you wince. You've played there twice before, and it's nothing like playing the outfield. At first base, you'll be catching sharply hit ground balls, whistling line drives, and stinging throws, all from close range. The last time you played first base, your hands ached for days.
- 4 In 1875, baseball is played bare-handed!
- 5 Charlie knows that fielding a baseball without a glove is tricky. Players hold their hands in the shape of a box to keep the ball from hitting their palms. This works well for outfielders; by the time the ball has traveled that far, it usually has slowed down quite a bit.
- 6 Infielders and catchers, however, aren't so lucky. They often get cuts, bruises, and even broken bones from the hard-hit balls.
- 7 Players think the banged-up fingers and hands are just a part of the game. But Charlie Waitt decides to do something about it.
- 8 Waitt takes an ordinary leather glove and cuts off the fingers. He hopes that the leather will reduce the sting of the ball.
- 9 Other players and the fans watching the game don't like Waitt's idea. They think wearing a glove is a sign of weakness. But Waitt finds that the glove does make a difference, and he continues to wear it in other games.



Charlie Waitt

1853-1912

Reading

10 Eventually, other players begin to wear gloves, too. Albert Spalding, a star pitcher for the Boston Red Stockings, asked Waitt about his glove.

11 “Waitt confessed that he was ashamed to wear it, but he said he had it on to save his hand,” Spalding later wrote. “He also admitted that he had chosen a color as inconspicuous as possible because he didn’t care to attract attention.”

12 Waitt’s invention made a lasting impression on Spalding. Later, after becoming a first baseman, Spalding began wearing a glove. But he went one step further and added a thin layer of padding inside the glove for more protection.

13 Spalding was highly respected, and his use of the glove convinced others that it was all right to wear one. Some players even began to wear gloves on both hands.

14 This new Spalding-style glove worked fine for everyone except the catchers. They needed more protection. Recognizing this need, former player Harry Decker designed a heavily padded mitt in 1890. It wasn’t nearly as big as today’s catcher’s mitts, but it was a big improvement over the thin gloves worn by the rest of the fielders.

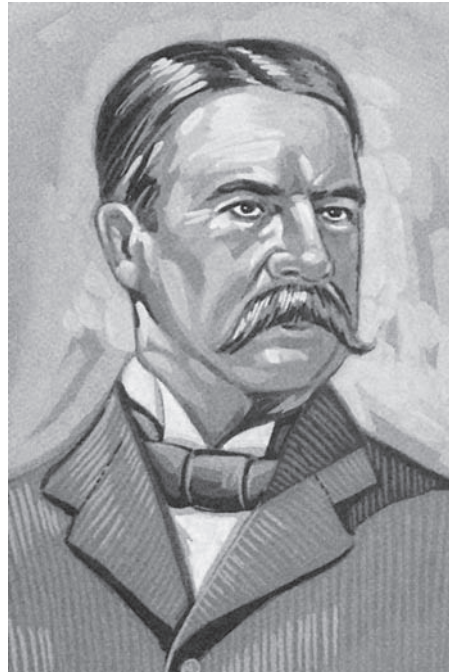
15 By 1896, every big-league player was using a glove. There were far fewer injuries and errors as a result.

16 Albert Spalding went on to found the Spalding Sporting Goods Company. But what about Charlie Waitt?

17 Charlie played in 113 professional games from 1875 to 1883, never spending more than one season with any team. He was what baseball folks call a journeyman ballplayer.

18 A newspaper article in 1882 declared that “a more honest and harder-working player than Charles Waitt would be hard to find.”

19 It would also be hard to find a player who did more to change the way a baseball is fielded.



Albert Spalding
1850-1915

12 Why did some players become convinced it was acceptable to use gloves?

- A.** Fans urged their favorite players to use gloves.
- B.** Players thought gloves made them appear tough.
- C.** Albert Spalding used a glove and he was well-respected.
- D.** Charlie Waitt designed a glove that was small and heavily padded.

13 What are **two** differences between Charlie Waitt and Albert Spalding?
Include information from the selection “Baseball Smarts” in your answer.

Reading

- 14** What are the authors' purposes for writing **both** selections?
- A.** To explain the development of professional baseball teams
 - B.** To explain the popularity of baseball in the United States
 - C.** To explain the development of baseball in the 1800s
 - D.** To explain advances in the baseball glove
- 15** What is the main similarity between Doc Adams and Albert Spalding?
- A.** Both made baseball equipment.
 - B.** Both used broomsticks for bats.
 - C.** Both men started baseball leagues.
 - D.** Both men were paid to play baseball.

- 16** **Both** selections explain how baseball changed over time. Provide **one** detail from “In the Beginning” and **one** detail from “Baseball Smarts” that support this idea.

- 17** Based on **both** selections, what inference can the reader make about Doc Adams and Charlie Waitt?
- A.** They were concerned about injuries baseball players suffered.
 - B.** They were inventive people who found creative solutions to problems.
 - C.** They were focused on making the game of baseball available to more people.
 - D.** They were competitive people who wanted to change the rules of baseball.

Reading

Directions: Read the poem and answer the questions.

Desert Tortoise in the Rain

by Joseph Bruchac

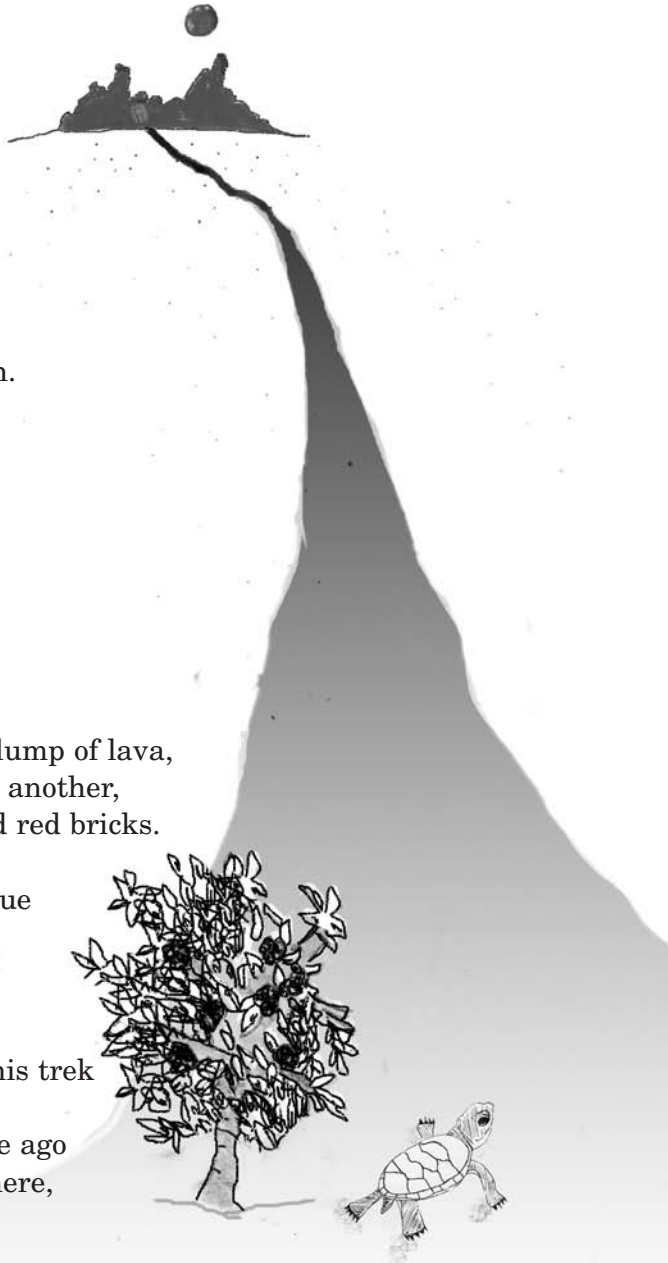
His shell glistens with the moisture
of early winter rain.
Small drops have drawn him
from his earth-dug bed
5 beneath porch steps—
all that remains of a house
washed away by fire.

The backyard fence,
which once kept him
10 from the sight of ocean
or winding canyon,
has also been returned to ash.

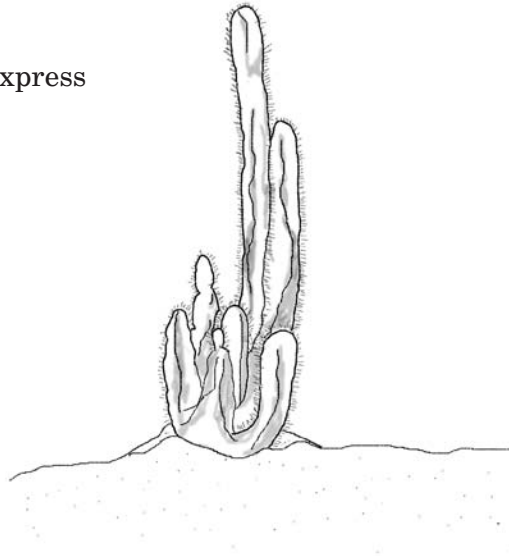
The chirr of a wren
can now be heard
15 from camellia branches
which survived, somehow,
the red flow of flame
to hold new blossoms,
fluttering purple and red
20 as perfect as Chinese silk.

The tortoise, his head like a lump of lava,
takes one club foot step after another,
bumps his way across heaved red bricks.
He opens his mouth
25 to let his almost human tongue
loлл out to lap up drops
of moisture dark as his eyes.

He turns his gaze away
from the sea below to begin his trek
30 back toward the Mohave
where human hands a decade ago
picked him up to carry him here,
away from his own kind.



As I watch him move
35 with what some call patience
it seems that words can barely express
what the tortoise knows,
of the rain and the fire
here at the fenced-in edge
40 of a continent where
our human desires
have come again to nothingness.



Reading

- 18** What is the main conflict in the poem?
- A.** A tortoise emerges from hibernation.
 - B.** A tortoise demonstrates curiosity.
 - C.** A tortoise seeks his former home.
 - D.** A tortoise lives near the ocean.
- 19** Based on the information in the poem, what conclusion can be drawn about the tortoise?
- A.** He is clumsy.
 - B.** He is injured.
 - C.** He is unhappy.
 - D.** He is persistent.
- 20** Which sentence best summarizes the fifth stanza of the poem?
- A.** The desert tortoise drinks the cool raindrops.
 - B.** A bird sings in the branches of a beautiful tree.
 - C.** A house and fence burn down to the scorched ground.
 - D.** The desert tortoise starts his long journey back to the desert.

- 21** According to the poem, which sentence tells how the tortoise is different after the fire?
- A.** He is free to return home.
 - B.** He is sick from too much ash.
 - C.** He is sad that the house is gone.
 - D.** He is moved by the mountain view.
-
- 22** What is the meaning of the phrase “the chirr of a wren” in the third stanza of the poem?
- A.** The sight of a bird
 - B.** The sound of a bird
 - C.** The silence of a bird
 - D.** The movement of a bird

Reading

- 23** Why does the tortoise “begin his trek back toward the Mohave”? Include **two** details from the poem in your answer.
