



Name \_\_\_\_\_

1

## She Was Dressed to Meet an Iceberg

Molly Brown was a country girl who traveled to Colorado in the 1880s. She found work as a singer in a concert hall. Molly married a local miner named J. J. Brown who struck it rich mining silver. The couple built a huge house in Denver, Colorado. While J. J. went back to the minefields, Molly tried to make friends with other wealthy women. However, they considered her an ignorant country girl with poor speech and manners. She took a trip to Europe by herself in the hope of getting accepted by women in high society.

Molly's return trip to America was aboard the first voyage of the *Titanic*. It was interrupted when the ship struck an iceberg and started to sink. The new ocean liner was supposed to be unsinkable, but it quickly started to fill with water. Molly helped load women and children into one of the lifeboats. The rich women were dressed for dancing and dinner. Molly

was wearing a huge fur coat. It was perfect for sitting on the ocean next to an iceberg. The people in the lifeboat, Molly included, were trying to escape from a sinking ship.

Molly used her coat as a blanket to cover cold and shivering women and children. Molly is said to have pulled out a cowboy pistol when the passengers were afraid and the crew was unwilling to row. They quickly decided to calm down and row. Molly herself helped row the boat to keep away from the sinking ship. Her courage and spirit made her a **heroine** on two continents. However, despite all her good deeds, she was never accepted by wealthy women.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **heroine**?
  - male hero
  - wealthy person
  - female hero
  - cowgirl
- From the context of the passage, what is "high society"?
  - a group of wealthy people who have been rich a long time
  - a group of miners
  - people who own boats
  - people who have just become rich
- Why did the frightened crew start to row the lifeboat?
  - They were bored with sitting there.
  - They wanted to go back to England.
  - Molly pulled out a pistol.
  - Molly offered them money.
- According to the passage, why did Molly go to Europe?
  - She was bored and wanted to learn to read.
  - Molly wanted to be accepted by other wealthy women.
  - She liked fine art and music.
  - Her husband was mining, and she wanted to spend some money.



Warm-Up

2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Female Paul Revere

Paul Revere began his famous ride on the 18th of April in 1775. Sybil Ludington made hers on the 26th of April in 1777. The American Revolution had begun, and the British were trying to end the rebellion. Sybil's father led **volunteer militia** living in a large area in western New York. Sybil was his high-spirited sixteen-year-old daughter and the oldest of twelve children. The family was informed that British troops intended to burn a nearby town. She offered to ride out and alert her father's troops in their homes. The soldiers were to gather at her father's home, ready to defend the town.

Sybil took to her horse at 9:00 p.m. and rode all night until daybreak. She traveled through the dark, stormy night on a forty-mile route.

She rode through many small neighboring towns. In villages and at lonely farmhouses, this brave girl woke up her father's citizen soldiers. She told them of the burning town. She could see the flames as she rode along on part of her route. Sybil was exhausted from her ride and from a fight with a thief who tried to rob her. She returned home drenched to the skin, but she was successful in alerting the four hundred men of her father's command. Her night ride was twice the distance of Paul Revere's. Although the town was burned, Sybil's courage was admired by many people. These included her father's men, her neighbors, and her father's commander, General George Washington. And don't forget, Sybil was just a teenager!

## Check Your Understanding

- How many years later than Paul Revere did Sybil Ludington make her ride?
  - about ten years
  - about one year
  - about two years
  - about twelve years
- What problems did Sybil encounter on her ride?
  - She was attacked by a thief.
  - Her horse ran away.
  - The weather was wet and stormy.
  - both a and c
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **volunteer militia**?
  - farmers
  - professional soldiers
  - firemen
  - soldiers from the local communities
- Which event occurred second?
  - Sybil rides to warn the volunteer militia.
  - Sybil is honored for her courage during the ride.
  - Sybil's family is warned that the British intend to burn a local town.
  - Sybil fights off a thief.

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

3

## He Loved His Mother

The year was 1920 and Harry Burn, a twenty-four-year-old member of the Tennessee **legislature**, had a problem. There was an issue that was facing the nation. It was the much-debated question of the right of women to vote. For more than eighty years, women who wanted the right to vote had pressured leaders in the nation. The idea now had the support of most women and some men. Congress had voted. They decided to send a constitutional amendment to the legislatures. It was up to the forty-eight states to approve it.

If the legislatures of thirty-six states did not agree to the amendment, many men in the country could breathe easily. They thought the issue might go away. Harry Burn's problem was that thirty-five states

had already approved the change. The only state remaining where the amendment had any chance was Tennessee. The Tennessee lawmakers split evenly at forty-eight in favor and forty-eight against. Harry's was the last undecided vote. Harry himself didn't much **favor** the idea of women voting. However, his mother had written him a letter begging him to "be a good boy." She wanted him to approve the new law.

After much soul searching, Harry Burn cast his vote in favor of the bill. Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to approve the change. The right of women to vote was now the law of the land. Harry truly proved his love for his mother on this day.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the best synonym for **favor**?
  - reject
  - approve
  - debate
  - decide
- What would have happened to the amendment if Harry Burn had *not* voted to approve it?
  - It would have passed anyway.
  - The idea of women's suffrage would be forgotten.
  - Some other state would have passed the amendment.
  - The amendment would have failed, and women would not have had the right to vote at that time.
- Which of the following is a fact and *not* an opinion?
  - Everybody should have the right to vote.
  - Only tall people should have the right to vote.
  - The amendment gave women the right to vote.
  - Men's votes are more important than women's votes.
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **legislature**?
  - a place where laws are made
  - a place where women vote
  - a kind of law
  - a job in Tennessee



/4

Warm-Up

4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Rosetta Stone

One of the first written languages came from the very old societies of Egypt. This Egyptian writing is called **hieroglyphics**. These were symbols carved on stone buildings or statues. They were sometimes written on a kind of paper made from reeds. Over time, the symbols for simple objects, such as spears or buildings, slowly changed to symbols for words. This change allowed more detailed ideas to be expressed in writing. The problem was that the actual meaning of the words carved on tombs and other buildings from long ago could not be read later, even by experts in languages. A few pictures sometimes seemed obvious in their meaning. Nobody knew how the language was organized. They could only guess at the meanings of most of the words and pictures.

The discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 by a French army officer changed the

situation. The stone was found in the Nile Delta. This stone led to an understanding of this ancient Egyptian writing. The stone was carved with a copy of an order announcing a new Egyptian ruler. The stone was partly damaged, but the writing was clear enough to be seen. The stone recorded the same message in three different languages. One was in hieroglyphics. One was written in a simpler form of the same language, and one was in Greek. Because ancient Greek was a language known to scholars, the two other languages could then be decoded. In 1822, a French expert in languages **decoded** both Egyptian languages. This breakthrough made it possible to read the words on other tombs, buildings, and papers written by ancient Egyptians.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **hieroglyphics**?
  - Egyptian writing using symbols and pictures
  - ancient Greek
  - stone writing
  - old English writing
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **decoded**?
  - to look at a language
  - to write the language
  - to translate the language into another language
  - to write a new language
- From the context of the passage, what is the Rosetta Stone?
  - a rock with writing in three languages
  - a kind of Greek language
  - a form of simplified hieroglyphics
  - a French stone
- What was the most important effect of the discovery of the Rosetta Stone?
  - Egyptian hieroglyphics were translated.
  - People learned to speak modern Egyptian languages.
  - Ancient Greek could now be translated.
  - all of the above

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

5

## The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus

About 2,400 years ago, Halicarnassus was the leading city in a small kingdom called Caria. It was located in what is now the nation of Turkey. King Mausolus ruled over the area for about twenty years. He had a rather quiet and unimportant reign. It was marked by only two interesting events—his marriage to his sister and his death. It was common in Caria and other places in the ancient world for leaders to marry their sisters. This made it possible for them to keep power and wealth in the family. Artemisia, the king’s wife, truly loved and even adored her husband. When the king died, she decided to build a tomb for him as a great honor to his memory. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus was the result. It was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

The queen hired the best sculptors, designers, and builders from Greece. They built a marble tomb about 100 feet square and 140 feet high. It included a row of thirty-six columns. There was a twenty-four-step pyramid. A marble chariot with four horses sat at the top. There were dozens of beautifully carved statues around the temple. There were many detailed and colorful carvings of battles.

The building was actually finished after the death of the queen. She died two years after her husband and was buried in the same tomb. Their monument survived for more than 1,700 years. A series of earthquakes destroyed the building about 600 years ago. The word *mausoleum* has entered the language as a word meaning “large tomb.”

### Check Your Understanding

- Who was Artemisia?
  - the wife of King Mausolus
  - the sister of Mausolus
  - a person entombed in the mausoleum
  - all of the above
- How many years did the mausoleum survive?
  - nearly 17 years
  - more than 1,700 years
  - more than 2,300 years
  - about 600 years
- From the context of the passage, what is a mausoleum used for?
  - a temple
  - a large burial tomb
  - a palace
  - a place to display sculptures
- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
  - King Mausolus was entombed about 2,350 years ago.
  - King Mausolus was married to his sister.
  - An earthquake destroyed the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus.
  - King Mausolus was a great leader.



/4

Warm-Up

6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Invention of Basketball

Most sports don't have a specific date or place where they were invented. They often developed over many years from child's play or community games. Basketball, however, was invented in December 1891 by Dr. James Naismith. He was a physical education teacher at a school that is now known as Springfield College in Massachusetts. He believed that there needed to be an indoor game that could be played in the evenings and during the cold, snowy months of winter. Football was too rough to play inside. In addition, the offense in football could run with the ball. This required the defense to tackle and play rough. Football was a very dangerous college sport before the invention of modern protections, such as helmets and pads. Many college players were killed or badly hurt in the early years of football. However,

the basic idea of basketball is that it is to be played with skill rather than roughness.

The **original** game used seven men on each side and two peach baskets into which a ball was shot. The early game quickly became popular with college students. Oftentimes, there were many players on each side. The ball could not be kicked or carried. If a basket was made by one side, "time" was called while the ball was taken out of the basket by a coach or player with a ladder. By 1897, the game had changed, and five players were on each side. By 1912, the modern hoop, made of net with an open bottom, had replaced the peach baskets. Dr. Naismith laid out thirteen original rules for the game. Twelve of the rules are still used in the game today.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which was *not* a reason for the invention of basketball?
  - Football was too rough and dangerous.
  - Basketball could be played indoors in cold weather.
  - Tall athletes needed a game to favor them.
  - Students needed safe, energetic exercise.
- What can you infer was the reason peach baskets were replaced with hoops?
  - The players didn't have ladders.
  - Stopping to retrieve the ball after a basket was made slowed down the game too much.
  - There were too many players in some games.
  - There weren't enough peach baskets.
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **original**?
 

a. invented	c. the beginning or the first of something
b. developed gradually	d. a copy of something
- How do you know that the basic idea of basketball has *not* changed?
  - Nearly all of the basic rules have stayed the same.
  - You still may not carry the ball.
  - It still uses a peach basket.
  - both a and b

/4



Warm-Up

7

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Laura Ingalls Wilder: Pioneer Author

In 1930, a daughter of pioneers decided to write the story of her frontier life. She was sixty-seven years old. She wanted schoolchildren to understand how people lived during America's early days. In her first book, Laura Ingalls Wilder describes life growing up in a log cabin in the woods. The book was a great success. Wilder went on to publish seven more *Little House* books.

Wilder describes moving west in a covered wagon, as well as her life on the prairie. She describes living in a sod house on the plains. Wilder tells of thousands of hungry grasshoppers destroying their crops. She recalls the bitter cold winter on the plains. She helped her father twist hay to use as fuel for their fire because there was no wood to burn. The **author** describes her father's job building a railroad across the plains. Wilder painfully remembers her sister Mary's fever,

which led to her blindness. She recalls her own work sewing buttons in a store. *These Happy Golden Years* describes her experiences as a young schoolteacher in a one-room schoolhouse. Wilder even describes her own romance with the young man who became her husband. *Farmer Boy* tells the story of his boyhood on a farm.

Wilder's words paint a true picture of pioneer life on the frontier. They tell of the simple joys of family activities. They help readers experience education in a small country school. They record the heartbreaking pain and the dangers of the frontier. Each of her stories explains the sacrifices made by people who wanted to own their own land and home. Her books celebrate the pioneer spirit, which is an important part of America's history.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, which is the best synonym for **author**?
  - writer
  - artist
  - teacher
  - actor
- Why did Laura and her father twist hay?
  - They fed it to the cows this way.
  - They burned it for heat.
  - They used it to keep their beds warm.
  - They wanted to store it for the summer.
- Which of the following did Wilder describe about her life?
  - life on a farm in the woods
  - life in a prairie home
  - life on the plains
  - all of the above
- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
  - Wilder wrote her stories in longhand.
  - Wilder's daughter typed her manuscripts.
  - Wilder wrote interesting stories.
  - Wilder's stories were about her own life.



/4

Warm-Up

8

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Food on the *Mayflower*

On September 6, 1620, a group of 102 passengers, including the Pilgrims and a few other families, set out from England to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They sailed on a crowded wooden ship called the *Mayflower*. The voyage took sixty-six days to reach the shore of what is now Massachusetts. The passengers slept and ate while crowded together in the main cabin. They rarely washed their hands and never bathed or changed their clothes. Their hair and clothes were covered with lice, fleas, and roaches. They also brought along farm animals, which added to the smell and filth of the voyage.

The travelers ate moldy green cheese, dried peas, salty beef, and dried fish. They fought to keep the mice and rats on the ship away

from these foods. They sucked on rock-hard biscuits to make them soft enough to swallow. The biscuits often had tunnels in them made by maggots. The voyagers also ate dried vegetables, such as turnips, parsnips, onions, and cabbages. One of their favorite foods was dried ox tongue.

The travelers used some spices, such as ginger and cloves, to cover up the taste of spoiled food. To overcome the salty taste, they drank beer, wine, and ale. Even the children drank these! Clean, fresh water was seldom available. On a few rare occasions, passengers were able to use fireboxes to make soup, dumplings, and oatmeal. Life aboard the *Mayflower* was no “picnic,” but all hoped for a better life in the new world.

## Check Your Understanding

- Which of these was *not* a problem faced by the voyagers on the *Mayflower*?
  - The food was very salty and often spoiled.
  - The rats and insects got into their food.
  - They didn't have much fresh water.
  - They didn't have spices to season their food.
- Where might the passengers have found fresh water?
  - in barrels on the ship
  - from rain falling on the ship during storms
  - from the Atlantic Ocean
  - in a refrigerator
- What is the main idea of the passage?
  - The *Mayflower* passengers had a good trip to the new world.
  - The food on the *Mayflower* was not very pleasant to eat, but there was enough to survive on.
  - The *Mayflower* was a pleasure cruise for rich travelers.
  - There were 102 passengers.
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about the children on the *Mayflower*?
  - They made many sacrifices during the voyage.
  - They were spoiled by their parents.
  - They were better fed than adults.
  - They were treated to tasty foods.

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

9

## The Library at Alexandria

The Library at Alexandria was founded by the rulers of Egypt. This was hundreds of years before the time of Christ. The library was the brain center of the ancient world. It held more written material than any other place on Earth at that time. Books were in the form of handwritten, rolled-up scrolls. Over the centuries, the rulers had copied, stolen, borrowed, and paid vast sums of money for these books. They had been collected throughout the world. These included the works of many different people and stories from many religions.

These handwritten works were very valuable and very expensive. More than half a million of these scrolls were stored in the library. These included writings in many languages.

But this library was not just a library. It was also a museum and learning center where many discoveries were made. In addition, it was a university where scholars from all over the world came to study. Many great thinkers, writers, and teachers studied there. The greatest woman teacher in the world at that time taught at the library.

Alexandria was the home of the library. It was a very active center of business and trade. People from many lands and cultures lived in this community. Unfortunately, the great library was damaged by mobs at different times. It was burned several times and finally left in ruins.

### Check Your Understanding

- What other functions were also served by the Library of Alexandria?
  - museum
  - marketplace
  - university
  - both a and c
- From the context of the passage, what can you conclude about scrolls?
  - They were expensive.
  - Scrolls were written in many languages.
  - They came from many cultures.
  - all of the above
- Books in the library collection were published in the form of
  - flat pages.
  - rolled-up, handwritten scrolls.
  - CDs.
  - electronic books.
- What happened to the library?
  - It was burned several times.
  - It ran out of books.
  - The city closed the library.
  - both a and c



/4

Warm-Up

10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## John Adams Defends British Soldiers

In 1768, England sent troops to Boston to help collect taxes on tea, glass, paint, lead, and paper. They were ordered to guard the building where taxes were collected. On March 5, 1770, a loud and angry mob of sailors and workingmen rioted in front of that building. The soldiers opened fire only after they were insulted, hit with snowballs, and threatened with violence. Five men in the mob were killed, and six others were injured. The colonists were very angry. They called it a **massacre**, even though only a few rioters were killed.

No lawyer in the city wanted to anger his fellow citizens by defending the soldiers. John Adams was a lawyer who opposed the new taxes. However, he accepted the job

because he believed that every citizen had a right to a fair trial. He felt this included the soldiers who were only following orders. Adams told the jury that the soldiers were endangered by the mob. Therefore, they had a right to shoot in order to defend themselves.

The officer in charge was found innocent. The jury didn't believe he ordered his men to fire on the mob. Adams even got the two soldiers who were found guilty of murder free because of a strange loophole in the law. All he had to prove was that the men could read. He was able to prove this, and they were freed. John Adams went on to become a leader in the struggle for America's freedom from England.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what can be inferred about the character of John Adams?
  - He wanted to make money.
  - He was a dedicated and capable lawyer.
  - He wanted people to pay their taxes.
  - He wanted to be a judge.
- Why did John Adams defend the unpopular British soldiers?
  - He received a large fee from the British.
  - He wanted to run for public office.
  - He thought the soldiers were entitled to fire on the citizens.
  - He thought all citizens were entitled to a fair trial.
- Which of the following best describes the meaning of **massacre**?
  - a snowball fight
  - the killing of many people
  - a murder
  - a riot
- Which terms best describe the character and personality of John Adams?
  - honorable and clever
  - devious and mean
  - angry and cruel
  - tricky and cheap

/4



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 11

## The Travels of Marco Polo

In 1271, Marco Polo, a seventeen-year-old teenager, traveled with his father and uncle on a journey to China. They went to the court of Kublai Khan. The journey took three and a half years. It was filled with dangers, including bandits and bad weather. The men traveled through blazing hot sand and wild lands. They crossed high mountains and a huge desert. Marco kept careful journals of all that he saw and many of the stories he heard.

After his return, Marco talked to a writer about his journey. He described things people had never seen or heard about. His story was published as *The Travels of Marco Polo*. He described great palaces, rich princes, and things never experienced in Europe. He said that he had seen burning rocks, which we call coal today. He told of oil seeping from the ground. He said it was used for lighting and medicine. He explained the use of paper

money in China long before other nations used this kind of money. Marco explained how the Great Khan kept his empire united under his control by using a fast mail system. Letters and orders were sent by a pony express across the kingdom. Marco talked of gold-covered temples and kings with piles of pearls and rubies. He described the rhinoceros and crocodile among other animals new to Europe. The long-time traveler told many tales of the people he met and their customs.

The Polos were finally allowed to leave China as **ambassadors** for the Khan. They delivered a princess from the Khan as a bride for a king. Many readers thought Marco's stories were made up, but most of the things Marco Polo said he saw have been proven to be true.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what are **ambassadors**?
  - people who represent a king or a country
  - writers of fairy tales
  - rich men
  - noblemen
- What dangers did the Polos encounter on their trip to China?
  - robbers
  - bad weather and hot deserts
  - high mountains
  - all of the above
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about the tales Marco told?
  - The stories were entirely made up.
  - Marco Polo was angry at Kublai Khan.
  - The stories told by Marco were very likely true.
  - Marco Polo never went to China.
- Which event occurred first?
  - Marco Polo returned to Venice.
  - Marco traveled over many mountains to reach China.
  - The Polos delivered a princess to a king.
  - Marco kept a journal of his travels.



Warm-Up

12

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## An Unusual Pharaoh

Akhenaten came to power as the pharaoh of Egypt about 3,340 years ago and ruled for nearly eighteen years. He was an unusual leader. He created a lot of anger and distrust among the priests, leaders, and common people of his land. He was not like the other rulers before him. He did not spend his time trying to please all of the many gods of his country's religion. He was **devoted** only to a less important god known as Aten, the sun god. The symbol of this god was a sun on a round disk without a face. The circle was sitting high in the sky. This god did not have very many myths, stories, and beliefs about him. Many other gods had more stories and more people who worshipped them.

Akhenaten and his wife were determined to change the religion to worship this one god

instead of the many gods. The pharaoh was the top religious leader in the land. Many of his subjects and most of the priests felt that he was putting the nation in danger by making all of the other gods angry. However, the determined king built a new capital city dedicated to Aten. He and his wife were very determined to change the minds of his people.

How Akhenaten died is a mystery. Some historians think he may have been killed by enemies who disliked his new city and new religion. Others think he may have died of illness or some other natural cause. After his death, the next ruler and the priests quickly returned to the old capital city and the old religious practices. Akhenaten was the father of King Tut, who died at a young age.

## Check Your Understanding

- Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
  - "Gods and Pharaohs"
  - "Aten's Pharaoh"
  - "High in the Sky"
  - "The Mysterious Death"
- From the context of the passage, who would most likely be referred to as **devoted**?
  - a friend
  - a leader
  - a believer and follower
  - a king
- What would a determined ruler be likely to do?
  - do exactly what his predecessors did
  - do things his own way, regardless of criticism
  - look for fights
  - do what is expected of him
- According to the passage, who was related to Akhenaten?
  - King Tut
  - a Greek queen
  - Aten
  - both a and b

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**13****A Number Challenge**

Suppose your teacher gave you an assignment to add all of the numbers from 1 to 100 without using a calculator. How long do you think it would take? You could do it in about 30 seconds.

Here's how: Add 1 plus 100, which equals 101. Add 2 plus 99, which equals 101. Add 3 plus 98, which also equals 101. You are adding 50 pairs of numbers, which all equal 101. Therefore, you can multiply 50 times 101. This equals 5,050. Multiplication, of course, is simply a fast method of addition when you use the same numbers.

The mathematician who worked out this particular problem was named Carl Gauss. He lived from 1777 to 1855. As a college student, he discovered that a seventeen-sided

figure could be drawn with just a compass and a ruler. This was thought to be impossible.

During his lifetime, Gauss made many discoveries in the study of numbers and shapes. He studied the use of statistics. This is the science of collecting, using, and studying information from real events in life. Gauss also studied stars and planets. He became famous for discovering the orbit around the sun of the asteroid Ceres. See if you can add all the numbers from 1 to 100 in less than 30 seconds! Maybe you, too, will become a scientist or math expert!

**Check Your Understanding**

- Which of the following is an example of statistics?
  - determining World Series scores since 1920
  - estimating barrels of oil sold by a company in a year
  - figuring out grades a student gets over the course of a year
  - all of the above
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about Ceres?
  - No one had known about its orbit until Gauss.
  - Ceres is a part of our solar system.
  - Ceres travels through a solar system and never returns.
  - both a and b
- Which word in the passage refers to “the study and use of numbers”?
 

a. astronomy	c. physics
b. data	d. statistics
- Which number would be added to 91 in the pattern described in the first paragraph?
 

a. 0	c. 10
b. 21	d. any number



/4

Warm-Up

14

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The History of the Book

The first writing began with the Sumerians about 5,500 years ago. It was done on rectangular clay blocks. Most of the time this writing contained lists of materials or words. Writing in Egyptian symbols was done on papyrus about 5,000 years ago. Papyrus was made from reeds that grew in the water. These sheets of papyrus were rolled around wooden poles. Several **scrolls** of this type made a book. Later, smaller rolls of papyrus were used. They could be unwound and studied.

The Greeks got their papyrus from a port city called Byblos. They used rolls of papyrus, but they also developed the idea of folding papyrus leaves together and binding them with a kind of string or thread. They used the name of the port, Byblos, for these bound sheets of

folded paper. The word *bible*, meaning “book,” has come to us through that city’s name.

People in northern India wrote on sheets of birch bark and collected written sheets in wooden boxes. The Chinese used bamboo tablets until about 2,200 years ago when they developed scrolls made of the by-products of silk production. Some Middle Easterners wrote on animal skins. This leather parchment was invented about 2,165 years ago. The sheets were folded to look somewhat like our modern books.

The invention of the printing press changed books forever. No longer did books need to be written by hand. The folded sheets attached within a hard cover changed life for all readers.

## Check Your Understanding

- Which of these materials served as a form of paper?
  - papyrus
  - parchment
  - birch bark
  - all of the above
- From the context of the passage, what is a **scroll**?
  - a dessert
  - a kind of book rolled around a cylinder
  - a port
  - a printing press
- Which of these phrases best describes a modern book?
  - a scroll
  - birch bark
  - folded sheets attached within a durable cover
  - a printing press
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about all ancient books?
  - They were all written on papyrus.
  - They were inexpensive.
  - They were harder to use.
  - all of the above

/4



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**15****Female Pirates**

Women were rarely allowed on pirate ships, except when they were captured from other ships. They became part of the stolen treasure of gold, food, and weapons. A few women did choose to become pirates. They usually pretended they were men by dressing in men's clothes and fighting with swords and pistols just like male pirates. Some were even married to male pirates.

A Swedish princess ran away from an unhappy marriage and became a pirate more than twelve hundred years ago. Grace O'Malley, an Irish lady from a noble family, had her own fleet of pirate galleys propelled by oars and sails. She attacked many treasure ships sailing in the Atlantic Ocean in the 1500s. She lived a long life and died at the advanced age of seventy-three.

Two of the most famous female pirates sailed on John "Calico Jack" Rackham's ship. Mary Read had been serving in the British army as a soldier when her ship was captured by Rackham. She promptly joined his crew and became famous as a ferocious pirate warrior. Mary was an expert with the cutlass (a short, thick, curved sword). She also fought sword duels with fellow pirates when she was angry. Anne Bonny, on the same ship, left her husband to join Rackham. She carried a short ax, two pistols, and a sword. Both women were sentenced to hang when their ship was captured by the British navy. Mary died of illness in jail, and Anne disappeared after she was pardoned by the authorities. A pirate's life may have been full of adventure, but it didn't always end that way.

**Check Your Understanding**

- Which of the female pirates had served as a British soldier?
  - Anne Bonny
  - Mary Read
  - Grace O'Malley
  - Alwilda
- Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?
  - Mary Read and Anne Bonny were successful pirates.
  - Female pirates were rare but interesting people.
  - No female pirate was ever captured.
  - Female pirates didn't know how to fight.
- Which of these sentences is an opinion and *not* a fact?
  - There were some female pirates.
  - Women did not make good pirates.
  - Female pirates sometimes dressed in men's clothing.
  - Some female pirates fought sword duels when they were angry.
- Which word refers to "a ship propelled by oars and sails"?
  - cruiser
  - cutlass
  - galley
  - fleet



Warm-Up

16

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Kites

Kites are among the oldest inventions (and **toys**) of humankind. They have been around for at least 3,000 years since their invention in China. Although they have always been playthings for children and adults, they have been used for more serious purposes, as well. In China and some other Asian countries, kites have been used for fishing. Instead of just using a fishing pole, the fisherman flies a kite far out over the water with a fishing line, hook, and sinker dangling from the kite. When a fish bites, the kite is jerked upward by the kite-flying fisherman. The fish becomes airborne and then is pulled in as the kite is brought back to shore. Flying kites at night to ward off evil spirits is also a practice that dates back to ancient times in China.

Kites have been used as signaling devices for armies and for ships. A few were built to support a person who was carried as a spy flying over the army of an enemy.

The inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, created a new kind of kite, the tetrahedral kite. It is made of four triangular sides. Bell used very light balsa wood to make his kites. He even designed a boat in the same triangular shape to pull his huge kites. He was able to carry a 220-pound man on the kite that he pulled into the air using the boat. Kites are still popular playthings in many parts of the world for children of all ages with their eyes on the skies. When is the last time you flew a kite?

## Check Your Understanding

- Which word in the passage means “a flying object”?
  - tetrahedral
  - balsa
  - ancient
  - airborne
- How many sides are on a tetrahedron?
  - one
  - two
  - four
  - six
- Which is the best topic sentence in the passage?
  - paragraph one, last sentence
  - paragraph two, last sentence
  - paragraph one, first sentence
  - paragraph two, first sentence
- From the context of the passage, which is a synonym for **toys**?
  - playthings
  - dangling
  - flying
  - balsa

/4



Warm-Up

17

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Presidential Pets

Like the people they represent, American presidents and their families have been fond of pets. John Quincy Adams once kept an alligator in the White House for several months. It belonged to a visiting French hero. His wife kept much calmer company. She raised silkworms and fed them mulberry leaves. Abraham Lincoln's family kept rabbits and two goats.

Franklin D. Roosevelt liked dogs. He grew up surrounded by them. After spending seven years in the White House, the president was given a dog as a gift. It was a Scottie that he nicknamed Fala. The president made Fala famous in one of his speeches. The Secret Service called Fala "The Informer" because when it was seen on secret trips, people

knew the president was nearby. President Coolidge's office was home to a raccoon named Rebecca. He also kept a wallaby, a black bear, lion cubs, and thirteen Pekin ducks. William Henry Harrison kept both a cow and a billy goat. Thomas Jefferson loved his pet mockingbird. President Taft kept a cow on the White House lawn.

The champion pet keepers were the family of Theodore Roosevelt. At one time or another, they had a badger and five bears, including a cub that was the model for the original "teddy bear." They also kept a lion, a hyena, a wildcat, a barn owl, various snakes and lizards, a coyote, a pony, and a zebra. It takes a lot to entertain six children!

### Check Your Understanding

- Which president mentioned his dog in a speech?
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - John Quincy Adams
  - Abraham Lincoln
- Which presidential family had the widest variety of pets?
  - Abraham Lincoln
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - Calvin Coolidge
  - Theodore Roosevelt
- Which president kept a pet for a visiting hero?
  - John Quincy Adams
  - George Washington
  - William Howard Taft
  - Abraham Lincoln
- What is the author's purpose in writing the passage?
  - to inform the reader
  - to amuse the reader
  - to explain politics to the reader
  - both a and b



/4

Warm-Up

18

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Iceman

One of the greatest discoveries in the study of man's history was the uncovering of the frozen body of a man in 1991. He was soon called "The Iceman." The body had been well **preserved** by ice in the glacier-covered Alps for about 5,300 years. The man lived in a period called the Copper Age. Among the possessions found with the hunter were a copper ax, flint arrowheads, a wooden bow, fourteen arrows in a leather quiver, and bark containers. He carried a pouch with mushrooms and a fungus. These were probably used for medicine. He wore a bearskin hat, a goatskin coat, leather shoes, and a belt. He also wore a grass cape that appears to have been warm and able to shed water during rain or snowstorms.

Scientists studying the body have determined that he was probably in his late 40s and was about 5 feet, 2 inches tall. The man had broken several bones in his life. He suffered from arthritis and his lungs were black from smoke. He would have inhaled smoke from cooking fires all of his life. The hunter had recently been shot in the left shoulder by an arrow, which probably caused his death. He had tattoos on his back, knees, ankles, and wrist. They were made from rubbing charcoal into small cuts in the skin. These may have had some tribal importance. They might have been related to a religious practice or been personal body decorations.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **preserved**?
  - kept from decaying
  - used for cooking
  - to be afraid of animals
  - dried in dirt
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer a quiver is used for?
  - a place to keep medicine
  - a case used to hold arrows
  - a way to stop trembling
  - a piece of wood
- Which of the following might a scientist conclude from a study of the Iceman and his belongings?
  - People of his time knew how to use animal skins for clothing.
  - Hunting was of major importance in the lives of these people.
  - People suffered from wounds and diseases.
  - all of the above
- Which of the following facts would support the proposition that life was very dangerous for people in the time of the Iceman?
  - The Iceman had several broken bones.
  - The Iceman was wearing tattoos.
  - The Iceman's last meal had included meat and wheat.
  - The Iceman wore a bearskin hat.

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

19

## Attempted Presidential Assassinations

There have been several unsuccessful attempts to shoot presidents in the last two hundred years. In January 1835, an out-of-work house painter aimed a single-shot pistol at Andrew Jackson. The president was on his way to a funeral service. Luckily, the gun misfired. The sixty-seven-year-old former general charged his attacker who pulled another pistol and fired again. It too failed to fire. Jackson grabbed the would-be shooter and started hitting him. He had to be pulled away from the surprised gunman.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt was running for another four-year term as president. He was about to speak to a large group. An unknown man rushed out of the crowd and shot him in the chest at close range. The bullet **plowed**

into the thick, folded speech Roosevelt had planned to deliver. It then hit his metal glasses case before it entered his chest. Although wounded and in pain, Roosevelt refused to go to the hospital until he had given his speech.

Two men tried to kill President Truman in a house where he was staying. One man was killed and the other was wounded by Secret Service agents. Truman was unhurt. Two mentally disturbed women tried to shoot President Ford. This was within seventeen days of each other in September 1975 in California. Both were arrested. Ford was not hurt. A mentally ill young man did wound President Reagan in 1981. Fortunately, Reagan **recovered** rapidly.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **plowed**?
  - to fall to the ground
  - to bounce off
  - to pass through
  - to move forcefully through something
- From the context of the passage, which is the best synonym for **recovered**?
  - fell
  - healed
  - moved
  - spoke
- Which president was shot at the White House?
  - Harry Truman
  - Gerald Ford
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - none of the presidents
- Which piece of information supports the proposition that Andrew Jackson was courageous?
  - Jackson attacked the would-be assassin.
  - Jackson was on his way to a funeral service.
  - Jackson owned a plantation.
  - both a and b



/4

Warm-Up

20

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**America's Forgotten Warriors**

Thousands of African Americans served in the Union army during the Civil War. Most of these soldiers went back home after the war. However, about 2,000 of them chose to join “colored” units. They were put together as groups of mounted soldiers. They learned to ride horses with skill. The units were sent to the frontier west of the Mississippi River. There, these horse soldiers protected the interests of the country and defended white settlers in that dangerous land. They planted telegraph poles and strung hundreds of miles of telegraph line. They defended railroad workers who were laying railroad tracks against American Indian attacks. The soldiers worked as lawmen in the wild open spaces. They captured outlaws and cattle thieves. They were not trained in mapmaking, and some could not read. However, they drew careful and detailed maps of large areas of

the West. These maps drew people from the settled states to move west and build homes and farms.

The men were nicknamed “Buffalo Soldiers” as a sign of respect by the American Indians. These warriors recognized the soldiers’ courage and skill. At the same time, these African American soldiers were often treated with disrespect by some of their white officers. They were also not respected by many white settlers. For thirty years, these soldiers helped provide the safety that led to the creation of eight western states. They rode thousands of miles in their duties. They fought in hundreds of battles against the native people of the West. These soldiers suffered heavy losses in dead and wounded men. However, they were seldom honored by their country for their service or their courage.

**Check Your Understanding**

- Who nicknamed the African Americans as “Buffalo Soldiers”?
  - the general in charge
  - African American soldiers
  - white settlers
  - American Indians
- Where did the soldiers serve?
  - east of the Mississippi River
  - west of the Mississippi River
  - Canada
  - New York
- Which word refers to “wounded and killed soldiers”?
  - losses
  - natives
  - officers
  - settlers
- Which statement can you infer is true?
  - White settlers and leaders always appreciated the Buffalo Soldiers.
  - The American Indians didn’t respect the fighting ability of the Buffalo Soldiers.
  - There was mutual respect between many Buffalo Soldiers and American Indians.
  - The soldiers had black officers.

/4



Warm-Up

21

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The First Great Emperor

In the year 221 BCE, the first great emperor of China united the nation and became the complete master of his kingdom. He called himself Qin Shi Huang (Chin Shee Whang). He was a tireless ruler, but he trusted no one. Qin created a new capital city for China. He created a single money system to be used by all of his **subjects** in all of China. He started a single, unified system of weights and measurements for everything. This even included the size of cartwheels.

Qin forced thousands of his subjects to work on his special projects. His most famous project is still visible today. He began building the 5,500-mile long Great Wall of China. The Great Wall cost so many lives that it was called “the longest graveyard in the world.” He also insisted on digging canals, building new forts, and fixing old roads. This emperor trusted no one. He even ordered

the destruction of most of the books in the kingdom. These books included those of the great Chinese philosopher, Confucius. Many scholars buried their books to save them. However, if the king’s servants found the buried or hidden books, the owners were killed on the spot.

One of the emperor’s most secret projects was discovered in modern China. In 1974, a farmer accidentally fell into an underground tomb where he found an entire army standing in order. The army was made of terra cotta, a kind of clay. The emperor had more than 8,000 of these clay figures in his tomb. These included warriors, chariots, and horses. Surprisingly, scientists believe that there are even more of these clay figures that have yet to be discovered.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which word refers to a kind of clay?
  - realm
  - visible
  - terra cotta
  - executed
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer from the description of the Great Wall of China?
  - The wall was very long.
  - Many workers died during its construction.
  - It was used as a cemetery.
  - Workers liked building the wall.
- What was the effect of the emperor’s orders to destroy books?
  - Scholars took great risks to save their books.
  - Many writings of Confucius were destroyed.
  - Some books were hidden underground.
  - all of the above
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **subjects**?
  - kingdom
  - things a king studies
  - books
  - people ruled by a king or emperor



/4

Warm-Up

22

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Lincoln's Man

Most people don't know this. President Lincoln paid a man to take his place as a soldier during the Civil War. The draft laws of that war allowed a wealthy man to pay another man to serve for him in the army. These men were either too old, ill, or unable to serve in the army. In 1864, Lincoln asked an assistant to find him a man of courage and honor to serve for him in the army.

His assistant happened to see John Staples walking along with his father on the streets of Washington. The assistant asked the young man, who was not yet twenty-one years old, if he would like to serve for Lincoln in the army. The man agreed, but his father had to give his approval, as well. The father soon agreed, and the young man was paid \$500 for his service.

Staples had already served for another man earlier in the war when he was living in another state. After serving for a few months, he had become ill with a serious fever and had been discharged from the army in 1863.

Lincoln met Staples and his father, and he approved the choice. He told them that he hoped the young man would be one of the lucky ones. Staples rejoined the army on October 1, 1864, and served for a year. By then the war was over, and he returned to his home in Pennsylvania. Lincoln was shot a year later in April 1865. Staples died in 1888 of a heart attack at the age of forty-three. They are both remembered for their sacrifice and dedication.

## Check Your Understanding

- Why would Lincoln want to pay a substitute to serve in the army for him?
  - As president of the United States, he should not put his life at risk.
  - He was required to find someone.
  - He wanted somebody who could shoot straight.
  - He wanted to embarrass his enemies.
- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
  - Lincoln wanted to set an example by hiring a substitute.
  - The cost of paying a substitute was too high.
  - Staples' father became a chaplain in his son's regiment.
  - Staples was not twenty-one when he became Lincoln's substitute.
- From the context of the passage, which word means "a selection of people for military service"?
  - draft
  - discharged
  - substitute
  - assistant
- Why did John Staples leave the army in 1863?
  - He had a heart attack.
  - He had a serious fever.
  - The war was over.
  - He wasn't happy.

/4



Warm-Up

23

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The First Ferris Wheel

The directors of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair needed something special to mark their event. The Eiffel Tower had been constructed for the Paris World's Fair in 1889. Architects and engineers made many proposals for towers, but they really didn't hold anybody's interest. A bridge builder and engineer named George Ferris had a different idea. He wanted to create a monster wheel 250 feet tall. It would be a moving wheel with spokes like a bicycle. He intended to carry more than 2,000 people on each ride. Altogether, they would weigh more than 200,000 pounds.

Ferris convinced a very doubtful committee to let him build the wheel at his own expense. He built his huge wheel and then cemented two giant towers into the earth to hold the wheel. The axle that would hold the giant

wheel weighed about fifty tons. Two powerful engines could turn the wheel with a huge chain near the edge of the wheel. The spokes of the wheel would hold thirty-six large wooden boxes. Each box could hold sixty people. The maximum number of people on the ride at one time was 2,160 people. The giant boxes had five glass windows on each side, and iron grills kept people from falling out. The entire wheel was 250 feet across. To make night rides more **impressive**, Ferris outlined the wheel with light bulbs, a recent invention. The first ride was taken on June 21, 1893, and was a huge success. It cost fifty cents. This was ten times the cost of a ride on a carousel. About 1.5 million people rode the Ferris wheel at the fair.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which word refers to the "greatest number of people allowed"?
  - doubtful
  - maximum
  - cemented
  - million
- Which event occurred third?
  - convincing the committee to accept the Ferris wheel
  - riding on the Ferris wheel
  - planning for the Chicago World's Fair
  - building the Ferris wheel
- What can you infer about the reasons the committee didn't immediately accept and support the idea of the Ferris wheel?
  - They didn't think it would work.
  - They thought it would hold too many people.
  - They thought it didn't cost enough.
  - both a and c
- From the context of the passage, which is the best synonym for **impressive**?
  - towering
  - remarkable
  - ugly
  - both a and c



/4

Warm-Up

24

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Hatshepsut: The Lost Egyptian Queen**

Queen Hatshepsut ruled in Egypt from 1479 BCE until 1458 BCE. She was the daughter of **Pharaoh** Thutmose I. He soon recognized her intelligence and curiosity. She was taught to read and write. She was trained to be the wife of a future pharaoh. In her early teens, she was married to her half-brother, Thutmose II. Arranged marriages between brothers and sisters were common for Egyptian kings and queens. It kept power in the family. Thutmose II was sickly. He died a few years after becoming a pharaoh.

Hatshepsut became the person in charge of Egypt while Thutmose III, her husband's son by another wife, was a child. Hatshepsut

assumed the powers of a pharaoh. She even wore a false beard as a sign of her power. She sent a trading expedition to the famous kingdom of Punt. This quest returned with many riches. She waged one brief, successful war. She built many monuments, temples, and statues.

When Hatshepsut died, Thutmose III finally became pharaoh. He tried to remove every sign of Hatshepsut's existence. Her name was cut away from stone monuments. Her features were carved off statues. She was unknown until modern historians rediscovered the lost queen of Egypt.

**Check Your Understanding**

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **pharaoh**?
  - a ruler
  - a person who rules a country in place of a child
  - a farmer
  - a person from another country
- What can you infer about the feelings of Thutmose III from his actions?
  - He was in love with Hatshepsut.
  - He was angry at being denied his rightful place as pharaoh for so many years.
  - He wanted to destroy the people's memory of Hatshepsut.
  - both b and c
- From the context of the passage, how can you tell that pharaohs were rarely women?
  - All of the pharaohs mentioned were men except one.
  - A beard was a sign of a pharaoh's position.
  - Women didn't know how to be pharaohs.
  - both a and b
- Why did Egyptian rulers sometimes marry one of their sisters?
  - There were very few girls to choose from.
  - They wanted to keep power and wealth in the family.
  - They wanted their sisters to rule.
  - They wanted to have someone to do the cooking.

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**25****The Ford Model T**

Henry Ford decided to build a family car that working people could afford. His company first built the Model T in 1908. Like other new carmakers, Ford had made cars for the rich, selling as high as \$2,800. This was well beyond the money a regular American family could afford to pay for a car. The Model T was different. It was the first car that middle-class families could afford to buy. In 1908, it was priced at \$825. However, by 1924, the Model T sold for only \$260.

The Model T weighed 1,200 pounds. It carried a ten-gallon gas tank, and it had to be cranked to start the engine. Ford sold fifteen million Model Ts between 1908 and 1927. Ford's great success was based on his use of special methods where each worker placed just

one part on each car. The car traveled along a moving belt with just one job for each factory worker. This was very different from the handmade cars built in the early 1900s. Ford also used interchangeable parts. This meant that any engine or wheel, for example, fit on any vehicle.

The prices of Ford's Model T dropped because of his less costly methods of production. He raised his workers' wages. Their lowest wage doubled to \$5 a day. The higher pay pushed up pay throughout many industries. This allowed workers in many factories to be able to afford to buy the Model T. Ford changed millions of lives with a single car and a single idea. What ideas do you have? They may be just as valuable!

**Check Your Understanding**

- Which of these was a special job in a factory making the Model T?
  - putting an entire engine together
  - placing a left rear wheel on an axle
  - tightening a nut on a wheel
  - both b and c
- How many days would a worker have to work to afford the cheapest Model T?
  - 62
  - 560
  - 52
  - a lifetime
- Which of these is an accomplishment of Henry Ford?
  - creating an inexpensive car
  - cutting wages in the auto industry
  - raising wages in the auto industry
  - both a and c
- Which of these facts would be relevant to the passage?
  - Many business owners were angry when Ford raised wages.
  - The Model T came in both car and truck styles.
  - Women often cranked the Model T to get it started.
  - all of the above



/4

Warm-Up

26

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Gibson Homer

The Los Angeles Dodgers began the 1988 World Series as underdogs. Although they had good pitching and solid players, their leader, Kirk Gibson, was hurt. He had injured both legs in the National League playoffs, and he was ill with a stomach virus. Gibson wasn't able to start. When announcer Vin Scully mentioned during the game that Gibson was nowhere to be found on the bench, Kirk sent a note from the locker room to Dodger manager Tommy Lasorda that he was available to pinch-hit. He then went to take some swings in the batting cage.

With a one-run lead in the bottom of the ninth inning, the Oakland Athletics brought in their ace relief pitcher, Dennis Eckersley, to hold the lead. They looked unbeatable. Eckersley got two quick outs, and Dodger fans were almost beyond hope as the game seemed about

to be lost. Eckersley walked the next batter, Mike Davis, a respected power hitter, in order to face the light-hitting Dave Anderson who was in the on-deck circle waiting to bat.

Instead of Anderson, Kirk Gibson limped to the plate. He worked the count to three and two. He was barely able to rotate his body or hold the bat after two awkward swings. Following the advice of a coach, he was looking for a slider. It came. Gibson swung and drilled a line drive into the right field seats to win the game. Vin Scully's call said it all: "High fly ball to right field . . . she is . . . gone! In a year that has been so **improbable**, the impossible has happened." An **ecstatic** Gibson pumped his fist and limped home. The Dodgers won the series in five games. Dodger fans who remember this game still cheer with glee.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **ecstatic**?
  - extremely sad
  - uncertain
  - sorrowful
  - filled with joy
- Which ball club does the author of the passage appear to favor?
  - Oakland Athletics
  - Los Angeles Dodgers
  - neither club
  - both clubs
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **improbable**?
  - unlikely to happen
  - overwhelming odds in favor
  - best chance to win
  - impossible
- Who is Vin Scully?
  - a baseball announcer
  - the manager of the Dodgers
  - the Oakland manager
  - an Oakland pitcher

/4



Warm-Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_

27

## Homer Plessy Refuses to Give Up His Seat

Rosa Parks was not the first African American to refuse to give up her seat on a **segregated** public bus. In fact, the first “bus” was a city streetcar in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The year was 1892. A streetcar was a kind of small train running on rails along the streets of the city. Homer Plessy couldn’t find a seat in the “colored” section of the streetcar. He simply moved up to an empty seat in front, even though it was reserved for whites. The conductor of the car immediately had Plessy arrested. He had violated a state law. This law forbade any mixing of the races in most public places. This included streetcars, hotels, and restaurants.

Plessy was as brave as Rosa Parks would be sixty-three years later. He challenged the legality of this state law. This law was the

basic tool for enforcing the separation of the races throughout the South. However, the lower courts all ruled against him. They ruled that the state had a right to force these restrictions on African Americans. Homer didn’t quit. He took the case all the way through the court system. His final appeal was to the Supreme Court of the United States. This court has the responsibility for deciding if a law is valid under the U.S. Constitution. Plessy lost the decision. A nearly unanimous court ruled against him. The court said that segregation was legal because it offered “separate but equal accommodations.” That ruling would finally be overturned in the 1950s by another prominent Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. Board of Education*.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which famous African American is being compared to Homer Plessy in the passage?
  - Martin Luther King Jr.
  - Rosa Parks
  - Jackie Robinson
  - none of the above
- From the context of the passage, which of the following is closest in meaning to **segregated**?
  - separate and apart
  - illegal
  - to have different jobs
  - to live in a special house
- Which of the following is an example of a unanimous decision?
  - You and a friend decide to go to the same movie.
  - Your brother wants lasagna for dinner, but you want salad.
  - Your mom and dad tell you that you are “grounded.”
  - both a and c
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about the personality and character of Homer Plessy?
  - He didn’t give up easily.
  - He was willing to fight to stop an injustice.
  - He didn’t like riding streetcars.
  - both a and b



/4

## Old-Time Country Schools

You might not have enjoyed going to school on the frontier or in rural communities in the years between 1850 and 1880. If you lived on a farm, you might have trudged two to three miles through deep piles of snow to arrive at your one-room wooden schoolhouse. All the grades and age levels were in the same room. The girls sat on one side of the room, and the boys sat on the other. The benches were all the exact same size, with smaller children unable to touch the floor with their feet and larger kids squished on the seats.

You would write your work on a slate and study from one reader until you knew all the lessons. Some rather big boys were often still working on first- or second-grade work. If you didn't know how to spell a word or you misbehaved, the teacher was expected to whack your hand with a heavy ruler. Recess was fifteen minutes in the morning with the

girls going out first to play and use the privy, an outhouse that was the bathroom. You ate your lunch near the wood stove in the center of the room. Once it was time to plant crops, many students stayed home to help their families. Your teacher might be a young, unmarried man taking his first job. Part of his income would be staying at a student's home for two weeks at a time. This way, for two weeks, his lodging would be your house for eating and sleeping. Once he had stayed at every home, the school term would be over. Sometimes, your teacher would be a fifteen- or sixteen-year-old girl who taught to earn a little money. Of course, she would have to quit teaching if she got married. Doesn't this school make you appreciate your school today?

## Check Your Understanding

- How were teachers paid in country schools?
  - They received a little money.
  - Men often stayed for room and food at student homes.
  - Teachers made a lot of money.
  - both a and b
- What are some contrasts about country schools in the late 1800s and schools today?
  - Both genders used the same privy.
  - Students didn't advance until they knew each reader.
  - Students could have their hand spanked for missing spelling words or bad behavior.
  - all of the above
- From the context of the passage, what is the best description of a privy?
 

a. a wooden playroom	c. a place to check your hair
b. an outdoor wooden restroom	d. a place to keep pets
- Who had to quit teaching if they got married?
 

a. male teachers	c. both male and female teachers
b. female teachers	d. college teachers



Warm-Up

29

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire

On March 25, 1911, a fire broke out in a dress factory in Manhattan, New York. The Triangle Shirtwaist Company, one of many clothing sweatshops in the city, employed more than five hundred workers. Most of them were young immigrant women who were working long hours for very low wages in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Like most other city workshops, the factory was a firetrap. It had only one fire escape, which was blocked. The emergency doors were locked or blocked from use. Some doors were simply not working. Bosses kept the doors locked to control workers and keep the machines running. The windows on the upper floor were locked. Cloth and other easily burned materials were scattered around everywhere. The machines were old and dangerous.

When the fire started, the terrified workers were trapped by the locked doors. They were

also unable to get to the fire escape. Many women on the upper floors were caught in a whirlwind of fire and smoke. They had no choice but to break the windows and jump several floors to the street below. Although police, firemen, and local citizens tried to catch the leaping workers with blankets, most young women who jumped from the upper floors were killed by the fall. Others, afraid to leap, died near the locked doors. Of the more than five hundred employees of the company in the factory that day, 146 were killed. Many others were maimed or burned. The tragedy focused national attention on the problems of sweatshops. Over time, it led to improvements in fire and building **codes**. An excellent children's book about this fire is called *Ashes of Roses* by Mary Jane Auch.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **codes**?
  - a puzzle
  - a set of rules and regulations
  - a fire
  - both a and b
- Which word refers to “factories with poor working conditions”?
  - clothes
  - sweatshops
  - immigrants
  - maimed
- What kind of garments were made in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory?
  - dress shirts
  - slacks
  - dresses
  - hats
- Which fact would be informative if added to the passage?
  - Other garment factories also had fires.
  - Many immigrant women were taken advantage of in sweatshops.
  - Union leaders tried to get better working conditions.
  - all of the above



/4

Warm-Up

30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Making Maple Syrup

Farm children of the past who lived in New England and neighboring states often helped make maple syrup. Maple trees were very common, and the winters were cold. Trees in these cold areas freeze during the winter, and the flow of water from the ground to the top of the trees simply freezes in place. In the spring, the ground thaws and the weather is warmer. Then the **sap** in the trees starts flowing again in the millions of little tubes within the wood of the trees.

In the past, children, or their fathers, drilled two or three narrow holes into the wood of each tree. They placed a thin tube, often a hollow piece of wood or metal, into each hole. They hung a wooden or metal pail from each tube sticking out from the tree, or they

set the pails on the ground beneath each tube. The sap, which was now liquid, would rise up the tubes in the tree again. It would drip out of the hollow tube into the pail. Children collected the pails of very cold, sweet sap. They poured the sap into black metal **cauldrons** that were hanging over a blazing hot wood fire.

The water was partly boiled away from the sap, and a sweet maple syrup was left. Some of the syrup was cooled into cakes of hard, brown maple sugar. Today, maple sugar is much more expensive and less common than cane sugar. Modern collection systems from **groves** of maple trees use more machines. However, some people still make maple syrup the old-fashioned way for the sake of tradition.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the most informative description of **sap**?
  - water in tree leaves
  - maple syrup
  - water in a tree
  - water flowing up the tubes of a tree and flavored by the sugar in the wood
- From the context of the passage, what is the best description of a **cauldron**?
  - a pot
  - a teapot
  - a black kettle for boiling
  - a bucket
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **groves**?
  - small groups of trees
  - forests
  - tall maple trees
  - trees grown from seeds
- Which of the following sentences would be the best one to add to the last paragraph?
  - The sap is only good for syrup in the spring.
  - The tiny wooden tubes in trees are called *xylem*.
  - Maple syrup is very expensive in markets today.
  - American Indians taught early settlers how to make maple syrup.

/4