5th Grade READING & WRITING PACKET

READING WEBSITES

1. http://abcya.com
2. https://www.funbrain.com
3. https://www.roomrecess.com
4. https://www.internet4classrooms.com
5. ~~https://www.dogonews.com~~
6. http://www.eduplace.com/tales/
7. https://worksheetsplus.com/Reading/

READING SKILLS

Go to the following website daily!

https://www.dogonews.com

Read 1 or 2 articles each day & write a short paragraph about what you learned from each

* Also: Do one Reading skill page a day & one writing page every other day.

Mrs. Filbert

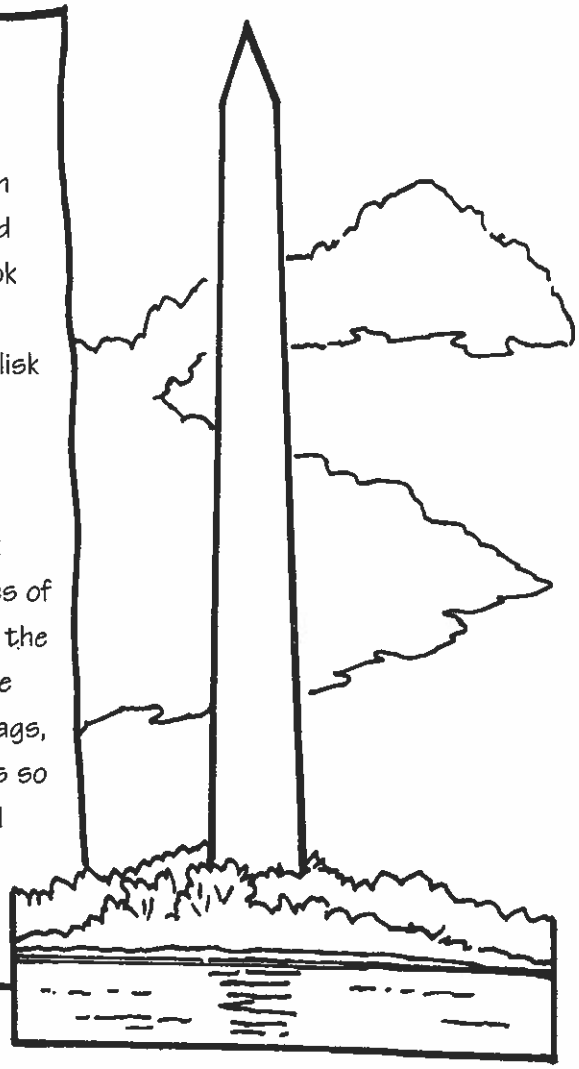
Dear Kelly,

We are having a great time in Washington, D.C. Today we visited two monuments.

I am sure you have seen pictures of the famous Washington Monument. It is a huge obelisk, over 55 feet in height and covered in white marble. The monument weighs over 90,000 tons! We took an elevator to the top of the monument and had a great view of the whole city of Washington. In the lobby at the base of the obelisk is a large statue of our first president, George Washington. This spectacular monument honors him.

Next, we visited a very different monument, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This monument is two walls of polished black granite arranged in a V-shape. On the walls are carved the names of more than 58,000 men and women who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War. Visitors walk very quietly and respectfully along the granite walls. All along the base of the monument are flowers, flags, and small memorials left by friends and family members. There is so much more we have to see here in Washington, D.C. I'll tell you all about our trip when I get home.

See you soon,
Megan



1. **Paragraph 2:**
   a. **The Washington Monument honors our nation's first president.**
   b. **The Washington Monument must have taken a long time to build.**
   c. **The Washington Monument is a massive, impressive structure.**

2. **Paragraph 3:**
   a. **Visitors to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial often leave gifts along the granite walls.**
   b. **A visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a very moving experience.**
   c. **The Vietnam Memorial consists of two granite walls arranged in a V-shape.**

3. **What is the main idea Megan makes about her visit to these two monuments?**
   a. **The two visits to the monuments were very different experiences for her.**
   b. **Visiting monuments helps her learn about our nation's history.**
   a. **She is impressed by the different ways monuments are constructed.**

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Terrific Trips

The **main idea** *tells what a story or paragraph is mostly about.*

Kelly's friends sent her letters from their trips. Read each letter. Then circle the main idea of each paragraph.

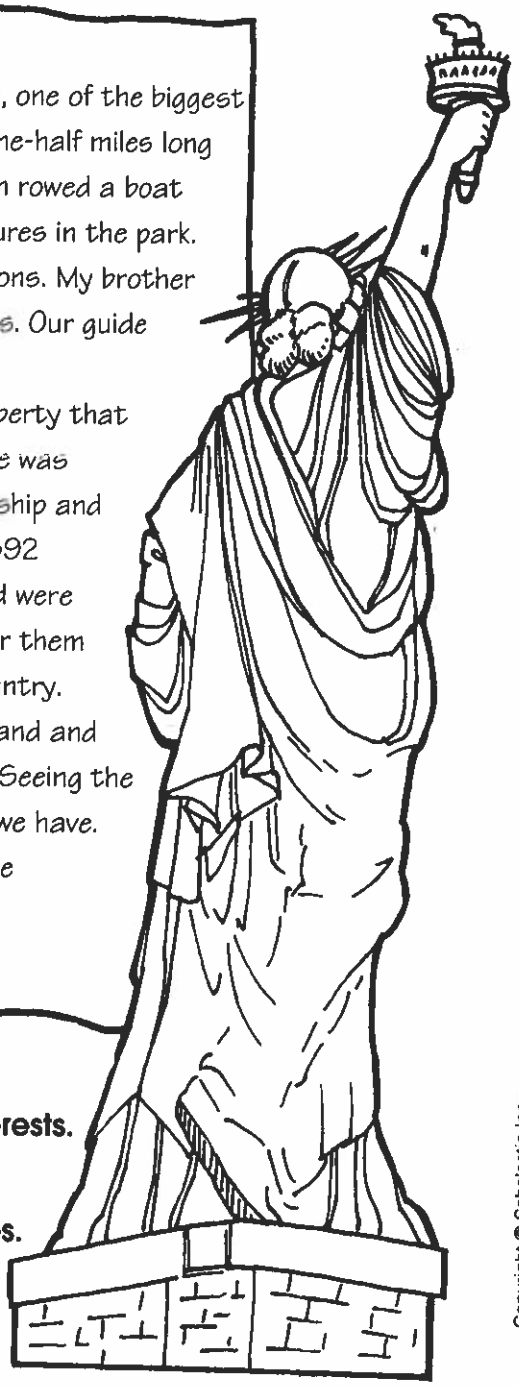
Dear Kelly,

Greetings from New York City! Yesterday we visited Central Park, one of the biggest city parks I have ever seen. It is over one-half mile wide and two and one-half miles long with so much to do. We took a carriage ride through the park and even rowed a boat out on one of the park's lakes. My mom loved looking at all the sculptures in the park. Dad enjoyed the free classical music concert in one of the small pavilions. My brother and I liked the zoo most of all. It was small but had some neat animals. Our guide said the Central Park Zoo is the oldest zoo in the United States.

In the afternoon, we took a ferry to see the famous Statue of Liberty that stands in New York Harbor. Our guide said this 151-foot copper statue was given to the United States by France in 1884 to represent the friendship and freedom both countries share. The tour guide told us that between 1892 and 1924, more than 22 million people came to the United States and were greeted by this statue as they entered our country at Ellis Island. For them it represented the freedom and opportunity they would find in our country. Dad said my own grandparents came to this country through Ellis Island and often spoke of how excited they were to be greeted by "Miss Liberty." Seeing the Statue of Liberty made me so proud of our country and the freedom we have.

Well, I better run. We are going to try to see a Broadway play. See you soon.

Love,
Christie



1. **Paragraph 1**
   a. **Central Park has activities for visitors of all ages and interests.**
   b. **New York is an incredible city.**
   c. **The Central Park Zoo is the oldest zoo in the United States.**
2. **Paragraph 2**
   a. **The 151-foot Statue of Liberty is impressive.**
   b. **Immigrants came to this country searching for freedom.**
   c. **The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom, opportunity, and friendship.**

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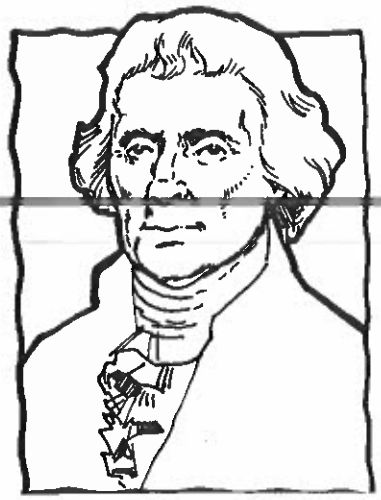
Name _____ **Finding the main idea**

Greatest Deal in History

How would you like to buy land at four cents an acre? That is what the United States paid France for the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Many consider this purchase one of the greatest real estate deals in history.

When Thomas Jefferson became president of the United States in 1801, Spain owned the Louisiana Territory and the Floridas. The two countries had treaties that allowed American farmers and merchants to use the shipping ports in these areas. The port of New Orleans was especially important to the American settlers who shipped their products down the rivers that flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. When Jefferson learned that Spain had turned over control of the Louisiana Territory to France, he took action to protect the United States' access to New Orleans. There was also the danger that the French dictator, Napoleon Bonaparte, might try to build an empire in America that would threaten the United States. Jefferson sent diplomats to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans.

At first Napoleon refused to sell any land to the United States because he did have dreams of expanding his empire. However, the diplomats did not give up, and soon events turned in their favor. French troops in the West Indies had been unable to stop a slave revolt, which forced them to return in defeat to France instead of going on to the Louisiana Territory. Napoleon was also planning a war against Great Britain. Unable to defend the Louisiana Territory and rather than risk losing it to Great Britain or the United States, Napoleon offered to sell the entire territory to the U.S. He could then use the money from the sale to finance his European conquests. On April 30, 1803, a "Treaty of Purchase between the United States and the French Republic" was made by French and U.S. diplomats. The United States acquired nearly 600 million acres of land for $15 million dollars which calculated to about four cents an acre. While most countries had acquired land through war, the United States achieved its greatest expansion through peaceful negotiations.



Jefferson was rightfully proud of what has become known as the Louisiana Purchase. Acquiring the Louisiana Territory almost doubled the area of the United States. It greatly increased the economic resources in our country and united much of what is now the United States. This bargain buy created all or parts of fifteen states including Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana. With such expanded land and resources, the United States was poised to become a world power.

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- 2 sides -

- Questions on back -

Name _____ **Finding the main idea**

Circle the main idea of each paragraph.

1. Paragraph 2:
   a. Spain owned two major territories in North America.
   b. The United States was threatened by French control of the Louisiana Territory.
   c. Thomas Jefferson wanted to purchase only New Orleans.

2. Paragraph 3:
   a. Napoleon would do anything to get money to finance his wars.
   b. U. S. diplomats took two years to negotiate a treaty.
   c. Favorable events and patient diplomacy led to the greatest expansion in United States history.

3. Paragraph 4:
   a. The United States doubled its size with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory.
   b. Thomas Jefferson was proud of the accomplishments of his presidency.
   c. The United States gained many benefits from the Louisiana Purchase.

4. Circle another title for this story.

   What a Great Buy! — Napoleon Is Doomed in America
   Land for Sale—Cheap, Cheap! — New States Created

5. Surprisingly, not everyone was happy with the deal the United States made with France to purchase the Louisiana Territory. One Boston newspaper reporter complained that the United States already had enough land and did not need to spend so much money on more. How would you convince this reporter that the United States benefited from this purchase? Write the main benefits of this purchase for the United States.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Read about one of the states which was included in the Louisiana Territory. On another piece of paper, write the main idea of what you read.

Greatest Deal in History

A REAL Princess

Details *in a story provide the reader with information about the main idea and help the reader better understand the story.*

Jason and Sam worked all day on their writing assignment. They had to choose a fairy tale and rewrite it. The fairy tale had to be written as if it were a story that could appear in a newspaper today. They decided to use a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. The boys had learned that Hans Christian Andersen was born in Denmark in 1805. He had written a number of fairy tales that made him Denmark's most famous author. His make-believe stories have delighted young children all over the world for many years. Jason and Sam were very pleased with their modern version of the classic fairy tale *The Princess and the Pea.*

A Happy Ending

As some of you may have heard, the Queen has finally ended her search for a real princess to marry the Prince. She had been looking for a very long time. In her quest, the Queen had certain requirements that she knew only a real princess could fulfill. For example, the Queen knew that only a real princess could . . . play the piano and harp at the same time, wear a white dress every day and never get one dirty, eat an ice cream cone without ever having the ice cream drip, and read three months' worth of books in an afternoon.

Even after searching all over the world, the Queen and the Prince could not find a real princess. They returned home very saddened. However, all hope was not lost! During the terrible storms last Tuesday night, a rain-soaked young woman showed up at the palace, asking for shelter. She claimed she was a princess. To see if the girl spoke the truth about being a princess and to see if indeed she was a real princess, the Queen decided to test her. She hid a pea under 20 mattresses and 20 feather beds. To her delight, the girl slept terribly, for only a real princess can feel a pea beneath all of those mattresses and feather beds.

So, under the most joyous of circumstances, the whole kingdom is invited to the royal wedding of the Prince and his real princess this Saturday at 4:00 P.M. at the palace.

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-Questions on back-

Name _____

Reading for details

1. What was the Queen looking for? _____

2. Circle things a real princess would not do.

get dirty wearing white	play two instruments at one time
take three months to read one book	let her ice cream cone drip all over her

3. Why was the Queen saddened after her search? _____

4. When did the real princess arrive at the palace? Be specific. _____

5. How did the Queen try to determine if the young woman was a real princess? _____

6. Do you think the Queen or the Prince was more concerned about finding a real princess? Why? _____

7. How do you think the authors of the article feels about the wedding? _____

8. When and where was Hans Christian Andersen born? _____

9. Why did Jason and Sam change the original version of "The Princess and the Pea"?

On another piece of paper, design an invitation the Queen could send out for the Prince's wedding. Include all the details.

A Real Princess

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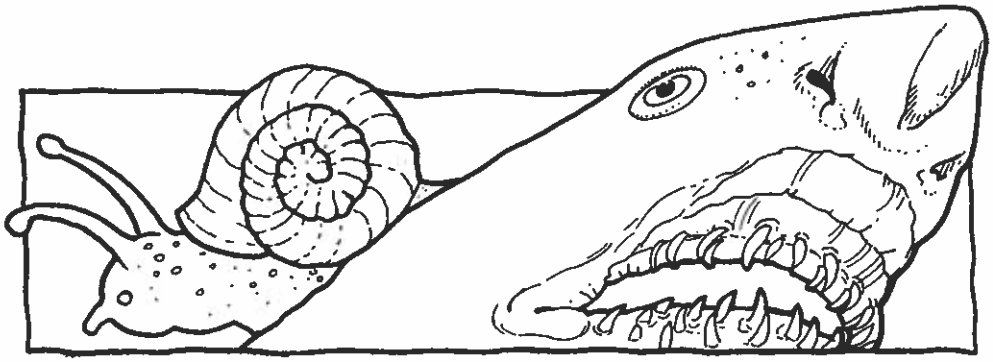
Amazing Animals

All animals are fascinating, and some are truly amazing! For example, did you know that sharks' teeth are almost as hard as steel, or that kangaroo rats can survive longer without water than camels? Study the chart below to learn more about several amazing animals.



Animal	Where It Lives	Vertebrate or Invertebrate	Fascinating Fact
albatross	near most oceans	vertebrate	can sleep while flying
caterpillar	all over the world	invertebrate	has three times as many muscles as humans
chameleon	forests in Africa and Madagascar	vertebrate	can move its eyes in two different directions at the same time
cockroach	all over the world	invertebrate	can live for up to a week without a head
crocodile	tropical climates	vertebrate	eats only about 50 meals a year
giant squid	oceans throughout the world	invertebrate	has eyes bigger than a baby's head
giraffe	grasslands in Africa	vertebrate	tallest land animal; has only seven neck bones
penguin	in the southern half of the world with cold ocean waters	vertebrate	eggs kept warm by male until hatched
octopus	oceans throughout the world	invertebrate	has three hearts
shark	oceans throughout the world	vertebrate	never runs out of teeth
snail	almost everywhere—forests, deserts, rivers, ponds, oceans	invertebrate	can sleep for almost three years without waking up
sperm whale	oceans throughout the world	vertebrate	can hold its breath for up to 90 minutes

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– Questions on back –

Name _____

1. Which animal(s) live in the ocean? _____

_____

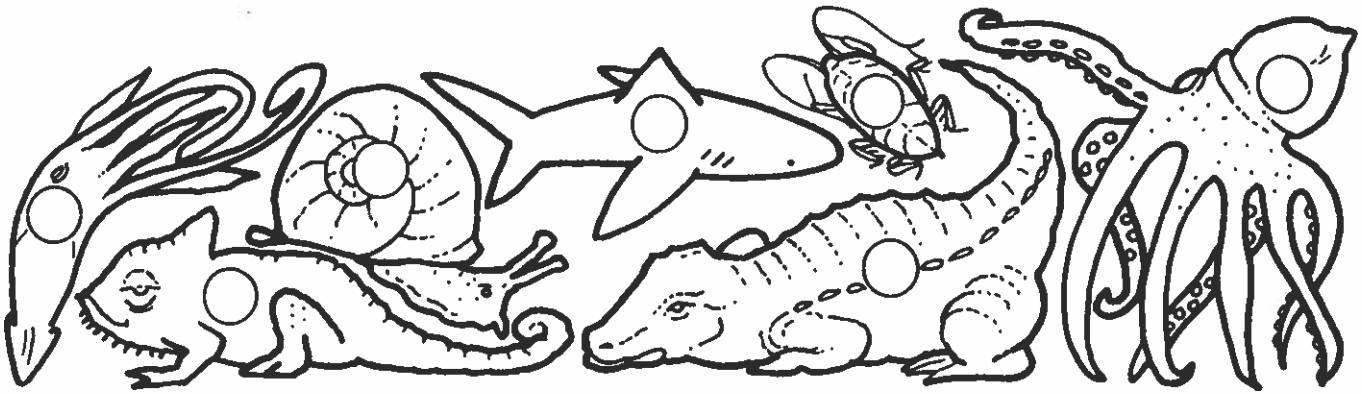
2. What do the giant squid and the chameleon have in common? _____

_____

3. Which animal would delight the "Tooth Fairy"? _____

_____

4. Label the animals that have backbones with a *V*.



5. Which animals live all, or nearly all, over the world? _____

_____

6. Which animal is very muscular? _____

7. Which animal eats an average of about once a week? _____

8. Which animal can live headless for about a week? _____

9. What is fascinating about a chameleon's eyes? _____

_____

10. Which animal is a "super snoozer"? _____

11. Which animal can hold its breath for over an hour? _____

12. Which animal has seven bones in its neck? _____

Read about another animal. Find a fascinating fact about it to share with your friends.

Amazing Animals

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Burger Time

Context clues *are words or sentences that can help a reader determine the meaning of a new word.*

Reese was **famished**! It was nearly two o'clock, and he had not eaten since breakfast. Reese asked his mom if she would stop at a fast food restaurant on their way home from his baseball game. She rolled her eyes and shook her head. His mother absolutely **loathed** fast food, but with over 200,000 fast food restaurants in the United States, she found it hard to **avoid** them. They were everywhere!

Reese's mother **reluctantly** agreed to **indulge** her son with a fast food lunch, but on the way to the restaurant she tried to explain to Reese the importance of a healthy diet. She had always been a healthy food **fanatic** and knew a lot about foods. She explained to Reese that although fast food is **convenient** to order and very tasty, it often contains **excessive** fat and calories. Reese agreed that a diet of only hamburgers and fries would be unhealthy, and he promised to **definitely** eat a variety of **nutritious** foods as well.

While at the restaurant, Reese's mother began to talk about some of the strange and **unusual** foods eaten by people around the world. In China, for example, some restaurants serve bird's nest soup made from the nests of swallows. Reese was not aware that in Columbia moviegoers may purchase paper cones filled with fried ants as a snack. He was relieved that theaters in the United States served popcorn instead of fried ants. His mother also told him about fugu, a special kind of fish served in Japanese restaurants. If not prepared correctly, fugu can be highly **toxic**. Those who cook it must be specially trained, so the diners do not get sick or die from their meal. Much safer meals included the horse-meat sandwiches served in restaurants in the Netherlands and the grilled guinea pig enjoyed in South American countries. As his mother was explaining how Scottish cooks prepare haggis, a boiled sheep stomach stuffed with oatmeal, Reese began to feel **nauseated** and asked her to please stop talking until he had finished his lunch.

Looking at Reese's pale face, his mother took **pity** on him and promised not to talk about any more strange foods. She did remind him, though, that just because the food was different from what he was used to eating, it was not necessarily bad. In fact, the people in other countries enjoy their food as much as Reese enjoyed fast food. Reese agreed that was probably true, but now all he wanted to enjoy was an ice cream cone for dessert.

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2 sides

- Questions on back -

Name _____ Using context clues

1. Use context clues from the story to write each bolded word from the story next to its definition.

a. sick to one's stomach _____
b. to give in to the wishes of _____
c. a devoted person _____
d. sympathy _____
e. more than what is acceptable _____
f. to keep away from _____
g. unwillingly _____
h. easy to reach _____
i. starving _____
j. certainly _____
k. healthy _____
l. disliked intensely _____
m. poisonous _____

2. Reese's mother loathed fast food. Name two foods that you loathe. _____

_____

3. What does it mean to say a meal is nutritious? _____

_____

_____

4. What are three nutritious foods that you enjoy? _____

_____

5. Fugu may be toxic if it is not prepared correctly. Would you order fugu in a Japanese restaurant? Why or why not? _____

_____

_____

Read about vitamins in a resource book. On another piece of paper, list eight words from the information you read that you do not know. Write a definition for each word using context clues. Then look up each word in a dictionary to see if you are correct.

Burger Time

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Terrific Territories

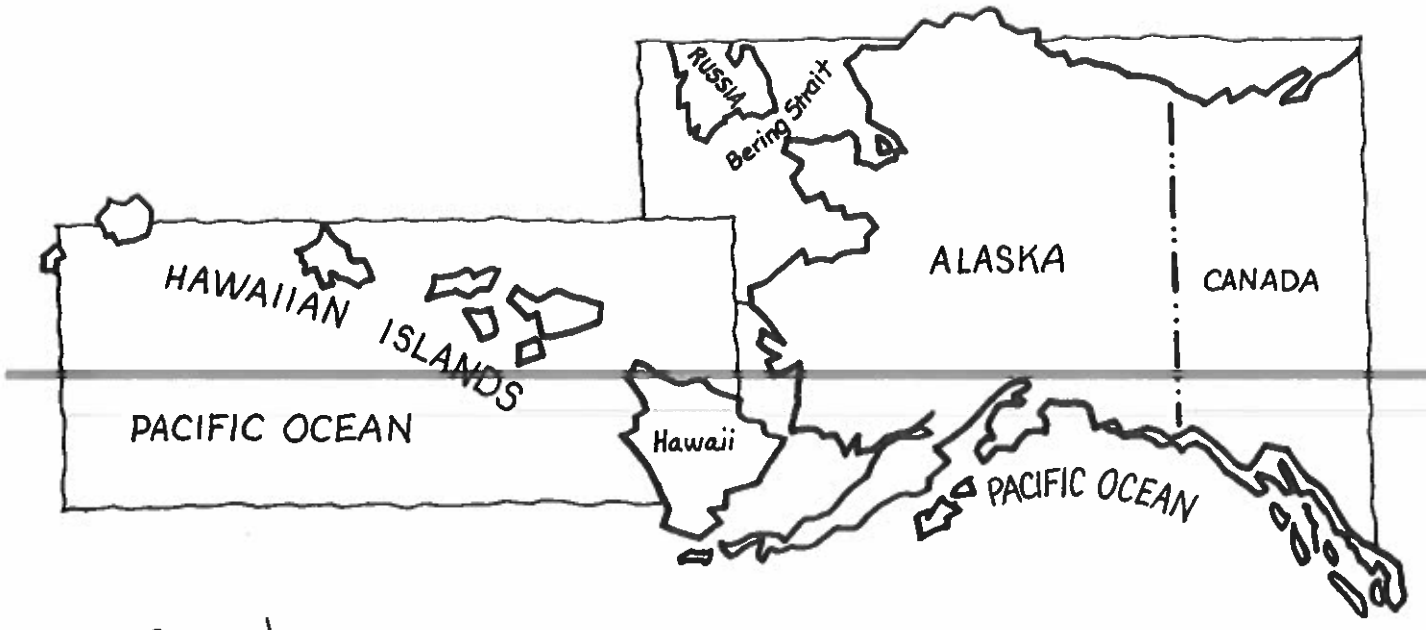
A United States territory is a **region** that belongs to the United States but is not one of the 50 states. It is under the control of the U. S. government. However, it does not have equal status with a state because a territory does not have representation in the national government.

Despite their inequality to the 50 states, all territories are able to govern themselves to a **limited extent**. Their governments are set up by the United States government.

Territorial government is an old **institution**. The first American Territory, the Northwest Territory, was set up in 1787. Until 1867, all territories were created in mainland areas of the United States. However, in 1867, the United States purchased Alaska, and the first territory not directly connected with the rest of the states was **established**. **Gradually**, the United States **acquired** other **distant** territories.

In the past, territories often became states. Alaska and Hawaii were the last two territories that were admitted as states. Currently, the United States has control of over 10 territories. They include Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Midway Islands, Wake Island, Johnston Atoll, Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Kingman Reef, Navassa Island, and Palmyra Atoll.

Due to the distance of many of the territories and their experience or inexperience with democratic self-government, the United States does not **extend** the protection and provisions of the Constitution to these areas. Since 1901, the Supreme Court and Congress have classified most territories as either incorporated or unincorporated. Incorporated territories are **entitled** to all rights **guaranteed** by the Constitution. The last two incorporated territories were Alaska and Hawaii. Unincorporated territories are guaranteed only **fundamental** rights.



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-Questions on back-

Name _____ **Using context clues**

1. Use context clues from the story to help choose the correct definition for each bolded word from the story. Circle the definition.

   a. limited: excessive restricted abundant

   b. extent: amount outside protection

   c. institution: church insulating device established practice

   d. gradually: frequently currently over time

   e. acquired: got ascertained bought

   f. extend: stretch offer make longer

   g. entitled: has the right to has a desire for entrusted

   h. guaranteed: protected licensed promised

   i. fundamental: basic inalienable proper

   j. distant: further faraway foreign

   k. status: position profession career

   l. region: state area country

   m. established: finished apart created

2. Label *I* for incorporated or *U* for unincorporated.

   _____ a territory that is guaranteed all rights by the Constitution

   _____ a territory that is guaranteed only basic rights

3. Which territory, purchased by the United States, was the first territory not to be directly connected to the rest of the states? _____

4. Which were the last two territories to become states? _____

Research one of the United States territories. On another piece of paper, list five new words you learned from the article. Then using context clues, write a definition for each word.

Terrific Territories

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Several Cinderellas

When Mrs. Price told her students they were going to read *Cinderella*, they all groaned, saying they already knew that story. Mrs. Price said that they certainly knew one version of *Cinderella*. She explained that *Cinderella* was a folk tale with many different versions found all over the world. She asked the students to search the library to find these different versions of the story. When the students returned to class, they were excited by all the different *Cinderella* stories they found.

Alison told a *Cinderella* story from Ireland. A kind girl has two wicked sisters. After the sisters leave the girl to do all the housework while they go to church, a henwife magically makes beautiful gowns for her as a reward for her kindness. Each Sunday, the girl stands outside the church door wearing a beautiful gown, and everyone admires her beauty. When the people try to talk to her, she rides quickly away on a white horse. At last a prince is able to grab her blue slipper when she rides by. Determined to marry the girl whose foot fits the slipper, the prince travels through the village until he finds her. However, before the prince can marry her, he has to fight all the other men in the village who also want to marry her. The prince wins the fights and marries the girl.

Kara shared a *Cinderella* story from India. In this version a young girl's mother is transformed into a goat. Her father remarries, but the new stepmother is very cruel to the girl and her brother, making them work hard and giving them little food. When the stepmother finds out that the goat is magically providing food for the children, she has the goat killed. Because the goat bones are planted in the ground, the children are still able to magically get food whenever they ask for it. One day when the stepdaughter is washing her face in the river, her nose ring falls into the water. It is eaten by a fish, which is later caught and prepared as a dinner for the king. When the king hears that a nose ring had been found in his fish, he sends word throughout the kingdom that the owner of the ring should come to the palace. The king meets the stepdaughter and marries her because of her beauty and kindness.

Andy then told the Indonesian version of *Cinderella* that he found. In this story the beautiful young girl has a cruel stepmother and stepsister who make her work very hard. One day when the girl is washing clothes in the river, she meets a magic crocodile whom she treats very kindly. Because she is so nice, the crocodile gives her a beautiful silver dress. When the prince comes to the village, looking for a girl to marry, the cruel stepsister takes the dress for herself, leaving the girl only rags to wear. She returns to the crocodile who gives her beautiful golden clothes, slippers, and a horse and carriage but warns her to return all the gifts at dawn when the rooster crows. The prince sees the girl dancing in her golden clothes and falls in love. At dawn the girl runs off but loses a golden slipper. The prince searches the village for the girl whose foot will fit into the tiny slipper and, of course, finds her and marries her.

After sharing these stories, the students were surprised to find out that *Cinderella* was such a popular story, told in so many different ways and in so many countries around the world.

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-2 sides-

- Questions on back-

Name _____ **Comparing and contrasting**

1. Using the three *Cinderella* versions, complete the following chart. Parts of it have been completed for you.

Country	Family treats girl cruelly.	Girl is beautiful and kind.	Girl has magic helper.	Object proves girl's identity.	There is a happy ending.
Ireland		yes			marries prince
India			goat		
Indonesia	yes			gold slipper	

2. What happens in the *Cinderella* story you knew before reading these versions? Complete the following chart based on the story you know.

Your version of *Cinderella*	Family treats girl cruelly.	Girl is beautiful and kind.	Girl has magic helper.	Object proves girl's identity.	There is a happy ending.

3. What characteristics do all versions of *Cinderella* seem to have in common? _____

4. Where are the biggest differences in the versions? _____

5. How does the Irish *Cinderella* differ in its "happy endings" from the other versions? _____

On another piece of paper, write your own version of *Cinderella*. Be sure to include all the necessary characteristics, but feel free to make changes in the time and setting and some of the characters. Read your story to a friend.

Several Cinderellas

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No Baking Required

Sequencing *is putting the events of a story in the order in which they happen.*

Max was disappointed. He came home from school excited to eat his dad's famous chocolate chip oatmeal cookies. Max had been begging his dad to make them for two weeks. Finally, his dad had a day off, and he told Max he would make the cookies. Wouldn't you know that today, of all days, the oven would not heat up!

Max was craving chocolate. He just had to have some chocolate cookies. Angrily, Max slumped down on the couch and folded his hands across his chest. Max's dad tossed a cookbook to Max. He told Max to quit sulking and start looking through the cookbook. Max's dad told him to look and see if there was anything they could make without using the oven. Max smirked at the idea but thumbed through the cookbook anyway.

What do you know! Max found a chocolate oatmeal cookie recipe that did not need baking! The recipe was called "No-Bake Cookies." Max and his dad decided the recipe was worth a try.

Max and his dad read the recipe together. Then his dad told Max to get out a saucepan. Max's dad got out the necessary ingredients, a big spoon, measuring cups and spoons, and some waxed paper.

Max's dad told him to put ½ cup milk, ¼ cup butter, 4 tablespoons cocoa, and 2 cups of sugar in a pan. Max and he took turns stirring the mixture on the stove until the mixture boiled on medium-high heat for one minute.

Once the hot mixture was pulled off the stove, Max's dad helped him add ½ cup peanut butter, 1 teaspoon of vanilla, and 2 cups of oatmeal. Max stirred. Then Max dropped spoonfuls of the creamy mixture onto waxed paper. Max and his dad could not wait to try these interesting cookies once they had cooled!

The moment arrived. Max and his dad each bit into a "No-Bake Cookie." Delicious! Max was actually kind of glad the oven was broken! Now he and his dad had a new treat to make.

- Questions on back -

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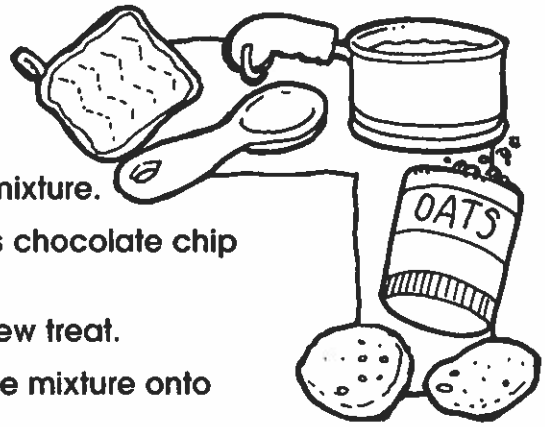
Name _____ **Sequencing**

1. Number the events in order.



_____ Max got out a saucepan.

_____ Max learned that the oven was broken.

_____ Max and his dad took turns stirring the mixture.

_____ Max was ready to eat some of his dad's chocolate chip oatmeal cookies.

_____ Max and his dad enjoyed a delicious new treat.

_____ Max dropped spoonfuls of the chocolate mixture onto waxed paper.

_____ Max found a "No-Bake Cookie" recipe.

_____ Max thumbed through a cookbook.

2. How are no-bake cookies similar to cookies you bake? _____

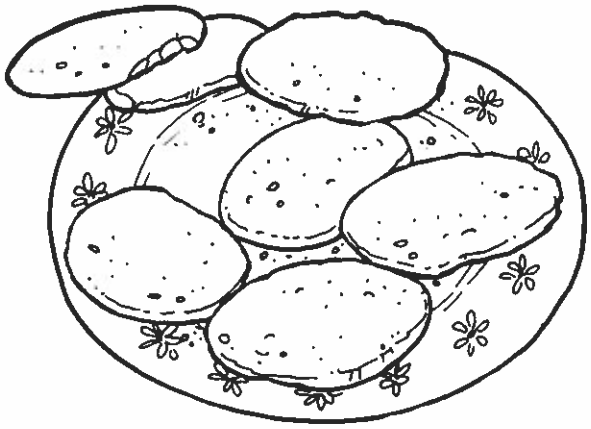
_____

3. Number the ingredients in the order in which they are needed.

___ milk ___ sugar ___ oatmeal ___ butter

___ peanut butter ___ cocoa ___ vanilla

4. Write words from the story to match each definition.



sad _____

well-known _____

moping _____

wanting badly _____

smiled in a silly way _____

slouched _____

5. Why do you think Max dropped the cookies onto waxed paper? _____

_____

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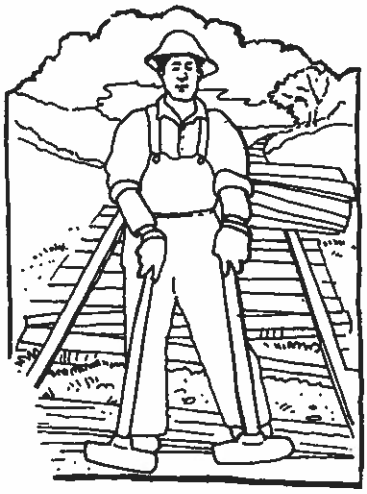
On another piece of paper, write the steps in order explaining how to brush your teeth.

No Baking Required

Man vs. Machine

Legends are stories that are told as if they are true. They are set in the real world and are often about a real character. However, the character in a legend is often stronger, smarter, bigger, or better than a real person.

John Henry was an African-American laborer. He is a hero of many American legends in the South. The original story was created when the railroad was greatly expanding in the late 1800s. John Henry symbolized the workers' fight against being replaced by machines. A famous ballad tells how John Henry competed against a steam drill in a race to see whether a man or a machine could dig a railroad fastest. Using only a hammer, John Henry won the race but died of exhaustion. The actual John Henry is said to have died from rock that fell from the tunnel ceiling and crushed him.



The Legend of John Henry

When John Henry was born, the earth shook and lightning struck. He weighed 44 pounds! Shortly after birth, baby John Henry reached for a hammer hanging on the wall. His father knew John Henry was going to be a steel-driving man.

Sure enough, John Henry grew up and worked for the railroad. He was the fastest, strongest steel-driving man in the world. No one could drive more spikes with a hammer than John Henry.

Around 1870, the steam drill was invented. It was said that this machine could dig a hole faster than 20 workers using hammers. A company building a tunnel on one end of a railroad decided to try out the machine. John Henry's company was working on the other end of the tunnel, using men to drill. Both companies bragged and boasted that they were the fastest. Finally, the companies decided to have a race to see which was faster—the steam drill or man. It was John Henry against the steam drill.

Swinging a 20-pound hammer in each hand, John Henry hammered so fast that sparks flew! At the end of the day he had beaten the drill by four feet! That night, John Henry lay down, very proud of his accomplishment, closed his eyes, and never woke up.

1. Number the events in order.

_____ **John Henry hammered so hard that sparks flew.**

_____ **John Henry was born weighing 44 pounds.**

_____ **A company decided to try out the new steam drill.**

_____ **They decided to have a race to see if John Henry could beat the steam drill.**

_____ **John Henry beat the steam drill and then lay down and died.**

_____ **John Henry reached for a hammer hanging on a wall.**

_____ **John Henry grew up and became a steel-driving man.**

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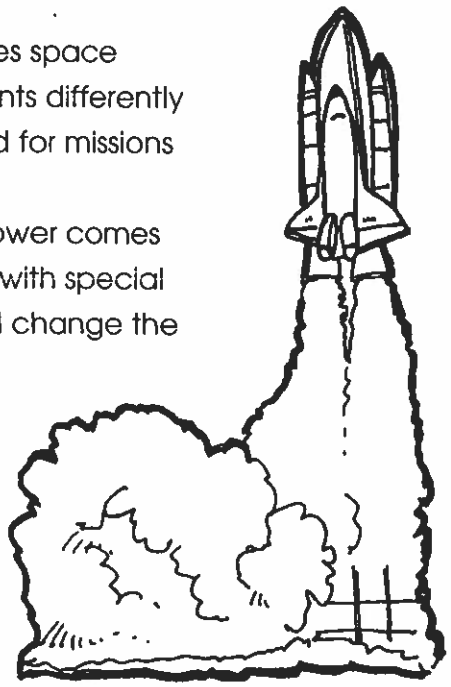
A Super Space Place

The International Space Station (ISS) was built by thousands of people from 16 countries. All these people were trying to find out if humans can one day live in space.

Floating about 230 miles above Earth, the ISS was a giant building-block project out in space. United States space shuttles and Russian rockets transported tools and pieces of the station into space to help finish building it. From the beginning of its construction in 1998 to its completion, more than 100 major pieces were assembled to create this amazing space station. It is the largest structure ever to float above Earth. The ISS is larger than a football field and weighs about one million pounds.

Crews are trying to answer such questions as these: How does space travel affect germs? Does the body break down food and nutrients differently in space? Some day, the station may even serve as a launchpad for missions to other planets, such as Mars.



Because of its large size, the ISS needs a lot of power. This power comes from solar energy. To create solar energy, large panels are lined with special materials. These materials collect the sun's energy for power and change the sun's rays into electricity.

So what did it cost to build such a structure? It cost over $150 billion dollars. Although this may seem astronomical, it may be a small price to pay for a project that enables some of the world's finest scientists to work together, exploring space for the world's future.

1. Write *C* for cause or *E* for effect for each pair of sentences.

___Sixteen countries built the International Space Station.

___People want to know if humans can one day live in space.

___United States space shuttles and Russian rockets carried tools and pieces of the space station into space.

___The International Space Station is larger than a football field.

___Panels are lined with special materials that change the sun's rays into electricity.

___The ISS is powered by solar energy.

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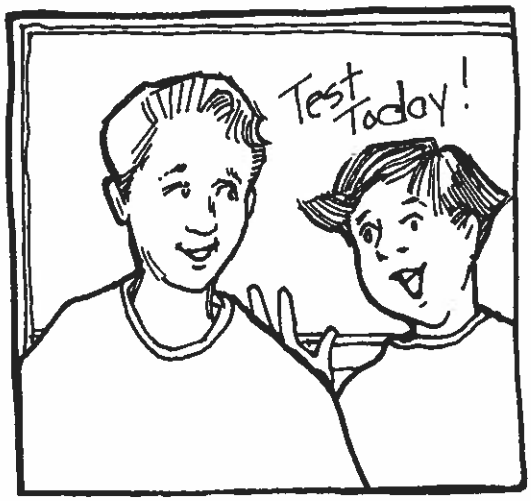
Talking Too Much

To better understand a character, a reader needs to carefully study or **analyze** *a character's personality, qualities, traits, relationships, motivations, and problems.*



Parker is such a big talker. He drives David and Andy crazy! Parker thinks he is great at everything. What makes David and Andy even more frustrated with him is the fact that Parker IS good at everything. He always scores goals at soccer games. He scored the most points for the basketball team this year. He won first place overall in the city's swim competition. He always gets hundreds on his spelling tests. He can finish a math test first and get the best score in the class. How can one person be so good at so much?

However, Parker is not good at one thing. He is not good at being a good sport. No matter what Parker does well, he makes sure everyone knows about it. He is also quick to make unkind comments about other kids' mistakes. If David and Andy have to hear about one more goal they could have scored, or one more basket they should have made, or one more test they should have aced, they are going to scream! David and Andy's one wish is that Parker learns to be humble.

Not many people tell Parker what a good job he does or congratulate him on his accomplishments because Parker has already boasted and bragged about them to everyone. He does not give anyone a chance to learn about anything he has done. He is always the first one to tell about his successes. David and Andy sure wish Parker could be more like Ajay.

Ajay is the new kid in class this year. He does not talk much, but he is very good at many sports and is also super smart. It has taken the rest of the kids a while to learn about Ajay and all of his talents. Andy, David, and the other kids are all happy to congratulate Ajay when he scores a goal or gets a great score on a test. Ajay just smiles and says thanks. He often makes a nice comment back to acknowledge someone's kindness, and he often compliments attempts of others at sporting events or school work. Andy and David have decided they want to learn to act more like Ajay when they experience success. They wish Parker would learn from Ajay, too. Unfortunately, he is busy always patting himself on the back.

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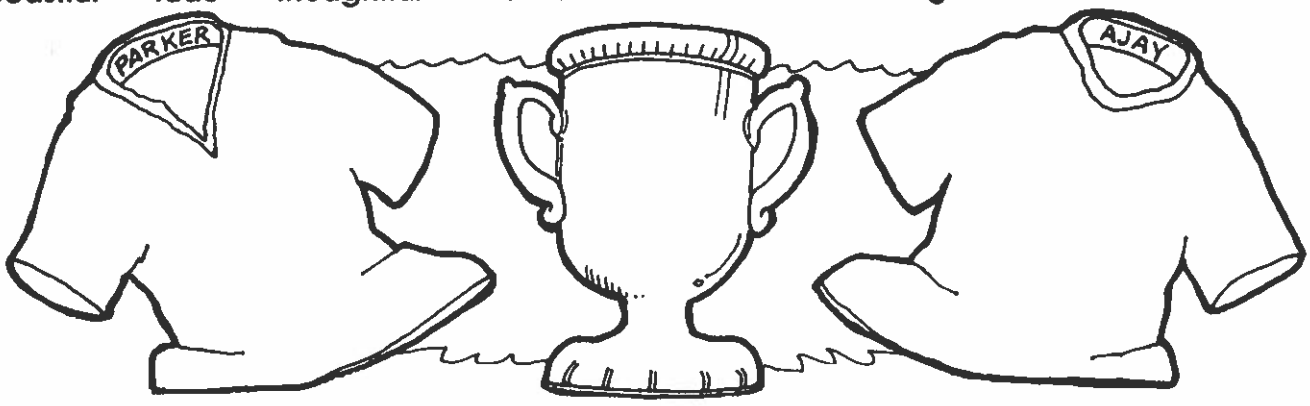
-Questions on back-

1. Write words that describe Parker on his jersey. Write words that describe Ajay on his jersey. Write words that describe both boys on the trophy.

boastful rude thoughtful insensitive humble intelligent athletic kind



2. List two examples of how Parker is not a good sport. _____

_____

_____

3. Why do many people usually not compliment Parker on his accomplishments? _____

_____

_____

4. Use context clues to find words from the story to match each definition.

not arrogant ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

impolite ___ ___ ___ ___

remarks ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

aggravated ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

5. Whom do Andy and David want to be like—Parker or Ajay? Why? _____

_____

6. Who do you think has more friends—Parker or Ajay? Why? _____

_____

Read about a famous athlete or musician. On another piece of paper, write if he or she is a good role model and why.

Talking Too Much

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Brian's Bike

Brian sat on his front doorstep. He really wanted a new bike. Joe had just gotten one for his birthday, and Tyler's was only about a year old. Brian had had his for five years. The seat was up as high as it could go, and his legs were still too long for his bike. Brian wanted a bike just like Joe's and Tyler's. Their bikes were perfect for popping wheelies and cruising over bumps. If only he had $110.00. All he could come up with was $33.67. Where could he get the rest of the money he needed?

Brian thought and thought. His birthday was still five months away, and he was too young to mow lawns. What could he do to get the money? Maybe his dad would advance him his allowance for the next few months. He got three dollars every Friday if he did all of his chores. His dad had agreed to do this once before, when Brian needed an extra six dollars. Maybe his sister would loan him the money. She had a lot of money saved up from baby-sitting. Baby-sitting! That was it! Brian could baby-sit. Oops! Wait a minute. No one would hire Brian to baby-sit. He still was not allowed to stay home by himself yet. What could he do to get the money? Brian sat and thought.

Just then, the phone rang. Mrs. Timmons' dog had gotten out again. She asked Brian if he could find Fifi for her. Brian said he would be happy to help Mrs. Timmons. She was getting so old. She could not run after feisty Fifi anymore. Brian immediately started looking for Fifi. He spotted her behind a tree in the Kirbys' yard.

After chasing Fifi through three different yards, Brian finally caught the frisky dog. He returned her to Mrs. Timmons. Mrs. Timmons was so thankful that she handed Brian two dollars. Brian thanked Mrs. Timmons. He told her that she did not have to pay him. Then Brian had an idea. Now he knew what he could do to earn money. He would set up a pet service! He could take care of people's pets when they were gone. He figured there were at least 12 dogs he could look after, a few cats, and even some fish. Brian would have that bike in no time!

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 – Questions on back –

1. Circle the words that describe Brian.

lazy	optimistic	industrious	hardworking
whiney	stressed	ungrateful	pessimistic

2. Why could Brian not baby-sit to earn money? _____

3. If Brian's dad agreed to advance him his allowance, how many weeks of allowance would Brian need in order to buy his bike? _____

4. If you were Brian's dad, would you advance his allowance for the bike? Why or why not? _____

5. List Brian's ideas for getting $77.00. Then think of three additional ideas.

Brian's Ideas	Other Ideas
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.

6. What should Brian do to get his pet service started? _____

7. How well do you think Brian will do with his new job? _____

Read the want ads in the newspaper. Find a job you would like to have.

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Name _____

The Storm Is Coming

*The **cause** is what makes something happen. The **effect** is what happens as a result of the cause.*

Haley was so sad. She just couldn't believe it! She was supposed to have her birthday party tomorrow at Super Kool Skateboard Park, but now there was a chance that the city was going to get hit by a hurricane. The party was canceled and would have to be rescheduled. At least Haley's mom had already picked up her birthday cake, so now she could have two cakes.

The meteorologist at the weather center had been keeping a very close eye on Hurricane Dora. This fierce storm originated way out in the Atlantic Ocean near Africa. It was now quickly heading towards the southern part of the United States—somewhere near Miami, which is where Haley lived. The storm had winds of up to 120 miles per hour. This made it a category three hurricane, and Haley knew it could be very damaging. Her city had experienced a number of hurricanes.

So instead of running around with her mom doing last-minute things for her party, Haley was busy helping her mom update their hurricane safety kit. They needed new batteries for the flashlights and radios, fresh water, some canned goods, a new can opener, bread, peanut butter, and any other non-perishable food and drink items Haley could talk her mom into buying. Their kit still had plenty of bandages, blankets, and diapers and baby food for her baby brother. Haley's mom asked Haley to also remind her to get some cash while she was at the store.

While Haley and her mom were busy at the store, Haley's dad was busy at the dock securing their boat. When he finished, he was going to return to the house and cover their windows with plywood that he had already cut for just this kind of emergency.

When all of the preparations are done, Haley's parents will gather their files of important papers, some cherished family photos, and a few clothes for everyone. They will pack everything in their van. Since Haley's grandparents live in Atlanta, Haley and her family will evacuate Miami and go stay with them for a few days. Hopefully, they will all be able to return soon. After all, sometimes winds cause hurricanes to change direction, and they miss their intended target completely. Haley hopes this will happen, but she is also excited that she will get to visit her grandparents.

-Questions on back-

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Name _____

1. Write *C* for cause or *E* for effect for each pair of sentences.

____ Haley's birthday party was canceled.

____ A hurricane was approaching Haley's city.

____ The meteorologist was watching Hurricane Dora very closely.

____ Hurricane Dora was a dangerous, category three hurricane.

____ Haley's dad was prepared for a hurricane.

____ Haley's dad had plywood already cut for their windows.

2. Match each cause with its effect.

Cause	Effect
____ Haley gets to visit her grandparents.	A. Sometimes hurricanes miss their intended target.
____ Winds change their direction.	B. Haley's family is evacuating.
____ The storm is very dangerous.	C. Haley is excited.

3. List the items Haley's family have in their hurricane safety kit. _____

_____

_____

4. What other items might the family need? Why?

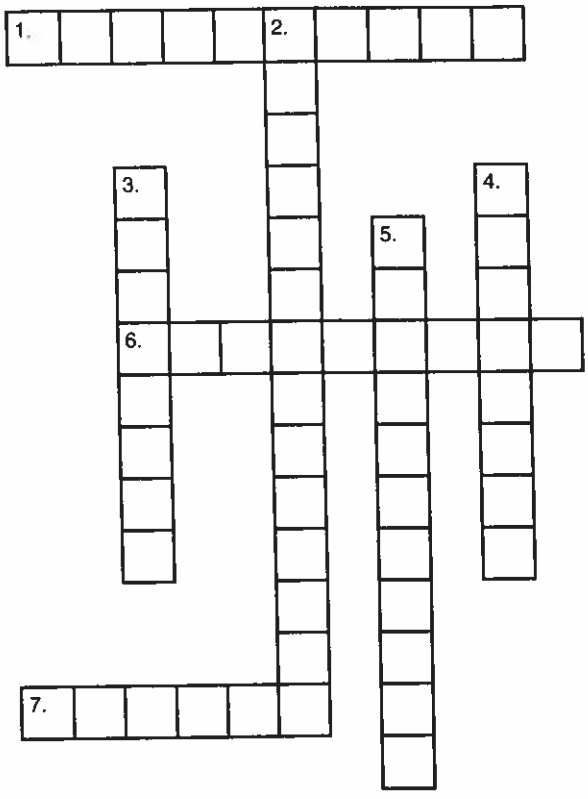
_____

_____

5. Complete the puzzle using words from the story.

Across
1. started
6. treasured
7. make current

Down
2. will not spoil
3. to leave for safety reasons
4. planned; chosen
5. planned again for another time



On another piece of paper, make a list of six items you would take with you if you had to evacuate for safety reasons. Also write a reason why you selected each item.

The Storm is Coming

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Name _____

Identifying fact or opinion

From Pole to Pole

*A **fact** is information that can be proven.*
(Example: Antarctica is a continent.)

*An **opinion** is information that tells what someone thinks.*
(Example: The South Pole is the most challenging area to explore.)

Antarctica and the Arctic region are the most southern and northern areas on Earth. These extremely cold areas have been the destinations for many scientific explorations.

Antarctica surrounds the South Pole. It is the coldest of the seven continents. Masses of ice and snow, about one-mile thick, cover most of Antarctica's land. It is the most desolate place on Earth. Few plants can survive in its extreme cold, and its only wildlife lives on the coast.

There is no sunlight at all for months at a time in Antarctica. This keeps the continent very cold. In the winter, temperatures drop below -40°F on the coast and to about -100°F inland. Because it is so cold, little snow falls in this area. The South Pole only gets four-to-six inches of snow each year. However, the existing snow is packed so heavily and tightly that it has formed a great ice cap. This ice cap covers more than 95% of Antarctica.

It is probably not surprising that there are no cities or towns in Antarctica. In fact, no people live there permanently. Since Antarctica was discovered in 1820, many teams of scientists and explorers have braved its cold to learn about this interesting piece of land.

Although very little grows in Antarctica, the seacoast does have a variety of animal life. Whales, seals, penguins, petrels, and fish are among the animals that live in and near Antarctica's coastal waters. All of these animals depend on the sea for food and shelter.

On the opposite end of Earth is the North Pole. This is also a very cold region. It is called the Arctic. It includes the Arctic Ocean and thousands of islands. The northern parts of Europe, Asia, and North America are also part of this region.

Unlike Antarctica, the Arctic is a permanent home for many people. About 90 percent of all Arctic lands are free of snow and ice in the summer—except for Greenland. Although the sun never shines on much of the Arctic during the winter, it does shine on all parts of this area for at least a little while each day from March to September.

As in Antarctica, little plant life can survive in the Arctic. It is plagued not only by cold, but also by wind, a lack of water, and the long, dark winters. Willow trees do grow in the far north of the Arctic but are only a few inches high. A permanently frozen layer of soil, called "permafrost," prevents roots from growing deep enough in the ground to properly anchor most plants. Therefore, even if plants can survive the cold, they do not grow roots deep enough to enable them to grow very large.

Because it is warmer than Antarctica, the Arctic is home to such animals as reindeer, caribou, bears, and sables. These animals live in pastures all over the Arctic. The seacoast is also home to many birds, including old squaw ducks, eider ducks, falcons, geese, and loons.

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– Questions on back –

Name _____ **Identifying fact or opinion**

1. Write *F* for fact or *O* for opinion.
   ___ Antarctica is the coldest of all the continents.
   ___ People do not live in Antarctica because it is too dark without sunshine every day.
   ___ Farmers would be easily frustrated trying to get things to grow in the Arctic.
   ___ There are no permanent residents in Antarctica.
   ___ Antarctica is the most desolate place on Earth.
   ___ The Arctic includes the northern parts of three continents.
   ___ People who live in the Arctic enjoy Greenland about 90 percent of the time.
   ___ Several kinds of animals live in the Arctic.

2. Why do you think people live in the Arctic but not in Antarctica? _____

   _____

3. Do you think people will one day live in Antarctica? _____

   _____

4. Write *C* for cause or *E* for effect in each pair of sentences.
   ___ Antarctica is extremely cold.
   ___ No one lives permanently in Antarctica.
   ___ "Permafrost" prevents roots from growing very deep in the Arctic.
   ___ There is a permanently frozen layer of soil called "permafrost" in the Arctic.

5. Circle the main idea of the second paragraph.
   Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth.
   Antarctica is covered with huge amounts of ice and snow.
   Antarctica is a very cold place and cannot support much life.

6. Using context clues from the story, write a definition for each word.
   desolate _____
   permanent _____
   plagued _____

Read about the continent where you would most like to live. On another piece of paper, list eight reasons you would like to live there. Four reasons should be fact and four opinion.

From Pole to Pole

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WRITING

Do the following pages by following the directions for each.

* Also, keep a journal of your daily activities throughout your time out of the school environment.

  - You can write these on notebook paper if you do not have a notebook at home.

Name _____

Keeping To The Main Idea

A paragraph tells about a single topic or idea. Sentences that do not keep to the main idea of the paragraph can confuse the reader.

Read each paragraph. Draw a line through the sentence that does not keep to the main idea. Then explain why it does not belong in the paragraph.

The earth has five climate zones. The two polar zones are cold and icy. The hot and rainy tropical zone is around the equator. There are rain forests in the tropical zone. Two temperate zones are between the tropical and polar zones.

1. Why it does not belong: _____

A long time ago, when people couldn't explain something, they called it magic. When the sun was blacked out during an eclipse, they thought magic caused it to happen. We now know a solar eclipse is caused by the moon passing between the earth and sun. Magic shows are fun to watch.

2. Why it does not belong: _____

Scientists say there is a logical reason for everything. Some things seem to happen for no reason at all. Physicists call this *cause and effect.* For instance, if something moves across the floor, there must be a force that caused it to move.

3. Why it does not belong: _____

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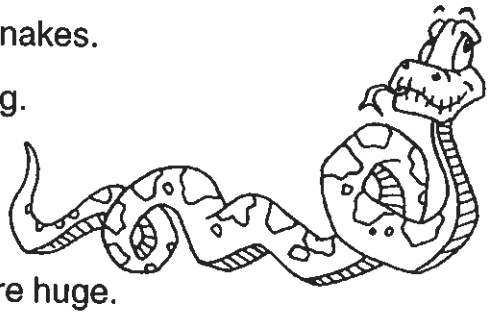
Name _____

1. **Read each sentence below. If the sentence tells about the size and strength of the anacondas, write an S on the line. If it tells about their eating habits, write an E on the line. If the sentence does not keep to the topics, put an X on the line.**



_____ Anacondas are very big and powerful water snakes.

_____ They may be over a foot thick and 25 feet long.

_____ Anacondas eat only about once a month.

_____ It would be scary to meet an anaconda.

_____ That is because when they eat, their meals are huge.

_____ The largest of them can easily squeeze a man or animal to death.

_____ They are able to swallow an entire deer.

2. **Write each group of sentences in order to make two paragraphs. The first paragraph should tell about size. The second one should tell about eating habits.**

Anacondas

Name _____

1. **Read each sentence about a baseball game. If the sentence is about Maria before the game, write a B on the line. If it tells about Maria after the game, write an A on the line.**

_____ Maria woke up feeling very sick.

_____ Without her good hitting, her team would probably lose.

_____ Maria was surprised and a little hurt that they had won without her.

_____ Maria's mom said she would have to stay in bed all day.

_____ Toni came to Maria's house after school to tell her they had won the game.

_____ Then she felt even worse because she would miss the baseball game at school.

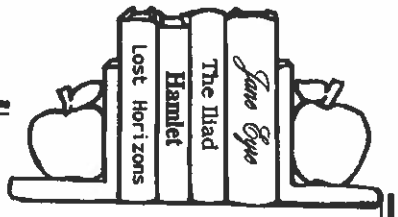
_____ She knew she had to be a good sport about Toni's news.

_____ Maria told Toni she was glad their team had won.

2. **Write each group of sentences in the correct order to make two paragraphs. The first paragraph should tell about Maria before the game; the second paragraph should be about Maria after the game. You may want to number the sentences before writing your paragraphs.**

The Baseball Game

Name _____



Main Character
Book Report

1. Write the title and author of this book.

_____

_____

2. Who is the main character in this book?

_____

3. Where does the main character live?

_____

4. What kind of person is the main character? Use words like girl, boy, young, old, happy, sad, angry, lonely, short, tall, etc._____

_____

_____

_____

5. What does the main character do in the story?

_____

_____

_____

_____

6. What happens to the main character at the end of the story?

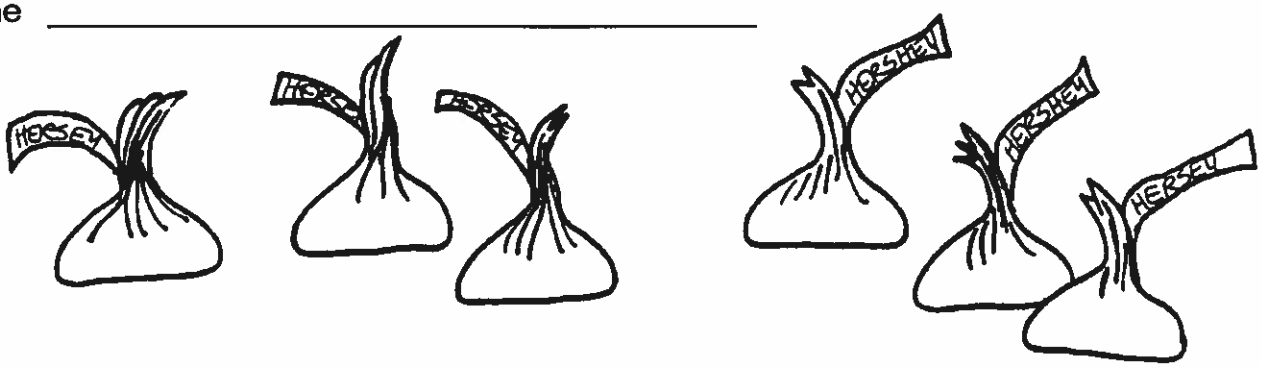
_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____



Milton Hershey

There once was a boy born in Pennsylvania who would do a lot of chores around the house to earn a few extra pennies. Milton Hershey loved candy! He would run all the way to the store and spend his pennies on molasses sticks, licorice, taffy, and sour balls.

When he was 19, he got a job in a confectionery store making candy, roasting nuts, and decorating cakes. After four years, he decided to go into business for himself, but times were hard, and he went broke selling penny candy. He then went to New York City to start a new store. Again, his business failed. After two failures, he might have given up, but, thank goodness for chocolate lovers, he knew candy-making was his business, and he could succeed. He decided to specialize in caramels made with fresh milk, They were so good, he was soon selling them all over, even in England.

On the first day of the World's Exposition in Chicago, Milton saw a display of chocolate-making machinery from Germany. He decided to buy the machinery so he could cover his caramels with chocolate.

Milton Hershey went on to make great things with chocolate, but his ideas did not stop there. He built a whole town around his factory. The street lights were shaped like Hershey Kisses! He also opened a school for orphan boys. He died in 1945, at the age of 88.

Name _____

MILTON HERSHEY

Answer each question below with a complete sentence.

Milton Hershey was the king of chocolate.

1. Where was he born? _____

2. How old was he when he had his first candy-making job? _____

3. How many times did he fail in the candy businesses? _____

4. Where did Milton Hershey first see a chocolate-making machine? _____

5. What was special about the street lights near the Hershey's factory? _____

6. What was one thing he did to help others? _____

If you have a computer
RESEARCH: Use another source to find additional information about this topic.

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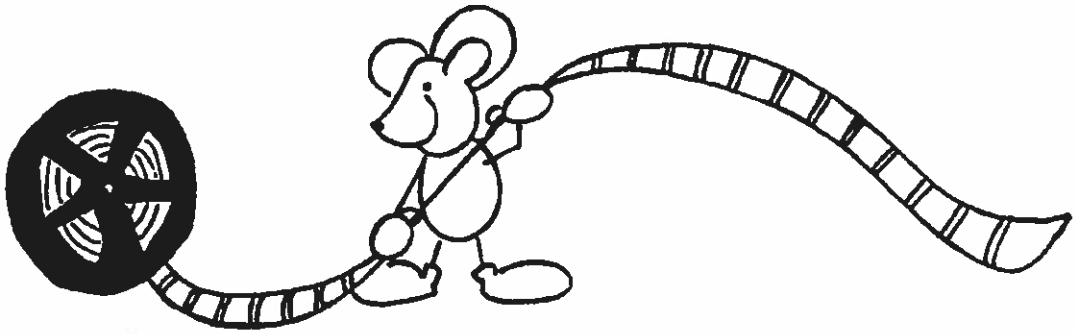
Name _____



Walt Disney

Walt Disney was born in 1901. He had a hard childhood. He was always working to help support his family. In his spare time, he loved to draw, especially animals. He started his career making one-minute animated cartoon advertisements for local movie theaters.

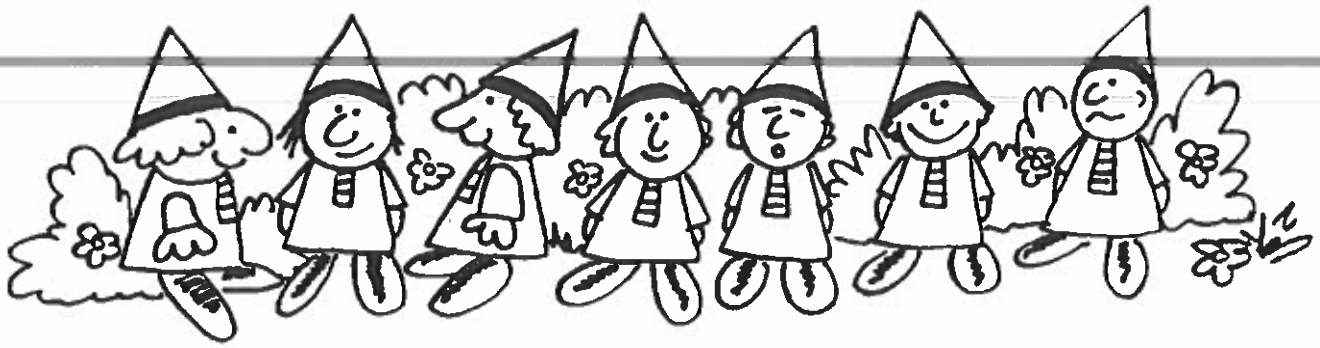
Times weren't easy for Walt. Once he lived on beans and bread a neighbor had given to him. He would feed the crumbs to the mice who came to his room at night. He became very fond of these little creatures. One little mouse he named Mortimer.

In the late 1920's, talking pictures were just getting started in theaters. Walt made his first sound cartoon about his old friend, Mortimer Mouse, but his wife liked the name Mickey better, so Mickey Mouse it was!

Walt's first full-length cartoon movie was *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. It was such a hit that he needed to move from his little office and build several large studios.

One day, while Walt was at an amusement park with his daughters, he got an idea. He wanted to build an amusement park, too. His park would be very clean and interesting and have exciting rides. It would be a place parents, as well as children, would enjoy.

The park was built in 1955. It was named "Disneyland." Mickey Mouse and Disneyland are both known all over the world. Their creator, Walt Disney, died at the age of 65.



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Name _____

WALT DISNEY

Answer each question below with a complete sentence.

Walt Disney has given years of fun and laughter to America.

1. When was Walt Disney born? _____

2. What did he especially like to draw? _____

3. How did he start his career? _____

4. Where did he get the idea for Mickey Mouse? _____

5. What was Walt's idea? _____

6. How was Walt's amusement park going to be different from others?

If you have a computer
RESEARCH: Use another source to find additional information about this topic.

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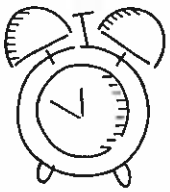
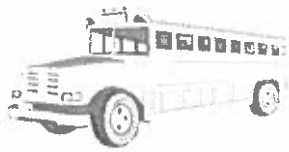
Name_____
Date_____



"The Great Find"

Writing Practice – Finish the Story [5]



Directions: Read the story below. Then finish it with your own writing.

"Marcus, it's time for you to get up!" my mom called as she pounded on my bedroom door. I looked at the clock on my dresser. It was six in the morning, and I was very grumpy. I stayed up late writing a book report last night and I did not go to sleep until midnight.

"Okay Mom, I'll be out in a minute," I said. I got out of my bed and took a quick shower. I got dressed and packed my books into my backpack.

"Marcus, you are going to be late!" Mom yelled up the stairs.

"I'm coming!" I yelled back. I hurried down the stairs. Mom handed me a banana and a bagged lunch as I walked out the door.

As I was walking to the bus stop, I spotted a green piece of paper ahead of me on the sidewalk. When I reached it, I picked it up and realized that it was a twenty dollar bill! I looked around to see if any of my neighbors were outside. There was no one in sight. I stuck the twenty dollar bill into my back pocket and ran to the bus stop. I got there just as the bus was arriving.

I got on the bus and sat in the second-to-last seat with my friend James. "Hey, James. What's up?" I said.

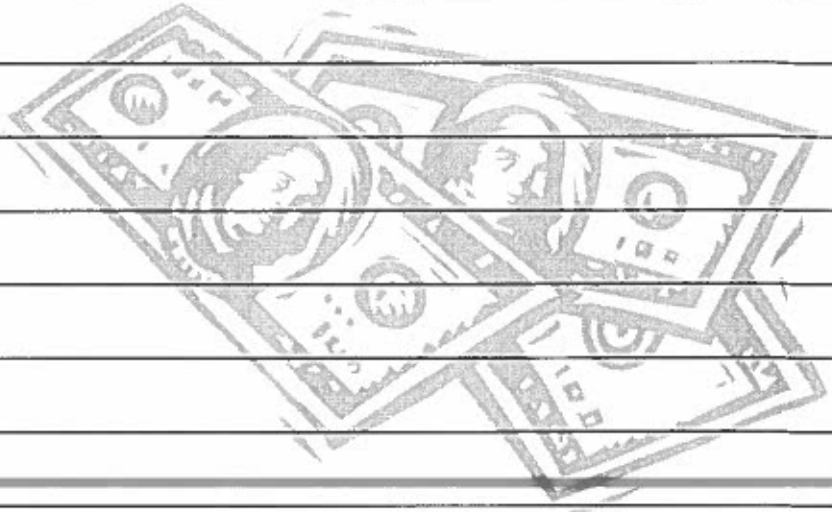
"Oh, nothing." James said sadly.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

"My mom gave me twenty dollars to buy the soccer ball I wanted" he said.

"So…that's great!" I exclaimed.

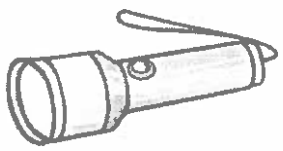
"Yeah, but I think I lost it. I can't find it anywhere." He replied.



Name_____
Date_____

"Which Way?"

Writing Practice – Finish the Story [5]



Directions: Read the story below. Then finish it with your own writing.

This weekend, I went on my first camping trip. I went with my dad and my older brother, Sam. We left on Friday morning and drove for four hours until we reached the mountains. I slept for most of the ride, and Sam woke me up when we reached the park.

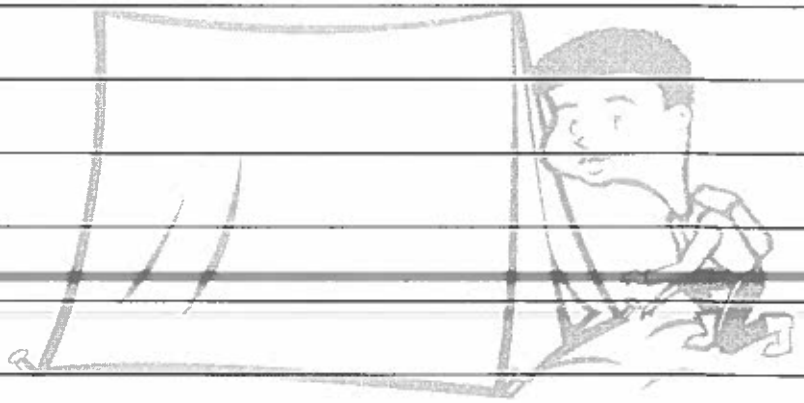
"Here we are!" he cheered. I opened my eyes and looked at the forest that surrounded the parking lot. My dad unloaded our backpacks from the trunk and we set off on the trail. We hiked for about three miles and I became very hot and tired. We decided to stop and set up camp for the night. Sam found a big flat spot in a grassy area away from the trail. My dad told Sam and me to catch some fish for dinner from the nearby pond while he pitched our tent.

Sam had a special fishing pole that folded into a small size so he could carry it in his backpack. He caught three trout in the pond and I caught two. There were a lot of mosquitoes by the water so we didn't stay at the pond for too long. By the time we returned to our campsite, the sun was beginning to set. My dad was relaxing in the tent, reading a book. We showed him the fish that we caught and he told us that he was very proud of us.

"Can you two gather some wood for the campfire so we can cook the fish?" he asked us.

"Sure!" I answered.

"Don't forget your flashlights!" my dad warned. We grabbed our flashlights from our backpacks and walked towards the trail.

"Which way should we go?" I asked Sam. The trail led in two different directions. We were excited so we just started running down the trail. After a little while, we gathered as much wood as we could hold. It was time to go back to the camp site. It was getting dark and I didn't want to get lost in the middle of the woods!

Sam pointed to the west. "We can either go back the way that we came from, or we can go the other way. What do you think?"