

Name _____



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Field Trip to the Rainforest

Written by Sharon Fabian

"Rainforest, rainforest, rainforest," grumbled George. "We learned about the rainforest back in kindergarten."

"Back then I really liked those cute little frogs," said Noelle.

George was driving himself and his friends home from school in his nine-year-old Mazda Protégé. The car wasn't much to look at, but that was OK. George and his friends all enjoyed the freedom it provided.

"Back then we liked 'em," said Stefan. "Now it's getting boring. Every year -- save the rainforest. We're in high school biology now. We should be learning something new."

"Hey, if we could take our field trip to the rainforest, then it would be interesting," laughed Noelle.

"Oh, sure -- we'll just get some plane tickets and fly five thousand miles to Brazil. First class, of course!"

"We should have gone while we were in kindergarten," said Noelle. "Then we could have taken the Magic School Bus."

The three friends laughed.

"Well, if we go now, I want to take the magic Lamborghini."

"Count me in on that."

"Is it even possible to drive to Brazil?"

"I don't know, but if it is, I'd go -- even in George's old Mazda," said Noelle. "It would be interesting to really see the rainforest."

"Yeah, I'd go," said George.

"Me, too," said Stefan.

And just that quickly, something began to happen. The three friends were pushed back into their seats as George's old Mazda lifted off like a jet plane in a hurry.

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For a minute, no one said anything.

Finally, Stefan broke the silence. "Hope this thing knows enough not to land in the Amazon River."

Answer the following questions before you finish the story.

1. Describe the three friends' flight to the rainforest.

2. Where will they land?

3. Describe what they will see and hear in the rainforest.

4. What will they learn about the rainforest?

5. What problems will they encounter?

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6. How will they solve their problems?

7. How will they get back home?

8. How might they use their new knowledge about the rainforest?



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High Gas Prices

By Colleen Messina

How does your family plan vacations? You probably pack clothes, plan menus, and look at maps. Your parents also plan the budget for the trip. A budget is a plan for spending money. One part of their budget has gone up a lot recently: the price of gas. The price of gas affects everyone's travel plans.



It would be hard to go on a vacation without using gas-powered transportation. Gasoline is produced by the refinement of petroleum or crude oil. Chemicals are added to gasoline to stabilize it. They also make it look and smell better. This is called "sweetening." Gasoline is flammable, which means that it burns easily. Gasoline is a volatile liquid made up of different compounds called hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons have hydrogen and carbon in them.

Gasoline-powered engines changed the world. Even though another scientist had invented internal combustion engines, Nikolaus Otto created a unique version of it in the late nineteenth century. His engine efficiently burned fuel in a piston chamber. This made the internal combustion engine practical. Soon, thirsty cars began to drink up gasoline. Gas also fuels airplanes and farm equipment. Without gasoline, your family vacation would have to be within walking or biking distance (or else you could look for a local Budget-Rent-A-Pony)!

Many factors affect the retail price of gasoline. The retail price of gas is the price that people pay at the pump. The price of crude oil per barrel and the cost of refining it are both factors in gas prices. Gas comes from oil refineries. It travels through pipes and is distributed to gas stations all over the country. This distribution cost affects gas prices, too. Federal, state, and local taxes also add to the retail price of

gasoline.

World events, like the Persian Gulf conflict in 1990, can interrupt the distribution of crude oil and raise prices. An international organization called the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) influences the price of oil, too. In the United States, natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina also affect prices. Katrina stopped more than 25% of U.S. crude oil production. It also shut down major oil pipelines. With less crude oil available, prices went up.

Prices of gas have been mainly going up, up, up since 2005. Gas cost less than \$1.50/ gallon in 1999. By the summer of 2008, the Energy Department is predicting that gas prices might reach \$4.00/gallon. These high prices cause hardships for families. An organization called Gallup interviews people on the phone. They did a poll in March 2008 about high gas prices. Many people are worried. Another survey found that more than half of all adults felt that high gas prices has had a big impact on their lifestyles.

So what can everyone do to survive high gas prices? Many creative people are exploring options such as electric or hybrid cars and alternate energy sources. In the meantime, families might have to make some adjustments to their vacation plans. This doesn't mean that you can't have fun, though. You might find some exotic adventures close by. As Dorothy said as she got back from Oz, "There's no place like home!"

High Gas Prices

Questions

- _____ 1. What is the name for a plan for spending money?
 - A. a map
 - B. an itinerary
 - C. a menu
 - D. a budget
- _____ 2. Which of the following is a synonym for the word "volatile" in paragraph 2?
 - A. stable
 - B. changeable
 - C. placid
 - D. calm

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- _____ 3. What is the name of the process that improves the look and smell of gasoline?
- A. calcifying
 - B. sweetening
 - C. pasteurizing
 - D. none of the above
- _____ 4. When did Nikolaus Otto make the internal combustion engine practical for cars?
- A. the 19th century
 - B. the 18th century
 - C. the 20th century
 - D. the 17th century
- _____ 5. Hurricane Katrina made gas prices go down.
- A. True
 - B. False
- _____ 6. What organization interviews people on the telephone to gather opinions?
- A. the Smithsonian
 - B. OPEC
 - C. the PTA
 - D. Gallup
- _____ 7. What is the term for collecting people's opinions over the phone?
- A. a recipe
 - B. a nuisance
 - C. a poll
 - D. a test
- _____ 8. Which story character was quoted at the end of the article?
- A. Tarzan
 - B. Scrooge
 - C. Dorothy
 - D. Nemo

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Slavery and the Law

By Mary L. Bushong

Imagine agreeing to work for someone for a set period of time. In return for that work you will do, they pay for you to immigrate to a new country, a trip you could not have made otherwise. That is the basic idea behind being an indentured servant. But what would happen if your "contract" was lost? You could easily find yourself in a position many of the first slaves found themselves. That problem did not affect just them, but their children as well.

In a time of severe labor shortage, it became convenient to declare the black arrivals slaves, not indentured servants as the first had been. After the American Revolution, the legal position of slaves was not debated. Generations of whites had lived in virtual slavery in Europe under the feudal system. Human bondage in many forms had been common up until then, and was generally accepted. When the U.S. Constitution was written, the phrase "all men" did not apply to slaves.

Slave owners were not required to give a minimal amount of care. Since slaves were considered no better than animals, a slave owner could do whatever he wanted with his "property." Some slaves were starved, some were beaten, and many slaves were worked to death. As people began to move to new territories, they took their slaves with them.

Before 1776, slaves could only obtain freedom, or manumission, as a gift from their owners. Slavery was slowly outlawed in many northern states. In 1807 the slave trade was abolished. Slaves could no longer be brought in from other countries. A few people favored repatriation of freed slaves. Some were sent to Sierra Leone, while others were sent to a new colony called Monrovia. It became Liberia in 1847 and had a government modeled on the one in the United States.

When Thomas Jefferson heard that Missouri was barred from the Union at first because of its slave status, he "considered it at once as the [death] knell of the Union." As a result of the Missouri Compromise, Missouri was admitted to the Union in 1821 as a slave state, while Maine was admitted as a "free" state in 1820. Perhaps the most radical law affecting slaves was established in 1850. In return

for allowing California to be admitted to the union as a free state, Southerners had won a concession. They would get a revamped version of the old fugitive slave act. The old fugitive slave act had no real power and was pretty much ignored.

The 1850 Fugitive Slave Law was vastly different. It was legislation against the slaves themselves. It authorized the federal government to become involved in the capturing of runaway slaves and returning them to their former owners. Any free person who interfered could be fined or imprisoned. The runaway slave was not entitled to any legal recourse. Some free blacks were captured by corrupt officials and sold to willing slave owners.

Blacks, who could not prove with their papers that they were free, were warned to shun the police. Any married, former slave now lived in fear of capture, especially if she had children. Her marriage was not considered legally binding because of the color of her skin. She could be wrenched away from her home and taken with her children back to her former master. Her children might be sold away from her, and she would probably never see her husband again.

The Underground Railroad became very active during this time. No runaway slave was safe in the United States. The final destination for all runaway slaves was Canada. Once they were across the border, they were safe.

The law served only to polarize the slavery and abolitionist forces. It was one of many things which contributed to the Civil War. The Fugitive Slave Act was repealed with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. It freed the slaves in the Confederate states, but it was not until the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified in 1865 that slavery was abolished in the whole of the United States.

While slavery might have seemed like a natural means to obtain labor when the United States were founded, it turned out to be a curse. It legally relegated an entire segment of the population to being without any rights. Laws were changed as people understood what slavery was all about.



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Slavery and the Law

Questions

_____ 1. If the framers of the U.S. Constitution had made the phrase "all men" truly mean all men, how might history have changed?

- A. Slavery would have ended sooner
- B. More lives would have been saved
- C. Cotton farmers would have paid for labor
- D. Fewer slaves would have come to the U.S.

_____ 2. What is a contract?

- A. A legal agreement
- B. A track left by an escaped convict
- C. A promise
- D. A piece of paper

_____ 3. Slave owners followed rules regarding the care of slaves.

- A. True
- B. False

4. How would the rights of an indentured servant vary from those of a slave?

_____ 5. Why did slavery seem like a natural solution to the colonial labor problems?

- A. Would not have had to deal with employee problems
- B. Wouldn't have to pay the workers
- C. They were used to the idea of human bondage
- D. They could not get enough white people

_____ 6. Why was it so dangerous to have the Federal government involved in slave catching through the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850?

- A. No legal help
- B. It made it easy to trample the rights of any people
- C. Corrupt officials could kidnap and sell free blacks
- D. The police were feared

7. Why weren't slave marriages considered legal?

_____ 8. Which of these freed all the slaves in the United States?

- A. Emancipation Proclamation
- B. Civil War
- C. Fugitive Slave Law 1850
- D. Thirteenth Amendment

Name _____



Disc Golf Cap

By Beth Beutler

Colorful leaves fluttered in the crisp, cool air. It was cooler up here in the mountains than it was in the foothills where Matt lived.

He got out of his pickup truck and stretched his long legs while reaching his arms up to the sky. He yawned. He had gotten up early today to participate in the Ace Race. He had driven two hours to get to the park to compete against other players for a trophy and bag of disc golf discs.



Matthew had played disc golf for about a year. It was a sport in which players threw flying discs toward metal baskets. It was scored in a similar way to golf. The Ace Race tournament was a little different than a regular game. Players would get only one throw per basket. They would earn points based on whether they made the basket or at least hit it.

One of the main reasons Matt wanted to play, though, was because of the player package. When registering, each player received two discs and a baseball hat. The hat normally sold for about \$18. When Matt saw that he could play in the tournament for \$25, he figured that was a better deal.

Matt went up to the registration desk and plunked down his \$25.

"Here you go," said the man taking the registrations. He handed Matt a bag that contained the hat and free discs.

"Cool," Matt said. He went back to his truck and took a better look at the hat. It was terrific. It was khaki with black embroidery. It had a lower profile than many of his caps, which made it look nicer and feel more comfortable. The embroidery read Play Disc Golf! He knew that if he wore this hat, people would ask him what disc golf was. Since he

always enjoyed talking about it, he was glad to have another conversation piece.

The tournament went well. Matt didn't win, but he did have three aces. He met a few new guys who invited him to come up for other tournaments in the future. He ended up walking about four miles by the time he completed the tournament.

Matt had come for a hat but left with a lot more. New friends, new discs, a new way to play, and some additional exercise were all bonuses. It was an ace of a day.

Disc Golf Cap

Questions

- _____ 1. Where had Matt driven to?
- city park
 - state park
 - beach
 - mountains
- _____ 2. What was the main reason Matt wanted to play?
- to get better at the game
 - to win
 - to obtain the player package
 - to meet new friends
- _____ 3. What color was the cap?
- salmon
 - sky blue
 - khaki
 - evergreen
4. What was embroidered on the cap?



Mozart

By Vickie Chao

Haydn, a famous composer, once said to a man, "*Your son is the greatest composer known to me in person or by name; he has taste, and what is more, the greatest knowledge of composition.*" The young man that Haydn described was Mozart.

Mozart was born in an independent church-state named Salzburg (now part of Austria). His father, Leopold, was an accomplished musician. He once wrote a manual on how to play the violin. The book received great reviews and brought him fame. Mozart's mother, Anna Maria Pertl, came from a middle class family. She married Leopold in 1747 and bore him seven children. Only two survived infancy. The first was Maria Anna, nicknamed Nannerl, who was born on July 30, 1751. The second was, of course, Mozart who was born on January 27, 1756.

At the time of his birth, Mozart was baptized and given a very long name -- Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart. But no one called him by that name. Instead, most people called him either Mozart or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Some replaced the word Amadeus with Gottlieb, while others replaced it with Amade.

Very early on, Mozart had shown promising signs of his musical talent. At the tender age of three, he was already sitting in front of the harpsichord, plucking strings. At four, he started to play short pieces. Then at five, he learned to compose. Throughout the entire time, Mozart was like a little sponge absorbing all sorts of knowledge related to music. His genius thrilled Leopold, who decided to pack the bags and take the entire family on a tour around Europe. Their first stop was Munich, where Mozart and Nannerl, also highly gifted, played at the Court of the Elector of Bavaria. A few months later, they performed at the Imperial Court in Vienna.



Following their great successes in both cities, they went on to exhibit their talents at other courts in Europe. For the next three and half years, they traveled extensively and visited many places. Mainz, Frankfurt, Brussels, Paris, London, The Hague, and Amsterdam were just among a handful of sites that they passed through during their first grand tour. By the time they finally arrived back in Salzburg in November 1766, Mozart's aptitude was already widely known. He not only played other people's music flawlessly, but also improvised and created his own.

After camping at the home base for about nine months, Leopold was ready to take Mozart on a tour again. They left Salzburg in September 1767 and headed to Vienna where they stayed for fifteen months. When they were there, Mozart wrote his first opera *La Finta Semplice* (The Simple Pretence or The Pretended Simpleton). He was only twelve years old at the time. As this new opera was set for rehearsals, problems began to rise. Jealous of the young boy's talent, many musicians in Vienna weighed in and tried to sabotage the play. Leopold was very frustrated. He tried to fight back, but to no avail. Eventually, he gave up and took Mozart back to Salzburg. The following year, in May 1769, the Archbishop of Salzburg arranged a premier for *La Finta Semplice*. He also appointed Mozart an honorary Konzertmeister (Concert Master) at his court. Later that year, Leopold took Mozart on the road yet again. This time, they headed to Italy.

Just like all his previous trips, Mozart's visit in Italy was a huge success. Everywhere he went, his intellect amazed people. He befriended many famous musicians of his time and wrote a new opera (*Mithridates, King of Pontus*) for performance in Milan. For the next several years, he and Leopold stopped by many cities. They returned to Salzburg every now and then. Mozart, a teenager then, worked very hard. Every performance he gave and every new piece of music he composed meant income to the family.

From 1774 to mid-1777, Mozart took a break from his busy traveling schedule. He spent most of his time in Salzburg, working as a salaried Konzertmeister for the new Archbishop of Salzburg, Colloredo. This new patron disliked lavish music and imposed strict rules on composition. Mozart found the rules ridiculous, but he could not defy them. In the end, he asked Colloredo to grant him a leave of absence, and he got it. With the approval in hand, he left with his mother and tried to find a position elsewhere. They first went to Munich, but the Elector of Bavaria did not offer Mozart a job. They then moved on to Augsburg where they stayed with their relatives for a while. After that brief visit, the mother-and-son team

Name _____



arrived at Mannheim. They had high hopes as the Elector in Mannheim was known for his passion in music. To their disappointment, there was no open position. As frustrated as Mozart might have felt at the time, he did have something to look forward to -- he fell in love with Aloysia Weber, a beautiful soprano. When the news of the romance reached Leopold back in Salzburg, he was very upset. He sent a stern letter ordering Mozart to go to Paris with his mother. He complied. They reached Paris in late March 1778, and Mozart found work shortly afterwards. Just as things began to look up, a family tragedy struck. Mozart's mother fell ill and died in Paris on July 3, 1778. The loss saddened Mozart gravely. As he continued his correspondence with his father, he expressed his wish to stay in Paris. Leopold refused because he had already secured a better post for him back home. Reluctantly, Mozart packed his bags and returned to Salzburg. En route, he stopped by Mannheim to see Aloysia Weber who received him coolly.

Now with his mother dead and his romance stranded, Mozart was truly miserable. The only thing he could hold on to was his talent and passion for music. In the summer of 1780, he received a commission to compose an Italian opera for the court at Munich. He took it and wrote *Idomeneo, re di Creta*, which premiered on January 29, 1781. The opera was a hit, and Mozart was elated! This happiness, however, did not last long. Two months later, he was summoned to accompany his employer, the Archbishop of Salzburg, for an official visit in Vienna. He went and got into a big fight with his boss. Out of anger, he resigned on the spot and remained in Vienna. The following year, he married Aloysia Weber's younger sister, Constanze Weber. Leopold did not approve of the match, so the relationship between the father and the son reached an all-time low. Mozart and Constanze Weber had six children together, but only two lived to adulthood.

Throughout Mozart's married life, money was always an issue. Sure, many of his masterpieces -- such as *Symphony No. 25 in G Minor*, *Horn Concerto No. 3 in E-flat*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *The Magic Flute* -- brought him sizable income, but the couple liked to live beyond their means. As a result, they often found themselves short of cash.

Mozart fell ill in late 1791 during one of his many visits to Prague.

The ailment turned out to be fatal. Mozart died on December 5, 1791. "Severe military fever" was the diagnosed cause of death. As this description offered little explanation, Mozart's actual cause of death has since become an open debate. Some people even hinted foul play, claiming that Salieri, Mozart's colleague, poisoned him out of jealousy. Mozart was buried in a communal grave in Vienna, normal at the time for a person of his standing. A small group of friends attended the funeral.

At the time of his death, Mozart was only 35 years old, but he had accomplished so much. Even after several centuries, the popularity of his music has never lessened. People around the world continue to hail him as a genius and an icon in classical music. His works of art will live on forever!

Mozart

Questions

- _____ 1. Where was Mozart born?
 - A. Paris
 - B. Augsburg
 - C. Salzburg
 - D. Vienna
- _____ 2. Which of the following about Mozart is correct?
 - A. He was Leopold's eldest child.
 - B. He married twice in his life, first Aloysia Weber and second with Constanze Weber.
 - C. His first public performance was in Munich.
 - D. He began composing at the age of three.
- _____ 3. Which of the following events took place last?
 - A. Mozart composed the opera "*Idomeneo, re di Creta*."
 - B. Mozart fell in love with Aloysia Weber.
 - C. Mozart wrote the opera "*La Finta Semplice*."
 - D. Mozart went to Italy for the first time.

Name _____



Fighting Drug Resistant Bacteria

By Patti Hutchison

Cathy was finally feeling better. It was Saturday. She missed three days of school last week. She had strep throat. But by Sunday night, she was feeling sick again. Her throat hurt. She was coughing.

Cathy's mom took her back to the doctor on Monday morning. The doctor looked at her throat. "It's red again," he said. "I think we'll have to try a different antibiotic. The one I gave you last week isn't working."

"Why isn't it working?" Cathy's mother asked.

"Antibiotics are having a tougher time killing bacteria these days. The bacteria are changing. They are more resistant to the medicines we have to fight infections."

The doctor went on to talk about penicillin. He said it used to be the "miracle drug." It was used to treat all kinds of illnesses. It fixed strep throat, ear infections, and infected cuts.

Since then, scientists have discovered many other antibiotics. These are medicines that kill bacteria. But doctors are finding more and more that these medicines are not working as well as they used to.

When you take an antibiotic to fight an illness, most of the bacteria are killed. But the strongest ones are left behind. They reproduce and make even stronger bacteria. They can no longer be killed by the antibiotic. The next time you get sick, you will need a different medicine to fight the infection.

More bacteria are becoming resistant to the drugs we have now. Doctors are running out of medicines they can use. This is a serious problem. What can be done to help?



First, antibiotics only kill bacteria. They don't work on viruses. You shouldn't take an antibiotic if you have a cold or the flu. But many patients won't leave the doctor's office without drugs, no matter what kind of illness they have. Doctors often give in to make their patients happy.

Everyone's body has bacteria in it. Some are good, and some are bad. When you take an antibiotic, both good and bad bacteria are killed. But some are left behind to multiply and become stronger. The next time you are sick, the same drug won't kill the bad bacteria.

So what can you do to help stop this from happening? Don't ask your doctor for an antibiotic if you have a virus. Don't take someone else's prescription. If you are given an antibiotic, make sure you take it all. Don't keep some around for the "next time." Even if you are feeling better, the bacteria are still in your system. Don't let them hang around to multiply and become resistant to the drugs.

One of the best ways to fight bacteria is to keep your hands clean. This also helps fight viruses. Wash them before and after eating. Wash after you use the bathroom, and any time they are dirty. This will protect you and others around you.

"The bacteria are fighting a war against medicine," Cathy's doctor said. "Let's hope they don't win. Scientists are still working to make drugs that fight resistant bacteria. But we all need to do our part."

Fighting Drug Resistant Bacteria

Questions

- _____ 1. Penicillin used to be called the:
 - A. "miracle drug"
 - B. "resistant bacteria"

- _____ 2. An antibiotic kills:
 - A. bacteria
 - B. viruses



Name _____

Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On!

By Brandi Waters

Why is it that earthquakes always happen in California? Why don't they happen in Florida? To answer these questions, you will have to learn a little about the structure of the Earth. Our planet is made up of rock and metal. The Earth has many different layers. The top layer of the Earth is not one solid piece of rock. Instead, it is made up of many pieces that fit together. These pieces are called plates. The plates do not fit together like a puzzle, though. They are always moving. Sometimes they bump into each other. Other times they slide against each other or scrape together as they move. The plates are not smooth. They have rough edges and sometimes the plates get stuck together. The plates keep pushing harder and harder against each other until, finally, they move. This causes an earthquake. The ground shakes because of all of the energy that was released when the plates finally moved.



Most earthquakes happen where two plates push against each other. In these places, earthquakes can happen often. This is why there are so many earthquakes in California. There is one large plate that makes up most of the floor of the Pacific Ocean. There is another plate that makes up North America and part of the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. These two plates are moving toward each other. They are what cause the earthquakes in California. They also cause earthquakes in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and parts of Canada. The Pacific Plate is being bumped into on all sides. Scientists call this area the Ring of Fire. They gave it this name because earthquakes and volcanoes are so common around the edge of the Pacific Plate.

Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On!

Questions

- _____ 1. The top, or outside, layer of the Earth is _____.
 - A. called the Ring of Fire
 - B. one solid piece of rock
 - C. made up of many plates
 - D. all of the above

- _____ 2. An earthquake happens when _____.

- _____ 3. Most earthquakes happen in places where _____.
 - A. it is hot
 - B. there is a lot of water
 - C. two plates push against each other
 - D. two plates are moving away from each other

- _____ 4. Earthquakes are NOT caused by the movement of the Pacific Plate in _____.
 - A. Texas
 - B. California
 - C. Washington
 - D. Alaska

- _____ 5. There is one large plate that makes up the floor of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists call the area around the plate _____.



The Titanic Disaster's Aftermath

By Mary Lynn Bushong

Large swells rocked the *Mackay-Bennet*. Her arrival at the disaster site was none too soon. In her hold were 100 tons of ice as well as canvas, iron bars, coffins, and embalming solution.



Three days had passed since they had left Halifax on this grisly assignment. Tomorrow, they would start pulling bodies from the ocean.

The *Titanic* was hailed as the unsinkable ship. Yet, of the 2,200 people aboard for her maiden voyage, only 705 people survived after she struck the iceberg and sank.

The sailors on the *Mackay-Bennet* pulled 306 bodies from the water. There was not enough embalming fluid to preserve them all, and they could not return to Halifax unpreserved.

Of that 306, 116 were buried at sea. They were wrapped in canvas with iron bars to insure they sank.

Before that could be done, however, steps were taken to attempt later identification. Each body was given a number. Their clothes were checked for any identification. All personal effects were put in a canvas bag numbered the same as the body.

If the body was not too badly damaged as a result of exposure and sea life, it was possible to embalm. Many of those who were buried at sea were often third class or steerage passengers. The greatest effort was made to embalm the recovered bodies from the first class passengers.

Three other ships were hired by the White Star Line to help

recover bodies—the *Minia*, *Montmagny*, and the *Algerine*. Together they found 328 bodies.

Prompt action was necessary. Winds and currents would quickly spread the bodies apart. Exposure to the elements would speed up decomposition of the bodies. This made identification and preservation much more difficult.

In the end, 209 bodies were returned to Halifax. John Henry Barnstead, the Deputy Registrar of Deaths, came up with a system to try to identify each body. Numbering the bodies and personal effects bags was his idea.

When the ships arrived back in Halifax, the bodies were taken to the Mayflower Curling Rink. The already chilled building was a perfect morgue. Once there, each body was examined for identifying marks, and personal effects were noted in detail. Finally, each one was photographed.

Some bodies were shipped home to relatives. The remaining 150 were buried in three cemeteries in Halifax.

In spite of the terrible tragedy, some good things came from the *Titanic* disaster. The system set up to help identify the bodies was expanded and put into service five years later when the Halifax explosion occurred.

After the *Titanic*, ships were fitted with enough life boats for everyone on board. Patrols kept watch for icebergs and notified ships. Now icebergs are tracked by satellite.

Wireless operators did not hear the first distress calls of the *Titanic*. They were asleep. New regulations in the aftermath of the disaster required 24 hour monitoring. The changes were too late to help the passengers of the *Titanic* but have saved countless lives since then.

Name _____



The Titanic Disaster's Aftermath

Questions

_____ 1. *Titanic* was known as the "unsinkable" ship.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 2. The first ship to start retrieving bodies was the:

- A. *Montmagny*
- B. *Mackay-Bennet*
- C. *Minia*
- D. *Algerine*

3. Why were some bodies buried at sea?

4. Describe the identification system devised by John Henry Barnstead.

_____ 5. What was used as a morgue in Halifax?

- A. Ice house
- B. Curling rink
- C. Warehouse
- D. Skating rink

6. Why was it necessary to hurry the body recovery?

_____ 7. All the *Titanic* dead were buried in one Halifax cemetery.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 8. Nothing good came from the *Titanic* disaster.

- A. False
- B. True

Name _____



The Kazoo Band Concert

By Phyllis Naegeli

Jenny and Karen laughed as they walked out of the band room.

"That was fun," Karen said. "The kazoo is much easier to play than I thought it would be."

"It tickles when we play them. My lips are a little numb from humming the song right up next to the kazoo. But it really is fun," Jenny replied. "Do you think we'll be ready for the concert next Tuesday?"

"I think so," said Karen. "Miss Davis said she thought we were doing well. If everyone can keep a straight face, I think it will be great. You definitely can't play the kazoo when you laugh!"

"The National Anthem with kazoos - it still seems funny," Jenny said, giggling and shaking her head.

"Do you need to get anything at your locker?" asked Karen.

Jenny pulled on her coat. "Nope, I'm already to head home."

The girls walked out of the school and headed toward home. As they went along, they chatted about the concert.

Suddenly, Karen cried out in pain and grabbed her face with her hand.

"What happened?" Jenny said, looking around to determine why her friend was in pain.

Brian and James came running up to the girls as Karen sat down on the ground crying.

"I'm sorry," said Brian, looking down at Karen. "Are you O.K.?"



"No, I'm not! My lip hurts," Karen mumbled, still holding her mouth.

Jenny leaned down. "Let me see," she said lifting Karen's face to hers. "Oh my!" she exclaimed.

"What?" Karen cried.

Jenny looked at the two boys standing nearby and frowned. "Look what you did!"

"We didn't mean it," said James. "We were just having a snowball fight. You got in the way!"

"We got in the way!" Jenny exclaimed. "You should have been more careful!"

Brian moved between Jenny and James and said, "Hold on! It was an accident. We didn't mean to hurt you. We were just having fun. Right now we need to get Karen home so her mom can check out her lip."

"You're right," Jenny said, as she helped Karen get up.

They walked her home in silence. Arriving at Karen's house, they entered the front door. Jenny called out to Karen's mom, "Mrs. Kendall!"

"Right here," Mrs. Kendall called from the kitchen.

As they arrived in the kitchen, Mrs. Kendall saw Karen holding her mouth. "What happened?" she asked the other children.

"Brian and James were having a snowball fight, and we got in the way," said Jenny sarcastically.

"It was an accident!" Brian exclaimed. "James and I were throwing snowballs at each other, and one of them hit Karen in the mouth."

"Well, thank you for bringing Karen home," said Mrs. Kendall. Then she turned her attention back to Karen, "Let's get some ice on that lip."

"What does it look like?" Karen asked.

"It's pretty swollen, but it's not cut," her mom said. "You're going to have a fat lip for a while."

Name _____



"A fat lip!" cried Karen. "How will I play the kazoo with a fat lip?"

"Maybe it will be better by next week," Jenny said, trying to console her friend.

Mrs. Kendall brought the ice bag. "Here, put this on your lip."

Karen held the cold ice bag to her lip. "It hurts."

"It will help," said her mom.

"I need to get home," said Jenny. "I'll call you later to see how you are."

"We need to go too," said James. "I'm sorry about what happened, Karen."

"It's O.K.," Karen mumbled through the ice pack.

Later, Karen looked at her lip in the mirror. Her bottom lip was bruised and swollen from the corner to the middle. "I'll never be able to play the kazoo."

Over the next few days, Karen's lip got worse instead of better. She put ice on it whenever she could. Brian and James were constantly apologizing. Karen finally forgave them, but she still worried about being able to play her kazoo. If her lip didn't get better, there was no way she would be in the concert. The thought made her want to cry. Still, she went to practice every day hoping that her lip would heal in time.

"How are you doing?" asked Miss Davis on Friday afternoon.

"I'm O.K.," said Karen. "My lip feels a little better today."

"Good," said Miss Davis. "Maybe by next Friday it will be well enough for you to play."

"Next Friday?" Karen asked, puzzled. "I thought the concert was Tuesday."

"You must have missed the announcement," said Miss Davis. "They had to move the concert to Friday because of a scheduling conflict."

"That's great!" said Karen. "I bet my lip will be better by then."

The next week, Karen was able to start practicing with the band again. It still hurt, and she started slowly, but by Friday her lip had healed enough to participate. She was thrilled.

After the concert, Karen, Jenny, James, and Brian walked home together.

"That was pretty cool," said James. "I think I want to learn how to play a kazoo now."

"Maybe Karen can teach you," said Jenny.

"Sure, I'd be glad too," said Karen. "As long as you're careful not to hit me with a snowball again," she laughed.

"We will be," Brian promised.

The Kazoo Band Concert

Questions

- _____ 1. Which of the following events happened first in the story?
- A. Jenny put on her coat.
 - B. Karen was hit by a snowball.
 - C. The concert was moved to another day.
 - D. Jenny and Karen left band practice.
- _____ 2. Which event did not happen in this story?
- A. Jenny helped Karen get up from the ground.
 - B. Karen was hit by a snowball.
 - C. James learned to play the kazoo.
 - D. Karen put ice on her lip.

Name _____



Puzzled

By Beth Beutler

"How's it going?" Daniel asked Andrew.

Andrew was diligently working on a jigsaw puzzle.

"I'm getting this corner done," Andrew said, not looking up.

Daniel, Andrew, and their family always seemed to have a puzzle going. They kept a card table set up in the living room. Visitors who came to the home were welcome to work on the puzzle for however long they wished. Andrew seemed to enjoy puzzles the most. He worked on them most often, it seemed.

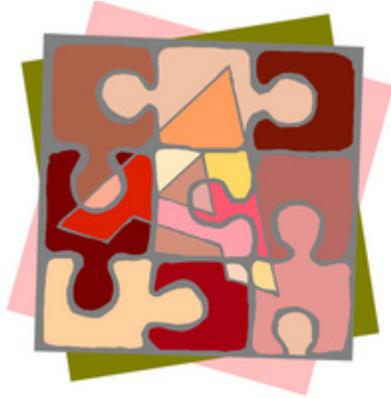
Daniel loved the idea of an ongoing puzzle. There was something comforting about having a project that everyone in the family worked on when they could. Sometimes they worked on the puzzle together, gathered around the card table. Other times, one or two people worked on it while others relaxed in the room.

A few months ago, the family (and the occasional friend) had completed a wildlife puzzle. Mom had glazed the puzzle with puzzle glue and had it framed. It was now hanging in the hallway, a testament to teamwork.

The current puzzle was a picture of the ocean at sunrise. When finished, it would be beautiful. It was a challenging puzzle of 500 pieces. With so much of the ocean in the bottom half of the puzzle, many pieces looked alike. It took some work to find the ones that fit together. Andrew was currently working on that section.

Daniel sat down. "Can I help?"

Andrew answered without looking up. "Sure."



For the next half hour or so, Daniel and Andrew worked silently but diligently on one corner of the ocean scene. They made great progress. Even though they weren't talking, they felt camaraderie.

Daniel was the first to stop. He stretched his arms behind his back and yawned. "That's enough for me," he said, getting up.

"Suit yourself," Andrew said, never looking up.

Daniel grinned. Andrew was very focused when he had his mind on a project. Daniel was more of a dabbler, working for a bit on one project and then moving to another. He was certain that Andrew would not stop working until this section was finished!

Andrew remained bent over the puzzle for another fifteen minutes. In the meantime, Daniel had gone to the kitchen and put together a food puzzle of his own. He created a banana split--actually two--one for himself and one for his brother. He assembled several ingredients and then built the sundaes. He realized that he was, in essence, completing a puzzle as well. He took the finished product to his brother and sat back down at the card table.

Andrew looked up. "Thanks! Look, I just finished this corner!"

"Way to go, Andrew. Great job!"

"Great job on the sundaes, too," Andrew said, leaning back and taking a big bite of vanilla ice cream covered with whipped cream and chocolate sauce.

Puzzled

Questions

- _____ 1. What section of the puzzle was Andrew working on?
- A. top
 - B. bottom
 - C. bottom corner
 - D. middle



Name _____

- _____ 2. The family kept a puzzle going on a regular basis.
A. true
B. false
- _____ 3. Daniel found the tradition of having a puzzle going:
A. exciting
B. boring
C. frustrating
D. comforting
- _____ 4. The puzzle most recently finished and framed was a scene of _____.
A. mountains
B. ocean
C. food
D. wildlife
- _____ 5. The current puzzle was a scene of _____.
A. food
B. mountains
C. ocean
D. wildlife
6. The puzzle had _____ pieces.

7. What did Daniel put together in the kitchen?

8. Which of the brothers was a "dabbler" and less likely to focus for a long time?

Name _____



Through the Golden Door-Immigration in the 1890s, Pt. 2

By Toni Lee Robinson

Seeing the Statue of Liberty, immigrants felt welcomed by their new country. It seemed they had found a place to belong. Surely one seeker of liberty would have much in common with another. New arrivals were filled with hope. The pioneers and seekers who had come before them had made it. So could they.

Americans, on the other hand, had mixed feelings. The streams of people pouring into their country brought both blessings and problems. It was true that those coming in had much in common with those who'd come before. The great patriots who'd built the nation had been aliens not so long ago. They'd left their homes and come looking for freedom. Wasn't that what the country was all about? Kind-hearted people within the U.S. formed groups to help the newcomers. They met the travelers at ports. They helped them find lodging and jobs. They also helped with language and other problems.

Immigrants found some people even more warm and friendly than Liberty's torch. New arrivals often passed through U.S. gates to find hordes of new "friends" waiting. These people were friendly for all the wrong reasons. They offered train tickets, homes, jobs, anything a traveler might want, for a price. Many were swindlers. Their aim was to part the newly-arrived from their money. Some dazed travelers lost all they had to con men.

Big business loved the new arrivals, too. Since the Civil War, U.S. industry had been surging forward. Production was booming. Keeping it moving required a ready supply of labor. Industry saw immigrants as lots of new workers flowing into the nation.

Others weren't so happy about the workers coming in. The newcomers were hungry for jobs to support their families. Many were



willing to work for much less than U.S. laborers. Chinese workers, for example, had played a big part in building railroads in the 1860s. They were known for their hard work, yet they were paid less per month than other workers. Business firms began sending to China and other countries for workers. Americans feared they would lose their jobs.

This problem brought the first major limits on immigration. In 1882, America's open door clanged shut for some. The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed. All but a very few Chinese were barred from entering the U.S. Limits were placed on people from other Asian countries as well. In the late 1800s, Alien Contract Labor Laws were passed. These laws made it illegal for people to arrange for jobs before they got to the U.S.

While people were streaming in from far-off shores, the U.S. labor force was struggling to organize into unions. The newcomers were often blamed when things went wrong. Job-hungry aliens were condemned when they stepped into the jobs of striking workers. At the same time, many business owners blamed strikes and labor unrest on immigrants. The foreigners, they said, brought in all the radical ideas. It was claimed they caused all sorts of trouble. It was true that some aliens did become union activists. Some held socialist beliefs. Some were anarchists, using violence to get their ideas across. Before long, any riot, strike, or trouble was blamed on immigrants.

In the 1890s, another factor kicked in. Since the founding of the U.S., most immigrants had come from northern and western Europe. The speech of the many British and Irish people sounded familiar to Americans. With their light skin, these newcomers seemed to blend in easily. But toward the end of the century, the tide of people shifted. More people were coming from eastern and southern Europe. These people seemed strange. Their languages were different. It was harder to accept them as Americans. Some people in the U.S. looked down on them. Sometimes the newcomers were treated badly.

As time passed, more limits were placed on immigration. Immigrants were asked to prove they had money to live on until they got work. Inspectors were to make sure each newcomer had a way to make a living. The law stated that all people coming into the U.S. were to be examined. People who were ill or had mental problems were turned away. Prostitutes and convicts were barred from entering. People who practiced plural marriage were turned back as well.

Through the years, U.S. policy changed. In the beginning, America's "golden door" had been wide open. Immigration law dealt mainly



Name _____

with getting the great numbers of new arrivals through the door. At the turn of the century, the law came to be more about who should or shouldn't be allowed in. Tighter limits and other events in the world stopped some people from coming. The great tide of immigrants began to slow. Still, the U.S. continued to open its door to many seekers from other countries. Today, it allows more immigrants to make the country their home than all other nations combined.

Through the Golden Door-Immigration in the 1890s, Pt. 2

Questions

1. Why might Americans have had mixed feelings about the large numbers of immigrants coming to the U.S. in the 1890s?

2. Why might immigrants have made attractive targets for con men?

3. Explain how American workers were affected by the large numbers of people immigrating to the U.S.

_____ 4. Big business was interested in keeping the flow of immigrants coming mostly because:

- A. Many brought new ideas for products that would sell well in the U.S.
- B. They knew most newcomers had money to buy U.S. goods.
- C. The newcomers added to the labor pool and most would work for less than U.S. workers.
- D. They were anxious to give down-and-out people a new chance.

_____ 5. After the mid 1800s, the immigration of _____ to the U.S was restricted.

- A. Eastern Europeans
- B. Asian people
- C. Northern Europeans
- D. African people

_____ 6. Alien Contract Labor Laws made it against the law to:

- A. Hire someone from another country
- B. Go to a foreign country to work
- C. Come to the U.S. looking for a job
- D. Come to the U.S. having already taken a job contract

_____ 7. Which of the following was not among the restrictions placed on immigration to the U.S. at the end of the 19th century?

- A. Those who had been in prison were denied entrance.
- B. Those who had certain diseases were turned back.
- C. Those who had no trade or means of making a living were barred.
- D. People who followed certain religions couldn't enter.

Name _____



Date _____

Reading Math

Coconut sells for \$4 for 12 ounces. Brian only wants 6 ounces, though. The only scale in the store weighs in grams. How many grams of coconut should Brian buy?

Mrs. King asked her students to write about Charles Lindbergh. There are 20 students in her class. Two-fifths did not do the writing. How many students did write about Lindbergh?

Kyle had three dollar bills, three quarters, and six nickels. He spent \$1.72 on a Groundhog Day poster. How much money does he have left?

Caleb packed strawberries in boxes. Each box held 1 kilogram of strawberries. If each strawberry weighed approximately 19 grams, how many strawberries should he put in each box? Assume 1 ounce is 28.3 grams.

Amber made 10 cookies on Blah Buster Day. She ate $\frac{1}{10}$ of them. Her brother ate 0.3 of the cookies. Her little sister ate $\frac{1}{10}$ of them. How many cookies were left?

Mr. and Mrs. Martin were taking their children to the National Kazoo Day parade in Middletown. It will take them thirty-seven minutes to drive to Middletown and find a place to watch the parade. The parade begins at 3:23 p.m. What is the latest time they can leave their house and be in Middletown ready to watch the parade when it starts?