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Contents

Imagine you were off to seek your fortune.....	3
2- The real-life Dracula wasn't a vampire. But he was a bloodthirsty monster!	6
3- Thomas Jefferson and the Big Cheese A true story from American history	9
4- Martin Luther King, Jr.	12
5- A Star-Spangled Story The birth of our national anthem	15
6- More Miracles for Helen Keller.....	18
7- Star Trek!.....	21
8- Arctic Disaster!.....	25
9- Animal Thieves Selling illegal pets is big business!.....	29
10- Abraham Lincoln	32
11- The History of Gum Fascinating facts about your favorite treat!.....	35
12- America's Lost Colony.....	38

Imagine you were off to seek **YOUR** fortune...

Close your eyes and imagine you can travel back in time. You're in California in 1850, just after the Gold Rush begins. You're still a child, but your life is completely different. In the diggings, your family may live in a tent, a rough shelter of pine boughs, or a tiny cabin. Your chores begin early in the morning when you haul water from the river, collect wood for the fire, or feed your family's animals before you watch your younger brothers or sisters. There is no school, but you will work hard all day long. Your parents need all the help you can give them. You might help your father pan for gold, or, if you're a boy, you may take his rifle and hunt for rabbits, quail, or squirrels. Girls might gather berries or edible plants in the forest. If your mother runs a restaurant out of your family's tent, you may wait on tables or wash dishes. You might sing, dance, or play an instrument to entertain miners—and get paid in gold dust or coins. When the saloons are empty, you can run a wet pin along the cracks in the floorboards to pick up any gold dust spilled by miners the night before. If you have any free time, you can play games with other kids. Or, if you're adventurous, you might sneak away to a Native American camp. The Pomo and Miwok Indians have lived in this area for generations. Maybe you could learn a few words of their languages, and trade gold dust or coins for deerskin moccasins. You might also learn how these Indians' lives have changed now that miners have taken over the land where the Indians hunt and fish. Later, you could pay a visit to some miners. Don't be surprised if they fuss over you and tell

you stories, make you toys, or teach you to read. Most miners have left their families behind, and they miss their children. Every once in a while, you might go to a dance nearby. If you're a girl, you'll be very popular. There are very few women in the diggings, so girls of all ages dance. Watch your bare feet around all those heavy boots! What do you think? Would you enjoy the danger, excitement, hardship, and the adventure of the California Gold Rush? Kids in the Gold Fields

1. What conclusion can you draw about the Gold Rush from this story? A. Everyone became very rich. B. Everyday life was not easy. C. Most miners brought their families with them.
2. Which of the following sentences is an opinion? D. Some miners lived in tents. E. Mining for gold was a waste of time. F. Kids in the diggings worked hard.
3. From the story, you could guess that the word edible means G. safe to eat. H. delicious. I. cool and green. J. poisonous.
4. Pomo and Miwok are Native American K. authors. L. articles of clothing. M. camps made of bark and wood. N. tribes.
5. According to this article, what chore might a kid living in the gold fields have had? O. vacuuming the carpets P. baby-sitting Q. mowing the yard
6. How did the miners affect the lives of Native Americans who lived nearby? R. Miners stole moccasins from them. S. Miners charged the Native Americans a toll to cross the rivers. T. Miners stayed on their land.
7. About how many years ago did the Gold Rush begin? X. 50 Y. 100 Z. 150

2- The real-life Dracula wasn't a vampire. But he was a bloodthirsty monster!

The Real Dracula Five hundred years ago, in a place called Transylvania, there was a man everyone knew as Dracula. He lived in a huge stone castle in the mountains. There, in the dark rooms, Dracula killed thousands of people. Even after he died, stories of his bloodthirsty ways terrified people in Europe. But this Dracula wasn't a vampire in a story or movie. He was a real man. He was a prince who ruled part of the area we now know as Romania. Despite his nasty ways, we probably would have forgotten all about Prince Dracula if it hadn't been for Bram Stoker, an Irish writer. During the late 1800s, Stoker was a newspaper editor, a theater critic, and a fiction writer. One day, someone told him about the legend of the evil Prince Dracula. Stoker was fascinated. He went to the library and read all he could about the real-life Dracula. He learned about Transylvania. He decided to turn Dracula into a true monster: a vampire. In 1897 he published his masterpiece, *Dracula*. The book is about a British man named Jonathan who goes to Transylvania. There, in a dark stone castle, he meets the strange Count Dracula. As Jonathan soon learns, the count is a vampire who survives by sucking the blood from human victims. The book was a huge hit. Thanks to Stoker, vampires became the world's most popular monster. Dozens of books, plays, movies, and TV shows have been inspired by Stoker's *Dracula*. But for Stoker, writing *Dracula* wasn't much fun. While he was writing,

he started acting strange. He had always been a gentleman. But suddenly, he started acting mean. His temper grew violent. Fortunately, Stoker became his sweet old self when he finished the book. “I don’t know what happened,” he told his family. “While I was writing the book, I seemed to be possessed by an evil spirit.” Maybe it was the spirit of the nasty Prince Dracula!

1. This article is mostly about A. living in a castle. B. life in Transylvania. C. why Bram Stoker became a vampire. D. how Bram Stoker based Count Dracula on a real man.
2. Transylvania is in the country that we now know as E. Great Britain. F. Romania. G. Ireland. H. Draculand.
3. In the article, where did Bram Stoker go to research the real-life Dracula? I. a castle in Transylvania J. the movies K. the Internet L. the library
4. Bram Stoker was all of the following, except M. a newspaper editor. N. a fiction writer. O. a prince. P. a theater critic.
5. Which of the following statements is an opinion? Q. The book Dracula was a huge hit. R. Vampires are cooler than werewolves. S. Bram Stoker was Irish. T. People in Europe were terrified of the real Dracula.
6. In the second to last paragraph, what does the word possessed mean? U. made fun of V. praised W. controlled X. owned
7. When Bram Stoker first heard the story of the real Dracula, he was A. angry. B. fascinated. C. terrified. D. sick to his stomach.
8. Another good title for this story would be E. “The True Story of Dracula.” F. “Look Out for Vampires!” G. “Great Vampire Recipes.” H. “Dracula: The Movie.”

3- Thomas Jefferson and the Big Cheese A true story from American history

Back in 1801, many Americans just loved President Thomas Jefferson. And why wouldn't they? Our third president was an American hero. He wrote the Declaration of Independence. He got the French to sell us the Louisiana Territory, which doubled the size of the United States. He was charming and intelligent. And he wasn't bad looking, if you don't mind a man who wears a white wig. One person who particularly admired President Jefferson was a man named John Leland. He was the minister of a Baptist church in Cheshire, Massachusetts. One day, Leland told everyone in town that he wanted to send a wonderful gift to President Jefferson. And he said he had the perfect gift idea: cheese. Not just any cheese. The biggest cheese that anyone had ever seen. A truly stupendous cheese. He asked everyone who loved President Jefferson to donate one day's worth of milk. The people of Cheshire loved the idea. On the appointed day, they all arrived with pails of milk curds. They mixed up the curds and pressed the cheese in a huge cider press. By the time the cheese was dried, it weighed more than 1,600 pounds. It was more than four feet in diameter and one foot thick. Leland and his neighbors hoisted the cheese up onto a sled. They hitched it up to a horse, and off Leland rode to Washington. He made the three-week journey by himself. He must have been quite a sight. When Leland got to Washington, he borrowed four horses and a wagon and brought his gift straight to the White House. And how did President Jefferson like the gift? He was thrilled! He had his servants bring it into the East Wing of the White House. He kept it there for more than a year. People came from far and

wide to admire this most unusual gift. A poet even wrote about it: “Some said ’twas Jefferson’s intent, to erect it as a monument.” Finally on July 4, 1802, President Jefferson decided it was time to share. He invited all his friends and fellow politicians to enjoy this most stupendous cheese. Most people agreed it was very tasty.

1. This article is mostly about A. how to make cheese. B. when an enormous cheese was given to President Jefferson. C. why Thomas Jefferson was popular. D. cheesy poetry.
2. When was Thomas Jefferson president of the United States? E. 1801–1809 F. 1807–1809 G. 1776–1801
3. What happened when the French sold the Americans the Louisiana Territory? H. The U.S. doubled in size. I. The French were furious. J. Americans had to learn French. K. French fries were invented.
4. Why did John Leland want to give the president a big cheese? L. Leland had too much cheese at home. M. Leland admired President Jefferson. N. Cheese is good for the brain.
5. Which of the following is an opinion? O. Cheese is the best present to give. P. Cheese is made from milk curds. Q. The people of Cheshire helped make the enormous cheese. R. The cheese John Leland made weighed more than 1,600 pounds.
6. In the fifth paragraph, what does the word hoisted mean? S. threw T. lifted U. melted V. yelled at
7. Which words best describe John Leland? W. greedy and jealous X. silly and forgetful Y. generous and hardworking Z. charming and intelligent
8. Which of these happens last in the story? A. Jefferson shares the cheese. B. Jefferson writes the Declaration of

Independence. ○ C. Leland delivers the cheese. ○ D. Leland asks the townspeople for milk.

4- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Can you imagine what it would have been like to have Martin Luther King, Jr., as your father? In fact, Dr. King was a father. He and his wife Coretta had four children. They had two sons, Martin Luther III and Dexter, and two daughters, Yolanda and Bernice. When the King children were growing up in Atlanta in the 1950s and 1960s, there was a great deal of discrimination against African Americans. Some white people did not believe that African Americans should be treated the same as whites. They believed, for example, that African Americans should have separate schools and hospitals and swimming pools. The King children watched as their father fought laws that made this sort of segregation legal. The King kids were among the first African-American children to go to school with white children. They traveled with their parents to meetings where thousands of people got together to protest racism. Every year, their father became more famous. But there were some terrifying moments.

Some people did not want segregation to end. Twice the King family's home was bombed. Both times the family escaped unharmed, but the children knew that their father's peaceful work put him—and them—in danger. In 1968 Dr. King was assassinated by a man named James Earl Ray. The oldest of the King children, Yolanda, was 13. The youngest, Bernice, was only 5. All of them walked alongside their mother at their father's funeral. Today, all of Dr. King's children are carrying on their father's work. Yolanda is an actress and filmmaker who teaches children about the cruelty of racism. Martin Luther III is the president of a civil-rights group. Dexter is the president of the King Center, an organization set up in honor of his father. Bernice, like her father, is a minister at a Baptist Church. In 1963 Dr. King said: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Today, those four children are grown up. And they are each working to bring their father's dream closer to reality.

1. What is the main idea of paragraph three? ○ A. Some thought that African Americans should go to different schools. ○ B. African Americans were discriminated against in the 1950s and 1960s. ○ C. Dr. King was African American. ○ D. Dr. King had four children.

2. The article is a work of ○ E. nonfiction. ○ F. fiction. ○ G. historical fiction.

3. What do you think the word segregation means in paragraph four? ○ H. going to school with white children ○ I. keeping people or groups apart ○ J. going to the hospital

4. The period in history that Dr. King was involved with is called ○ K. the American Revolution. ○ L. the Civil Rights movement. ○ M. the Great Depression. ○ N. the Civil War.

5. Which of the following is false? ○ O. Dr. King wanted blacks and whites to be treated equally. ○ P. Dr. King fought peacefully to end discrimination. ○ Q. Dr. King bombed his own home as a protest. ○ R. Dr. King was assassinated in 1968.

6. Why was the King family threatened? ○ S. because Dr. King was a minister ○ T. because they lived in Atlanta ○ U. because the King children met important people ○ V. because some people didn't want segregation to end

7. From reading this article, what do you know about Dr. King's kids? ○ W. They don't care about Dr. King's work. ○ X. They all still live in Atlanta. ○ Y. They are all involved in continuing their father's work. ○ Z. They all perform in schools.

5- A Star-Spangled Story The birth of our national anthem

How many times have you sung those words? Have you ever wondered what they mean and where they came from? The person to thank is a man named Francis Scott Key. He was a lawyer and a poet in the years after the Revolutionary War. Those were exciting times. America was newly independent from Great Britain. We were looking to expand west and to spread our wings as a new nation. But in 1812 we hit a big snag. We went to war with Great Britain. The War of 1812 was a mess, and by 1814, we were losing badly. In August, the British marched into Washington, D.C., and stormed into the deserted

White House, gobbled down a big dinner, and started setting fires. By the time they left, most of the city was in flames, including the White House, the Capitol building, and the Library of Congress. Meanwhile, Mr. Key was worried about his good friend, Dr. William Beanes. He had been seized by British soldiers and taken prisoner on a British ship. Mr. Key didn't just sit around and wait for news. He went looking for the British fleet. He found them on the Potomac River. Dr. Beanes was there. Mr. Key convinced the British that his friend had been imprisoned unfairly. They agreed to set him free. But not so fast. The British were about to launch an attack on Baltimore. The two Americans would have to wait on a ship and watch while the British bombed the city. It was a terrible night. The British fired more than 1,500 bombs, and troops stormed the shore. The sky turned black with smoke. Mr. Key kept his stinging eyes on the enormous American flag hanging over Fort McHenry. As long as that flag was raised, the American troops were surviving. In the morning, the bombing stopped and the smoke cleared. Our flag was still there! Mr. Key pulled an envelope out of his pocket and jotted down the words that would soon be famous: "Oh! Say, can you see, by the dawn's early light..." When he returned to Washington, D.C., the words were set to music. Everyone loved the song. And in 1931 "The Star-Spangled Banner" became our national anthem. Oh! Say can you see, By the dawn's early light...

1. What is this article mainly about? ○
A. the origin of our national anthem ○
B. how a lawyer rescued his friend ○
C. why we were at war with Britain ○
D. where the American flag was flying

2. In the third paragraph, the phrase “spread our wings” means
○ E. go to war. ○ F. honor the eagle as our national bird. ○ G. get airplanes for our soldiers. ○ H. learn how to grow and be on our own.
3. What was the “British fleet”? ○ I. British soldiers ○ J. British guns and cannons ○ K. the British flag ○ L. British ships
4. Which of the following is an opinion? ○ M. Francis Scott Key was a great poet. ○ N. The British fired more than 1,500 bombs on Baltimore. ○ O. Francis Scott Key was a lawyer. ○ P. Dr. Beanes was a prisoner. 5. What does the word jotted mean? ○ Q. wrote it down slowly and carefully ○ R. wrote it down quickly ○ S. wrote it in Spanish ○ T. wrote it in invisible ink
6. Which words best describe Mr. Key? ○ U. selfish and cowardly ○ V. confused and angry ○ W. loyal and brave ○ X. friendly and frightened
7. “The Star-Spangled Banner” was inspired by which war? ○ A. The Revolutionary War ○ B. The Civil War ○ C. The War of 1812 ○ D. The British-American War
8. Another good title for this article would be ○ E. “A Song for Our Nation.” ○ F. “Francis’s Favorite War.” ○ G. “Burning the Capitol.” ○ H. “How to Write an Anthem.”

6- More Miracles for Helen Keller

An unexpected hero I imagine the most famous person you know. Tiger Woods. Britney Spears. Prince William. Now think of this: Not one of them is as famous as Helen Keller was in her day. Back in the late 1800s, nobody believed that blind or deaf people could lead normal lives. Most were sent away from their homes. They lived in bleak schools that were more like prisons

than places to learn and grow. Few people believed that a person who was both blind and deaf could ever learn to communicate. But Annie Sullivan believed she could teach 7-year-old Helen Keller language. When Annie first met Helen in 1887, Helen was wild and angry. She spoke by grunting and screaming. Nobody, not even Helen's parents, believed Annie would succeed. And when she did succeed, news of this miracle spread far. Helen often said that she had spent her early childhood in a "dungeon of silence" and loneliness. Freed from this dungeon by Annie, Helen blossomed. By the age of 10, Helen was able to write and read Braille—an alphabet system based on raised dots that people can feel on a page. In addition to English, Helen also learned French and Greek. She even learned to talk clearly enough so that Annie could understand her. People all over the country wanted to witness Helen's miracle themselves. Writer Mark Twain, inventor Alexander Graham Bell, and President Grover Cleveland were just a few of the people who met with young Helen. When she got older, she went to Radcliffe College, the most selective women's college in the country. Annie went to all of Helen's lectures with her, and translated them into sign language. Helen graduated with honors. She became an author, writing 13 books and hundreds of articles. She and Annie traveled around the world. She learned to ride a horse and a bike. When she died, just before her 88th birthday, she had become one of America's great heroes. "Life," Helen once said, "is either a daring adventure or nothing."

1. What is this article mainly about? A. how to read Braille B. why Helen went deaf and blind C. the life of Helen Keller D. what happened to Annie Sullivan
2. How old was Helen when she met Annie? E. 7 F. 5 G. 10 H. 88
3. How was Helen freed from her “dungeon of silence”? I. Annie taught her to communicate. J. Annie unlocked the door. K. Annie arrived with a fire-breathing dragon.
4. Which of the following is an opinion? L. Deaf people can’t hear. M. Helen wrote books and articles. N. Blind people can’t ride horses.
5. In the fourth paragraph, what does the word blossomed mean? O. grew and improved P. sprouted leaves Q. became taller
6. Why did people want to meet Helen? R. They wanted to learn sign language. S. They wanted her to write their college essays. T. They were impressed with her accomplishments.
7. What is Braille? U. a system of writing and reading for blind people V. a way of speaking with your hands W. a piece of hair that has been woven X. a French alphabet
8. Another good title for this article is A. “Helen Learns to Read.” B. “Helen and Mark Twain.” C. “Helen Keller: An American Hero.” D. “Life Is a Daring Adventure.”

7- Star Trek!

A new space laboratory makes history Star Trek! Years ago, someone had an idea that was out of this world. What if countries from around the globe could get together and build a gigantic spacecraft? The craft would be an enormous moving laboratory that would orbit the Earth. Teams of astronauts from different countries could live on that craft, working together to

conduct important scientific experiments. Imagine what the world could learn about space! Some people said it couldn't be done. But as you read this, that fantastic idea is becoming a reality. The International Space Station (known as ISS) is currently orbiting the Earth, 220 miles above the ground. It is, in fact, the third-brightest object in the night sky, after the moon and Venus. How did it happen? The ISS is being constructed like a gigantic Lego® airship. Large pieces, called modules, are rocketed into space. Astronauts connect the pieces on risky space walks while moving at speeds of up to 17,500 miles per hour. That's like trying to build a car while it's speeding around a track! The crews load supplies into the different modules and connect wiring so computer data and electricity can flow between modules. The ISS isn't the most luxurious place; the living module is about as long as your average classroom. But astronauts will have everything they need to survive in space. The thick walls will protect astronauts from space temperatures, which can rise to 250°F and drop to -250°F. Breathable air is piped through the station from special tanks. Water is brought up in tanks and then recycled through filters. (Don't be grossed out, but even astronaut urine is filtered and used for drinking. It's cleaner than most tap water!) Certainly life in space has its dangers. Many astronauts worry the most about space debris—junk from old spacecrafts and satellites—and rocks from deep space. If even a tiny object hits the station, the force could cause catastrophic damage. For the men and women who train for years to become astronauts, nothing compares with the excitement of going into space. "I've wanted to be an astronaut since the fourth grade," says Jerry Ross, an American astronaut

who “can’t wait” to join another ISS mission. “The risks are a small price for the experience of going into space. And I really want to believe that what we will discover there will be enormously important for mankind.”

1. What is this article mainly about? ○ A. scientific experiments in space ○ B. why space is dangerous ○ C. the making of the International Space Station ○ D. how to build a Lego® airship

2. Currently, what is the third-brightest object in the night sky?
○ E. the ISS ○ F. Venus ○ G. the moon ○ H. the sun

3. What does it mean when an idea is “out of this world”? ○ I. insane ○ J. hard to understand ○ K. fantastic ○ L. scientific

4. What does the word debris mean? ○ M. frozen astronaut food ○ N. life on other planets ○ O. scattered pieces of something that has been broken or destroyed

5. Which of the following statements is false? ○ P. Different countries are working together to build the International Space Station. ○ Q. The ISS orbits the Earth 220 miles above the ground. ○ R. Building the ISS is as easy as building a Lego® airship. ○ S. A tiny space rock can damage the ISS.

6. Why does Jerry Ross want to go back into space? ○ T. He thinks important discoveries will be made. ○ U. He wants to learn Russian. ○ V. He likes a certain restaurant on Mars. ○ W. He wants to leave his footprints on the moon.

7. Another good title for this article would be ○ A. “The Space Shuttle.” ○ B. “Station in the Sky.” ○ C. “An Adventure to the Moon.” ○ D. “An Astronaut’s Life.”

8- Arctic Disaster!

People who tried to explore the Arctic I imagine driving a dogsled across dangerous Arctic ice. Cold wind bites at your face. Your fingers are frozen. It's snowing so hard you can barely see the black ears of your dog. The temperature is fifty below zero. You're lost. What do you do? Modern Arctic explorers can radio for help in emergencies. Helicopters can swoop in and rescue them. Many early Western explorers went to the Arctic to map it or look for passageways to improve trade.

But they were on their own when they became lost or stranded. The history of polar exploration is full of disasters. One of the first occurred in 1553, when Englishman Sir Hugh Willoughby and his crew died after their boat was blocked by ice. They didn't have the proper clothing or food to survive the winter. Today's explorers can choose from high-tech, waterproof fabrics that protect the skin from damaging cold. Special boots protect toes from frostbite. But early explorers usually wore leather boots. Sometimes their feet got so numb their socks would burn before they felt the heat of a fire! Food and vitamins were another problem. The freeze-dried foods, nutrition bars, and vitamins of today weren't available. Explorers often suffered from scurvy, a painful disease caused by the lack of vitamin C. The most famous Arctic disaster was the Franklin expedition. In 1845 Sir John Franklin set out from England with two of the best ships available. When Franklin vanished, at least 40 search parties were sent out. Eventually the remains of the party were found. Some of the men had died from cold or starvation. Scientists now believe some of the men were poisoned from eating tins of food that weren't prepared properly. The thick pack ice of the Arctic also caused serious problems for early expeditions. Many explorers had to continue by foot when their boats were crushed by ice. Today, boats are equipped with thick steel hulls to cut through ice. Modern technology can also locate dangerous icebergs. And, now that the area has been mapped, there's less danger of getting lost. Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson, who discovered the North Pole in 1909, were two of the most successful Arctic explorers. Their secret? They spent years living with and learning from the native people, the Inuit. Peary

and Henson traveled on sleds like the Inuit, wore the same fur boots and parkas, slept in igloos, and learned to hunt and eat the same foods. Their respect for the Inuit way of life helped save their lives.

1. What is this article mainly about? A. what to wear and eat in the Arctic B. ships used for Arctic exploration C. who discovered the North Pole D. the history of polar exploration
2. When were Sir Hugh Willoughby and his crew stranded in the Arctic? E. 1999 F. 1845 G. 1909 H. 1553
3. In paragraph two, what does the word stranded mean? I. not sitting J. drowned K. needed supplies L. left somewhere without a way of getting out

4. Why couldn't Willoughby's and Franklin's crews be saved?
○ M. They didn't wear the right shoes. ○ N. They were too cold to call for help. ○ O. Airplanes and radios had not been invented yet. ○ P. They were far from home.

5. Which of the following did Peary and Henson not learn from the Inuit? ○ Q. how to hunt for food ○ R. how to avoid dangerous icebergs ○ S. how to travel on sleds ○ T. what kind of fur boots to wear

6. What does polar exploration mean? ○ U. exploring the people of Poland ○ V. traveling through ice ○ W. exploring the North and South Poles ○ X. searching for big, white bears

7. What three kinds of transportation are mentioned in the article? ○ A. canoes, boats, airplanes ○ B. dogsleds, skis, airplanes ○ C. dogsleds, ships, helicopters ○ D. snowmobiles, boats, canoes

8. Another good title for this article is ○ E. "Early Arctic Exploration." ○ F. "Modern Technology Helps Ships." ○ G. "Discovering the North Pole." ○ H. "No Telephones in the Arctic."

9- Animal Thieves Selling illegal pets is big business!

The Animal Thieves His name is Anson Wong, and he was one of the world's most dangerous thieves. He didn't rob banks or steal jewels. He stole animals from the wild—endangered and deadly animals. His specialty was the Komodo dragon, the world's largest land lizard. Wong earned millions of dollars selling his stolen animals to collectors around the world.

Wildlife experts celebrated when Wong was finally caught and put in jail. But animal smuggling remains a huge—and

growing—problem around the world. “There are people in the United States and around the world who want to own exotic animals as pets,” says Craig Hoover, an expert who works for the World Wildlife Fund. “As long as there are people willing to pay thousands of dollars for these animals, there will be people like Anson Wong willing to smuggle the animals out of the wild.” Dozens of different bird and reptile species are the victims of this illegal business. Endangered breeds of parrots, rare giant lizards and tortoises, and deadly snakes are especially popular with collectors. Smugglers steal the animals or eggs from native habitats like jungles and rain forests. They then sneak them into countries where they can be sold as pets. Their smuggling methods are often cruel. “They pack snakes and lizards into suitcases and drug birds before stuffing them into tires or tennis ball cans,” says Hoover. “These people will do anything.” Of course, many animals die during their journeys. This business has hurt many animal populations. “Thieves will go into a rain forest and steal hundreds of eggs from a single area,” says Hoover. For a species already threatened or endangered, this kind of theft can be devastating. Animal smuggling endangers humans, as well. Often someone will buy an exotic animal without having any idea how to care for it. Every year, for example, dozens of people in the United States are bitten by deadly snakes that were illegally sold as pets. One Florida man died in 2001 from a cobra bite. “This is an evil business,” says Don Bruning, a bird specialist who works at the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York City. “It’s wonderful that people are interested in unusual animals. But no one should be selling endangered or dangerous animals. And no

matter how much money a person has to spend, they should never be able to buy a priceless part of our natural world.”

1. What is a Komodo dragon? ○ A. a large land lizard ○ B. a fire-breathing monster ○ C. a large flying insect ○ D. an exotic red flower

2. What would probably happen if people stopped buying exotic animals? ○ E. Animal smuggling would stop. ○ F. Animal smuggling would become legal. ○ G. Animal smuggling would become a bigger problem. ○ H. Animal smuggling would not change.

3. You can tell that the author of this article thinks I. parrots make good pets. J. animal smuggling is an exciting job. K. Craig Hoover is a nice man. L. animal smuggling is bad.

4. From the cruel ways they transport animals, you can guess that animal smugglers M. are very wealthy. N. don't really care about the animals' comfort or happiness. O. must not have pets. P. are breaking the law.

5. Which of the following statements is an opinion? Q. Anson Wong committed crimes. R. Komodo dragons are endangered. S. Animal thieves are evil people. T. A Florida man was killed by a snake.

6. What is the main purpose of this article? U. to tell you how to get exotic animals V. to encourage you to keep pets W. to inform you about animal smuggling X. to warn you about poisonous snakes

10- Abraham Lincoln

Our nation's hero wasn't always considered heroic Abraham Lincoln Abraham Lincoln was one of America's greatest

presidents. He led our country through one of the most frightening times in its history, the Civil War, when the North was fighting the South, and it seemed like our country would crack in two. Today we honor Lincoln as a hero—the simple boy from the Illinois woods who became one of our bravest, wisest leaders. We celebrate his birthday, live in towns named after him, and fill our piggybanks with pennies that feature his famous profile. More books have been written about Abraham Lincoln than about any other American in history. So you might be surprised to learn that back in 1861, when the Civil War began, most Americans did not consider Lincoln a hero at all. In fact, he was the most hated president America had ever known. Lincoln was hated in the South because he wanted to free the slaves. Many southern farmers depended on slaves for free labor, and they were furious that Lincoln wanted to take their slaves away. Many southerners felt so strongly that they wanted the southern states to join together and become a separate country altogether! On the other hand, many in the North thought that Lincoln was a coward for not having freed the slaves already. They didn't care about the southern states' threat to break away. Many blamed Lincoln for the Civil War, which was the bloodiest war America had ever known. More than 600,000 people were killed during that terrible war. Lincoln's heart broke for each one. "Sometimes I think I'm the tireddest man on earth," he said. Another person might have withered from the pressure and criticism. But Lincoln was tough. He refused to give up the fight to keep our country whole. In 1862, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all the slaves in the southern states. Finally, on April 9, 1864, the South

surrendered and the Civil War finally ended. Lincoln said, “I never felt so happy in my life.” Tragically, just five days later, an angry southerner shot and killed Lincoln as he and his wife were watching a play. A great president was lost. But his achievements endure.

1. In the Civil War, who fought against the northern American states? A. slaves B. the southern American states C. England D. Indians
2. This article is mostly about E. great U.S. presidents. F. battles of the Civil War. G. Abraham Lincoln’s presidency. H. slavery.

3. Why did Lincoln say he was “the tiredest man on earth”? I. His sadness over the soldiers’ deaths made him weary. J. He always stayed up late reading. K. The job of being president was too hard for him. L. He was tired of slavery.

4. How would you describe Lincoln after reading this article? M. evil and pushy N. tall and handsome O. tough but kind P. weak and sickly

5. Which of the following is an opinion? Q. 600,000 died in the Civil War. R. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862. S. Abraham Lincoln was a great president. T. In 1861, most people hated Lincoln.

6. During his presidency, most people _____ President Lincoln. U. loved V. admired W. had no opinion about X. hated

11- The History of Gum Fascinating facts about your favorite treat!

The History of Gum Got the urge to chew? Maybe you should go out to the garage and rip off a nice chunk of car tire. Not your idea of a tasty treat? A nice chunk of chewing gum is probably more like it. But there is a link between car tires and chewing gum, as a quick trip through the halls of gum history will show

you. The history of gum begins thousands of years ago, when prehistoric men and women chewed on lumps of tree resin (a sticky brownish substance that oozes from trees). The ancient Greeks chewed on resin, and so did Native Americans. Early settlers to New England loved to chew too. Gum made from spruce tree resin was a popular treat among early Americans. The first big breakthrough in modern gum technology came in 1869, when a young New Yorker named Thomas Adams began experimenting with chicle (resin from sapodilla trees). He thought he could combine chicle with rubber and invent a new material for making tires. His experiments were disastrous, but then Adams had another idea. If people couldn't drive on his chicle, maybe they could chew on it! Before long, Adams New York No. 1 chicle gum was all the rage. By the late 1800s, the gum business was booming. A new product called Dentyne came out, promising to help "dental hygiene." Around 1900, an inventive gum maker coated small pieces of chicle gum with candy and Chiclets were born. The first bubble gum, called Blibber-Blubber, was invented in 1906, but it never sold. It was so sticky that if it popped on your skin, it was impossible to remove! It was in 1928 that Walter Diemer accidentally invented Double Bubble, the first successful bubble gum. Diemer was an accountant who liked to experiment with new gum recipes in his spare time. One day, without specifically trying to, he happened to hit upon the perfect bubble gum recipe. He added pink dye because pink was the only color left on the shelf, then carried a five-pound lump of the gum to a local grocery store. It sold out that afternoon. So, what will "pop" up

next in the ever-evolving history of gum? That's something for you to chew on!

1. This article is mostly about A. how gum is made. B. why chewing gum is better than chewing tires. C. the invention of Chiclets. D. the history of gum.

2. Blibber-Blubber was unsuccessful because E. it was too sticky. F. it tasted bad. G. people thought blowing bubbles was rude. H. the pieces were too big.

3. Chicle is made from the resin of _____ trees. I. spruce J. sapodilla K. maple L. chiclet

4. Why did Thomas Adams decide to use his chicle to make gum instead of tires? M. He thought he could make more money from gum than tires. N. There was a shortage of rubber. O. His efforts to invent tires were a failure. P. A fortuneteller advised him to.

5. When did people first chew tree resin? Q. thousands of years ago R. no one knows S. 1869 T. 1928

6. Which of the following happened last? U. Thomas Adams invented chicle gum. V. Bubble gum was invented. W. Chiclets were invented. X. Ancient Greeks chewed tree resin.

12- America's Lost Colony

Has the mystery of Roanoke finally been solved? In 1587, 117 people set sail from England for America. They were the first English colonists, families eager to start fresh lives in a new world. They had been sent by Queen Elizabeth's most trusted advisor, Sir Walter Raleigh. They were headed to the bountiful shores of Chesapeake Bay, near present-day Maryland. Raleigh

was hopeful the settlement would be a huge success for the colonists—and for him. A thriving colony would make Raleigh even more important in Queen Elizabeth’s court. But the colonists never reached Chesapeake Bay. For mysterious reasons, the admiral of their fleet of ships sent them ashore one hundred miles south, on a sandy island known as Roanoke. Then the ships sailed away. The colonists knew they were in trouble the moment they landed on Roanoke. The year before, a group of English soldiers had built a fort on the island. The soldiers had made enemies of the area’s Native American tribes. The colonists weren’t safe on Roanoke. Plus, the sandy soil was unsuitable for planting. They would starve without fresh supplies. Within a week of landing, the colonists’ leader, John White, set sail back to England. He promised to return in three months with supplies. But a war between England and Spain made his return impossible for three years. When White finally returned to Roanoke, he was shocked by what he found: nothing. He could not find one trace of the colony. Brokenhearted, White returned to England. So what happened to the colonists? And why had they been left on Roanoke in the first place? New research suggests that they were actually doomed before they left England. Sir Walter Raleigh had made enemies in Queen Elizabeth’s court. These men knew the failure of the colony would help ruin Raleigh’s reputation. So they persuaded the admiral of the fleet to leave the colonists at Roanoke. The colonists, they knew, would be massacred by hostile Native Americans. Raleigh would be destroyed. And nobody would discover the evil plot. Unfortunately for the 117 colonists, the plan worked all too well.

1. This article is mostly about ○ A. Queen Elizabeth. ○ B. America's first English colony. ○ C. life in the 16th century. ○ D. wars between Native Americans and settlers.

2. Which of the following is a fact? ○ E. Raleigh's enemies were evil. ○ F. The story of Roanoke is mysterious. ○ G. The Native Americans had a right to hate the English colonists. ○ H. The colonists were originally headed for Chesapeake Bay.

3. Who was Sir Walter Raleigh? I. an adviser to Queen Elizabeth J. the leader of the colonists K. the admiral of the fleet of ships that left the colonists at Roanoke L. an enemy of Queen Elizabeth's

4. You can guess that life for the colonists in Roanoke was M. happy and peaceful. N. boring and predictable. O. difficult and frightening. P. fun and exciting.

5. Why did John White originally leave Roanoke?

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