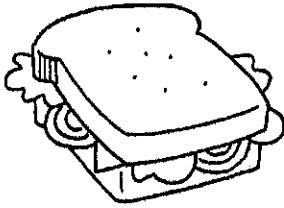


Text 2 Why is a sandwich called a sandwich?

Where Did We Get That Word?

The dancer put a cardigan sweater over her leotard. Then she sat down to eat a sandwich. *Cardigan*, *leotard*, *sandwich*—where did these words come from? Did you know that each of them was a person's name? Words that come from proper names are called *eponyms*, and there are many eponyms in English.



The sandwich, for example, was named for John Montagu, the Earl of Sandwich. He lived from 1718–1792. He loved to play cards and did not want to stop a game even to eat. By putting cold meat between two pieces of bread, he could eat while he played.

The cardigan sweater was named for an officer in the British army. In the 1800s, James Thomas Brudenell, the Earl of Cardigan, spent his own money to buy special knitted jackets for the men in his regiment. Knitted jackets with buttons soon came to be called *cardigans*.

Jules Leotard was a French circus performer. In 1859, at the age of twenty-one, Leotard performed the first mid-air somersault. He became known as the “daring young man on the flying trapeze.” Leotard invented a close-fitting one-piece suit to wear when he performed. Dancers and acrobats still call their close-fitting garments *leotards*.

Another person who gave her name to a style of clothing was Amelia Bloomer. Bloomer was the editor of a magazine called *The Lily*. American women in her day were expected to wear heavy skirts that dragged on the floor. In 1851, a young woman named Elizabeth Smith Miller introduced a new kind of clothing that was much easier to move around in. She wore a dress that came only to the knees. Under it she wore baggy pants that fitted close at the ankles. Amelia Bloomer published a picture of the outfit in *The Lily*. She hoped women would adopt the new style. In news stories, reporters called the pants “bloomers.” A hundred years later, people were still using the word *bloomers* for pants worn under a dress.



There are many other words that come from people's names. The *diesel* engine was named for its inventor, Rudolf Diesel. The word *boycott* comes from the name of an English landlord named Charles Boycott. Where each word came from is a story in itself. Who knows, maybe your name will become a word someday.

1. Which of these word stories would best fit in this article?

- Ⓐ *Armadillo* comes from a Spanish word meaning "armed." The animal's hard shell looks like armor.
- Ⓑ *Braille* is a system of writing for the blind that was developed by Louis Braille.
- Ⓒ *Cricket* is a word that imitates the sound a cricket makes.
- Ⓓ *Dynamite* comes from a Greek word meaning "power." Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, created the word.

2. Which of these words came from a person's name?

- Ⓕ trapeze
- Ⓖ editor
- Ⓗ boycott
- Ⓙ acrobat

3. What is this article mainly about?

4. Why did the Earl of Sandwich invent the "sandwich"?

5. What are "bloomers," and where did the word *bloomers* come from?



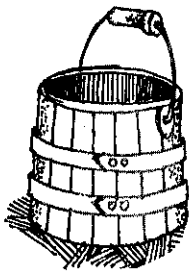
Text 7 What is a bucket brigade?

Fighting Fires

Nothing gets people moving faster than the word *fire*. When someone yells “Fire!” most people dash for the exits. Their only thought is to get out of the building fast. Firefighters, on the other hand, race just as quickly toward the fire. They want to put out the blaze as fast as possible.

There are more than one million firefighters in the United States today. They are trained to put out fires.

Back in the 1600s, though, there were no trained firefighters. Putting out fires was everyone’s job. Cities and towns had no indoor plumbing, running water, or fire hydrants, so water from a pond, river, or well had to be carried to the fire in buckets. When a fire broke out, everyone ran to help. They formed a bucket



brigade. Men formed one line leading from the water supply and passed buckets of water to throw on the fire. Women and children formed another line, sending empty buckets back to be filled. It was a very slow way to put out a fire, and many homes burned to the ground before they could be saved.

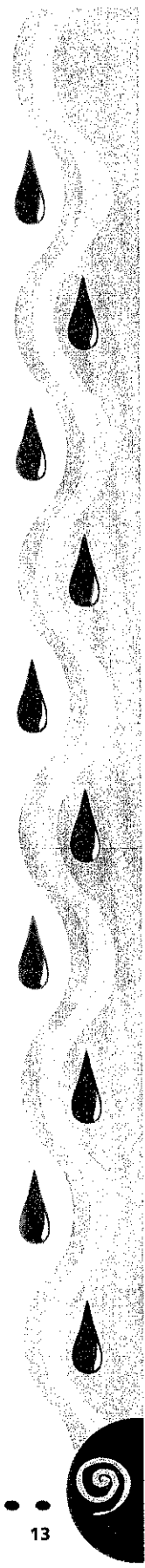
Then in 1736, Benjamin Franklin came up with the idea for a fire department. He convinced a group of people in Philadelphia to form the Union Fire Company. They became the first official volunteer firefighters.

Today, three out of four American firefighters are volunteers. These brave men and women do not get paid for their work, but they are in good company. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Paul Revere were all volunteer firefighters, too, in their day.

1. People formed “bucket brigades” to —
- (A) prevent fires from starting.
 - (B) put out fires.
 - (C) rescue people trapped in a fire.
 - (D) warn other people about a fire.

2. How did a bucket brigade work?

3. How, when, and where was the first fire company formed?



Text 8 *What makes you special?*

On Being Yourself

Everyone likes to feel that he or she is special.

Unfortunately, many of us grow up believing that we're not special at all. We wish that we could be better at sports or more attractive. We wish we had nicer clothes or more money. Like the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, or the Cowardly Lion from *The Wizard of Oz*, we believe we're not good enough just as we are. In the movie, the Scarecrow wishes that he had a brain. The Tin Man wishes he had a heart, and the Lion wants courage. In the end, each of them realizes that he already has what he needs.

Most parents want us to be the best we can be. They sometimes try to encourage us to do better by comparing us to others. They mean well, but the message we often get is that we're not good enough. We begin to believe that the only way we can be special is by being better

than someone else, but we are often disappointed. There will always be someone out there who is better than we are at something. There are plenty of people around who may not be as smart as we are but who are better at sports. Or they may not be as good-looking, but they have more money. It is impossible for us to be better than everyone else all the time.

Like the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion, we all want what we believe will make us better people. What we don't realize is that often we already have inside us the very things that we seek. Parents sometimes forget to tell us that we *are* special, that we are good enough just as we are. Maybe no one told them when *they* were growing up, or maybe they just forgot. Either way, it's up to us to remind them from time to time that each of us, in our own way, is special. What we are . . . is enough.

- 1. This essay was most likely written by a —**
 - (A) young person.
 - (B) parent.
 - (C) teacher.
 - (D) coach.
- 2. The author of this essay believes that —**
 - (F) not everyone can be special.
 - (G) smart people are more special than others.
 - (H) the richer you are, the better you are.
 - (J) we are all good enough just the way we are.

3. Why does the author believe it is not a good idea to compare yourself to others in order to feel special?

4. Why does the author discuss characters from *The Wizard of Oz* in this essay? What point is the author trying to make?

5. What makes you special? Write a paragraph telling what you like about yourself.



Text 9 Who was Sequoyah?

Sequoyah

Imagine a man who cannot read or write. Now imagine that same man creating a brand new alphabet from scratch. It sounds next to impossible, doesn't it? Yet that is exactly what one man did—a man named Sequoyah.

Born around 1770 in Tennessee, Sequoyah was a Cherokee. Like other Native Americans of that time, he could neither read nor write. He couldn't help noticing, though, how white people wrote to one another on sheets of paper. They often used these "talking leaves," as some Native Americans called them, to communicate.

Back then, the Cherokee had no way to write down words in their own language. Sequoyah believed it was important for the Cherokee to have a system of writing. So, in 1809, he set out to create an alphabet that the Cherokee could use to do just that.

Sequoyah started by drawing pictures, with each one representing a different word or idea. He soon realized that writing sentences using pictures would be much too difficult. There were too many words. No one would ever be able to remember that many pictures.

Sequoyah decided to try a different approach. He began to develop symbols to stand for the sounds, or syllables, that made up words. Twelve years later, he completed a system of writing with 86 different symbols. Each one stood for a different syllable in the Cherokee language. The symbols could easily be put together to form words. Soon thousands of Cherokee were able to read and write in their own language.

Sequoyah's work did not end there, however. He helped to establish a print shop and began publishing a bilingual newspaper in both Cherokee and English. The shop also printed books translated from English into Cherokee. In later years, Sequoyah also became a political leader among the Cherokee.



Sequoyah died in 1843, but many Cherokee of today still use the alphabet he invented. Thanks to him, the Cherokee now have a written history that will never be forgotten. In honor of his achievements, Sequoyah's name was given to the giant redwood trees of California and the Sequoia National Park. The name of Sequoyah will never be forgotten either.

1. Sequoyah is best remembered for —
 - (A) not being able to read or write.
 - (B) being raised as a Cherokee.
 - (C) drawing pictures to represent words or ideas.
 - (D) inventing a written language for the Cherokee.

2. White people used “talking leaves” to communicate. What were “talking leaves”?

3. Which did Sequoyah do just after he completed the set of symbols for the Cherokee language?
 - (F) He drew pictures to represent words and ideas.
 - (G) He began growing giant redwood trees.
 - (H) He helped to start a printing press and a newspaper.
 - (J) He became a political leader.

4. Give one reason why Sequoyah's invention was important to the Cherokee.

5. What did the people of the United States do to honor Sequoyah?



Text 10 What is this Harry Potter book about?

The World of Harry Potter

How would you like to wake up one morning and discover that you're really a wizard? That is what happens to Harry Potter in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, a novel written by J.K. Rowling.

Harry, an orphan, has spent most of his ten years living with his mean relatives, the Dursleys. His Uncle Vernon and Aunt Petunia treat him like dirt. Their son Dudley is a big bully who picks on Harry every chance he gets.

Harry sleeps in a tiny closet under the stairs and wishes that someone someday would come take him away. But that hasn't happened yet. Harry has all but given up hope that it ever will.

A few days before Harry's eleventh birthday, strange letters begin arriving. They are addressed to Harry. His aunt and uncle,

though, won't let him read them—that is, until a giant named Hagrid delivers one in person. That's when Harry learns that he is a wizard. He has just been accepted as a student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Just like that, Harry Potter goes from being a nobody to being a famous wizard. Who would have guessed? Not only that, but Harry also discovers that his parents didn't die in a car crash after all. They were done in by an evil wizard, a wizard so powerful that everyone is afraid even to say his name: Voldemort.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is a beautifully written fantasy. If you love action, you won't be disappointed. It is very funny and imaginative, and it will keep you reading long past your bedtime.



1. In this book, Harry Potter finds out that he is —

- (A) an orphan.
- (B) a giant.
- (C) an author.
- (D) a wizard.

2. How does the author of this book review feel about *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*? How can you tell?

Text 19 Which part of Africa was known as the Land of Gold?

Kingdoms of Gold: The Empires of West Africa

The kingdoms of West Africa are not nearly as well known as those of ancient Egypt and Nubia. Yet there was a time when rulers of this region were thought to be the richest kings in all the world. From about A.D. 300 to 1700, three great empires flourished in the lands just to the south of the Sahara Desert. These were the empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay.

The Empire of Ghana

Today, *Ghana* is the name of a West African country on the Atlantic coast. It was not part of the ancient empire of Ghana, though. The country of Ghana adopted the name in 1957 in honor of the ancient empire of Ghana.

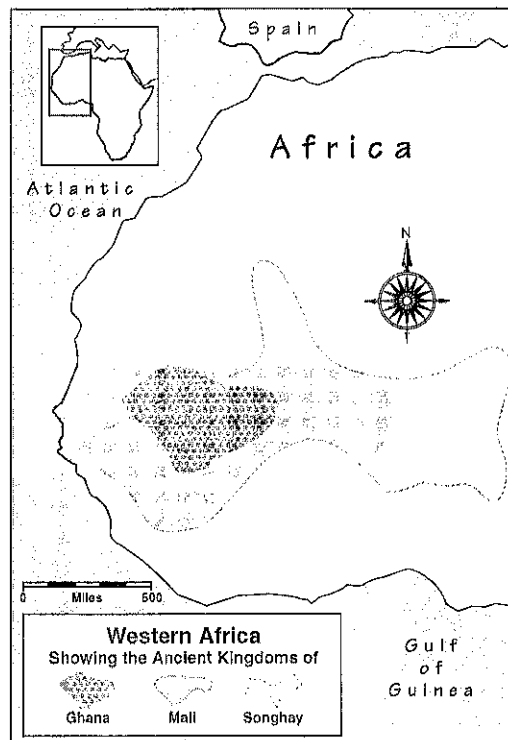
The word *Ghana* actually means "warrior-king." It was a title given to the rulers of the Soninke people who called their homeland *Wagadu*. *Wagadu* was located at the edge of the Sahara Desert, far from the ocean.

The Soninke people were highly skilled in metal working. For many years they were the only people in the region who knew how to forge iron. This skill helped them become powerful. Metal tools made their farms more productive. One farmer could grow enough food for many people. This left more people free to follow other occupations. Many men became soldiers. Using metal swords and spears, they easily conquered rivals whose weapons were made of wood or stone.

As *Wagadu* grew in size and power, it became an important center of trade. The regions around it had a variety of

resources. The most important of these were gold and salt. Gold came from secret locations in the south. There was so much gold that the Ghana king had to control the supply carefully. Otherwise, it might become too common and lose its value.

Salt, on the other hand, was very scarce. Because people need salt to live, it was literally worth its weight in gold. Most of the salt came from the Taghaza mines in the Sahara Desert. Traders bringing salt through *Wagadu* had to pay a large tax in gold. The gold went to the king, who used it to keep the army and the government strong. *Wagadu* had so much gold that the first Arabic writer to write about it called it the *Land of Gold*.



Influence of the Arabs

By the year 680, powerful Arab armies had conquered most of North Africa. When they reached Morocco, they heard about a land of gold across the desert. They sent an army south to conquer it. The Arabs were surprised by the power of the Wagadu army. They decided it would be wiser to trade with these people than to fight them.

The people of Wagadu had no written language until the Arabs came. The earliest accounts of life in Wagadu were written by Arabs. They called the kingdom *Biland Ghana*, "the land of the warrior-king." This was shortened to *Ghana*. That is why the first great West African kingdom is called Ghana rather than Wagadu.

1. In a social studies textbook, this article would most likely be included in a unit called —
 - (A) "The Age of Exploration."
 - (B) "Ancient African Kingdoms."
 - (C) "The Arab World."
 - (D) "The History of Songhay."

2. What did the word *Ghana* originally mean?
 - (A) a country on the Atlantic coast of Africa
 - (B) a country south of the Sahara Desert
 - (C) the people of Wagadu
 - (D) a ruler of the Soninke people



3. How did skill in forging iron help make the Soninke people powerful?

4. Why was salt so expensive? Give two reasons.



Helen Keller

Helen Keller was born June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Though not wealthy, her father owned a cotton plantation, and was the editor of a weekly newspaper called *The Alabamian*. Helen's growth was normal until she was 19 months old when she became very ill with a high fever. Helen's doctors did not know what was wrong with her but told her parents that she would probably die. Doctors now believe that Helen most likely had scarlet fever or meningitis, diseases that cause high fevers. Helen's high fever eventually went away, and it looked like she would get better, but Helen's mother noticed that she did not respond to sounds like the dinner bell, and she did not blink if somebody waved a hand in front of her face. Helen survived the illness but lost her eyesight and hearing. Helen was blind and deaf.

Helen was frustrated because she could not see or hear and had to rely on touch to discover the world. This frustration led to many behavior problems; Helen had terrible temper tantrums and horrible table manners. At dinner, she would move around the table eating off everyone's plates. Her relatives thought she needed to be placed in an institution because her parents could not control her. Helen's mother decided to look for help, and she found a doctor who specialized in the deaf and blind. This doctor told her to contact Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who also worked with the deaf. Dr. Bell believed Helen could be taught, and he helped her mother find Anne Sullivan, a teacher.

Anne suffered from vision problems herself but had operations to improve her eyesight. Despite the operations, Anne had trouble finding a job. When the offer came to teach Helen, Anne agreed even though she had no experience teaching the deaf and blind. Anne began by teaching Helen to finger spell and by trying to correct Helen's bad behavior. Helen's behavior improved, but she did not truly understand finger spelling until April 5, 1887, when Anne poured water into one of Helen's hands and finger spelled the word water on the palm of Helen's other hand. Helen finally understood what Anne was saying, and from that point, Helen quickly learned hundreds of words.

Helen eventually learned Braille, an alphabet of raised dots that blind people feel with their fingers and even went on to graduate from college with Anne by her side the entire time. Helen became a writer and lecturer, working to improve life for blind and deaf people. Anne worked with Helen translating so audiences could hear what Helen had written or signed. Helen and Anne lived and worked together for many years making the country a better place for the blind and deaf.

- 1.) How did Helen Keller show her frustration at not being able to see or hear?
- A. Helen was meek and would not leave her room.
 - B. Helen decided not to attend school.
 - C. Helen threw temper tantrums.
 - D. Helen refused to leave her house.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

2.) What does the word institution mean as it is used in the passage?

- A. The place where Helen met Anne Sullivan.
- B. A form of punishment.
- C. An established custom or practice.
- D. An organization that cares for the disabled.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

3.) What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. With Anne's help, Helen learns to communicate despite being blind and deaf.
- B. Anne has operations on her eyes and is able to get a job.
- C. Helen has terrible temper tantrums because she can't communicate.
- D. Anne helps Helen graduate from college.

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4.) Why did Anne Sullivan have a hard time finding a job?

- A. Anne had no experience teaching.
- B. There weren't many blind and deaf people to teach.
- C. Anne had poor vision despite many operations.
- D. Anne never finished school.

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Confident

Confident

5.) What day was a great turning point in Helen Keller's life?

- A. The day she was unable to control her temper tantrums.
- B. The day she understood the word water as it was written in her hand.
- C. The day she published an essay about blindness.
- D. The day she lectured about people with disabilities.

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Confident

Confident

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't Like It At All 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 I Really Liked It

Connecting: Write a paragraph about what it would be like to go to school if you could not see nor hear? What would be your greatest challenges?

Hurricanes

Hurricanes are large tropical storms that develop in the oceans of the world. Hurricanes gather heat and energy from the warm ocean water. The heat from these warm currents increases the power of the hurricane. Hurricanes that remain over warm water usually get bigger and stronger, but they weaken once they get over land. Hurricanes are storms that are given names, and a new list of names is created each year. The first hurricane name starts with the letter A, like Ashley, and the names move through the alphabet as more hurricanes form.

Hurricane clouds move in a circle around a point called the eye, which is the center of the storm. To be called a hurricane, a storm must have wind speeds of at least 74 miles per hour. When a hurricane comes ashore, there are heavy rains, large waves and strong winds that cause damage to buildings, cars and trees. Also, flooding can occur when large waves called storm surges hit the beaches. Storm surges are the main reason people are told to leave beach towns and move inland when a hurricane approaches. Hurricanes move very slowly though, so people have a chance to get out of the way.

During the official hurricane season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30, these large storms sometimes hit coastal areas of the United States. As these hurricanes approach, there is rain and strong winds. Meteorologists, scientists who study the weather, watch these storms very carefully. They classify hurricanes into five categories depending upon how strong the hurricane is. Category 1 and 2 hurricanes are the weakest hurricanes, Category 4 and 5 hurricanes are the strongest, and Category 3 storms are in the middle. This year, the United States has been hit by more damaging hurricanes than in any other year.

1. A hurricane would be most likely to hit the United States in what month?

- A. January
- B. August
- C. March
- D. December

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Confident

Confident

2. Which type of hurricane would cause the **most** damage?

- A. Category 2
- B. Category 1
- C. Category 3
- D. Category 4

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Confident

Confident

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. She spent her childhood in Alabama. When she was 11, she enrolled in the Montgomery Industrial School for Girls. Later, she worked as a seamstress in Montgomery.

Rosa Parks has been called the "mother of the civil rights movement" and one of the most important citizens of the 20th century. In the early 1950s, the bus system in Montgomery, as in many parts of the United States, was segregated. Blacks were required to board the bus at the front, buy their tickets, and then re-board the bus in the back. Sometimes, they weren't able to get on the bus again before it drove away. They were not allowed to sit in the front of the bus, which sometimes made it difficult to get off at the right stop. Even if they were sitting in the "black section", they were still required to give their seats up to white passengers if the "white section" was full. In December of 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger. The bus driver had her arrested. She was tried and convicted of violating a local ordinance.

Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system. This refusal to ride the bus introduced the country to a clergyman named Martin Luther King, Jr. who gained national prominence, leading the protest with the words: "There comes a time that people get tired". Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision outlawing segregation on city buses. In December 1956, Montgomery's public transportation system was legally integrated.

Over the next four decades, Rosa Parks helped make her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle. This pioneer in the struggle for racial equality earned many honors, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal. She is an example of courage and determination and an inspirational symbol to all Americans. She recently died in Detroit, Michigan on October 24, 2005 at age 92.

1. What did Rosa Parks refuse to do?

- A. Go to jail
- B. Ride a bus
- C. Give up her seat
- D. Pay for her ticket

0% _____ 100%

Confident Confident

2. The word *boycott* as it is used in this passage means

- A. Supporting the separation of white and black passengers.
- B. Refusing to ride the segregated buses.
- C. Always sitting in the front of the bus.
- D. Encouraging all people to ride buses for transportation.

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Confident _____ Confident

3. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Rosa Parks played an important role in the civil rights movement.
- B. Rosa Parks was born in Alabama.
- C. Rosa Parks has earned many awards.
- D. Rosa Parks knew Martin Luther King Jr.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

4. What do you think Rosa Parks would be most proud of?

- A. Earning many awards
- B. Helping in the civil rights movement
- C. Being arrested
- D. Living in Detroit

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

5. What did the Supreme Court eventually do?

- A. Give Rosa Parks a medal.
- B. Send Rosa Parks to jail.
- C. Outlaw segregation on city buses.
- D. Boycott the bus system.

0% _____ 100%

Confident _____ Confident

On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't Like It At All 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 I Really Liked It

Inference: In your own words, how did Rosa Parks make a significant impact in the civil rights movement? Support your answer with facts from the passage.

Thomas Edison

Thomas Alva Edison lit up the world with his invention of the electric light. Without him, the world might still be a dark place. However, the electric light was not his only invention. He also invented the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and over 1,200 other things. About every two weeks Edison created something new.

Thomas A. Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, on February 11, 1847. His family moved to Port Huron, Michigan, when he was seven years old. Surprisingly, he attended school for only two months. His mother, a former teacher, taught him a few things, but Edison was mostly self-educated. His natural curiosity led him to start experimenting at a young age with electrical and mechanical items at home.

When he was 12 years old, he got his first job. He became a newsboy on a train that ran between Port Huron and Detroit. He set up a laboratory in a baggage car of the train so that he could continue his experiments in his spare time. Unfortunately, Edison's first job did not end well. He was fired when he accidentally set fire to the floor of the baggage car.

Edison then worked for five years as a telegraph operator, but he continued to spend much of his time on the job conducting experiments. He got his first patent in 1868 for a vote recorder run by electricity. However, the vote recorder was not a success. In 1870, he sold another invention, a stock-ticker, for \$40,000. A stock-ticker is a machine that automatically prints stock prices on a tape. He was then able to build his first shop in Newark, New Jersey.

Thomas Edison was totally deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other, but thought of his deafness as a blessing in many ways. It kept conversations short, so that he could have more time for work. He called himself a "two-shift man" because he worked 16 out of every 24 hours. Sometimes he worked so intensely that his wife had to remind him to sleep and eat.

Thomas Edison died at the age of 84 on October 18, 1931, at his estate in West Orange, New Jersey. He left numerous inventions that improved the quality of life all over the world.

1. Thomas Edison received his first patent for inventing what item?

- A. An electric light.
- B. A phonograph.
- C. An electric vote recorder.
- D. A stock-ticker.

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100%

Confident

Confident

2. The word *laboratory* means

- A. The last car in a train.
- B. A place for doing scientific research.
- C. A school for inventors.
- D. A type of dog.

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Confident

Confident

3. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. Thomas Edison was interested in science and invented many important things.
- B. Thomas Edison could not keep a job and kept getting fired.
- C. Thomas Edison worked day and night on his experiments.
- D. Deaf people make good inventors because they can focus better than hearing people.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

4. Why was Edison able to build his first shop in Newark, New Jersey?

- A. He had more free time because he was fired from another job.
- B. He inherited a building after someone in his family died.
- C. He found an investor willing to buy him a building.
- D. He made money when he sold an invention.

0% _____ 100%

Confident

Confident

5. Which of the following is a fact not an opinion?

- A. Edison usually worked about 16 hours per day.
- B. Edison spent too much time working on inventions.
- C. Edison is the most famous American inventor.
- D. Edison was not a good employee.

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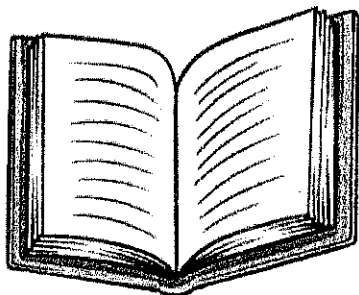
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On a scale between 1 and 10 with 1 being low and 10 being how well did you like this passage?

Didn't												I Really
Like It	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Liked It
At All												

Imagery: Using the information you learned in the passage, create a time-line of Thomas Edison's life.

Reading Log



Date: _____

Title of Book: _____

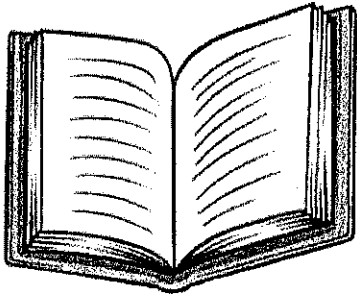
How Many Pages Did You Read? _____

How Long Did You Read? _____ minutes

Write A Brief Description of What You Read

Write A Brief Description of What You Read

Reading Log



Date: _____

Title of Book: _____

How Many Pages Did You Read? _____

How Long Did You Read? _____ minutes

Write A Brief Description of What You Read
