



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLSTEIN COWS

Have you ever seen a black and white cow? It is a Holstein cow. It originated in Europe and was developed specifically in the Netherlands. This cow comes from two breeds. The Batavians and the Friesians, who were migrant European tribes, first bred these cows. Dairy breeders throughout the world began searching for a good milk cow. A Massachusetts dairy breeder purchased one of these cows from a Dutch sailor who was bringing cargo to Boston in 1852. The cow gave such good production of milk that the breeder purchased more cows. Holsteins soon became an established cow breed in the Americas.

The Holstein breed is easily identified with its black and white markings. It is known for its great milk production. This is very important to dairy farmers. These cows are big animals. The Holstein calf weighs about 90 pounds at birth. An adult female Holstein weighs somewhere around 1,500 pounds. It stands as tall as 58 inches from the shoulder.

A normal Holstein is productive for about six years. Once the cow is no longer productive, the cow is typically sent to the slaughterhouse. The Holstein cow can be bred as early as 15 months. The gestation of a Holstein cow is typically nine months. Most Holstein cows are able to deliver their calves with little assistance. Once the baby is born, it is kept in a calf stall where it is bottle-fed. The mother is able to produce gallons of milk.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What could be another good title for this reading passage?
  - a. "The Holstein's Diet"
  - b. "The Holstein's Habitat"
  - c. "The Life of a Holstein Cow"
  - d. "Indigenous Animals of the Netherlands"
2. Which paragraph explains the history of the Holstein?
 

a. first paragraph	c. third paragraph
b. second paragraph	d. none of the above
3. Locate the statement below that is a fact from the passage.
  - a. The Holstein cow is an adorable animal.
  - b. The Holstein cow is a nocturnal animal.
  - c. The Holstein cow is productive approximately six years.
  - d. The Holstein's life cycle is short.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SEA HORSE

The sea horse is found living in tropical and temperate waters all around the world. This unusual-looking fish resembles a horse, which is how it got its name. This sea animal is truly a fish. It has a dorsal fin on the lower body and a pectoral fin on its head. It also has gills. This intriguing fish is endangered because it is overly hunted. The sea horse is used as medicine in Asian countries. Over 20 million sea horses are used each year for this purpose. The sea horse can also be kept in an aquarium under the right conditions. But outside of their natural environment, most sea horses are not able to survive.

The sea horse is known for its peculiar looks, but it is also different in how it reproduces. The male sea horse is the one that becomes pregnant. It takes anywhere from ten days to six weeks for the baby sea horses to develop. At least a hundred babies are born at this time but only a few will mature to adulthood. One of the best ways the sea horse is able to survive is by hiding. A sea horse uses camouflage as a form of protection.

There are at least 30 different types of sea horses. They range in size from about an inch to a foot long. There are a variety of colors and patterns found on sea horses. Some are beige and brown while others are bright orange or purple. The sea horse's diet consists of krill, zooplankton, and other tiny animals.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why does the author say that sea horses are interesting animals?
  - a. They eat krill.
  - b. They are related to the sea dragoon.
  - c. They have interesting looks and the males reproduce.
  - d. They are made up of mostly water.
2. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
  - a. the diet of the sea horse
  - b. the enemies of the sea horse
  - c. the color of the sea horse
  - d. the reproduction of the sea horse
3. What is the meaning of the word *temperate* in the first paragraph?
  - a. settled
  - b. unconcerned
  - c. bothered
  - d. moderate



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa, on July 18, 1918. He was the first member of his family to attend school. A Methodist teacher gave him the name “Nelson” at school. He continued in school and later attended the University of South Africa in Johannesburg. He became a lawyer representing those who would otherwise go without legal assistance.

Mandela was first involved in nonviolent protests but was eventually arrested for treason and placed in prison. He was fighting against the apartheid and the treatment of his people. Apartheid was the practice of keeping the races separated in South Africa. Locked in his cell for years on end, Nelson’s spirit was not broken. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison. Most of this time was spent in a tiny cell on Robben Island. His captivity became widely publicized. He was considered a terrorist when he was imprisoned, but as time wore on, it became apparent that he was treated unjustly in his fight to end apartheid.

Once released from prison, Nelson Mandela went on to receive hundreds of awards. He received the Nobel Peace Prize which many felt was also a tribute to the people of South Africa as much as to him. On April 27, 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa. He served until 1999. He continues to work today pushing for peace throughout the world. In South Africa, he is known as Madiba, which is an honorary title. Nelson Mandela continues to inspire many.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about why Nelson was so successful in life?
  - a. People felt sorry for him and took pity on him.
  - b. He eventually got the vision of his life.
  - c. He learned great lessons and was able to overcome obstacles and work hard.
  - d. He was able to become president.
2. What is the meaning of the word *treason* as used in the passage?
  - a. disloyalty
  - b. selfishness
  - c. violence
  - d. protest
3. Which of the following statements is true after reading the passage?
  - a. Nelson Mandela spent his life seeking restitution for his treatment.
  - b. Nelson Mandela was a perfect person.
  - c. Nelson Mandela went on to inspire millions because of his experiences.
  - d. Apartheid no longer exists on the African continent.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CATHERINE BERTINI

Catherine Bertini is a voice of inspiration to many people who are starving in the world. Catherine was the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) and served to prevent hunger and starvation across the world. She has worked with countries around the world that have starving people. She believes strongly that if you get the food to women, then children and all others will be fed. Her goal is to end hunger.

Catherine wasn't always helping the poor and hungry. At one time she wanted to be a music teacher. She was raised in Cortland, New York. Later her interests turned to government service. She felt that she could make more of a difference helping others this way. And what a difference she has made! She has seen 25 countries go from receiving emergency money to being able to provide food for people in their countries.

Catherine Bertini has very high goals. She works to see that 80% of the food goes to women. She knows that women will feed the people. In the past, most of the food has gone to men. She has another goal, and that is to help girls go to school. She sees to it that there are meals available for the girls at school. This has encouraged families to send their girls to school. Catherine Bertini is making a difference in the lives of millions.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What position did Catherine Bertini hold?
  - a. She was delegate to the U.N.
  - b. She was volunteer.
  - c. She was Ambassador to Africa.
  - d. She was head of the World Food Programme.
2. What can be inferred about Catherine Bertini's beliefs of women and their care of children?
  - a. She believes women will feed children and others.
  - b. She believes that women are dying.
  - c. She believes that men aren't as hungry as women.
  - d. She believes that women are stronger.
3. What does the passage say about how Catherine Bertini's encourages girls to attend school?
  - a. She teaches them the importance of learning to read.
  - b. She makes sure that meals are provided for girls at school.
  - c. She sets a good example by sharing her own school experiences.
  - d. She gives presentations on the importance of getting an education.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## MOTHER TERESA

For most people, the name Mother Teresa symbolizes unconditional love and support. She was a symbol of hope to many dying and sick people around the world. Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Macedonia. She was the youngest of three children. She went on to become a nun in the Catholic Church. One of her first assignments was work at a mission in India. The mission ran the schools. This is where Agnes took on the name Sister Teresa. A year later, Sister Teresa arrived in Calcutta to teach at St. Mary's High School.

She would eventually move to the slums of Calcutta to live and set up a school. She gave every cent she ever earned to the hungry and poor. She opened an orphanage to house children who had no parents and were dying. She won many prizes for her great work, and each time she would use the money from the prizes to house or feed people. In 1979, she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Through the years, her name changed to Mother Teresa. She was indeed a mother to many. But life was not easy for her. She would struggle with heart problems and other illnesses, but her efforts to help those in need continued until the day she died. Mother Teresa's examples and words of wisdom continue to inspire millions.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What Mother Teresa's original name?
  - a. Sister Teresa
  - b. Agnes Teresa Bojaxhiu
  - c. Mother of Calcutta
  - d. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu
2. What can be inferred about Mother Teresa since she was the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize?
  - a. She was a U.S. citizen.
  - b. She worked for peace in the world.
  - c. She received the highest honor awarded to Catholic nuns.
  - d. She would go on to win the Medal of Freedom.
3. After reading the passage, which of the following words could be used to describe Mother Teresa?
  - a. studious
  - b. notorious
  - c. rugged
  - d. empathetic