



Name _____

Date _____

MAN ON THE MOON

The space race was on to see which country would be the first to put a man on the moon. The U.S.S.R. had put the first satellite into space. It was called *Sputnik*. The United States was working hard to get a man on the moon. It was a tough goal. This had never been done before. After years and years of hard work, it finally happened.

Neil Armstrong was the first man ever to step on the moon. His famous words were, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The date was July 20, 1969. Pictures and stories of this famous and historic event were found in newspapers around the world. There were pictures of the astronauts' footprints on the moon. Millions of people watched the event on television.

Buzz Aldrin was also with Armstrong on the voyage to the moon. Each of them spent hours on the moon doing tests and taking samples. The surface of the moon was fine and powdery. There is little gravity on the moon, so the two men were able to walk and hop freely on the surface. They also posted the American flag on the moon. There is no wind on the moon, so their footprints might still be there!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What type of accomplishment was putting a man on the moon?
 - general accomplishment
 - sad accomplishment
 - difficult accomplishment
 - disappointing accomplishment
- What conclusions can be drawn about the first trip to the moon?
 - It was a mission fraught with arguments and disagreements.
 - It was a successful mission.
 - It was an experience never to be repeated.
 - It was an unorganized mission.
- Which of the following statements about the moon is not supported by information in the passage?
 - There is little gravity on the moon.
 - There is plenty of water on the moon.
 - The surface of the moon is fine and powdery.
 - Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon.
- What is the meaning of the phrase "one giant leap for mankind" as used in the passage?
 - It was a huge accomplishment and learning opportunity for humankind.
 - It was an example of their willingness to sacrifice for humankind.
 - Humankind would soon be making those same steps.
 - There was not a lot learned from the experience.



Name _____

Date _____

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Perhaps the most famous battle of the Civil War was the one in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. At the end of the battle, over 50,000 soldiers were wounded, missing, or killed. The Union and Confederate armies had each lost thousands of men. Many of the bodies were buried in shallow graves along the battlefield. The Union army wanted to do better than that.

The Union army was able to get land for a cemetery in Gettysburg. This cemetery was dedicated in November of that year. Edward Everett was asked to speak at the dedication. He was a great speaker of that time. President Abraham Lincoln was also asked to speak. He was the president during the Civil War.

On the day of the dedication, Mr. Everett spoke for two hours. When it was President Lincoln's turn, he spoke for two minutes. He didn't think it was a very good speech, but it went on to be considered one of the greatest speeches of all time. It became known as the Gettysburg Address. In his speech, Lincoln talked about the "new birth of freedom." His words inspired many people then, and they continue to inspire many people today.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - a. "Mr. Everett's Speech"
 - b. "The Dedication of the Cemetery"
 - c. "Lincoln's Famous Address"
 - d. "Union and Confederate Soldiers"
2. What conclusions can be drawn about the battle of Gettysburg?
 - a. It was one of the deadliest battles of the Civil War.
 - b. It was a pivotal battle at the beginning of the war.
 - c. President Lincoln approved of the battle.
 - d. It was fought in a poor location.
3. Which statement explains why President Lincoln's speech was so well received?
 - a. It inspired people to keep fighting.
 - b. It inspired people to go home and think.
 - c. It was used to encourage the wounded and dying soldiers.
 - d. It inspired people to think about their freedoms and reasons for fighting.
4. What is the meaning of the phrase "new birth of freedom" in the passage?
 - a. It is the idea that we are connected and shouldn't pull apart.
 - b. It is a willingness to sacrifice and stick together.
 - c. It is the idea that there was a new idea of freedom coming to light.
 - d. It is the idea that you should never give up or turn away when times are tough.



Name _____

Date _____

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Did you know that “The Star-Spangled Banner” is our national anthem? This song has inspired millions of Americans and continues to inspire them today. But how did this song come about? The song was written by Francis Scott Key. A battle between the colonists and the British was raging at Fort McHenry. Key quickly wrote out a poem. He was inspired by the flag flying over Ft. McHenry. His poem had five verses. We only sing the first verse in the national anthem.

“The Star-Spangled Banner” did not become the national anthem right away. There was no music to the words. Key scribbled the words to the poem on the back of a letter. He also gave it its title. He brought it back to Baltimore, and it was later published in the newspaper. The words were then bought and published to the tune of the song “To Anacreon in Heaven.”

This song did not gain in popularity for many years. “Yankee Doodle” and other songs were sung more frequently. “The Star-Spangled Banner” became more popular before the Civil War. It was made the national anthem in 1931. Today when this song is sung, people rise to their feet and put their right hands over their hearts. This is to show respect for the country and for the flag.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What could be another title for this reading passage?
 - “The National Past Time”
 - “The National Anthem”
 - “The Life of Francis Scott Key”
 - “Respect for the National Anthem”
- Which paragraph explains where the song was first published?
 - first
 - second
 - third
 - none of the above
- Which statement below is not a fact?
 - The national anthem is still sung today.
 - Francis Scott Key wrote the song first as a poem.
 - Francis Scott Key wrote the song “To Anacreon in Heaven.”
 - The national anthem was made official in 1931.
- In this passage, the word *anthem* means . . .
 - to show respect.
 - original song.
 - song created from a poem.
 - song of praise.



Name _____

Date _____

THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

The people of the New England colonies were Puritans. Like the Pilgrims, the Puritans in England were unhappy with the Church of England. They felt that they weren't able to practice their religion freely and live the life they desired. They wanted to travel to America to live this life. The Puritans formed their own stock company. More than a thousand men, women, and children left England to begin their new life in America.

The Puritans built their settlement in Boston, Massachusetts. Unlike many of the other newcomers, the Puritans were very successful. They didn't come with a plan to get rich from the gold they might find. They came prepared to plant crops and build homes. They arrived in America at a good time in the year so that their crops could grow strong. They had plenty of food to last throughout the winter. There were not very many Puritans who died as a result of the winter.

People back in England learned how successful the Puritans were, so more and more people came to set up colonies. For many of these people, life was a struggle in England. They wanted to come to America for a better life. The Puritans set up laws for the colony. They were very religious people. Not all of the newcomers agreed with the Puritan way of life. Some of these people were forced to leave, and they set up new settlements. More and more people continued to travel to America. The colonies continued to grow.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was the purpose of the Puritans settling the New England colonies?
 - a. to stabilize the immigrants traveling to the United States
 - b. to obey the law established by the King of England
 - c. to practice their religion freely
 - d. to aid other Puritans
2. Identify a supporting detail that explains the statement, "They were very religious people."
 - a. The Puritans worshipped in the Church of England.
 - b. The colonies continued to grow.
 - c. More and more people continued to travel to America.
 - d. Not everyone was pleased with the Puritan's way of life.
3. After reading the passage, which question could you answer about the Puritans?
 - a. Who were the Puritans, and what are they known for?
 - b. How many different types of Puritan congregations are there?
 - c. What are the beliefs of a Puritan?
 - d. What is the Puritan religion like today?



Name _____

Date _____

ELLIS ISLAND

For millions of immigrants, Ellis Island was a symbol of hope and freedom. Between 1892 and 1954, a very large number of people came to the United States. They came for a new life. There were over 12 million immigrants during this time. The largest wave of people came in the year 1907.

Ellis Island is located just off the New Jersey shore in the New York Harbor. Ellis Island was set aside as the immigration center. The name came from Samuel Ellis who owned the island in the 1770s.

In the beginning, Ellis Island was used as a place to fight the British. As the colonists fought the British, it was used as a defense post before the British arrived in New York Harbor. Later, Ellis Island was used as a staging place for the new immigrants. The ships would come and deliver people there. Doctors would check for illness and disease.

A ship's manifest listed all the names of the people on board. Sometimes the workers could not read the foreign names, and so they wrote down a different last name for those people. Many people had their names changed by clerks on the island.

For some people, Ellis Island was known as the "Island of Tears." Not all people were allowed to enter the United States. If they had a contagious disease or the person seemed to be a concern, they were forced to stay on the island and work. Some were even sent home. Most people made it through the island in just a few hours.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Another title for this reading passage could be . . .
 - a. "Island Paradise."
 - b. "Problems of Immigration."
 - c. "Island of Tears."
 - d. "The Immigration Island."
2. Why was Ellis Island also called the "Island of Tears"?
 - a. People were injured at Ellis Island.
 - b. Ellis Island was a cruel place.
 - c. Not everyone was allowed to pass through Ellis Island to the United States.
 - d. Immigrants were unhappy to leave their homelands.
3. The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. justify keeping immigrations on Ellis Island.
 - b. inform the reader of how immigrants were not mistreated.
 - c. share general information about Ellis Island.
 - d. raise awareness of mistreatment of immigrants at Ellis Island.