reading 2

Instructions: *Read. Then write* True *or* False *for each statement. Correct the false statements.*

The Power of Music

Robert Gupta was studying to become a doctor. He was interested in the brain and mental health. However, Gupta was also very good at music. He was so good, in fact, that when he was 19 years old, he joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Nathaniel Ayers was also a good musician. His story is different from Gupta's, though. Ayers studied at the famous Julliard School of Music in New York City. While he was a student there, he developed a mental illness. Ayers had to drop out of Juilliard. He tried getting treatment for his illness, but it did not work. And when he moved to Los Angeles, he became homeless.

In 2005, a journalist for the Los Angeles Times named Steve Lopez heard Ayers playing music in the streets. Lopez wrote a book about Ayers and became his friend. Their friendship became the subject of a movie.

One day, Ayers and Lopez met Gupta at a performance of music by Beethoven. Ayers asked if Gupta would give him a violin lesson. At the first lesson, Ayers did not act in a calm way. Gupta was afraid that Ayers might do something violent, so he started playing his violin. The music helped Ayers calm down, and he started playing his violin, too.

The two musicians played many violin pieces together that day. Over time, Gupta and Ayers became friends. Their story suggests that music is an important part of life because it can help people manage their emotions, even negative ones.

1. Robert Gupta became a doctor after joining the Los Angeles Philharmonic at a young age.

   _____

   _____

2. Nathaniel Ayers was affected by mental illness when he was studying in New York City.

   _____

   _____

3. Nathaniel Ayers and Steve Lopez first met in New York City.

   _____

   _____

4. Robert Gupta played Nathaniel Ayers' violin to become calm.

   _____

   _____

Instructions: *Read. Then complete each statement with two words from the article.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Very Tough Boss

Southern Utah in the United States is a land of extremes. The normally dry desert is occasionally drowned in summer rainstorms. In the mountains, the days are often very hot, and the nights are very cold. Still, many people come to this region to go hiking, camping, and horseback riding in the area's national forests, or to see the fantastic rock formations in Bryce Canyon National Park.

Doing these kinds of outdoor activities is popular. Some people, however, do them in an unusual way. These adventurers choose to spend their time outdoors with little food or water and no modern camping equipment. Instead, they're learning to live in the wilderness the old-fashioned way.

The Boulder Outdoor Survival School (BOSS), founded in 1968, is the world's oldest survival school. With its philosophy of "know more; carry less," BOSS teaches its students techniques for surviving outdoors without tents, backpacks, or sleeping bags.

The school's courses are not for everyone. Students must arrive in excellent physical health in order to go on hikes of up to 30 miles. They must be active learners because they'll need all the skills the BOSS instructors teach them in order to survive a field course, which can last from one week to one month.

For the people who take BOSS's courses, there is nothing better. If they wanted to spend time outdoors in comfort, they would pack their camping equipment and perhaps their GPS system and join the rest of Utah's outdoor enthusiasts. Instead, these campers love the way BOSS challenges their minds and bodies. And the confidence they gain from knowing how to survive without a lot of technology is the reward these brave people are looking for.

5. Seeing the amazing _____ in a well-known park is one of reasons people visit Southern Utah.

6. People who take part in a BOSS course learn to survive without any _____ or anything to eat or drink.

7. There is no _____ in the world that has been in operation longer than BOSS.

8. Unless participants are _____ and in excellent condition, they may find BOSS courses challenging.

9. The typical _____ that BOSS participants take lasts between one and four weeks.

10. Utah has many _____, but only people who have taken a BOSS course spend time there without a GPS system or other equipment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Instructions: *Read. Then choose the correct answers.*

The streets of Singapore are well-known for being clean, but not many people know that the streets and parks of Singapore also have a lot of public art. Large sculptures and colorful paintings can be found in parks, shopping centers, and along this island nation's coastline. The artistic styles range from quite realistic to completely abstract. This art is supported by local businesses and the government. And even if some people are not aware of it, the art contributes to a high quality of life for people in this exciting and culturally diverse city.

Some of the art relates to Singapore's history and culture. For example, sculptures by artist Chong Fah Cheong show people living and working in traditional ways along the Singapore River. The *Merlion* by Lim Nang Seng, another Singaporean sculptor, is a lion with the tail of a fish. The lion head represents Singapore, which was originally known as Singapura, or Lion City. The fish tail is a reminder that Singapore was originally a small fishing village.

Not all of the art in Singapore is by local artists. Fernando Botero is a famous artist from Colombia. His sculpture in downtown Singapore, which local people refer to as *the fat bird*, represents peace and positive thinking. Airports are rarely a place to see art, but Singapore's Changi Airport is different. It has two amazing pieces of art designed by a German company. In Terminal 1, travelers can see *Kinetic Rain*. The work has 1,216 small pieces of metal that slowly move to form different shapes. And in Terminal 4, a similar work called *Petalclouds* is a mixture of art, music, and science.

____ 11. What is the best title for the text?
   a. Popular Museums in Singapore
   b. Singapore's Streets and Parks
   c. Public Artworks in Singapore

____ 12. What conclusion can you reach from the second paragraph?
   a. Lim Nang Seng makes traditional art.
   b. Chong Fah Cheong is from Singapore.
   c. Fishing is still important in Singapore.

____ 13. What is true about Fernando Botero, according to the text?
   a. He lives in downtown Singapore.
   b. He created a sculpture of a bird.
   c. He made the art at Changi Airport.

____ 14. Which of the following is probably true?
   a. Relatively few people use Changi Airport.
   b. Part of Changi Airport is an art museum.
   c. *Petalclouds* is a piece of art that moves.

Instructions: *Read. Then complete each statement with two words from the article.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Google Arts and Culture

Amit Sood has a job that many people would like: he works for Google, but his work is not what you might expect. Instead of working as a programmer or designer, he is in charge of something called Google Arts and Culture.

Like many people around the world, Sood did not have access to museums or galleries when he was growing up. After he started working at Google, he wanted to make great art as widely available as possible. Sood and a team of other art lovers at Google decided to use technology to make art available to those people who might never get to visit these places in person.

Their work began as a small project in 2010. Sood and his team talked to art museums around the world. Those museums agreed to let their art be shown online to give everyone access to amazing works of art. In 2011, the Google Art Project had its first public showing with 17 museums from nine countries. It is now an official Google product—part of the Google Arts and Culture Project— and works with hundreds of the most important art institutions from many different countries.

As a result of the hard work by Sood and his team, anybody with an internet connection and a computer or other device can "visit" a museum and study art. Google Arts and Culture is more than just an online museum, though. It's a completely new way of looking at art because it lets people view art closer than in real life. It is possible to see an artist's brushstrokes and the cracks in paintings that have developed after many years. It is also possible to write notes on pieces of art to share ideas with other people or to save pictures of favorite paintings and sculptures.

15. The goal of Amit Sood and his team was to make it easier for people around the world to see _____.

16. In the early days, it was a _____, but now Sood's work is part of the Google Arts and Culture Project.

17. Just one year after Sood's team started work, it held a _____ of works from 17 museums.

18. The Google Art Project now works with hundreds of museums, galleries, and other _____ from around the world.

19. To access the art that is available as part of Google Arts and Culture, people use a device with an _____.

20. Sood's project gives people a _____ to view art because they can see individual brushstrokes and cracks in the paint.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS