



Name _____

Date _____

ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee was an American soldier and famous general of the Confederate South. He was born on January 18, 1807. He was the son of a major general and went to West Point in 1825. West Point was a military school. He graduated second in his class. He married Mary Ann Randolph Custis in 1831. They had seven children together. All of his sons would fight in the Civil War.

Lee was a model soldier and was given many awards for his bravery. He became a teacher at West Point. Lee was against slavery and did not want the Southern states to leave the Union. He was asked to be the leader of the U.S., but he turned it down and resigned from the Army. He didn't want to fight against his friends in the South. He was the leader of his state's army in Virginia. Virginia would eventually leave the Union.

On June 1, 1862, Lee became the leader of the Southern army. This army did not have enough uniforms, supplies, or soldiers, but somehow he always managed to win more battles than he lost. But as time went on, Lee was forced to surrender. The Union army was better prepared, and they had a lot more supplies. Lee would spend his last years as a president of a college.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the passage?
 - a. to inform the reader about the Civil War
 - b. to instruct the reader on how to be successful at West Point
 - c. to paint a brief picture of the life of Robert E. Lee
 - d. to share Lee's interest in the military
2. What is the meaning of the word *resigned* as used in the passage?
 - a. talented and exceptional
 - b. quit
 - c. bestowed with others with a gift
 - d. endowed a lot of money
3. What is the main message in this passage about Robert E. Lee?
 - a. Know what you want to be early in life so that you don't waste time.
 - b. Plan big, for great things might happen.
 - c. The more money you make, then the more successful you must be.
 - d. Work as hard as you can for those things you believe in.
4. Robert E. Lee is known for . . .
 - a. his hard work in impoverished areas.
 - b. his interest in U.S. military history.
 - c. his great leadership of the Confederate Army.



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WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Mozart is one of the world's most famous composers. You have probably listened to many of the pieces written by Mozart without even knowing it. Mozart's music is so famous that it is used all over world. How did Mozart come to write such beautiful music? Mozart was born in Austria. He was the son of a well-known composer and teacher. Mozart received lessons from his father and was playing before royalty and other important people at the age of six. By the time he was 10 years old, Mozart had traveled all over Europe to play.

It didn't take long for Mozart to begin writing music of his own. He wrote many musical works. Many people could see his talent, but Mozart did not receive pay for writing music. He received money only when he would play. He was forced to give piano lessons to earn enough money to live.

It wasn't until 1780 before Mozart was finally paid to write music. He was given the job to write an opera. He produced his most famous work in the next three years. Mozart was thrilled with his work and opportunity. When Mozart died in 1791, he left a legacy of beautiful music that would impress crowds the world over.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's purpose of writing this passage about Mozart?
 - a. to share the facts about Mozart
 - b. to share the inspiring story of Mozart
 - c. to point out that Mozart was not paid enough
 - d. to list all works written by Mozart
2. Which sentence from the passage shows how the author feels about Mozart?
 - a. He produced his most famous work in the next three years.
 - b. How did Mozart come to write such beautiful music?
 - c. He received money only when he would play.
 - d. By the time he was 10 years old, Mozart had traveled all over Europe to play.
3. Which of the following statements did not happen?
 - a. Mozart learned to play beautiful music at a very young age.
 - b. Mozart was naturally talented and skilled.
 - c. Mozart was paid to play for the president of the United States.
 - d. Mozart left a legacy of music that is still played today.
4. Which would be the best title for this passage?
 - a. "Mozart vs. the Music World"
 - b. "Mozart's Opera"
 - c. "Greatest Musicians of all Times"
 - d. "The Life of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart"



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THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM

On September 17, 1862, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War was fought. More lives were lost on this day than on any other day in the history of the country. The North and South were fighting over possession of the Miller Farm cornfield.

General Robert E. Lee was the leader of the Confederate army. He had his men positioned along the banks of the country lane. The general for the Union army was George B. McClellan. This general had a scout that had gotten a copy of the Confederate army's plan. This was very helpful for the Union.

Bullets rained down on the Confederate soldiers. The Union soldiers broke through the line and killed thousands. The country lane where the Confederates were hiding became known as "Bloody Lane" because of all the people who died there.

More than 23,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing in this battle. But the Confederate army was not finished. They would go on to fight another bloody battle with the Union army known as the Battle of Gettysburg.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which statement best explains the reason for the Battle of Antietam?
 - Both sides were fighting over the taxes.
 - The Confederate soldiers were trying to make a statement.
 - The Union soldiers were trying to get their independence from Britain.
 - Both Confederate and Union armies were trying to claim the Miller Farm cornfield.
- Where in the passage does it explain the advantage that the Union soldiers had at this battle?
 - first paragraph
 - second paragraph
 - third paragraph
 - fourth paragraph
- Which of the following statements is false about the Battle of Antietam?
 - More than 23,000 men were killed, wounded, or missing in this battle.
 - The North and South were fighting over possession of the Miller Farm cornfield.
 - More lives were lost on this day than on any other day in the history of the country.
 - General Lee had a spy that helped him learn his opponent's strategy.
- What is the author's opinion of the Battle at Antietam?
 - The author is glad the North won.
 - The author is impressed and appreciative.
 - The author has a neutral feeling about it.



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THANKSGIVING

Each year, on the fourth Thursday in November, many Americans gather around the table with their families to eat a large feast. Do you know why this is so? It is a celebration of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving started back with the Pilgrims. The year was 1621. The Pilgrims had survived a very difficult winter. The next fall they had a great harvest. They were so grateful that they decided to have a feast to celebrate. They invited 91 Native Americans to join them.

The Pilgrims and guests gathered around a large table to eat. There were games, races, and other activities. The celebration lasted three days. We don't know if they really did have turkey, but they did have some kind of bird, as well as venison (meat from deer). They didn't have pumpkin pie because there wasn't enough flour for that. They did have pumpkin that had been boiled and softened. They also had berries, fruit, nuts, and fish.

It wasn't until 1777 that all 13 colonies celebrated Thanksgiving. A lady named Sarah Hale wrote articles in magazines about how important it was to celebrate Thanksgiving. Finally in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving to be celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. In 1941, Thanksgiving became an official national holiday. Thanksgiving has been celebrated ever since.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How does the author feel about Thanksgiving?
 - a. disgusted
 - b. amused
 - c. concerned
 - d. can't tell from the passage
2. Which statement explains the purpose of Thanksgiving?
 - a. Thanksgiving has been celebrated ever since.
 - b. They decided to have a feast to celebrate.
 - c. Historians have determined that the guests probably gathered around a large table to eat.
 - d. They invited 91 Native Americans to join in the feast.
3. The third paragraph informs the reader about...
 - a. the guests invited to the first Thanksgiving.
 - b. how many years it took for Thanksgiving to become official.
 - c. the discrimination between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims.
 - d. the menu at the first Thanksgiving.



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WAR OF 1812

Some people say that the War of 1812 was the second revolutionary war. In a way, it was. This war was a fight between America and Great Britain. They disagreed about shipping and trade on the seas. Fighting took place in both Canada and America. The Americans won the War of 1812.

Thomas Jefferson was president in America at the time. He was trying to keep American goods going to other parts of the world. He didn't, however, want to get America involved in world events. France and Britain were at war at the time. They both thought that America was supplying the other country with goods and weapons.

Both France and Britain searched American ships. They were treated poorly. America was mad at both countries but ended up fighting Britain. The White House and the Capitol were both burned in the war. A treaty was finally signed. As a result of the war, America became known as a powerful player in the world.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
 - a. "Beginnings of the Revolutionary War."
 - b. "Britain's Abuse of Power."
 - c. "United States Attacked."
 - d. "America Caught in the Middle."
2. A similarity between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 is . . .
 - a. the fact that they were both started with the same U.S. President.
 - b. that fighting took place between the U.S. and Great Britain.
 - c. that Britain pulled France into the war.
 - d. that they took place when the United States was an old country.
3. In the last paragraph, what does the word *player* mean?
 - a. performer
 - b. actor
 - c. interrogator
 - d. participant
4. Based on the information in the passage, what caused the War of 1812?
 - a. Britain was trying to take over American territory.
 - b. France and Britain decided to fight for American territory.
 - c. America didn't like how their ships were treated at sea.
 - d. France had set up a special arrangement with America.