



Name _____

Date _____

ELVIS PRESLEY

Do you like rock and roll music? A man named Elvis Presley helped create this type of music. This music also made Elvis a star. Elvis was born in Mississippi, but he was raised in Memphis, Tennessee. He liked to sing growing up but never really did much with it. When he graduated from high school, he got a job driving a truck.

One day in 1953, Elvis went to the Sun Record Company. He wanted to record a song for his mother. The president of the company heard Elvis sing, and he was impressed. He offered a recording contract to Elvis. Fans across the country loved his singing as well. His songs were heard all over.

Another company named RCA signed a recording contract with Elvis. This company released five of his songs at once. He sold millions of records. By 1959, he had sold 21 million records. He was also in movies and went on tours to perform his songs. He was the world's most famous entertainer of his time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where do you find out which company Elvis signed a deal with first?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
2. The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. warn listeners of Elvis' background.
 - b. inform the reader about Elvis' weaknesses.
 - c. inform the reader of Elvis' history.
 - d. inform the reader of Elvis' love for singing.
3. How many records does the passage say Elvis had sold by 1959?
 - a. 25 million
 - b. 21 thousand
 - c. 20 million
 - d. 21 million
4. Which of the following statements is not a fact about Elvis Presley?
 - a. Elvis enjoyed singing.
 - b. Elvis grew up in Memphis, TN.
 - c. Elvis grew up singing and recording records.
 - d. Elvis was discovered when he tried to record a song for his mother.



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ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

A person who is often mentioned as someone who helped the poor and those in need is Eleanor Roosevelt. It has been said that Eleanor was as kind a woman as she was strong. Born in New York City, Eleanor was sent to England for school. When she came back to the United States, she started doing social work to help the poor. Throughout her life she always found ways to keep helping the poor.

Eleanor married her cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1906. Together, they raised six children. Franklin came down with the illness polio in 1921. By this time, he was active in politics. He felt that because of his illness, he should step down. But Eleanor encouraged him to keep trying. He was elected governor of New York seven years later.

In 1932, Eleanor went across the country with Franklin as he ran for president of the United States. By the time he was elected, the country was in the middle of a depression. Once again, Eleanor worked hard to help the hungry and jobless people. During WWII, Eleanor helped the troops. Later, she was named a delegate to the United Nations. She spent the rest of her life aiding and helping those in need.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Where do you find out about Eleanor's work during World War II?
 - end of the first paragraph
 - in the second paragraph
 - end of the third paragraph
 - beginning of the third paragraph
- The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
 - inform the reader of President Roosevelt's time as president.
 - inform the reader about Eleanor's time as first lady.
 - portray Eleanor's support of Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 - portray Eleanor's commitment to helping and serving others throughout her life.
- What does the phrase "active in politics" mean?
 - taking part in government
 - finishing a term in politics
 - president of a political party
 - loves to discuss politics
- Which of the following statements is not a fact about Eleanor Roosevelt?
 - Eleanor was supportive of her husband's service to the country.
 - Eleanor's background was similar to the disadvantaged people she helped.
 - Eleanor was caring for the jobless and poor throughout her life.



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ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Did you answer the phone today? You have Alexander Bell to thank for that. Bell was the son of a speech teacher. He had helped his father through the years and learned many things. He was taught how people learned to speak and hear. He used this knowledge to help deaf people learn to speak.

Bell was born in Scotland in 1847. The Bell family eventually moved to Canada. Bell moved on to Boston, where he continued his work with deaf people. He was trying to invent a machine that would help deaf people speak. His first success was when he sent a musical note over an electrical wire.

Bell kept working and experimenting. He invented a machine that was able to send and receive human speech. One day he spilled acid on his clothes. He decided to use his machine to send a "help" message to his friend. His friend got the message through the machine! The telephone had been invented. Some people thought that others had invented the telephone. The Supreme Court finally ruled in Bell's favor. Bell eventually got a patent for his invention.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Alexander Graham Bell would probably be most interested in which of the following inventions?
 - a. microwave
 - b. cell phone
 - c. Braille
 - d. car
2. According to the passage, how did Bell finally receive the patent for his invention?
 - a. He waited the official 10 years for it to happen.
 - b. He went to the patent office to get the official rights.
 - c. The Supreme Court ruled in Bell's favor.
 - d. He spilled acid on his clothes and called his friend for help.
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Through hard work and dedication, Bell was able to accomplish great things.
 - b. how the telephone was invented
 - c. how Bell's background proved helpful
 - d. how Bell won the patent for the telephone
4. What was the original purpose of the machine Bell invented?
 - a. He was trying to invent the microphone.
 - b. He was trying to invent the telephone.
 - c. He was trying to invent a machine that would help deaf people speak.



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JOHN F. KENNEDY

John F. Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States. He was a very young president. Many people liked his leadership style. John was born into a very wealthy family. He was one of nine children. He went to private schools as a child and went on to Harvard University. World War II broke out and John was enlisted in the Navy. While at war, John was a war hero. He saved the lives of many men when their ship was hit.

After the war, he ran for senator of Massachusetts. He won by a huge margin. He served two terms. In 1960, he ran for president of the country. He debated against Richard Nixon. These were the first debates on television. John was elected president by a narrow margin. He was the youngest person ever to be elected president. He and his wife, Jackie, had young children in the White House.

As president, John worked hard to solve tough problems. He created the Peace Corps, as well as other programs. But not everyone approved. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas in November 1963. Police arrested Lee Harvey Oswald for the assassination of President Kennedy.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on the passage, what were some of John's interests?
 - a. playing polo
 - b. fighting in the military
 - c. helping and serving others
 - d. opening up talks with the Cuban leadership
2. What can you conclude about John Kennedy?
 - a. He was loved and adored by everyone.
 - b. He was able to accomplish many things in a short time period.
 - c. He was learning to speak another language.
 - d. He was the best president of the United States.
3. Which of the following items would not be on President Kennedy's resume?
 - a. fought in World War II
 - b. elected president of the United States
 - c. served as a senator for Massachusetts
 - d. arrested Lee Harvey Oswald
4. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - a. Lee Harvey Oswald was not mentally stable.
 - b. President Kennedy was loved by some and despised by others.
 - c. President Kennedy was the youngest person ever to be elected president.



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CHARLES LINDBERGH

The first person to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean was Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh loved to fly. He started flying at the age of 20. The following year, he bought his own plane. In the beginning, Lindbergh was a stunt pilot. He was paid to do tricks with his plane.

Then, Lindbergh began working as an airmail pilot. He delivered mail by airplane. He would fly back and forth between St. Louis and Chicago. Lindbergh was gaining experience flying long distances.

In 1926, Lindbergh began thinking about flying his plane nonstop from New York to Paris. This had never been done before. There was a prize of \$25,000 for the first person who could do it. Lindbergh got a group of businessmen from St. Louis to help him. The first thing he did was buy a new plane. He named it the "Spirit of St. Louis." He set a speed record flying from San Diego to New York.

On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh accomplished the goal of crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It took him 33 hours. He was an instant hero and was given the Congressional Medal of Honor.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement best explains the success of Charles Lindbergh?
 - a. Lindbergh grew up in a wealthy family.
 - b. Lindbergh learned to fly planes at an early age.
 - c. Lindbergh had the talent, support, and courage to fly across the ocean alone.
 - d. Lindbergh was motivated to earn a lot of prize money.
2. Which paragraph mentions the medal that Lindbergh was awarded?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. fourth paragraph
3. Which statement explains the reason behind the name "Spirit of St. Louis"?
 - a. Lindbergh was given financial support from men in St. Louis.
 - b. Lindbergh was originally from St. Louis.
 - c. St. Louis was the name of his wife.
 - d. St. Louis was the place where the contest was held.
4. What is the author's opinion of Charles Lindbergh?
 - a. unbiased and disinterested
 - b. impressed and appreciative
 - c. apathetic and interested