

THE LUSITANIA

During World War I, the Germans were using underwater boats, or submarines, to attack the enemy at sea. These submarines were called U-boats, which stood for “undersea boats.” They could sink large ships by firing torpedoes underneath the water. The Germans gave no warning and could kill everyone on board. The German navy was making great strides at sea.

The Germans decided to start attacking passenger ships, as well as cargo ships. On May 7, 1915, a German U-boat shot and sank a British passenger ship. The name of the ship was the *Lusitania*. This ship was shot off the coast of Ireland and sank.

The attack killed over 1,200 people. Both adults and children were killed in this attack. Of those who were killed, 128 were Americans. This made the American public very angry.

President Wilson insisted that Germans had to give warning before shooting torpedoes at ships. This worked for a while, until the Germans decided they didn’t want to do this anymore. After the Germans attacked three American ships, the United States became involved in World War I. In April 1917, the U.S. declared war on Germany.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements can be inferred after reading the passage?
 - a. The *Lusitania* was a turning point for the United States getting involved in World War I.
 - b. People were interested in the U.S. building a U-boat.
 - c. The Germans were seeking revenge on the United States.
 - d. There were no children on the *Lusitania*.
2. The purpose of the first paragraph is to . . .
 - a. introduce the reason why the U.S. got involved in World War I.
 - b. explain the differences between the German and American armies.
 - c. compare the reasons for World War I.
 - d. give background of what was going on at sea during World War I.
3. Pick the word that best completes the sentence, “The Germans decided not to listen to the _____ from the U.S. about attacking ships at sea.”
 - a. advice
 - b. demands
 - c. warning
 - d. acknowledgement



Name _____

Date _____

THE RISE OF THE COMMON MAN

On March 4, 1829, twenty thousand Americans came to Washington, D.C. They wanted to watch Andrew Jackson be sworn in as president. Jackson was very popular. He was especially popular with the "common" people of the United States. The large crowd ended up breaking dishes and getting out of control at the White House. President Jackson had to spend his first night at a hotel.

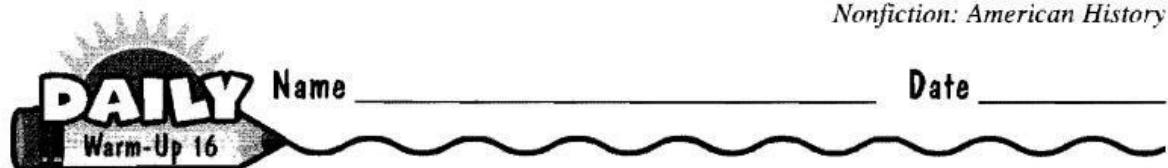
All of this was a result of big changes that were happening in America. Before this time, only adult white males were allowed to vote. But not just any adult white male could vote: he had to own property and pay taxes.

The changes that happened in the late 1820s were that any adult white male—whether or not they owned property or paid taxes—could vote. This was called the "rise of the common man."

Women, blacks, and Native Americans were still not allowed to vote, but giving all adult white males the right to vote was a big step in the right direction. The spirit of democracy and equality was higher than ever before.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why were so many people at the swearing in of Andrew Jackson as president?
 - a. the treatment of the common man
 - b. the lack of civil rights for all citizens of America
 - c. the participation of more people in the election
 - d. the misunderstanding of the government
2. Which paragraph would help you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Which of the following statements is not true about Andrew Jackson?
 - a. He was president during the rise of the "common man."
 - b. He fought for civil rights of all men and women.
 - c. He was a popular candidate.
 - d. He spent his first night as president in a hotel.
4. What is the meaning of the word *common* as used in this passage?
 - a. peculiar
 - b. abnormal
 - c. everyday
 - d. estranged



THE PANAMA CANAL

In the early 1900s, the United States decided that they wanted to build a canal that would connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Ships would not have to travel as far. This would make the travel and trade between the oceans much faster.

France had tried to do the same thing 20 years earlier. They weren't able to do it. In 1903, the land of Panama belonged to the country of Colombia. President Theodore Roosevelt tried to pay Colombia for the strip of land so that they could build the canal. The government of Colombia didn't think it was enough money for the land.

President Roosevelt was upset. He knew there was a group of rebels from Panama that wanted to separate from Colombia. President Roosevelt decided to help them. He sent ships that prevented the Colombian army from landing in Panama. Panama won without a fight. Panama sold the strip of land to the United States.

Building the canal was a lot of work. Jungles had to be cleared and a lot of land had to be moved. Workers also had to fight the mosquitoes. The mosquitoes transmitted terrible diseases. Finally, an army doctor got rid of the mosquitoes by not allowing them to breed. The first ship sailed through the Panama Canal in August of 1914.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Roosevelt get the land for the Panama Canal?
 - a. He ordered a change of government in Panama.
 - b. He ignored the Colombian government and built the canal anyway.
 - c. He got the votes needed to make the change.
 - d. He supported the independence of Panama.
2. Which paragraph helps you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
3. Which of the following statements is not true about building of the Panama Canal?
 - a. It was finally opened in August of 1914.
 - b. The mosquitoes were a big problem when building the canal.
 - c. The jungles were able to be preserved when the canal was built.
 - d. It was a lot of work to move the land for the canal.



Name _____

Date _____

SATURN

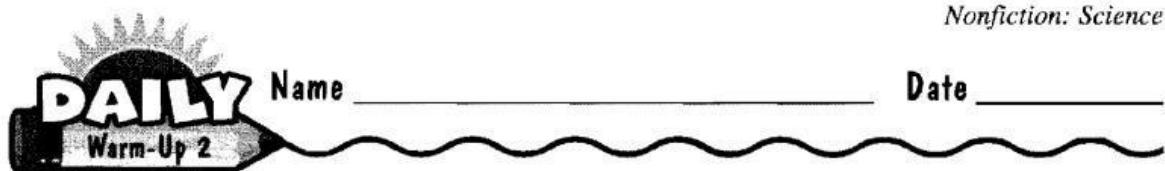
Saturn is the sixth planet from our sun. This amazing planet is best known for its rings. We may think that these rings are small in number, but when seen through a telescope, there are hundreds of them. The rings of Saturn are made up of very tiny pieces of matter. There are so many objects floating that from a distance, they look like solid rings. The rings are also very thin. The rings are made up of rocky ice particles and dust. Saturn also has many moons.

Galileo was the first person to look at Saturn through a telescope. The year was 1610. He was amazed at what he could see, but he didn't understand it. The telescopes today are much better and can reveal the intricate details of the rings and moons.

Another interesting fact about Saturn is that it could float. That seems surprising because Saturn is the second-largest planet. Even though it is big, it doesn't weigh very much. It is less dense than water. Saturn rotates very quickly, which means that a day on Saturn is only about 10 hours long. Saturn is made up mostly of hydrogen and helium. There have been many unmanned trips to get a closer look at Saturn. Four spacecrafts have taken pictures and visited Saturn. These were the *Pioneer 11*, *Voyager 1*, *Voyager 2*, and *Cassini*.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be the best title for this passage?
 - a. "Saturn: The Planet with Rings"
 - b. "Outer Planets"
 - c. "Low-Density Planets"
 - d. "Planets with Moons"
2. According to the passage, which of the following is not a fact about the planet Saturn?
 - a. Saturn is the second-largest planet.
 - b. A day on Saturn is about 10 hours long.
 - c. Saturn has a great red spot.
 - d. Saturn rotates very quickly.
3. What is one reason why humans cannot live on Saturn?
 - a. Saturn has more rings than other planets.
 - b. Saturn is so light it could float.
 - c. Saturn rotates quicker than Earth.
 - d. Saturn is made up of mostly hydrogen and helium.
4. How did the telescope change what people thought about Saturn?
 - a. Saturn was the first planet viewed through a telescope.
 - b. Galileo discovered that Saturn had rings.
 - c. It was determined that Saturn was not located in a star's position.
 - d. Saturn was discovered to be the center of the universe.



GEOLOGY

Geology is the study of the history of Earth. It is thought that Earth is about 4.6 billion years old. It has a very long history. Rocks provide a lot of important information about what happened in the past. Geologists study rocks to determine how they were made.

There are a few rocks that are made of just one mineral—such as marble or quartzite—but most rocks are made up of more than one mineral. Most rocks have elements such as silicon, carbon, iron, and oxygen.

The outer layer of the Earth is called the crust. At this point, we are not able to directly study anything below the Earth's crust. We are only able to drill down a few miles. This makes it difficult to study what is going on inside the Earth, but rocks and the ground are constantly being shuffled and pushed around through the years.

One way that rocks are formed and built up is from volcanic activity. Magma lies beneath the Earth's crust and is forced to the surface. Rocks are moved and overturned from earthquakes. All rocks are broken down by a process called weathering. The weather plays a role in erosion and the breakdown of rocks. Water, rain, ice, and wind all contribute to the breaking down of rocks.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which statement explains how scientists learn about the history of the Earth?
 - a. All rocks break down by being exposed to the weather.
 - b. Geologists study rocks to determine how they were made.
 - c. All rocks are combinations of one or more minerals.
 - d. One way that rocks are formed and built up is from volcanic activity.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. to inform the reader about what happens when a volcano explodes.
 - b. to inform the reader about the connection between the earth's crust and rocks.
 - c. to inform the reader about how important erosion is to breaking down rocks.
 - d. to share general information about the geology and the study of rocks.
3. Where can you find information about how rocks are formed and broken down?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. not in the passage
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph