



Name _____

Date _____

THE ASSEMBLY LINE

When the first “horseless carriages” were introduced, few people were interested. Many people thought they were unsafe, too expensive, and too noisy. These horseless carriages were actually the beginnings of the car as we know it. The invention of cars changed transportation in the United States forever. Henry Ford is credited with changing the way that people looked at cars. He was one of the early automobile makers, and his techniques changed the way cars were made. His ideas made the car cheaper and accessible not only to rich people, but also to farmers and ordinary workers.

In the beginning cars were made by a group of mechanics working to put the entire car together. Henry Ford had different ideas on how to build an automobile. Henry Ford divided up the tasks into a process of steps. Each worker was assigned a different step in the process. That meant that each worker was only responsible for one job and he or she did this job over and over on each automobile. This meant that the workers became specialists. This also meant that cars would be produced much faster. This also meant the car was less expensive, so that it could be sold more cheaply.

Ford improved upon his system even more by introducing the assembly line. The assembly line was a large moving belt that brought the cars to the workers. The worker would continue to perform each step in the process, but bringing the cars to the workers saved even more time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was the first reaction to the “horseless carriage”?
 - a. People loved the new invention.
 - b. People were nervous about driving the new car.
 - c. People thought they were cheap and inexpensive.
 - d. People thought they were dangerous and noisy.
2. What is the definition of an assembly line?
 - a. a group of workers standing in a line
 - b. a large moving belt
 - c. the line where buyers purchased their cars
 - d. the place where the nuts and bolts are held
3. Based on reading the passage, what effect did the cost of making the car have on the purchasing price of the car?
 - a. The price of the car went down.
 - b. The price of the car went up.
 - c. The price of the car stayed the same.
 - d. none of the above



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CIVIL RIGHTS

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He went on to graduate and become a Baptist minister. His greatest accomplishments were his civil rights efforts from the middle of the 1950s until he was assassinated in the 1960s. His civil rights crusade was different. It was one that called for peace and nonviolence. In 1963, King led a march on Washington, D.C. He delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech at the Lincoln Memorial. He was demanding equal justice for all Americans. He was challenging the government to help all Americans regardless of their race or religion.

His famous speech would go on to inspire many people for many years to come. In 1964, he won a Nobel Peace Prize for his work. Much of his work and efforts resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Dr. King was hated by many white southern segregationists. On April 4, 1968, King was preparing to lead a local march. He was shot in the throat on the balcony of a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. He died a few hours later. President Lyndon Johnson declared a day of mourning for the slain civil rights leader. And yet, Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy lives on. He is honored on Martin Luther King Day, which is a national holiday. It is held on the third Monday of January around King’s birthday on January 15. His great legacy continues to inspire many.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 - a. He was the first black president of the United States.
 - b. He was a civil rights leader.
 - c. He worked for the federal government
 - d. He was a member of Congress.
2. What is the meaning of the word *justice* as used in the passage?
 - a. impartiality
 - b. apartheid
 - c. emancipation
 - d. realignment
3. What was Dr. King seeking to secure for many Americans?
 - a. emancipation from slavery
 - b. a black president of the United States
 - c. a job with the F.B.I.
 - d. civil rights and voting rights for all Americans



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THE SUN

How much do you know about the sun? Did you know that it is the closest star to the planet Earth? The sun is actually just like billions of other stars in the sky. It just looks different because it is so close. It is also the center of the solar system. The sun is a huge ball of gas. The temperature of the sun is over 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

From Earth, the sun doesn't look that big, but the sun is so large that more than a million Earths could fit inside of it. The sun is by far the largest object in the solar system. It is even bigger than the planet Jupiter.

Astronomers say that the sun has layers. These layers are called the photosphere, chromosphere, and the corona. Astronomers have also discovered that the sun spins just like the Earth except more slowly. The sun has quiet periods and active periods. During active periods, there are solar flares and sunspots. Sunspots are dark spots that often appear on the surface of the sun. What makes these sunspots? Scientists think that they are cool spots. Solar flares are bursts of hot gases. These bursts shoot far into the solar system.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be another good title for this passage?
 - a. "The Sun: The Closest Star"
 - b. "Solar Flares"
 - c. "Sun Spots"
 - d. "Stars in the Universe"
2. Which of the following is a fact about the sun?
 - a. The sun is the largest planet.
 - b. The sun is the central planet.
 - c. The sun has a great red spot.
 - d. The sun has quiet and active periods.
3. What was meant by the term *solar flares*?
 - a. sun spots on the sun
 - b. indications of being the largest object in the solar system
 - c. bursts of hot gases
 - d. a way to track the sun's movement



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MATTER

What is matter? Everything is made up of matter. Matter is made up of tiny particles called atoms, molecules, or ions. Matter is ordinarily found in three states. These states are liquid, gas, or solid. There are two forces at work regardless of the state of matter. These two forces are energy and attraction. Energy makes the matter move. Attraction pulls and keeps the particles together.

Solids are packed together. Examples of solids are wood, plastic, stone, and iron. You can hold solids in your hand. Liquids are a state between gases and solids. Liquids flow and change shape. The best example of a liquid is water. Gases are floating around you and inside bubbles. Gases don't have any particular shape, but they are fluid. They can also be compressed. Vapor and gas mean the same thing.

Matter can change from one state to another. For example, a liquid can change to a solid or gas. Solids can change to a liquid. Temperature influences the changes in matter from one state to another. For example, heating a liquid can turn it into a gas. Cooling or freezing a liquid can turn it into a solid. Scientists continue to study matter, molecules, and ions to better understand our world.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, what do you think would happen if a liquid was boiled?
 - a. It would immediately double in size.
 - b. It would turn into a gas.
 - c. It would turn into a solid.
 - d. Scientists have not yet determined what happens in this case.
2. The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - a. to inform the reader about what happens when it is raining.
 - b. to inform the reader about the definition of matter.
 - c. to inform the reader about how important it is to see ice, rain, and condensation.
 - d. to share general information about the universe and how it is organized.
3. Where can you find information about the three types of matter?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. all three paragraphs
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. first paragraph



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THE HEIMLICH MANEUVER

Have you ever seen a person choking on his or her food? Perhaps he or she needed the Heimlich maneuver. What is the Heimlich maneuver? It is a maneuver that can save a person from choking to death. Henry Heimlich was a doctor who in 1974 published information on the Heimlich maneuver. His methods of how to help someone from choking have saved over 50,000 people from dying.

The Heimlich maneuver is a simple method, but it must be followed correctly. It should only be attempted after appropriate training. People can sometimes cause more harm to a victim if they perform this maneuver without training. When a piece of food gets lodged in the windpipe, it keeps you from breathing. This means that oxygen can't get to the brain. The brain can go no longer than four to six minutes without oxygen. That's why it is important to get the food out of the windpipe as quickly as possible.

You can use the Heimlich maneuver to help other people. If you see a person choking, stand behind him or her and put both arms around the person's waist. Have the person lean forward just a little bit. Place one hand between the person's belly button and the rib cage. Make a fist with this hand. Be sure that your thumb is facing the stomach. Place your other hand over the fist. Press your open hand onto the hand in a fist in a sharp upward movement. This should force air out from the body to push out the blocked food.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Who was the Heimlich maneuver named after?
 - a. Jonathon Heimlich, Ph.D.
 - b. Jason Heimlich
 - c. Frederick Heimlich III
 - d. Henry Heimlich, M.D.
2. Based on reading the passage, where does the food get lodged?
 - a. in the windpipe
 - b. in the stomach
 - c. in the liver
 - d. in the intestine
3. Which paragraph would help you answer the previous question?
 - a. second paragraph
 - b. first paragraph
 - c. fourth paragraph
 - d. third paragraph
4. Without air, what happens to the brain?
 - a. It can't get the oxygen it needs to be healthy.
 - b. It will not be able to perform certain functions.
 - c. It will go into a coma.
 - d. The brain begins to override the intake of air.