Main idea and details Practice

Directions: Read each passage and answer the questions about them.

1. A penny for your thoughts? If it's a 1943 copper penny, it could be worth as much as fiftythousand dollars. In 1943, most pennies were made out of steel since copper was needed for World War II, so the 1943 copper penny is ultra-rare. Another rarity is the 1955 double die penny. These pennies were mistakenly double stamped, so they have overlapping dates and letters. If it's uncirculated, it'd easily fetch $25,000 at an auction. Now that's a pretty penny.

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

2. Before you put on that skeleton costume and rove door-to-door pandering for candy, take a minute to reflect on this tradition. Halloween is believed to have come from an ancient Celtic festival dating back some 2,000 years. November 1st was the Celtic New Year and marked the end of summer to the Celts. They celebrated on its eve by wearing costumes made of animal skins and dancing around bon fires. Over the next two millennia, this primitive celebration grewto be the candy fueled costume ball that we know today.

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

3. When one hears the term "reality" applied to a show, one might expect that the events portrayed occurred naturally or, at the least, were not scripted. This is not always the

LIVEWORKSHEETS

case. Manyreality shows occur in unreal environments, like rented mansions occupied by film crews. Such living environments do not reflect what most people understand to be "reality." Worse, there have been accusations that events not captured on film were later restaged by producers. Worse still, some involved in the production of "reality" television claim that the participants were urged to act out story lines premeditated by producers. With such accusations floating around, it's no wonder many people take reality TV to be about as real as the sitcom.

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

4. It is estimated that over twenty million pounds of candy corn are sold in the US each year. Brach's, thetop manufacturer, sells enough candy corn to circle the earth 4.25 times if each piece were laid end to end.That's a lot of candy corn, but that's nothing compared to the production of Tootsie Rolls. Over 64 million Tootsie Rolls are produced every day! But even Tootsie Rolls have got nothing on the candy industry's staple product: chocolate. Confectioners manufacture over twenty billion pounds of chocolate in the United States each year. Now that's a mouthful!

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. Screech! When a driver pushes on the brake pedal, it initiates a process that causes the vehicle to stopin motion. We literally trust braking systems with our lives every time we get into a vehicle or cross at a busy intersection. How does this life-critical process work? It begins when the pedal is pushed. At this moment brake fluid is released into the braking mechanisms. As the fluid collects, this creates a leverage,which causes a friction to be applied. This friction will create a force that will cause the wheels to stop and allow you to reach your destination safely. Beep! Beep!

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

6. There are many types of lethal venom in the animal kingdom, but perhaps no stranger carrier than theplatypus. The platypus is one of few venomous mammals. Male platypus carry a venom cocktail in theirankle spurs. This venom incapacitates victims with excruciating pain. Stranger still, the platypus is the only mammal that uses electroreception. That means that the platypus uses its bill to sense the electricityproduced by the muscular movements of its prey. Electroreception is a sixth sense different from seeing,hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling. Perhaps most odd, the platypus is the only mammal that lays eggs rather than giving birth to live young. What an odd creature indeed.

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Yellowstone National Park is mainly located in Wyoming, although three percent is located in the stateof Montana. The Continental Divide of North America runs diagonally through the southwestern part of the park. The park sits on the Yellowstone Plateau, which is an average elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. This plateau is bounded on nearly all sides by mountain ranges. There are 290 waterfalls that are atleast fifteen feet in the park, the highest being the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, which falls 308 feet.

What is the topic?

What is the main idea?

What are the supporting details?

LIVEWORKSHEETS