



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE IRAN HOSTAGE CRISIS

In 1976, voters elected Jimmy Carter as president of the United States. President Carter worked hard in his presidency to help countries to work together. He was recognized for helping Israel and Egypt agree on a peace treaty.

But things did not go so well in the country of Iran. A revolution had taken place there and the new leader blamed the United States for many of their problems. This leader was very angry with the United States.

A group of rebels from Iran broke into the United States Embassy in Iran and kidnapped 52 hostages. They held these hostages and flashed pictures on the television for the whole world to see. Many demands were made by Iran for the return of the hostages. President Carter refused to make a deal. Iran kept the hostages for more than a year. The United States wasn't able to do anything to gain the release of the hostages.

The hostages were finally released on January 20, 1981. This was the last day of Jimmy Carter's presidency.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is inaccurate?
  - a. Many demands were made by Iran for the return of the hostages.
  - b. President Carter refused to make a deal until the hostages were treated fairly.
  - c. The new leader of Iran was very angry with the United States.
  - d. Iran kept the hostages for more than a year.
2. Another good title for this reading passage would be . . .
  - a. "Crisis Overseas."
  - b. "Problems of Foreign Policy."
  - c. "Carter vs. Iran."
  - d. "Middle East Dilemmas."
3. What is the main idea of the passage?
  - a. President Carter was not very effective.
  - b. The Iranian leader blamed the U.S. for its problems.
  - c. The leader of the Iran was intent on kidnapping more Americans.
  - d. Iranian rebels kidnapped 52 hostages during President Carter's term.
4. The hostages were released because . . .
  - a. the leader of Iran was definitely afraid of the new president.
  - b. the demands were finally met.
  - c. the hostages were able to be released through talks.
  - d. This question cannot be answered based on the passage.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE SLAVE TRADE

In the late 1600s, the cost of buying a slave went down. The colonies in America began buying more and more slaves. These slaves came from the continent of Africa. People in Africa were captured and sold as slaves throughout the world.

Slave traders hunted for young slaves and captured them in nets and traps. They were taken from their families and villages. They would never return home again. Thousands and thousands of these people were captured and sold as slaves. The new slave owners branded them like cattle so people would know to whom the slaves belonged. The slaves were treated terribly.

The slaves were packed onto ships and sent across the ocean. Many of the slaves were sold and sent to the West Indies. They worked on sugar farms there. Some of the slaves were also sent to America at this time. People in the Southern colonies bought many of the slaves to work on the large plantations. They worked in the tobacco, cotton, and rice fields. The life of a slave was terrible and inhumane.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about how the captured slaves were treated?
  - a. tolerant
  - b. confused
  - c. disgusted
  - d. accepting
2. Which of the following sentences portrays the author's opinion about the captured slaves?
  - a. The cost of slaves had gone down.
  - b. Thousands and thousands of these people were captured and sold as slaves.
  - c. Many of the slaves were sold and sent to the West Indies.
  - d. The life of a slave was terrible and inhumane.
3. Which of the following statements is one of the reasons slaves were sold to the Southern plantations?
  - a. Plantation owners could afford slaves and needed the workers.
  - b. Plantation owners worked together to grow crops.
  - c. The weather was good so that crops could be grown year-round, which meant that they needed more workers.
  - d. The plantation owners wanted to brand their slaves.
4. What is meant by the word *hunted* as used in this passage?
  - a. sought after
  - b. organizing
  - c. refused
  - d. treated like captive animals



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## A PRESIDENT RESIGNS

Richard Nixon was elected president of the United States in 1968 and took office in 1969. His first term was spent in building better relationships with China and the Soviet Union. When his first term as president ended, he had made a lot of progress.

In 1972, Nixon ran for a second term as president. He was running for the Republican Party. Four men who were working on his reelection team broke into the Democratic Party headquarters. This was illegal. The headquarters were in the Watergate Hotel. The break-in became known as the Watergate scandal. The men that broke in were looking for information they could use against Nixon's opponent in the campaign.

The men were caught. At first, President Nixon denied any connection with these men. He lied about knowing about the break-in. It took two years for the truth to come out. Nixon had lied about knowing about the break-in and his connection with the men.

Congress could vote to remove Nixon from office. Nixon decided to resign. He was the first president ever to resign. When President Nixon resigned, Gerald Ford was vice president. Ford became the new president of the United States.

### STORY QUESTIONS

- Which paragraph explains when Nixon finally resigned?
  - first paragraph
  - last paragraph
  - third paragraph
  - second paragraph
- After reading the passage, what inference can you make about why Nixon resigned?
  - He didn't want to be kicked out of office by Congress.
  - He knew there would be more investigations.
  - His lawyer counseled him to resign.
  - The American people demanded that he resign.
- What is the author's opinion about the Nixon resignation?
  - The author thinks that it was a great day when Nixon resigned.
  - The author thinks there has not been enough research on why Nixon resigned.
  - The author is interested in sharing the process of how a president resigns from office.
  - The author is trying to inform the reader about President Nixon's resignation.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## THE KOREAN WAR

Korea is a country in Asia. Japan began ruling Korea in the early 1900s. By the end of World War II, Japan had lost control of Korea. The Soviet Union was given control of North Korea. The United States was given control of South Korea. As time went on, the two halves of Korea became enemies of each other.

In 1950, North Korea attacked South Korea. The United Nations knew that it had to help South Korea. It sent troops and supplies to help South Korea. Most of the troops, supplies, and weapons came from the United States.

The United Nations armies were able to push back the North Korean troops. It looked like the South Koreans had been able to defeat the North Koreans. But then China got involved. They sent a large army to help the North Koreans. They used their army to drive back the U.N. army.

Finally, in 1953, the two sides of the armies agreed to stop fighting. The boundary between the two Korean sides was set up again. To this day, North and South Korea are still two different countries.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the Korean War get its name?
  - a. The war took place in Asia.
  - b. The war was given its name after the country of Korea came together as one.
  - c. The war got its name after China came to rescue North Korea.
  - d. The war took place between the North and South Korean countries.
2. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
  - a. to explain why the Soviet Union got involved
  - b. to explain the shift in the Korean War
  - c. to explain how the U.S became involved in the war
  - d. to explain how Korean was divided up
3. Which paragraph would you read to find out about who controlled Korea at the beginning of the 20th century?
  - a. first paragraph
  - b. third paragraph
  - c. second paragraph
  - d. fourth paragraph



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## 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



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## 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

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



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## 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.



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## 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 II*, *Voyager 1*, *Voyager 2*, and *Cassini*.

### STORY QUESTIONS

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



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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