Name_____

William Driver

At the start of the Civil War, the people in the state of Tennessee struggled with the decision of whether to stay with the Union or to join the Confederacy. Eventually, the state would be the last to secede. However, there were people living in the state who would remain loyal to the Union. One such person was Captain William Driver. Driver is best known for a special flag he owned and hid during the Civil War, affectionately called "Old Glory."

William Driver was born in 1803 and was apprenticed to a blacksmith. Hating his situation, Driver ran away and became a cabin boy on a ship. His father told him not to come home until he had his own ship and was captain. Eventually, Driver did become a captain of his own ship. The people of his hometown in Salem, Massachusetts, were all very proud of Driver and made him a huge flag that was twelve feet by twenty-four feet, which he nicknamed "Old Glory." Driver eventually sailed around the world and even rescued the descendants of the crew that had mutinied against their captain on the British ship the *HMS Bounty*.

Later, Driver would retire to Nashville, Tennessee, leaving the sea behind and becoming a clerk at his brother's store. During the Civil War, he hid "Old Glory" by sewing the flag into a quilt. When Tennessee was taken over by Union soldiers, the soldiers asked Driver to raise his flag over the state's capitol. As people heard about Driver and his flag, others began calling the American flag "Old Glory," a nickname that is still used today for the flag of the United States of America.

Text Questions

1. Summarize the text in two complete sentences.

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2. Using information from the text, which statement best explains why William Driver hid the American flag during the Civil War?
   a. He knew he would be without an easy source for heat, and the large flag would make his quilt thicker and warmer.
   b. He liked the feeling of safety he had being covered with the American flag.
   c. He wanted to hide the flag from his neighbors.
   d. He was worried the Confederates would take or harm the Union flag.

3. Which statement best explains Driver's feelings about the flag?
   a. The flag represented his loyalty to the Union.
   b. The flag was a memento from his younger days.
   c. The flag reminded him how proud his father was when he became captain of his own ship.
   d. The flag was not special to Driver.

4. What is the meaning of the word *secede* as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. to win
   b. to lose
   c. to remain
   d. to leave

5. After reading the text, what inference can you make about William Driver?
   a. He rarely finished anything he started.
   b. He was a person with an extremely strong will.
   c. He had become sick of the ocean as he aged.
   d. He missed his days as captain of his own ship.

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