DAILY Warm-Up 14

Name _____ Date _____

LEISURE TIME IN AMERICA

In the early 1800s, Americans spent their whole day working. Sunday was the only day off, and the only vacation days were Christmas, New Year's Day, and the Fourth of July. People worked around 66 hours a week, which meant about 11 hours a day were spent at work.

By the 1950s, times had changed. People worked only 40 hours a week. The number of work hours per day was less, and most people had Saturdays and Sundays off each week. Most workers were also given two weeks of vacation time each year. People had a lot more free time.

Americans did lots of things with their free time. Many people watched movies. In the 1950s, the movies were now in color. People would drive their cars to a field with a big movie screen to watch a "drive-in" movie.

Many families also had their own television. TV was an amazing little box with pictures. Families sat down together at night to watch a TV show together. Shopping, sports, and traveling were other ways that people entertained themselves in their free time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following statements is not found in the reading passage?
   a. The 1950s was a time of prosperity in the United States.
   b. People watched movies in their free time.
   c. Americans were working fewer hours during this time.
   d. People went to drive-in movies during their leisure time.

2. What inferences can you make about life in the 1950s after reading this passage?
   a. America was probably at war during this time.
   b. Tensions were high in the United States.
   c. The citizens were not happy with their president.
   d. Americans were enjoying a time of peace and prosperity.

3. Pick the answer choice that best completes the sentence, "Movies were now ____."
   a. fashionable
   b. inverted
   c. in color
   d. increasing in number

4. The purpose of the first paragraph is to . . .
   a. introduce the invention of color television.
   b. explain the differences between the life of a worker in the United States at this time in history.
   c. compare the amount of vacation days to present day.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS