DAILY Warm-Up 16

Name _____ Date _____

THE WOMBAT

The wombat has an unusual name, and it is an unusual animal. It lives mainly in Australia and Tasmania. It is a marsupial, which means that it is a pouched animal that carries its young inside the pouch. The wombat is a nocturnal animal, which means that it is most active at night.

It is the largest burrowing mammal. The wombat burrows into the ground with its large paws and sharp claws. The pouch faces backwards so that the flying dirt does not get in the pouch. The baby wombat lives in the pouch for up to six months.

This heavy little animal shuffles as it walks. It has very short, stocky legs. The wombat ranges in length from two to four feet. The wombat is an herbivore, which means that it eats plants, bark, leaves, and roots. The wombat has coarse gray or brown fur, a large head, small ears, and a large nose. The wombat also has a strong back, which it uses to push intruders out of its burrow.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be another title for this reading passage?
   a. "The Wombat's Diet"
   b. "The Wombat's Habitat"
   c. "The Life of a Wombat"
   d. "Indigenous Animals of Australia"

2. Which paragraph explains the eating habits of the wombat?
   a. first
   b. second
   c. third
   d. none of the above

3. Locate the statement below that is a fact.
   a. The wombat is an adorable animal.
   b. The wombat is a nocturnal animal.
   c. The wombat loves living in a zoo.
   d. The wombat's legs are very long.

4. In this passage, the word *burrowing* means . . .
   a. searching for food.
   b. using one's nose.
   c. digging into the ground.
   d. rooting for bark, plants, and leaves.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 1

Name _____ Date _____

WALT DISNEY

Where is "the happiest place on earth"? Some say it is Disneyland! Do you know the person who created this amazing theme park? He was a man named Walt Disney. Walt Disney was a pioneer in motion pictures. He also created Mickey Mouse and the Disney World theme parks. Walt Disney received hundreds of awards from all over the world.

Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois. He was raised on a farm in Missouri with four other siblings. Walt's parents, Flora and Elias Disney, encouraged his creativity and sketches and drawings. Walt sold his first sketches at the age of seven.

After serving some time in the Red Cross, Walt got a job as an advertising cartoonist. This was where he marketed and created his first animated cartoon. In 1925, Walt married Lillian Bounds. They had two daughters. Another important member of the family was brought to life in 1928. That was Mickey Mouse.

Walt perfected the combination of animation and sound. *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was created in 1937. Since then, the Disney name has gone on to produce hundreds of animated movies.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are the author's feelings about Walt Disney?
   a. indifferent
   b. disapproves
   c. unsure
   d. admires

2. Which sentence shows how the author feels about Walt Disney?
   a. Walt married Lilian Bounds.
   b. Disney was born in Chicago.
   c. Walt Disney perfected the combination of animation and sound.
   d. Walt got a job as an advertising cartoonist.

3. Which sentence is <u>not</u> an example of the encouragement Disney received through the years?
   a. He got a job at an advertising agency.
   b. He invented Mickey Mouse.
   c. His parents encouraged his creativity.
   d. He received awards from all over the world.

4. What is the meaning of word *pioneer* in this passage?
   a. trailblazer of new ideas
   b. worker
   c. traveled across the plains
   d. nomads

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

HELEN KELLER

Can you imagine what it would be like not to be able to see or hear? When Helen Keller was 19 months old, she became very ill. Doctors expected her to die, but she survived. Helen's mother soon noticed that Helen was not responding when the dinner bell rang or when she waved her hand in front of Helen's face. It then became apparent that Helen's illness had left her blind and deaf. She was born on June 27, 1880 in Alabama, where she lived with her family. She was frustrated and confused. She didn't know what was going on in her world. Her parents knew that they needed help. They hired a tutor for Helen. Her name was Anne Sullivan.

Success didn't happen right away. But one day at the water pump, a breakthrough happened. Anne spelled the word *water* in Helen's hand. Helen began to catch on. Suddenly, her brain was on fire. She reached down to touch the ground, and Anne spelled the word *earth* in her hand. She continued pointing and learning. She learned to spell 30 words on that day.

By the age of 10, Helen had learned to speak by feeling her teacher's mouth when she talked. Some people couldn't understand Helen, but she kept trying. She learned to read French, German, Greek, and Latin in Braille. Braille is a way for people who can't see to read. Raised dots are used to represent letters and words. Soon Helen could read, write, and speak.

Helen Keller went on to give speeches all over the world. Most of the money she earned was given to the American Foundation for the Blind. She met 12 U.S. presidents, wrote a dozen books, and went to college. Helen Keller lived to be 87. She continues to inspire many people worldwide.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Helen Keller so successful in life?
   a. People felt sorry for her and took pity on her.
   b. She eventually got her vision and hearing back.
   c. She learned to overcome obstacles and work hard.
   d. She was able to meet 12 U.S. presidents and speak worldwide.

2. What can you learn about Anne Sullivan from reading this passage?
   a. She traveled the world to give speeches.
   b. She was diligent in her efforts with Helen Keller.
   c. She was blind herself.
   d. She was placed in an orphanage.

3. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
   a. Helen Keller was unable to overcome great obstacles to do great things.
   b. Helen Keller didn't have to work hard to succeed.
   c. Helen's parents made the right choice in hiring Anne Sullivan.
   d. Blind people can be taught how to read Braille, but not deaf people.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 3

Name _____ Date _____

BABE RUTH

On February 16, 1895, a star was born. A baseball star, that is—George Herman Ruth, Jr. He would go on to be one of the greatest baseball players of all time. At the age of seven, George's father took him to St. Mary's School. It was a reform school and an orphanage. George seldom saw his family after that. He was in trouble a lot at school. Brother Matthias took George under his wing and became a great supporter of young George.

George showed a natural talent for baseball early on. He was a great catcher and pitcher. Jack Dunn gave George his first baseball contract, which was to play with the Baltimore Orioles. The players called him "Jack's newest babe," and the name stuck. From then on he was known as *Babe Ruth*.

Babe Ruth stayed with the Orioles for only five months. At the age of 19, he was playing in the major leagues for the Boston Red Sox. Babe set many records. One of them still stands: He still holds the record for pitching 13 innings without a score. This game went on to be the longest complete game of the World Series. Babe went on to play for the New York Yankees. He set even more records. In 1920, his first season with the Yankees, he set a record of hitting 54 home runs. His greatest homerun was probably when he pointed to the outfield wall in Wrigley Field and hit what is believed to be the longest home run hit there—right where he had pointed. Babe Ruth deserves to have his name remembered in baseball for many years to come.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does the phrase "take him under his wing" mean?
   a. hook him up with a pair of wings
   b. show him some tricks of the trade
   c. nurture and be a mentor for Babe
   d. teach him techniques that will help on the baseball field
2. What is a word that could be used to describe Babe Ruth?
   a. studious
   b. talented
   c. rugged
   d. honest
3. George's childhood could be described as . . .
   a. loving and caring.
   b. supportive yet strict.
   c. typical and normal.
   d. unhappy and unsettled.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

HENRY FORD

Born the first child to William and Mary Ford in 1863, Henry grew up on a farm in Michigan. He went to school in a one-room schoolhouse and helped do chores on the farm. At a young age, he was very interested in how things worked.

He left home at the age of 16 to work with a machinist. He did odd jobs after that until he married Clara Bryant. At that point, he ran a sawmill. Finally, in 1891, he became an engineer at the Edison Illuminating Company in Detroit. He worked up through the ranks, which allowed him free time to work with engines. He created his own quadricycle, which was a bike on four wheels.

Ford went on to accomplish his dream of owning his own company and making his own car. In 1908, he introduced the Model T, but cars were still too expensive for most people. Ford invented the moving assembly line, which allowed him to make cars that were inexpensive, reliable, and efficient. Ford is credited with making the United States a nation of cars. His company is still around today. It is the Ford Motor Company.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What interests did Henry Ford have?
   a. learning how an airplane worked
   b. running a sawmill
   c. learning how things work
   d. building a car with good gas mileage

2. Ford probably became a machinist's apprentice so he could . . .
   a. be trained in how to work machines.
   b. teach how to work machinery.
   c. be taught how to build cars.
   d. learn about the history of automobiles.

3. What is the meaning of the word *credited* in the last paragraph?
   a. added to
   b. known for
   c. increasing debt

4. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
   a. Ford's invention of the quadricycle led to the car.
   b. Ford was trained by a machinist.
   c. Ford's cars were too expensive for people.
   d. Ford's ideas and creativity made cars popular.

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