Name_____

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States and author of the Declaration of Independence, was born in 1743. Jefferson was born in the South into one of Virginia's most prominent families. Always an avid learner, Jefferson was determined to receive a top-notch education. He attended William and Mary, a college in Williamsburg, Virginia, and went on to study law.

Jefferson would later become involved in politics. He felt strongly that the American colonies should seek independence from Great Britain. His beliefs and eloquence with words would help lead him to his most significant written work: the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was actually part of a five-person committee, but the other men chose Jefferson to actually write the first draft. Jefferson's work was a document that would eloquently explain the importance of freedom and equality. The Declaration of Independence also listed the reasons the colonies wanted to be free.

In 1803, while president, Jefferson purchased land that tremendously increased the size of the United States. This purchase, known as the Louisiana Purchase, vastly increased the new country's size.

Jefferson's death was a sad time for the nation. He died in his home, Monticello, on July 4, 1826. Ironically, this date was also the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Text Questions

1. Which statement is a fact about the story?
   a. Without Thomas Jefferson's ideals, the Declaration of Independence could have never been written.
   b. Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Declaration of Independence.
   c. The Declaration of Independence is the most eloquently written document in all of American history.
   d. Thomas Jefferson is one of the greatest presidents in American history.
2. What was one purpose of the Declaration of Independence?
   a. to help boost Thomas Jefferson's political career
   b. to free all slaves living in the American colonies
   c. to explain the reasons Americans felt they were being taxed unfairly by Great Britain
   d. to list reasons and explain why the American colonies felt they should be free from Great Britain's rule
3. What is Monticello?
   a. the first draft of the Declaration of Independence
   b. the home of Thomas Jefferson
   c. the name of Thomas Jefferson's first son
   d. a type of violin
4. What is the main idea of this text?
   a. to explain the importance of the Declaration of Independence
   b. to explain the importance of the Louisiana Purchase
   c. to give information about Thomas Jefferson's education
   d. to give information about the importance of Thomas Jefferson to America's history
5. Based on the text, which statement would most likely be true about Jefferson?
   a. A good education was most important to Jefferson.
   b. Jefferson believed all men should reside in Virginia.
   c. One of Jefferson's finest achievements is the Declaration of Independence.
   d. Jefferson assumed he would die on Independence Day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

King Tut

Tutankhamun, best known as King Tut, was born around 1341 B.C. The ruler of Egypt did not live a long life. In fact, he died near the age of eighteen or nineteen. Why then do so many people know about the boy who ruled Egypt?

Tutankhamun was buried in the area known as the Valley of the Kings. Because of his early death, many historians believe he was buried in a tomb that was most likely built for someone else since his own tomb would not have been completed at the time. Tut's body went through the ceremonial preservation system known as mummification. This process took many days, and certain organs were removed from the body and preserved in Canopic jars. Ironically, the brain was not considered an important organ and was removed from the body but not preserved. Seventy days after his death, King Tut's body was sealed in the Egyptian tomb.

In 1922, a remarkable discovery was made. An archeologist named Howard Carter found the tomb that had been sealed so long ago. As he and his team entered the tomb, they found the inside had been preserved and an interior chamber was painted with the story of the Egyptian leader's funeral and journey to his life after death. The tomb was filled with treasures from Tut's life. The crew would also find the final resting place of the boy ruler. His body had been preserved for more than three thousand years along with the magnificent artifacts and treasures no grave robbers had ever disturbed. Carter's find has helped make King Tut one of the most recognized and well-known ancient leaders of all time.

Text Questions

1. Using information from the text, summarize why King Tut is well-known many years after his death.

   _____

   _____

2. Why do historians believe Tutankhamun was most likely buried in someone else's tomb?
   a. The tomb was more elaborate than where he should have been buried.
   b. Because of his young age, he had to be buried in the Valley of the Kings.
   c. His own tomb would not have been completed at his death since he died at such a young age.
   d. The painted wall murals the archaeologists found explained he was buried in the wrong tomb.

3. After reading the text, what can one conclude about Tutankhamun?
   a. He was a well-loved ruler during his lifetime.
   b. He made many important political decisions during his lifetime.
   c. His young age was a benefit to his ability to rule ancient Egypt.
   d. He is known by generations today because of the discovery of his tomb.

4. List three things in sequential order that happen in the passage.
   a. _____
   b. _____
   c. _____

5. If someone wanted to know more about Tutankhamun, which source would be the least helpful in gathering information?
   a. an encyclopedia entry about Tutankhamun
   b. a brochure about a museum tour of artifacts from King Tut's tomb
   c. a website with original newspaper articles about Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.
   d. an atlas showing the location of the Valley of the Kings

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Butch Cassidy

Robert Leroy Parker is probably not a name most people know. However, Parker's pseudonym, Butch Cassidy, is synonymous as one of the most notorious bank robbers in America's history. Born in 1866, Parker would later team up with Harry Longabaugh, the Sundance Kid, and proceed to rob banks and trains with a group of outlaws known throughout the West as the Wild Bunch.

Butch Cassidy was the oldest of thirteen children. He was raised in Utah, and his family struggled financially. He left home as a teenager, hoping to find a way out of the poverty he had known as a child. He eventually found work on a ranch. He then met Mike Cassidy, a horse and cattle thief. For whatever reason, Robert Leroy Parker admired the older Cassidy and changed his name to Butch Cassidy.

Cassidy's first major robbery occurred in 1889, when he and his gang stole over twenty thousand dollars from a bank in Colorado. Eventually he was caught and spent two years in jail. Sadly, after his release, he was not reformed, and he continued his life as a criminal. With his gang known as the Wild Bunch, he would embark on a successful string of train and bank robberies.

The Union Pacific Railroad, a frequent target of the gang, was desperate to have the band of outlaws stopped. They hired the Pinkerton Detective Agency to track down and stop Butch Cassidy and his group of thieves. They eventually drove the robbers out of the United States and into South America. What happened to Butch Cassidy from there, no one actually knows. Some argue he changed his name yet again and went on to live a long life in South America. Others claim he died in a shootout, and still others say he came back to the United States to live. Although no one knows for sure what became of Butch Cassidy, he is remembered as one of the legendary outlaws of the West.

Text Questions

1. Which is a synonym for the word *pseudonym* as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. first name
   b. false name
   c. legal name
   d. last name

2. From the information in the text, which statement best explains why Parker changed his name?
   a. He did not like his own name.
   b. He did not like his old name because he had been named after his father.
   c. Since he had run away, he did not want his parents to be able to find him.
   d. He wanted to start a new life with the name of someone he admired.

3. If you had to write a report about the life of Butch Cassidy, which source would be a primary source?
   a. an entry on a website about the Wild West and the outlaws who lived during the late 1800s
   b. a biography about Butch Cassidy
   c. letters written by Butch Cassidy while he was in jail
   d. a newspaper article about the Union Pacific Railroad Company

4. Summarize the text in two complete sentences.

   _____

   _____

5. According to the text, which of the following might have happened to Butch Cassidy?
   a. He died trying to cross the border into South America.
   b. He was buried in an unmarked grave in South America.
   c. He married and moved to Australia.
   d. He changed his name and lived out the rest of his life in South America.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Milton Hershey

Most people have heard of Hershey chocolates. But did you know the candy was named after Milton Hershey? Milton Hershey was born in 1857 in Pennsylvania. He began learning to make candy at the age of fourteen. Success would not come easily. His hard work and determination as he learned how to make candy would help him become one of the world's most famous makers of chocolate.

Milton Hershey's first real success came when he started a company called Lancaster Caramel Company. At this point, he mainly made caramels. Then, in 1893, he attended the World's Columbian Exposition where he was able to see how chocolate was made. It was during this time that he started the Hershey Chocolate Company. His passion was to create world-class milk chocolate. Within three years, he had sold his caramel company and was building a factory in Pennsylvania to make his new chocolates. The doors to the factory opened in 1905. By 1907, the Hershey's Kiss was created. The town in Pennsylvania where Milton Hershey built his factory is now called Hershey.

Hershey did more than start a candy company. He wanted to help the entire community with his success. The philanthropist gave money to support schools, churches, parks, and other endeavors—all to help those who lived in the area. One of his largest projects was opening the Hershey Industrial School for orphaned boys to have a home and an outstanding education. Today, both boys and girls can attend what is now known as the Milton Hershey School. Although Hershey died in 1945, his legacy continues.

Text Questions

1. Which adjective best describes Milton Hershey?
   a. stubborn
   b. determined
   c. selfish
   d. cowardly

2. Using information from the text, explain why you chose the answer for question one.

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. What does the word *philanthropist* mean as it is used in the third paragraph?
   a. someone who saves most of the money he or she makes
   b. someone who gives money to be used to help others
   c. someone who has very little money
   d. someone who is extremely wealthy

4. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
   a. Milton Hershey was selfish and thought only of himself.
   b. Milton Hershey was driven to make the best chocolate in the world.
   c. Milton Hershey regretted his decision to sell his caramel company.
   d. Milton Hershey used his success to help others.

5. Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
   a. "Milton Hershey's Legacy"
   b. "Hershey Chocolate Tastes Great"
   c. "A New Kind of Chocolate"
   d. "A Boy from Pennsylvania"

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Helen Keller

Helen Keller's life is one of the most inspirational stories ever told. Born in 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama, Keller became sick when she was near the age of two. Her illness left her blind, deaf, and mute. Her vocal chords were not impaired from the illness, but because she could not hear how words were pronounced, she could not learn to say them. With no way to communicate, there seemed to be little hope of her being able to learn, even though she had already begun to say words at just six months old.

Experts are unsure exactly what illness Helen Keller had. Regardless, the high fever produced from the illness caused the loss of her sight and hearing. As a child, she found ways to communicate with her family. Just as one might hug someone to show affection or place a finger over a person's mouth to advise them to be quiet, she developed methods to let others know what she wanted or needed; however, her behavior was unpredictable, and she would often have uncontrollable tantrums.

Searching for help, the Keller family was introduced to Anne Sullivan from the Perkins Institute for the Blind. Sullivan moved to Alabama to work with her new student. Miraculously, Sullivan made a breakthrough with her pupil. One day, as she spelled the word *water* into Helen's hand and ran water from a pump onto Helen's hand, everything seemed to come together for Helen. She understood that the symbols stood for the words.

Helen Keller went on to graduate from Radcliffe College at the age of twenty-four. She and Anne Sullivan would remain friends and work together for the remainder of Anne Sullivan's life. Keller died in 1968 and was only a few weeks short of her eighty-eighth birthday.

Text Questions

1. Which information from the text is an opinion?
   a. Helen Keller's life is one of the most inspirational stories ever told.
   b. Helen Keller was born in 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama.
   c. Anne Sullivan moved to Alabama to work with Helen Keller.
   d. Helen Keller graduated from Radcliffe College.

2. What is the first word Anne Sullivan was able to get Helen to truly understand?
   a. Alabama
   b. teacher
   c. mother
   d. water

3. What does the word *mute* mean as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. unable to see
   b. unable to talk
   c. unable to hear
   d. unable to communicate

4. Summarize the text in two or three complete sentences.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
   a. to persuade
   b. to explain
   c. to inform
   d. to entertain

LIVEWORKSHEETS