Name_____

Harry Houdini

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1874, Erich Weisz would later be known as the famous magician Harry Houdini. Houdini was one of seven children. His family moved from Hungary to the United States, and when he was thirteen, he moved with his father to New York to help find a place for the family to live and to begin working.

By 1894, Houdini was beginning to perform his magic for small audiences; however, most were only interested in his escape tricks, such as freeing himself of shackles or from locked prisons. By 1899, Houdini was traveling and living with a vaudeville act that performed around the country.

Houdini's most famous escape trick was the Chinese Water Torture Cell. For this trick, Houdini was suspended by his feet and then lowered into a locked glass cabinet that was filled with water. His body was upside down in the tank. He had to hold his breath for over three minutes to escape from the water-filled prison. Houdini continued to perform until his death in 1926 at the age of fifty-two.

After Houdini's death, his brother was given Houdini's collection of props. Eventually, his brother sold the items and after several different sales, many of his most important pieces—including the Chinese Water Torture Cell—became the property of another well-known magician, David Copperfield.

Text Questions

1. Which paragraph gives the most information about Houdini's childhood?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph
2. Why might David Copperfield want anything that belonged to Harry Houdini?
   a. He wanted to destroy the other magician's props.
   b. He wants to put the items on display in a museum.
   c. He most likely admired the magician and wanted something that belonged to him.
   d. He probably did not realize what he was buying.
3. What can you infer about Houdini's success as a magician?
   a. Everyone loved to watch his performances.
   b. He created all of his own tricks.
   c. His parents gave him money to help get his career started.
   d. His main success came from his skill as an escapee artist.
4. From what you read in the text, which of the following statements is true?
   a. Harry Houdini never married.
   b. Harry Houdini wanted to return to his home in Hungary.
   c. Harry Houdini was eventually a successful magician.
   d. Harry Houdini admired the work of David Copperfield.
5. What does the word *shackles* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
   a. rope tied into a noose
   b. chains used to imprison
   c. words used to insult
   d. tape used to bind

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Benjamin Franklin

In 1706, one of America's most well-known historical figures was born: Benjamin Franklin. Franklin was born in the Massachusetts Bay Colony and is considered one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.

Like many children during this time period, Franklin began working at an early age. By the time he was ten, he was already learning to make candles at his father's business. By age twelve, he was apprenticed to work at a print shop, and by age fourteen, he was printing many of his own writings under a pseudonym. Eventually, Franklin would leave his apprenticeship and move to Philadelphia.

Franklin had found his life's passion during his apprenticeship while working with a printing press. He would eventually purchase his own newspaper. He published *Poor Richard's Almanac* by 1732, and during the following years, he would see his success continue to grow. Franklin also began to expand his interests into scientific pursuits during the next few decades. He invented the Franklin stove, and during this time, he also conducted his well-known kite experiments regarding electricity.

Politically, Benjamin Franklin would be part of the colonies rebellion against British rule. He would represent Pennsylvania at the Constitutional Convention. It was here the United States Constitution would be ratified. Franklin also participated in electing George Washington as the new country's first president. These accomplishments and Franklin's many other achievements serve to give him a prominent place in America's history.

Text Questions

1. According to the text, besides his political career, what are two other interests Ben Franklin had as an adult?
   a. science and horticulture
   b. technology and engineering
   c. education and writing
   d. writing and science
2. Which is a synonym for the word *rebellion* as it is used in the last paragraph?
   a. revolt
   b. support
   c. maintain
   d. reveal
3. Which statement is an opinion?
   a. Benjamin Franklin was born in 1706.
   b. Benjamin Franklin is one of America's most popular historical figures.
   c. Benjamin Franklin published *Poor Richard's Almanac*.
   d. Benjamin Franklin was a representative at the Constitutional Convention.
4. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
   a. to entertain
   b. to persuade
   c. to inform
   d. to state an opinion
5. Why might children who lived during Franklin's time have apprenticeships?
   a. so they did not have to go to school
   b. so they could learn trades or ways to make a living
   c. so they could earn extra money for entertainment and food
   d. so they could share what they learned with others

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Anne Frank

Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl born in 1929, was eventually a victim of the horrific Holocaust of World War II. She became famous posthumously when a diary she wrote while in hiding eventually became published. Today, her story has been read by millions of people across the globe.

Anne was the youngest child of Otto and Edith Frank. She had an older sister, Margot. Originally, the family lived in Germany, but when Adolph Hitler became Chancellor, Otto Frank knew he had to do something. He moved his family to Amsterdam to try to keep them safe. In Amsterdam, the family was forced into hiding, along with four other people. Their hiding place—where they would stay for over two years—was a place they called the Secret Annex. The Annex was located inside Otto Frank's business. Friends of the family helped get them food and supplies and were the only contact they had with the outside world since they could never leave the hiding place.

During their time in hiding, Anne kept a diary. Once her original diary was full, she wrote on any paper she could find. After August 4, 1944, there are no more entries because Anne and her family were found and captured by the Nazis. To this day, no one knows who gave away their hiding place to the Nazis.

Of the eight people who went into hiding, only Otto Frank survived. Anne and her sister died from typhus while being held at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, yet despite her early and tragic death, Anne's words live on even today. After the war, Otto Frank, with the help of friends, collected Anne's writings and had them published into a book. Her story has been made into several movies and is also performed as a play. One can be sure that Anne Frank's story will never be forgotten.

Text Questions

1. What does the word *posthumously* mean as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. during someone's lifetime
   b. before someone was born
   c. centuries later
   d. after someone's death
2. Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
   a. "The Frank Family"
   b. "The Horror of the Nazi Holocaust"
   c. "Anne Frank: Her Words Live On"
   d. "Nazi Germany"
3. Based on the text, why did Mr. Frank most likely have his daughter's diary published into a book?
   a. He wanted to make a lot of money.
   b. He wanted others to know what Anne's life had been like while in hiding.
   c. He wanted to become an author.
   d. He hoped the diary would be made into a movie.
4. When the war was over, which member of the Frank family survived?
   a. Edith Frank
   b. Otto Frank
   c. Anne Frank
   d. Margot Frank
5. Which statement is an opinion?
   a. Anne Frank was born in 1929.
   b. Anne Frank was the youngest child of Otto and Edith Frank.
   c. Anne Frank and her family moved to Amsterdam.
   d. Anne Frank's story should never be forgotten.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 29

Example: 0 I M P R E S S I V E

Looking into the past

Some years ago, plans to build a shopping centre on a piece of land in Glasgow were delayed when photographs taken from the air showed that there were marks of ancient houses that had once stood on this land. Archaeologists found the photographs **(0)** ..... and were keen to carry out an **(25)** ..... on the land. They knew that once the shopping centre was built, the archaeological **(26)** ..... would be hidden forever. **(27)** ..... , building work was due to start just a few days after the **(28)** ..... of the houses was made. The archaeologists wanted to delay the start of building work and held urgent **(29)** ..... with the **(30)** ..... to request that the building work should not begin immediately. An agreement was reached and the archaeologists were given eleven weeks to find out more about the houses before building work began.

IMPRESS
INVESTIGATE
EVIDENT
FORTUNATE
DISCOVER
DISCUSS
DEVELOP

They found that the houses had been made of wood and were circular in shape. They had **(31)** ..... been surrounded by a deep ditch. What remained of the **(32)** ..... was some holes in the ground where the **(33)** ..... of the houses had built a fence some two metres in height, presumably to offer them some **(34)** ..... from attack.

ORIGIN
SETTLE
INHABIT
PROTECT

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 30

Example: 0 I N A C C U R A T E

Koalas

Koalas are often called 'bears' but this is **(0)** ..... as a koala is not a bear but a marsupial – a mammal whose young are carried by the female in a pouch. Koalas are found in coastal regions of eastern and southern Australia, but can also be found a considerable **(25)** ..... from the sea, in areas with enough moisture to support the type of woodlands which are **(26)** ..... for them. A koala's average life expectancy is about twelve years, but if its habitat is quiet and **(27)** ..... , it will live longer than if it lives in a built-up area. The **(28)** ..... of a koala varies from about five to fourteen kilograms.

ACCURATE
DISTANT
SUIT
DISTURB
WEIGH

The habitat requirements of a koala include the **(29)** ..... of eucalyptus trees. The higher the **(30)** ..... of these trees, the better the habitat quality. Koalas can eat **(31)** ..... 350 grams of leaves a day. However, the leaves from the eucalyptus can be extremely **(32)** ..... . To overcome this problem, the koala removes any **(33)** ..... chemicals from the leaves with the aid of a specially adapted digestive system. As the leaves are not a very good source of calories, energy **(34)** ..... is a high priority for the animal. It achieves this by sleeping up to sixteen hours a day.

PRESENT
DENSE
APPROXIMATE
POISON
HARM
CONSERVE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 31

Example:	0	*unusual*	0

CAMERON PARK

At first light, there is nothing **(0)** .... about the town of Cameron Park in California but, as the day begins and the town comes to **(56)** .... , you can't help **(57)** .... that, among the cars, there are light aeroplanes moving along the roads towards the airport.

USUAL
LIVE
NOTICE

When the town was **(58)** .... built, a small airport was included for the **(59)** .... of people flying in to look at the properties which were for **(60)** .... , but it soon became clear to the developers that this was an attraction in itself. The streets were **(61)** .... so that planes could use them, the mailboxes near the road were made **(62)** .... to avoid passing wings, and all the electricity cables were buried **(63)** .... .

ORIGIN
CONVENIENT
SELL
WIDE
SHORT
GROUND

Now, there is every **(64)** .... that the residents will have a private plane in their garage and use it with the same **(65)** .... other people enjoy with their cars.

LIKELY
FREE

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 29

0 A fixed B solid C firm D steady

0	A	B	C	D

The changing landscape

The landscape of the world is never **(0)** ..... but changes from year to year. While some of these changes are caused by human **(1)** ..... , most of them are natural. Snow and ice, for example, have a considerable **(2)** ..... on the environment in the northern hemisphere.

An ever-present problem in areas that **(3)** ..... harsh winters is the possibility of water pipes freezing. When they do, they crack and **(4)** ..... because of the expansion of the ice inside. Exactly the same thing happens in nature. On icy mountains, water **(5)** ..... into cracks in exposed rocks and when it freezes, the water turns into ice. The pressure of the ice **(6)** ..... the cracks, breaking the rocks apart. As a direct result of this **(7)** ..... action, broken blocks of stone can often be seen sloping downwards from high mountain **(8)** ..... .

A similar process brings stones to the surface of the soil. Water beneath a buried stone freezes more easily than water in the **(9)** ..... soil because the stone **(10)** ..... heat more quickly. Ice **(11)** ..... beneath the stone expands and brings the stone upwards. In permanently cold regions, the whole soil surface is raised and the stones that have been **(12)** ..... to the surface lie in lines on the soil, making a ridged pattern.

1	A work	B contribution	C activity	D practice
2	A development	B impact	C consequence	D power
3	A experience	B contain	C receive	D bear
4	A rip	B peel	C tear	D split
5	A runs	B slides	C dashes	D slips
6	A prolongs	B explodes	C widens	D swells
7	A destructive	B hurtful	C disorderly	D rebellious
8	A heads	B crowns	C tips	D peaks
9	A bordering	B enclosing	C surrounding	D circulating
10	A absorbs	B sucks	C holds	D occupies
11	A creating	B establishing	C producing	D forming
12	A stirred	B removed	C squashed	D pushed

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 30

0 **A** create **B** compose **C** develop **D** invent

0	A	B	C	D

Sugar sculpture

Most artists who **(0)** ..... three-dimensional objects, rather than paintings or drawings, **(1)** ..... use of materials like stone or metal in their work. An exhibition has just opened at the Bowes Museum in England, however, where re-creations of sculptures carved from a very different material, sugar, are on **(2)** ..... .

To understand the **(3)** ..... of this art form, you must go back 500 years, to a time when sugar was very rare and was **(4)** ..... only to the very wealthy. In those days, it became popular for rich Europeans to show **(5)** ..... their wealth by decorating their dining tables with elaborate sugar sculptures to impress their guests on special occasions. The finest artists were employed to **(6)** ..... on these sculptures, which reflected the host's **(7)** ..... taste and position in society.

Although expensively decorated tables **(8)** ..... popular into the 19th century, the idea then went out of **(9)** ..... and was largely forgotten. This was partly because sugar sculptures only **(10)** ..... for a limited time – around 100 years at most – so eventually there were none in **(11)** ..... . The Bowes Museum has recently **(12)** ..... a collection of the wooden tools used in the production of sugar sculptures, together with some original designs, in an attempt to recreate the forgotten art form.

1	**A** put	**B** make	**C** get	**D** take
2	**A** presentation	**B** display	**C** viewing	**D** sight
3	**A** development	**B** outcome	**C** arrangement	**D** circumstance
4	**A** reserved	**B** kept	**C** preferred	**D** available
5	**A** off	**B** out	**C** up	**D** in
6	**A** carry	**B** try	**C** build	**D** work
7	**A** happy	**B** worthy	**C** good	**D** positive
8	**A** rested	**B** continued	**C** remained	**D** persisted
9	**A** fashion	**B** custom	**C** habit	**D** trend
10	**A** maintain	**B** live	**C** stay	**D** last
11	**A** presence	**B** existence	**C** occurrence	**D** survival
12	**A** acquired	**B** earned	**C** realised	**D** paid

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TEST 31

0 A have B encourage C request D bring

0	A	B	C	D

The importance of drawing

In the nineteenth century, John Ruskin, an English writer and art critic, made great efforts to **(0)** ..... people to draw. He believed that drawing was a skill that was greatly neglected in schools and **(1)** ..... that it was more important to the human **(2)** ..... than writing.

In order to do something to improve the **(3)** ..... , he published two books on drawing and gave a series of lectures at the Working Men's College in London. His books were **(4)** ..... read, and his lectures **(5)** ..... large audiences. This further **(6)** ..... Ruskin's belief that everybody should be given the opportunity to learn how to draw.

Ruskin's efforts were not **(7)** ..... at turning people into good artists but at making them happier. For him, drawings were of value even when they were done by people with no talent, as drawing teaches people to **(8)** ..... things rather than just to see them. He felt that when we are involved in the process of drawing something, we have to look at it very **(9)** ..... and become aware of the different parts which **(10)** ..... up the whole. It is in this way that we **(11)** ..... to a deeper appreciation and **(12)** ..... of the thing itself.

1	A claimed	B convinced	C recommended	D expressed
2	A family	B people	C race	D beings
3	A state	B condition	C case	D situation
4	A vastly	B broadly	C immensely	D widely
5	A gained	B collected	C attracted	D brought
6	A strengthened	B raised	C ensured	D grew
7	A designed	B aimed	C pointed	D intended
8	A observe	B regard	C witness	D look
9	A closely	B distinctly	C definitely	D exactly
10	A work	B set	C make	D take
11	A arrive	B come	C reach	D achieve
12	A meaning	B intelligence	C understanding	D significance

LIVEWORKSHEETS