Name_____

Jesse James

Jesse James was born in 1847. By the time the Civil War broke out in the United States, both Jesse and his brother Frank were old enough to serve. Each chose to serve with the Confederate army. Their military careers would soon come to an end as the two became criminals in the area of the country that would become known as the Wild West.

No one knows what made the son of a preacher turn to a life of violence. Historians do know that, in 1863, the James's home was attacked by Union troops. Whatever the cause, James became one of the most notorious outlaws of the times, robbing banks, trains, and stagecoaches. James and the men who followed him became known as the James Gang. This gang of outlaws stole an estimated two hundred thousand dollars and harmed countless people.

Eventually, Jesse James's life of crime came to an end. One of his own men turned against him to collect a reward offered by the Governor of Missouri. Jesse James died at the age of thirty-four, and with his death, the notorious James Gang came to an end.

Text Questions

1. Which statement is an opinion about the text?
   a. James was born in 1847.
   b. James served in the Confederate army.
   c. James became a criminal after his home was attacked by Union soldiers.
   d. James was the most notorious outlaw of all time.
2. What does the word *notorious* mean as it is used in the second paragraph?
   a. popular
   b. infamous
   c. friendly
   d. well-liked
3. Which title would be a good alternative for this text?
   a. "A Life of Crime"
   b. "Turned Against"
   c. "The James Gang"
   d. "Confederate Soldier"
4. Which paragraph provides information about Jesse James's death?
   a. none of the paragraphs
   b. the first paragraph
   c. the second paragraph
   d. the third paragraph
5. Which adjective best describes Jesse James?
   a. villainous
   b. heroic
   c. gallant
   d. brave

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

History

Many students often lament the studying of history. They wonder why they should study something that, in their opinion, has nothing to do with their own lives. That point of view, however, is far from the truth.

History is a culmination of the personal stories and events of people just like you. The men and women who came before you helped shape the country where you live. Their ideas often solved problems and conflicts. Studying the past helps you to understand what your ancestors' lives were like and to see how their experiences have shaped your own life.

Not everything that happened in the past is good. Some of what you study in history helps you understand the mistakes of the past, which will help people to not repeat any injustice that has already occurred. People often learn from the past to have a better future.

Whether you like the subject of history or not, one must appreciate the importance of the events and the people who came before you. The generations who lived before you have impacted your own life in the decisions they made. The decisions of your own generation will eventually affect the generations that come after you. In this unique way, the world is truly connected. History is not just a study of the past; history is the study of people, places, and events that can affect the future.

Text Questions

1. What was the author's purpose in writing this text?
   a. to convince students to like history more than science
   b. to persuade students that studying history is important
   c. to persuade all high school students to take multiple history classes
   d. to show that history is irrelevant to the future
2. Which is a synonym for the word *lament* as it is used in the first paragraph?
   a. consider
   b. grieve
   c. compare
   d. imagine
3. Which paragraph in the text best explains how studying history can help people not repeat the mistakes of past generations?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph
4. Using information from the text, explain why the decisions you make today are important.

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. Which paragraph from the text helps you to explain your answer for question four?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Name_____

Slavery

In North America, the thirteen British colonies grew quickly. Farms and industry began to thrive. With this expansion, workers were needed. Some people did work as indentured servants. An indentured servant is different from a slave because this person can earn his or her freedom after an agreed-upon term. Many people came to the New World as indentured servants; someone else paid for their passage in return for a required number of years of service, but eventually the person could earn his or her freedom. This was not so with slavery.

Slavery was introduced in America as early as the 1600s. Slavery expanded in the colonies as the New World began to grow. In fact, the population grew so quickly that many colonists feared they would be overpowered by the slaves. Slave codes were put into place. These codes kept slaves from gathering in large numbers and also from traveling without permits.

The daily life of a slave varied. Some were given jobs as house slaves, while others toiled in fields working long, strenuous hours. Slaves were treated differently depending on their owners. Some were treated very cruelly and punished in barbaric methods, such as being hit with a whip. Others were treated as family such as the life of slave Phyllis Wheatley, who was taught to read and write and was later given her freedom by her owner. Unfortunately, stories like Phyllis Wheatley's did not often occur. The issue of slavery would not be settled in America until 1865 at the end of the Civil War.

Text Questions

1. According to the text, why were slaves needed in the New World?
   a. More people were needed to settle the colonies.
   b. Disease forced them from their own homes.
   c. Farms and industry were rapidly expanding in the New World.
   d. People in Europe had slaves, so people in the New World wanted to continue the practice.
2. What is one difference between an indentured servant and a slave?
   a. An indentured servant could work to earn his or her freedom.
   b. Only males could be indentured servants.
   c. Slaves had free passage to the colonies; therefore, they were unable to be indentured servants.
   d. Unlike a freed slave, an indentured servant could never leave the thirteen colonies even once the person earned his or her freedom.
3. What was the purpose of the Slave codes?
   a. to stop slaves from organizing and trying to be free
   b. to give slaves their own set of laws
   c. to stop slaves from learning to read
   d. to separate slaves from their families
4. Which statement is true about Phyllis Wheatley?
   a. She was the only slave ever taught to read and write.
   b. She was freed from slavery because her owners were afraid of her.
   c. The treatment she received from her owners was not the usual treatment most slaves experienced.
   d. Her life was perfect.
5. Which is an antonym for the word *toiled* as it is used in the last paragraph?
   a. labored
   b. worked
   c. struggled
   d. relaxed

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