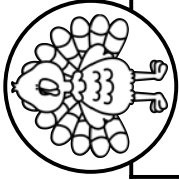


Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #1

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Battle of the Bird

The turkey is a symbol of Thanksgiving. If it was up to Ben Franklin, it would also be the symbol of our country.

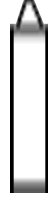
Franklin thought the bald eagle was a bad choice as a symbol. He thought it had bad character. An eagle doesn't fish for itself. Instead, it steals fish from other birds. He called the bird a coward. It gets chased away by much smaller birds.

In Franklin's opinion, the turkey was more noble. It was a true native of America. It was a brave bird that would chase away others.

Luckily, Ben Franklin did not get his wish. Now we don't have to worry about eating the symbol of America for Thanksgiving dinner!

1. What did Ben Franklin like about the turkey?

- a. It is good at fishing.
- b. It is brave.
- c. It is tasty.
- d. It is bigger than an eagle.

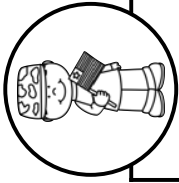
2. What is the main idea of this text? 

3. Why did Ben Franklin think the bald eagle was not brave? 

4. How do the photos add to your understanding of the text?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #2

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Memorial Wall

If you ever visit Washington, D.C., you can visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It honors Americans who fought in the Vietnam War.

The memorial has three parts. There's a tall bronze statue of three soldiers. Another large statue shows three women helping a wounded soldier. The most famous part of the memorial is the Memorial Wall.

The wall is made of two slabs of black stone. They each stretch 246 feet long. Engraved on them are the names of more than 58,000 U.S. soldiers. Those are the ones who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Each year, millions of people visit the Memorial Wall. Some look for the name of a family member. Some even place paper over the name and rub a crayon across it. This makes a rubbing they can keep.

1. Which of these is not part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?

- a. a statue of three soldiers
- b. a statue of women helping a soldier
- c. a black stone wall with names on it
- d. a tall, pointy white monument

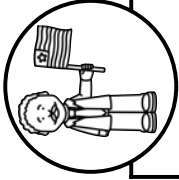
2. What is the author's purpose for writing this text? 

3. What is a rubbing? 

4. Which detail from the text is best illustrated by the photo?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #3

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

The Wackiest Election

Americans vote for a new president every four years. The country has had more than 50 elections. The strangest of all must have been the one in 1800.

Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr both ran for president. After the votes we counted, the two were tied. Congress had to vote to break the tie.

People in Congress asked Alexander Hamilton for advice. He got most of them to vote for Jefferson. Aaron Burr lost, so he became vice president.

Burr was upset with Hamilton. He thought Hamilton had caused him to lose. Years later, Burr killed Hamilton in a duel. At the time, Burr was still vice president!

1. Who won the presidential election of 1800?

- a. Thomas Jefferson
- b. Aaron Burr
- c. Alexander Hamilton
- d. no one won

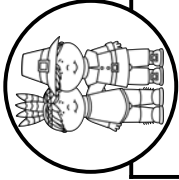
2. In elections today, a candidate chooses his own vice president. They win or lose the election together. How was the election of 1800 different? 

3. Why was Aaron Burr upset with Alexander Hamilton? 

4. Why was the election of 1800 the wackiest?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #4

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Thanksgiving Myths

Do you think Thanksgiving is about pilgrims, Indians, and turkey? If so, think again!

Thanksgiving was not a holiday in 1621. President Abraham Lincoln declared the holiday in 1863. The reason was to give thanks for victories in the Civil War. However, the holiday reminded people of the pilgrims' first feast in America.

The pilgrims didn't wear all black or have buckles on their clothes. Those details were added later by artists. It made the pilgrims look old-fashioned. And what about Native Americans? We don't know if they really came to the first feast.

Finally, there is no proof that pilgrims ate turkey at the first Thanksgiving. Also, we know they couldn't have had pie. That's because they didn't have flour, butter, or ovens.

1. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

- a. Many things we believe about Thanksgiving are not true.
- b. Pilgrims did not wear buckles on their clothing.
- c. Some beliefs about the people at the first Thanksgiving are myths.

2. Why is President Abraham Lincoln mentioned in the text about the first Thanksgiving? 

3. What is a myth? What clues in the text help readers know what a myth is? 

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Thankfulness Brings Happiness

Saying “thank you” is a good manner. But did you know that feeling thankful can be good for your health?

People who are thankful tend to be happy. They feel good about something in the past or the present. This makes them feel happier about the future.

Here are some ways to make thankfulness a habit:

1. Keep a journal. Each day, write down some things you are thankful for.
2. Write thank-you notes. Don't wait until someone gives you a gift. Look for other reasons to be thankful.
3. Look on the bright side. Thankfulness isn't just for good times. Find ways to be thankful even during hard times.

Reading Comprehension Check #5

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

1. According to the text, when should you write a thank-you note?

- a. just when you get a gift
- b. every day
- c. only during hard times
- d. when you find a reason to be thankful

2. What is the purpose of the numbered list?



3. What makes people feel happier about the future?



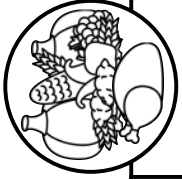
4. Read the following fact:

Giving money to charity tends to make people happier.

Does it belong in the text? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #6

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

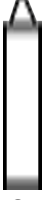
Have a Healthy Feast

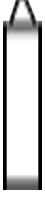
Thanksgiving is the most food-focused holiday of the year. This year, try making your holiday healthier. These simple swaps will make your feast healthy and still delicious.

1. Choose lighter appetizers. Some people eat nuts, cheese, or meat before their meal. Try raw veggies, salad, or soup instead.
2. Enjoy (some) turkey. Of course, turkey can be part of your Thanksgiving feast. You should remove the skin, though.
3. The best food choices are vegetables. Load your plate with a variety of colors. Just go easy on the potatoes.
4. Sip water. This drink is a better choice than cider or soda.
5. Stick to one dessert. Enjoy a slice of pie. But if you add a scoop of ice cream, swap that slice for a sliver.

1. According to the text, what should you eat before your Thanksgiving meal?

- a. turkey
- b. salad
- c. cheese
- d. potatoes

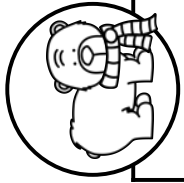
2. What words from the text show that the author is trying to persuade readers? 

3. How is suggestion 1 related to suggestion 3? 

4. What does the phrase “swap that slice for a sliver” mean? What does the author want readers to do?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #7

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Moving and Sleeping

How do you stay warm in winter? Maybe you turn up the heat. Maybe you wear a jacket. Animals adapt in different ways.

Some animals move to warmer places. This is called migration. Birds aren't the only animals that go south for the winter. Whales swim to warmer waters. Butterflies, crabs, deer, and even insects migrate.

Other animals adapt to winter by "sleeping." They hibernate. Most go into a den. Their heart rate and breathing slow down. They don't eat or move for months. Many mammals hibernate. So do some reptiles and amphibians. Even one bird and one fish hibernate.

Animals adapt to cold winters. Many do so by migrating or hibernating.

1. What do the quotation marks around the word "sleeping" most likely mean?

- a. The animal isn't actually sleeping, even though it seems like it.
- b. The author is using a word from a foreign language.
- c. Readers should say that word quietly when reading aloud.
- d. The author actually means the opposite of that word.

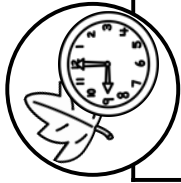
2. What is the second paragraph mainly about? 

3. What happens to the animal when it hibernates? 

4. What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #8

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Fall Back in Fall

Spring ahead in spring. Fall back in fall. Why do we change our clocks twice per year?

Daylight Saving Time, or DST, helps make the best use of daylight. In spring, days grow longer.

Some places set clocks ahead. In fall, days grow shorter. Clocks get set back. The clock change takes place in the middle of the night.

Not all countries use DST. Daylight has greater impact on countries close to the poles. Most of the United States uses DST. Hawaii and Arizona do not.

Not all countries use one hour for DST. Some use two hours or a half hour.

1. What happens in some countries in spring?

- a. Days have more than 24 hours in them.
- b. People move to be closer to the pole.
- c. Days grow shorter as there is less daylight.
- d. People set their clocks ahead an hour.

2. Why do some countries use DST? 

3. What states do not use daylight savings? 

4. How does DST differ around the world?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #9

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

The Florence Flood of 1966

Florence is a very old city in Italy. It is filled with old buildings and art. The Arno River flows through the city.

In November of 1966, the Arno River flooded. About 10 feet of muddy water filled the city. Cars were washed away. Old churches were filled with mud. Priceless artwork was ruined. Rare books were destroyed. Many people died because of the flood.

For days, people had no heat or electricity. For months, workers cleaned up the city. But cleaning some of the art took years.

Today, many people visit Florence. They can see a sign high up on a building. It says, "In 1966, the Arno River rose to this height."

1. Which paragraph is mainly about the damage done by the flood?

- a. Paragraph 1
- b. Paragraph 2
- c. Paragraph 3
- d. Paragraph 4

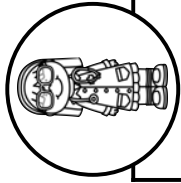
2. What words or phrases in the text describe what a flood is? 

3. Why is it especially bad that the flood happened in Florence? 

4. What do people today do to remember the flood of 1966? 

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #10

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Mary Walker

Early Life

Mary Walker was born on November 26, 1832. She grew up in New York. She went to school there. At that time, few women went to college.

Career

It was not common for women to become doctors. But that didn't stop Mary Walker. She became a doctor.

War Hero

The Civil War began in 1861. Mary Walker worked in a hospital tent. She helped soldiers who were hurt. The army from the South captured Dr. Walker. She was later set free. She went back to work caring for soldiers.

Honors

Mary Walker was given a medal of honor. After the war, she continued doing good. She fought for women's right to vote. She fought for women to dress the way they wanted.

1. Which feature does the text use?

- a. glossary
- b. captions
- c. headings
- d. index

2. How does the feature you chose for Question 1 help readers understand the text?



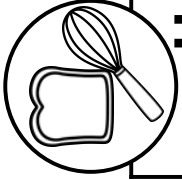
3. Why was Mary Walker given the medal of honor?



4. What do you think is the author's purpose for writing this text?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #11

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Happy French Toast Day!

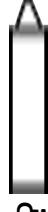
November 28 is a yummy holiday. It's French Toast Day! Start this special day with French toast for breakfast. Here's how:

1. Crack 1 egg into a bowl.
2. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk into the bowl.
3. Add a bit of cinnamon, vanilla, and salt.
4. Beat until well mixed.
5. Ask an adult to put a pan on medium heat.
6. Soak two slices of bread on both sides.
7. Cook the bread on both sides.
8. Top with maple syrup and powdered sugar.

It's that easy!

1. What should readers do after putting salt, vanilla and cinnamon?
 - a. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk into the bowl.
 - b. Eat the French toast.
 - c. Top with maple syrup and powdered sugar.
 - d. Beat until well mixed.

2. What is the main topic of the text?

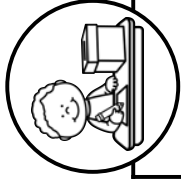


3. What is the purpose of the numbered list?

4. What does the photo show that the text does not include?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #12

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

It's Your Duty

Election Day comes every November. I think every adult has a duty to vote.

First of all, voting is a right. Not everyone gets to vote. If you have the chance, you should take it.

Second, people have fought to keep our country free. Voting shows that you're thankful. It shows they fought for a good reason.

Finally, voting is important. We must choose good leaders.

This November, let your voice be heard. Please get out and vote.

1. What type of writing is this text?

- a. informative, to teach about something
- b. persuasive, to make a point
- c. narrative, to tell a story
- d. imaginative, to be creative

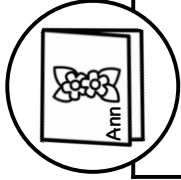
2. What does the author want readers to do as a result of reading this text? 

3. What reasons does the author give to support the main idea? 

4. What does the phrase "let your voice be heard" mean?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #13

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Perfect Place Cards

Thanksgiving is coming soon. Place cards will make your holiday great. They show people where to sit. They look nice on the table. They even hold a little snack. Here's how to make a Mayflower place card.

1. Cut off the top of a brown paper lunch bag.
2. Tape a straw to the inside of the boat. It should stick up like a mast.
3. Fill the boat with a snack, like popcorn. This will help hold the mast up.
4. Cut out a large square of white paper. Punch a hole near the top and bottom. Slide it onto the straw. This will be the sail.
5. Write each person's name on the sail of a boat.

1. Which of these supplies is **not** needed to make a Mayflower place card?

- a. glue
- b. tape
- c. hole punch
- d. scissors

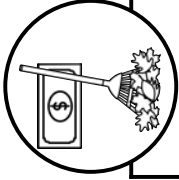
2. What reasons does the author give for making place cards? 

3. Why is step 3 important? 

4. What details from the text does the picture show?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #14

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Rake in the Dough

Leaves are falling. Holidays are coming. Those are two good reasons to earn money by raking leaves.

You can have a leaf-raking business. It would be good for your neighbors. Some of them can't rake their own leaves. They would be happy to pay you to do it.

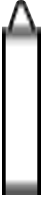
Raking leaves is good for you, too. You will get exercise. Even better, you will earn money.

What can you do with that money? Think about the holidays coming up. You can buy presents for others. You could even donate some.

So grab a rake and go get started!

1. What is the author trying to convince readers to do?

- a. make a holiday wish list
- b. rake leaves to earn money
- c. volunteer to help neighbors
- d. exercise more in the fall

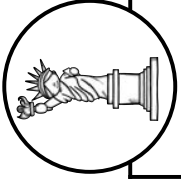
2. What reasons does the author give for raking leaves? 

3. What is paragraph 2 mainly about? 

4. How is the idea of buying presents connected to the idea of raking leaves?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Reading Comprehension Check #15

Directions: Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Sky-Scraping Statues

The Statue of Liberty is 151 feet tall. But it is not the tallest statue in the world. Even on top of her base, she is shorter than many other statues.

The world's tallest statue is in China. It is called the Spring Temple Buddha. It is 420 feet tall. It stands on a base that is 262 feet tall. Visitors climb more than 1,000 stairs to see it up close.

The Spring Temple Buddha won't be the tallest statue for long. A taller statue is being built in India. It will be 600 feet tall.

Statue	Location	Height
Statue of Liberty	New York, New York	151 feet
Spring Temple Buddha	Henan, China	420 feet
Statue of Unity	Gujarat, India	600 feet

1. Why is the text called Sky-Scraping Statues?

- a. The statues are all pointing toward the sky.
- b. Builders have to use sky scrapers to build the statues.
- c. The statues described are all very tall.
- d. The tallest statue isn't finished being built.

2. What is the purpose of the table? 

3. What information does the table include that the text does not? 

4. How do the photographs add to your understanding of the text?