

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

- 1** The Gomez family was trying to decide whether or not to get a puppy. To help with the decision, Mr. Gomez told his children to write a list of pros and cons of raising a puppy.

Pros:

- Puppies are good playmates for kids
- Puppies protect the house by barking and scaring off strangers
- Raising a puppy teaches responsibility and life lessons to children
- Puppies bring joy to people

Cons:

- Puppies need to be housebroken
- Puppies need obedience training
- Puppies chew on things
- Puppies cost money to buy, feed, and take to the vet

Using the information above, write a paragraph that provides your opinion on raising puppies. Use your previous knowledge and the facts presented in the box as evidence to support your opinion.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

It Could Save Your Life

Look around you. There is probably one in the room where you're sitting. A red canister in a corner probably covered with dust. It is a bright spot of color in the room. It may seem useless. But, it could save your life!

Fire extinguishers are made to remove one of three things present in a fire: intense heat, oxygen (or some other gas), or fuel. They are made of metal and filled with water. If it is not water, an extinguisher is filled with something that suffocates fire, like foam. This material is forced out of the extinguisher like spray from a can. A special valve keeps the gas from escaping from the extinguisher until the lever at the top is pressed.

You may have an extinguisher at home that is not filled with water. It is essential that you have it inspected every six years. Sometimes the gauge says the extinguisher has the right pressure and will work properly. But, the gauge could be incorrect. That's why an inspection is important.

If you ever need to use an extinguisher, remember to aim the spray of water or foam at the source of the fire. Move the can in a back-and-forth motion, like you're sweeping. Do not use a water-filled extinguisher for putting out electrical fires. Use it for putting out wood or paper fires only. Most fire extinguishers only have a small amount of substance in them. It can be used up in seconds. So, extinguishers are best for small fires that haven't spread. For large or fast-spreading fires, call 9-1-1 and go to a safe place.

2 Read a summary of "It Could Save Your Life" below.

Fire extinguishers are useful in putting out small fires because they are filled with a substance that can suffocate the fire. Although they are not used often, they are extremely essential to your safety. As a result, it is important to have them inspected to make sure they are working properly. There is a special valve in the extinguisher that keeps the gas from leaking out.

Which sentence does *not* summarize the main ideas of the text and should be taken out?

- A. Fire extinguishers are useful in putting out small fires because they are filled with a substance that can suffocate the fire.
- B. Although they are not used often, they are extremely essential to your safety.
- C. As a result, it is important to have them inspected to make sure they are working properly.
- D. There is a special valve in the extinguisher that keeps the gas from leaking out.

3 Which statement from the passage *best* supports the main idea?

- A. Fire extinguishers are made to remove one of three things present in a fire: intense heat, oxygen (or some other gas), or fuel.
- B. Sometimes the gauge says the extinguisher has the right pressure and will work properly. But, the gauge could be incorrect.
- C. If you ever need to use an extinguisher, remember to aim the spray of water or foam at the source of the fire.
- D. It can be used up in seconds. So, extinguishers are best for small fires that haven't spread.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

An Island Mystery

It was Easter Day, 1722. Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen and his crew came across a vision they had never seen before. Through a telescope, they saw what appeared to be immense, coastal walls. High above them, they viewed enormous, almost frightening figures on an island in the eastern South Pacific. They wondered if maybe they had found a land inhabited by giants.



The next morning, Roggeveen's curiosity brought him onto the island. As he neared the huge walls, he discovered that they were actually massive stone platforms. The figures he had seen stood on top of the platforms, and they were not alive. They were tall figures of humans from the waist up, and they each wore red helmets. All of them were many times the size of any of his crew members. After Roggeveen realized that they were harmless, and that there were no treasures on the island, he and his crew left the island they named "Easter Island." Roggeveen didn't realize that he left behind one of the world's most incredible mysteries.

Fifty years later, the island was once again explored by Europeans. They discovered that the giant statues were made of volcanic stone. Many of the figures were lowered from a crater, down a rocky slope, to the wall platforms. Some of the slopes were ten miles long. The statues were approximately 66 feet high and weighed up to 50 tons. How were these people able to perform such a task in those days?

In the middle 1800s, the figures no longer stood erect. They were toppled over and chipped, and their helmets were shattered. Tools used to sculpt statues were found inside a crater. They appeared to be left behind. Where were the people who created these humongous figures? Why were they constructed? None of the 200 people who lived on the island at this time could explain these carved giants. They didn't know why they were created or who created them.

Since that time, tourists from all over the world continue to visit Easter Island. They marvel at the idea that people were able to create such remarkable statues during a time when tools were very primitive. They wonder who knocked them down and why. Scientists have come up with some theories about the answers to all the questions, but as of today, the history of Easter Island continues to be one of the biggest mysteries of all time.

4 Which of these *best* summarizes the main ideas in the passage?

- A. The statues that sit on Easter Island are a wonder because of their unique size and the mystery behind their construction.
- B. Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen and his crew discovered the mysterious statues on Easter Island.
- C. In the 1800s, the statues no longer stood up tall and much of their detail had chipped away.
- D. Many scientists are interested in learning about Easter Island because of its volcanoes and statues.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Painting, Playing Pachyderms

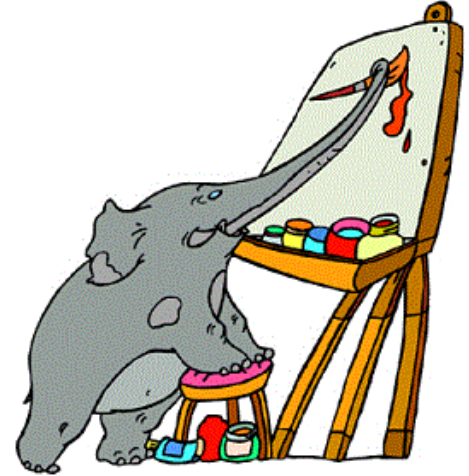
Did you know that there is another word for elephant? It is "pachyderm." Elephants are known for their long memories. Today, elephants are in the news. Why? Some amazing elephants make art and music.

In Thailand, there is a special group of elephants. They are trained to paint and play music. They hold brushes and instruments with their trunks. This unique group of elephants once worked with loggers. They hauled logs. Then, logging became illegal and stopped in the rainforests. The elephants lost their jobs and had a serious problem. They needed someone to help them.

Some caring people had a brainstorm. They had heard of some elephants in American zoos that could paint. Trainers taught the elephants in Thailand to do the same. They sold the elephants' art. They used the money to take care of the elephants.

Then, trainers taught the elephants something new. They taught them to play gongs and drums. They made xylophones for them to play. Some elephants were not interested. Others seemed to enjoy making art and music. They seemed to have natural talent. Soon, a group of elephants were musicians. Their caretakers made a compact disc recording of the elephant orchestra for sale. The money will be used to care for the elephants.

Some people say the music is boring. The elephants play the same notes over and over in monotone. Others say the music is relaxing. It is wonderful that the elephants can play music. Someday soon, you may see an elephant at the zoo. When you do, think of the elephant artists. These animals are talented and priceless.



5 Which of these *best* summarizes the main ideas in the passage?

- A. Elephants in Thailand are poorly treated and are in desperate need of being rescued.
- B. Zoos in America are much better than the zoos in Thailand because the trainers understand the animals and teach them interesting things.
- C. In order to help some elephants in Thailand, trainers taught these talented creatures how to play instruments and paint.
- D. The trainers made a compact disc of the music the elephants played, and all the money that is made is given to care for the elephants.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Queen Bess

One of the bravest women of all time would have to be Bessie Coleman. She was also known as "Queen Bess." Coleman was the first African–American woman airplane pilot. She was also the first African–American to get a worldwide flying license. Full of great success, Bessie's life left a great impact on many people all over the world.

Early Life

Coleman grew up in Texas. She had twelve brothers and sisters. In order to have food on the table, her entire family had to work by picking cotton in the fields. Bessie also helped out her mother by washing people's laundry. She did whatever she could to help her family.

School Life

School was important to Bessie. She started going at the age of six. Even though the closest school for African–Americans was four miles away, she still went. The schools in her town did not have the best supplies for the students either. Despite all the difficulties, Bessie graduated from eighth grade and moved on to college. The college she attended was different than most colleges today. It was a farming school. Unfortunately, she was not able to finish because her savings ran out.

Dreams Begin

Knowing that she could not go very far in her hometown, Coleman moved to Chicago. She found little jobs here and there and ended up working in a barber shop. This was where her dream began. While at the shop, Coleman listened to incredible stories from war pilots. She imagined that she was a female fighter pilot, too.

Life in France

Coleman wanted to fulfill her dream. At that time, the only way for her to get a pilot's license was to get one in France. While she worked at the shop, she met some wealthy people who wanted to help her with her wish. Coleman took lessons to learn French. She wanted to be able to understand the teachers at her new school before she moved to France. At her flight school, she faced many challenges. Not only was she the only African–American student, but the plane she practiced on was old and junky. Even though it was quite dangerous for her to fly in that plane, she never gave up. After seven months of school, she officially became a pilot.

Once she finished flight school, she went back to America. When she returned she became quite famous. Bessie performed in many stunt shows and proved that she was a great pilot. She was a huge part of flying history. Queen Bess overcame great challenges and proved that wishes do come true if you never give up.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

6 Read the main idea from the passage below.

Full of great success, Bessie's life left a great impact on many people all over the world.

Which sentence from the passage *best* supports the main idea above?

- A. She did whatever she could to help her family.
- B. Despite all the difficulties, Bessie graduated from eighth grade and moved on to college.
- C. In order to have food on the table, her entire family had to work by picking cotton in the fields.
- D. Queen Bess overcame great challenges and proved that wishes do come true if you never give up.

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Scrumptiously Seasoned Sensations

Would you like potato chips with your sandwich? This is a familiar food that could be eaten as a side dish, a snack, or as an appetizer. What is a potato chip? It is a thinly-sliced white potato that is cooked until it is crunchy and crisp. This everyday snack is a delicious treat for Americans all over. Since its invention over 150 years ago, potato chips have gone from just plain ol' potato slices to scrumptiously seasoned sensations.

Picky Potato Eater



This amazing food came about in a weird way in 1853. In fact, potato chips were invented because of a picky eater. A young chef, George Crum, worked at Moon Lake Lodge's restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York. French-fried potatoes were a side dish that he often made.

On one particular day, a customer ordered some of Crum's potatoes and thought they were too thick and mushy. He sent them back to the kitchen to be cooked a little more. Crum was rather insulted and wanted to annoy the guest by slicing the potatoes paper thin and frying them up so it would be impossible to pick them up with a fork. The reaction Crum looked for did not go as planned. The customer loved them. In fact, they became so popular that they were put on the menu.

Mass Quantities

Potato chips gained much popularity over the next forty years. One man, named William Tappendon, began making chips in his barn and delivered them to people's houses. It did not reach the grocery store until the 1920s, once the mechanical potato peeler was invented. After that, the potato chip became accessible at many grocery stores.

There was one downfall to the potato chip industry; the chips got too stale too fast. Most of the potato chips were kept in barrels or glass display cases which caused them to go bad quickly. Then in 1926, Laura Scudder decided to put them into a wax paper bag and seal the edges. This kept the potato chips fresh longer and allowed them to be delivered all over.

No More Seasonless Spuds

In the 1950s, Joe "Spud" Murphy developed a way to season the potatoes while they were being produced in his factory. He came up with salt and vinegar and cheese and onion flavoring for the chips. This great idea was a recipe for success. Large potato chip companies all over the United States wanted to know how to do what he did. He eventually shared his idea with the other companies.

Popular Potato

George Crum's invention created a side dish that became extremely famous. Over the last 150 years, the potato chip industry has massively grown. This delicious treat has become one of America's favorite snacks and is still very popular today.

7 Explain the author's *most* likely purpose for including information about Laura Scudder and Joe Murphy. Use examples from the passage to support your response.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Scrumptiously Seasoned Sensations".

8 Select all options that represent main ideas from the passage.

- A. Laura Scudder's potato chips became the most popular snack in America.
- B. Potato chips were created because of a picky eater.
- C. Mass production brought the potato chip to almost every household.
- D. The idea of seasoning the potato chips further increased its popularity.