Watch me soar! Mark off each lesson step as you finish it. Use the back of this paper if you need more space to add more lessons.
A Master in the Making (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A young boy learned to play chess and is now hoping to become one of the best chess players in the world. What do you think?

With enough hard work, you can do anything.

• Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Photo credit: AP/Russell Makofsky

Tani Adewumi's smile is as winning as his chess game. Here he is with his championship trophy, which is slightly taller than he is.

NEW YORK, New York (Achieve3000, April 2, 2019). It's not every day that an 8-year-old boy receives a personal invitation from a former U.S. president to drop by for a social visit, but Tanitoluwa Adewumi (Tah-nee-ta-LOO-ah Ah-deh-WOO-mee) isn't your typical 8-year-old boy.

Tani, as his friends and family affectionately call him, caught former President Bill Clinton's attention—and the media's—in March 2019, when he won the 52nd New York State Scholastic Championships chess tournament in his age group.

Tani defeated 73 other kindergarten-to-third-grade players. Some of his opponents came from affluent families, attended exclusive private schools, and even had personal chess coaches. But they were no match for the unconquerable Tani, who tore through the opposition like a rook mows down pawns on a chessboard, impressively winning the championship without a single defeat.

Part of the Tani buzz is that he accomplished this extraordinary achievement only a year or so after he learned how to play chess. That's hardly enough time to master anything of consequence, let alone a time-honored game that requires enormous skill and strategy.

But that's only half the story. The other half is the stuff that dreams are made of.

Tani, you see, was homeless when he won the title. In 2017, he, his parents, and his older brother fled the country of Nigeria in Africa because violence in the area made it a treacherous place for them to live. Like millions of immigrants before them, Tani and his family came to New York City in pursuit of a better life.

A better life, however, doesn't come easily for refugees in a new land.

A pastor directed Tani's parents to a homeless shelter, where the family settled in with their few possessions. Tani's dad found work as a driver and began studying for his real estate license, while Tani's mom enrolled in a home health aide training program. And Tani and his brother began attending P.S. 116,
the local elementary school. Tani endured teasing from some of his classmates about being homeless but bravely carried on.

Then came chess.

When the school's part-time chess teacher, Russell Makofsky, taught Tani the game, it was love at first move, so Tani asked his mom to sign him up for the school's chess club. After she explained to Makofsky that she couldn't afford the chess club fees, he waived them, and Tani was good to go.

But don't think that Tani is like those child prodigies who paint masterpieces the first time they pick up a brush. When Tani started playing chess, he was the lowest-rated member of the club, and when he competed in his first tournament, he had the lowest rating of any of the participants.

Tani was resolute, improving through sheer willpower, constant practice, and strategizing. To put his achievement into perspective, Tani's international chess rating was 105 in 2018 but is currently an impressive 1587. (In chess ratings, the higher the better.) Compare that to the 2845 rating of the world's reigning grown-up chess grandmaster, Magnus Carlsen, and you suddenly realize that Tani is more than half the way to greatness.

And now for the icing on the cake: Shortly after Tani's inspiring story made headlines, Makofsky started a fundraising campaign for the Adewumis on GoFundMe, an online platform where people pledge money to support causes. Nine days later, nearly 4,800 people contributed almost $250,000!

The Adewumis now have a two-bedroom apartment. They plan to use some of the donated money to help other African immigrants in the U.S.

As for Tani, his focus, as ever, is on his chess game, but two important dates are on his mind. The first is in May 2019, when he will participate in the national chess championships. The second is in August, when an immigration judge will review the family's request for permanent asylum in the U.S.

Tani already feels like an American, but whether he becomes one remains to be seen. One thing that is certain, however, at least in Tani's mind, is that he's going to be the youngest chess grandmaster in the world—just ask him.

The Associated Press and Voice of America contributed to this story.

Video Credit: Saint Louis Chess Club, Spectrum Studios
Published on Mar 30, 2019
Edited for length

Dictionary

affluent (adjective) well off; rich
prodigy (noun) someone who demonstrates amazing talent at a young age
resolute (adjective) determined
waive (verb) to let something pass; to decide not to require something after all
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A. A young boy's achievements in chess, in spite of the fact that he was new to the game and his family struggled with homelessness
B. The goals that a young chess champion set for himself after winning a tournament in New York
C. The attention that a young chess champion received from a former president of the United States
D. A young boy's difficulties adjusting to a new school and a new country after his family fled violence in Nigeria

Question 2
According to the Article, what is one reason why Tani was able to become a champion chess player?
A. Tani had an incredible amount of natural talent, to the point where he was immediately rated highly and called a "prodigy."
B. Tani was determined to improve in the game, so he practiced a lot to better his skills.
C. Tani's parents devoted most of their funds to his training so that he was able to have the same advantages as his classmates.
D. Tani got to meet grandmaster Magnus Carlsen and learn his strategies.

Question 3
Which of these had not yet happened when this Article was written?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.
A. Tani and his family moved into a two-bedroom apartment.
B. Tani and his family arrived in the United States after fleeing violence in Nigeria.
C. Tani competed in the 52nd New York State Scholastic Championships chess tournament.
D. Tani competed in the national chess championships.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word prodigy, as it is used in the Article?
A. Contestant
B. Phenom
C. Contemporary
D. Optimist

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of fact?
A. It's not surprising that nearly 4,800 people donated almost $250,000 in just nine days to help support the Adewumi family.
B. Tani defeated 73 other players in his age group during the New York State Scholastic Championships chess tournament.
C. Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen's international chess rating of 2845 will likely be surpassed by Tani.
D. Without Russell Makofsky, Tani would not have been able to advance as a chess champion in his lifetime.
Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Tani is a quick learner?
A. But they were no match for the unconquerable Tani, who tore through the opposition like a rook mows down pawns on a chessboard, impressively winning the championship without a single defeat. Part of the Tani buzz is that he accomplished this extraordinary achievement only a year or so after he learned how to play chess.
B. Tani endured teasing from some of his classmates about being homeless but bravely carried on.
C. After she explained to Makofsky that she couldn't afford the chess club fees, he waived them, and Tani was good to go.
D. Tani's dad found work as a driver and began studying for his real estate license, while Tani's mom enrolled in a home health aide training program. And Tani and his brother began attending P.S. 116, the local elementary school.

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. It's unlikely that Tani will continue to win chess tournaments as he gets older and plays against more experienced players.
B. Now that Tani and his family have received a great deal of money, they will be moving back to their home in Nigeria.
C. Tani's progression from a low-ranked player to a tournament champion took place at a pace that is fairly typical in school chess clubs.
D. Chess teacher Russell Makofsky placed a higher importance on Tani's desire to play the game than on the chess club's fee requirements.

Question 8
The Article states:
Tani defeated 73 other kindergarten to third-grade players. Some of his opponents came from affluent families, attended exclusive private schools, and even had personal chess coaches. But they were no match for the unconquerable Tani, who tore through the opposition like a rook mows down pawns on a chessboard, impressively winning the championship without a single defeat. Part of the Tani buzz is that he accomplished this extraordinary achievement only a year or so after he learned how to play chess.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word extraordinary, as it is used above?
A. Routine
B. Awkward
C. Exceptional
D. Humorous

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)
Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

With enough hard work, you can do anything.
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)
Identify the main idea of the Article, along with at least three supporting details. How did these details help you to better understand the main idea? Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
One organization is working to slow climate change by planting trees. The group's leader says people should stop debating climate change and start doing something about it. What do you think about the group's slogan?

"Stop talking. Start planting."
• Do you agree or disagree?

Felix Finkbeiner founded Plant-for-the-Planet when he was just 9 years old. Since then, the organization has planted billions of trees.

TUTZING, Germany (Achieve3000, April 30, 2019). Felix Finkbeiner is on a mission to plant a trillion trees. That's a tall order, but this 21-year-old has never been intimidated by big challenges. When he was just 9 years old, he had an idea that sparked a worldwide movement to slow climate change and help save our planet's environment.

It all started in 2007, when Finkbeiner was a fourth grader in Germany and he was assigned to write a report about climate change.

While doing research for his report, Finkbeiner learned that trees can play a critical role in combating climate change because they absorb the gas carbon dioxide (CO₂). Combustion of fossil fuels, like coal, oil, and natural gas, releases enormous amounts of CO₂ into the air, and one cause of climate change is that there is too much CO₂ in Earth's atmosphere. Because trees and other green plants absorb and store CO₂, planting more trees can help reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, slowing the advance of climate change.

Finkbeiner's research, in addition to teaching him about the importance of trees, introduced him to a new hero: Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan activist who led a reforestation project that planted 30 million trees in an area in Africa where too many had been cut down. Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, becoming the first African woman to earn that honor. The United Nations, inspired by her accomplishments, established the Billion Tree Campaign in 2006.

Finkbeiner was so impressed by Maathai's story that he concluded his class presentation by challenging his classmates to join him in planting a million trees in every country in the world. That idea was the seed that grew into an international environmental youth movement.

Just two months after Finkbeiner presented his report, he founded the organization Plant-for-the-Planet and started making his dream a reality. Too many adults, he thought, were all talk and no action. Instead of
spending time just discussing climate change, he wanted to get busy doing something about it. His take-
charge philosophy is summarized by the group's slogan, "Stop talking. Start planting."

Finkbeiner, an articulate speaker whose enthusiasm was contagious, traveled to other schools to recruit
more students to his mission. Kids all over the country started getting involved, and in three years, they
planted a million trees in Germany. News stories spread Finkbeiner's message beyond Germany's borders,
and soon children around the world took up the challenge.

Plant-for-the-Planet was so successful and esteemed that in 2011, the United Nations asked the organization
to take over the leadership of its Billion Tree Campaign. The partnership was a win-win for the
organization and the planet. By 2017, the two groups had planted over 14 billion trees in more than 130
countries.

Plant-for-the-Planet knew its efforts were benefiting the environment, but it was hard to calculate the extent
of the impact because no one knew the total number of trees on Earth or how many were cut down each
year. Were the billions of new trees planted significant in comparison to the existing number? Were they
enough to offset those lost to deforestation?

To find out, some scientists undertook an ambitious international tree count. After collecting and analyzing
a huge amount of data, they estimated the number of trees on Earth is 3 trillion (a number much higher than
previous estimates) and found that about 10 billion are lost to deforestation each year.

What did that mean for Plant-for-the-Planet? Finkbeiner realized that the organization would have to work
harder than ever. To make a big enough impact to slow climate change, the group needed to set much
higher goals. That's how the Billion Tree Campaign became the Trillion Tree Campaign. Just how much is
a trillion? It's a thousand times larger than a billion.

So as you can see, even as an adult, Finkbeiner has not stopped dreaming big. And he's getting a lot of help
in reaching his goal. As of today, over 70,000 kids in more than 67 countries have joined the cause and
become "Climate Justice Ambassadors."

Video credit: Alexis Garcia/Plant-for-the-Planet
Edited for length

Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>esteem (verb)</td>
<td>to value or hold in high regard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intimidate (verb)</td>
<td>to frighten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philosophy (noun)</td>
<td>a set of ideas about how something should be done</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A. Planting trees can help curb climate change since they reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by absorbing and storing it.
B. Wangari Maathai is a Kenyan activist who headed up an effort to plant more than 30 million trees in a part of Africa that had been largely deforested.
C. A 21-year-old German man has set the ambitious goal of planting 1 trillion trees around the world in an effort to slow the advance of climate change.
D. When Felix Finkbeiner was a fourth-grade student in Germany, he wrote a report on climate change and learned that planting trees can combat climate change.

Question 2
Which is the closest synonym for the word *intimidate*, as it is used in the Article?
A. Irritate
B. Daunt
C. Displease
D. Console

Question 3
According to the Article, what caused Felix Finkbeiner to want to plant a million trees in every country in the world?
A. He was inspired by an African woman named Wangari Maathai, who led an effort to plant more than 30 million trees in Africa.
B. He was asked to assume leadership of the United Nations' Billion Tree Campaign, which is attempting to plant trees around the world.
C. He learned while writing a report in the fourth grade that trees are able to release carbon dioxide into the air and store oxygen as well.
D. He realized that around 10 billion trees are lost each year due to deforestation and wanted to do something to offset the losses.

Question 4
Look at the events below. Based on information in the Article, which of these must have happened third?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.
A. The United Nations asked an organization called Plant-for-the-Planet to assume the leadership of its Billion Tree Campaign.
B. Felix Finkbeiner challenged his classmates to join him in an effort to plant a million trees in every country in the world.
C. Felix Finkbeiner did research for a report and learned that trees can play a critical role in combating climate change.
D. Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan activist, led an effort to plant more than 30 million trees in a part of Africa that had been deforested.
Question 5
The Article states: While doing research for his report, Finkbeiner learned that trees can play a critical role in combating climate change because they absorb the gas carbon dioxide (CO₂). Combustion of fossil fuels, like coal, oil, and natural gas, releases enormous amounts of CO₂ into the air, and one cause of climate change is that there is too much CO₂ in Earth's atmosphere. Because trees and other green plants absorb and store CO₂, planting more trees can help reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, slowing the advance of climate change.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word combustion, as it is used above?
A Intrusion
B Ignition
C Insulation
D Interception

Question 6
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A Wangari Maathai is a Kenyan activist who led a project that planted 30 million trees in a deforested part of Africa.
B One cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas, which releases carbon dioxide into the air.
C Felix Finkbeiner started an organization called Plant-for-the-Planet whose goal is to plant trees around the world in order to slow the advance of climate change.
D Felix Finkbeiner deserves to win a Nobel Peace Prize for devoting so much of his time to the admirable effort to plant trees around the world.

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Felix Finkbeiner inspired others to fight against climate change?
A Just two months after Finkbeiner presented his report, he founded the organization Plant-for-the-Planet and started making his dream a reality. Too many adults, he thought, were all talk and no action. Instead of spending time just discussing climate change, he wanted to get busy doing something about it.
B Felix Finkbeiner is on a mission to plant a trillion trees. That's a tall order, but this 21-year-old has never been intimidated by big challenges.
C Finkbeiner, an articulate speaker whose enthusiasm was contagious, traveled to other schools to recruit more students to his mission. Kids all over the country started getting involved, and in three years, they planted a million trees in Germany. News stories spread Finkbeiner's message beyond Germany's borders, and soon children around the world took up the challenge.
D [His] research, in addition to teaching him about the importance of trees, introduced him to a new hero: Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan activist who led a reforestation project that planted 30 million trees in an area in Africa where too many had been cut down.
Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.
A. Planting a trillion trees will completely reverse the effects of climate change because trees will take in more carbon dioxide than is released through the burning of fossil fuels.
B. Felix Finkbeiner realizes that planting several million trees will be enough to offset the effects of climate change.
C. Wangari Maathai met with Felix Finkbeiner to discuss the most efficient way of conducting a tree-planting campaign in Germany.
D. A large number of young people think that planting trees in countries around the world is a good way to slow the effects of climate change.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
"Stop talking. Start planting."
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe Felix Finkbeiner and his plan to help slow climate change. Then, state whether you think more people should plant trees and explain your reasoning. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Chillaxin' at About 1,320,000 Feet (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Astronauts sometimes stay in space for long periods of time. In their free time, they do a lot of the same things we do. What do you think?

*Everything is cooler if it's done in a spacesuit!*

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

*Photo credit: Joseph M. Acaba/ NASA*

Watching TV isn't just for earthlings. *Astronauts in space keep up with all the latest television and box office hits. They also exercise, play board games, and do daily chores.*

**INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION, Outer Space** (Achieve3000, June 3, 2019). Did you know that astronauts residing in space are actually super busy? It's true! On the International Space Station (ISS), they get up early in the morning every weekday, work a solid nine-to-five, and then spend much of their nights cooking, vacuuming, or doing other household chores. That's right, astronauts are assigned daily chores just like you!

But what about when their chores are complete, their spacewalking is done, and they've finished conducting their world-class experiments and research for the week? Like people on Earth, astronauts typically have weekends off, so they end up with plenty of leisure time to fill up with fun stuff to do. But is looking out the window at the revolving Earth and the distant stars, which they do a lot, really the only option they have? Not at all, as it turns out!

You might be surprised to learn that our spaced-out friends do a lot of the same things we do on our time off. But their free time is pretty important, actually, because living in space for long periods can be especially stressful. Astronauts therefore require R&R for mental health purposes, among other reasons. The ISS is about the size of a six-bedroom house, which might sound big until you consider astronauts are cooped up inside it almost all the time, and staying in a cramped space makes for a rather austere lifestyle that can be hazardous to both body and mind.

One way to allay stress and help with relaxation is exercise, so astronauts sometimes spend up to two hours or more working out each day. We all know that exercise can keep us healthy, but for astronauts, it's actually mandatory. Because astronauts spend weeks or even months in zero gravity, it's especially critical for them to work out so that their muscles and bones, relieved of the responsibility of bearing weight, don't atrophy. The ISS comes stocked with a stationary bike, treadmill, and weightlifting equipment. Weightlifting machines in space don't really weigh anything, but they still create resistance, which builds muscle. Some astronauts have been known to "lift" as much as 600 pounds (272.2 kilograms) of weight while in space!
Something else astronauts do in their free time? Catch up on all the latest TV hits and blockbuster movies. Believe it or not, most space stations have Wi-Fi, so astronauts can binge-watch their favorite shows just like we do. And what goes better with binge-watching than fast food?! Some chain restaurants have gotten into the business of providing space crews with orbital deliveries of the same tacos or fries you can buy at any drive-thru!

Crew members also read novels and daily newspapers. They listen to their favorite music, Skype with family and friends back home, and play the same board games we Earthlings do.

But—just like you and your friends—not every astronaut is alike, so they may take some time to pursue their own individual hobbies and interests. If they like photography, for instance, they can spend hours taking stunning shots of the sunrise from space or of the shifting cloud patterns over Africa. If they like cooking, they may experiment in the ISS kitchen with some spicy chicken masala made by mixing prepared ingredients in special plastic bags, or if they prefer to write, they may keep a journal or write poetry.

The sky's the limit, as they say! For astronauts, the ISS really is like a home, which is why they've created so many ways of doing a lot of the fun stuff we do on Earth. In their case, though, everything does seem just a little bit cooler in a spacesuit!

Video credit: Courtesy of NASA

Dictionary

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<tr>
<td>atrophy</td>
<td>(verb) to shrink or waste away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>austere</td>
<td>(adjective) without excess, luxury, or ease; simple; limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mandatory</td>
<td>(adjective) officially required</td>
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Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
According to the Article, why is exercise, including the use of weightlifting equipment, a mandatory activity for astronauts living on the International Space Station?

A. Like everything else in space, weightlifting equipment doesn't really weigh anything, yet the ISS keeps weightlifting machines on board to relieve boredom.
B. Exercise, including weightlifting, provides the illusion of normalcy in an environment that is often jarringly atypical to life on Earth.
C. Astronauts enjoy friendly competition among themselves and use the exercise equipment to challenge one another in galactic weightlifting competitions.
D. Though weightless in space, weightlifting equipment utilizes resistance to help astronauts build muscle and limit muscle atrophy in a zero-gravity environment.
Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?
A. Astronauts on the International Space Station can indulge in eating exotic foods, like spicy chicken masala, which is crafted by mixing together pre-made ingredients in plastic bags.
B. Exercise is a mandatory part of an astronaut's residency on the International Space Station, and the station comes equipped with a bike, treadmill, and weightlifting machines.
C. Like the rest of us on Earth, the ISS astronauts pursue a diverse array of hobbies and interests in their free time once they have completed their daily chores and assignments.
D. While living and working in an other-worldly environment, the ISS astronauts complete a variety of tasks including spacewalking and conducting world-class experiments and research.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word mandatory, as it is used in the Article?
A. Abnormal
B. Compulsory
C. Daunting
D. Satisfactory

Question 4
In the first paragraph, the author presents information about the work schedules and chore assignments of astronauts residing on the International Space Station in order to __________.
A. Emphasize the need for relaxing activities to reduce stress and maintain health in a highly active working environment
B. Criticize the unrealistic work expectations placed on ISS astronauts by the international space community and government agencies
C. Discuss the scientific achievements astronauts make on the ISS and persuade government agencies to continue funding the program
D. Illustrate the unhurried pace of life aboard the ISS and show the need for a wider variety of mental enrichment activities for astronauts

Question 5
Which of these statements is contrary to the ideas presented in this Article?
A. Physical exercise is paramount to both the mental and physical well-being of ISS astronauts, including weightlifting exercises that reduce the risk of muscle atrophy.
B. Each astronaut on the ISS is required to participate in such daily activities as cleaning, cooking, and other facility maintenance to ensure the well-being of all on board.
C. Astronauts aboard the ISS engage in challenging scientific experiments and space explorations that allow little opportunity for personal development and leisure pursuits.
D. Because the astronauts are away from home, it is imperative that they have access to friends and family on Earth, including the use of Wi-Fi to email and Skype.
Question 6
The Article states:

The ISS is about the size of a six-bedroom house, which might sound big until you consider astronauts are cooped up inside it almost all the time, and staying in a cramped space makes for a rather austere lifestyle that can be hazardous to both body and mind.

Which would be the closest antonym for the word hazardous, as it is used above?

A. Traumatic
B. Beneficial
C. Indispensable
D. Formidable

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that

A. Astronauts living on the International Space Station have more fun things to do with their leisure time than people on Earth.
B. Most astronauts learn how to become skilled chefs while living on the ISS since they're required to prepare their own meals every day.
C. Even though life on the International Space Station is busy, most astronauts find living in space to be a lonely, monotonous existence.
D. Restorative leisure activities help astronauts living on the ISS maintain a sense of normalcy in an otherwise unconventional living situation.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that to be an astronaut, a person must be comfortable sharing an enclosed space with others?

A. Believe it or not, most space stations have Wi-Fi, so astronauts can binge-watch their favorite shows just like we do. And what goes better with binge-watching than fast food?! Some chain restaurants have gotten into the business of providing space crews with orbital deliveries of the same tacos or fries you can buy at any drive-thru!
B. One way to allay stress and help with relaxation is exercise, so astronauts sometimes spend up to two hours or more working out each day. We all know that exercise can keep us healthy, but for astronauts, it's actually mandatory.
C. The sky's the limit, as they say! For astronauts, the ISS really is like a home, which is why they've created so many ways of doing a lot of the fun stuff we do on Earth. In their case, though, everything does seem just a little bit cooler in a spacesuit!
D. The ISS is about the size of a six-bedroom house, which might sound big until you consider astronauts are cooped up inside it almost all the time, and staying in a cramped space makes for body and mind.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

*Everything is cooler if it's done in a spacesuit!*

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what astronauts living on the International Space Station do in their free time. Then, tell what you'd do in your free time if you had a chance to visit the ISS. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Communicating, LEGO Style (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Louis Braille invented Braille to help people who are blind or visually impaired read and write. What do you think of this quote by Louis Braille?

"Braille is knowledge, and knowledge is power."

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Photo credit: The LEGO Group. This is an independent site not authorized or sponsored by the LEGO Group. "LEGO's new "Braille Bricks" will help children learn the Braille method of reading and writing."

PARIS, France (Achieve 3000, August 5, 2019). Imagine it's 1819 and you're a soldier in the French army. As the sky fades from blue to black, it becomes critical that you and your fellow soldiers avoid making any sounds. The slightest slip-up could put you in danger. However, you still have to communicate, so you look around for tools that might help you send secret messages. The candle won't work, and neither will a piece of paper; it's too dark to read under the moonlight. Running out of options, you decide to create a code called "night writing," using raised dots for each letter of the alphabet. This way, other soldiers can feel each letter in the dark, "reading" with their fingertips.

This is just what Charles Barbier did during his time as a French army officer. However, Barbier probably had no idea that his code would one day transform the ways in which people with vision impairment read and write. Yet, when a man named Louis Braille discovered "night writing," he knew—having had vision impairment since the age of three—that its value went beyond the battlefield. In 1824, he adapted the code to include just six raised dots and invented Braille. It's a method of reading and writing that people with vision impairment continue to use today.

Lately, though, Braille has become something of a dying art. Just two generations ago, about half of all children with vision impairment knew how to use Braille. Today, fewer than 10 percent are Braille literate. And even though nearly 19 million children around the world live with visual impairment, fewer kids than ever are learning to use Braille. Many rely instead on audiobooks and computer programs that read text aloud. While plenty of people lead successful lives without learning Braille, experts say those who learn it may be more likely to finish school and find a job after they graduate.

And that's exactly why the LEGO Foundation is on a mission to bring Braille back.

Those colorful bricks we all know and love are no longer just for building towers and hovercrafts or the latest superhero mobile. The company recently unveiled a line of "Braille Bricks" aimed at helping visually impaired children learn the nearly forgotten reading and writing system. Since Braille uses different configurations of six raised dots for each letter of the alphabet, and LEGO bricks typically have six raised dots (or "studs") on each piece, you could say it's nothing short of an educational match made in heaven!
The 250-brick set includes all Braille letters and numbers as well as mathematical symbols and punctuation marks. The corresponding printed letter is also stamped on each brick. This way sighted teachers and students can follow along with the messages their students and peers create. And the full set is of course compatible with non-Braille LEGO sets.

"Thanks to this innovation, children with vision impairment will be able to learn Braille and interact with their friends and classmates in a fun way, using play to encourage creativity while learning to read and write," said David Clarke, director of services at the Royal National Institute of Blind People in the United Kingdom.

The current methods of teaching Braille involve the use of expensive, clunky machines that look like typewriters (points if you know what a typewriter is!). That also means any mistakes punched into the paper can't easily be fixed. Braille Bricks on the other hand, allow students to quickly and easily move letters and numbers around, fixing misspellings or math errors as they go. And, let's face it, who couldn't use a "do-over" every now and then?

Braille Bricks come in a variety of languages, including Danish, English, Norwegian, and Portuguese. Versions in French, German, and Spanish are also in the works. The LEGO Foundation plans to give the sets to organizations serving the blind and visually impaired beginning as early as 2020. If Braille Bricks get children interested in learning Braille and inspire more teachers to learn how to teach the system, chances are you'll come across a stack or two in a classroom near you.

Little did Barbier and Braille imagine, in 19th-century Paris, that their innovative communication skills would one day be linked to a popular children's toy. But we think they'd approve. Don't you?

*The Smithsonian Institution contributed to this story. (Copyright 2019 Smithsonian Institution. Reprinted with permission from Smithsonian Enterprises. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any medium is strictly prohibited without permission from Smithsonian Institution.)*

*Video Credit: The LEGO Group. This is an independent site not authorized or sponsored by the LEGO Group.*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>compatible (adjective)</strong></th>
<th>able to exist together without trouble or conflict : going together well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>configuration (noun)</strong></td>
<td>the way the parts of something are arranged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>innovation (noun)</strong></td>
<td>a new idea, device, or method</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?
A. Because Louis Braille experienced vision impairment, he recognized the value of "night writing" for the visually impaired.
B. Because Louis Braille had been visually impaired since the age of three, he was taught to read Braille while still a child.
C. Since French soldiers were unable to see written communication in the dark of night, they communicated using only whispers and hand motions.
D. Since Braille consists of a system of patterns using six raised dots, most LEGO bricks are constructed using six studs on each piece.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?
A. Braille is a system of raised dots representing the letters of the alphabet that was adapted from a tactile method of silent communication used by French soldiers in battle.
B. LEGO initially manufactured Braille Bricks in Danish, English, Norwegian, and Portuguese but will soon be expanding its product offerings to include other commonly used languages.
C. The LEGO Foundation created Braille Bricks to support its mission of encouraging children who are blind and visually impaired to begin learning Braille through play.
D. Many children with visual impairment are not Braille literate because they rely primarily on text read audibly by audiobooks and computer programs instead.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word configuration?
A. imprint
B. dimension
C. array
D. specification

Question 4
Look at the events below. Which of these had not yet happened when this Article was written?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.
A. About half of all children living with vision impairment knew how to use the Braille method of reading and writing.
B. LEGO offered Braille Bricks in a variety of languages in order to make them more accessible to a wider population of users who are visually impaired.
C. The LEGO Foundation began distributing sets of Braille Bricks to organizations that exist for the purpose of supporting people who are blind or visually impaired.
D. Audio technologies increasingly replaced expensive, clunky Braille machines that pressed arrays of raised dots representing letters and symbols onto thick paper.
Question 5
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?
A. The LEGO Foundation is concerned that fewer children are learning Braille, so getting Braille Bricks into the hands of people with vision impairment is more important to the company than making a profit selling Braille Bricks.
B. After leaving military service under the command of Charles Barbier, Louis Braille and fellow French soldiers used his clever communication method and the example he set for solving problems creatively.
C. Beyond the production of Braille Bricks, the LEGO company’s commitment to people living with visual impairment is evident in the inclusion of people who are blind and visually impaired in its workforce.
D. The idea for Braille Bricks sparked the formation of the LEGO Foundation, which now supports other projects that creatively use LEGO products to improve the lives of children in various ways.

Question 6
The Article states:

Just two generations ago, about half of all children with vision impairment knew how to use Braille. Today, fewer than 10 percent are Braille literate.

Which is the closest synonym for the word literate?
A. immersed
B. authentic
C. eligible
D. competent

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that both children with visual impairment and sighted children will be able to interact together in an engaging way while learning to read and write?
A. Those colorful bricks we all know and love are no longer just for building towers and hovercrafts or the latest superhero mobile. The company recently unveiled a line of "Braille Bricks" aimed at helping visually impaired children learn the nearly forgotten reading and writing system.
B. Braille Bricks come in a variety of languages, including Danish, English, Norwegian, and Portuguese. Versions in French, German, and Spanish are also in the works. The LEGO Foundation plans to give the sets to organizations serving the blind and visually impaired beginning as early as 2020. If Braille Bricks get children interested in learning Braille and inspire more teachers to learn how to teach the system, chances are you'll come across a stack or two in a classroom near you.
C. The current methods of teaching Braille involve the use of expensive, clunky machines that look like typewriters (points if you know what a typewriter is!). That also means any mistakes punched into the paper can't easily be fixed. Braille Bricks on the other hand, allow students to quickly and easily move letters and numbers around, fixing misspellings or math errors as they go. And, let's face it, who couldn't use a "do-over" every now and then?
D. The 250-brick set includes all Braille letters and numbers as well as mathematical symbols and punctuation marks. The corresponding printed letter is also stamped on each brick. This way sighted teachers and students can follow along with the messages their students and peers create. And the full set is of course compatible with non-Braille LEGO sets.
Question 8
Which question is not answered by the Article?
A. What event led to Louis Braille encountering Charles Barbier's "night writing" code?
B. What method has been in use to help visually impaired children learn how to read Braille?
C. What was the situation that compelled Charles Barbier to invent a "night writing" code?
D. What was the mission that motivated the LEGO company's provision of Braille Bricks?

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

"Braille is knowledge, and knowledge is power."
• Agree
• Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Imagine you are telling a friend all about Braille. What would you say? Be sure to talk about the history of Braille as well as LEGO's new Braille Bricks. Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
Cooking Gets Crazy (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people say that you can cook a meal in your dishwasher. What do you think?

**Dishwashers are for cleaning dishes, not for cooking food.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

**HARLAN, Iowa** (Achieve3000, February 20, 2019). Is it really possible to fry an egg on a hot sidewalk? (Yes.) Could early versions of the Easy-Bake toy oven completely bake a cake using only the heat of a light bulb? (That's questionable.) Ever since our ancestors began cooking their food, people have been finding new ways to do it, with varying degrees of success, but if you want a more proven way to make a meal without going near an oven, stove, or microwave, just fire up your coffee pot, iron, or dishwasher!

Before you read on, note that even if you're not into cooking—i.e., if making a peanut butter sandwich is your idea of haute cuisine—stick around. You might enjoy cooking this way. Second, if you do try any of these cooking methods, make sure there's an adult around, especially when you're dealing with heat. And third, for safety reasons, even respected chefs always have to be sure that their food—especially poultry—is cooked through, so if you're new to cooking, stick to veggies and grains.

**Coffee Maker Cooking**

A coffee maker can prepare certain foods the same way it brews coffee.

How it works: A coffee maker heats water and runs it through coffee grounds and into the pot. In the process, it fills the basket (the part that holds the coffee grounds) with boiling water and steam, drips liquid into the carafe (the part that holds the coffee), and heats the burner at the bottom. Each of these parts can cook food in different ways.

What to cook: You can steam fast-cooking vegetables like broccoli or string beans in the basket. Within the carafe, the hot water can boil eggs or cook a starch like couscous, and if you have a miniature frying pan, you can attempt to fry eggs on the burner at the bottom. (Though a quick check of YouTube coffee maker cooking experiments reveals that a hot sidewalk may be a better bet for fried eggs than a coffee maker burner.)

Be sure to clean your coffee maker after you cook with it, since no one likes bits of broccoli in a morning cup of java!

**Gooey Goodness**
In the movie *Benny and Joon*, a character named Sam, played by Johnny Depp, makes grilled cheese sandwiches with a hot iron. It's one way to present Sam as eccentric. Watching him, we all wonder why he doesn't just use a pan. But it turns out Sam was onto something—an iron really can make a palatable pressed sandwich!

How it works: An iron has a hot, smooth surface, much like a griddle, but since it's handheld, it can press shirts, sheets, and yes, sandwiches. The iron's heat and pressure toast the bread, heat up whatever is between the slices, and mush everything together into deliciousness.

What to cook: To make a grilled cheese, panini (pressed sandwich), or quesadilla, first avoid making a huge mess by wrapping your sandwich in aluminum foil. Then, heat up the iron (and again, we can't stress enough that you need to do this with adult supervision) and press away!

**Dishwasher Dining**

Cringing at the idea of preparing food in the same appliance where you load bacteria-laden dirty dishes? It can be done, as long as you take a few precautions.

How it works: A dishwasher sterilizes grubby glasses and utensils by shooting them with warm, soapy water that's between 120°F and 150°F (49°C and 66°C) and then rinses them with more hot H₂O. If you take detergent out of the equation, you have a machine that simply bathes everything inside in warmth. If food is placed with liquid—and the liquid gets hot enough—it should cook.

What to cook: In theory, a dishwasher can cook any food that requires a long cook time at a fairly low temperature, but you might need to experiment to get the timing right. Put each type of food—try snow peas, asparagus, or rice pilaf for a start—along with liquid and seasonings, into a **tightly sealed** glass jar, like a Mason jar.

This is no belated April Fools joke. There are recipes for cooking with non-cooking appliances all over the Internet. Everyone loves an experiment, especially when there's a tantalizing meal at the end!

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*Video Credit: Avery Penner, used with permission*

*Published on Mar 25, 2016*

*Edited for length*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eccentric</td>
<td>odd; not usual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palatable</td>
<td>pleasant-tasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tantalizing</td>
<td>tempting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A. An eccentric character played by Johnny Depp who makes grilled cheese sandwiches with a hot iron
B. Using a non-cooking appliance, such as a dishwasher, iron, or coffee maker, to cook everyday foods
C. Alternative methods for frying an egg and why a hot sidewalk may work better than a coffee maker burner
D. Following safety precautions when cooking, such as having adult supervision when necessary and cooking poultry all the way through

Question 2
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. The successful cooking practices of our ancestors
B. The proper safety measures to follow in the kitchen
C. Alternative uses for everyday appliances
D. Films with eccentric characters

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word tantalizing, as it is used in the Article?
A. Economizing
B. Customized
C. Appetizing
D. Pasteurized

Question 4
According to the Article, how are a coffee maker and a dishwasher similar?
A. Both are appliances that can be used to cook vegetables and other food items.
B. Both are appliances that can be used to toast bread for a grilled cheese sandwich.
C. Both are appliances that can be used to fry an egg better than a hot sidewalk.
D. Both are appliances that can be used to cook any food requiring a long cook time.

Question 5
The Article states:

Ever since our ancestors began cooking their food, people have been finding new ways to do it, with varying degrees of success, but if you want a more proven way to make a meal without going near an oven, stove, or microwave, just fire up your coffee pot, iron, or dishwasher!

Which would be the closest synonym for the word varying, as it is used above?
A. Lamentable
B. Diverging
C. Inspiring
D. Predictable
Question 6
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.
A. Criticize the inventors of the Easy-Bake Oven and other cooking-related toys
B. Convince young readers to surprise their parents with a home-cooked meal
C. Demonstrate unique and unusual cooking methods
D. Determine the best method for frying an egg

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that inexperienced chefs may find the idea of cooking without an oven or stove appealing?
A. What to cook: In theory, a dishwasher can cook any food that requires a long cook time at a fairly low temperature, but you might need to experiment to get the timing right.
B. Be sure to clean your coffee maker after you cook with it, since no one likes bits of broccoli in a morning cup of java!
C. And third, for safety reasons, even respected chefs always have to be sure that their food—especially poultry—is cooked through, so if you’re new to cooking, stick to veggies and grains.
D. Before you read on, note that even if you’re not into cooking—i.e., if making a peanut butter sandwich is your idea of haute cuisine—stick around. You might enjoy cooking this way.

Question 8
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?
A. Most beginner recipes for cooking with non-cooking appliances will include a meat as the main ingredient.
B. Some readers will be tempted to try cooking a meal with a non-cooking appliance to see if it actually works.
C. Many gourmet restaurants will begin adding such menu items as "coffee pot couscous" and "hot iron panini."
D. Out of all the non-cooking appliances mentioned, people will find the dishwasher to be the easiest to cook with.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Dishwashers are for cleaning dishes, not for cooking food.
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain how coffee makers, irons, and dishwashers can be used to cook food. Would you ever consider using one of these appliances to cook food? Why or why not? Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

At the 2020 Summer Olympics, robots will be serving food and showing people to their seats. What do you think?

Someday, robots will be able to do everything people can do.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

TOKYO, Japan (Achieve3000, March 19, 2019).

"Hello… I am a… human… support… robot. May I show you to your seat?"

"Yes, robot, would you?"

"Call me… HSR. Right this way, please."

"Thank you, HSR."

"The… pole vault… competition… is about to begin. Here… let me carry… those packages… for you."

"Thanks, HSR."

"Okay… your seats are there. Would you like… something… to eat or drink?"

"Yes! To get started, I would like to have an orange soda, please."

"Happy to help. Just input your… order… on my tablet… and I’ll have it for you in no time."

If you're thinking that this is a scene from a futuristic sci-fi movie, guess again, because believe it or not, this is an example of a conversation you just might hear at the National Stadium in Tokyo once the 2020 Summer Olympics are underway. Of course, the food requests and language would vary, but the point is this: diligent droids will be on hand to oblige spectators at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

The organizers of the Olympics announced the sensational news at a March 2019 press conference that launched their Tokyo 2020 Robot Project. (That's the name they've given to their program designed to show off Japan's extraordinary robot technology for the world to see.)

The stars of the press conference included two cutting-edge mobile units that look like third cousins of R2-D2 from the Star Wars movies—but these robots won't be saving the galaxy from alien adversaries anytime soon. They'll be too busy helping people have a great time at the Games.

You've already met the affable human support robot (HSR), with its extendable arm, computer tablet, and gift for robotic gab. HSRs will direct people to their seats, carry packages, serve food and beverages, and impart event information. Meanwhile, their programmed partners, delivery support robots (DSRs), will fetch the food and drinks and bring them to HSRs to serve.
Just think of them as your servers and bussers.

These space-age bots are made by the Toyota Motor Corporation, a major sponsor of the 2020 Games. Company officials hope to have 16 HSRs and 8 to 10 DSRs making themselves useful at the track-and-field events. They plan to unveil other robots in the months ahead, too.

HSRs and DSRs are like 100-meter sprinters in a Robotic Service Olympics compared to the heavyweight powerlifter of the group—a power-assist suit created by Panasonic, another major corporate sponsor of the 2020 Olympics.

Slip into this sleek robotic exoskeleton and you're suddenly a human forklift, able to hoist 22-pound (10-kilogram) suitcases and boxes with up to 40 percent less burden on your lower back. Workers in power suits will be handling the athletes’ luggage and moving supplies and garbage at the Olympic Village.

Apart from their robotic abilities, the bots and the power-assist suit have something else in common. They reflect corporate awareness of Japan's growing elderly population. In 2018, 28.1 percent of all Japanese were 65 years or older—giving Japan's population the highest proportion of older people, compared to other countries of the world. In addition, more and more Japanese seniors are living into their mid-eighties and beyond.

That means more elderly people may be in wheelchairs and may have a need for HSRs and DSRs. It also means that older people remaining in the workforce may have more need for power-assist suits to help them feel strong and employable.

As you might've already surmised, the Olympics is just the beginning. Toyota hopes to market its robots to the general public by 2030. The auto giant's goal is to branch out and become a "mobility company" for all kinds of customers, including people in wheelchairs. And Panasonic is already marketing its power-assist technology.

So expect to see a fair amount of bot activity in Japan's future—and not just at the 2020 Olympics. There are plans for robots of one sort or another to keep things moving along at banks, airports, and subway stations, too.

For now, though, the Olympic athletes will be 100 percent human.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

**UPDATE: April 2020** Click [here](#)

### Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>affable (adjective)</strong></th>
<th>friendly and approachable; easy to talk to; polite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>exoskeleton (noun)</strong></td>
<td>a hard external layer that supports, protects, or covers the body</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

**Question 1**
The best alternate headline for this Article would be _________.

- A. Cutting-Edge Robots Unveiled at Press Conference Look Fit for *Star Wars*
- B. Robotic Exoskeletons Developed To Aid Tokyo's Elderly Population
- C. Human Support Robots Arriving at Banks, Airports, and Subway Stations
- D. Organizers of Tokyo Olympic Games To Employ Robotic Workforce

**Question 2**
According to the Article, what is one benefit of Panasonic's robotic exoskeleton?

- A. The power-assist suit will help athletes to compete in Olympic events with less stress on their lower backs.
- B. The power-assist suit will help HSRs and DSRs carry packages and fetch food and drinks.
- C. The power-assist suit will help athletes in the Olympic track-and-field events feel more mobile.
- D. The power-assist suit will help workers move supplies, garbage, and athletes' luggage.
Question 3
Which is the closest antonym for the word affable, as it is used in the Article?
- Inefficient
- Discourteous
- Stationary
- Inexpensive

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?
- It is not at all unreasonable for leaders at Toyota Motor Corporation to think they can market their human support robots to the general public by 2030.
- Panasonic has created a robotic exoskeleton that allows a person to lift 22 pounds (10 kilograms) with up to 40 percent less burden on the lower back.
- HSRs and DSRs will be more popular with people than other robots because they resemble the familiar droid R2-D2.
- The National Stadium in Tokyo is the ideal location for testing the future usefulness of human support robots in everyday life.

Question 5
The Article states:

HSRs will direct people to their seats, carry packages, serve food and beverages, and impart event information. Meanwhile, their programmed partners, delivery support robots (DSRs), will fetch the food and drinks and bring them to HSRs to serve.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.
- Suggest that Toyota's human support robots should be marketed to the general public before 2030
- Explain the technical aspects of how DSRs receive messages from HSRs in order to fetch food and drink orders
- Persuade technology enthusiasts to purchase seats at the National Stadium in Tokyo for the 2020 Summer Olympics
- Provide examples of the duties of the robots that will be working at the Tokyo Olympic Games

Question 6
Which two words are the closest antonyms?
- Adversaries and allies
- Sponsor and athlete
- Surmised and presumed
- Elderly and employable

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
- A variety of companies are developing human support robots for use in homes or businesses.
- Companies that make droids understand that most people are uncomfortable with the idea of asking robots for assistance.
- Space-age bots are most useful for athletes who are preparing for large competitions, such as the Olympic Games.
- HSRs in the Tokyo 2020 Robot Project are being programmed to hold all conversations in Japanese.
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that people interested in robotics might like to attend events at the 2020 Summer Olympics?

A. And Panasonic is already marketing its power-assist technology.
B. The auto giant's goal is to branch out and become a "mobility company" for all kinds of customers, including people in wheelchairs.
C. Of course, the food requests and language would vary, but the point is this: diligent droids will be on hand to oblige spectators at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
D. There are plans for robots of one sort or another to keep things moving along at banks, airports, and subway stations, too.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Someday, robots will be able to do everything people can do.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe the Tokyo 2020 Robot Project and explain whether you think this is a good way to show off Japan's robot technology. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
For Elephants, Smell Counts! (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

A study that looked at Asian elephants found that their sharp sense of smell gives them a surprising ability to size things up. What do you think about this?

Animals are smarter than most people think.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Chieng Rai, Thailand (Achieve3000, June 12, 2019). The nose knows! An elephant's trunk packs a powerful sense of smell, and it turns out it's even more amazing than we realized. A recent study showed that these superior sniffers have a surprising way to size up situations. Scientists are trumpeting the news, which could inspire new strategies for protecting these majestic, beloved beasties.

It's no big secret that these animals use their sensational sense of smell to take care of all sorts of important elephant business. They rely on it for everything from foraging for food to communicating with the herd and finding mates.

An elephant doesn't need to see something to know where it is. Herds can follow their noses to water or food that's far out of sight. Just by sniffing the air, they can navigate to tasty vegetation or a watering hole as far away as 11.9 miles (19.2 kilometers).

Yep, that tremendous trunk works better than some cars' navigation systems, and there's no GPS needed!

While scientists have long known that elephants count on their sense of smell, researchers in Thailand have learned that elephants can more or less count with their sense of smell! Count?! Yup! Researchers found that elephants, by smell alone, can compare quantities and determine which is greater. As far as experts know to date, they're the only animals able to do that. Even dogs, which are famously super smellers, haven't had what it takes to pass this type of test.

How did scientists test out this mathematically exact elephant ability? With a little ingenuity and a whole lot of sunflower seeds!

The researchers conducted an experiment with six Asian elephants at an educational reserve in Thailand. In each trial, they presented an elephant with two buckets containing different amounts of sunflower seeds, a favorite treat. The elephant couldn't see inside the locked buckets, but tiny holes in the top allowed the snackalicious scent of sunflower seeds to escape. After the elephant got a good whiff of each bucket, it was allowed to choose one. Guess which bucket it usually went for? The one that had more sunflower seeds in it! Researchers kept track of the relative amounts of seeds in each bucket. They found that the bigger the difference, the more likely the elephant was to choose the fuller bucket. Apparently, dramatic differences in quantities are easier for elephants to sniff out. And when it comes to sunflower seeds, the more, the merrier!

The brimming buckets of snacks might be what the elephants liked most about the study, but scientists are more excited about the insight it provides into how elephants think and make decisions. It could help them devise strategies to make it easier for the animals to coexist with people. Because the areas of Africa and Asia where wild elephants live are also home to a lot of human residents, conflicts sometimes arise. Elephants can weigh up to 7 tons (6,350 kilograms), and their jumbo appetites can lead them...
to raid farmers' crops or sift through people's garbage. Some of the methods people use to scare them off, like electric fences or firecrackers, can harm the animals. So conservationists think the new findings could help them come up with more humane ways to encourage elephants to steer clear of trouble. For example, people might find a way to use odors to put migrating elephants on the right path, luring them away from farmers' fields.

Experts agree that any research that might help protect elephants is critical because elephants' very survival is threatened. Asian elephants are classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Their African relatives are classified as vulnerable. The hope is that elephants' super sense of smell can help conservationists scout out solutions to protect these magnificent, trunk-toting wonders.

Video credit: Think Elephants International

Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>forage (verb)</th>
<th>to look or search for food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ingenuity (noun)</td>
<td>skill; creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insight (noun)</td>
<td>a clear understanding of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vulnerable (adjective)</td>
<td>likely to become endangered in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
According to the Article, why are scientists excited about the study's findings?

A. They proved that elephants rely on their sense of smell to communicate with the herd and find mates.
B. They proved that elephants can sniff out food and water as far away as 11.9 miles (19.2 kilometers).
C. They hope the information about how elephants think and make decisions will help them protect the animals.
D. They hope the information about elephants and sunflower seeds will encourage farmers to plant different crops.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

A. Elephants are well known for their enormous appetites and can grow to mammoth proportions, with some specimens weighing in at up to 7 tons (6,350 kilograms).
B. Elephants can use their powerful sense of smell to sniff the air and find their way to edible vegetation or watering holes.
C. A study conducted by researchers in Thailand found that elephants can use their sense of smell to compare quantities and determine which is greater.
D. Some people are using electric fences and firecrackers to stop elephants from raiding their crops and sifting through their garbage.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word ingenuity, as it is used in the Article?

A. Resourcefulness
B. Inconvenience
C. Misunderstanding
D. Qualification

Question 4
Which information is not in the Article?

A. When the Asian elephant was first classified as an endangered species
B. How powerful an elephant's sense of smell can be
C. Why some people consider elephants to be nuisances
D. How researchers hope to lure elephants away from human activities
Question 5
Suppose Diego wants to find out how many elephants remain in the wild throughout Africa. He would find most of his information __________.
A. In a dictionary, under the word "elephant"
B. On a TV show about training circus elephants
C. On a website called "Great Elephant Census"
D. In a book entitled *The Elephants of Thailand*

Question 6
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. Dogs have been shown to have a greater sense of smell than either African or Asian elephants.
B. An elephant's sense of smell continues to develop and improve throughout its lifetime.
C. African elephants are currently at a much greater risk of extinction than Asian elephants are.
D. People have injured elephants in their attempts to keep them away from their fields and houses.

Question 7
The Article states:

The brimming buckets of snacks might be what the elephants liked most about the study, but scientists are more excited about the insight it provides into how elephants think and make decisions. It could help them devise strategies to make it easier for the animals to coexist with people.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word *devise*, as it is used above?
A. Finance
B. Undermine
C. Camouflage
D. Conceive

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the elephant's keen sense of smell has been important to its survival?
A. An elephant doesn't need to see something to know where it is. Herds can follow their noses to water or food that's far out of sight. Just by sniffing the air, they can navigate to tasty vegetation or a watering hole as far away as 11.9 miles (19.2 kilometers). Yep, that tremendous trunk works better than some cars' navigation systems, and there's no GPS needed!
B. The researchers conducted an experiment with six Asian elephants at an educational reserve in Thailand. In each trial, they presented an elephant with two buckets containing different amounts of sunflower seeds, a favorite treat. The elephant couldn't see inside the locked buckets, but tiny holes in the top allowed the snackalicious scent of sunflower seeds to escape. After the elephant got a good whiff of each bucket, it was allowed to choose one.
C. The brimming buckets of snacks might be what the elephants liked most about the study, but scientists are more excited about the insight it provides into how elephants think and make decisions. It could help them devise strategies to make it easier for the animals to coexist with people. Because the areas of Africa and Asia where wild elephants live are also home to a lot of human residents, conflicts sometimes arise.
D. Experts agree that any research that might help protect elephants is critical because elephants’ very survival is threatened. Asian elephants are classified as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Their African relatives are classified as vulnerable. The hope is that elephants’ super sense of smell can help conservationists scout out solutions to protect these magnificent, trunk-toting wonders.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Animals are smarter than most people think.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe the study discussed in the Article. What did researchers discover and how might they use this information? Include facts and details from the lesson in your response.
From Little Havana to Chinatown (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In some U.S. cities, neighborhoods like Chinatown and Little Italy give people from different countries a little piece of home—from the food, to the art, to the music. What do you think?

*It's important to stay rooted in where you came from.*

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

**Photo credit: Alexander Image/Shutterstock**

People enjoy a Chinese New Year event in New York City's Chinatown. The neighborhood is the place to go to celebrate Chinese culture.

**MIAMI, Florida** (Achieve3000, February 25, 2020). Salsa music spills from storefronts. The scent of *café cubano* swirls in the streets. A spirited game lures a crowd, the clatter of dominoes, chatter, and laughter jubilantly building as the match intensifies. Welcome to Miami, Florida's Little Havana.

The U.S. is home to immigrants from all over the world, but neighborhoods like Little Havana help to preserve the unique heritage of its residents. Whether it's New York City's Chinatown, San Diego's Little Italy, or any number of others, these "heritage hubs" celebrate the importance of culture and ethnicity. And they allow visitors to delight in the diversity that grew a nation.

Cuban exiles shaped the landscape of Little Havana beginning in the 1950s. It became known as Miami's Ellis Island—the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers to the U.S. for over 60 years. And in 2017, Little Havana was designated a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

And this treasure has it all.

Traditional Cuban food, open-air markets, art galleries, murals, monuments, and a thriving music scene entice visitors to this lively locale. There, the residents often dress their best and gather in the shade to play dominoes. Peppered with spirited discussions, the games heat up with the Florida sun and the players' competitive spirits.

In much the same way, New York City's Chinatown hums with an electric energy. It attracts throngs of visitors daily, beckoning bellies with dumplings, pork buns, and hand-pulled noodle dishes. Meanwhile, bargain seekers flock to Chinatown's bustling, world-famous Canal Street shopping area.

While many cities in the U.S. boast Chinatowns, New York's is one of the largest. And with a history that dates back to the 1800s, it's also one of the oldest. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in gold mines and build railroads in the West. As opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York, banding together and forming a tight-knit community for survival.

Today, New York City's Chinatown is teeming with markets, museums, and galleries steeped in Chinese culture and history. At Columbus Park, in the heart of Chinatown, people play mah-jongg, a traditional Chinese game, and enjoy performances by
Chinese opera troupes. And every spring, a 15-day Lunar New Year festival marks China's largest and most important celebration, complete with firecrackers, floats, and dragon costumes.

On the West Coast, Little Italy in San Diego preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants who established the historic fishing community in the 1920s. The neighborhood fell into decline in the late 1970s, but revitalization efforts in the 1990s put a new shine on the cultural jewel. Today, it's a popular tourist destination.

The sprawling neighborhood covers 50 square blocks—including a massive piazza, an Italian-inspired public space featuring shops and art galleries. Locally owned eateries serve savory seafood, pasta, and gelato, an icy Italian treat. And the largest Italian heritage festival on the West Coast is held there each fall. The event honors Italian Americans' roots with a Sicilian flag procession, authentic Italian music, and more.

As the saying goes, a tree is only as strong as its roots, and in the United States, those roots continue to originate from all over the world. Once transplanted, they gradually entwine, creating a new, ever evolving American culture. But it's these culture-cultivating communities that help the country hold on to—and grow from—its varied roots. They've allowed many people to stay connected to their homelands and enriched others with new experiences.

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**Dictionary**

| **designate** (verb) | to officially choose (someone or something) to do or be something: to officially give (someone or something) a particular role or purpose |
| **heritage** (noun) | the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation—usually singular |
| **legacy** (noun) | something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past |
| **savory** (adjective) | having a pleasant taste or smell |

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**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
What is this Article mainly about?

A. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in the gold mines and build railroads in the West, but as those opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs, so many immigrants moved east to New York, where they banded together in a tight-knit community.

B. Little Italy in San Diego, California, was established by Italian and Portuguese immigrants as a fishing community in the 1920s and now covers 50 square blocks that feature a massive piazza with shops, restaurants, and galleries.

C. Different neighborhoods in the United States celebrate the culture of the immigrants who live there, letting them stay connected to their past while, at the same time, allowing visitors the chance to explore and learn more about the diverse ethnicities that grew a nation.

D. Known as Miami's Ellis Island, which was the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers to the United States for 60 years, Little Havana was designated a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**Question 2**
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. Visitors to Little Havana in Miami, Florida, can enjoy watching the locals play games of dominoes and listen to their spirited discussions.

B. It must be a lot of fun to watch people playing mah-jongg in Columbus Park, which is found in the heart of New York City's Chinatown.

C. Culture-cultivating communities across the United States allow the country to hold on to, and grow from, its varied roots.

D. San Diego's Little Italy preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants who established a fishing community there in the 1920s.
The Article states:
While many cities in the U.S. boast Chinatowns, New York's is one of the largest. And with a history that dates back to the 1800s, it's also one of the oldest. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in gold mines and build railroads in the West. As opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York, banding together and forming a tight-knit community for survival.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.
A suggest that most Chinese immigrants of the 1800s arrived in New York and then moved west to work in gold mines and on railroads
B point out important differences between Chinese immigrants who lived and worked in the West and those who lived in New York's Chinatown
C explain why many Chinese immigrants first came to the United States and why so many of them moved east to New York
D explain why it was so difficult to find people to work on the gold mines and the railroads of the western United States in the 1870s

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word savory?
A irritating
B irresistible
C unique
D unappetizing

Question 5
Suppose Hee Jin wants to find out about Lunar New Year festivals. She would find most of her information __________.
A on a map showing the location of points of interest in Chinatown
B on a TV show describing why Chinese immigrants came to the U.S.
C in a Chinese-English dictionary under the word "lunar"
D in a book describing China's largest and most important celebration

Question 6
Read this passage from the Article:
In much the same way, New York City's Chinatown hums with an electric energy. It attracts throngs of visitors daily, beckoning bellies with dumplings, pork buns, and hand-pulled noodle dishes. Meanwhile, bargain seekers flock to Chinatown's bustling, world-famous Canal Street shopping area.

In this passage, the word throng means __________.
A a classroom of students
B a collection of politicians
C a large group of people
D a motivated team of workers
Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that many immigrants were not treated fairly after they had been living and working in the United States?

A Cuban exiles shaped the landscape of Little Havana beginning in the 1950s. It became known as Miami's Ellis Island—the historic immigration station in New York Harbor that welcomed newcomers to the U.S. for over 60 years. And in 2017, Little Havana was designated a national treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

B In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in gold mines and build railroads in the West. As opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York, banding together and forming a tight-knit community for survival.

C On the West Coast, Little Italy in San Diego preserves the legacy of Italian and Portuguese immigrants who established the historic fishing community in the 1920s. The neighborhood fell into decline in the late 1970s, but revitalization efforts in the 1990s put a new shine on the cultural jewel. Today, it's a popular tourist destination.

D Once transplanted, they gradually entwine, creating a new, ever evolving American culture. But it's these culture-cultivating communities that help the country hold on to—and grow from—its varied roots. They've allowed many people to stay connected to their homelands and enriched others with new experiences.

Question 8
The Article says all of the following except __________.

A Italian Americans honor their heritage in San Diego's Little Italy each fall

B playing dominoes is a popular pastime in Little Havana

C most Cuban immigrants moved back to Cuba after many years in Little Havana

D Chinese immigrants faced discrimination after working in the United States

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

It's important to stay rooted in where you came from.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Give three reasons why someone would like to visit neighborhoods like Little Havana, Little Italy, and Chinatown. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Nearly one billion people do not have enough to eat. Still, one-third of the world's food is thrown away. What do you think of this quote by Pope Francis?

"Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of those who are poor and hungry."

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

BERLIN, Germany (Achieve3000, July 31, 2019). Here's the deal: You're as hungry as a horse, you're craving a delicious meal from a fine restaurant, you're a little low on funds because you're a student—and let's face it, students don't have money to burn—and speaking of burning, you also want to save the planet from harmful gasses.

Tall order, huh?

So what do you do? If you happen to live in Europe, the answer is as easy as ordering pie à la mode: You pull out your smartphone or tablet, and tap Too Good To Go, Europe's most popular app. Approximately 23,000 restaurants and food vendors post their leftover food offerings on the app for half their usual cost, and 10 million users in 10 different countries have downloaded the app to scroll through the selections looking for an instant delectable dinner.

Why all this incredible edible generosity? Unbelievably, one-third of the world's food is thrown away, and nearly one billion people don't have enough to eat. Not only that, burning discarded food releases harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, and that contributes to climate change. In fact, according to experts, if food waste were a country, it would follow the U.S. and China as the world's third-leading producer of carbon emissions.

That's why environment-minded companies around the world are creating apps for phones, tablets, and other smart devices that connect uneaten food with people who want or need it.

One of those people is Annekathrin Fiesinger, a 34-year-old student and coffee shop worker in Germany. At the end of her busy day, Fiesinger pulls out her smartphone and chooses a succulent noodle dish—spaetzle pasta with mushrooms. Then she heads to a restaurant on the banks of the Spree River, where the owner packs her dinner and offers a scoop of free ice cream—a reward because Fiesinger brought her own container.

"We often have leftovers from our lunch specials," said the owner. "Rather than tossing it, we prefer to give it away, even if it's only for little money…. We also want to avoid extra packaging waste."

Indeed, there are many programs serving the same mission around the world. In New York City and Boston, Massachusetts, people are using an app called Food for All. One hour before a restaurant closes, its staff can post leftover meals to the app for up to 80 percent off menu prices. The app also allows customers to donate leftover meals to others.
In the Netherlands, 77,000 people have downloaded an app called NoFoodWasted, a program that allows grocery store workers to share products that are approaching their expiration dates with customers who might need them.

Some countries are taking their commitment to reducing food waste a step further. France and the Czech Republic, for example, have implemented laws that prohibit restaurants and grocery stores from throwing away food. Instead, workers are required to donate that food to charity.

The ability to reduce food waste is not limited to businesses, however. In the United States, an app called OLIO allows families to share their leftovers with neighbors. Baking banana bread but only want a few slices? Did you buy more apples than your family can eat before they spoil? Using an app like OLIO allows you to pass those scrumptious foods on to people who want them.

So the next time you're dreading the walk from your garbage can to the dumpster, think about whether there might be a better use for your uneaten vegetables. The planet (and your neighbors) will thank you.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>scrumptious (adjective)</th>
<th>very pleasant to taste: delicious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>succulent (adjective)</td>
<td>full of juice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in this Article?

A. Laws have been implemented in France and the Czech Republic that prohibit restaurants and grocery stores from throwing away food, so the app OLIO was created to help distribute the massive amount of leftovers that remain.  
B. Nearly one-third of the world's food is thrown away and much of this leftover food is burned, which in turn releases harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, further contributing to climate change.  
C. Annekathrin Fiesinger, a 34-year-old student and coffee shop worker in Germany, packed a tasty spaetzle pasta and mushroom dish to give away to charity and received a scoop of free ice cream for her troubles.  
D. Concerns about the high environmental costs of wasted food have prompted government leaders to create programs that connect restaurants and grocery stores that have nearly expired products with customers who need or want inexpensive food.

**Question 2**
What is this Article mainly about?

A. In Europe, 10 million people are scrolling through the leftover food selections that are updated daily on the Too Good To Go app, a popular way for people to claim food that might otherwise be discarded.  
B. Grocery stores in the Netherlands use a popular app called NoFoodWasted to share food products that are approaching their expiration dates with customers who might want or need them.  
C. Restaurants in New York City and Boston, Massachusetts, can post leftover meals on the app Food for All one hour before they close, allowing users to get up to 80 percent off of the normal menu prices.  
D. As a result of the growing mountain of food waste created by restaurants and grocery stores, a number of environmentally friendly companies are designing apps for phones, tablets, and other smart devices that connect leftover food with people who want or need it.

**Question 3**
Which is the closest synonym for the word *scrumptious*?

A. repulsive  
B. bizarre  
C. delectable  
D. aromatic
Question 4
Which information is not in the Article?

A. what important step France and the Czech Republic have taken to reduce the amount of food that restaurants and grocery stores throw away
B. how many European restaurants post their leftover food offerings on a popular app known as Too Good To Go
C. what special treat Annekathrin Fiesinger received for bringing in her own container to pack her noodle dish in
D. which nation generates the greatest amount of carbon dioxide emissions through the burning of discarded food

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

A. laws that some countries have passed to help promote the safe transportation and sale of food products
B. clever new uses of technology to help combat the growing problem of what to do with leftover food
C. methods that tech companies use to design apps that connect restaurants and grocery stores with customers
D. restaurants in the United States and Europe that are using high-tech solutions to reduce packaging waste

Question 6
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

A. The 80-percent-off deal offered on the Food for All app is not available during normal lunch or dinner hours.
B. The majority of all food that is produced around the world is wasted and is either buried in landfills or burned up.
C. The coffee shop where Annekathrin Fiesinger works sells its leftover food items at a steep discount at the end of each day.
D. Laws have been passed in Germany that prevent restaurants and grocery stores from throwing out leftover food.

Question 7
Look at this sentence from the Article:

Approximately 23,000 restaurants and food vendors post their leftover food offerings on the [Too Good to Go] app for half their usual cost, and 10 million users in 10 different countries have downloaded the app to scroll through the selections looking for an instant delectable dinner.

In this sentence, the word vendor means __________.

A. a business that offers goods for sale
B. a business that creates advertisements
C. a person who ensures that rules are obeyed
D. a person or thing that provides transportation
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that wasted food poses a clear threat to the environment?

A The ability to reduce food waste is not limited to businesses, however. In the United States, an app called OLIO allows families to share their leftovers with neighbors. Baking banana bread but only want a few slices? Did you buy more apples than your family can eat before they spoil? Using an app like OLIO allows you to pass those scrumptious foods on to people who want them.

B Why all this incredible edible generosity? Unbelievably, one-third of the world's food is thrown away, and nearly one billion people don't have enough to eat. Not only that, burning discarded food releases harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, and that contributes to climate change. In fact, according to experts, if food waste were a country, it would follow the U.S. and China as the world's third-leading producer of carbon emissions.

C One of those people is Annekathrin Fiesinger, a 34-year-old student and coffee shop worker in Germany. At the end of her busy day, Fiesinger pulls out her smartphone and chooses a succulent noodle dish—spaetzle pasta with mushrooms. Then she heads to a restaurant on the banks of the Spree River, where the owner packs her dinner and offers a scoop of free ice cream—a reward because Fiesinger brought her own container.

D So what do you do? If you happen to live in Europe, the answer is as easy as ordering pie à la mode: You pull out your smartphone or tablet, and tap Too Good To Go, Europe's most popular app. Approximately 23,000 restaurants and food vendors post their leftover food offerings on the app for half their usual cost, and 10 million users in 10 different countries have downloaded the app to scroll through the selections looking for an instant delectable dinner.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

"Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of those who are poor and hungry."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain why food waste is a problem. What do you think is the best way to solve this problem? Defend your solution and explain why you think it would work. Use information from the Article in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

If we all did what we could to make a difference in the lives of others, would it make the world a better place? What do you think?

Anyone, even young people, can make a difference.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

SPENCER, North Carolina (Achieve3000, May 17, 2019). Don't ever let anyone tell you that young people can't do great things, say the compassionate 7th graders in Mrs. Fleming's class at North Rowan Middle School in North Carolina. They are proof that young people can make a difference in the lives of others, and that activism can begin with four little words: How can we help?

How do you go from sitting in a classroom to tackling the problems of the world? For Mrs. Fleming's class, it all started with learning about horrific global events that devastate individuals, families, and communities.

"We planned a trip to Washington, D.C., so that we could immerse ourselves in learning about the Holocaust and refugees," said Mrs. Fleming. "We [also] had the opportunity to participate in a Doctors Without Borders interactive refugee exhibit. We read Achieve3000 articles and novels about refugees, [and] we watched documentaries and news clips."

Then, the students had the extraordinary experience of speaking via video teleconference to a refugee named Lubo, one of the estimated 20,000 Lost Boys who found themselves displaced or orphaned during a deadly civil war that began in Sudan in the 1980s. The students were very moved by Lubo's story as he told them about what he witnessed before he fled Sudan.

"The enemy from the North attacked, people were caught, houses burned, nothing [was] left," student Katie P. remembered him saying. "[It was] really sad because all he had and everything he lived for was no longer there, no one to count on, nothing."

"[We realized that] we usually took everything for granted, [that] we never appreciated what we had," said Katie's classmate, Jennifer G.

It's one thing to read about history, and quite another to hear from someone who lived it, and who made it clear that Sudan is still affected by life-threatening issues like poverty and lack of access to clean water. The students knew they had to do something, and that's when they asked: "How can we help?"

Soon, they found their answer.

The class was invited by the nonprofit group Mothering Across Continents to host a Walk for Wisdom walkathon to raise money and awareness for impoverished schools in South Sudan. It was a great idea—but the students wanted to take it further.
"We said 'yes,' but asked if we could involve our whole community," Mrs. Fleming said. She joined forces with Karen Puckett, a media specialist at Isenberg Elementary School in Salisbury, North Carolina, which had participated in a school-based Walk for Wisdom for several years.

Meanwhile, the students in Mrs. Fleming's class leaped into action, collaborating in teams to design t-shirts and flyers for the April 2019 walkathon. They also created an iMovie, a website, and a GoFundMe page to help raise money.

Even after all that, the students were just getting started! They planned a Refugee Awareness Community Night at their local bookstore, where they spoke to Ngor Kur Mayol—another Sudanese refugee. The event featured their presentations, art, and writing, as well as a marketplace to raise money for a source of clean water for the students at Nyarweng Primary School in South Sudan.

Mrs. Fleming and her students hope they will eventually be able to exchange messages and photos with the Nyarweng Primary School pupils.

All this might be just the beginning of an ongoing effort, Mrs. Fleming explained. "Our hope is that these events will turn into yearly global events for our county, and that our community will unite for a global cause to help youth in another country."

Needless to say, Mrs. Fleming is extremely proud of how her class has stepped up to help—not that she's surprised.

"Our students have incredible ideas," she said. "All we need to do is listen and encourage. I love seeing where my students' voices and actions can lead us."

And if you want to make a difference in the lives of others, student Kimberly F. has some advice.

"You may think that starting a project to change the world would be difficult," she said. "But if you really put your mind into it, you can achieve amazing things. It can start with a simple act in your community, but you'll see that it will grow and grow."

Most importantly, the students say, don't ever feel like you're too young to make a mark on the world.

"There are many things we are limited to do because we are kids," Katie said, adding, "A lot of people may underestimate [us], but that is what drives us to stand out and help other people."

*Video Credit: Achieve3000*

**Dictionary**

- **collaborate** (verb) to work together
- **compassionate** (adjective) able to feel the sorrow that others are feeling
- **devastate** (verb) to destroy or ruin
- **impoverished** (adjective) in a state of poverty

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**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**

The best alternate headline for this Article would be _________.

A. Mothering Across Continents Arranges Walk for Wisdom Walkathons
B. Middle School Class Creates GoFundMe Page To Raise Money
C. Students Tackle Global Problems One "Step" at a Time
D. Students Use Achieve3000 Articles To Learn About Tragic World Events
Question 2
Based on information in the Article, which of these happened second?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.

A. The nonprofit group Mothering Across Continents invited Mrs. Fleming's 7th-grade class to host a Walk for Wisdom walkathon.
B. North Rowan Middle School students hosted a Refugee Awareness Community Night at their local bookstore, where they spoke to Ngor Kur Mayol, a Sudanese refugee.
C. Lubo, a refugee from Sudan who was forced to flee during a deadly civil war that displaced or orphaned an estimated 20,000 Lost Boys, spoke to students from North Rowan Middle School.
D. Mrs. Fleming's 7th-grade class planned a trip to Washington, D.C., so they could immerse themselves in learning about the Holocaust and refugees.

Question 3
Which is the closest antonym for the word devastate, as it is used in the Article?

A. Reprove
B. Ravage
C. Flatter
D. Enrich

Question 4
Suppose Raquel wants to find out about the Lost Boys. She would find most of her information __________.

A. In an interview with refugees who survived the Holocaust
B. In a documentary about the consequences of Sudan's civil war
C. On a list of organizers for a Walk for Wisdom walkathon
D. On a map of countries served by Doctors Without Borders

Question 5
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mrs. Fleming believes children can make positive marks on the world?

A. For Mrs. Fleming's class, it all started with learning about horrific global events that devastate individuals, families, and communities.
B. Then, the students had the extraordinary experience of speaking via video teleconference to a refugee named Lubo, one of the estimated 20,000 Lost Boys who found themselves displaced or orphaned during a deadly civil war that began in Sudan in the 1980s.
C. "There are many things we are limited to do because we are kids," Katie said, adding, "A lot of people may underestimate [us], but that is what drives us to stand out and help other people."
D. Needless to say, Mrs. Fleming is extremely proud of how her class has stepped up to help—not that she's surprised. "Our students have incredible ideas," she said. "All we need to do is listen and encourage. I love seeing where my students' voices and actions can lead us."

Question 6
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.

A. Inform readers about the positive global impact one class from the United States is making after being inspired to help schools and youth in South Sudan
B. Suggest that readers donate to the GoFundMe page that the 7th graders at North Rowan Middle School in North Carolina created to raise money for schools in South Sudan
C. Share the messages that Mrs. Fleming and her students have exchanged with the Nyarweng Primary School pupils
D. Persuade students to host a Walk for Wisdom walkathon to raise money and awareness for impoverished schools in the United States
Question 7
The Article states:

Then, the students had the extraordinary experience of speaking via video teleconference to a refugee named Lubo, one of the estimated 20,000 Lost Boys who found themselves displaced or orphaned during a deadly civil war that began in Sudan in the 1980s. The students were very moved by Lubo's story as he told them about what he witnessed before he fled Sudan.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word extraordinary, as it is used above?

A. Incredible
B. Impractical
C. Unexceptional
D. Accessible

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

A. The students in Mrs. Fleming's class will likely continue to look for ways to make positive impacts on the world around them.
B. The nonprofit group Mothering Across Continents will discontinue its Walk for Wisdom walkathons now that more people are aware of conditions in South Sudan.
C. Student Katie P. will advise younger students to shelve ideas about how to change the world until they are in middle school.
D. Lubo, one of Sudan's estimated 20,000 Lost Boys, will likely discourage students from looking for ways to provide access to clean water in South Sudan's schools.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Anyone, even young people, can make a difference.

• Agree
• Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What problems were the students in Mrs. Fleming's 7th-grade class trying to help solve? Describe the solutions they came up with. Do you think the events started by the class will turn into yearly events across the world? Why or why not? Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Marsai Martin Is a Boss (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

At 14 years old, actress Marsai Martin has the kind of job she has been dreaming of since she was a little girl. What do you think of this quote by filmmaker Walt Disney?

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Marsai Martin is 14 years old, yet she's an actress and an executive producer in Hollywood.

Marsai Martin is 14 years old, yet she's an actress and an executive producer in Hollywood.

LOS ANGELES, California (Achieve3000, April 15, 2019). You can probably find a viral meme of Marsai Martin to match every mood. There's the one where the actress, in her role as sassy little sister Diane Johnson on the sitcom Black-ish, gives the quintessential annoyed look and says, "Boy, bye." Mood: Soooo over it!

How about the one where she puts her hand to her chest and leans back as if she's clutching pearls? Mood: Shocked and a tad offended. (That one never gets old.)

And don't forget the meme where she's giving off confident mogul vibes while wearing oversized sunglasses and holding a coffee mug. Mood: Feeling like a boss!

That's exactly what Marsai Martin has become in real life: a boss.

Get this: At 14 years old, the actress and meme queen is currently the youngest person in Hollywood to hold the clout-carrying title of executive producer, in which capacity Marsai finances film projects and calls many of the shots. Not too bad for a girl who is still young enough to get a weekly allowance.

Not only did Marsai produce the movie Little, which debuted in theaters on April 12, 2019, but she's also the star of the film about a career-driven adult who wakes up as a 13-year-old version of herself.

And Marsai came up with that promising premise herself.

The ever-ambitious teen says she pitched the idea for Little when she was 9 or 10 years old, after having been inspired by the 1988 comedy Big, which is about a 12-year-old boy who turns into a 30-year-old man after a wish goes wrong. Little has already led to big things for Marsai, whose very own production company, Genius Productions, signed a deal with Universal Pictures in February 2019, under which Marsai will develop scripted projects for Universal, one of Hollywood's top movie studios.

Peter Cramer, Universal's president of production, seems thrilled about working with the teen. "[Marsai] is not only tremendously talented in front of the camera but offers a unique perspective as a creator and producer that will resonate with all
audiences," he gushed. "We look forward to moviegoers getting to see how brilliant she is in *Little* and watching her evolve as a filmmaker here at Universal."

It's the kind of job Marsai has been dreaming of since she was a little girl.

"For a very long time, I've wanted to be like a creator, basically," Marsai said. "I used to write my own books, but they weren't like *real* books...I have always had a bunch of ideas since I was very, very little."

Little Marsai was also a natural-born performer, according to her parents, who say she started acting before she could talk.

"My parents were like 'Oh my [gosh], this girl has a talent,'" Marsai said. "'She's only 2 years old, and she's mimicking all these [awesome] films that you wouldn't think a toddler would know.'"

At age 8, Marsai told her parents she wanted to move to California and chase her acting dreams in Hollywood. She still can't believe that her parents assented. "It's crazy that they trusted an 8-year-old at the time. But as you can see, we made the right choice," Marsai said.

In 2014, Marsai landed a role on *Black-ish* as Diane, an intense tween who, let's just say, has caused her family members to sleep with one eye open. Five years into the show, her work has already earned her two NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series.

Next up for Marsai the actress is *StepMonster*, a comedy about a teenage girl who is adjusting to life with a new stepmother. And you guessed it—she'll produce that film as well. (What else would we expect from Hollywood's youngest executive producer?)

"I am so excited for the magic I'll be able to create and produce with Universal," she said. "My goal is to show young women and girls that our voices and ideas matter, and you are never too young to dream BIG!"

Cue that meme where Marsai is confidently strutting down a red carpet. Mood: Ready to take over Hollywood.

**Dictionary**

| **premise** (noun) | a principle or idea |
| **quintessential** (adjective) | representing something typical or ideal in its field |
| **resonate** (verb) | to relate with; to have an effect on someone or something |

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**

The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

A. Ambitious Teen To Develop Scripts for Universal Pictures
B. Next Up for Marsai Martin: The Comedy StepMonster
C. Marsai Martin Has New Title: Youngest Executive Producer in Hollywood
D. Young Actress Stars in Movie Inspired by 1988 Comedy

**Question 2**

Which two words are the closest **antonyms**?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

A. Intense and laidback
B. Resonate and reflect
C. Mimic and impersonate
D. Quintessential and model
Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A  Marsai Martin, who plays Diane on Black-ish, has already earned two NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series.
B  Marsai Martin, a 14-year-old actress, signed a deal to develop scripted projects for Universal Pictures, one of Hollywood's top movie studios.
C  Little, which hit theaters on April 12, 2019, was conceived of and produced by the youngest executive producer in Hollywood.
D  Little, a film about a career-driven adult who wakes up as a 13-year-old, is more interesting than Big, which is about a 12-year-old boy who turns into a 30-year-old man.

Question 4
Think about the following statement made by Peter Cramer, Universal Picture's president of production:

"[Marsai] is not only tremendously talented in front of the camera but offers a unique perspective as a creator and producer that will resonate with all audiences," he gushed. "We look forward to moviegoers getting to see how brilliant she is in Little and watching her evolve as a filmmaker here at Universal."

The author's purpose for including this quote was to __________.
A  Suggest that Little will not resonate with all audiences because Marsai Martin is still evolving as a filmmaker
B  Educate readers about the types of films Marsai Martin will develop and produce for Universal
C  Claim that Little does little to showcase Marsai Martin's talent as an actress and producer
D  Explain why Universal Pictures signed a deal, under which Marsai Martin will develop scripted projects for the studio

Question 5
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?
A  Because Marsai Martin's movie, Little, is about a 13-year-old girl, filmmakers were looking for a teen to act as executive producer.
B  Because Marsai Martin has been dreaming of being a creator since she was little, she is very excited about developing scripted projects for Universal Pictures.
C  Because Marsai Martin has a meme to match every mood, her parents were convinced that she'd be a good actress.
D  Because Marsai Martin's family lived in Hollywood from the time she was a baby, she was easily able to chase her acting dreams.

Question 6
The Article states:

At age 8, Marsai told her parents she wanted to move to California and chase her acting dreams in Hollywood. She still can't believe that her parents assented. "It's crazy that they trusted an 8-year-old at the time. But as you can see, we made the right choice," Marsai said.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word assented, as it is used above?
A  Faltered
B  Complied
C  Persisted
D  Objected
Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Marsai Martin stands out from other executive producers?

A In 2014, Marsai landed a role on Black-ish as Diane, an intense tween who, let's just say, has caused her family members to sleep with one eye open.
B Next up for Marsai the actress is StepMonster, a comedy about a teenage girl who is adjusting to life with a new stepmother. And you guessed it—she'll produce that film as well.
C And don't forget the meme where she's giving off confident mogul vibes while wearing oversized sunglasses and holding a coffee mug. Mood: Feeling like a boss! That's exactly what Marsai Martin has become in real life: a boss.
D At 14 years old, the actress and meme queen is currently the youngest person in Hollywood to hold the clout-carrying title of executive producer, in which capacity Marsai finances film projects and calls many of the shots.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A Marsai Martin has a strong support system in place to pursue her dreams in Hollywood.
B Without Peter Cramer, Universal Pictures' President of Production, Marsai Martin would not have landed the role of Diane Johnson in Black-ish.
C Most young people are unaware of the various moods and memes of Marsai Martin.
D The producers of Black-ish want to replace Marsai Martin on the show now that she's pursuing other projects.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, complete the following steps:

STEP 1: Read the Article in order to understand the text.
STEP 2a: Identify the topic sentence for each paragraph.
STEP 2b: Take out any details that are not needed.
STEP 2c: Combine the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.
STEP 3: Rethink your summary and the Article.
STEP 4: Check your summary. Then double-check it.
Students Take to the Streets (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Students around the world are skipping school to hold protests. They say that world leaders aren't doing enough to combat climate change. What do you think?

Students can make a difference when it comes to solving global problems.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg holds a poster at a protest in Hamburg, Germany. Her sign translates to English as: "SCHOOL STRIKE FOR THE CLIMATE."

BERLIN, Germany (Achieve3000, March 20, 2019). From the South Pacific to the edge of the Arctic Circle, students have been mobilizing. Brandishing powerful protest signs, they have been skipping school on Fridays to speak out against their countries' climate policies. Their message? Politicians haven't done enough to combat climate change and its myriad life-threatening consequences for the planet that they will inherit.

Here's a snapshot of the March 15, 2019, "Fridays for Future" protests, which involved more than 2,000 cities:

- In Berlin, police said as many as 20,000 protesters, mostly young students, gathered in a downtown square waving signs with slogans such as "MARCH NOW OR SWIM LATER" and "CLIMATE PROTECTION REPORT CARD: F."
- In Poland, thousands marched in rainy Warsaw and other cities to demand a ban on the burning of coal, some wearing face masks as they carried banners that read "TODAY'S AIR SMELLS LIKE THE PLANET'S LAST DAYS."
- About 50 students protested in South Africa's capital, Pretoria, chanting, "There's no planet B." One protester held a sign reading "YOU'LL MISS THE RAINS DOWN IN AFRICA." (That's a twist on lyrics to a song you might know.) Experts say Africa, with its population of more than 1 billion people, is expected to be hardest hit by climate change.
- In Helsinki, police said about 3,000 students gathered in front of Finland's Parliament sporting signs such as "DINOSAURS THOUGHT THEY HAD TIME TOO!"
- In the U.S., students gathered in several cities, including Philadelphia and San Francisco, where one protester held a sign with a message from kids to grown-ups: "IF YOU DON'T ACT LIKE ADULTS, WE WILL!"

It only takes one person to spark a worldwide movement. In this case, it was Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who was only 15 years old when she began holding solitary demonstrations outside the Swedish Parliament on Fridays in September 2018. She wasn't alone for long.
Social media helped Greta create Fridays for Future. After her efforts gained buzz on Twitter, she was invited to speak at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. And people paid attention.

Greta's solo protests soon swelled to tens of thousands of students worldwide. The rallies that she inspired quickly snowballed from a handful of cities to thousands.

Carla Reemtsma, a 20-year-old university student who helped organize the March 15 protest in Berlin, said she's part of about 50 WhatsApp groups devoted to discussing climate change.

"A lot happens on social media because you can reach a lot of young people very quickly and show them: Look, there's [a] lot of us," she said. "I think that's how we managed to get so big."

Big enough to attract the attention of politicians—though maybe for unintended reasons. Some are concerned that the students are skipping school. Germany's economy minister, Peter Altmaier, has urged students to stage the protests outside of school hours.

Scientists, on the other hand, have heartily backed the school-day demonstrations. Thousands have signed petitions in support of the students in Britain, Finland, Germany, and the United States. As Volker Quaschning, a professor of engineering at Berlin's University of Applied Sciences, puts it: "If we do nothing, then parts of this planet could become uninhabitable by the end of the century."

Talk about imperative.

In Stockholm, Greta Thunberg is predicting that students won't back down.

"There is a crisis in front of us that we have to live with, that we will have to live with for all our lives, [as will] our children, our grandchildren, and all future generations," she said. "We won't accept that…. We are on strike because we do want a future…. We will carry on."

Greta, now 16, is already a powerful force. In 2019, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

**Dictionary**

**brandish (verb)** to wave around in a threat or display

**imperative (adjective)** necessary; not to be avoided

**myriad (adjective)** numerous

**uninhabitable (adjective)** not able to be lived in

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
According to the Article, why have thousands of students been skipping school on Fridays?

A. The students have been using Twitter to gain wide audiences in efforts to convince people to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland.

B. The students have been inspired by Greta Thunberg to hold solitary demonstrations so that they, too, might be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

C. The students have been protesting their countries' climate policies, saying politicians haven't done enough to combat climate change and its numerous life-threatening consequences.

D. The students have been protesting for the right to vote on issues like climate change that can greatly impact their future.
Question 2
Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

- **A** In December 2018, Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg spoke at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland.
- **B** Wearing face masks, thousands of protesters marched to demand an end to coal burning in Warsaw and other Polish cities.
- **C** Around the world, students have been skipping school on Fridays to protest their governments' policies on climate change.
- **D** In Helsinki, police said about 3,000 students gathered in front of Finland's Parliament sporting signs such as: "DINOSAURS THOUGHT THEY HAD TIME TOO!"

Question 3
Which is the closest **antonym** for the word **imperative**, as it is used in the Article?

- **A** Important
- **B** Careless
- **C** Nonessential
- **D** Thorough

Question 4
Suppose Kendra wants to find out about climate policies in Berlin, Germany. She would find **most** of her information __________.

- **A** By speaking to Germany's economy minister, Peter Altmaier, about his opposition of protests during school hours
- **B** By traveling to Africa, where experts expect climate change to have the most damaging effects
- **C** By speaking with Volker Quaschning about what needs to be done to ensure the planet is not uninhabitable by the end of the century
- **D** By visiting Germany's national website and reading legislation passed concerning "environmental protection"

Question 5
The Article states:

> It only takes one person to spark a worldwide movement. In this case, it was Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who was only 15 years old when she began holding solitary demonstrations outside the Swedish Parliament on Fridays in September 2018. She wasn't alone for long.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

- **A** Criticize the Swedish Parliament for not silencing the demonstrations that began in September 2018
- **B** Invite students to join Greta Thunberg at her Friday demonstrations outside the Swedish Parliament
- **C** Suggest that at 15 years old, Greta Thunberg was too young to engage in solitary protests
- **D** Illustrate the power of a single person to make a difference in the world

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Internet was at least partially responsible for the rapid swelling of Greta Thunberg's demonstrations?

- **A** It only takes one person to spark a worldwide movement. In this case, it was Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who was only 15 years old when she began holding solitary demonstrations outside the Swedish Parliament on Fridays in September 2018.
- **B** In Stockholm, Greta Thunberg is predicting that students won't back down.
- **C** Greta's solo protests soon swelled to tens of thousands of students worldwide. The rallies that she inspired quickly snowballed from a handful of cities to thousands.
- **D** She wasn't alone for long. Social media helped Greta create Fridays for Future. After her efforts gained buzz on Twitter, she was invited to speak at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. And people paid attention.
Question 7
The Article states:

Brandishing powerful protest signs, they have been skipping school on Fridays to speak out against their countries' climate policies. Their message? Politicians haven't done enough to combat climate change and its myriad life-threatening consequences for the planet that they will inherit.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word *policies*, as it is used above?

A. Guidelines  
B. Conspiracies  
C. Investigations  
D. Expenses

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

A. The United Nations will request that Twitter pull tweets using the hashtag #FridaysforFuture to discourage students worldwide from speaking out against climate change.
B. Most students will heed the call of Peter Altmaier, Germany's economy minister, and stop skipping school to take part in protests.
C. Greta Thunberg will step aside and allow adults to take up the fight for better climate policies while she attends school.
D. Scientists will continue to encourage students and others to fight for better climate change policies.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**Students can make a difference when it comes to solving global problems.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe the Fridays for Future protests. Explain how they began and how they grew to tens of thousands. Do you think these protests are the best way for students to voice their concerns about climate change? Explain. Include information from the Article in your response.
Superheroes Bearing Gifts (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Many movie stars and other well-known people work hard to support worthy causes. What do you think?

Famous people should always give their time and money to help others.
• Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

ANAHEIM, California (Achieve3000, April 15, 2019). The last time they battled their way across multiplex screens, a villain called Thanos set in motion a grave course of events that wiped out half the universe. In 2019—for the last time ever—the fractured group of superheroes known as the Avengers banded together for a showdown to end all showdows. The drama unfolded in Avengers: Endgame. The movie marked the 22nd and final installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

But when Iron Man, Captain Marvel, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Ant-Man, and Thor aren't joining forces to save what's left of the universe, they are Hollywood actors Robert Downey, Jr., Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd, and Chris Hemsworth. In April 2019, they banded together at Disney California Adventure Park for another global cause. This one, however, was based firmly in reality: They were there to announce the donation of money and toys to benefit seriously ill children.

Even in real life, the Avengers do things big—the charitable contributions they were there to announce came to more than a cool $5 million. The event was the latest philanthropic effort of the Avengers Universe Unites campaign.

The Walt Disney Company, which owns Marvel, donated $1 million to the Starlight Children's Foundation, an organization that brings entertainment and education to children facing life-threatening conditions in several countries, including the U.S. and Great Britain. The LEGO group, Hasbro, Funko, and Amazon also joined forces as super-corporations, donating more than $4 million to children's hospitals around the U.S.

"More than any time, it's a time to give back to these courageous kids who inspire us," said Downey, Jr. He has played Tony Stark/Iron Man for more than a decade.

After the announcement, several of the Avengers: Endgame stars—including Johansson, Renner, Rudd, and Hemsworth—visited with kids from local Boys & Girls Clubs as they played at the LEGO store in Disneyland's Downtown Disney. The store unveiled toys with their characters' likenesses.

"It's not a bad day in the office when you get to come to Disneyland," gushed Johansson. She plays Black Widow in Avengers: Endgame. "I've been a huge fan of Disney for, like, forever. I come from a big, Disney-loving family. To be here with my fellow Avengers and all these kids, it's just great. It's such a great way to spend the day."

"I'm grateful and touched to be a part of this group," Rudd said. He portrays Ant-Man in the movie. "I work with a lot of kids and families. It's not just the kids. It's the entire family. The parents, the brothers, the sisters. This is a real honor to give back."
By lending their fame and support to this charitable event, Rudd, Downey, Jr., Johansson, and their costars were continuing a long tradition of "giving back" in the entertainment community. And what they give can come in many forms: visiting schools and hospitals, hosting charity events, and making donations.

Media mogul Oprah Winfrey, for example, has directed hundreds of millions of dollars to charities and organizations that support girls' schools in Africa and babies who are rescued from abandonment and abuse. J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, has contributed a whopping $160 million to her favorite charity groups. And Chance the Rapper has raised over $3.2 million for Chicago public schools.

Some celebrities give of their hearts and their time as well as their money. Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, and John Boyega, for example, have been known to drop by unexpectedly at hospital rooms to surprise fans who are ill. Other celebrities become spokespersons for good causes. John Legend and Beyoncé stand behind organizations that provide disaster relief funds. And actors Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio lend their support to environmental issues.

So, it's really no surprise that the Avengers wanted to pitch in. Yes, they're superheroes and superstars. But many of showbiz's finest are super-philanthropists as well.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cinematic (adjective)</th>
<th>having to do with movies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>franchise (noun)</td>
<td>a series of fictional movies or books that have the same or related characters and settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>philanthropic (adjective)</td>
<td>having to do with charitable work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
According to the Article, what is one reason why the actors from *Avengers: Endgame* banded together to make an announcement in April 2019?

A. The actors wanted to lend their fame and support to an effort that helps children facing life-threatening conditions.

B. The actors were aware that other celebrities had become known for dropping by unexpectedly at children's hospitals, and they wanted to be able to do the same.

C. The actors were hoping to have the opportunity to work directly with Oprah Winfrey, J.K. Rowling, and Chance the Rapper.

D. The actors wanted to provide additional money to children helped by the disaster relief organizations supported by John Legend and Beyoncé.

**Question 2**
Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

A. J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, donated $160 million to her favorite charity organizations.

B. Superstars from the *Avengers: Endgame* movie announced the donation of money and toys to benefit seriously ill children.

C. Celebrities Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, and John Boyega have been visiting sick and injured children in hospitals.

D. Paul Rudd, who plays Ant-Man in the *Avengers: Endgame* movie, feels it is an honor to give back to entire families.

**Question 3**
Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *philanthropic*, as it is used in the Article?

A. Exclusive

B. Beneficent

C. Authoritative

D. Disrespectful
Question 4
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A. The actors who play Marvel characters Iron Man, Captain Marvel, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Ant-Man, and Thor announced contributions to charities that totaled more than $5 million.
B. Various celebrities have donated their money or time to lend support to charity groups, schools, and other organizations.
C. Stars from the Avengers movie would have made a bigger impact if they had spent more time with the children at the LEGO store in Disneyland's Downtown Disney.
D. The Walt Disney Company gave $1 million to an organization that brings entertainment and education to children facing life-threatening conditions.

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. The Walt Disney Company's top executives are probably concerned that the Starlight Children's Foundation will misuse the donations it receives from various companies.
B. Many famous people who make a great deal of money find satisfaction in assisting with efforts that bring joy to others.
C. Celebrities who lend their support to causes that specifically help children tend to become more famous than celebrities who support other causes.
D. Chance the Rapper probably thinks that donating toys and money to children's hospitals is the best way to help kids.

Question 6
Look at the following passage from the Article:
Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, and John Boyega, for example, have been known to drop by unexpectedly at hospital rooms to surprise fans who are ill. Other celebrities become spokespersons for good causes. John Legend and Beyoncé stand behind organizations that provide disaster relief funds. And actors Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio lend their support to environmental issues.

Why did the author include this information?
A. To emphasize that celebrities don't necessarily need to donate money to make a difference in the world
B. To demonstrate that John Legend is making a bigger difference in the world than most celebrities have time for
C. To suggest that the Avengers Universe Unites campaign was the idea of Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, and John Boyega
D. To persuade readers to do their part to help raise awareness about environmental issues and disaster relief efforts

Question 7
Which two words are the closest synonyms?
Only some of these words are used in the Article.
A. Mogul and villain
B. Donation and contribution
C. Installment and masterpiece
D. Charity and campaign
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that many celebrities look for ways to help those who are less fortunate?

A. By lending their fame and support to this charitable event, Rudd, Downey, Jr., Johansson, and their costars were continuing a long tradition of "giving back" in the entertainment community. And what they give can come in many forms: visiting schools and hospitals, hosting charity events, and making donations.

B. But when Iron Man, Captain Marvel, Black Widow, Hawkeye, Ant-Man, and Thor aren't joining forces to save what's left of the universe, they are Hollywood actors Robert Downey, Jr., Brie Larson, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd, and Chris Hemsworth.

C. "It's not a bad day in the office when you get to come to Disneyland," gushed Johansson. She plays Black Widow in Avengers: Endgame. "I've been a huge fan of Disney for, like, forever. I come from a big, Disney-loving family. To be here with my fellow Avengers and all these kids, it's just great. It's such a great way to spend the day."

D. In 2019—for the last time ever—the fractured group of superheroes known as the Avengers banded together for a showdown to end all showdowns. The drama unfolded in Avengers: Endgame. The movie marked the 22nd and final installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Famous people should always give their time and money to help others.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, complete the following steps:

- **STEP 1**: Read the Article in order to understand the text.
- **STEP 2a**: Identify the topic sentence for each paragraph.
- **STEP 2b**: Take out any details that are not needed.
- **STEP 2c**: Combine the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.
- **STEP 3**: Rethink your summary and the Article.
- **STEP 4**: Check your summary. Then double-check it.
What do you think of this quote by educator Jenny Arledge?

"Technology can become the 'wings' that will allow the educational world to fly farther and faster than ever before—if we will allow it."

- Do you agree or disagree?

BUFFALO, New York (Achieve3000, June 4, 2019). Tech-savvy tweens to the rescue! Teachers in an elementary school in the U.S. state of New York wanted to help their students create interactive games using the programming language Scratch, but there was a problem that had school officials scratching their heads: Many of the teachers didn't know how to use Scratch themselves, let alone teach someone else how to use it.

So guess who swooped in to save the day? Some of the school's very own students! The school enlisted the expertise of a couple of whiz kids, including Theo, a fourth grader who'd aced an afterschool class in the programming language. Theo, who worked with a classmate to lead a Scratch training course for teachers, was charged up to take on the mission.

"I thought it was really cool that I got to teach the teachers," he said.

Theo and his friend are not the only kids getting called on to lend a hand at school. As schools incorporate more technology into their curriculums, many are tapping students' tech talents. Amy Burdette, a teacher at another New York school, described how teachers and students are learning from each other.

"I did not grow up with technology the way that the kids these days have. The 11-year-olds know far more [about technology] than I do, so they're often teaching us as much as we're teaching them other skills," she said.

There's another important aspect of tech support that students are taking charge of: devices, devices, and more devices. According to a recent survey conducted by the Consortium for School Networking, the number of devices issued to students has risen. The survey found that every student at 59 percent of U.S. high schools and 63 percent of U.S. middle schools had access to his or her own device. The laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, and other devices issued by school districts are powerful learning tools, but they present challenges for Information Technology (IT) staff. These include networking issues, cracked screens, broken keys, and malfunctioning apps, to name just a few.

Who better to help maintain all these devices than a generation of people who practically grew up with one in each hand? Young techies can often troubleshoot problems that crop up in the classroom. Some schools even have official tech support teams made up entirely of students.

At Burlington High School in Massachusetts, for example, students, teachers, and other school personnel can take all their tech troubles to a student-staffed Help Desk that's modeled after the Genius Bars in Apple's retail stores. The Burlington students aren't just troubleshooters, they're virtual ed tech superstars. They publish a well-respected blog, make presentations at educational technology conferences, serve as consultants for app developers, and host an online show called "Help Desk Live."
Another student IT success story comes from a school district in Buffalo, New York. With more than 20,000 devices, just two months to get them ready for distribution, and not nearly enough staff to finish the job, Buffalo Public Schools faced a daunting IT challenge. It was time to call in reinforcements! The district recruited high school students to work as paid interns for six weeks in the summer. While the students cleaned, catalogued, and reset the devices, they earned hourly wages, developed real-world job skills, and got a chance to explore a career in technology.

If you've got some tech-smart superpowers of your own, you might want to consider helping out at school, which students say is fun and rewarding. In addition to building a killer résumé for the high-tech job market of the future, they enjoy the camaraderie of working with friends to get to the bottom of tricky tech issues.

But the best reward for putting your tech skills to work for your school might be the good, old-fashioned sense of satisfaction you get from helping out. Theo, whose training course benefited not just the teachers he taught but all their students, too, said, "Helping other people actually makes you feel really good inside."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Video Credit: Associated Press

Dictionary

camaraderie (noun) the spirit or a sense of friendship and closeness
consultant (noun) a person who gives expert advice
intern (noun) a trainee who is getting work experience in a particular field
personnel (noun) people who are employed in a particular organization, business, or service

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

A In response to a request made by teachers at Burlington High School in Massachusetts, students now run a Help Desk that is modeled after the Genius Bars in Apple's retail stores.
B Teachers at a school in New York did not have the skills to teach their students the programming language Scratch, so students were asked to lead a Scratch training course for them.
C To prepare students for careers in computer repair and networking, electronic devices are now being issued by a majority of high schools and middle schools in the United States.
D With more than 20,000 devices and just two months to prepare them for student use, Buffalo Public Schools relied on student volunteers to clean, catalogue, and reset the devices.

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?

A One school district in Buffalo, New York, had more than 20,000 electronic devices to prepare for use but not enough full-time staff to get them ready in just two months.
B The use of electronic devices in schools is now commonplace with 59 percent of U.S. high schools and 63 percent of U.S. middle schools issuing them to their students.
C Tech-savvy students who grew up using electronic devices are being asked to lend a hand with creative solutions to the array of technology issues that more and more schools now face.
D Students who work at Burlington High School's Help Desk troubleshoot problems with devices, publish a popular blog, make presentations at educational technology conferences, and more.
Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A Members of Burlington High School's Help Desk team publish a blog, make presentations at educational technology conferences, and even host an online show called "Help Desk Live."
B While laptops, iPads, and Chromebooks may be powerful learning tools in education today, they can present an array of challenges for a school's Information Technology staff.
C Students who use their tech-smart skills at school say that the work is fun and rewarding; at the same time, they are building their résumés for future employment in the high-tech job market.
D Having students teach their teachers programming skills may be a suitable short-term fix for the problem of untrained teachers, but it is not a practical long-term solution.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word camaraderie, as it is used in the Article?
A Hostility
B Morality
C Diversity
D Productivity

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A Maintaining and troubleshooting electronic devices as a student is excellent preparation for a high-tech job later in life.
B Theo, a fourth grader in the state of New York, was paid for providing programming instruction to teachers.
C The majority of school districts in the U.S. do not have enough money in their budgets to purchase electronic devices for their students.
D Students at Burlington High School who staff the Help Desk regularly teach in-school programming classes to other students.

Question 6
The Article states:
Who better to help maintain all these devices than a generation of people who practically grew up with one in each hand? Young techies can often troubleshoot problems that crop up in the classroom. Some schools even have official tech support teams made up entirely of students.

Why did the author include this passage?
A To suggest that teachers are best equipped to solve a school's device issues
B To acknowledge that better maintenance of devices could prevent problems before they occur
C To contrast the work performed by student support teams with the work done by professionals
D To offer one solution to the technology challenges that many schools are encountering

Question 7
The Article states:
With more than 20,000 devices, just two months to get them ready for distribution, and not nearly enough staff to finish the job, Buffalo Public Schools faced a daunting IT challenge.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word daunting, as it is used above?
A Foreboding
B Formidable
C Improbable
D Captivating
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the benefits from using one's high-tech skills at school are not necessarily financial in nature?
A. Who better to help maintain all these devices than a generation of people who practically grew up with one in each hand? Young techies can often troubleshoot problems that crop up in the classroom. Some schools even have official tech support teams made up entirely of students.
B. But the best reward for putting your tech skills to work for your school might be the good, old-fashioned sense of satisfaction you get from helping out. Theo, whose training course benefited not just the teachers he taught but all their students, too, said, "Helping other people actually makes you feel really good inside."
C. The district recruited high school students to work as paid interns for six weeks in the summer. While the students cleaned, catalogued, and reset the devices, they earned hourly wages, developed real-world job skills, and got a chance to explore a career in technology.
D. Teachers in an elementary school in the U.S. state of New York wanted to help their students create interactive games using the programming language Scratch, but there was a problem that had school officials scratching their heads: Many of the teachers didn't know how to use Scratch themselves, let alone teach someone else how to use it.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
"Technology can become the 'wings' that will allow the educational world to fly farther and faster than ever before—if we will allow it."
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, complete the following steps:

STEP 1: Read the Article in order to understand the text.
STEP 2a: Identify the topic sentence for each paragraph.
STEP 2b: Take out any details that are not needed.
STEP 2c: Combine the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.
STEP 3: Rethink your summary and the Article.
STEP 4: Check your summary. Then double-check it.
In 1861, the King of Siam offered to send a large gift to the people of the United States. However, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln politely refused. What do you think?

**If someone offers you a gift, you should take it.**
- Do you agree or disagree?

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**Step 2: Article (Read the Article)**

_BANGKOK, Thailand_ (Achieve3000, May 24, 2019). The elephant is Thailand's beloved national animal. Today, the Asian elephant is listed as endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species, which is maintained by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), but the animal's population once thrived. For centuries, the Thai people used the massive mammals as work animals and formidable instruments of war. In 1861, King Mongkut of Siam (modern-day Thailand) offered to send some elephants to the United States as a gift of friendship between the two countries.

Mongkut made the offer in a detailed letter addressed to then-U.S. President James Buchanan "or whomever would become president." The king, aware that Siam's tusked treasures were not native to the United States, suggested that the elephants be set free upon their arrival in America so that they could multiply across the land.

"We desire to procure and send elephants to be let loose to increase and multiply in the continent of America," Mongkut's letter stated.

By the time King Mongkut's letter arrived, one year after it was sent, Abraham Lincoln was in office. The new president received the letter along with three gifts from the king: a sword, a photograph of Mongkut with one of his daughters, and an impressive pair of elephant tusks.

At the time, Lincoln was occupied with America's Civil War, which had begun in 1861. With the war raging between America's North and South, perhaps he was relieved by the distraction of Mongkut's kind offer.

The king's letter explained that there was just one problem. Siam did not have a large enough ship to transport the elephants. Mongkut therefore requested that U.S. leaders "provide a large vessel loaded with hay and other food suitable for elephants on the voyage, with tanks holding a sufficiency of fresh water, and arranged with stalls so that the elephants can both stand and lie down in the ship… We, on our part, will procure young male and female elephants, and forward them, one or two pairs at a time."

Mongkut's letter also provided practical details about caring for the elephants. It stated that the animals should not be taken to a cold climate, but to somewhere under the sun. The letter also said that upon their arrival, the elephants should "with all haste be turned out to run wild in some jungle suitable for them, not confining them any length of time."

"If these means can be done, we trust that the elephants will propagate their species hereafter in the continent of America," the letter said.
Thai monarchy expert Tongthong Chandransu says the offer of elephants reveals that Mongkut wanted to participate in the building of the young United States.

"You have to consider that 200 years ago, elephants were an important means of transportation and helped a lot with our work, not [only] warfare, but also the building of homes and cities," Tongthong said.

But the ever-practical Lincoln politely declined the king's offer to send elephants running wild through America's forests. In February 1862, he penned his reply.

"I appreciate most highly your Majesty's [offer] of elephants [that] might be raised on our own soil," Lincoln wrote. He went on to explain that the government wouldn't hesitate to accept such a generous offer "if the object were one [that] could be made practically useful in the present condition of the United States."

But our territory, he wrote, "does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant."

Additionally, the offer of elephants came after the U.S. had already been transformed by the Industrial Revolution. Technological innovations like the steam engine greatly improved transportation, manufacturing, and more, so that in many cases, work animals were no longer necessary.

"Steam on land, as well as on water, has been our best and most efficient agent of transportation in internal commerce," Lincoln explained.

And in the spirit of friendship, Lincoln signed the letter: "Your good friend, Abraham Lincoln."

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dictionary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>innovation (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>procure (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>propagate (verb)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
According to the Article, what is one reason why President Abraham Lincoln turned down the offer from King Mongkut of Siam to send elephants to the United States?

A. The animals would not be needed for physical labor since the United States had already become an industrial power.
B. There was public concern for the safety of the animals because the United States was undergoing the American Civil War at the time.
C. The United States did not possess a ship that was capable of transporting the elephants all the way from Siam to America.
D. There wasn't enough space in the country for the animals to be set free and allowed to multiply in the wild as the king had suggested.

**Question 2**
What is this Article mainly about?

A. The effects of the American Civil War had far-reaching consequences on dealings between President Abraham Lincoln and other world leaders.
B. The first elephants to arrive in the United States were given as a gift by King Mongkut of Siam to President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War.
C. In the 1800s, King Mongkut of Siam offered to send a gift of elephants to the United States but was tactfully turned down by President Abraham Lincoln.
D. Abraham Lincoln, who became president of the United States after James Buchanan left office, soon found himself consumed by the country's Civil War conflict.
Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word *propagate*, as it is used in the Article?
A. Reproduce
B. Maneuver
C. Poach
D. Vocalize

Question 4
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. How Abraham Lincoln managed potentially awkward situations with foreign heads of state
B. How Abraham Lincoln responded to the outbreak of the American Civil War
C. How King Mongkut knew the Asian elephant would become endangered
D. How King Mongkut used gifts to try to exert undue influence on the leaders of other countries

Question 5
The author's purpose for writing this Article was probably to __________.
A. Entertain the reader with an interesting tale about the first elephants that almost made the long trip from Siam to the United States
B. Inform the reader about a proposition made to President Abraham Lincoln by King Mongkut of Siam and Lincoln's reaction to it
C. Convince the reader that Lincoln's response to King Mongkut was not appropriate for the ruler of a growing industrialized country
D. Explore the extensive history of the use of elephants for performing difficult labor in many parts of Southeast Asia

Question 6
Which two words are the closest antonyms?
Only some of these words are used in the Article.
A. Impressive and massive
B. Decline and divulge
C. Formidable and feeble
D. Multiply and meditate

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. President Abraham Lincoln initially considered accepting the offer of elephants from Siam but later decided against the idea.
B. The warm, southern part of the United States was considered to be a suitable location for elephants to be let loose into the wild.
C. King Mongkut of Siam had met with President Abraham Lincoln many times to discuss potential war strategies.
D. President Abraham Lincoln hoped to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with King Mongkut of Siam.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that President Abraham Lincoln had another reason to decline King Mongkut's offer besides the fact that the climate in the United States was inappropriate for elephants?
A. …The offer of elephants came after the U.S. had already been transformed by the Industrial Revolution [and]…in many cases, work animals were no longer necessary.
B. With the war raging between America's North and South, perhaps he was relieved by the distraction of Mongkut's kind offer.
C. …In the spirit of friendship, Lincoln signed the letter: "Your good friend, Abraham Lincoln."
D. But the ever-practical Lincoln politely declined the king's offer to send elephants running wild through America's forests.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

If someone offers you a gift, you should take it.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Write a summary of today's Article. As you write your summary, complete the following steps:

- **STEP 1**: Read the Article in order to understand the text.
- **STEP 2a**: Identify the topic sentence for each paragraph.
- **STEP 2b**: Take out any details that are not needed.
- **STEP 2c**: Combine the information—in your own words—into a single paragraph.
- **STEP 3**: Rethink your summary and the Article.
- **STEP 4**: Check your summary. Then double-check it.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

According to a recently published study, eating ice cream every day may be good for you. What do you think?

**If a study says so, it must be true.**
- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

LAKEWOOD, New Jersey (Achieve3000, February 25, 2019). Ice cream lovers, hang on to your cones for this one. According to a groundbreaking new study from the Council on Nutritional Upkeep (CONU), consuming two pints of ice cream every day, seven days a week, might be one of the shrewdest dietary decisions you can make. That's right. Eating tons of ice cream every day may actually be good for you!

Here's the scoop: The nutritional scientists at CONU divided 24,000 kids, tweens, and teens into two groups. Group A ate two pints of whole-milk ice cream daily, while group B ate half a pint of frozen yogurt or some other alternative every third day. CONU then monitored the two groups by age category for 15 years.

And guess what? The members of Group A were 81 percent healthier, 84 percent more prosperous, 89 percent more focused, and 93 percent happier than their counterparts in Group B. (As if we needed a scientist to tell us that ice cream is nirvana.) The ice cream lappers also tended to have greater upper-body strength, though scientists said that may be due to their eagerness to dig in before giving their pints a chance to soften. (Carpal tunnel syndrome was also more common in this group.)

Hand cramps or not, woo hoo! Break out the cookies 'n cream!

To celebrate the wonderful news, dear readers, we here at Achieve3000 are giving each of you a free six-month supply of your favorite ice cream! Just think of it as our little way of saying, "Stay healthy!" To place your order, all you have to do is call 1-888-APRIL FOOLS.

Gotcha!

Sorry, but eating a ton of ice cream is not actually good for you. And that steady supply of ice cream? Not gonna happen. Try not to feel bad, though. You've just been snookered as part of a tradition that goes back centuries. In some parts of the world, peak pranking time is April Fools' Day—April 1.
No one is quite sure exactly when April Fools' Day began or why hoaxes became such a big part of the occasion. Some historians connect the day to Hilaria, an ancient Roman celebration at the end of March. To mark the departure of winter and the arrival of spring, Romans dressed up in outrageous disguises and acted silly.

Some connect April Fools' Day to the unpredictable weather that time of year. You know—when a warm day fools people into thinking spring has arrived, and then a cold spell causes them to think again.

The likeliest theory traces April 1 tomfoolery to the 16th century, which is when much of the world switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Along with the switch, New Year's Day moved from April 1 to January 1. When April 1 arrived, tricksters fooled confused people into thinking it was party time.

In the 18th century, April Fools' Day kicked into high gear in England, and pranking people was decidedly a part of the fun. In Scotland, it became a two-day event. On the first day, the Scots sent each other out on ridiculous errands, and on the second day, they attached objects to each other's rear ends in pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey fashion. Europeans in other countries had similar traditions.

Typically, April Fools pranks are harmless. In 1974, for example, the citizens of Sitka, Alaska, saw smoke rising out of Mount Edgecumbe, an inactive volcano, and thought it was about to erupt. It wasn't. A prankster had set fire to a huge pile of old tires in the volcano's crater.

Many of the nuttier pranks of the 20th and 21st centuries have involved fibs, some of them whoppers, that were spread by the media. There have been stories about spaghetti trees, tree octopuses, UFO sightings, toilet paper and hamburgers for left-handed people, and a decrease in gravity because of the way the planets were lining up. In each case, many gullible people fell for the trick hook, line, and sinker.

So have yourselves a cunning April Fools' Day, and may you pull the wool over everyone's eyes. When you're done, feel free to pamper yourself with a bowl of ice cream. Just don't overdo it, OK?

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>carpal tunnel syndrome (noun)</td>
<td>a health problem that causes pain and weakness in the wrist, hand, and fingers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gullible (adjective)</td>
<td>easily persuaded to believe something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoax (noun)</td>
<td>something intended to deceive or trick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nirvana (noun)</td>
<td>a state of perfect happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snooker (verb)</td>
<td>to trick, fool, or trap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
What is this Article mainly about?

- **A** A groundbreaking new study that proves there are many benefits to eating ice cream
- **B** The possible link between April Fools' Day and unpredictable weather
- **C** A hoax that tricked people into thinking that Mount Edgecumbe was going to erupt
- **D** The history relating to a holiday known as April Fools' Day

**Question 2**
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on ________.

- **A** Volcanic eruptions in Alaska during the 1970s
- **B** The possible origins of April Fools' Day
- **C** The health effects of eating whole-milk ice cream
- **D** Reported UFO sightings in the 20th century
Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word hoax, as it is used in the Article?
A. Suspicion
B. Celebration
C. Tradition
D. Deception

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?
A. Sending people on ridiculous errands was among the funniest April Fools' Day traditions ever started.
B. Eating ice cream daily is preferable to eating ice cream alternatives such as frozen yogurt only once every few days.
C. In the 16th century, people in some parts of the world stopped using the Julian calendar and started using the Gregorian calendar.
D. While many April Fools pranks are harmless, setting fire to a pile of tires to make people think a volcano might erupt is foolish.

Question 5
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.
A. Convince the reader that April Fools pranks can have harmful effects and should no longer be carried out
B. Explore the reasons behind the decision to move New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1 in the 16th century
C. Explain the history of a holiday for pranksters, in part by pulling a prank on the reader
D. Describe important nutritional findings from an organization called the Council on Nutritional Upkeep (CONU)

Question 6
The Article states:
Ice cream lovers, hang on to your cones for this one. According to a groundbreaking new study from the Council on Nutritional Upkeep (CONU), consuming two pints of ice cream every day, seven days a week, might be one of the shrewdest dietary decisions you can make.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word consuming, as it is used above?
A. Purchasing
B. Devouring
C. Discarding
D. Melting

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that April Fools' Day traditions have changed over time?
A. Try not to feel bad, though. You've just been snookered as part of a tradition that goes back centuries. In some parts of the world, peak pranking time is April Fools' Day—April 1.
B. Some connect April Fools' Day to the unpredictable weather that time of year. You know—when a warm day fools people into thinking spring has arrived, and then a cold spell causes them to think again.
C. In Scotland, it became a two-day event. On the first day, the Scots sent each other out on ridiculous errands, and on the second day, they attached objects to each other's rear ends in pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey fashion.
D. The likeliest theory traces April 1 tomfoolery to the 16th century, which is when much of the world switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Along with the switch, New Year's Day moved from April 1 to January 1.

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.
A. Many people around the world will be fooled by pranks when April Fools' Day rolls around again.
B. The most creative April Fools' Day pranks will be carried out in secret so that most people will never hear about them.
C. Achieve3000 will need to deliver millions of containers of ice cream to students who read this story.
D. People who read this Article will start eating ice cream daily, convinced that the frozen dessert offers incredible health benefits.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**If a study says so, it must be true.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Retell this news story as if you were explaining the origins of April Fools' Day to someone else. Be sure to include some examples of past April Fools' Day hoaxes. Use descriptive words and phrases from the Article in your response.
The Lessons of Peter Tabichi (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people say that the most satisfying jobs are those that help others. These jobs can make people feel good about themselves. What do you think?

The most rewarding jobs are those that help others.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

Photo credit: The Varkey Foundation

Peter Tabichi smiles after receiving the 2019 Global Teacher Prize, which includes an award of a million dollars.

NAKURU, Kenya (Achieve3000, April 2, 2019). Picture a school that has 75 to 80 students in a single classroom, no library, only one desktop computer, a few textbooks, and a spotty Internet connection. Keriko Secondary School in Pwani Village, Nakuru, was such a school, but then fortune smiled—big time.

Located in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley in Africa, Keriko is an educational lifeline for hundreds of young people, many of whom have struggled against adversity.

Nearly all the students come from families who are destitute, and almost a third are orphans or have only one parent. Because of a severe drought that has gripped Kenya since 2014, food and water can't be taken for granted, and consequently, disease and malnutrition are prevalent. Very few of the students' families can afford books and uniforms for school. To complicate matters further, most of the students face a grueling hike of more than four miles (six kilometers) on bad roads just to get to school every day.

Despite these challenges, Keriko's students are highly motivated to come to class. That's partly because Keriko has a great asset: Peter Tabichi, the school's science and math teacher.

In March 2019, Tabichi won the annual Global Teacher Prize in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, an honor that came with an award of a million dollars. He was chosen for this award from a pool of 10,000 nominees from 179 countries. But any of his students could've told you that he's one in a million.

So what's it like to win international recognition?

"I feel great! I can't believe it!" exclaimed the charismatic 36-year-old teacher with the same enthusiasm he expresses in the classroom. "I feel so happy to be among the best teachers in the world, being the best in the world."

Tabichi has chosen to devote his life to serving people in need. He donates 80 percent of his teacher salary to improve the school and to help the poor—and he intends to do the same with his prize money. But perhaps his most valuable contribution is the quality education he provides his pupils, not to mention the self-confidence he instills in them.

Thanks to Tabichi's guidance and support, Keriko is Kenya's highest-rated public school. Its science club has produced research projects of such quality that 60 percent of the club's members have qualified for national and international competitions. The club's impressive projects include a device that allows people who are blind and deaf to measure objects and a generator that
produces electricity from plant extracts and sewage.

No wonder enrollment at Keriko has doubled to 400 since Tabichi arrived and the percentage of students who go on to universities and colleges has grown in leaps and bounds from year to year. Another of Tabichi's many accomplishments has been the academic achievements of Keriko's girls. In 2018, they led the boys in all four of the school's tests.

But Tabichi's contributions are not limited to the classroom, nor to science and math. He regularly meets with his pupils' families on weekends. He offers counseling and has been teaching the Nakuru community how to grow drought-resistant crops.

Most touching of all, perhaps, is his peace club. In 2007 and 2008, conflict among ethnic groups in Kenya led to great bloodshed. To unite children from the seven different tribes represented in the school, Tabichi brings club members together for various activities, such as planting trees in harmony with nature and each other.

As a teacher of scientific forces, Tabichi himself is a force of nature, and his subject matter is life itself.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

*Video credit: The Varkey Foundation*

*Edited for length*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>charismatic (adjective)</th>
<th>able to influence others; charming</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prevalent (adjective)</td>
<td>widespread; commonly occurring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**

The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

A. Students at Secondary School Face Numerous Hardships
B. Ongoing Kenyan Drought Means Food and Water Can't Be Taken for Granted
C. Kenyan Students' Generator Produces Electricity From Plant Extracts and Sewage
D. School and Community Benefit From Award-Winning Teacher

**Question 2**

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. The next thing Peter Tabichi ought to do with his prize money is build a new community library near Keriko Secondary School.
B. Peter Tabichi runs a peace club in which students from different tribes go out and plant trees together.
C. The percentage of students from Keriko Secondary School who go on to universities and colleges has grown.
D. Peter Tabichi donates 80 percent of his teacher salary to help the poor and to improve the school where he teaches.

**Question 3**

The Article states:

He regularly meets with his pupils' families on weekends. He offers counseling and has been teaching the Nakuru community how to grow drought-resistant crops. Most touching of all, perhaps, is his peace club. In 2007 and 2008, conflict among ethnic groups in Kenya led to great bloodshed. To unite children from the seven different tribes represented in the school, Tabichi brings club members together for various activities, such as planting trees in harmony with nature and each other.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

A. Discuss how planting trees not only improves the community but also helps people grow drought-resistant crops
B. Compare the activities of Peter Tabichi's peace club to the research projects of his science club
C. Educate readers about the source of the conflicts among ethnic groups in Kenya
D. Describe some of Peter Tabichi's efforts outside of the classroom to help his students and the Nakuru community
Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word *prevalent*, as it is used in the Article?
A. Extensive
B. Preventable
C. Distressing
D. Curable

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. The causes of the drought currently affecting Kenya's Rift Valley
B. Projects underway to improve poverty-stricken communities
C. Conflicts among various ethnic groups in Kenya
D. The best types of trees to grow alongside drought-resistant crops

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that the parents of Peter Tabichi's students have a great deal of trust in his knowledge outside of teaching math and science?
A. No wonder enrollment at Keriko has doubled to 400 since Tabichi arrived and the percentage of students who go on to universities and colleges has grown in leaps and bounds from year to year.
B. Another of Tabichi's many accomplishments has been the academic achievements of Keriko's girls.
C. Thanks to Tabichi's guidance and support, Keriko is Kenya's highest-rated public school. Its science club has produced research projects of such quality that 60 percent of the club's members have qualified for national and international competitions.
D. He regularly meets with his pupils' families on weekends. He offers counseling and has been teaching the Nakuru community how to grow drought-resistant crops.

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. Peter Tabichi does not think awards and other forms of recognition are very important for school morale.
B. Peter Tabichi's only concern is that his students get good grades in math and science so that they can go to college.
C. Peter Tabichi aims to help people in the surrounding community develop skills that will allow them to endure periods of drought.
D. Peter Tabichi is likely to pursue a better-paying job, now that he has been internationally recognized as a great teacher.

Question 8
The Article states:

> Very few of the students' families can afford books and uniforms for school. To complicate matters further, most of the students face a **grueling** hike of more than four miles (six kilometers) on bad roads just to get to school every day. Despite these challenges, Keriko's students are highly motivated to come to class. That's partly because Keriko has a great asset: Peter Tabichi, the school's science and math teacher.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word *grueling*, as it is used above?
A. Unanticipated
B. Perpetual
C. Indulgent
D. Exhausting
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

The most rewarding jobs are those that help others.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Who is Peter Tabichi, and why do you think he was awarded the Global Teacher Prize? Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Scientists recently found a rare, seldom-seen species of bee in Indonesia. They took pictures, but they won't say exactly where in Indonesia they found the bee. What do you think?

**When it comes to rare insects, scientists should tell everything they know.**

- Do you agree or disagree?

---

**Step 2: Article (Read the Article)**

LABUHA, Indonesia (Achieve3000, March 12, 2019). With all the depressing news in recent years about the dwindling populations of bees, bee enthusiasts finally have something wonderful to buzz about: an incredibly rare species, seen only twice in about 120 years, was rediscovered in January 2019. To entomologists around the world, its reappearance was like honey on the comb.

But brace yourself. This isn't your garden-variety buzzer.

The Wallace's giant bee (*Megachile pluto*) is four to five times bigger than any you've ever seen before, measuring about an inch and a half (4 centimeters) long. The gargantuan insect, which has a wingspan of nearly two and a half inches (6 centimeters) and a tongue just shy of an inch (2.5 centimeters), is unquestionably the largest bee on the planet.

It's also one of the most elusive bees in the world—so elusive, in fact, that many scientists thought it was extinct.

It wasn't, of course, but then again, who could tell? This insect has been seen and documented in the wild only three times in as many centuries, initially by prominent British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, who was the first to officially document seeing the bee. He spotted it on the tropical Indonesian island of Bacan in 1858. The bee was named in his honor.

The second documented sighting was in 1981, when entomologist Adam Messer found a few of the bees on the remote North Moluccas archipelago in Indonesia, but he did not film or photograph them.

Then came the third sighting.

On the last day of a five-day excursion to Indonesia in January 2019, a team of scientists from Australia, the U.S., and Canada, along with natural history photographer Clay Bolt, struck apian pay dirt. They had come to the North Moluccas islands in search of the mysterious bee as part of Global Wildlife Conservation's Search for Lost Species program, and they finally got what they were looking for. Out came Bolt's cameras, and soon the first images of a live mega bee were available for the world to see.

The team found the female bee on the side of a tree in her abode of choice—a termite nest. Female Wallace's giant bees apparently create their own living quarters among the termites by burrowing tunnels and cells and using their enormous mandibles to scrape up tree resin. They then roll the resin into a ball and line the nest with it, which is how they keep termites out.
Bolt and the intruding scientists were obviously ecstatic to come face-to-face with this near-mythical creature. They were struck not only by its substantial size but also by its unusual sound—and even that's big. Unlike European bees, the Wallace's giant bee has a rich, deep drone, and its wings are so large, you can hear them thrumming as it flies by.

But even this beast of a bee faces threats. Since 2001, Indonesia has lost nearly 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development. Unless some conservation plans are put into effect, the giant bee may be out of a home by the end of the century.

Another serious threat comes from the marketplace. In 2018, a specimen of a Wallace's giant bee made its way onto eBay, the online shopping site, where it was auctioned for $9,100. If this is the going rate for a dead giant bee, entomologists are fearful that bee hunters will make a beeline to Indonesia, bug-eyed with dollar signs. Mindful of this possibility, Bolt and the scientists have not disclosed where exactly they spotted their specimen.

So, if the Wallace's giant bee disappears for another century or two, who can blame it? That just might be its way to live and buzz another day.

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>apian</strong> (adjective)</td>
<td>relating to bees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>elusive</strong> (adjective)</td>
<td>difficult to find, capture, or contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gargantuan</strong> (adjective)</td>
<td>enormous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>mandible</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>a mouthpart attached near an insect's mouth that is used for cutting or biting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>resin</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>a substance that oozes from certain trees and plants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
What is this Article mainly about?

A The Wallace's giant bee is four to five times bigger than more common bees and has enormous mandibles.
B The Wallace's giant bee was rediscovered in Indonesia after many scientists had assumed it was extinct.
C The Wallace's giant bee may soon be out of a home if some conservation plans are not put in place.
D The Wallace's giant bee has such large wings that people can hear them thrumming when it flies.

**Question 2**
Based on information in the Article, which of these happened third?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

A A Wallace's giant bee was photographed by Clay Bolt in Indonesia.
B British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace found a giant bee on the Indonesian island of Bacan.
C A Wallace's giant bee was auctioned for $9,100 on eBay.
D Entomologist Adam Messer found Wallace's giant bees on the North Moluccas archipelago.

**Question 3**
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

A Because the Wallace's giant bee was finally rediscovered in Indonesia, Global Wildlife Conservation will end its lost species program.
B Because Alfred Russel Wallace had searched for the giant bees in the 1800s, entomologist Adam Messer suggested that the species be named after him.
C Because Indonesia has lost almost 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development, conservationists purchased a Wallace's giant bee specimen on eBay for $9,100.
D Because Indonesia has lost nearly 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development since 2001, the Wallace's giant bee may be in danger of losing its home.
Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word elusive, as it is used in the Article?
A. Obscure
B. Omnivorous
C. Beneficial
D. Robust

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. British naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace's life
B. How to photograph subjects in motion
C. The average wingspan of the common honey bee
D. Exciting discoveries in the world of entomology

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that the Wallace's giant bee may become even more difficult to locate in the future?
A. Since 2001, Indonesia has lost nearly 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development. Unless some conservation plans are put into effect, the giant bee may be out of a home by the end of the century.
B. The team found the female bee on the side of a tree in her abode of choice—a termite nest.
C. To entomologists around the world, its reappearance was like honey on the comb.
D. Bolt and the intruding scientists were obviously ecstatic to come face-to-face with this near-mythical creature. They were struck not only by its substantial size but also by its unusual sound—and even that's big.

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. The discovery of a Wallace's giant bee in Indonesia has entomologists fearful for the future of termites in the region.
B. Scientists went to Indonesia to search for the Wallace's giant bee because two previous sightings of the bee had taken place there.
C. The location where the Wallace's giant bee was recently photographed by Clay Bolt will soon become a tourist attraction.
D. Some Europeans have likely had Wallace's giant bees in their gardens but haven't noticed them among the other bees.

Question 8
The Article states:
In 2018, a specimen of a Wallace's giant bee made its way onto eBay, the online shopping site, where it was auctioned for $9,100. If this is the going rate for a dead giant bee, entomologists are fearful that bee hunters will make a beeline to Indonesia, bug-eyed with dollar signs. Mindful of this possibility, Bolt and the scientists have not disclosed exactly where they spotted their specimen.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word disclosed, as it is used above?
A. Revealed
B. Reconsidered
C. Measured
D. Memorized
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**When it comes to rare insects, scientists should tell everything they know.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

In a letter to a friend, discuss the Wallace's giant bee and why it is considered to be such a rare species. Be sure to include information about the latest documented sighting of the bee, as well as descriptive language from the text (such as "buzz about" and "bug-eyed"), in your response.
Today's Special: Insects (1180L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Around the world, more than two billion people eat insects every day. Would you? What do you think?

It's important to try new foods.

- Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

DENVER, Colorado (Achieve3000, February 27, 2019). What would you do if you sat down to dinner tonight and were presented with a heaping plate of cricket casserole or grilled grubs? If you're from the U.S., chances are you'd cross your arms and refuse to eat. Your shock and disgust would be somewhat understandable, as unlike much of the world's population, Americans aren't used to chowing down on insects. But there's a movement underway to change that.

Before you bug out, consider the fact that we like the foods we like, in part, because we're accustomed to them. Whether you grew up eating chicken or beef or tofu—or insects—you're willing to eat those things because at some point early in your life, someone put them in front of you and said, "Eat this. It's delicious." So while we all have individual tastes, what we like to eat is partly a result of what's eaten in our cultures. And right now, depending on your background, you're likely either saying, "Ew, insects!" because you didn't grow up eating them, or "Yum, insects!" because you did.

In fact, around the world, more than two billion people eat insects every day, and with sound rationale. Insects are a great source of protein, as well as minerals such as calcium and iron. And edible grubs—insect larvae—are even better, as they offer all of that, plus high-quality fat, which is good for brain development.

OK, but even if edible insects are healthy, why try to acclimate to eating them if you already get your protein, minerals, and fat from fish, poultry, or beef? To answer that question, picture a poultry farm or a cattle ranch, and think of the amount of land and water it takes to raise chickens or cows. It's a lot. Now think of how much less land and water would be needed to raise a bunch of little insects. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, feeding the world's appetite for protein with beef and even chicken is unsustainable, as it uses too many resources. Getting protein from insects is more doable.

As CEO of the Rocky Mountain Micro Ranch, the first and only edible insect farm in the U.S. state of Colorado, Wendy Lu McGill knows all of this. McGill started her company in 2015, and now she grows nearly 606 pounds (275 kilograms) of crickets and mealworms every month.

"I want to be part of trying to figure out how to feed ourselves better as we have less land and water and a hotter planet and more people to feed," McGill explained.

But many Americans remain skeptical about eating insects. Terry Koelling, a grandfather from Denver, Colorado, took his grandchildren to a tour of the Rocky Mountain Micro Ranch. He looked at the insects, but said he didn't think he'd ever want to make a meal of them.

"I don't think they are very appealing, as something to put in your mouth," Koelling said. "It just does not appeal to me to eat something that wild."
It's always the adults who are telling kids, "Try new foods, because you never know if you might like them!" And yet, when a baked, salted mealworm was offered during the tour, Koelling didn't try it—while his 5-year-old grandson, Andrew, did. What was the verdict? "[It] tastes kind of crunchy and kind of yummy," Andrew announced.

Terry Koelling must have been inspired by his grandson's adventurous spirit. Later, when the family went to a Denver restaurant called Linger, he decided to order the only insect-based entrée on the menu, Crickets & Green Tea Soba, which comes with black ants, sesame seeds, crickets, and soba noodles. The restaurant has been serving the dish for three years because insects are a sustainable food source.

"As much as we love beef, there's no scientist who will tell you cattle farming is a sustainable practice [and so] we should eat more insects," said Jeremy Kittelson, the restaurant's culinary director.

After sampling the restaurant's take on insect cuisine, Koelling just might do that.

"The seasoning's great!" he said with surprise, adding, "Seems to me there weren't enough crickets in it!"

Voice of America contributed to this story.

Video Credit: Voice of America

### Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>acclimate</strong> (verb)</td>
<td>to adjust to a new environment or situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>cuisine</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>a range of food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>culinary</strong> (adjective)</td>
<td>having to do with cooking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>rationale</strong> (noun)</td>
<td>a basic reason or explanation for something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>skeptical</strong> (adjective)</td>
<td>having doubts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

**Question 1**
According to the Article, what is one benefit of raising insects over cattle or chickens as a source of protein?

- A. Because of the health benefits, Americans purchase and consume more grubs than beef or poultry, making insect farming more worthwhile for farmers.
- B. Raising insects as a food source may be more sustainable than raising cattle or chickens because insects are smaller and require less land and water.
- C. Setting up insect farms increases the chances that insects will start to be accepted as a food source around the world.
- D. Demand for insects is growing because a large number of American restaurants have begun offering insect cuisine to their customers.

**Question 2**
Which of these should **not** be included in a summary of this Article?

- A. When consumed, insects are a great source of protein, as well as minerals such as calcium and iron.
- B. Wendy Lu McGill started the first and only edible insect farm in the U.S. state of Colorado in 2015.
- C. Raising insects as a food source may be more sustainable than raising chickens or cattle.
- D. Some people are trying to get more Americans to welcome the notion of eating insects.

**Question 3**
Which is the closest **antonym** for the word **skeptical**, as it is used in the Article?

- A. Queasy
- B. Befuddled
- C. Confident
- D. Indignant
Question 4
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. When seasoned well, insects are a tastier choice for an entrée than a dish topped with beef or poultry.
B. More than two billion people around the world include insects in their diets every day.
C. People's food preferences depend in part on their cultures and the foods they grew up consuming.
D. Wendy Lu McGill is the CEO of the Rocky Mountain Micro Ranch in the state of Colorado.

Question 5
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

A. Owners of the Rocky Mountain Micro Ranch in Denver, Colorado, will have to start laying off workers soon.
B. Terry Koelling will be agreeable to sampling other insect dishes when he sees them on the menu.
C. Terry Koelling's grandson, Andrew, will refuse to sample any more insect dishes, especially if they're made with mealworms.
D. The popularity of eating insects will decline around the world as more people learn about the nutritional value of this food source.

Question 6
Based on information in the Article, which of these is an accurate comparison between Americans and people from other parts of the world?

A. Both groups of people grew up in similar cultures, eating the same kinds of foods.
B. Both groups of people want to consume protein as part of a healthy diet.
C. Both groups of people are disgusted by the idea of eating insect larvae.
D. Both groups of people are unconcerned about the amount of land needed to raise cattle.

Question 7
The Article states:

It's always the adults who are telling kids, "Try new foods, because you never know if you might like them!" And yet, when a baked, salted mealworm was offered during the tour, Koelling didn't try it—while his 5-year-old grandson, Andrew, did. What was the verdict? "[It] tastes kind of crunchy and kind of yummy," Andrew announced.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word **verdict**, as it is used above?

A. Conclusion
B. Accusation
C. Solution
D. Expectation

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that insects should be part of a nutritious diet?

A. "I want to be part of trying to figure out how to feed ourselves better as we have less land and water and a hotter planet and more people to feed," McGill explained.
B. Insects are a great source of protein, as well as minerals such as calcium and iron. And edible grubs—insect larvae—are even better, as they offer all of that, plus high-quality fat, which is good for brain development.
C. To answer that question, picture a poultry farm or a cattle ranch and think of the amount of land and water it takes to raise chickens or cows. It's a lot. Now think of how much less land and water would be needed to raise a bunch of little insects.
D. It's always the adults who are telling kids, "Try new foods, because you never know if you might like them!" And yet, when a baked, salted mealworm was offered during the tour, Koelling didn't try it—while his 5-year-old grandson, Andrew, did.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

It's important to try new foods.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain why insect farming is more sustainable than raising large livestock, such as cattle or chickens. Do you think more Americans will embrace the idea of eating insects? Why or why not? Use information from the lesson in your response.
Some scientists are planning to install the world's largest telescope on Hawaii's tallest mountain. It will be good for science. However, many Native Hawaiians are opposed to this idea because the mountain is important to their history. What do you think?

**Making changes for science is worth it.**
- Do you agree or disagree?

WAIMEA, Hawaii (Achieve3000, March 5, 2019). What do you get when you place the world's largest telescope on Hawaii's tallest mountain? According to the developers of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), you get answers to the most complicated questions about our universe. According to Native Hawaiian activists, though, you get a cultural and ecological threat.

No doubt, the TMT will be a technological wonder. Its primary mirror will be three times as wide as the primary mirror of the world's current largest visible-light telescope and have nine times more area. The larger the area of a telescope's primary mirror, the greater its ability to collect light, and the more light it collects, the farther astronomers can see into space and time.

How far back might the TMT enable astronomers to see? Probably to Day 1, over 13 billion years ago—only seconds after the Big Bang yielded the raw materials from which the galaxies assembled themselves.

With its extraordinary capabilities, the TMT will greatly expand astronomers' understanding of how stars and planets are formed. It will also shed light upon mysteries like black holes and locate lifeforms on exoplanets if any exist. What's more, its images will be more than 12 times sharper than the ones the Hubble Space Telescope transmits from space.

Talk about a zoom lens!

But you can't set up a technological wonder in just any old place. The developers of the TMT spent five years searching the globe for the ideal site to build the observatory, and they found it on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano on the southernmost Hawaiian island.

Indeed, Mauna Kea has the perfect conditions for viewing the cosmos and capturing sharp images, since it is located above approximately 40 percent of the Earth's atmosphere. Its climate is stable, dry, and cold. Mauna Kea is also among the darkest places in the world, so galactic displays have plenty of visual pop.

All that stands in the way between the TMT and the mountain is the Kanaka Maoli, and these Native Hawaiians have important reasons.

Mauna Kea is one of the most revered places for the Kanaka Maoli, who believe its summit is home to the gods of their culture. Its terrain is dotted with shrines and burial grounds. The Kanaka Maoli themselves don't climb to the summit unless it's absolutely necessary, and they view it as a desecration if anyone else does.
Apart from its spiritual significance, Mauna Kea is an ecological wonderland. Its permafrost existed in the Ice Age and is essential to the region's water supply. In addition, the mountain is home to plant and animal species that haven't been found anywhere else on the planet. Small wonder the Kanaka Maoli and others want to keep construction crews away.

The conflict between the astronomers and the Native Hawaiians is not new. Its seeds were planted in 1968, when the Hawaiian government began leasing more than 111,000 acres of Mauna Kea to the University of Hawaii for $1 per year. The university, in turn, allowed 13 telescopes to be placed onto Mauna Kea. The Kanaka Maoli opposed all of them, and they certainly don't want a fourteenth.

Admittedly, the developers of the TMT are trying to be culturally and ecologically respectful. They plan to build the observatory away from the summit, in an area that has no special archaeological features. They've also prepared a 1,000-page environmental impact statement documenting their ecological mindfulness.

That's not enough, the Kanaka Maoli say. Their protests and lawsuits have successfully delayed the start of the project since 2014. But after a 2018 ruling by the Hawaiian Supreme Court in the developers' favor, the TMT project was back on track and trucks were set to head back up the mountainside.

Then in February 2019, a spokesperson for the Kanaka Maoli issued this warning: "Right now, everybody's on red alert, watching the roads," he said. "And when we see those trucks, we'll make our way to the mountain."

Mauna Kea may not erupt anytime soon, but tempers are bound to in this ongoing faceoff among astronomy, nature, and culture.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

### Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cosmos (noun)</th>
<th>the universe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>desecration (noun)</td>
<td>the act of disrespecting religious things with words or actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exoplanet (noun)</td>
<td>a planet outside of Earth's solar system that orbits a star other than our sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>galaxy (noun)</td>
<td>millions or billions of stars held together by gravity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

**Question 1**
In what way does the Article contrast developers of the Thirty Meter Telescope with Native Hawaiian activists?

A. Developers believe that the money paid to lease the land on Mauna Kea makes up for the disturbance caused by construction crews, but activists feel that the vibrations caused by trucks and construction will cause the volcano to erupt.

B. Developers want the observatory to be situated on Mauna Kea because it is ideal for viewing the cosmos, but activists are opposed to the location because Mauna Kea has important cultural and natural features.

C. Developers say that the permafrost on Mauna Kea will be the ideal base for the largest telescope in the world, but activists say that the permafrost has existed since the Ice Age and should not be disturbed.

D. Developers argue that replacing the university's 13 telescopes with the TMT proves that they are being ecologically mindful, but activists are concerned that special archaeological features in the area will be harmed or even destroyed.

**Question 2**
What is this Article mainly about?

A. Mauna Kea is a dormant volcano that is located above about 40 percent of the Earth's atmosphere, making it a great location for the 13 telescopes currently stationed there.

B. Most telescopes collect light using a mirror, and a larger mirror allows astronomers to gather images farther into space and time.

C. The Kanaka Maoli have a plan to make their way to Mauna Kea if they see trucks going up the mountainside.

D. Though the Thirty Meter Telescope could provide information about the universe, many Native Hawaiians are opposed to its construction on Mauna Kea for cultural and ecological reasons.
Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. In 1968, the Hawaiian government began leasing more than 111,000 acres of Mauna Kea to the University of Hawaii for $1 per year.
B. Protecting land that has cultural significance is more important than making advancements in science.
C. Mauna Kea is located above approximately 40 percent of the Earth's atmosphere and has a stable climate.
D. The TMT developers prepared an environmental impact statement in an attempt to show that their plans are ecologically conscious.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word desecration, as it is used in the Article?

A. Regularity
B. Honor
C. Insult
D. Peculiarity

Question 5
Based on information in the Article, which of these happened first?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.

A. The Kanaka Maoli held their first protest against the development of the TMT.
B. The Hawaiian government began leasing land on Mauna Kea to the University of Hawaii.
C. The Kanaka Maoli issued a warning that they would go to the mountain if trucks arrived.
D. The Hawaiian Supreme Court ruled in favor of the TMT developers.

Question 6
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A. If the Thirty Meter Telescope could be built without trucks going up the mountain, Native Hawaiians would be in favor of the project.
B. The Kanaka Maoli were satisfied with the Hawaiian Supreme Court's 2018 ruling about the TMT observatory project.
C. Scientists and other researchers have done surveys on Mauna Kea to learn about the mountain's ecology.
D. The Kanaka Maoli allow their children to visit the summit of Mauna Kea only when they need to study astronomy at one of the university's telescopes.

Question 7
Which two words are the closest antonyms?
Only some of these words are used in the Article.

A. Significance and summit
B. Extraordinary and customary
C. Archaeological and ecological
D. Cosmos and exoplanets
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a lot of thought went into choosing the location for the Thirty Meter Telescope?

A  Apart from its spiritual significance, Mauna Kea is an ecological wonderland. Its permafrost existed in the Ice Age and is essential to the region's water supply. In addition, the mountain is home to plant and animal species that haven't been found anywhere else on the planet.

B  The developers of the TMT spent five years searching the globe for the ideal site to build the observatory, and they found it on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano on the southernmost Hawaiian island.

C  Mauna Kea is one of the most revered places for the Kanaka Maoli, who believe its summit is home to the gods of their culture. Its terrain is dotted with shrines and burial grounds.

D  All that stands in the way between the TMT and the mountain is the Kanaka Maoli, and these Native Hawaiians have important reasons.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Making changes for science is worth it.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe the arguments for and against constructing the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) observatory on Mauna Kea. Do you agree with the 2018 Hawaiian Supreme Court ruling in favor of the TMT developers? Why or why not? Support your response with facts and details from the Article.
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ANSWER KEY
A Master in the Making

Answer

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A A young boy's achievements in chess, in spite of the fact that he was new to the game and his family struggled with homelessness

Question 2
According to the Article, what is one reason why Tani was able to become a champion chess player?
B Tani was determined to improve in the game, so he practiced a lot to better his skills.

Question 3
Which of these had not yet happened when this Article was written?
D Tani competed in the national chess championships.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word prodigy, as it is used in the Article?
B Phenom

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of fact?
B Tani defeated 73 other players in his age group during the New York State Scholastic Championships chess tournament.

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Tani is a quick learner?
A But they were no match for the unconquerable Tani, who tore through the opposition like a rook mows down pawns on a chessboard, impressively winning the championship without a single defeat. Part of the Tani buzz is that he accomplished this extraordinary achievement only a year or so after he learned how to play chess.

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
D Chess teacher Russell Makofsky placed a higher importance on Tani's desire to play the game than on the chess club's fee requirements.

Question 8
Which would be the closest synonym for the word extraordinary, as it is used above?
C Exceptional
A Plan to Plant a Trillion Trees

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

C A 21-year-old German man has set the ambitious goal of planting 1 trillion trees around the world in an effort to slow the advance of climate change.

Question 2
Which is the closest synonym for the word intimidate, as it is used in the Article?

B Daunt

Question 3
According to the Article, what caused Felix Finkbeiner to want to plant a million trees in every country in the world?

A He was inspired by an African woman named Wangari Maathai, who led an effort to plant more than 30 million trees in Africa.

Question 4
Look at the events below. Based on information in the Article, which of these must have happened third?

B Felix Finkbeiner challenged his classmates to join him in an effort to plant a million trees in every country in the world.

Question 5
Which would be the closest synonym for the word combustion, as it is used above?

Press enter to interact with the item, and press tab button or down arrow until reaching the Submit button once the item is selected.

B Ignition

Question 6
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Felix Finkbeiner deserves to win a Nobel Peace Prize for devoting so much of his time to the admirable effort to plant trees around the world.

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Felix Finkbeiner inspired others to fight against climate change?

C Finkbeiner, an articulate speaker whose enthusiasm was contagious, traveled to other schools to recruit more students to his mission. Kids all over the country started getting involved, and in three years, they planted a million trees in Germany. News stories spread Finkbeiner's message beyond Germany's borders, and soon children around the world took up the challenge.

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.

D A large number of young people think that planting trees in countries around the world is a good way to slow the effects of climate change.
Chillaxin' at About 1,320,000 Feet

Answer key

Question 1
According to the Article, why is exercise, including the use of weightlifting equipment, a mandatory activity for astronauts living on the International Space Station?

D Though weightless in space, weightlifting equipment utilizes resistance to help astronauts build muscle and limit muscle atrophy in a zero-gravity environment.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

C Like the rest of us on Earth, the ISS astronauts pursue a diverse array of hobbies and interests in their free time once they have completed their daily chores and assignments.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word mandatory, as it is used in the Article?

B Compulsory

Question 4
In the first paragraph, the author presents information about the work schedules and chore assignments of astronauts residing on the International Space Station in order to __________.

A Emphasize the need for relaxing activities to reduce stress and maintain health in a highly active working environment

Question 5
Which of these statements is contrary to the ideas presented in this Article?

C Astronauts aboard the ISS engage in challenging scientific experiments and space explorations that allow little opportunity for personal development and leisure pursuits.

Question 6
Which would be the closest antonym for the word hazardous, as it is used above?

B Beneficial

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

D Restorative leisure activities help astronauts living on the ISS maintain a sense of normalcy in an otherwise unconventional living situation.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that to be an astronaut, a person must be comfortable sharing an enclosed space with others?

D The ISS is about the size of a six-bedroom house, which might sound big until you consider astronauts are cooped up inside it almost all the time, and staying in a cramped space makes for body and mind.
Communicating, LEGO Style

Answer key

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

A Because Louis Braille experienced vision impairment, he recognized the value of "night writing" for the visually impaired.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

C The LEGO Foundation created Braille Bricks to support its mission of encouraging children who are blind and visually impaired to begin learning Braille through play.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word configuration?

C array

Question 4
Look at the events below. Which of these had not yet happened when this Article was written?

C The LEGO Foundation began distributing sets of Braille Bricks to organizations that exist for the purpose of supporting people who are blind or visually impaired.

Question 5
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

A The LEGO Foundation is concerned that fewer children are learning Braille, so getting Braille Bricks into the hands of people with vision impairment is more important to the company than making a profit selling Braille Bricks.

Question 6
Which is the closest synonym for the word literate?

D competent

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that both children with visual impairment and sighted children will be able to interact together in an engaging way while learning to read and write?

D The 250-brick set includes all Braille letters and numbers as well as mathematical symbols and punctuation marks. The corresponding printed letter is also stamped on each brick. This way sighted teachers and students can follow along with the messages their students and peers create. And the full set is of course compatible with non-Braille LEGO sets.

Question 8
Which question is not answered by the Article?

A What event led to Louis Braille encountering Charles Barbier's "night writing" code?
Cooking Gets Crazy

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

B Using a non-cooking appliance, such as a dishwasher, iron, or coffee maker, to cook everyday foods

Question 2
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

C Alternative uses for everyday appliances

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word tantalizing, as it is used in the Article?

C Appetizing

Question 4
According to the Article, how are a coffee maker and a dishwasher similar?

A Both are appliances that can be used to cook vegetables and other food items.

Question 5
Which would be the closest synonym for the word varying, as it is used above?

B Diverging

Question 6
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.

C Demonstrate unique and unusual cooking methods

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that inexperienced chefs may find the idea of cooking without an oven or stove appealing?

D Before you read on, note that even if you're not into cooking—i.e., if making a peanut butter sandwich is your idea of haute cuisine—stick around. You might enjoy cooking this way.

Question 8
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

B Some readers will be tempted to try cooking a meal with a non-cooking appliance to see if it actually works.
Question 1
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

D Organizers of Tokyo Olympic Games To Employ Robotic Workforce

Question 2
According to the Article, what is one benefit of Panasonic's robotic exoskeleton?

D The power-assist suit will help workers move supplies, garbage, and athletes' luggage.

Question 3
Which is the closest antonym for the word affable, as it is used in the Article?

B Discourteous

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

B Panasonic has created a robotic exoskeleton that allows a person to lift 22 pounds (10 kilograms) with up to 40 percent less burden on the lower back.

Question 5
The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

D Provide examples of the duties of the robots that will be working at the Tokyo Olympic Games

Question 6
Which two words are the closest antonyms?

A Adversaries and allies

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A A variety of companies are developing human support robots for use in homes or businesses.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that people interested in robotics might like to attend events at the 2020 Summer Olympics?

C Of course, the food requests and language would vary, but the point is this: diligent droids will be on hand to oblige spectators at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
For Elephants, Smell Counts!

Answer key

Question 1
According to the Article, why are scientists excited about the study's findings?

C They hope the information about how elephants think and make decisions will help them protect the animals.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

C A study conducted by researchers in Thailand found that elephants can use their sense of smell to compare quantities and determine which is greater.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word ingenuity, as it is used in the Article?

A Resourcefulness

Question 4
Which information is not in the Article?

A When the Asian elephant was first classified as an endangered species

Question 5
Suppose Diego wants to find out how many elephants remain in the wild throughout Africa. He would find most of his information __________.

C On a website called "Great Elephant Census"

Question 6
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

D People have injured elephants in their attempts to keep them away from their fields and houses.

Question 7
Which would be the closest synonym for the word devise, as it is used above?

D Conceive

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the elephant's keen sense of smell has been important to its survival?

A An elephant doesn't need to see something to know where it is. Herds can follow their noses to water or food that's far out of sight. Just by sniffing the air, they can navigate to tasty vegetation or a watering hole as far away as 11.9 miles (19.2 kilometers). Yep, that tremendous trunk works better than some cars' navigation systems, and there's no GPS needed!
From Little Havana to Chinatown

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

C Different neighborhoods in the United States celebrate the culture of the immigrants who live there, letting them stay connected to their past while, at the same time, allowing visitors the chance to explore and learn more about the diverse ethnicities that grew a nation.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B It must be a lot of fun to watch people playing mah-jongg in Columbus Park, which is found in the heart of New York City's Chinatown.

Question 3
The Article states:
While many cities in the U.S. boast Chinatowns, New York's is one of the largest. And with a history that dates back to the 1800s, it's also one of the oldest. In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in gold mines and build railroads in the West. As opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York, banding together and forming a tight-knit community for survival.

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

C explain why many Chinese immigrants first came to the United States and why so many of them moved east to New York

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word savory?

D unappetizing

Question 5
Suppose Hee Jin wants to find out about Lunar New Year festivals. She would find most of her information __________.

D in a book describing China's largest and most important celebration

Question 6
Read this passage from the Article:
In much the same way, New York City's Chinatown hums with an electric energy. It attracts throngs of visitors daily, beckoning bellies with dumplings, pork buns, and hand-pulled noodle dishes. Meanwhile, bargain seekers flock to Chinatown's bustling, world-famous Canal Street shopping area.

In this passage, the word throng means __________.

C a large group of people

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that many immigrants were not treated fairly after they had been living and working in the United States?

B In the 1870s, Chinese immigrants were recruited to work in gold mines and build railroads in the West. As opportunities dwindled, locals accused them of taking their jobs. Faced with discrimination, many of these immigrants moved east to New York, banding together and forming a tight-knit community for survival.

Question 8
The Article says all of the following except __________.

C most Cuban immigrants moved back to Cuba after many years in Little Havana
Leftovers Again? Hurray!

Answer key

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in this Article?

B Nearly one-third of the world's food is thrown away and much of this leftover food is burned, which in turn releases harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, further contributing to climate change.

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?

D As a result of the growing mountain of food waste created by restaurants and grocery stores, a number of environmentally friendly companies are designing apps for phones, tablets, and other smart devices that connect leftover food with people who want or need it.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word scrumptious?

C delectable

Question 4
Which information is not in the Article?

D which nation generates the greatest amount of carbon dioxide emissions through the burning of discarded food

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

B clever new uses of technology to help combat the growing problem of what to do with leftover food

Question 6
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

A The 80-percent-off deal offered on the Food for All app is not available during normal lunch or dinner hours.

Question 7
In this sentence, the word vendor means __________.

A a business that offers goods for sale

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that wasted food poses a clear threat to the environment?

B Why all this incredible edible generosity? Unbelievably, one-third of the world's food is thrown away, and nearly one billion people don't have enough to eat. Not only that, burning discarded food releases harmful carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, and that contributes to climate change. In fact, according to experts, if food waste were a country, it would follow the U.S. and China as the world's third-leading producer of carbon emissions.
Making a Mark

Answer key

Question 1
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

C Students Tackle Global Problems One "Step" at a Time

Question 2
Based on information in the Article, which of these happened second?

C Lubo, a refugee from Sudan who was forced to flee during a deadly civil war that displaced or orphaned an estimated 20,000 Lost Boys, spoke to students from North Rowan Middle School.

Question 3
Which is the closest antonym for the word devastate, as it is used in the Article?

D Enrich

Question 4
Suppose Raquel wants to find out about the Lost Boys. She would find most of her information __________.

B In a documentary about the consequences of Sudan's civil war

Question 5
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Mrs. Fleming believes children can make positive marks on the world?

D Needless to say, Mrs. Fleming is extremely proud of how her class has stepped up to help—not that she's surprised. "Our students have incredible ideas," she said. "All we need to do is listen and encourage. I love seeing where my students' voices and actions can lead us."

Question 6
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.

A Inform readers about the positive global impact one class from the United States is making after being inspired to help schools and youth in South Sudan

Question 7
Which would be the closest synonym for the word extraordinary, as it is used above?

A Incredible

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

A The students in Mrs. Fleming's class will likely continue to look for ways to make positive impacts on the world around them.
Marsai Martin Is a Boss

Answer key

Question 1
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

C Marsai Martin Has New Title: Youngest Executive Producer in Hollywood

Question 2
Which two words are the closest antonyms?

A Intense and laidback

Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Little, a film about a career-driven adult who wakes up as a 13-year-old, is more interesting than Big, which is about a 12-year-old boy who turns into a 30-year-old man.

Question 4
The author's purpose for including this quote was to __________.

D Explain why Universal Pictures signed a deal, under which Marsai Martin will develop scripted projects for the studio

Question 5
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

B Because Marsai Martin has been dreaming of being a creator since she was little, she is very excited about developing scripted projects for Universal Pictures.

Question 6
Which would be the closest synonym for the word assented, as it is used above?

B Complied

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Marsai Martin stands out from other executive producers?

D At 14 years old, the actress and meme queen is currently the youngest person in Hollywood to hold the clout-carrying title of executive producer, in which capacity Marsai finances film projects and calls many of the shots.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A Marsai Martin has a strong support system in place to pursue her dreams in Hollywood.
# Students Take to the Streets

## Answer Key

### Question 1

According to the Article, why have thousands of students been skipping school on Fridays?

C The students have been protesting their countries’ climate policies, saying politicians haven't done enough to combat climate change and its numerous life-threatening consequences.

### Question 2

Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

C Around the world, students have been skipping school on Fridays to protest their governments' policies on climate change.

### Question 3

Which is the closest antonym for the word imperative, as it is used in the Article?

C Nonessential

### Question 4

Suppose Kendra wants to find out about climate policies in Berlin, Germany. She would find most of her information __________.

D By visiting Germany's national website and reading legislation passed concerning "environmental protection"

### Question 5

The author's purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

D Illustrate the power of a single person to make a difference in the world

### Question 6

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the Internet was at least partially responsible for the rapid swelling of Greta Thunberg's demonstrations?

D She wasn't alone for long. Social media helped Greta create Fridays for Future. After her efforts gained buzz on Twitter, she was invited to speak at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018. And people paid attention.

### Question 7

Which would be the closest synonym for the word policies, as it is used above?

A Guidelines

### Question 8

Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

D Scientists will continue to encourage students and others to fight for better climate change policies.
Superheroes Bearing Gifts

**Answer key**

**Question 1**

According to the Article, what is one reason why the actors from *Avengers: Endgame* banded together to make an announcement in April 2019?

A. The actors wanted to lend their fame and support to an effort that helps children facing life-threatening conditions.

**Question 2**

Which of these is **most** important to include in a summary of this Article?

B. Superstars from the *Avengers: Endgame* movie announced the donation of money and toys to benefit seriously ill children.

**Question 3**

Which is the closest synonym for the word *philanthropic*, as it is used in the Article?

B. Beneficent

**Question 4**

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

C. Stars from the *Avengers* movie would have made a bigger impact if they had spent more time with the children at the LEGO store in Disneyland's Downtown Disney.

**Question 5**

The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

B. Many famous people who make a great deal of money find satisfaction in assisting with efforts that bring joy to others.

**Question 6**

Why did the author include this information?

A. To emphasize that celebrities don’t necessarily need to donate money to make a difference in the world

**Question 7**

Which two words are the closest synonyms?

B. Donation and contribution

**Question 8**

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that many celebrities look for ways to help those who are less fortunate?

A. By lending their fame and support to this charitable event, Rudd, Downey, Jr., Johansson, and their costars were continuing a long tradition of "giving back" in the entertainment community. And what they give can come in many forms: visiting schools and hospitals, hosting charity events, and making donations.
Tech Skills Are Their Superpowers

Answer key

Question 1

What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

B Teachers at a school in New York did not have the skills to teach their students the programming language Scratch, so students were asked to lead a Scratch training course for them.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C Tech-savvy students who grew up using electronic devices are being asked to lend a hand with creative solutions to the array of technology issues that more and more schools now face.

Question 3

Which of these is a statement of opinion?

D Having students teach their teachers programming skills may be a suitable short-term fix for the problem of untrained teachers, but it is not a practical long-term solution.

Question 4

Which is the closest antonym for the word camaraderie, as it is used in the Article?

A Hostility

Question 5

The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A Maintaining and troubleshooting electronic devices as a student is excellent preparation for a high-tech job later in life.

Question 6

Why did the author include this passage?

D To offer one solution to the technology challenges that many schools are encountering

Question 7

Which would be the closest synonym for the word daunting, as it is used above?

B Formidable

Question 8

Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that the benefits from using one's high-tech skills at school are not necessarily financial in nature?

B But the best reward for putting your tech skills to work for your school might be the good, old-fashioned sense of satisfaction you get from helping out. Theo, whose training course benefited not just the teachers he taught but all their students, too, said, "Helping other people actually makes you feel really good inside."
Answer key

Question 1

According to the Article, what is one reason why President Abraham Lincoln turned down the offer from King Mongkut of Siam to send elephants to the United States?

A. The animals would not be needed for physical labor since the United States had already become an industrial power.

Question 2

What is this Article mainly about?

C. In the 1800s, King Mongkut of Siam offered to send a gift of elephants to the United States but was tactfully turned down by President Abraham Lincoln.

Question 3

Which is the closest synonym for the word propagate, as it is used in the Article?

A. Reproduce

Question 4

This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

A. How Abraham Lincoln managed potentially awkward situations with foreign heads of state

Question 5

The author's purpose for writing this Article was probably to __________.

B. Inform the reader about a proposition made to President Abraham Lincoln by King Mongkut of Siam and Lincoln's reaction to it

Question 6

Which two words are the closest antonyms?

C. Formidable and feeble

Question 7

The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

D. President Abraham Lincoln hoped to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with King Mongkut of Siam.

Question 8

A. "The offer of elephants came after the U.S. had already been transformed by the Industrial Revolution [and]...in many cases, work animals were no longer necessary."
The Ice Cream Report

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

D The history relating to a holiday known as April Fools' Day

Question 2
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on _________.

B The possible origins of April Fools' Day

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word hoax, as it is used in the Article?

D Deception

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

C In the 16th century, people in some parts of the world stopped using the Julian calendar and started using the Gregorian calendar.

Question 5
The author probably wrote this Article in order to _________.

C Explain the history of a holiday for pranksters, in part by pulling a prank on the reader

Question 6
Which would be the closest synonym for the word consuming, as it is used above?

B Devouring

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that April Fools' Day traditions have changed over time?

C In Scotland, it became a two-day event. On the first day, the Scots sent each other out on ridiculous errands, and on the second day, they attached objects to each other's rear ends in pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey fashion.

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that _________.

A Many people around the world will be fooled by pranks when April Fools' Day rolls around again.
The Lessons of Peter Tabichi

**Answer key**

**Question 1**
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

**D School and Community Benefit From Award-Winning Teacher**

**Question 2**
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

**A The next thing Peter Tabichi ought to do with his prize money is build a new community library near Keriko Secondary School.**

**Question 3**
The author’s purpose for writing this passage was to __________.

**D Describe some of Peter Tabichi’s efforts outside of the classroom to help his students and the Nakuru community**

**Question 4**
Which is the closest synonym for the word *prevalent*, as it is used in the Article?

**A Extensive**

**Question 5**
This Article would be **most** useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

**B Projects underway to improve poverty-stricken communities**

**Question 6**
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that the parents of Peter Tabichi’s students have a great deal of trust in his knowledge outside of teaching math and science?

**D He regularly meets with his pupils’ families on weekends. He offers counseling and has been teaching the Nakuru community how to grow drought-resistant crops.**

**Question 7**
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

**C Peter Tabichi aims to help people in the surrounding community develop skills that will allow them to endure periods of drought.**

**Question 8**
Which would be the closest synonym for the word *grueling*, as it is used above?

**D Exhausting**
The Return of the Mega Bee

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

B The Wallace's giant bee was rediscovered in Indonesia after many scientists had assumed it was extinct.

Question 2
Based on information in the Article, which of these happened third?

C A Wallace's giant bee was auctioned for $9,100 on eBay.

Question 3
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

D Because Indonesia has lost nearly 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development since 2001, the Wallace's giant bee may be in danger of losing its home.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word elusive, as it is used in the Article?

A Obscure

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

D Exciting discoveries in the world of entomology

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that the Wallace's giant bee may become even more difficult to locate in the future?

A Since 2001, Indonesia has lost nearly 15 percent of its trees to agricultural development. Unless some conservation plans are put into effect, the giant bee may be out of a home by the end of the century.

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

B Scientists went to Indonesia to search for the Wallace's giant bee because two previous sightings of the bee had taken place there.

Question 8
Which would be the closest synonym for the word disclosed, as it is used above?

A Revealed
Answer key

Question 1
According to the Article, what is one benefit of raising insects over cattle or chickens as a source of protein?

B Raising insects as a food source may be more sustainable than raising cattle or chickens because insects are smaller and require less land and water.

Question 2
Which of these should not be included in a summary of this Article?

B Wendy Lu McGill started the first and only edible insect farm in the U.S. state of Colorado in 2015.

Question 3
Which is the closest antonym for the word skeptical, as it is used in the Article?

C Confident

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A When seasoned well, insects are a tastier choice for an entrée than a dish topped with beef or poultry.

Question 5
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

B Terry Koelling will be agreeable to sampling other insect dishes when he sees them on the menu.

Question 6
Based on information in the Article, which of these is an accurate comparison between Americans and people from other parts of the world?

B Both groups of people want to consume protein as part of a healthy diet.

Question 7
Which would be the closest synonym for the word verdict, as it is used above?

A Conclusion

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the opinion that insects should be part of a nutritious diet?

B Insects are a great source of protein, as well as minerals such as calcium and iron. And edible grubs—-insect larvae—are even better, as they offer all of that, plus high-quality fat, which is good for brain development.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In what way does the Article contrast developers of the Thirty Meter Telescope with Native Hawaiian activists?</td>
<td>B Developers want the observatory to be situated on Mauna Kea because it is ideal for viewing the cosmos, but activists are opposed to the location because Mauna Kea has important cultural and natural features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What is this Article mainly about?</td>
<td>D Though the Thirty Meter Telescope could provide information about the universe, many Native Hawaiians are opposed to its construction on Mauna Kea for cultural and ecological reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Which of these is a statement of opinion?</td>
<td>B Protecting land that has cultural significance is more important than making advancements in science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Which is the closest antonym for the word desecration, as it is used in the Article?</td>
<td>B Honor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Based on information in the Article, which of these happened first?</td>
<td>B The Hawaiian government began leasing land on Mauna Kea to the University of Hawaii.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The reader can infer from the Article that __________.</td>
<td>C Scientists and other researchers have done surveys on Mauna Kea to learn about the mountain's ecology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Which two words are the closest antonyms?</td>
<td>B Extraordinary and customary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that a lot of thought went into choosing the location for the Thirty Meter Telescope?</td>
<td>B The developers of the TMT spent five years searching the globe for the ideal site to build the observatory, and they found it on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano on the southernmost Hawaiian island.</td>
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