

Read the story below. Then fill in the correct circles.

Rings Around Jupiter

Jupiter is the king of planets. It is the biggest in our solar system. Jupiter is so big that all the other planets could fit inside it! Jupiter is also one of four planets that have rings around the middle. The rings around Jupiter are hard to see through a telescope.

Recently, scientists announced a great discovery. While studying pictures of Jupiter taken in space, they figured out how the planet's rings are formed. Jupiter's rings are thin layers of moondust.

HOW MOONDUST IS MADE

Jupiter has very strong gravity, the same force that keeps people on Earth from flying into space. Jupiter's gravity pulls comets and space rocks toward its surface. Some of these rocks crash into four tiny moons close to Jupiter. The crash makes a big cloud of dust. The dust flies into space and helps form a ring.

In thousands of years, the little moons that orbit Jupiter will disappear. All that will be left of them is Jupiter's dusty rings. Could Earth's moon disappear too? "Never," says scientist Maureen Ockert-Bell. "Our moon is just too big."

From TFK®, September 25, 1998

1. Why is Jupiter called the king of planets?

- (A) It is named after a king.
- (B) It is shaped like a crown.
- (C) It is the biggest planet in our solar system.
- (D) It is the smallest planet in our solar system.

2. Which paragraph would you read to find out if you could see Jupiter's rings through a telescope?

- (A) first
- (B) second
- (C) third
- (D) fourth

3. The following events show the order in which Jupiter's rings are made. Which event belongs in the empty box?

Gravity pulls space rocks toward Jupiter's surface.

The crash makes a big cloud of dust.

The cloud of dust forms a ring.

- (A) Space rocks crash into four moons close to Jupiter.
- (B) The rocks get caught in Jupiter's rings.
- (C) Gravity pushes space rocks out.
- (D) The rocks land on Jupiter.

Read the diagram. Then fill in the correct circles or write the correct answers.

The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is the tallest structure in our nation's capital. It took 36 years to build the Washington Monument. Building started on July 4, 1848, and ended on December 6, 1884. It was built to honor George Washington, the first President of the United States.

From TFK*, March 5, 1999

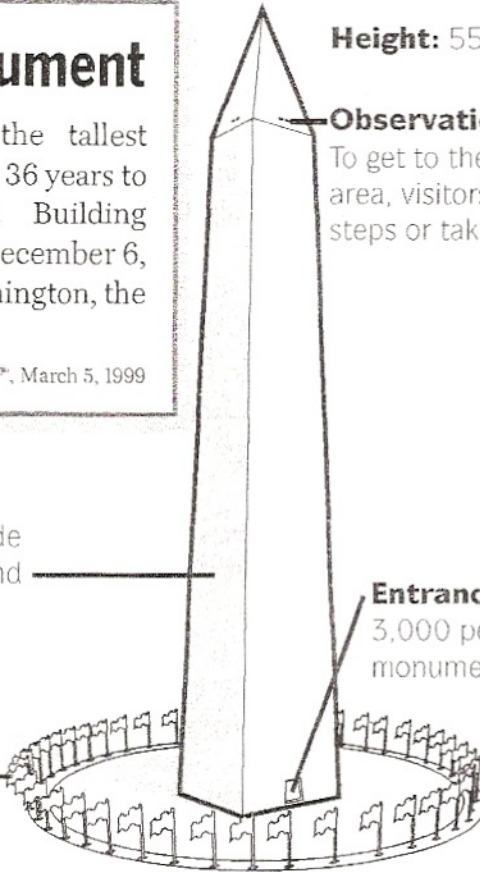
Construction: The monument is made of two kinds of stone—white marble and granite.

Flags: Fifty U.S. flags, representing the 50 states, circle the monument.

Height: 555 feet

Observation Area:
To get to the observation area, visitors walk up 897 steps or take an elevator.

Entrance: About 3,000 people visit the monument every day.



1. How tall is the Washington Monument?

- (A) 897 feet high
- (B) 1,884 feet high
- (C) 555 feet high
- (D) 36 feet high

2. How many state flags circle the monument?

3. People visit the observation area to see great views of the city. About how many people visit the monument each day?

4. Why was the monument built?

- (A) to honor George Washington, our first President
- (B) to honor the men and women who have died in U.S. wars
- (C) to honor the 50 states
- (D) to show tourists a view of Washington, D.C.

5. Give two reasons why you would visit the Washington Monument.

COMPREHENSION K. Knows Technique of Skimming

DIRECTIONS: Skim the story and answer the questions that follow.

The Prairie Dog

The prairie dog is not a dog but a rodent. A rodent is an animal with sharp teeth whose teeth continue to grow as their points are worn away by gnawing. Rats, mice, squirrels, and beavers are also rodents. A prairie dog is called "dog" because its danger signal sounds like the bark of a tiny dog.

A prairie dog is about 16 inches long, with tiny ears, shining black eyes, and a short tail. Its body is covered with dull brown fur.

A prairie dog's home is in a hole or a tunnel on a plain, usually in a desert-like place. Groups of prairie dogs live together in villages.

A prairie dog goes into its home when danger is near or when it wants to nap. It spends much time hunting roots and grass and acting as a guard for the village. When an enemy comes near, a guard gives a shrill warning bark. When the signal is given, all prairie dogs stop in their tracks. If the guard does not bark again, they go about their business. If the guard barks a second time, they hurry to their burrows for safety.

1. What kind of home does a prairie dog have? _____
2. What is a rodent? _____
3. How long is a prairie dog? _____
4. Describe the prairie dog's danger signal. _____
5. For what purposes does a prairie dog use its home? _____

Write True or False:

6. _____ Prairie dogs act like guards for one another.
7. _____ Prairie dogs live alone.
8. _____ A prairie dog looks like a dog.
9. _____ This story said that a prairie dog eats snakes and owls.
10. _____ Prairie dogs live in desert-like places.

COMPREHENSION K. Knows Technique of Skimming

DIRECTIONS: Skim the Table of Contents and answer the questions which follow it. You will be given limited time, so remember to skim.

Table of Contents	
National News	21
International Affairs	35
Local News	41
Business	48
Justice	55
Science	58
Television	61
Movies	62
Books	64
Religion	68
Education	80
Music	82
Newsmakers	91

1. On what page does the section on Education begin? _____
2. What comes before the Justice section? _____
3. Which section follows Television? _____
4. On what page does the Music section end? _____
5. What comes before the Local News section? _____
6. Which section begins on page 64? _____
7. If you wanted information on churches, to which section would you turn? _____
8. Which section ends on page 34? _____
9. Which section begins on page 91? _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

COMPREHENSION K. Knows Technique of Skimming

DIRECTIONS: Skim the story below. Next, read the sentences and write True or False in front of each statement. You will be given limited time, so remember to skim the story.

The Chickadee

The chickadee is a small bird. This bird's name and call are very much alike: "Chick-a-dee-dee-dee." A full-grown chickadee seldom weighs more than half an ounce. Though very tiny, it has a heart that beats close to 500 times a minute. The heart beats so fast it sounds like a buzz when heard through a stethoscope.

On cold days, the chickadee has to eat its weight in food. It eats some seeds and small fruits, but the chickadee prefers to eat insects and their eggs. This bird is friendly as well as curious. The chickadee has been known to alight on the head, shoulder, or hand of a person who is quietly watching it. The chickadee fluffs its feathers to keep warm.

The chickadee builds its nest in a hole in a tree or stump. It uses moss, rabbit fur, cow hair, and feathers to make a soft, snug nest.

- _____ 1. The chickadee is a large bird.
- _____ 2. The chickadee's nest is made in a box.
- _____ 3. The chickadee's heart beats very fast.
- _____ 4. The name and the call of the bird are very much alike.
- _____ 5. The chickadee is afraid of people.
- _____ 6. The chickadee uses moss, rabbit fur, and feathers to make a nest.
- _____ 7. The chickadee fluffs its feathers in hot weather.
- _____ 8. The chickadee likes people.

Name: _____ Date: _____

COMPREHENSION M. Can Use Maps and Charts



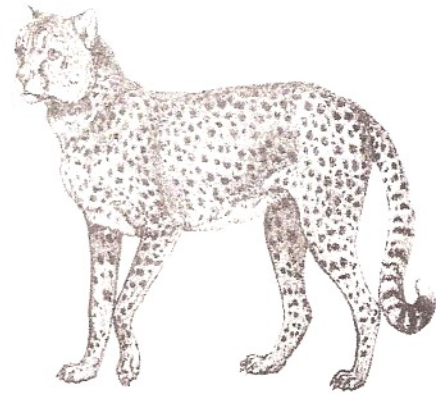
1. Which street is between Green Street and Brown Street?

2. In which direction does Highway 26 run? _____
3. Does Jones Avenue feed into Highway 26? _____
4. On which corner is the school located? _____
5. Where is the church located? _____
6. On which side of Highway 26 is the park? _____
7. In which direction do the avenues flow? _____
8. How many streets feed into Highway 26? _____
9. In which direction do the streets flow? _____
10. On what street is the Zoo? _____

Name: _____

Cheetahs

Cheetahs are large, spotted cats that live in Africa's grasslands. They are the fastest of all the land animals. Their speeds can top 70 miles per hour. Although they are fast, cheetahs can not maintain that speed for more than 100 yards at a time. The name cheetah comes from an Indian word meaning "spotted one".



.....
Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. Which continent do cheetahs live?

2. Are cheetahs the fastest of all animals?

3. How fast can cheetahs run?

4. How far can a cheetah run at full speed?

5. Where does the word cheetah come from?

Name: _____

Killer Whales

The Killer Whale is also known as an Orca. It is black and white and found mostly near polar ice regions. The males are up to 30 feet long and can live between 50-60 years. Females are 15 feet in length and can live between 60-80 years. Killer Whales eat dolphins, penguins, fish and squid.

.....

Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. What is another name for the Killer Whale?

2. Where do they live?

3. How long are male Killer Whales?

4. How long are female Killer Whales?

5. How long can Killer Whales live?

6. What do Killer Whales eat?

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension

Holidays

A holiday is a special day to remember special people or special events in history. The word holiday is a combination of two words: holy and day. At one time, most holidays celebrated religion. Today, holidays celebrate more than religion. Some holidays are even for nature or animals! Earth Day, for example, is a holiday when we think about how to take care of our planet, Earth.

Every month (with the exception of August) has a major holiday. On some holidays children do not have to go to school and adults do not have to go to work. Christmas and Thanksgiving are examples of holidays when most people do not have to go to work or school. Of course, there are people who have to work, even on a holiday. Police officers, bus drivers, fire fighters, and hospital workers are always needed, even on important holidays. These people are hard at work while everyone else gets to stay home and celebrate.

On other holidays, people do go to work and school. There is no day off on holidays like Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day. People may still celebrate at work or school, or when they get home.

People celebrate holidays by spending time together. Sometimes people wear special clothes and eat special food. For instance, on St. Patrick's Day, green is the color of choice used to celebrate! People may eat green food, or treats shaped like a shamrock, a clover plant that is a symbol of Ireland.

People also celebrate some holidays with parades. There are large parades in many cities and towns. One of the largest holiday parades in America is the Macy's Parade in New York City. It is held every year on Thanksgiving Day, to celebrate both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A holiday is a special time. Think of your favorite holiday. How will you celebrate it this year?

Name: _____

Page 1 of 2

Reading Comprehension Questions:

Holidays

1. What is a holiday?

2. What types of things are celebrated on holidays?

3. In which month are there no major holidays?

4. Name a holiday when people do not have to go to work or school.

5. Which people still have to work on holidays?

6. Name a holiday when people go to work or to school.

7. How do people celebrate holidays?

8. When is the Macy's Parade?

9. What is your favorite holiday and why?

Name _____

Jennifer and Karen Have a Birthday Party

Today is Jennifer and her twin sister Karen's 7th birthday, and they are having a party! They will have pizza, with cake and ice cream for dessert. Jennifer and Karen will have a clown that makes balloon animals, and a piñata filled with candy. Their mom and dad have invited all their friends from school to come, and Jennifer and Karen are really excited.

At the party, Jennifer and Karen play Pin the Tail on the Donkey, tag, and musical chairs. Then, the clown comes and makes Jennifer a balloon hat shaped like a hot dog, and she gives Karen a hat that looks like a frog! All of their friends liked the balloon animals that the clown made.

Now it's time for cake and ice cream! Jennifer and Karen blow out the candles on the cake, and they get an ice cream cone, too. Karen chooses strawberry ice cream, and Jennifer gets chocolate ice cream.

They open all their presents. Then, Jennifer and Karen's mom and dad surprise them with their biggest gift- shiny new bicycles!

They are so happy, and they are glad that all their friends were able to come to the party.

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension Questions

Jennifer and Karen Have a Birthday Party

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. What are Jennifer and Karen going to eat at their birthday party?

2. What does the clown do when she comes to the party?

3. What did Jennifer and Karen's mom and dad put in their piñata?

4. What games did the girls play at their party?

5. What flavor of ice cream did Jennifer get?

6. What was the big present that Jennifer and Karen's mom and dad surprised them with?

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension
Mitchell Family Christmas

The Mitchell family looked forward to the holidays. Every year in December, Ken and Paris, the children, had two weeks off from school. Dr. Nina Mitchell would not schedule any of her patients, and Mr. Tom Mitchell would close his hardware store.

The Mitchells always went on a family road trip. Last year, the Mitchells drove from their home in California to spend the holidays with Grandpa and Grandma Locke in Washington. They had to drive twelve hours to Seattle, Washington. When they arrived, Grandma and Grandpa were very happy to see their daughter and her family all the way from California.

After a night of rest, the entire family woke up early and went for a ride in Grandma's truck. They traveled into the country to find a Christmas tree. They went to a huge Christmas tree farm where Ken and Paris found a tall, eight-foot tree. It was a dark green Douglas fir that smelled like Christmas. When they got home, they had hot chocolate and cookies. Later that evening, they all helped to decorate the tree.

On Christmas morning, everyone exchanged gifts. Ken and Paris gave their parents a scrapbook that they made themselves. It had dozens of pictures that were taken on family trips. Dr. Mitchell gave her parents a new television. Mr. Mitchell bought a new lawnmower for Grandma and Grandpa.

Grandma and Grandpa gave the Mitchell family tickets to go to Disneyland! Everyone loved their gifts. The family enjoyed a great turkey dinner that everyone helped make. That night, they sang holiday songs. It was a fun holiday and vacation. Most of all, everyone loved being together!

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension Questions:

Holidays

1. In what month did the Mitchell family go on vacation?

2. What kinds of jobs do the Mitchell parents have?

3. Where did the family drive to in this story?

4. Who did the Mitchell family go to see?

5. Whose parents are Grandma and Grandpa Locke?

6. What are some activities the family did during their vacation?

7. Who chose the Christmas tree, and what did it look like?

8. Which gift do you think was the best, and why?

9. What did the family do on Christmas night?

10. What did the family love, most of all?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

Earning Money

Alex, Nicole, and Vickie are friends who live in the same neighborhood. They wanted to earn some money to buy Christmas presents.

"We are just kids," said Alex. "We can't earn any money."

"We have to try," said Vickie. "We won't know unless we try."

"We need to print out fliers and pass them around to all the houses," said Nicole.

Alex's Dad helped the kids print out fliers. The three friends went to all the houses and gave out the fliers offering to do many different types of jobs.

Mrs. Jones hired the kids to shovel snow from her driveway. Mrs. Smith hired the kids to walk her dog every afternoon. Mr. New hired the kids to do some chores. Then Mrs. Lee, who is old, hired the kids to bring in her groceries.

The kids earned \$50 and were happy. Now they were going to buy Christmas presents.

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

Earning Money

Answer the questions.

1. Why did the kids want to earn money?

2. Who helped the kids print out fliers?

3. Who hired the kids to shovel snow?

4. Who hired the kids to bring in her groceries?

5. How much money did the kids earn?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

Jimmy's Treasure

One night Jimmy fell asleep and had a dream about a treasure. In his dream, he saw a big box of gold coins buried near the bushes in his backyard. The dream seemed so real to Jimmy. He began to think that maybe there really was a treasure in his backyard, near the bushes.

The next morning Jimmy woke up and began to dig a hole. He kept digging. The hole got deeper. The pile of dirt became higher.

Then Jimmy got tired. He could not dig anymore. Then he saw something. It was a dog bone. Jimmy was very sad because he did not find a treasure. For all his hard work, he had found only a dog bone.

But then, Jimmy's mother came. She saw what Jimmy had done. She wanted to plant a rose bush in backyard. The hole Jimmy dug was in the perfect place. She was very happy. She gave him \$5 for digging the hole. Jimmy smiled. He did get a treasure after all.

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

Jimmy's Treasure

Use complete sentences to answer the questions.

1. What kind of treasure did Jimmy think was buried in the backyard, near the bushes?

2. What did Jimmy find in the dirt?

3. How did Jimmy's mother feel when she found out that Jimmy dug a hole in the backyard? Why did she feel this way?

4. What did Jimmy's mom give him at the end of the story?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Pet Store

Lucy, Joey, Mom and Dad went to the pet store because Lucy and Joey wanted a pet.

There were lots of pets at the pet store. There were rabbits, birds, fish, puppies, kittens, turtles, lizards, snakes, and guinea pigs.

Mom was scared of the snakes. "We are not getting a snake," said Mom. "Yuck. They are scary."

Joey wanted to get a puppy. "No, we are not getting a puppy," said Dad. "They cost too much money."

Joey then decided he wanted a bird, but Lucy decided she wanted a rabbit.

"We are only getting 1 pet," said Mom. "So you need to agree on one pet or we won't get one."

Finally Lucy and Joey agreed on getting a kitten. They were small and cute.

Joey and Lucy picked out a black and white kitten and decided to name her Bonnie.

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Pet Store

Answer the questions.

1. Who was scared of snakes?

2. Why didn't Dad want to get a puppy?

3. What pet did Joey want to get?

4. What color is the kitten?

5. What did Lucy and Joey name the kitten?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Twins

Sarah and Ruth are twins. They were born on the same day and look alike. But Sarah and Ruth are very different people.

Sarah is shy and quiet but Ruth is not shy and she loves talking to people.

Sarah's favorite school class is math, but Ruth's favorite class is reading.

The twins each have a pet. Sarah has a cat named Sally and Ruth has a pet bird named Polly.

There are also more differences in the twins. Sarah's favorite color is pink and Ruth's favorite color is blue.

Ruth likes to eat vegetables, but Sarah doesn't like many vegetables. Also, Ruth's favorite drink is fruit juice while Sarah's favorite drink is milk.

The twins look alike, but they are different on the inside and they are still best friends. Sarah and Ruth love each other very much.

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Twins

Answer the questions.

1. Which twin is shy and quiet?

2. Whose favorite class is reading?

3. What is Sarah's pet cat's name?

4. What kind of pet does Ruth have?

5. Which twin's favorite color is blue?

Name: _____

The Painted Desert

The Painted Desert, located in Arizona, covers 93,500 acres and stretches over 160 miles. It is called "painted" because of it has colored rocks that look like they were painted. This colorful desert has cliffs and hills. It also has trees that turned to stone long ago. These trees are located in a place called, "the Petrified Forest."

.....

Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. Where is the Painted Desert located?

2. Why is it called "painted"?

3. How many acres of land does it cover?

4. How many miles long is the Painted Desert?

5. Name two things you might see in the Painted Desert.

6. What happened to some of the trees here?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Birthday Party

Jennifer is having a birthday party. Her birthday is March 14th. She is turning eight years old.

Jennifer invited all her friends from school to her birthday party. Nine friends from school came to her party. Her Grandma and Grandpa also came.

Jennifer's Mom served chocolate cake and vanilla ice cream. There was also pizza and juice to drink.

The kids played games at the party. They jumped on a trampoline and played Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

There were a lot of balloons at the birthday party. The girls tried to pop most of them.

Jennifer blew out the candles on her birthday cake, then she opened her presents. She got lots of dolls and toys from her friends. Her grandparents got her a pretty new dress.

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

The Birthday Party

Answer the questions.

1. How old will Jennifer be?

2. What kind of cake was at the party?

3. List three things the girls did together.

4. How many friends came to the party?

5. What did Jennifer's grandparents get her?

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

It's Dinner Time

It's time to make dinner at Joey and Lucy's house. Lucy's Mom is making dinner. She is cooking chicken, rice, macaroni and cheese, and salad for dinner.

Lucy helped make the macaroni and cheese. Joey put tomatoes in the salad. Both Joey and Lucy helped set the table.

When dinner was ready, Lucy called for Dad to come to the dinner table to eat.

"Dad, dinner's ready," said Lucy. "Come eat."

Lucy, Joey, Mom, and Dad all sat at the table to eat dinner. Everyone finished all of their dinner except Joey. Joey did not eat his salad because he does not like salad.

"You should eat your salad," says Mom. "It's healthy for you."

Name: _____

Level 2: Reading Comprehension

It's Dinner Time

Answer the questions.

1. What did Mom cook for dinner?

2. Who helped make the macaroni and cheese?

3. Who put the tomatoes in the salad?

4. Who called Dad to dinner?

5. Why does Mom want Joey to eat his salad?

Name: _____

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore is located in South Dakota. It's a giant sculpture of American presidents carved in the side of a mountain. The sculpture was created by Gutzon Borglum. The carving began in 1927 and ended in 1941. The sculpture represents 150 years of history. The four presidents represented in the sculpture are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

.....

1. Where is Mount Rushmore located?

2. Who carved the sculpture?

3. What year did the sculpting begin?

4. What year did the sculpting end?

5. How many years did it take Borglum to sculpt Mount Rushmore?
(Hint: You will need to use your Math skills.)

6. Name the 4 presidents in the sculpture?

Name: _____

The Great Pyramid

The Great Pyramid is the largest and most famous of the pyramids. It is located in Egypt near the Nile River. The pyramid was built for Pharaoh Khufu. It is over 140 meters high and took 20 years to build. The Sphinx stands in front of the pyramids in Giza. It has the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh.

New Words

pharaoh - a king or queen of Egypt

Giza - a town in Egypt where you find pyramids

.....

Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. What is the name of the largest and most famous pyramid?

2. What river were the pyramids built near?

3. Who was the Great Pyramid built for?

4. What is a pharaoh?

5. How long did it take to build?

6. What is the name of the object that stands in front of all the pyramids?

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension
PSP

Almost every boy and girl has heard of a PSP. Do you know what PSP stands for? PSP are the initials for the PlayStation Portable, which is a smaller and lighter version of a PlayStation. These video games are made by the electronic company, Sony. The PSP is not as powerful as a PlayStation 2, also called a PS2, but it is more powerful than the PlayStation. The PSP also has speakers and a screen built right in, and does not have to be plugged into anything to use it. That's where the word "portable" comes in - because it can be taken anywhere.

The PSP is fun for kids because it can play PlayStation games, and also can play DVDs and CDs. It is also different from the PlayStation and PlayStation 2 because it can be connected to other players, without wires. The PSP is a fun game, if you like to have a portable video game that has lots of features!

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension Questions:

PSP

1. What do the letters PSP stand for?

2. What is the name of the company that makes the PSP?

3. How many kinds of PlayStations does Sony make, and what are they?

4. How is the PSP different from the PlayStation and PlayStation2?

5. What makes the PSP portable?

6. List three things you can do with the PSP.

7. Which is the most powerful: Playstation, Playstation 2, or PSP?

8. Why might a PSP be a nice gift for a friend who likes video games?

Name: _____

Level 3: Reading Comprehension

Surprise Party

Sam, Molly, and Mom decide to throw a surprise birthday party for Dad. They are getting ready for it while he is at work.

They invite Uncle Mel, Aunt Carrie, Aunt Joanna, and their cousins, Noah and Kayla. Sam calls them all on the phone and says, "Please arrive by 4:30. Dad will be home at 5 o'clock."

Mom puts a chocolate cake in the oven, then makes snacks for everyone to eat. Sam is making his Dad a birthday card. Molly runs to the store to buy balloons and birthday candles.

"We'd better make sure the house is clean before everyone comes," says Mom. Molly vacuums the living room. Sam dusts all of the furniture. Mom sweeps the kitchen, then takes her cake out of the oven.

After the cake has cooled down, Molly puts frosting on it and decorates it. Sam blows up balloons, puts streamers on the ceiling, and hangs a sign on the wall that says, "Happy Birthday".

All of the guests arrive on time for the surprise party. Molly and Sam play video games with their cousins until Dad gets home.

When Dad pulls in the driveway, everyone hides in the living room. When Dad walks in the house everyone jumps up and yells, "Surprise!"

"Wow!," says Dad. "This is a real surprise! My birthday is still two months away!" Dad was surprised, but so was everyone else in the family.

Even though the party was two months early, everyone had a spectacular time.

Name: _____

Level 3: Reading Comprehension

Surprise Party

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. Where is Dad while Molly, Sam, and Mom are getting ready for the party?

2. Who put up the decorations?

3. What kind of cake did mom make?

5. Why did Molly go to the store?

6. How many guests came to the party?

7. What do Molly and Sam do while they are waiting for Dad to come home?

8. What mistake did the family make?

Name: _____

Chicago

Chicago is the third largest city in the United States. It is often called the "Windy City". It is located in the state of Illinois. Over three million people live in the Chicago area. The world's first skyscraper was constructed in Chicago in 1885. Today, some of the world's tallest and most famous skyscrapers can be found in the city. Located in the heart of the city is the 110 story Sears Tower. It is one of the most famous skyscrapers ever built.

.....

Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. What is Chicago sometimes called?

2. What state is Chicago located?

3. How many people live in the Chicago area?

4. What year was the first skyscraper built?

5. What is the name of the most famous skyscraper?

6. How many stories does this famous skyscraper have?

7. Is Chicago the largest city in the United States?

Name: _____

The White House

The White House has stood as a symbol of the Presidency for over 200 years. The White House began construction in 1792 and concluded in 1800. Even though George Washington was the first president, he did not live in the White House; he just oversaw the entire construction of it. John Adams and his family were the first presidential family to live in the White House. The White House has 132 rooms. There are 16 bedrooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 levels.

.....

Directions: Answer each question with a complete sentence.

1. How long has the White House been a symbol of the Presidency?

2. When did the White House begin its construction?

3. What year did construction end?

4. Who oversaw the construction process?

5. Who was the first President to live in the White House?

6. Are there more bathrooms or bedrooms in the White House?

Two Great Vacation Ideas

The Beach

Going to the beach is a lot of fun. At the ocean, you can see colorful fish and different kinds of birds. If the weather is warm enough, you can even go for a swim. Most beaches have lots of space to run, play, build sand castles, fly kites, and have a picnic. When you run on the sand, be careful that a jellyfish doesn't sting you!

The Mountains

Visiting the mountains is very exciting. You can see beautiful, tall trees and many different kinds of green plants. If you watch carefully and quietly, you might even see a deer, a squirrel, and or a snake. If you feel strong, you might go for a long hike on a trail or even climb to a mountaintop. There is plenty of space to play Frisbee, eat lunch outdoors, or play hide-and-go-seek. At night, you can build a bonfire. Be careful of the mosquitoes!

1. According to these two paragraphs, how are the mountains and the beach the same?

- a. Both places are great for flying kites.
- b. Both places are great for swimming.
- c. Both places are great for hiking.
- d. Both places are great for eating outdoors.

2. According to these two paragraphs, how are the mountains and the beach different?

- a. There is plenty of room to play at both places.
- b. The beach has different animals than the mountains.
- c. The beach is hot and the mountains are very cold.
- d. The beach is a safer place to visit than the mountains.

3. According to the first paragraph, why should you be careful if you run on a sandy beach?

Name: _____

Finding the Main Idea

Main Idea

Read each paragraph and choose the main idea.

I have a dog named Boots. I taught him lots of tricks. When I tell him to, Boots will sit or lay down. He can also wave his paw to greet people. When I say, "Dance, Boots.", he will stand up on two legs and walk. I don't know of many dogs that can do such amazing tricks.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- a. Boots is my dog.
- b. Boots can sit.
- c. Boots is very smart.
- d. Most dogs can't dance.

Yesterday was my birthday. When I woke up, I noticed my brother Todd hung up a big sign that said, "Happy Birthday, Joey!" Mom made spaghetti for dinner. It's my favorite food in the whole world. My friend Dave came over and handed me a wrapped gift. I wondered what it was. It was a new basketball! I had a great day.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- a. Todd had a great birthday.
- b. Joey had a great birthday.
- c. Todd got lots of gifts.
- d. Joey got lots of gifts.

Peter's parents bought a new carpet for the living room. Now, he has to take his shoes off when he enters the house. He's also not allowed to eat or drink in the living room any more. Peter's furry dog isn't allowed to play ball in there either. When his parents got the new carpet, there were lots of new rules.

The main idea of this paragraph is:

- a. Peter cannot go in the living room.
- b. Peter's parents don't like the carpet.
- c. Peter likes to make a mess.
- d. Peter's parents made new rules so the new carpet stays clean.

Bananas and Pineapples

Bananas

Bananas are a yellow fruit that grows in hot climates. Sometimes it is called the "perfect fruit" because you don't have to wash it and it is easy to carry. Bananas are good for muscles. For a delicious treat, add some banana slices to other foods, like cereal, ice cream, or a peanut butter sandwich. A banana is also an excellent breakfast food.

Pineapples

Pineapples are another example of a yellow fruit that grows in hot climates. Pineapples are very juicy and sweet. They taste wonderful when added to other foods, like pizza, ice cream, or cakes. Pineapples are not very easy to carry around because they are large and have prickly skin. Since you don't eat the outer skin of a pineapple, you don't have to wash it before you eat it.

1. According to the paragraphs above, how are bananas and pineapples alike?

- a. They are both dirty. b. They are both warm.
c. They are both easy to carry. d. They both taste good with ice cream.

2. How are bananas and pineapples different?

- a. Pineapples are easy to carry and bananas are not.
b. Bananas are easy to carry and pineapples are not.
c. Pineapples have ice cream in them and bananas do not.
d. Bananas and pineapples grow in hot climates.

3. Why don't you have to wash a pineapple before you eat it?

4. Which statement is an opinion?

- a. Pineapples taste wonderful when they are added to other foods.
b. Bananas are a yellow fruit that grows in hot climates.
c. Pineapples have prickly skin.
d. Bananas are sometimes called the "perfect fruit."