

"A Field Trip BACK in Time"

Understand It!

Answer the following questions after reading:

Our class has gone on several incredibly awesome field trips this year. But my all-time favorite was the day we went to Heritage Hill. Heritage Hill is a state park that is a **replica** of a town that may have existed after the War of 1812 in America. The park is set up just as it would be during that time. I'm **fascinated** by the pioneer days. I often imagine how different life must have been so long ago. At the park there is an old hospital. Going inside, we got to see just how few **resources** were available to treat the sick. It was common for people to experience incredible pain and suffering. We went to the school next, which was really just one classroom with one teacher. The teacher was dressed as if the year was 1812. She **scolded** us for walking too slow and snapped her stick on the desks. She never smiled as she ordered us to sit down and be quiet. For the next 30 minutes she taught us a very boring math lesson. We were all so scared of her I don't think anyone took a deep breath the entire time. I couldn't imagine going to school with all the kids from kindergarten through eighth grade in one tiny room with one mean teacher! The last stop we made at Heritage Hill was at the Fur Trader's Cabin. This building was so awesome! It was loaded with beaver, squirrel, and fox furs. This was where the pioneers would come to barter for supplies. The furs were used to make clothing, including thick winter jackets and fancy top hats. Heritage Hill was such a special field trip because it was like being **transported** back

1. The main idea was...
 - a. Heritage Hill
 - b. hospitals
 - c. fur traders
 - d. pioneer schools
2. I predict life in pioneer days would be _____.
 - a. relaxing
 - b. easy
 - c. challenging
 - d. the same as today
3. How were pioneer schools?
 - a. huge
 - b. many teachers
 - c. strict
 - d. not boring
4. What characteristic best describes Heritage Hill?
 - a. like a museum
 - b. boring
 - c. present day
 - d. not unique

Word Work

Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Contractions



Plurals



Adjectives



4+ Syllable Words

Vocabulary

Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

“Science Experiments”

Understand It!

Answer the following questions after reading:

This year our class has done so many science experiments I couldn't even count them all. Lucky for us our teacher Mr. Sanders loves science more than any other subject in school. Before every experiment, Mr. Sanders asked us to **hypothesize** what we think will be the **outcome**. Our class always had many opinions as to what will happen, and we were often **incorrect** in our guesses. Even though every experiment was **captivating**, there were a few that really stood out way above the rest. The first one was the test we performed to measure just how greasy potato chips actually were. We collected small bags of chips from six different companies. Then we placed one serving size of chips on six separate sheets of graph paper. We put wax paper over the chips and then took a rolling pin and **pulverized** the chips between the graph and wax paper. Afterwards, we counted how many squares in the graph paper were coated in grease. The greasiest graph paper held the greasiest chips. This was a really cool experiment because we got to see just how much grease we eat when we devour chips. I kind of lost my appetite for chips after that one! My other favorite was when we tested different laundry detergents to see which was the best at getting out stains. I loved this one because we got to bring in old clothes and roll around in the dirt for 30 minutes! Then, we went inside to test several different stain removers. A bonus was I got to tell my mom which detergent was the best. She actually started to buy that detergent and it made me feel good to know I could help her out!





1. The main idea was...
 - a. greasy chips
 - b. dirty clothes
 - c. Mr. Sanders
 - d. science experiments

2. I predict the entire class was _____ science class.
 - a. disliking
 - b. anticipating
 - c. dreading
 - d. fearing

3. What was the narrator excited about the most?
 - a. recess
 - b. science experiments
 - c. getting dirty
 - d. cleaning clothes

4. What trait best describes Mr. Sanders?
 - a. fun
 - b. boring
 - c. annoying
 - d. mean

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  red Contractions
-  blue Plurals
-  green Adjectives
-  orange 4+ Syllable Words

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

“What Planet Are You From?”





Understand It!

“What planet are you from?” is the question Jordan **repeatedly** asked his big sister Beth. Beth was 16 years old and Jordan was five years younger. He just couldn’t **comprehend** why she acted so **insanely** crazy. Just the other day Beth was singing love songs at the top of her lungs while trying to brush her teeth. Not only is she a horrible singer, but she woke everyone up with her screeching. As if Beth wasn’t crazy enough, almost every weekend her equally hyper friends slept over. Jordan was awakened in the middle of the night just last weekend when he heard some loud pounding going on in the garage. He crawled out of bed to investigate. When he peeked in the garage he saw Beth and all her friends practicing some crazy dance moves and recording themselves. Jordan just shook his head and went back to bed. What planet are they from? He wondered. Jordan never imagined he would have anything in common with his sister. But one night when their parents weren’t home that all changed. Jordan was trying to sleep when he **overheard** his sister talking with her friends. Beth’s friends were complaining about how **lame** Jordan was. They were annoyed because they had to stay and babysit instead of going to some party. Jordan was shocked when Beth actually defended him. She said it wasn’t Jordan’s fault that he was younger. She told her friends to just leave if they wanted to go so bad. And she said she liked hanging out with Jordan anyways. After that, Jordan didn’t think Beth was so weird. Instead, he started to join in on the crazy fun she seemed to always have!

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. The main idea was...
 - a. sleepovers
 - b. dancing
 - c. getting along with your sister
 - d. all about planets
2. How did Jordan feel when Beth sang in the bathroom?
 - a. annoyed
 - b. excited
 - c. happy
 - d. confused
3. How did Jordan feel at the end of the story?
 - a. relieved
 - b. happy
 - c. sad
 - d. angry
4. What trait best describes Beth?
 - a. fearful
 - b. quiet
 - c. goofy
 - d. mean

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  red Contractions
-  blue Plurals
-  green Adjectives
-  orange 4+ Syllable Words

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

"Birthday Party Games"





Understand It!

Greyson had big plans for his 12th birthday party. He had already done the **classic** parties, like the pool party, skate party, and bowling party. This year Greyson had plans to have the most ultimate, epic, game day challenge birthday party. Since his birthday is in the dead of summer and he lives in the hot south, it only made sense to create the best outdoor games that could ever be invented. Greyson's **mission** was for his friends to leave his party sloppy, sweating, **soaked**, and smiling. The first game they would play would be water balloon volleyball. There will be two teams and a net just like normal volleyball. But, the **unusual** part will be that the volleyball will be filled with muddy water! Whichever side the dirty balloon pops on will be the loser. Greyson plans to play up to 10 points with 10 balloons. The next game is called Blind Treasure Hunt. One teammate will be blindfolded and must hunt for special items **scattered** around the yard. The rest of the team give instructions on where to find each item. The items will each be worth a certain number of points. The team with the most points wins. Greyson's all-time favorite game idea is called Cheesy Head. This game is played with a partner. One player wears a shower cap. The other sprays shaving cream onto their partner's head. Next the partner's spread out. Each pair is given a big bag of fluffy cheetos. The partner not wearing the shower cap will try to throw as many cheetos onto the shower cap as possible. The pair of partners with the cheesiest head wins! The party is a week away and Greyson couldn't be more excited!

Answer the following questions after reading:

- The word 'invented' in the passage means...
 - copied
 - remembered
 - created
 - found
- Greyson's friends will probably leave the party feeling...
 - bored
 - soaked
 - irritated
 - confused
- Birthday parties are most like...
 - any other day
 - going on vacation
 - following a routine
 - having a sleepover
- Which game requires cheetos?
 - Blind Treasure Hunt
 - Volleyball
 - What's What
 - Cheesy Head

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  **red** Words with suffixes
-  **blue** Words with 2 vowels together
-  **green** Words that end with a vowel
-  **orange** Conjunctions

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

"Garage Sale Treasures"





Understand It!

I think I may have the coolest grandma ever. One of my favorite things in the world to do with her is spend the day driving around town and garage sale shopping. We will randomly drive until we see signs for the next sale. We both are **addicted** to exploring through junk in the hopes of discovering a treasure. Finding a treasure in junk is like finding a needle in a haystack. It just doesn't happen often because there is so much junk to dig through. We have found some very interesting and **bizarre** things in our searches. Like the one time we spotted some used underwear. Ewwww! Who wants to buy someone else's underwear!? We darted out of that garage sale quicker than a **herd** of kids chasing an ice cream truck. Or there was the time we **debated** purchasing someone's old toilet, just to use as a flower pot in my grandma's backyard. We were kidding of course, but the image of flowers growing out of a toilet was almost **tempting** enough to make it happen! Talk about taking old trash and turning it into a treasure. The look on grandpa's face when grandma came home with an old toilet would have been worth the deal! Of course we both desired those rare treasures that were so hard to find. But that wasn't the only reason we kept up our searches. We both enjoyed something even more each day we went on our adventures. We enjoyed our laughs together. We loved making the memories that each garage sale provided. Every time we spent the day together, the biggest treasure of all would always be found in the laughter and love we shared together.

Answer the following questions after reading:

- The word 'randomly' in the passage means...
 - not planned
 - harmless
 - planned
 - positive
- Most people probably consider garage sales...
 - overpriced
 - have all new things
 - a place for good deals
 - everything is broken
- Garage sales can be compared best to...
 - grocery stores
 - malls
 - clothing stores
 - secondhand stores
- What is the most important idea?
 - driving around
 - finding treasures
 - making memories
 - both B and C

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  **red** Words with suffixes
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Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
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- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

"Summer can feel so long"

Understand It!

Sophie knew most of her friends were beyond excited about summer vacation. So many of them had big plans to sleep in every day, catch up on a bunch of TV series by **binge** watching all day and night, and just basically laying around. Sophie was excited for summer too, but she was a little worried things around her house would get a bit out of control. Sophie's family just adopted her little brother from Africa. His name is James and he is just seven years old. Since James has lived in an orphanage since he was two weeks old, he is still learning to be part of a family. James loves his school, especially knowing that he will wake up every day and have school to look forward to. He **thrives** on his daily school routine. It makes him feel safe and secure to have his day filled with all the things he knows will happen. So when the lazy days of summer arrive and he loses that **routine**, James struggles with learning to relax and just enjoy the freedom that summer days provide. Sophie knows she will be very busy helping to keep James' **anxiety** under control. Instead of sleeping in like her friends, Sophie will be up at 6am to help keep James busy before breakfast. When all her friends are binge watching TV shows, Sophie will be playing school, reading stories out loud, and coloring pictures with her little brother. It will be a lot of work. But Sophie loves her new little brother so much. And to her giving up a quiet, lazy summer to play with her brother doesn't feel like a **sacrifice** at all. It feels like a privilege.

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. The word 'privilege' in the passage means...
 - a. a special gift
 - b. lazy
 - c. a bad choice
 - d. busy
2. Sophie's friends will probably _____ all summer.
 - a. be busy
 - b. feel overwhelmed
 - c. lay around
 - d. do homework
3. Having a little brother can be...
 - a. a lazy job
 - b. hard work
 - c. really quiet
 - d. not much work
4. What is the most important event?
 - a. watching TV
 - b. sleeping in
 - c. reading stories
 - d. keeping her brother happy in summer

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Words with suffixes



Words with 2 vowels together



Words that end with a vowel



Conjunctions

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____

"Kids can start a Business Too"





Understand It!

Billy was just ten years old when he took the first steps toward starting his own business. Billy always loved money. He would spend his birthday money so quickly and be broke again too soon. So Billy decided to do something about it. His mom was an **entrepreneur** so he thought, why not me too? He talked to his mom about starting his own business and she suggested Billy make a list of all the ideas he had. Billy spent the next few days **racking** his brain for ideas. His list of ideas included dog walking, lawn mowing, house cleaning, lemonade stand, pet daycare, and poop patrol (cleaning dog poop from people's yards). He examined his list and thought very carefully. He had to decide which business had the greatest need in his neighborhood. And he had to decide which business he thought he could make the most **profit**. Billy soon determined that the poop patrol idea was his best option. He always sees poop piles when he rides his bike through the neighborhood. Cleaning up poop may sound gross, but it's a quick and easy way to make money. Plus, who wants to clean up poop? Maybe all those neighbors with dogs wouldn't mind paying a few dollars per poop pile. Billy's mom agreed. He came up with the business name, "Poop **Patrol**." His **slogan** was, 'Scooping poop, so you don't have to.' Billy made flyers and posted them all over town. He created a website and shared it with everyone he knew. Soon, Billy's business was getting calls and he was hard at work. Billy's business took off and he was able to save his money for all the things he had always wanted.

Answer the following questions after reading:

- The word 'suggested' in the passage means...
 - questioned
 - gave advice
 - understood
 - gave an order
- There are probably _____ dogs in Billy's neighborhood.
 - just a few
 - noisy
 - many
 - only small
- An example of an entrepreneur is...
 - a business owner
 - someone who gets a job
 - a volunteer
 - a teammate
- A small business needs _____ to succeed.
 - a bad idea
 - a few customers
 - many workers
 - profits

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  **red** Words with suffixes
-  **blue** Words with 2 vowels together
-  **green** Words that end with a vowel
-  **orange** Conjunctions

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

“Left Behind”

Understand It!

My mom always tells me that life was different growing up when she was a kid. She says kids had a lot more **freedom**. They could ride their bikes anywhere in town, stay out until the sun went down, and show up at home like it was no big deal. She even told me that grandma would lock her and my aunt and uncle out of the house all day long in the summer and tell them not to come home until it was time for dinner. So I **suppose** it shouldn't be a shock about what my grandma did one day to my Uncle Ben at the store. Uncle Ben was about 12 years old at the time. He had a bad habit of wandering off in stores. One minute he would be right next to his mom, and the next he **vanished** into thin air. He was often found in the toy section or wherever he felt like going to explore. Well, one day my grandma got tired of trying to find him. So, after she checked out at the register, she got in her car, and she drove home. She literally left him at the store, wandering around in some random **aisle**. My mom reminds me there were no cell phones at the time. So Uncle Ben was left behind at the store with no way of contacting anyone for a ride home. The store was about 2 miles from home, with a few very busy roads in between. My grandma really wanted to teach him a lesson. She knew he would show up at home eventually. About an hour later he came walking through the front door. He was **irate** with grandma. He couldn't believe that she would just leave him behind. I guess he learned his lesson because he always stuck by grandma's side every time they went to a store after that!

Answer the following questions after reading:

- The word 'contacting' in the passage means...
 - not talk
 - walking home
 - wandering off
 - get in touch
- What choice would Ben likely make if this happened nowadays?
 - walk home
 - call or text his mom
 - ask a stranger for a ride
 - wait in the store
- Ben was mad at his mom because...
 - she left him behind
 - she didn't buy him toys
 - he was hungry
 - she wandered off
- The most important event is:
 - looking at toys
 - being mad
 - leaving Ben behind
 - checking out

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Words with suffixes



Words with 2 vowels together



Words that end with a vowel



Conjunctions

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

“Colonial Settlement”





Understand It!

European colonists first began living in America as far back as 1590. A group of people settled on the island of Roanoke, which is present day North Carolina. Their leader, John White, traveled back to Europe for more supplies. When he returned to Roanoke three years later, there were no survivors. It is still unknown what happened to those first **settlers**. In 1607 Virginia became the first **permanent** British colony in North America. In 1620 Massachusetts was **founded** by a group of people called the Puritans. Their two main goals were to spread their religion and grow the empire of Great Britain. Just three years later New Hampshire was **established**. And only one year after that Maryland was founded. Connecticut was the next colony to be founded in 1636. A Puritan named Thomas Hooker founded Connecticut after losing support in Massachusetts. He believed in a government led by the people and not just God's will. That same year Roger Williams also left Massachusetts because he believed in the **separation** of church and state. He moved on to colonize Rhode Island. Delaware was the next colony to be established. In 1653 a group of Virginia colonists form Carolina, which was later divided into North Carolina and South Carolina. New Jersey and New York were both founded in 1664. William Penn established Pennsylvania in 1682. In 1732 the last colony, Georgia, was established. The 13 colonies were formed. On July 4, 1776, they proudly declared their independence from Great Britain by signing the Declaration of Independence. They created the first American flag.

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. Which is an example of descriptive language?
 - a. two main goals
 - b. established
 - c. proudly
 - d. he believed
2. The biggest fact from the text is...
 - a. signing the Declaration of Independence
 - b. founding Delaware
 - c. founding New York
 - d. William Penn founded Pennsylvania
3. One small fact from the text is...
 - a. the first settlers on Roanoke Island
 - b. founding New Jersey
 - c. creating the flag
 - d. the Declaration of Independence
4. What is a colony?
 - a. a city
 - b. an independent country
 - c. an independent state
 - d. an area of land under another country's rule

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  red Descriptive language
-  blue Proper Nouns
-  green Words with 3 or more syllables
-  orange Action verbs

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

"The American Revolution"





Understand It!

When the first 13 colonies were established, they were under the ruling of the King of England. At that time, America did not have their own government like they do today. As the colonies settled they began to desire their own government. This was one of the main reasons why a group of men gathered to write the Declaration of Independence. It was signed on July 4, 1776. This document was sent to the King of England. It **declared** that the settlers were forming their own country and they would no longer be under the ruling of England. This **enraged** the King of England. He wanted to continue ruling the colonies because they were paying lots and lots of taxes to England. There were many reasons the colonies wanted their independence, and the ridiculous amount they were paying England in taxes without their **consent** was just one of those reasons. The King of England sent British troops over to **maintain** order and stop the colonies from forming their own country. This began the American Revolution, a war between Great Britain and the American colonies that lasted between 1775-1783. There were many harsh battles over the years of war. Some were won by the British, and some were won by the American colonies. The final battle that led to America winning its independence occurred in Yorktown, Virginia on October 19, 1781. General Cornwallis became surrounded on land and sea by Americans. He **surrendered**. The British evacuated the American colonies throughout 1782. George Washington became the first president of the United States.

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. Which is an example of descriptive language?
a. colonies settled
b. harsh battles
c. one of those reasons
d. sent British troops
2. The biggest fact from the text is...
a. signing the Declaration of Independence
b. fighting many battles
c. winning the Yorktown battle
d. the king was mad
3. One small fact from the text is...
a. fighting many battles
b. the king was mad
c. the final war battle
d. some battles were won by the British
4. Why do you think the war lasted so long?
a. both sides really wanted to win
b. the troops moved slow
c. winters were too cold
d. summers were too hot

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  red Descriptive language
-  blue Proper Nouns
-  green Words with 3 or more syllables
-  orange Action verbs

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____





"The United States Constitution" Understand It!

The United States Constitution was written in 1787, making it over 200 years old! The United States had just won the American Revolution, making them their own country after being ruled by England since the colonies were founded. Because it was a new country, the United States did not have a well written set of laws or established government. They **desperately** needed their own constitution. So a very important group of men called The Framers got together to write the Constitution. They called this meeting The Convention. The men were so famous you likely know their names today: James Madison, Ben Franklin, and George Washington were just a few. The men came from 12 of the 13 colonies, which all had their own sets of laws at the time. The Framers had many **debates**. They talked and talked and talked. All that talking helped them come up with a brilliant plan they could all agree with. There were a lot of **compromises**, but they finally all agreed it was as perfect as it could be. Once the Constitution was completed and The Convention ended, it needed to be approved. They knew that other people would have good ideas too. And they wanted to make it so that the Constitution could be **revised**. That is why they added an **amendment** process. An amendment is a change that can add to the Constitution or change an older part of it. Once the Constitution was approved, the government soon started meeting. One of the first things the congress did was create a Bill of Rights, a list of rights that belong to the people. The new government was off and running!

Answer the following questions after reading:

- Which is an example of descriptive language?
a. revolution
b. government
c. constitution
d. brilliant
- The biggest fact from the text is...
a. it's 200 years old
b. the writers were called The Framers
c. It was approved
d. they had debates
- One small fact from the text is...
a. Ben Franklin helped
b. was written in 1787
c. The US won the American Revolution
d. It can be revised
- Why was the Constitution written?
a. revise old government
b. make the British happy
c. had no government
d. to add colonies

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

-  red Descriptive language
-  blue Proper Nouns
-  green Words with 3 or more syllables
-  orange Action verbs

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

"Lewis and Clark"

Understand It!

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were both born in the 1770's, right when the United States was fighting for freedom from England in the American Revolution War. By the time Lewis and Clark had grown up, America had won the war and the United States Constitution was written. The 13 original colonies were now the first 13 states in the United States of America. As the new country grew, they felt the need to **expand** their land. They purchased land known as the Louisiana **Territory**. The president of the United States at the time was Thomas Jefferson. Meriwether Lewis was Jefferson's private **secretary**. Jefferson asked Lewis to go explore the new territory. William Clark was in the army when he was asked to partner with Clark on the **expedition**. They gathered a team of about 40 men and all the needed supplies. They packed rifles, warm clothing, and lots of food. They even brought glass beads and other trinkets to trade with the Native Americans along the way. On May 14, 1804, Lewis and Clark and their team began their journey in St. Louis along the Missouri River. They met many Native Americans along the way. The most famous was a woman named Sacagawea. She joined the remainder of the journey so that she could **interpret** for Lewis and Clark when they met other tribes. It wasn't until November 1805, about a year and a half later, when they finally reached the Pacific Ocean. They spent the winter along the ocean before heading back to report all their adventures. It only took them 6 months to return home and share all they learned!

Answer the following questions after reading:

- Which is an example of descriptive language?
 - Meriwether Lewis
 - St. Louis
 - constitution
 - original
- The biggest fact from the text is...
 - Lewis was a secretary
 - Jefferson was president
 - they made it to the Pacific Ocean
 - they needed supplies
- One small fact from the text is...
 - they brought rifles
 - Sacagawea interpreted
 - they made it to the Pacific Ocean
 - Washington was president
- What likely happened after they returned?
 - things stayed the same
 - people started moving
 - no one believed them
 - no one moved

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:

 red Descriptive language

 blue Proper Nouns

 green Words with 3 or more syllables

 orange Action verbs

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

"Native Americans"

Understand It!

The people who lived in North America first are called Native Americans. There were hundreds of Native American **cultures** stretching from one coast of America to the other. Even though each Native American tribe had its own set of unique customs, they all had certain **characteristics** in common. All Native Americans lived off the land. They grew crops, hunted for food, and used natural resources found in nature for shelter, clothing, and other basic needs. Most tribes used as much of the animals they hunted that they could. They would use the furs and skins for clothing and shelter coverings, meat for food, and bones for needles and weapons. The most important crops grown were corn, or maize as the Native Americans called it. Other crops grown included squash, potatoes, wild rice, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, pumpkins, sunflowers, peanuts, peppers, avocados, and even chocolate. Native Americans also ate a lot of meat, including elk, deer, caribou, rabbit, salmon, fish, ducks, turkeys, and geese. All early Native Americans were very **spiritual** people. They had many religious beliefs and **rituals**. They also had many gods. They believed in a special relationship with nature. They respected the land and all its **creatures**. They worshiped the sun because they needed it to grow their crops. They also worshiped the rain for their crops to grow. Native Americans believed in the power of their dreams. They believed their dreams were signs of what is to come. Native Americans are a very important part of the history of the United States.

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. Which is an example of descriptive language?
 - a. needles and weapons
 - b. sunflowers
 - c. special
 - d. dreams
2. The biggest fact from the text is...
 - a. growing peanuts
 - b. religious beliefs
 - c. eating meat
 - d. they were the first Americans
3. One small fact from the text is...
 - a. they were the first Americans
 - b. growing maize
 - c. there were many tribes
 - d. there were few tribes
4. Why did the Native Americans respect the land?
 - a. it provided natural resources
 - b. so it would stay warm
 - c. so it would stay cold
 - d. because there were too many animals

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Descriptive language



Proper Nouns



Words with 3 or more syllables



Action verbs

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

"Plants and Animal Cells"

Understand It!

All living **organisms** on Earth are divided into cells. Cells are tiny little **compartments** that hold the biological tools needed to keep an organism alive and well. The main job of cells is to keep things organized. Every cluster of cells has a different purpose. Responsibilities are divided to help the organism survive and grow. Cells have trouble working when they get too big. That's why bigger organisms need lots of healthy cells all working together. Although every living organism is made of tiny cells, those cells are different in each different type of living thing. For example, there are many similarities and differences between plant cells and animal cells. Animal cells are round and **irregular** in shape. Plant cells have a fixed, rectangular shape. Plant cells have a cell wall, and animal cells do not. Plant cells have chloroplast, because they need it to make their own food. Chloroplasts work to **convert** light energy from the sun into sugar that can be used in cells. Plants are believed to be the start of all life on Earth. When the chloroplasts create sugars, they are **released** into the air as oxygen. This is the oxygen all animals and humans breathe to survive. Animal cells take the oxygen in the air and turn it into energy for animals to live. Animal cells do not have chloroplast cells. This makes sense since animals do not make their own food. Both animal and plant cells are so tiny, but animal cells are often smaller than plant cells. We cannot see any animal or plant cells without using a microscope. It really truly is amazing how plant and animal cells work hard to keep all organisms alive!

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. What context clues help with the word 'oxygen'?
 - a. cells
 - b. breathe
 - c. sugar
 - d. animals
2. What is one thing to learn from this text?
 - a. plants cells are big
 - b. animal cells are big
 - c. plant cells make food
 - d. animal cells make food
3. Why do plant cells have chloroplast?
 - a. to grow big
 - b. to stay small
 - c. to make food
 - d. to stay in the ground
4. What can you say about animal cells?
 - a. They are very tiny
 - b. They are all the same
 - c. They all have the same job
 - d. They are the same as plant cells

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Long Vowel Words



Words with /th/, /sh/, or /ch/



r-controlled vowels



Words with double consonants

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____

"Human Cells"

Understand It!

Cells are the foundation of all life. Every living thing is made up of cells. Dogs, cats, fish, lions, and bees are all made of cells. Each human has about 100 trillion cells. That's bigger than 100 million and even bigger than 100 billion. That number is so large it is almost **unimaginable**. But, it gets even crazier. Inside each and every one of those 100 trillion cells is 100 trillion atoms. Those atoms make up teeny tiny little molecules that are constantly moving and **interacting** with each other inside each cell. If you were a tiny little creature and could enter into one cell in your body, it would be like visiting a **bustling** city, where people were running around and cars were zooming back and forth constantly. The cells in your body have three big jobs. First, they digest food. Second, they carry oxygen to your lungs. And third, they fight **infections** and help heal wounds. The human body has about 200 different types of cells. There are special cells that make tears for crying. There are red blood cells that move oxygen through your body and keep your heart pumping. There are brain cells that help control your body movements and keep you thinking. There are even cells that create ear wax! Part of a cell's job is to make **exact** copies of itself. Cells die and new cells are created all the time. Some types of cells get replaced faster than others. New skin cells are formed every couple of weeks. Kids lose and make about 40,000 skin cells every single day! When we stop and think about how our bodies are created, it really is truly incredible!

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. What context clues help with the word 'teeny'?
 - a. number
 - b. tiny
 - c. jobs
 - d. atoms
2. What is one thing to learn about human cells from this text?
 - a. they are big
 - b. they are all the same
 - c. they digest food
 - d. there are not many
3. What do brain cells do?
 - a. carry oxygen to the heart
 - b. keep you thinking
 - c. digest food
 - d. make tears for crying
4. What can you say about human cells?
 - a. They are very detailed
 - b. They are all the same
 - c. They all have the same job
 - d. They never die

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Long Vowel Words



Words with /th/, /sh/, or /ch/



r-controlled vowels



Words with double consonants

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

1	_____	_____
2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____
4	_____	_____
5	_____	_____

“CAUSES OF EXTINCTION”

Understand It!

When a **species** of plant or animal can no longer be found living anywhere in the world, it is considered extinct. There are five major causes for extinction. The first is a change in **habitat**. The Earth is constantly shifting and changing. But even worse is human activity. Humans are destroying natural habitats like rain forests. Sometimes humans destroy a food source for a specific type of animal. That animal can become extinct through **starvation**. This is called co-extinction. The second way species can become extinct is through an **invasive** species. This occurs when a plant or animal moves in and overtakes an area it did not live in before. An example of this is when a weed moves in and kills a grassland area. The invasive species has the power to completely overtake other living things in the area. The third cause of extinction is exposure to toxic pollutions. Humans are releasing harmful chemicals into the air. Many animals cannot handle the changes and they become extinct. The human **population** overtaking the planet is the fourth cause of extinction. Animals and plants are running out of room as humans continue to take over much of the planet. The fifth main cause of extinction is overharvesting. This is when humans hunt and fish too much for one type of animal. They basically hunt or fish the animal right into extinction. Because of these five causes of extinction, many are working hard to protect the endangered plants and animals that are in danger of soon becoming extinct. Everyone needs to follow the laws that protect these endangered species!

Answer the following questions after reading:

1. What context clues help with the word 'shifting'?
 - a. changing
 - b. extinction
 - c. Earth
 - d. staying
2. What is one thing to learn about extinction?
 - a. humans don't cause it
 - b. humans can cause it
 - c. weather is a cause
 - d. time is a cause
3. What do toxic pollutions do?
 - a. they clean the air
 - b. they create space
 - c. they improve plant life
 - d. they dirty the air
4. What can you say about extinction?
 - a. It never happens
 - b. It can never be prevented
 - c. It won't happen anymore
 - d. It can be prevented

Word Work Color the words in the passage that match each category below:



Long Vowel Words



Words with /th/, /sh/, or /ch/



r-controlled vowels



Words with double consonants

Vocabulary Copy the 5 **bold** words from the passage. Use context clues and what you know to define each word:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____