



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## AIRPLANE

Two men made the first airplane that worked. They were brothers. Their names were Orville and Wilbur Wright. The airplane was made of wood and was called a “flyer.”

Before the brothers invented the first airplane, Orville and Wilbur opened a bike shop. They fixed bikes when things went wrong. They also made their own bikes. They saved the money they made.

The men used the money to build things that could fly. The first two things did not work. The third “flyer” did. It stayed in the air for 12 seconds. It went 120 feet. It was the start of a great invention!

Orville and Wilbur made other planes. The planes got better and faster. Now their first plane is in a museum for the world to see.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the brothers make money to build a plane?
  - a. They picked up trash.
  - b. They made cars.
  - c. They made and sold bikes.
  - d. They got it from the bank.
2. Why do you think they called the first plane a “flyer”?
  - a. It was a bird.
  - b. It looked funny.
  - c. They liked the name.
  - d. It could go up in the air.
3. How did the men know each other?
  - a. They were brothers.
  - b. They were best friends.
  - c. They met at school.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CELL PHONES

Did you know the idea of cell phones is many years old? It started in the 1920's. People used radios and thought about how they could make them better. They thought about it for a long time. They made radios better so people could use them to talk to each other. The police used them.

Then, inventors made phones that people could use in their cars. Only some people used these. They could be hard to use.

People in different parts of the world worked on making cell phones. They were finally invented around 1970. They still needed work. People began to sell cell phones in the U.S. in 1983.

At first, cell phone calls were hard to make. Only a few people in one place could talk at the same time. They were big and heavy. Many times the calls would end, and the call was lost.



Today cell phones are very light. They can take pictures and videos. People can use the Internet. Kids can play games. Cell phones can do other things, too. They are fast. Cell phones are little. They can be green, red, or blue. They can be any color you want.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did people use before cell phones and car phones
  - a. the Internet
  - b. letters
  - c. tin cans
  - d. radios
2. Which is **NOT** a fact about today's cell phone?
  - a. They have games.
  - b. They are little.
  - c. They are big and heavy.
  - d. Many people have them.
3. Which **compound** word means "the day we are in"?
  - a. today
  - b. Sunday
  - c. Monday



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## COLA

Do you like cola? Many people do. It is a soft drink that looks like syrup. It is brown and sweet. It can be in a can, or it can be in a glass. It can be in a tall thin bottle.

One kind, called Coke®, was invented on May 8, 1886. The man who made it was John Pemberton. He was a man who made medicine for sick people. He was also an inventor.

John made many kinds of syrup. He made pills and syrups to make people feel better. He sold them in a store.

John also made a drink that people liked to sip for fun. It was made out of wine, coffee beans, and caffeine.

One day a new law was made. No one could use wine. No one could drink it.

John still wanted to make money. He still wanted to sell his drinks, but they could not have wine in the drink. He put sugar and fruit in the mix. It looked good, and it had a good taste. People loved it. It was called Coca-Cola®.



John made the drink we have today.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What does cola look like?
  - a. bread
  - b. pancakes
  - c. oil
  - d. syrup
2. When did John make the first Coke?
  - a. 1886
  - b. 2006
  - c. 1885
  - d. 1826
3. The author wrote this to tell you about . . .
  - a. how to climb trees.
  - b. how to add sugar to syrup.
  - c. how we got Coke.





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE IRON

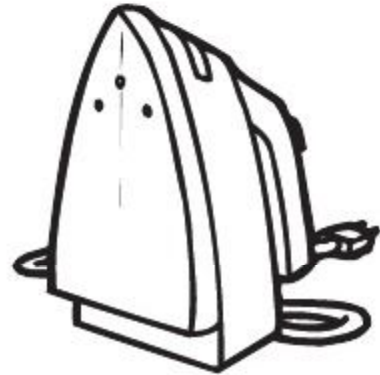
Have you ever tried to help your mom iron? It is hot. You have to be careful not to burn yourself.

The first iron was made in 1882. Henry Seeley made it. He lived in New York. He called it a "flat iron." It was big and black. You had to be strong to use it. It did not have a cord.

The iron was 15 pounds, and it was hard to pick up. It took a long time to get hot. It had to be put on the fire.

Today, irons are very light. They go in the wall with a plug. It has a long cord, and it makes the iron get hot very fast. You do not have to wait for a long time.

Irons make clothes look nice. They have changed and gotten better. Aren't you glad we have the new irons?



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. For what can you use an iron?
  - a. to fix a bike
  - b. to start the car
  - c. to get out the wrinkles out of things
  - d. to read
2. The first iron was called a . . .
  - a. "flat iron."
  - b. "round iron."
  - c. "sandwich."
  - d. "hot thing."
3. Who made the first iron?
  - a. Harriet Tubman
  - b. Hank Aaron
  - c. George Bush
  - d. Henry Seeley



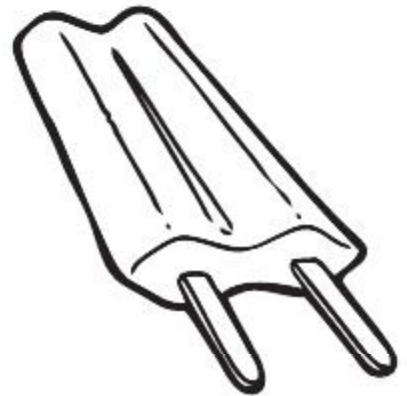
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE POPSICLE

Do you love Popsicles®? Most kids do. Did you know that a little boy made the first one? He was only 11 years old. His name was Frank. Frank lived in San Francisco. One night in 1905, Frank forgot to put his fruit drink away. He left the drink outside. He left a stirring stick in it. He went to bed. That night it got very cold. The fruit juice froze. The stick was still in the middle of the juice, and it got stuck.

In the morning, Frank found his fruit juice. It was frozen. The stick was stuck in the middle. He took a bite, and it was good. It was great! Frank made more and more kinds. He froze fudge. He froze other drinks. They were all good.

Frank's mistake turned into a big frozen deal!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Frank made the first Popsicle . . .
  - a. for a snack.
  - b. on purpose.
  - c. by mistake.
  - d. for a joke.
2. Where did Frank live?
  - a. San Francisco
  - b. Minnesota
  - c. Kansas
  - d. Texas
3. Why did Frank's juice freeze over night?
  - a. It was in the freezer.
  - b. It was very cold at night.
  - c. It was in the snow.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## LIGHT BULBS

Do you have light bulbs all over your house? Most people do. Light bulbs help us see better in the day. They help us see better at night. We can thank Thomas Edison.

He made a bulb that had light inside. It could glow for 1,500 hours. It could be put in homes. It could be placed in churches. It could be in the jails. It can work in the park. The bulb showed light when it was dark. It made rooms brighter than before.

It took him a long time to make the light bulb. He had to try many different things. When the job was done, he had a good light bulb. People were able to get more done in their day. Their eyes did not get as sore. It was easier to see what you were doing.

Life is easier. We can see well. Thank you, Thomas!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why do we use light bulbs?
  - a. to help us make friends
  - b. to help us eat pizza
  - c. to help us see better
  - d. to help us go to the zoo
2. **Synonyms** are words that mean the same thing. The word *done* can be a synonym for ...
  - a. ended.
  - b. started.
  - c. happy.
  - d. going to happen.
3. Where don't you find light bulbs?
  - a. in a house
  - b. in the ocean
  - c. in a library





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## COOL DRINK

Some parents mix Kool-Aid® on hot, sunny days. Kids like to mix it too. Kool-Aid is not very good for you, but every once in a while it is a nice treat.

Edwin Perkins made Kool-Aid in 1927. He had a company that sold perfume and cards. After a while, he wanted to sell more things. So, he tried to make things no one else had thought of.

First, he made a drink called "Fruit Smack." He sold it in little glass bottles. People liked the drink. He changed the name to "Kool-Ade." He did not put it in bottles. It was dry. He put it in little packets, and people went crazy over it.

Edwin changed the name again. He called it "Kool-Aid." This time the name was a good name. He made it in cherry, grape, and orange. He made other flavors, too.

The new name was great. The drink was great. Moms just had to add sugar. They just had to mix it up with water. Kids today still like Kool-Aid on a hot day!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. "Fruit Smack" was . . .
  - a. getting hit with a "fruit" punch in the arm.
  - b. something to put on your lips.
  - c. a fruit cup.
  - d. the first name for Kool-Aid.
2. Which man made the first Kool-Aid?
  - a. Edwin Perkins
  - b. Laura Bush
  - c. Babe Ruth
  - d. Denzel Washington
3. In the passage, Kool-Aid was for making kids . . .
  - a. hot on a cool day.
  - b. cool on a hot day.
  - c. feel strong.



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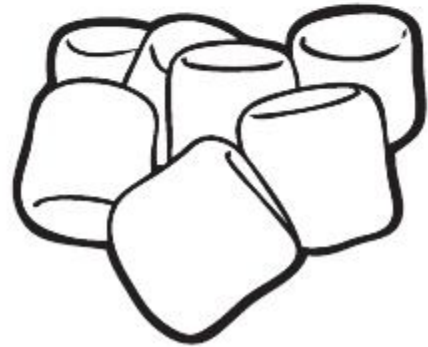
## MARSHMALLOWS

Did you know that there was candy 2,000 years ago? It was made in Egypt. It was marshmallow candy. This candy was made from a root of a plant.

It was made out of the mallow root. This plant grew in the swamps. It grew in places that had lots of weeds. It was white inside. It was sticky and sweet.

Today we still eat candy that is made out of marshmallows. It is white and sweet. It is not made out of the root anymore. The candy is made out of gelatin. It still tastes good. It is still sticky and white.

As long as there are children, there will always be candy made out of sweet things.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did they use to make the first marshmallow candy?
  - a. a store
  - b. a bush
  - c. a tree
  - d. a root
2. The word *sticky* means . . .
  - a. messy and gooey.
  - b. clean and neat.
  - c. spotless.
  - d. dirt-free.
3. Today they do not use the root to make the candy. What do they use?
  - a. gelatin
  - b. gum
  - c. sugar





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## MICROWAVE OVEN

Do you think mistakes are good? Some mistakes are. One man made a mistake that is good for all of us.

One day a man was working in a lab. His name was Percy Spencer. He had a candy bar in his pocket. He was studying tubes. The tubes were vacuum tubes. He was studying microwaves in the tubes.

The chocolate bar melted, and it got all over in his pocket. The microwaves in the tubes had made the candy melt.

Percy started to think and think. He worked with the waves. He tried many things. They all worked. These microwaves cooked food faster than an oven.

I am glad his candy bar melted in his pocket that day. Now, we can all use the microwave oven. It can cook our food fast!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What melted in Percy's pocket?
  - a. his crayon
  - b. his soup
  - c. a chocolate bar
  - d. his ice
2. What idea did Percy get?
  - a. to make a machine that cooks food very fast
  - b. to make more messes
  - c. to buy more candy bars
  - d. to buy new pants
3. What do we call Percy's machine?
  - a. toaster
  - b. microwave
  - c. oven



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

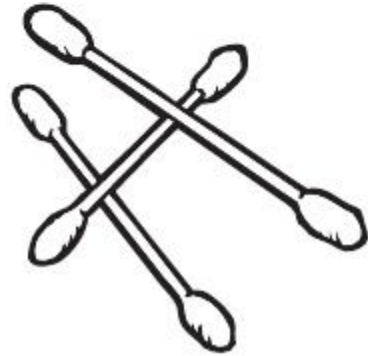
## COTTON SWABS

On a sunny morning a mother wanted to clean her baby's ears. She thought and thought. She found a toothpick, and then she got a piece of cotton.

This mother put the cotton on the end of the toothpick. She put it in the baby's ear. It worked! The baby had clean ears.

Do you know what this mother made? She made a cotton swab. She told her husband. His name was Leo. Leo liked the idea. He took a stick made out of wood, and he put cotton on each end. He called them Baby Gays.

Today we can buy them in the store. They are made out of white cardboard and cotton. The name has changed to Q-tips®. We use them to clean small things. We use them for glue. We use them to spread paint. We use them for many things. And, we still use them to clean ears.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. The first cotton swab was made out of . . .
  - a. a straw and a brick.
  - b. a toothpick and a piece of cotton.
  - c. a stick and a stone.
  - d. a box and a rock.
2. What could be a different title for this passage?
  - a. "A Baby's First Day"
  - b. "Rolling with the Baby"
  - c. "Cleaner Ears"
  - d. "My White Cotton"
3. Today, cotton swabs can be used to . . .
  - a. do many things.
  - b. only for cleaning ears.
  - c. only for gluing things.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

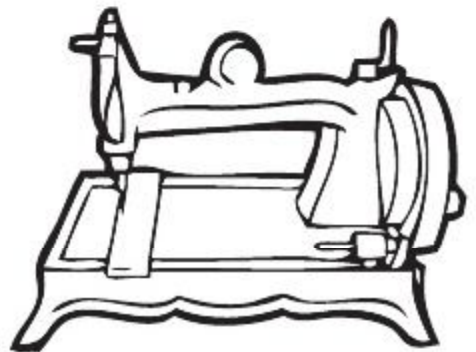
## SEWING MACHINE

A long time ago people had to sew clothes by hand. They had to make pants by hand. They had to make shoes by hand. There were no machines to make the work go faster.

In 1830, a man had an idea. His name was Barthelemy. He lived in France. He wanted to make a machine that could sew faster than a person could sew by hand. He made one that would work. It had a needle and thread that went up and down. The cloth stayed together. He could make clothes faster.

Other people who made clothes were angry. They burned his shop to the ground. They did not like it that he made a new machine. They were scared he would make all the money.

Two men made new machines. Elias Howe made a machine. Isaac Singer made a machine. They all could sew. Isaac's was the best. It is still a great sewing machine today. It is called the Singer<sup>®</sup> Sewing machine.



### STORY QUESTIONS

- How has sewing changed?
  - Today we sew by hand. All of the machines do not work.
  - Today we sew with machines. They used to sew by hand.
  - We sew with machines. They all sewed with machines.
  - Today we do not sew at all. They did not sew.
- Which sentence is **FALSE**?
  - Elias made the best sewing machine.
  - The Singer machine was made by Isaac Singer.
  - Sewing machines made sewing go faster.
  - Barthelemy made the first sewing machine.
- Tell what kind of sentence this is: They had to make pants by hand.

a. none of these	c. interrogative
b. exclamatory	d. declarative





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## UMBRELLAS

Umbrellas were made a long time ago. They were made for keeping the sun out of your eyes. They were made for keeping cool on hot days.

In China, they made the first umbrella to use in the rain. They put wax and paint on it. This made the rain run off the sides. It kept them dry when they walked. It kept them dry in the storm. They used bones from whales, and they used wood from the trees.

In 1852, Samuel Fox made a new kind of umbrella. It had steel parts. It had soft cloth. It was easy to put up and easy to put down. It was very light to carry.

Today umbrellas come in all sizes and shapes. They come in all colors. Some people use them in the rain. Others use them when it is hot. Some have umbrellas just for fun.

Today, umbrellas have many uses!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. For what was the first umbrella used?
  - a. keeping cool on hot days
  - b. keeping hot on cools days
  - c. catching the rain
  - d. keeping the person dry
2. If I wanted an umbrella, the best one to buy would be one that . . .
  - a. was too big to carry.
  - b. had large holes.
  - c. was any shape or color.
  - d. was very heavy.
3. **Antonyms** are words that mean the opposite. *Hot* is an antonym for . . .
  - a. lukewarm.
  - b. sunny.
  - c. warm.
  - d. cold.



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## WIPERS

Mary Anderson had a great idea. She saw that streetcars had a hard time running in the rain. The windows got all runny with water. It was hard to see outside, and it was hard to drive down the street. It was not safe for the riders on rainy days.

She thought and thought. Mary had a good idea. She made wipers that could work on the outside of the car. They had a button inside the streetcar to push in the rain. She hoped it would work.

When it rained, the driver pressed the button. The wipers went back and forth. They took the rain off the window. It made it easier to drive down the street. It made the people inside feel safer, and the driver could see where he was going.

Mary's idea worked. People liked the wipers. They put them on cars, and they worked, too. Her idea went all over the world.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Mary got the idea for wipers because . . .
  - a. she liked to help others.
  - b. rain made her happy.
  - c. she liked the rain.
  - d. street cars had a hard time working in the rain.
2. Where is the one place you will not find wipers today?
  - a. on a bank
  - b. on a car
  - c. on a bus
  - d. on a truck
3. How do wipers help drivers?
  - a. They can see better in the rain.
  - b. They can drive faster in the snow.
  - c. They can talk louder.
  - d. They can watch the wipers move up and down.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BAND-AIDS

Earle Dickson was a man who bought cotton. He had a big job. He traveled to many places to work. He worked for a big company.

His wife liked to cook. She cut herself many times. Earle was getting tired of her cutting her fingers when he was not home. He had an idea.

Earle made a small, thin strip. He made it so that it was easy to put on a cut. It was small. It was sterile and did not have germs. If he was not home, his wife could put it on by herself.

She liked the strips. They stayed on her fingers, and they were easy to use. She could put them on by herself.

Earl told his boss. His boss liked the strips, too. They called them Band-Aids®. In 1920, they sold them to the public. People all over liked them, too. They worked. They came in many sizes. Band-Aids were born!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Earle make Band-Aids?
  - a. He didn't like blood.
  - b. He was in the car most of the time.
  - c. His wife kept cutting her fingers.
  - d. He had a lot of money.
2. "Band-Aids were born!" means that . . .
  - a. Earle had a good idea. Other people could use his idea, too.
  - b. They were born at the hospital.
  - c. Band Aids is the name of a boy.
  - d. None of these.
3. A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. *Tired* is another word for . . .
 

a. jumpy.	c. sad.
b. worn out.	d. happy.





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BASKETBALL

Many years ago, there was not a lot to do in the winter. It was icy, and the students could not play much in the cold.

James Naismith was a teacher in Canada. He taught gym class. He wanted to keep playing games in the winter.

He took a soccer ball on a cold morning. He put two wooden baskets at the ends of the gym. He told the players to try and get the ball into the baskets. They ran up and down with the ball. They tried to get it in the wooden basket.

James made up new baskets in the air. The players liked the ones in the air better. They told their friends. These friends told others. Soon people all over the world were playing this new game. They were using a ball that could bounce. They were trying to get it in the basket.

Today, we play when it is cold and when it is hot. We play inside or outside. Basketball is played all over the world. James, you were a genius!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. James was a . . .
  - a. doctor.
  - b. teacher.
  - c. nurse.
  - d. worker.
2. What words best describe James?
  - a. not fun at all
  - b. boring
  - c. likes to think of new things
  - d. just likes to sit and watch TV
3. Where do people play basketball today?
  - a. all over the world
  - b. in trees
  - c. in the snow
  - d. under a rock



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## THE TELEPHONE

In the 1800s, people had to wait a long time to get news from other places. It had to come by letters. It had to come by horse. Or, people had to tell others the news. It was hard to find out what was going on in the world.

Alexander Graham Bell changed that. He dreamed and dreamed. He wanted people in faraway places to talk to each other. He wanted them to know what was going on.

He took a wire and put things on both ends. He talked into one end. His friend talked into the other. They did it many times. They tried many kinds of wires. One day they could hear what the other one was saying. They could talk to each other on the wire.

The two men called this new idea the telephone. It means “far sound.”

Before long, people could talk all over the country. It made them happy. They could hear news from other places. They could call to say “hello.” They could call when they were happy. They did not have to have a reason to call.

The telephone made the world a smaller place.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the families get news long ago?
  - a. by cell phone
  - b. by phone
  - c. by letters or people telling it to them
  - d. by computer
2. Which words best tell us about the phone?
  - a. It makes getting news easier and faster.
  - b. It is too big.
  - c. It does not work.
  - d. It is not a good invention.
3. Tell what kind of sentence this is: It had to come by horse.
  - a. declarative
  - b. exclamatory
  - c. interrogative
  - d. none of these



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BRaille

What would you do if you could not see with your eyes? Would you be able to read? Would you be able to write? Would you be able to see the world?

Yes! You would be able to read and write. You could see the world because of one brave boy.

In 1809, a boy was born in France. His name was Louis Braille. He had good eyes. He could see all the things in the world.

Before he was 13, he became blind. He could not see the trees. He could not see the birds. He could only hear the sounds.

Louis wanted to make life better for other blind people. He made up a code with dots. The dots are like bumps on a paper. Each group of dots is a letter. Others are numbers. Blind people could read words, and they could write letters. They could see the world by touching the dots on the paper.

Today people all over the world can read and write in Braille. They can see without using their eyes because of Louis!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the code with dots get the name Braille?
  - a. Louis Braille made it up.
  - b. It sounded like a good name.
  - c. It looked good on paper.
2. When Louis was a little boy, he could . . .
  - a. not see. He was blind.
  - b. be a fireman.
  - c. see like we can see.
  - d. write music and poems.
3. How did Louis help blind people so they could read and write?
  - a. He was a teacher.
  - b. He cut paper into circles.
  - c. He ran a big race.
  - d. He made raised dots to use on paper. They can make words and letters.





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## DIAPERS

Do you have a baby at your house? Does he or she wear diapers? Can you throw them away?

In 1950, a mother named Marion had an idea. She did not like the diapers that were made out of cloth. They were too much work. They smelled bad. It took too much time to clean them. She wanted to make something better. Marion went to work. She tried making them out of many kinds of things. Marion made them out of plastic. She tried to sell the idea. No one said it would work. They said it would flop. They did not want to try her idea.

Marion was sure it would work. She sold them all by herself. Mothers loved her idea.

Marion made moms all over the world happy. They had more time for their babies. They had less mess to clean up. They did not have to wash diapers or let them dry. All they needed was a trashcan.

She was sure her idea was going to work. She was right!



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did Marion sell the diapers by herself?
  - a. She needed money.
  - b. She wanted to sell them.
  - c. No one wanted to buy the idea.
  - d. Her idea was not good.
2. Which sentence is an **opinion**?
  - a. Throw-away diapers are easy to clean up.
  - b. You can throw them away.
  - c. Marion is the smartest lady in the world.
  - d. Diapers were made in 1950.
3. Which **compound word** from the text means "one thing"?
  - a. everything
  - b. something
  - c. nothing