



Name _____

Date _____

NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa, on July 18, 1918. He was the first member of his family to attend school. A Methodist teacher gave him the name “Nelson” at school. He continued in school and later attended the University of South Africa in Johannesburg. He became a lawyer representing those who would otherwise go without legal assistance.

Mandela was first involved in nonviolent protests but was eventually arrested for treason and placed in prison. He was fighting against the apartheid and the treatment of his people. Apartheid was the practice of keeping the races separated in South Africa. Locked in his cell for years on end, Nelson’s spirit was not broken. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison. Most of this time was spent in a tiny cell on Robben Island. His captivity became widely publicized. He was considered a terrorist when he was imprisoned, but as time wore on, it became apparent that he was treated unjustly in his fight to end apartheid.

Once released from prison, Nelson Mandela went on to receive hundreds of awards. He received the Nobel Peace Prize which many felt was also a tribute to the people of South Africa as much as to him. On April 27, 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected President of South Africa. He served until 1999. He continues to work today pushing for peace throughout the world. In South Africa, he is known as Madiba, which is an honorary title. Nelson Mandela continues to inspire many.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can you infer about why Nelson was so successful in life?
 - a. People felt sorry for him and took pity on him.
 - b. He eventually got the vision of his life.
 - c. He learned great lessons and was able to overcome obstacles and work hard.
 - d. He was able to become president.
2. What is the meaning of the word *treason* as used in the passage?
 - a. disloyalty
 - b. selfishness
 - c. violence
 - d. protest
3. Which of the following statements is true after reading the passage?
 - a. Nelson Mandela spent his life seeking restitution for his treatment.
 - b. Nelson Mandela was a perfect person.
 - c. Nelson Mandela went on to inspire millions because of his experiences.
 - d. Apartheid no longer exists on the African continent.



Name _____ Date _____

CATHERINE BERTINI

Catherine Bertini is a voice of inspiration to many people who are starving in the world. Catherine was the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) and served to prevent hunger and starvation across the world. She has worked with countries around the world that have starving people. She believes strongly that if you get the food to women, then children and all others will be fed. Her goal is to end hunger.

Catherine wasn't always helping the poor and hungry. At one time she wanted to be a music teacher. She was raised in Cortland, New York. Later her interests turned to government service. She felt that she could make more of a difference helping others this way. And what a difference she has made! She has seen 25 countries go from receiving emergency money to being able to provide food for people in their countries.

Catherine Bertini has very high goals. She works to see that 80% of the food goes to women. She knows that women will feed the people. In the past, most of the food has gone to men. She has another goal, and that is to help girls go to school. She sees to it that there are meals available for the girls at school. This has encouraged families to send their girls to school. Catherine Bertini is making a difference in the lives of millions.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What position did Catherine Bertini hold?
 - a. She was delegate to the U.N.
 - b. She was volunteer.
 - c. She was Ambassador to Africa.
 - d. She was head of the World Food Programme.
2. What can be inferred about Catherine Bertini's beliefs of women and their care of children?
 - a. She believes women will feed children and others.
 - b. She believes that women are dying.
 - c. She believes that men aren't as hungry as women.
 - d. She believes that women are stronger.
3. What does the passage say about how Catherine Bertini's encourages girls to attend school?
 - a. She teaches them the importance of learning to read.
 - b. She makes sure that meals are provided for girls at school.
 - c. She sets a good example by sharing her own school experiences.
 - d. She gives presentations on the importance of getting an education.



Name _____

Date _____

MOTHER TERESA

For most people, the name Mother Teresa symbolizes unconditional love and support. She was a symbol of hope to many dying and sick people around the world. Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Macedonia. She was the youngest of three children. She went on to become a nun in the Catholic Church. One of her first assignments was work at a mission in India. The mission ran the schools. This is where Agnes took on the name Sister Teresa. A year later, Sister Teresa arrived in Calcutta to teach at St. Mary's High School.

She would eventually move to the slums of Calcutta to live and set up a school. She gave every cent she ever earned to the hungry and poor. She opened an orphanage to house children who had no parents and were dying. She won many prizes for her great work, and each time she would use the money from the prizes to house or feed people. In 1979, she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Through the years, her name changed to Mother Teresa. She was indeed a mother to many. But life was not easy for her. She would struggle with heart problems and other illnesses, but her efforts to help those in need continued until the day she died. Mother Teresa's examples and words of wisdom continue to inspire millions.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What Mother Teresa's original name?
 - a. Sister Teresa
 - b. Agnes Teresa Bojaxhiu
 - c. Mother of Calcutta
 - d. Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu
2. What can be inferred about Mother Teresa since she was the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize?
 - a. She was a U.S. citizen.
 - b. She worked for peace in the world.
 - c. She received the highest honor awarded to Catholic nuns.
 - d. She would go on to win the Medal of Freedom.
3. After reading the passage, which of the following words could be used to describe Mother Teresa?
 - a. studious
 - b. notorious
 - c. rugged
 - d. empathetic



Name _____ Date _____

MADAME CURIE

Madame Curie was a great scientist who made many great discoveries. Her story is one of inspiration and determination. She was born Maria Sklodowska on November 7, 1867, in Warsaw, Poland. Poland was in turmoil and her family struggled to make ends meet. Maria's parents were teachers, and they taught their children the importance of school. Maria went on to graduate with honors from high school at 16. She lost her mother and her oldest sister to disease, and Maria struggled with a nervous illness. She went to the countryside to live with cousins.

Maria returned to Warsaw where she and her sister attended a "floating university." The classes were held at night, and they had to avoid being caught by the police. They eventually left for Paris where she received a degree in physics and math. It took many years as she had to put her sister through school and then she put herself through school.

Marie eventually married Pierre Curie. Madame Curie, along with her husband, discovered two radioactive elements. This work laid the foundation for future discoveries in nuclear physics and chemistry. She and her husband received the Nobel Prize for Physics. Madame Curie would go on to receive another Nobel Prize for Chemistry eight years later. Madame Curie's work was credited with making great strides in science.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Based on the reading passage, what interests did Marie have?
 - how to win the Nobel prize
 - how to run an experiment
 - math and chemistry
 - physics, chemistry, and math
- Marie worked so that she could . . .
 - be trained in how to run experiments.
 - graduate from school.
 - go to school.
 - put her sister through school and then herself.
- What is the meaning of the word *credited* as used in the last paragraph?
 - added to
 - known for
 - increasing debt
 - disregarded
- What is the main idea of paragraph three?
 - Curie's discoveries and contributions to science
 - Curie's family background
 - Curie's love of science
 - Curie's choice of partner and husband



Name _____

Date _____

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Florence Nightingale is best remembered as the “lady with the lamp,” but her efforts in nursing made a lasting impact. She was the pioneer of nursing as we know it today, and she also set the standard for hospital sanitation methods.

Because of her efforts, hospitals were cleaned and sanitized. This helped prevent endless deaths due to filth and disease. These changes saved many lives.

Florence was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy. She was named after this city. She was born to a wealthy family. They were surprised when Florence announced that she wanted to become a nurse, turning down many invitations to marry. At this time, nurses were usually working class women. Her desire to be a nurse was reinforced when she met Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor in the United States. They were crusaders for changes in health care.

During the Crimean War, Nightingale volunteered her services to care for the wounded soldiers. Nightingale was appalled with the conditions she found in the army hospital. Diseases such as dysentery, typhus, and cholera were killing more soldiers than the war wounds.

Nightingale worked to change the cleanliness and sanitary conditions at the hospital. One of her greatest achievements was to set up a nursing school and to bring nursing to a level of respect.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What conclusions can be drawn about Florence’s family?
 - They were religious and dedicated to missionary work.
 - They were wealthy and lived a life of luxury.
 - They were hard working and persevering.
 - They were lazy and undetermined.
- Which statement explains why Florence’s changes in hospital conditions and procedures were so effective?
 - They were cutting edge procedures on cleanliness.
 - People had the same experiences that Florence had in the hospitals.
 - Books were written about Florence Nightingale.
 - none of the above
- What is the meaning of the phrase “crusaders for changes in health care” that is used in the passage?
 - They were connected and couldn’t get apart.
 - They were willing to sacrifice and get sick together.
 - They didn’t like the male doctors so they spent time together.
 - They paved a new path in the health care profession and for women.



Name _____ Date _____

JIM THORPE

Jim Thorpe was one of the greatest athletes to ever live. In fact, Sweden's King Gustav V called Thorpe the "greatest athlete in the world." Thorpe did not have a life of luxury, but he was able to accomplish many things. James Francis Thorpe was born in 1887 in a one-room cabin in Oklahoma. He was a Potawatomi Indian and a descendent of the great Sauk and Fox Chief Black Hawk. He was born a twin, but his brother died at the age of nine.

Jim participated in the 1912 Olympics for the United States, even though he did not become a U.S. citizen until 1919. At the Olympic Games, Jim won the gold in both the pentathlon and the decathlon events. He came back from Sweden with \$50,000 worth of trophies.

A month later, the Amateur Athletic Union filed charges against Thorpe. They said he had played summer baseball with the Rocky Mountain Club for money, which discredited his amateur status. Jim had played for a small amount of money, but he was stripped of his medals and trophies. The same year after the Olympics were over, Jim led his team to the national collegiate football championship. From there, Jim went on to play six years with major league baseball.

Jim was the only American to excel as an amateur and professional in three major sports. Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals were returned posthumously on October 13, 1982. After his death, a town in Pennsylvania was renamed "Jim Thorpe" in his memory.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jim Thorpe named the greatest athlete of the year?
 - a. He was able to win a medal at the Olympics.
 - b. He was highly talented in many sports.
 - c. He was injured and was still able to run in the Olympic finals.
 - d. He was the favorite to win the Heisman trophy.
2. After reading the passage, what can you infer about Thorpe's upbringing?
 - a. He was born in very humble circumstances.
 - b. Not much is known about Thorpe's upbringing.
 - c. He was given the best athletic training.
 - d. He was born into an average family.
3. Which statement does not explain Thorpe's experience with the Amateur Athletics Union?
 - a. Thorpe was happy to be recognized by the union.
 - b. Thorpe was treated strictly by the union.
 - c. Thorpe was stripped of his medals by the union.



Name _____

Date _____

CLARA BARTON

There are many famous faces of the Civil War, but one that stands out as a source of comfort and strength is Clara Barton. The Civil War was a horrible war. There were so many killed or wounded on both sides. To be wounded during the Civil War would often mean death. There were not very many hospitals, doctors, and no trained nurses that could help care for the wounded soldiers. There was also a lack of medical supplies, medicines, and sanitary conditions.

Clara Barton was 40 years old when the Civil War started. She was working in Washington, D.C. She began hearing of all the wounded soldiers and quit her job working in the Patent Office. She traveled to the battlefields to care for the wounded soldiers. She was a hard worker with skill and dedication. She was appointed to be the superintendent of nurses for one of the Union armies. After the Civil War had ended, her work was not finished. She began searching for soldiers that were missing.

Clara's life became a mission to help others. She established the American branch of the Red Cross in 1881. She was the first president and held this position for 22 years. Clara saw to it that the Red Cross was available to help in other wars as well as in disasters throughout the world. Clara's legacy at the Red Cross is still felt. She made a major impact, and her example is one to be followed today.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Another good title for this reading passage could be . . .
 - "The Red Cross."
 - "Honoring a Nurse."
 - "Clara Barton: The Amazing Nurse."
 - "Clara Barton and Her Patients."
- Which of the following is a similarity between Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton?
 - They both graduated from nursing school together.
 - They both worked hard to make a difference in caring for others.
 - They both were reprimanded by male doctors.
 - They both helped during the Civil War.
- In the last paragraph, what does the word *impact* mean?
 - targeted
 - hit
 - insight
 - influence



Name _____ Date _____

RUDOLPH GIULIANI

Rudolph Giuliani was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1944. He was a natural leader. He went to college and then law school. He became a lawyer working for the U.S. Justice Department. He led a successful fight against organized crime. In 1989, Giuliani ran for mayor of New York City. He lost to David Dinkins. He came back to run for mayor in 1993, and this time he won. He worked to reduce the crime in New York City and to improve its economy. He wanted to make New York City a better place for people to live. He served as mayor for two terms. Many New Yorkers were very happy with his efforts.

Others weren't as happy. Some people felt that he didn't do enough to help the minorities and the poor people. They also felt that he was unkind and harsh. Giuliani still had a lot to give, so he decided to run for the U.S. Senate. Not long after this decision, he was diagnosed with cancer. He decided to continue serving as mayor.

When terrorist attacks on New York City took place on September 11, 2001, Giuliani was a helpful and dedicated mayor. Many people felt his support and encouragement as they worked to put their lives back together. For his efforts, Giuliani was made an Honorary Knight by Queen Elizabeth II. Many people felt that Giuliani's leadership helped the country find peace and courage in the turmoil of that time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the word *turmoil* as it was used in the passage?
 - a. mayhem
 - b. excitement
 - c. annoyance
 - d. organization
2. After reading the article, what assumptions can be made about the role that Giuliani played during the time following the attacks on New York?
 - a. He was a rescuer who managed to save hundreds of people.
 - b. He played the role of scapegoat for what happened.
 - c. He was helpful, supportive, and encouraging.
 - d. He was tough on crime and anxious to punish the offenders.
3. Many people did not agree with how Giuliani worked as mayor of New York City, but what fact from the passage indicates that many people must have liked him?
 - a. He was a lawyer at the Justice Department.
 - b. He was made an Honorary Knight by the Queen of England.
 - c. He was elected to serve at the United Nations.
 - d. He was elected to serve two terms as mayor.



Name _____

Date _____

ADOLF HITLER

Adolf Hitler was born in 1889 in the small town of Branau Am Inn, Austria. Adolf and his younger sister, Paula, were the only children of six to live to adulthood. Young Hitler attended church regularly and attended school, as well. He was not as diligent in his schooling and later dropped out to become an artist or an architect. Hitler was said to be a shy and quiet young boy, yet he was quick to anger with those who disagreed with him.

Hitler moved to Vienna in 1909 to attend the Academy of Arts, but he was not admitted. He lived in homeless shelters. He was able to sell a few paintings on which to live. He read pamphlets that were unfavorable towards the Jews and began to develop a slow hatred for them. When World War I began, Hitler volunteered for service in the army in Munich, Germany. After the war, Hitler became leader of the Nazi party. Hitler gained acceptance for his anti-Jewish remarks, and his power in the Nazi party allowed him to act on his beliefs.

Hitler would soon lead Germany into a war that wiped out millions of Jews and terrorized millions of people and countries around the world. Hitler began taking over most of Europe in a swift advance. The United States eventually joined the world war and put a stop to the war and Hitler. Hitler died, but not before killing about six million Jews and several million others. This tragedy is known as the Holocaust.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What inferences can be made about how Hitler was able to convince so many people to follow him?
 - He was elected the leader of Germany.
 - He had already had experience of dealing with war.
 - He was fit and in good health.
 - He was an influential leader and speaker.
- What is the main idea of the third paragraph?
 - It introduces the main idea of the passage.
 - It discusses some of Hitler's actions during World War II.
 - It discusses Hitler's experience as a politician.
 - It explains the treatment the Jews received in the Holocaust.
- A good way to answer the previous question is to . . .
 - reread the entire passage.
 - reread the first paragraph.
 - look for the words *Holocaust* and *Hitler*.
 - reread the third paragraph and determine the main idea.



Name _____ Date _____

HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Maryland's Dorchester County around 1820. Harriet saw firsthand what slavery was like. In her early teens, Harriet stood in the doorway to protect a slave from an angry overseer. In the process she was hit in the head with a large weight. She never fully recovered from the blow, but her desire to help other slaves grew stronger.

By the time Harriet was 29, she heard rumors that the slaves where she worked were about to be sold and sent further south. Harriet did not want that to happen, so late one night she went to the home of a white woman who promised to help her escape. She went from home to home. She eventually made her way to the North, hiding by day and traveling by night. She finally crossed the border of Pennsylvania where slavery was not allowed.

The people who helped Harriet Tubman escape were members of the Underground Railroad. It wasn't a real railroad but a network of people willing to hide slaves and help them escape. The slaves escaped to either free northern states or Canada. Harriet joined the Underground Railroad helping more slaves including her family escape. She made over 19 trips and helped over 300 slaves escape. At one point there was a reward of \$12,000 offered for her capture. Harriet Tubman was happy to say that not one slave had been lost on her watch. She was an influence to so many.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What prompted Harriet Tubman to escape in the first place?
 - a. She heard that a new overseer was coming.
 - b. She heard that she was definitely going to be sold further south.
 - c. She heard that there were more jobs available in the South.
 - d. none of the above
2. How does the author feel about Harriet Tubman?
 - a. The author thinks Harriet was powerless.
 - b. The author admires Harriet and thinks she was brave.
 - c. The author didn't have the chance to free all the slaves.
 - d. The author admired how she fought for independence from slave masters.
3. Which statement hints at the author's opinion of Harriet Tubman?
 - a. She eventually made her way to the North, hiding by day and traveling by night.
 - b. She was an influence to so many.
 - c. Harriet Tubman was happy to say that not one slave had been lost on her watch.
 - d. She never fully recovered from the blow, but her desire to help other slaves grew stronger.



Name _____

Date _____

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Susan B. Anthony was a great leader in Women's Rights. Born in 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts, Susan was the second of eight children in a Quaker family. Her father was said to be a strict man who enforced principled convictions and self-discipline. Susan learned to read and write at the age of three. She received more schooling and eventually became a teacher at the female academy, Eunice Kenyon's Quaker Boarding School.

In 1849, Susan gave her first public speech for the Daughters of Temperance and went on to found the Woman's State Temperance Society of New York. The temperance movement was to aid women and children dealing with the abuse of alcoholic husbands.

In 1872, Susan demanded that women be given the same civil and political rights as black men had been given with the 14th and 15th amendments. She led marches and demonstrations campaigning for women's rights. During this time, Susan met Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The two became great friends and went on to fight for women's suffrage and higher pay.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is the meaning of the word *public* as used in the passage?
 - organized
 - community
 - oral
 - female
- Where would you read to find out when Susan met Elizabeth Cady Stanton?
 - first paragraph
 - second paragraph
 - third paragraph
 - not in the passage
- The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
 - warn listeners of Susan's background.
 - inform the reader about Susan's weaknesses.
 - inform the reader of Susan's history and background.
 - inform the reader of Susan's love for women.
- Which of the following statements is not a fact about Susan B. Anthony?
 - Susan B. Anthony thought that women were smarter than men.
 - Susan led marches and demonstrations for women to receive the right to vote.
 - Susan made her first public speech to the Daughters of Temperance.
 - The temperance movement was set up to help women and children. Susan worked for this cause.



Name _____ Date _____

THOMAS EDISON

Thomas Edison is credited with doing more to shape our modern-day civilization than any other person. He was a creative, hard working, and dedicated person. He was also a very interesting person. Being the youngest in his family of seven children, he didn't learn to walk until he was four years old. He began asking questions at a very young age.

Edison was born in 1847 to middle-class parents in Milan, Ohio. Tom's inquiring mind was too much for his schoolteacher. She felt he was self-centered and asked too many questions. His mother eventually taught Tom at home. His father encouraged him to read the classics and would pay him for each one he finished. Edison grew to love reading and writing—especially poetry. Edison soon grew to love the sciences and could not be turned away. His parents found it hard to keep up with their son's quest for knowledge.

Edison put all of his knowledge to great use. He went on to become an inventor who held at least 1,093 patents. Many of these patents were improvements on earlier patents. Edison's greatest innovation was Menlo Park. Menlo Park was a research laboratory built in New Jersey. It was here that Edison created many inventions. One of his greatest inventions was the electric lamp.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to find out about Edison's work at Menlo Park?
 - a. end of the first paragraph
 - b. in the second paragraph
 - c. end of the third paragraph
 - d. in the third paragraph
2. The author probably wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. inform the reader of Edison's background and life.
 - b. inform the reader about all of Edison's patents.
 - c. portray the support that Edison received from his mother.
 - d. portray Edison's commitment to helping and serving others throughout his life.
3. What does the term *self-centered* mean as used in the passage?
 - a. egotistical
 - b. unselfish
 - c. amorous
 - d. anxious



Name _____

Date _____

CHIEF JOSEPH

Chief Joseph was a great leader for his people. He was the chief of the Nez Pierce Indians. This nation was located in Idaho and parts of Northern Washington. They were a peaceful nation and maintained good relations with the whites after Lewis and Clark came through on their expeditions. Much of his childhood was spent at a mission run by Christian missionaries.

In 1855, Chief Joseph's father signed a treaty with the United States government. The treaty said that the Nez Pierce were allowed to keep much of their traditional lands. But by 1863, another treaty greatly reduced the amount of land they would own. When Chief Joseph assumed his role as chief in 1877, he challenged the U.S. government on the second treaty. It was stated that the Nez Pierce people never agreed to this treaty.

Months and months of fierce fighting took place before the Nez Pierce people were forced to leave for a reservation in what is now known as Oklahoma. Many of the Nez Pierce people died of malaria and starvation. Chief Joseph tried every possible means to change the minds of the U.S. government, but to no avail. Joseph was eventually sent to a reservation in Washington, where legend says that he died of a broken heart.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Where did the Nez Pierce live in the beginning?
 - parts of Northern Idaho and Utah
 - parts of Idaho and Washington
 - parts of Oklahoma
 - parts of Idaho and Oklahoma
- According to the passage, how did Chief Joseph serve his people?
 - He waited the official 10 years to set up a reservation.
 - He worked hard to support the rights of his people by leaving.
 - He represented his people against the United States government.
 - He signed a treaty for them.
- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - to explain how through hard work and dedication, Chief Joseph was able to accomplish great things
 - to explain the problems between the Nez Pierce and the U.S.
 - to explain the role Chief Joseph played and where the Nez Pierce people ended up
 - to explain how difficult it is to negotiate with the Federal Government



Name _____

Date _____

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Have you ever heard of the book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? Harriet Beecher Stowe was born into a family of abolitionists. An abolitionist is a person who does not believe in slavery. She grew up in New England. Stowe was angry when the Fugitive Slave Act was passed in 1850. The Fugitive Slave Act made it easier for slave owners to get back slaves who had escaped. She decided to write a story about just how awful slavery was. She called her book *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

The book came out in 1852 and was a huge sensation. Over 300,000 copies of the book were sold in that first year. The book was translated into over 20 languages. This book was read by millions of people worldwide. The story was against slavery. It told the story of Eliza, a young slave and mother. Eliza finds out that her baby son has been sold to a slave owner and the baby will be taken from her the next day. Eliza is able to escape with the help of the Underground Railroad.

The characters and the story line became familiar to millions of Americans. Stowe's book was an inspiration to many Northerners who did not feel they had a voice. On the other hand, many Southerners felt that the book gave a false picture of slavery. The divide between the two sides of slavery grew even wider. Eventually, this division would lead to the Civil War.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which of the following words could be used to describe Harriet Beecher Stowe?
 - author, slave owner, mother
 - author, conductor on the Underground Railroad
 - mother, Southerner
 - author and abolitionist
- What is the meaning of the word *abolitionist* as used in the passage?
 - a slave owner
 - a person opposed to slavery
 - member of the Underground Railroad
 - a person supportive of slavery
- Which of the following items would not be on Harriet Beecher Stowe's resume?
 - fought in the Civil War
 - worked to make slaves free
 - tried to educate people on the cruelty of slavery
 - used writing as a tool to influence many people



Name _____

Date _____

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington is known as the father of our country. This great leader was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He studied military science with his brother and then joined the Virginia militia. He was a natural leader and went on to become the chief of the Continental Army. He was able to lead the American troops against the British army to victory in the Revolutionary War.

He married Martha Dandridge Custis on January 6, 1759. She was a young and wealthy widow with two children. George and Martha did not have children of their own, but George adopted Martha's two children.

In 1789, Washington was unanimously voted president. Upon learning of the news that he was elected president, he traveled to New York, which was the temporary capital of the United States. As Washington's coach traveled from town to town on the way to New York, the crowds cheered their new president on.

Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Henry Knox were some of the members of Washington's cabinet. Washington served two terms as president. Washington quickly tired of the clashes between the two forming parties and retired from politics.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why was George Washington considered the father of this country?
 - a. He was a good counselor to many.
 - b. He was a father figure to many people.
 - c. He adopted two children.
 - d. He was a great leader in a beginning nation.
2. Which statement best explains the success of George Washington?
 - a. Washington grew up in a wealthy family.
 - b. Washington learned at an early age how to fight in a war.
 - c. Washington had the talent, support, and courage to lead a nation to war.
 - d. Washington was motivated to earn a lot of money and respect.
3. Which paragraph explains what happened when George Washington was elected president?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. fourth paragraph
 - c. second paragraph
 - d. third paragraph



Name _____

Date _____

LEWIS AND CLARK

In 1803, the United States bought a large piece of land known as the Louisiana Purchase. Little was known about this land. Was the land good for farming? What kind of animals lived there? What was the climate like? President Jefferson had many questions. He called upon Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition to explore this new frontier. Lewis asked a friend from his army days to join him. This friend was William Clark. He was an experienced Indian fighter.

Fifty men were hired to accompany Lewis and Clark, and the crew left in May 1804. They paddled up the Missouri River. They traveled for two years, meeting Indians along the way. One such Indian was Sacajawea, the wife of a French fur trapper. She served as an interpreter and guide. They made it to the Continental Divide, the line from which rivers flow to the east on one side and the west on the other.

Lewis and Clark continued with their crew on the dangerous and rocky trail until they reached the Pacific Ocean. In 1806, Lewis and Clark returned to share the information they had gathered. They kept meticulous notes on their findings and discoveries. Together, they had traveled 7,000 miles in 28 months.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Who asked Lewis and Clark to explore the Louisiana Purchase?
 - President Washington
 - Sacajawea
 - The French Government
 - President Jefferson
- What is the meaning of the word *expedition* as used in the passage?
 - recruitment
 - danger
 - journey
 - endowment
- Sacagawea is known for . . .
 - her hard work in impoverished areas.
 - her interest in literacy and helping others.
 - being an interpreter and guide.
 - representing her people.