

Name: _____

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Everywhere around us, there are millions of tiny living things called germs. They are so tiny that they can be seen only under the most powerful microscope. Some of these germs are no wider than twenty-five thousandths of an inch!

Louis Pasteur, the great French scientist, was the first to prove that germs exist. The germs in the air can be counted. The number of germs around us, especially in crowded rooms, is tremendous. Certain scientists counted 42,000 germs in approximately one cubic meter of air in a picture gallery when it was empty. But when the gallery was crowded with people, they found nearly 5,000,000 germs in the same place. In the open air germs are less abundant. There are fewer germs in country air than in town air. We see at once how important it is, therefore, to live as much as possible in the open air, and for the rooms we live in to always be well ventilated by fresh air.

1. According to the passage, where will you find more germs?

- (A) In crowded spaces
- (B) In the country
- (C) In hospitals
- (D) In empty rooms

2. Which of the following statements can be concluded after reading the passage?

- (A) Louis Pasteur liked counting germs.
- (B) Germs are too small to be seen.
- (C) People have germs.
- (D) Fresher air has fewer germs.

George Washington was the first and most popular U.S. President. He was the only one elected by a unanimous vote. It is often said of him that he was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Washington led comparatively untrained and ill-equipped American soldiers to victory over the well-trained British in the Revolutionary War. As soon as the Constitution was ratified, he was chosen to be president.

Many of the generals who had fought under Washington did not believe that the 13 colonies could cooperate to form a single country without the strong leadership of a king. They approached him, saying that they would support him as King George I of the United States. Washington was dismayed at the idea, and asked the generals to promise never to mention it again. He served two terms as President and refused a third term, retiring to his farm in Virginia. When England's King George heard that Washington had voluntarily given up the power of the presidency, he said, "If that is true, he is the greatest man in history."



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3. How does the author show that George Washington is a great man?

- (A) He led untrained soldiers into battle.
- (B) He was unanimously elected president.
- (C) He voluntarily gave up the power of the presidency.
- (D) All of the above.

4. Based upon the above story about George Washington, which of the following words best describe him?

- (A) Smart
- (B) Power hungry
- (C) Strong leader
- (D) Kind

5. According to the text, why was Washington considered the most popular president?

- (A) King George I said, "He is the greatest man in history."
- (B) He was elected president by a unanimous vote.
- (C) He wanted to be a powerful man and king.
- (D) He was the first president

When Westinghouse, the inventor of the air brake, was working on his great invention, he made an application for a trial of his device to the New York Central Railroad. Vanderbilt, the president of the railroad, thought the inventor's claims were absurd. In comparison with the hand brake then in use, Westinghouse stated that his brake could be operated by one man, instead of two, and that his brake would stop a fifty-car train in fifty yards, compared to a sixty-five car train in two hundred yards with hand brakes.

It is said that Vanderbilt roared with laughter. The idea of stopping a train of cars by wind appeared to him to be a joke. So he returned the letter, with these words scribbled at the bottom: "I have no time to waste on fools."

The young inventor next turned to the head of another railroad. He was younger and more progressive than his New York rival. He sent for Westinghouse, listened to his explanations, and even advanced him money to continue his experiments. Best of all, he tested the new brake and found that Westinghouse was on the right track. Vanderbilt, hearing of the test, regretted his curt dismissal of the idea. He wrote a courteous note to the inventor, fixing a time for an interview. The note came back with the brief inscription: "I have no time to waste on fools." George Westinghouse.



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6. Which of the following statements can be concluded after reading the passage above?

- (A) Westinghouse was thankful Vanderbilt helped him.
- (B) Vanderbilt regretted not listening to Westinghouse's ideas.
- (C) Westinghouse was a successful train engineer.
- (D) Westinghouse's invention was foolish.

Michael Jordan was the greatest basketball player of all time. When he played for the Chicago Bulls, they had one winning season after another. He scored more than 100 points in 1,108 games, won two Olympic gold medals, and was ranked #1 by ESPN Magazine. Chosen for the NBA All-Stars 14 times, Jordan was ten times the scoring champ, five times the Most Valuable Player, and six times the scoring champ of the NBA. When he began losing his hair, he shaved his head completely and started a fashion trend for other players. He was chosen to make an animated movie called "Space Jam" with Bugs Bunny. No other player has come close to those achievements.

7. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Michael Jordan is considered the greatest basketball player of all time, according to the passage?

- (A) Michael Jordan shaved his head.
- (B) Michael Jordan won two gold medals in the Olympics.
- (C) Michael Jordan scored more than 100 points in 1,108 games.
- (D) Michael Jordan was the Most Valuable Player five times.

8. Why did the author write this passage about Michael Jordan?

- (A) To tell about how Michael Jordan made a movie with Bugs Bunny.
- (B) To show what a great basketball player Michael Jordan is.
- (C) To give reader's Michael Jordan's life story.
- (D) To tell people what it is like to be a famous basketball player.

Most of the planets in our solar system have moons. Saturn has the most, with eighteen moons. Jupiter has sixteen, Uranus has fifteen. Earth has only one, but our moon has a big influence on the lives of humans on earth. In ancient times, people believed that moonlight could affect people's brains. The Latin word for the moon was Luna. Words like "lunatic" and "looney" come from that idea. Many people still believe that more babies are born and more people die when the moon is full. Scientific studies that have been done to see whether the numbers of births and deaths actually increase when there is a full moon show that there is no increase. The gravitational pull of the moon affects the tides in the ocean, but does not seem to affect the births and deaths of people. Does the full moon cause people to fall in love? That's another question!



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9. What, according to the passage, has a "looney" effect on people?

- (A) The tides
- (B) Saturn
- (C) Babies
- (D) The moon

10. After reading this passage, what inference can you make?

- (A) People believe the moon causes crazy things to happen.
- (B) Moonlight from the Earth's moon is less powerful because we only have one moon.
- (C) Births, deaths, and love can all happen because of our moon.
- (D) Earth's moon is bigger than Jupiter's.