

20 Questions...

Answered



Informative stories on topics of interest to the modern student

Book Two

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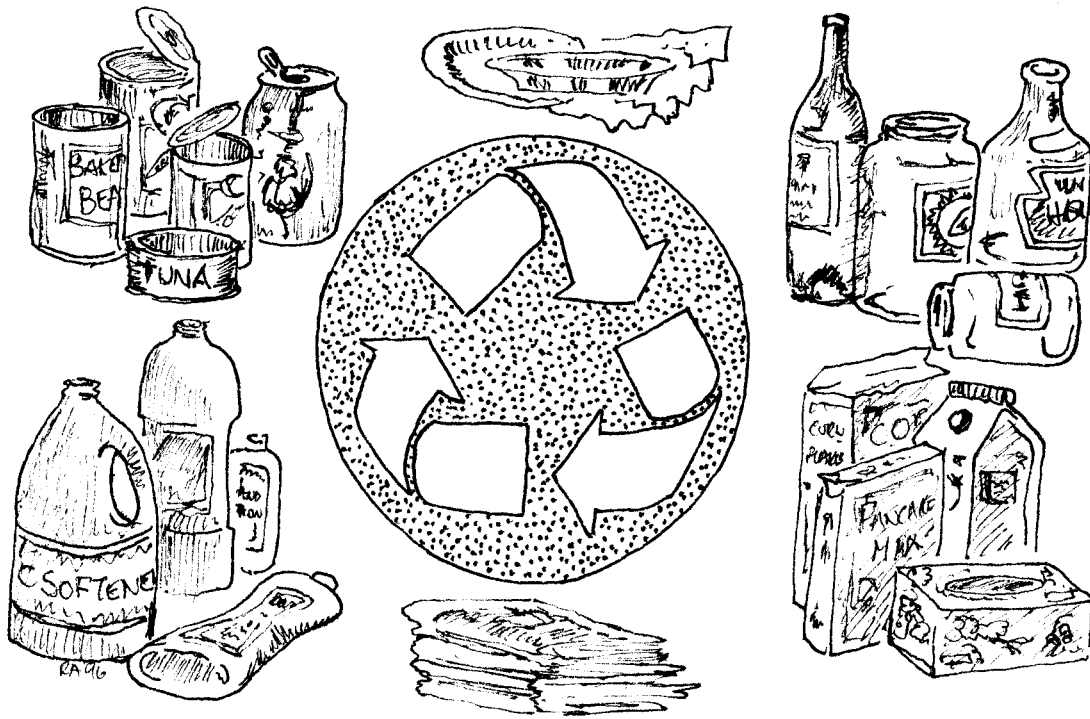
INTRODUCTION

20 Questions...Answered is a reproducible ESL/EFL reading-and-discussion text for false beginners, or for true beginners who have already had about eight months of instruction in the language. It offers a number of important design features to make both teaching and learning easier and more enjoyable.

- 1) Contextualized learning: The short self-contained articles in each unit benefit from a very clear focus that facilitates realistic concentration on inter-related items of vocabulary and grammar that are relevant to the topic and the argumentative purpose.
- 2) Content that really matters: Each unit examines a topic that will genuinely interest and inform.
- 3) Lively journalistic style: Although the passages are carefully limited to an elementary level of language difficulty, their style remains vivid and authentic.
- 4) Well-balanced exercises: The plentiful exercises offer a good range of integrated activities for each unit -- getting the main idea, basic comprehension, finding details, inferences, interpretation and extension of important concepts, vocabulary study, a word puzzle, and a cloze exercise.
- 5) Illustrations: There is a clear and evocative illustration in each unit; this can be used as a pre-reading exercise, for vocabulary brainstorming, or as the basis for discussion.
- 6) Answer Key: The text includes a full answer key for every closed-ended question in every unit.
- 7) Reproducible: Purchase of an original copy of the text brings explicit permission to the purchaser to reproduce pages at will.

This package can be used quite simply as it is presented in these pages. In fact, it was carefully planned to be effective in that way. However, resourceful teachers will most likely want to consider one or more of the following suggestions:

- **Pre-Activity:** Instead of immediately beginning to read the passage, have students start with a discussion or game to encourage thought about the theme or content of the unit. The picture or title at the head of the unit can be useful in this connection; so can newspaper or magazine illustrations or headlines, or current television or radio news items.
- **Order of Exercises:** By all means, use all the activities provided for each unit, and allow sufficient time for these to be completed thoroughly (including time for small groups to discuss alternate answers and so on). But build in variety by changing the order in which the exercises are done, and by varying the designation of activities for in-class or at-home assignment.
- **Intensity of Work:** Be sure to take full advantage of the wide range of different kinds of involvement that these materials offer. At one end of the continuum, for instance, the Interpretation questions can be used to inspire free, creative discussion of themes, values and general ideas. By contrast, at the other end of the continuum, the Word Power exercises provide an excellent foundation for practice in all the detailed and demanding but very important strategies for independent vocabulary development: not just careful contextual reading and word-part analysis, but also dictionary and thesaurus use. Resourceful attention to this kind of varied involvement with the materials will make teaching and learning more enjoyable and more effective, too.
- **Post-Activity:** Once the class has finished the set of exercises in the text itself, think about rounding off the cycle with a post-activity that clearly links the book and the schoolroom to the wider world. Learners might pursue the theme or content of a given unit by making a bulletin-board collage of their own art work and/or comments, writing letters to a relevant person or institution, going on a visit, watching a video...you will find many ways to reinforce the vocabulary, grammar and content one more time while you also build the self-image of learners as competent language-users for real-life purposes.
- **Flexibility:** There is no problem with using these units in alphabetical order, just as provided, but in many circumstances their best application will be as a flexible database of content-centred readings that you can access as you see fit, to tap into the energy of learners' natural curiosity about such passing interests as news items, current movies, new music, or extra-curricular activities. Dip into this treasure-trove of self-contained units to find the exact passage to exploit a "hot topic." Each term, you'll have different students with different experiences, and so your use of the text will differ as well. With this flexible resource, you can change to meet your students' needs!



Recycling

- 1 It is estimated that in the United States almost 160 million tons of garbage is generated each year. This equals about 3 1/2 pounds (1.6 kilograms) per person per day. Our planet is a limited resource, and it cannot continue to handle such vast quantities of trash. One method of reducing the burden on the earth is recycling. Recycling is the process of recovering and reusing materials from used products.

- 2 Before the 1960s most garbage was either burned at open dumps or in ineffective incinerators. And in communities near the ocean, garbage was simply dumped into the water. When it became obvious that such methods were harmful both to people's health and to the environment, these

practices were stopped. Today most waste material is buried in landfill sites. Unfortunately, many landfill sites are nearly filled to capacity and new sites are difficult to establish because of pollution laws and space availability.

In more modern times, many large communities have turned to upgraded incinerators as a replacement for landfill sites. Although these newer incinerators are an improvement over older models and cities do use their incinerators to produce energy, the pollution problems that result from burning garbage still remain a concern. While new answers to dealing with garbage may arrive in the future, the best way of dealing with the current waste-disposal problem is by

3

eliminating excess packaging and reducing the amount of discarded material that makes its way to landfills and incinerators. All this has made recycling a necessary part of life.

4 Recycling campaigns have been initiated in many countries around the world. The Japanese have the highest recycling rate in the world. Almost 50% of Japan's municipal waste gets recycled. And in North America the Blue Box program has raised the public's awareness and increased participation in waste recycling. Nowadays most cities provide recycling centers, or curbside pick-up, as a means for citizens to make a contribution to their national recycling effort.

5 Paper, cardboard, cans, glass and plastic are examples of consumer products that can be recycled. In many cases it is cheaper for companies to make new goods from recycled materials than from virgin resources. And, of course,

homeowners are encouraged to compost their organic biodegradable kitchen scraps on a backyard compost mound.

Although the recycling of city wastes is the most visible, industrial, mining and agricultural wastes are in fact a much larger problem. When not controlled properly, these wastes can contaminate sources of fresh water. Hazardous industrial wastes must be contained. Setting up special disposal areas for these toxic substances is difficult because many communities refuse to allow them near their towns.

Recycling is a step in the right direction towards saving our precious planet. A new, environmentally conscientious generation is growing up living under the principles of the Three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. Recycling saves energy, reduces pollution and conserves resources. If we all pitch in, we can make recycling work.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Recycling. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) A definition of recycling.
- b) Information about waste disposal and recycling.
- c) Problems caused by incinerators.
- d) Plans to improve and increase recycling.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) About how much garbage is generated in the United States each year?

2) Why did we stop burning garbage at open dumps and dumping garbage into the water?

3) Which country has the highest recycling rate in the world? What is the rate?

4) Why is it difficult to dispose of hazardous industrial wastes?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Today most waste material is burned in incinerators.

2) Modern incinerators have no negative effect on the environment.

3) Making new goods from recycled materials is more expensive for manufacturers.

4) Recycling saves energy, reduces pollution and conserves resources.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) The article makes us understand that recycling is becoming more and more common because...
 - a) there are some forms of waste that cannot be burned.
 - b) it is the most sensible option.
 - c) people are excited about the idea.
 - d) it is cheaper than using landfill sites.

- 2) Modern incinerators are...
 - a) entirely safe and clean.
 - b) the best way to dispose of waste.
 - c) better than the old ones, but not completely safe and clean.
 - d) no better than the old ones at all, and therefore very dangerous.

INTERPRETATION

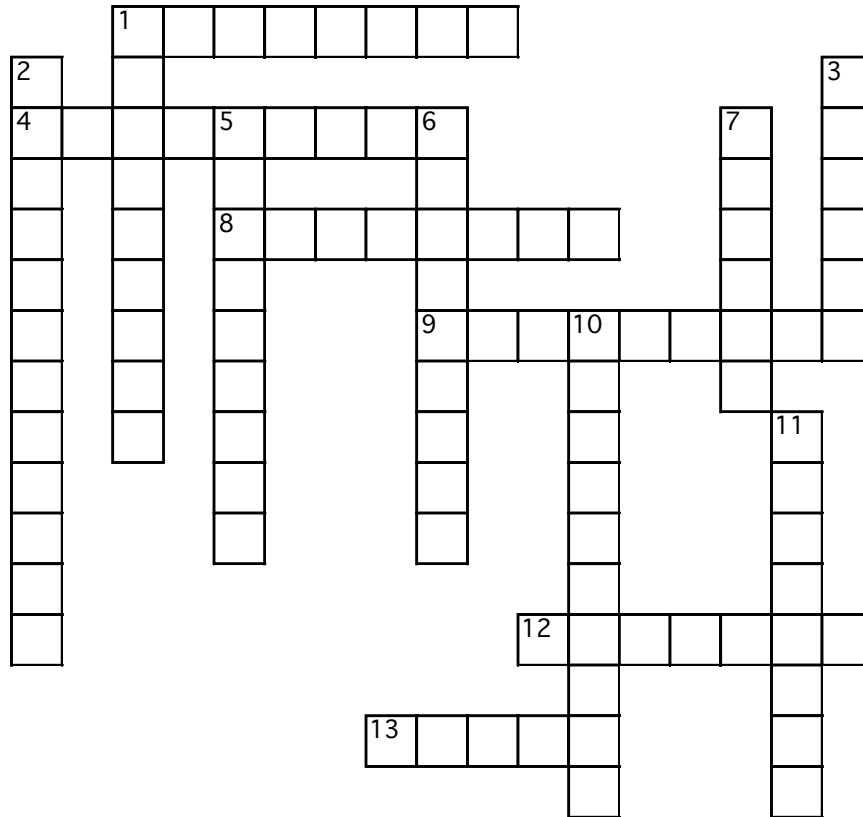
- 1) Of the Three R's, which "R" do you think it is most difficult for people to accept? Why? Give examples.
- 2) In your own life, what are some examples of times when you recycle things (or used recycled products)?
- 3) What results do you predict if we do not solve our waste disposal problem?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1) limited | a) incorporated | b) finite | c) distinct |
| 2) ineffective | a) inadequate | b) sufficient | c) outdated |
| 3) upgraded | a) improved | b) enlarged | c) replaced |
| 4) initiated | a) necessary | b) delayed | c) started |
| 5) virgin | a) costly | b) new | c) course |
| 6) toxic | a) poisonous | b) expensive | c) chemical |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) Paper, glass and plastic are examples of _____ products that can be recycled.
- 4) In the United States almost 160 million tons of garbage is _____ each year.
- 8) _____ pick-up helps citizens make a contribution to the recycling effort.
- 9) The Blue Box program has raised the public's _____.
- 12) Cities do use their incinerators to _____ energy.
- 13) In communities near the _____, garbage was simply dumped into the water.

DOWN:

- 1) Hazardous industrial wastes must be _____.
- 2) Industrial, mining and _____ wastes are a big problem.
- 3) Organic biodegradable kitchen _____ go on a backyard compost mound.
- 5) If we all pitch in, we can make _____ work.
- 6) Reducing the amount of _____ material helps the cause.
- 7) Today most waste material is _____ in landfill sites.
- 10) Recycling is the process of _____ and reusing materials from used products.
- 11) Many landfill sites are nearly filled to _____.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) Information about waste disposal and recycling.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Each year in the United States about 160 tons of garbage is generated.
- 2) Burning garbage at open dumps and dumping garbage into the water were stopped when it was realized that this practice was harmful both to people's health and to the environment.
- 3) The Japanese have the highest recycling rate in the world. Almost 50% of Japan's municipal waste gets recycled.
- 4) Disposing of hazardous industrial waste is difficult because they need special disposal areas and many communities refuse to allow these disposal sites near their towns.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Today most waste material is buried in landfill sites.
- 2) F Modern incinerators still cause pollution.
- 3) F Making new goods from recycled materials is cheaper for manufacturers.
- 4) T

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) c

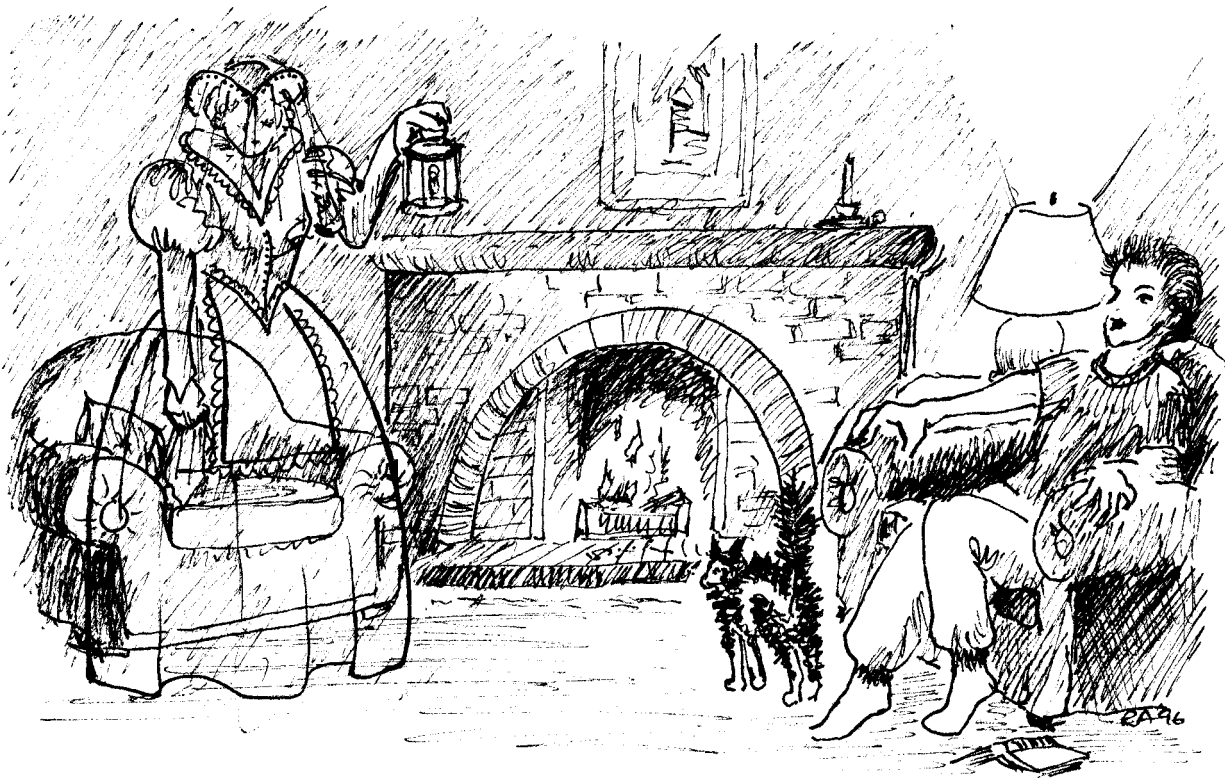
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) b
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) consumer 4) generated 8) curbside 9) awareness 12) produce 13) ocean

DOWN: 1) contained 2) agricultural 3) scraps 5) recycling 6) discarded 7) buried 10) recovering
11) capacity



Ghosts

1 Have you ever seen a ghost? Do you believe in ghosts? Scientifically accepted proof of the existence of ghosts does not exist. But does this fact alone convince you that ghosts do not exist? Why does every culture in the world have stories about ghosts and haunted buildings? Why have eyewitness accounts of ghost sightings remained similar over many centuries? Will we ever know the truth about ghosts?

2 A ghost is the spirit of a dead person that is capable of making itself seen or heard by the living. The oldest known record of a ghost appears in an ancient Babylonian tale known as *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, which is dated from around 2200 BC. Ghosts can take several different forms. Some shapes ghosts can take include a solid or see-through

image of a dead person, a disembodied voice, or some other unusual visual effect such as strange lights. The world's various cultures believe ghosts take different forms.

Several explanations are given for the 3 possible existence of ghosts. There are those who believe that ghosts are people trapped between the living world and the world of the dead. These dead people can be stuck in-between worlds because of some wrong they did while they were alive, or because they must deliver a message to someone before passing onto the next world, or even because something tragic happened to the person.

When the same ghost is seen repeatedly in the same house, it is

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said that the house is haunted. The word *haunt* means to “visit often.” Hauntings can continue on and off for years, and affect different occupants of a haunted house. In most cases the ghosts in haunted houses once lived in the house. Usually the ghost repeats the same actions each time it makes an appearance, and witnesses often say that the ghost looks like a person who is sleepwalking.

- 5 A special kind of ghost is called a poltergeist. Poltergeist is a German word, which means “noisy ghost.” Poltergeists live up to their names: they are noisy! A poltergeist disturbance includes noises such as knocks, thumps, scraping, footsteps and other sounds. Poltergeists are known to move objects, sometimes throwing them across the room. Usually a poltergeist does not stay longer than a few weeks. Young people are the preferred targets of poltergeists, and occasionally poltergeists have followed a particular person from one location to another.

Modern techniques for investigating 6
paranormal activity, or *ghostbusting*,
involve using sophisticated equipment.
Researchers use Geiger counters,
infrared cameras and computers. Hi-
tech instruments allow ghost
detectives to detect radiation, take
photographs in the dark without using
a flash, register temperature changes
and record any movement in a room.
Psychics, who are people who can
supposedly sense activity going on
beyond our normal comprehension,
are often called to help ghost
investigators, as well.

Still, the fact remains that there is no 7
scientific proof of the existence of
ghosts. Surely they must not exist.
But how can you explain the countless
ghost stories from so many different
people and from so many different
places? And you would have an
impossible time trying to convince the
victims of a haunting that ghosts were
not real. They must exist. Or do
they? Death is the end of life. Or is
it?

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Ghosts. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The different kinds of ghosts.
- b) Arguments intended to prove the existence of ghosts.
- c) Techniques for investigating paranormal activity.
- d) Information about ghosts.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What is a ghost?

2) List reasons why dead people can be trapped between the living world and the world of the dead.

3) What kinds of noises do poltergeists often make?

4) Would it be easy to convince the victims of a haunting that ghosts were not real?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Ghosts only appear in one form.

2) Hauntings usually only last a few weeks.

3) Senior citizens are the preferred targets of poltergeists.

4) There is no scientific proof of the existence of ghosts.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Even without scientific proof of their existence, ghosts have...
 - a) scared countless people through the centuries.
 - b) made it difficult for anyone to deny they exist.
 - c) become a part of every culture's folklore.
 - d) had a science named after them: *ghostbusting*.

- 2) Even with their sophisticated equipment, researchers have...
 - a) had a difficult time getting anyone to accept their findings.
 - b) not been able to prove the existence of ghosts.
 - c) not been able to prove the existence of more than one kind of ghost.
 - d) relied more heavily on psychics than on their machinery.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Do you believe in ghosts? Why? Why not? Do you think proof of their existence will ever be discovered? Discuss.

- 2) Do you know any ghost stories? Take turns telling ghost stories.

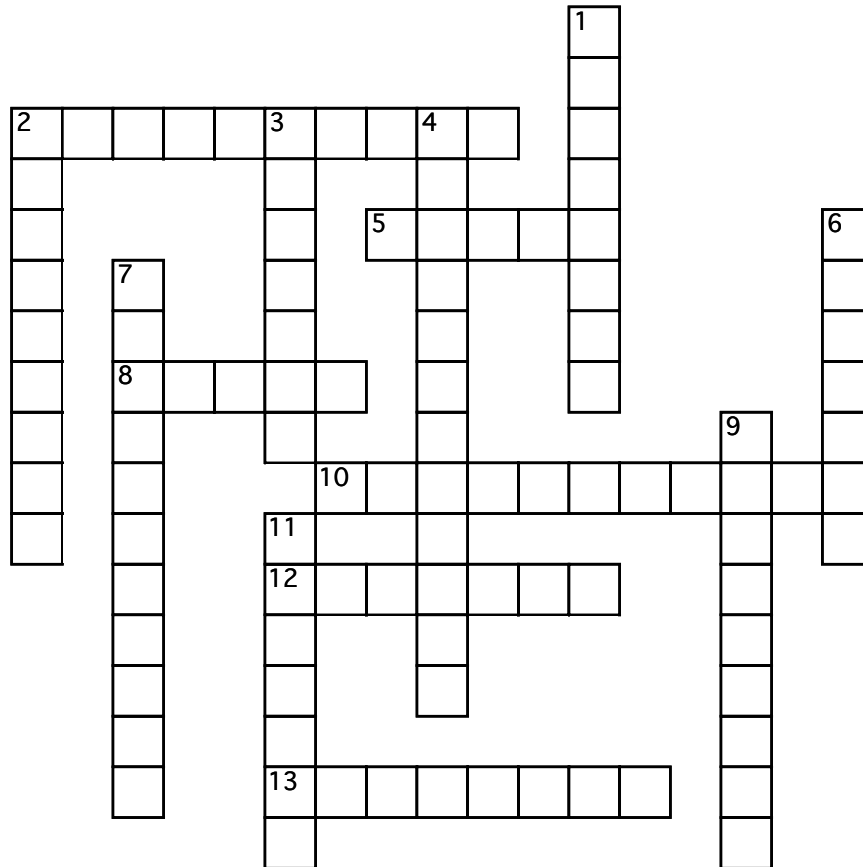
- 3) What is the scariest movie you have ever seen? Why? Do you like scary movies? Why? Why not? Discuss.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) disembodied | a) high pitched | b) without a body | c) scary |
| 2) tragic | a) habitual | b) superb | c) dreadful |
| 3) occupants | a) residents | b) relatives | c) neighbors |
| 4) preferred | a) frightened | b) destined | c) favorite |
| 5) sophisticated | a) advanced | b) expensive | c) awkward |
| 6) countless | a) few | b) several | c) truthful |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) Over many centuries _____ accounts of ghost sightings have remained similar.
- 5) _____ is the end of life. Or is it?
- 8) The word *haunt* means to “visit _____.”
- 10) A special kind of ghost is called a _____.
- 12) The oldest known record of a ghost appears in an _____ Babylonian tale.
- 13) Poltergeists have followed a particular person from one _____ to another.

DOWN:

- 1) _____ are often called to help ghost investigators.
- 2) Scientifically accepted proof of the _____ of ghosts does not exist.
- 3) Ghosts are people _____ between the living world and the world of the dead.
- 4) Witnesses often say that the ghost looks like a person who is _____.
- 6) Poltergeists are known to move _____.
- 7) Ghost detectives take _____ in the dark with infrared cameras.
- 9) The world’s various cultures believe ghosts take _____ forms.
- 11) A ghost is _____ of making itself seen or heard by the living.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) Information about ghosts.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) A ghost is the spirit of a dead person that is capable of making itself seen or heard by the living.
- 2) People can be trapped in-between worlds because of some wrong they did while they were alive, or because they must deliver a message to someone before passing onto the next world, or even because something tragic happened to the person.
- 3) A poltergeist disturbance includes noises such as knocks, thumps, scraping, footsteps and other sounds.
- 4) You would have an impossible time trying to convince the victims of a haunting that ghosts were not real.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Ghosts can take several different forms.
- 2) F Hauntings can continue on and off for years. Usually a poltergeist does not stay longer than a few weeks.
- 3) F Young people are the preferred targets of poltergeists.
- 4) T

INFERENCES

- 1) c
- 2) b

WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) c
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) a
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) eyewitness 5) death 8) often 10) poltergeist 12) ancient 13) location

DOWN: 1) psychics 2) existence 3) trapped 4) sleepwalking 6) objects 7) photographs 9) different
11) capable



Snowboarding

1 Some skiers still may not like it, but these days they are having to share the ski slopes with the new kids on the block. The new kids are the snowboarders. Not so long ago snowboarding was banned at many ski resorts. Today, if you have got a board and some “happening” clothing, you are ready to get to a snow covered mountain and take part in one of the world’s fastest growing winter sports.

2 Before the modern version of a snowboard was perfected, a man named Sherman Poppen developed a board for riding on snow. He called his invention a Snurfer, which is a combination of “snow” and “surfer.” Poppen’s board had a rope sticking out its front, which you used to steer. Snurfers were popular for a few years,

but their popularity declined completely.

Skateboarding is a popular sport. 3
Many skateboarders are snowboarders. In fact, one of the inventors of the snowboard was Tom Sims, a skateboarder who missed his sport through the long winters in New Jersey. The other inventor of the snowboard was a surfer named Jake Burton. Before the two men began working together, Burton was trying to make a better Snurfer. After they joined forces, Sims and Burton produced the first snowboard, and at the same time they invented a new sport.

There are two kinds of snowboards: 4
freestyle and alpine. The kind of board you use depends on the type of

snowboarding you want to do. When freestyle snowboarding you will spend a lot of time at the half-pipe, which is an area on the ski hill specifically for snowboarders. The half-pipe is a down-hill run with snow walls on either side on which boarders can do tricks and aerials. Freestyling involves jumping, twisting, turning, getting high in the air, and more than a little showing off. To be a freestyler you have to be prepared to get some bumps and bruises.

- 5 An alpine snowboard is designed for going down the mountain, like a skier does. With an alpine board you take the chairlift to the top of a mountain and then you slide down. As you board down the hill, you do turns back and forth across the slope. Alpine snowboarders can also compete in slalom races, which are fast downhill races on a course marked by gates or poles stuck in the snow. It will not be a surprise if snowboard racing becomes an Olympic sport in the near future. Doing alpine snowboarding you have

to expect to fall, but the bumps and bruises may not be as big as those of the freestylers.

Part of the snowboard culture has to do with clothing. You have to have the right clothes to look “cool” on the slopes. Fashionable boarders wear baggy clothes. Faded colors seem to be more popular, but some boarders prefer bright colors and neon. Even a snowboarder’s board can be a fashion statement and a reflection of the person’s personality. This is possible because many differently painted boards are available.

It took a few years, but eventually most skiers have gotten over their fear of snowboarders. Skiers have realized that snowboarders do not present a danger on the slopes and that snowboards do not tear up the slopes and ruin the skiing conditions. Another thing that skiers have certainly realized is that you have to call snowboarders one thing: “radical!”

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Snowboarding. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The anger skiers have for snowboarders.
- b) The sport of snowboarding.
- c) The two kinds of snowboards.
- d) How snowboarding fashions developed.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What did Sherman Poppen do?

2) What are the names of the two inventors of the snowboard?

3) What kinds of moves would you be expected to make if you were doing some freestyle snowboarding?

4) What were some of the worries that made skiers not want to allow snowboarders on the ski slopes?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Snowboarders have always been welcome at ski resorts.

2) The kind of board you use depends on the type of snowboarding you want to do.

3) An alpine snowboard is designed for use in the half-pipe.

4) Most snowboarders wear bright colors and neon.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Freestylers get more bumps and bruises because...
 - a) they stay at the half-pipe.
 - b) they jump more; so, they fall more.
 - c) alpine boarders are mostly interested in racing.
 - d) their boards are poorly designed.

- 2) Snowboard racing could be made an Olympic sport because...
 - a) even skiers feel it should be.
 - b) Sims and Burton have promoted the sport so well.
 - c) there are not enough good winter sports.
 - d) it is gaining in popularity and it is a legitimate sport.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Have you ever been snowboarding? Freestyle or alpine? Or downhill skiing? Did you enjoy it? Which do you think is more dangerous, skiing or snowboarding?

- 2) Which winter sports have you played? Which is your favorite? Your least favorite? Why?

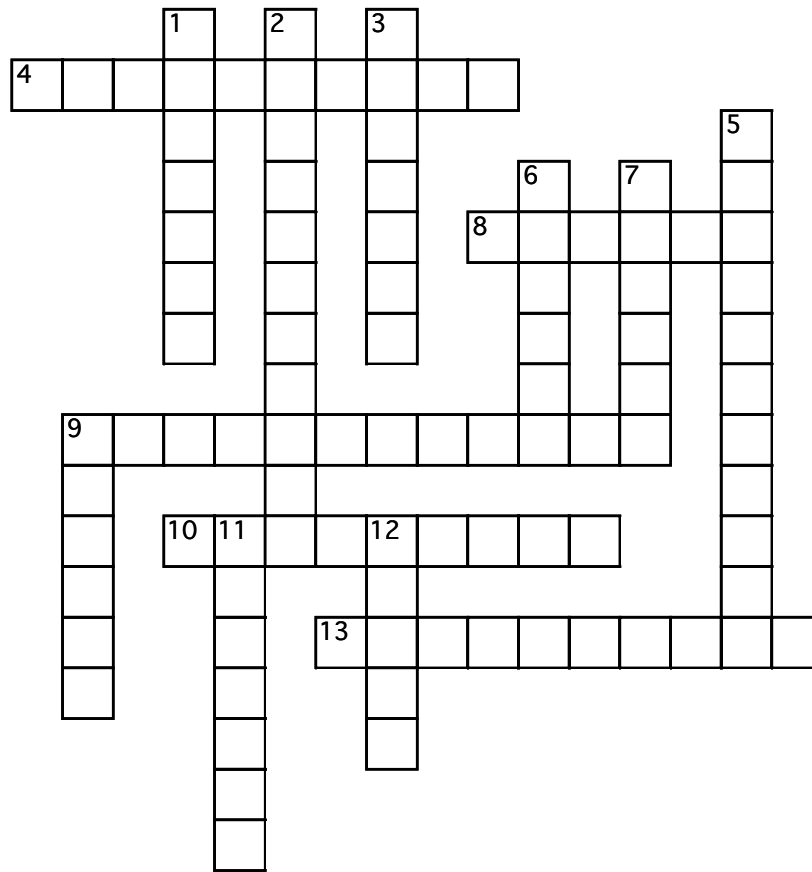
- 3) A snowboard can reflect its owner's personality. If you had a snowboard, how would it be painted? Draw your own personalized snowboard. Explain to your classmates how your snowboard reflects your personality.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1) "happening" | a) outdated | b) groovy | c) faded |
| 2) declined | a) gained momentum | b) rebounded | c) fell |
| 3) aerials | a) maneuvers in air | b) showing off | c) injuries |
| 4) baggy | a) loose fitting | b) tight fitting | c) old |
| 5) ruin | a) melt | b) destroy | c) neglect |
| 6) "radical" | a) extreme | b) easygoing | c) cuddly |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 4) Snurfers were popular for a few years, but their _____ declined completely.
- 8) Alpine snowboarders can also compete in _____ races.
- 9) _____ are the new kids on the block.
- 10) When _____ snowboarding you will spend a lot of time at the half-pipe.
- 13) Skiers have realized that snowboards do not ruin the skiing _____.

DOWN:

- 1) Part of the snowboard _____ has to do with clothing.
- 2) _____ boarders wear baggy clothes.
- 3) Tom Sims missed his sport through the long _____ in New Jersey.
- 5) The word Snurfer is a _____ of “snow” and “surfer.”
- 6) There are two kinds of snowboards: freestyle and _____.
- 7) Skiers have realized that snowboarders do not present a danger on the _____.
- 9) One of the two inventors of the snowboard was a _____ named Jake Burton.
- 11) Not so long ago snowboarding was banned at many ski _____.
- 12) It will not be a surprise if snowboard racing becomes an Olympic _____.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) The sport of snowboarding.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Sherman Poppen invented the Snurfer, which was a board with a rope sticking out of the front. The rope was used to steer the board.
- 2) The inventors of the snowboard are Tom Sims and Jake Burton.
- 3) If you are freestyle snowboarding you will spend a lot of time at the half-pipe. Freestyling involves jumping, twisting, turning, getting high in the air and more than a little showing off. To be a freestyler you have to be prepared to get some bumps and bruises.
- 4) Skiers were worried that snowboarders would present a danger on the slopes and that snowboards would tear up the slopes and ruin the skiing conditions.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Not so long ago snowboarding was banned at many ski resorts.
- 2) T
- 3) F An alpine snowboard is designed for going down the mountain, like a skier does.
- 4) F Faded colors seem to be more popular with snowboarders.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) d

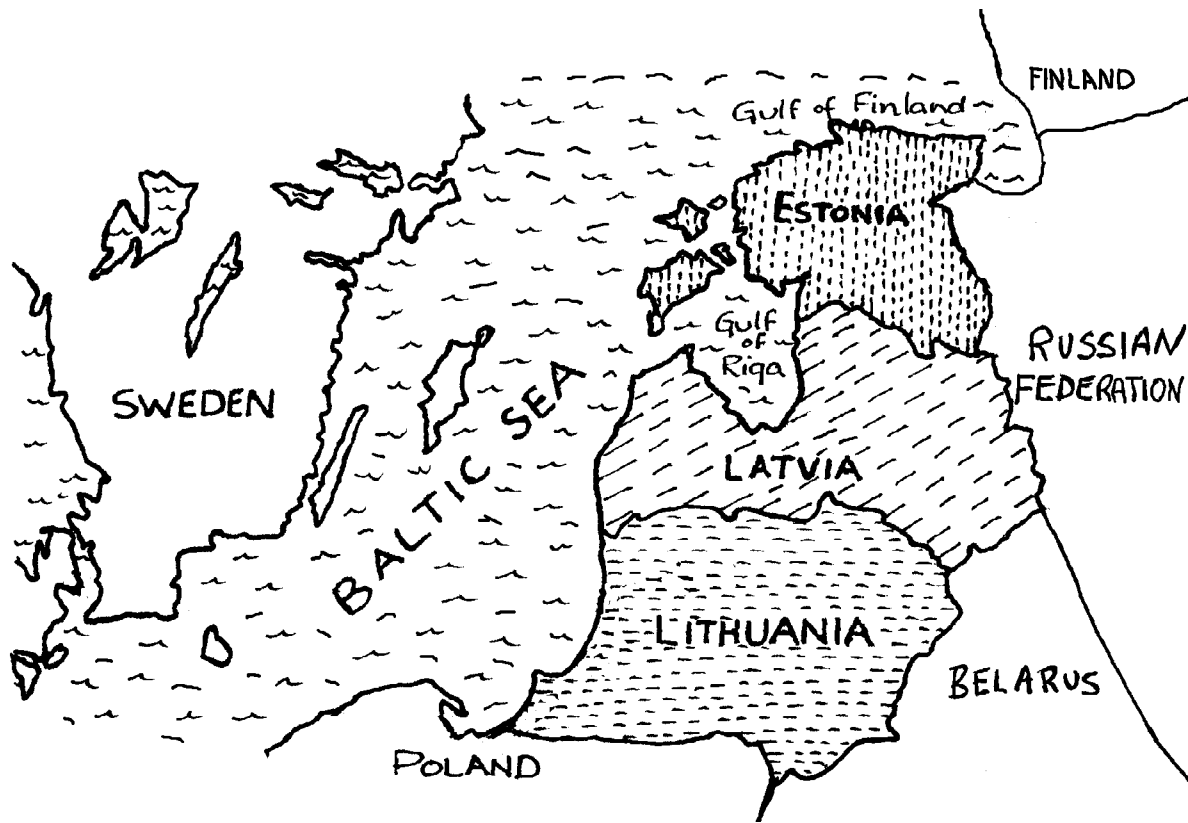
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) c
- 3) a
- 4) a
- 5) b
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 4) popularity 8) slalom 9) snowboarders 10) freestyle 13) conditions

DOWN: 1) culture 2) fashionable 3) winters 5) combination 6) alpine 7) slopes 9) surfer 11) resorts
12) sport



Baltic States

1 After he came to power in 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev introduced reforms which were meant to give the people of the Soviet Union new rights and create a more open society. Instead of doing what Gorbachev wanted them to do, which was keep the Soviet Union united, these new liberties gave nationalists in the various republics of the Soviet Union the freedom to form independence movements. For example, it happened in the three Baltic states: Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. And when independence was finally achieved in the Baltic states, it was the first time in almost 50 years that the tiny nations had ruled themselves.

2 The three small countries that make up the Baltic states are situated around the geographic center of Europe.

These countries are located on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea between Poland and the Gulf of Finland. Belarus and the Russian Federation are the Baltic states' other neighbors.

It was Lithuania that led the way towards self-rule for the Baltic states. One reason why things moved quicker in Lithuania is because it had the fewest Russian immigrants inside its republic, with less than 10% of its almost 4 million residents being Russian. Estonia and Latvia were closer to 30% Russian. And, of course, much of the Russian population in the Baltic states was against cutting ties to the Soviet Union.

In May of 1989 Lithuania's parliament stopped taking orders from

3

4

Moscow. New laws were passed. Freedom of the press and freedom of religion became law, and Lithuanian was restored as the official language. The parliament also pledged to gain Lithuania's independence from the Soviet Union. Shortly afterwards, similar measures were passed in Latvia and Estonia.

5 In February of 1990 a political party with a pro-independence platform won the Lithuanian elections with over 90% of its candidates elected. With somewhat smaller majorities, similar nationalist parties were voted into power in the other two Baltic states. And on March 11, Lithuania became a nation again after passing a law severing its ties to the Soviet Union.

6 In an attempt to force the Lithuanians to back down, the Soviet Union stopped the flow of essential goods into that country. The Soviet plan worked. At the end of June the Lithuanian parliament agreed to suspend independence for 100 days and enter into talks with the Soviet leaders. But the independence movement in Lithuania, and in the

other Baltic states, would not be stopped.

In January 1991, Soviet troops entered the Baltic states. Their job was to put an end to the tiny republics' thoughts of freedom. On January 11, almost ten thousand Lithuanians surrounded their parliament building to prevent the soldiers from entering; fifteen were killed. At that point things looked grim because nobody knew how many people might eventually die for this cause.

It was not until events unfolded in the Soviet Union that the fate of the Baltic states was finally determined. After an attempt by hard-line communists to overthrow Gorbachev failed in August of 1991, Gorbachev disbanded the Communist party. Then the various republics which made up the Soviet Union began declaring their independence. The Soviet Union ceased to exist. On September 6, 1991 the Baltic states, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, were granted their independence and once again their people were free to rule themselves.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about the Baltic States. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The importance of the geographic location of the Baltic states.
- b) The path to independence followed by the Baltic states.
- c) Mikhail Gorbachev's role in independence for the Baltic states.
- d) The effect of Russian immigration on the pro-independence movement.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What result was Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev trying to achieve when he introduced reforms in 1985?

2) Where are the Baltic states located?

3) What did Lithuania's parliament do in May of 1989?

4) What happened on September 6, 1991?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) In Mikhail Gorbachev's mind, the reforms he introduced were a success.

2) The Baltic states are located in southwestern Europe.

3) Lithuania led the way towards self-rule for the Baltic states.

4) Events in the Baltic states determined their fate.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) From the text we can infer that...
 - a) several thousand people lost their lives in the struggle for independence.
 - b) Gorbachev quit politics because of the events on January 11, 1991.
 - c) the Soviet Union fell apart because of Lithuania.
 - d) Russians living in the Baltic states were not well accepted by natives of those countries.

- 2) The election victories of the pro-independence parties in Estonia and Latvia were probably by a smaller percentage than in Lithuania because...
 - a) Estonians and Latvians were not as committed to independence.
 - b) Gorbachev was more popular in Estonia and Latvia.
 - c) their populations had a higher percentage of Russians.
 - d) the Lithuanians came up with the idea; so, it was more popular there.

INTERPRETATION

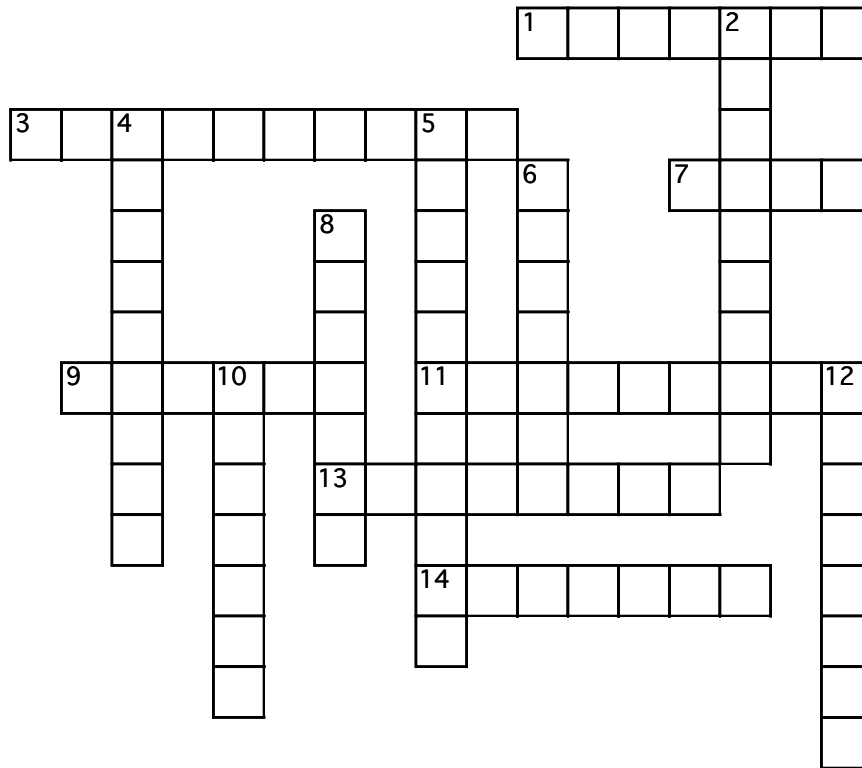
- 1) How do you feel about the collapse of the Soviet Union? How does it affect the world's political climate? Is it a good thing? Or a bad thing? Discuss.
- 2) Before they actually declared their independence, what do you think freedom-loving people in the Baltic states could have done to assert their rights?
- 3) What do you think life will be like in former Soviet Union countries in 20 years? In 50 years? Discuss.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1) liberties | a) responsibilities | b) freedoms | c) guarantees |
| 2) pledged | a) refused | b) argued | c) promised |
| 3) severing | a) mending | b) cutting | c) drawing |
| 4) essential | a) necessary | b) luxury | c) expendable |
| 5) suspend | a) delay | b) renounce | c) discuss |
| 6) disbanded | a) broke up | b) convened | c) quit |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) It was the first time in almost 50 years that the tiny _____ ruled themselves.
- 3) They surrounded their _____ building to prevent the troops from entering.
- 7) Once again their people were _____ to rule themselves.
- 9) The Soviet Union _____ to exist.
- 11) Belarus and the Russian Federation are two of the Baltic states' _____.
- 13) Freedom of the press and freedom of _____ became law.
- 14) The independence movement in the Baltic states would not be _____.

DOWN:

- 2) Hard-line communists attempted to _____ Gorbachev.
- 4) Less than 10% of Lithuania's almost 4 million _____ are Russian.
- 5) _____ parties were voted into power in all three Baltic states.
- 6) The Russian population was against _____ ties to the Soviet Union.
- 8) The Lithuanian parliament agreed to enter into talks with the Soviet _____.
- 10) The reforms were meant to create a more open _____.
- 12) The Baltic states are _____ around the geographic center of Europe.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) The path to independence followed by the Baltic states.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) To keep the Soviet Union united was the result Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev was trying to achieve when in 1985 he introduced reforms.
- 2) The three small countries that make up the Baltic states are situated around the geographic center of Europe. These countries are located on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea between Poland and the Gulf of Finland. Belarus and the Russian Federation are the Baltic states' other neighbors.
- 3) In May of 1989 Lithuania's parliament stopped taking orders from Moscow. New laws were passed. Freedom of the press and freedom of religion became law, and Lithuanian was restored as the official language. The parliament also pledged to gain Lithuania's independence from the Soviet Union.
- 4) On September 6, 1991 the Baltic states, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, were granted their independence and once again their people were free to rule themselves.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F In Mikhail Gorbachev's mind, the reforms he introduced were not a success because they made it possible for nationalist movements to rise in the various republics.
- 2) F The Baltic states are located at the geographic center of Europe; therefore, they are neither in the south nor in the west of Europe: they are in the center.
- 3) T
- 4) F It was events in the Soviet Union that determined the fate of the Baltic states.

INFERENCES

- 1) d
- 2) c

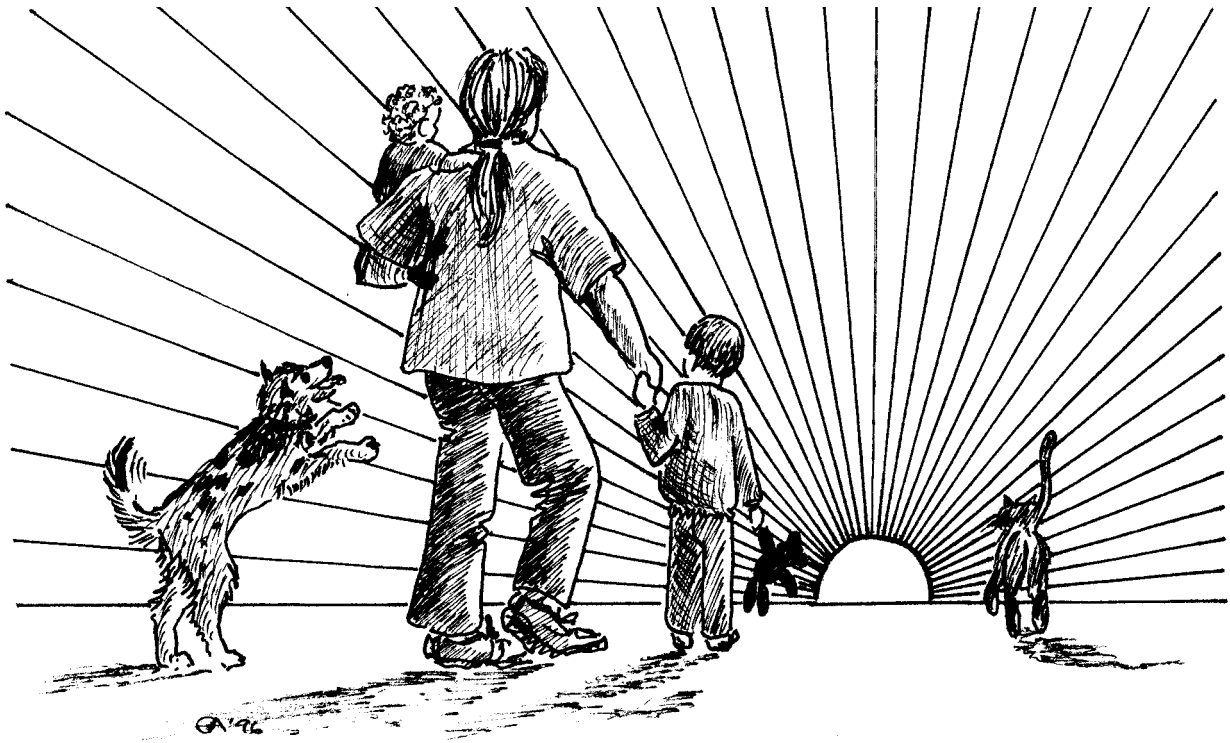
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) c
- 3) b
- 4) a
- 5) a
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) nations 3) parliament 7) free 9) ceased 11) neighbors 13) religion 14) stopped

DOWN: 2) overthrow 4) residents 5) nationalist 6) cutting 8) leaders 10) society 12) situated



Single-Parent Families

- 1 Family life is the cornerstone of society. In modern times, new cultural patterns are changing family life. One such phenomena is the growing number of single-parent families. Bringing up children is difficult at the best of times, but single parents face a host of new challenges.
- 2 In North America in the 1990s, almost half of the marriages will end in divorce, and one child in every two will at some point live in a one-parent household. This is a huge shift away from what has been considered the “traditional” family: both parents together, sharing in raising the children. By the early 1990s almost 30% of all children in the United States were living in single-parent families. In Canada, it was almost 20%. In both

countries over 80 percent of single-parent families were headed by women, which includes women who were never married.

Many single mothers’ lives are filled 3 with hardships. A high percentage of single mothers and their children live below the poverty line, and many are forced to receive welfare payments. Along with the economic difficulties comes the strain of raising a child alone; the emotional stress from loneliness and isolation; the prejudice she may face because she is a single mom; and, in some cases, the harassment or abuse she may suffer from her former mate. Generally speaking, a single mother’s life is not easy. And teenage single mothers are the most vulnerable.

4 The biggest victims of the negative aspects of single-parent families are the children. As stated above, many children of single parents live in poverty. But a lack of money is not the only way that these kids can be disadvantaged. A child can suffer emotionally when a family breakdown occurs, because the child loses one of the people he or she relied upon for love, affection and emotional security. A child also relies on parents for socialization skills. It is an important function of the family to care, protect and nurture its young and teach its members a code of ethics. Some social scientists blame many of the most pressing social problems on the collapse of the family unit, although others do not agree.

5 There are community support groups and programs to help single-parent families. In some schools, children receive counseling to help them adjust to single-parent living. There are government agencies to provide parents with advice on daily child care,

successful time management, how to communicate effectively with their children, and strategies for coping with life as a single parent. Other non-profit organizations, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Parents Without Partners and Divorce Anonymous operate across North America.

Many single mothers and fathers are 6 outstanding parents, and will be successful in raising their children into happy, responsible adults. It seems, however, that the job is a lot easier when there are two people dividing the work and providing each other with mutual support.

The structure of the family is 7 changing. People today are witnessing a social change that could be as monumental as the Industrial Revolution. It remains to be seen how society will evolve as the children of single parents grow up and become the movers and shakers in our communities.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Single-Parent Families. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The future of single-parent families.
- b) The increasing number of single-parent families.
- c) Problems and successes with single-parent families.
- d) Children from single-parent families.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) In North America starting in the 1990s, what percentage of single-parent families were headed by women?

2) What are some of the reasons why many single mothers' lives are filled with hardships?

3) What do some social scientists blame for many of today's most pressing social problems?

4) Do we know how society will evolve when the children of single-parent families lead our communities?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) In the 1990s there has been a huge shift back to "traditional" families.

2) There are no government agencies to help single-parent families.

3) It is easier to raise a child as a single parent, rather than with a partner.

4) People today are witnessing a social change that could be as monumental as the Industrial Revolution.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) When the author writes that single mothers are “forced” to receive welfare payments, it means that...
 - a) the government forces them to receive welfare.
 - b) their financial situation is so bad that they are forced to receive welfare.
 - c) child welfare agencies encourage single mothers to receive welfare.
 - d) those mothers are working for the government.

- 2) Support for single parents is important because...
 - a) so far there is almost no help available.
 - b) many single parents are women.
 - c) these parents have to do everything alone.
 - d) single parents are usually lonely and isolated.

INTERPRETATION

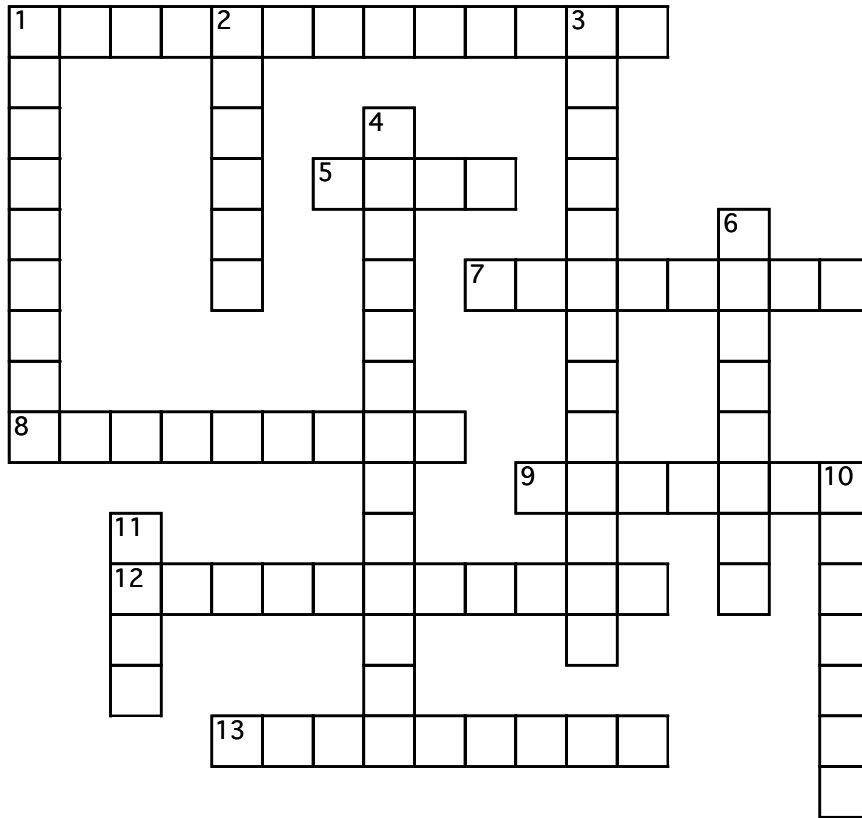
- 1) What do you believe are the greatest challenges for a single parent?
- 2) How do you think single moms’ way of parenting might differ from single dads’?
- 3) Do you predict that the number of single-parent families will stay the same in the future? Increase? Decrease? Why?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1) cornerstone | a) step | b) foundation | c) edge |
| 2) headed | a) run | b) denied | c) courted |
| 3) vulnerable | a) thick-skinned | b) moveable | c) defenseless |
| 4) ethics | a) divinity | b) morality | c) prosperity |
| 5) coping | a) managing | b) improving | c) promoting |
| 6) monumental | a) historic | b) final | c) lengthy |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) A child relies on his parents for _____ skills.
- 5) A high percentage of single mothers and their kids live below the poverty _____.
- 7) _____ up children is difficult at the best of times.
- 8) Many single mothers suffer _____ stress from loneliness and isolation.
- 9) The biggest _____ of single-parent families are the children.
- 12) Many single mothers and fathers are _____ parents.
- 13) Many single mothers' lives are filled with _____.

DOWN:

- 1) The _____ of the family is changing.
- 2) Some children receive counseling to help them _____ to single-parent living.
- 3) There are several non-profit _____ that operate across North America.
- 4) A lack of money is not the only way that these kids can be _____.
- 6) The job is a lot easier when there are two people _____ the work.
- 10) Family life is the cornerstone of _____.
- 11) Single parents face a _____ of new challenges.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

c) Problems and successes with single-parent families.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) In North America over 80 percent of single parent families were headed by women, which includes women who were never married.
- 2) Many single mothers' lives are filled with hardships because a high percentage of single mothers and their children live below the poverty line. Along with the economic difficulties comes the strain of raising a child alone; the emotional stress from loneliness and isolation; the prejudice she may face because she is a single mom; and, in some cases, the harassment or abuse she may suffer from her former mate.
- 3) Some social scientists blame many of the most pressing social problems on the collapse of the family unit.
- 4) It remains to be seen how society will evolve as the children of single parents grow up and become the movers and shakers in our communities.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F In the 1990s there has been a huge shift away from what has been considered the "traditional" family.
- 2) F There are government agencies to provide parents with advice on daily child care, successful time management, how to communicate effectively with their children, and strategies for coping with life as a single parent.
- 3) F It seems that raising children is a lot easier when there are two people dividing the work and providing each other with mutual support.
- 4) T

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) c

WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) a
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) socialization 5) line 7) bringing 8) emotional 9) victims 12) outstanding 13) hardships

DOWN: 1) structure 2) adjust 3) organizations 4) disadvantaged 6) dividing 10) society 11) host



United Nations

1 Early in World War II the United States and Britain held talks to discuss the creation of an organization whose function would be to promote world peace. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is credited with naming the organization the United Nations (UN). Originally, the two nations were joined by 24 other countries who were on their side in World War II. After the war several conferences were held to hammer out a charter for this new world body. In San Francisco in 1945 the United Nations Charter was formally adopted by 50 nations. Today there are 185 members of the United Nations.

2 The Charter established the six principal organs of the United Nations. These are the Security Council, the

General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and the Secretariat. The UN Charter outlined the powers and responsibilities of each of its bodies.

3 Today the Security Council has fifteen members. Five of these--the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France--are permanent members. Each of these countries has the equivalent of veto power when the Council decides on important matters. The ten other members are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The Security Council's mandate is to try to maintain world peace, and to take necessary actions when peace is threatened. Other than sending peacekeepers, the Council may

instruct member countries to impose economic sanctions against a country and to sever diplomatic ties with that country.

4 All members of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the forum where discussions about world issues take place. From the smallest republic to the largest nation, each country has one vote; important issues require a two-thirds majority to pass. The General Assembly does not have the power to legislate or force offending member countries to obey measures voted on and accepted by the majority. Instead, the General Assembly can only make recommendations to those states. The General Assembly's proposals are not binding in international law.

5 The Secretariat is the civil service that runs all the organs and programs of the United Nations. Staff at the United Nations must take an oath pledging to

be loyal to the UN's objectives, which includes promising not to leak sensitive information to anyone. The Secretariat is run by the secretary general, who is the chief spokesperson for the entire United Nations.

The International Court of Justice is 6 headquartered in the Netherlands at The Hague. For a case to be heard at The Hague, both states involved must agree to the hearing. The court's job is to settle disputes between countries.

All around the world the Economic 7 and Social Council promotes ways of improving health, education, human rights, world economies and international cooperation, with peace as the final goal.

A trust territory is a place that the 8 UN has put under the authority of another country. The Trusteeship Council helps people in trust territories on their road back to self-government.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about the United Nations. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The goal of the United Nations.
- b) The Charter of the United Nations.
- c) The founding of the United Nations.
- d) A general description of the United Nations.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) Who is credited with naming the United Nations?

2) What are the six principal organs of the United Nations?

3) Which countries are permanent members of the Security Council?

4) What is a trust territory?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Only certain members of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly.

2) Staff at the United Nations must take an oath pledging to be loyal to the objectives of the UN.

3) The secretary general runs the Security Council.

4) Either party in a dispute can cause a case to be heard at The Hague.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Because the U.S. and Britain were discussing an organization dedicated to world peace during World War II, we can conclude that...
 - a) they thought the war was going to end soon.
 - b) they thought diplomacy could bring an end to the war.
 - c) they were thinking of a time of peace after the war.
 - d) they thought the war was going to last for a long time.

- 2) Staff at the UN must take an oath because...
 - a) they are all spokespersons for the UN.
 - b) the UN deals with highly confidential information.
 - c) many of them sit in on the General Assembly meetings.
 - d) everything the UN does must remain secret.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Do you think the United Nations serves a useful purpose? Why? Why not? Explain.

- 2) How do you think giving the five permanent members the equivalent of veto power has affected the operations of the Security Council, in the past and in modern times?

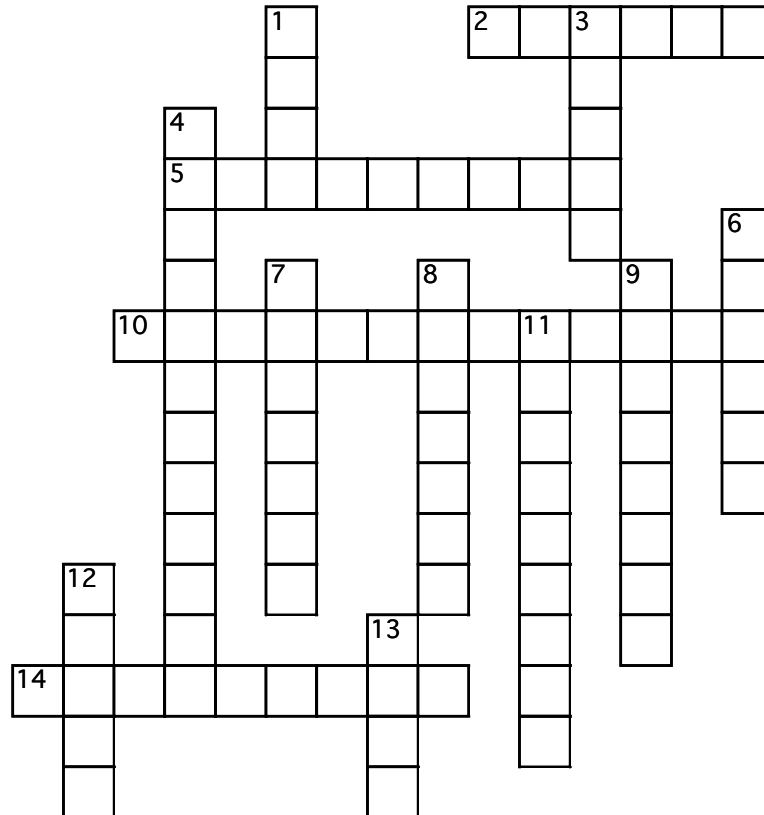
- 3) Do you think that the five permanent members of the Security Council should retain this status? Is it fair? Is it in keeping with the modern political landscape? Should some countries be added? Removed? Discuss.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1) hammer out | a) agree on | b) elevate | c) nominate |
| 2) permanent | a) paying | b) volatile | c) perpetual |
| 3) sanctions | a) supports | b) license | c) penalties |
| 4) sever | a) prune | b) cut | c) saw |
| 5) leak | a) write down | b) drip | c) reveal |
| 6) road | a) way | b) street | c) detour |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) The court's job is to _____ disputes between countries.
- 5) The General Assembly's _____ are not binding in international law.
- 10) The International Court is _____ in the Netherlands at The Hague.
- 14) The Charter established the six _____ organs of the United Nations.

DOWN:

- 1) The five permanent countries have the equivalent of _____ power.
- 3) It helps people in _____ territories on their road back to self-government.
- 4) The secretary general is the chief _____ for the entire United Nations.
- 6) The UN Charter outlined the powers and responsibilities of each of its _____.
- 7) The United Nations Charter was formally _____ by 50 nations.
- 8) The Security Council's _____ is to try to maintain world peace.
- 9) Franklin D. Roosevelt is _____ with naming the organization.
- 11) A trust _____ is a place that the UN has put under another country's authority.
- 12) It is the _____ where discussions about world issues take place.
- 13) Staff take an _____ pledging to be loyal to the UN's objectives.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) A general description of the United Nations.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is credited with naming the United Nations.
- 2) The six principal organs of the United Nations are the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, and the Secretariat.
- 3) The United States, Russia, China, Britain and France are permanent members of the Security Council.
- 4) A trust territory is a place that the UN has put under the authority of another country.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F All members of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly.
- 2) T
- 3) F The Secretariat is run by the secretary general
- 4) F For a case to be heard at The Hague, both states involved must agree to the hearing.

INFERENCES

- 1) c
- 2) b

WORD POWER

- 1) a
- 2) c
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) c
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) settle 5) proposals 10) headquartered 14) principal

DOWN: 1) veto 3) trust 4) spokesperson 6) bodies 7) adopted 8) mandate 9) credited 11) territory
12) forum 13) oath



Slang

1 Couch potato, bikini, fridge, movie and Internet...it is difficult to imagine that these words have anything in common, but they all do. These words all started out as slang. Every language has its standard version that makes up the contents of its dictionary. But languages also have slang words and expressions. Slang is an informal level of speech. Some slang does eventually make it into the dictionary, and some slang falls into disuse. Slang has always been a part of every society's language.

2 Slang usually relies on a play on words. Sometimes words can be given a new, unusual meaning, and other times new words are invented. Take for example the expression "couch potato." You may not find a definition

for it in your dictionary, but as you may know "couch potato" is a slang term for someone who sits around a lot, does not do much exercise and, perhaps, watches too much television.

3 Many linguists studying the English language believe that the concept of slang did not exist prior to the 17th century. Before that time rules for proper English grammar and diction did not exist, and as long as people understood each other any words they used were acceptable.

4 The roots of much present-day slang come from the language of special-interest groups. Groups such as computer enthusiasts, criminals, professional athletes, musicians, teenagers, artists and others have

coined many slang expressions. At first the slang terms are used only by insiders in the group, where this language usage represents a common bond of understanding among the members of the group. Eventually this specialized vocabulary, or “argot” begins being used by a wider public.

- 5 Since the mid-1980s the computer industry has created a great deal of new language. Words like, “cyberspace” (imaginary universe inside computers), “nerd” (person whose life revolves around computers), “Internet” (worldwide network of computers), and “information superhighway” (fictional road for computer messages) did not exist before computers became widely used by average citizens.
- 6 Many people complain about violence in the media. Much of this violence is seen in the depiction of crime stories in movies and on television. Such shows, and police dramas, are an excellent way to spread

the use of slang expressions of the criminal underworld. Almost everyone knows that a “hit man” is a hired assassin. “Turf” is gang talk for territory. “Heat” means the police. And “bread” means money.

The hippies and the drug counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s had a language of their own. You did not sleep somewhere, instead you “crashed” somewhere. To “blow one’s mind” was to experience an incredible “high” on mind-altering drugs. Even the words “grass” and “pot” are slang expressions.

In this fast-paced world we live in, languages are constantly changing. Much of the new language being created begins as slang. When it comes to its place of importance in the English language, slang officially ranks third behind standard and colloquial English. Slang may rank third on the status scale, but when it comes to adding color to the language, slang is number one!

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Slang. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) How computer and criminal slang began.
- b) The creative power of slang.
- c) Slang in different languages.
- d) The status of slang.

7

8

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What level of speech is slang?

2) What does “couch potato” mean?

3) Name some special-interest groups responsible for creating much slang.

4) Why is slang number one?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Slang has been a part of every society’s language.

2) Many linguists believe that people were concerned about slang long before the 17th century.

3) Television and movies do not contribute to the spread of slang.

4) Only a small portion of the new language that is always being created is slang.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Some of the more modern slang expressions cannot be found in the dictionary because...
 - a) slang usually relies on a play on words.
 - b) it takes a while for slang expressions to become accepted into dictionaries.
 - c) slang words often have a connection with crime.
 - d) slang has no exact meaning.

- 2) The language of special-interest groups seems to be created in order to...
 - a) confuse people who write dictionaries.
 - b) help the group gain acceptance by the general public.
 - c) show that the members of the group stick together.
 - d) prove that people in the group are creative.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) What are some of the slang terms in English that you like the most?...Or that you dislike the most?

- 2) Why do you think that some people think that slang is bad? Are they right? Explain.

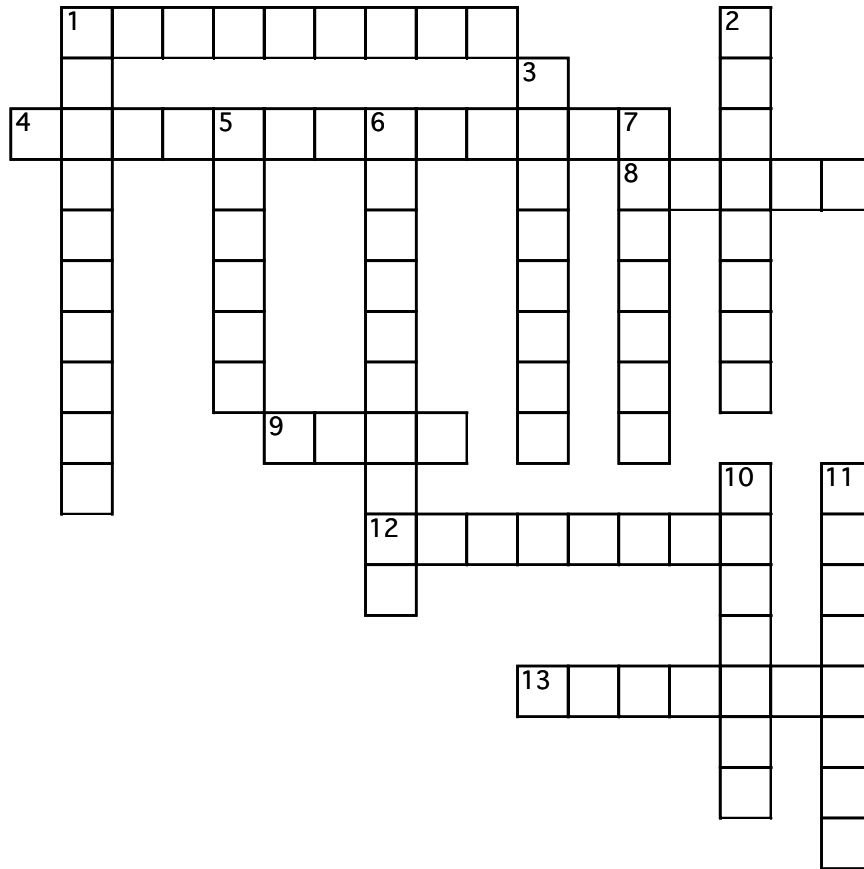
- 3) Invent one or two slang expressions for things that interest you. Tell them to your classmates, and see if they can guess what they are.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1) standard | a) important | b) accepted | c) well-known |
| 2) prior to | a) exactly in | b) around | c) earlier than |
| 3) coined | a) patented | b) invented | c) broadcast |
| 4) depiction | a) reruns | b) portrayal | c) network |
| 5) paced | a) moving | b) skipping | c) twirling |
| 6) status | a) prestige | b) admiration | c) infamy |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) The word “cyberspace” did not exist before _____ became widely used.
- 4) It represented a common bond of _____ among the members of the group.
- 8) The _____ of much slang come from the language of special-interest groups.
- 9) The computer industry has created a great _____ of new language.
- 12) Slang has always been a part of every society’s _____.
- 13) The _____ of the 1960s and 1970s had a language of their own.

DOWN:

- 1) Languages are _____ changing.
- 2) Slang is an _____ level of speech.
- 3) Many people complain about the _____ in the media.
- 5) Slang usually _____ on a play on words.
- 6) As long as people understood each other any words they used were _____.
- 7) Before the 17th century rules for proper English _____ and diction did not exist.
- 10) Every language has its standard _____, found in its dictionary.
- 11) Almost everyone knows that a “hit man” is a hired _____.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) The creative power of slang.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Slang is an informal level of speech. When it comes to its place of importance in the English language, slang officially ranks third behind standard and colloquial English.
- 2) “Couch potato” is a slang term for someone who sits around a lot, does not do much exercise and, perhaps, watches too much television.
- 3) Groups such as computer enthusiasts, criminals, professional athletes, musicians, teenagers, artists and others have coined many slang expressions.
- 4) Slang is number one because it adds so many colorful expressions to the language.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) T
- 2) F Many linguists studying the English language believe that the concept of slang did not exist prior to the 17th century.
- 3) F Crime shows and police dramas are an excellent way to spread the use of slang expressions of the criminal underworld.
- 4) F Much of the new language constantly being created begins as slang.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) c

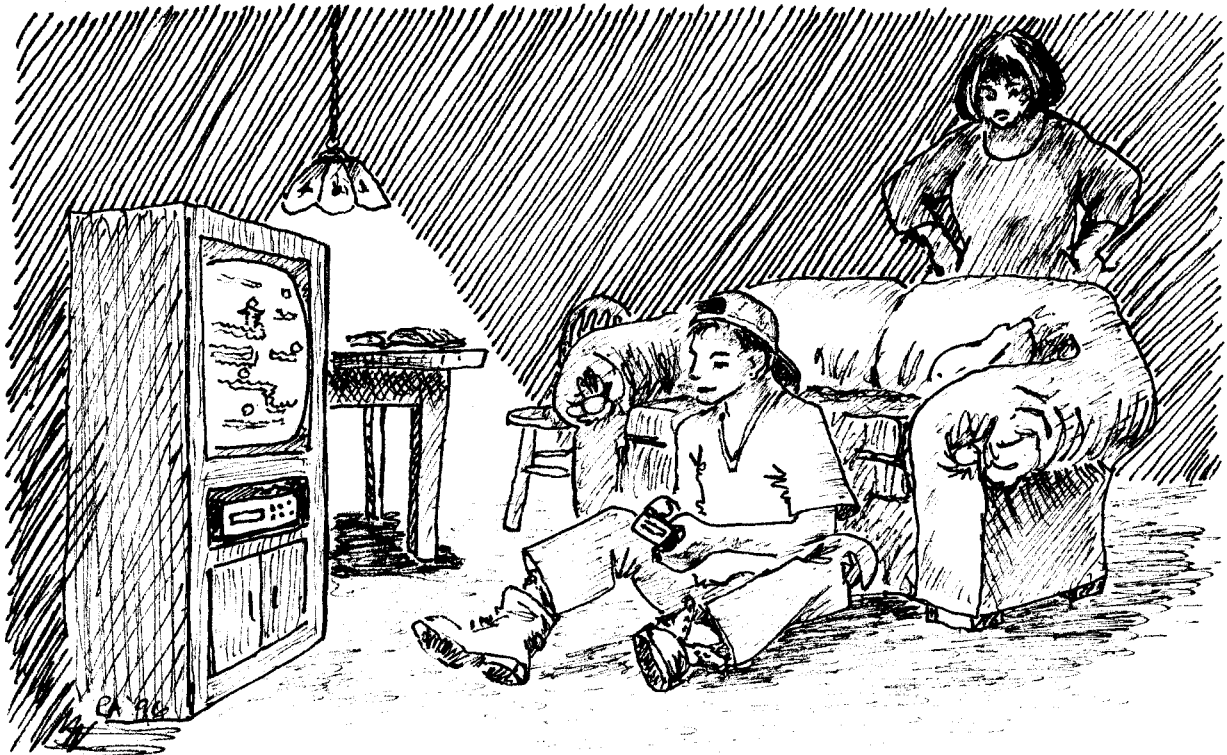
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) c
- 3) b
- 4) b
- 5) a
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) computers 4) understanding 8) roots 9) deal 12) language 13) hippies

DOWN: 1) constantly 2) informal 3) violence 5) relies 6) acceptable 7) grammar 10) version
11) assassin



Video Games

1 For those people old enough to remember, the introduction of the game *Pong* in the early 1970s was quite an event. *Pong* was the first video game to be mass marketed. The game was similar to ping pong. It was fun, but the graphics were primitive compared to today's games. By the early 1980s other games, such as *Space Invaders*, *Donkey Kong* and *Pac Man*, had been developed and a nearly 6 billion dollar a year industry had been created.

2 Suddenly video game arcades began popping up all across the United States and in other countries. In the early 1980s video game enthusiasts of every age could be found in arcades pumping quarters into machines. In fact, arcades became too popular with some

people: students were skipping classes to play video games, and workers were taking extra long lunch hours to feed their video game addictions. This prompted action. Many North American schools demanded that arcades be moved out of their vicinity. And in 1981 the President of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos, ordered the destruction of all video game machines in his country.

At the same time as the arcades were 3 doing a booming business, another new market for video games was showing explosive growth: video game machines and game cartridges for play at home.

But the boom turned to bust. By 4 the beginning of 1984, the number of

arcades open dropped by over twenty percent, and the largest maker of arcade machines, Bally Manufacturing Corporation, found its profits down by more than eighty percent. The sales of games and machines for use at home plunged as well.

5 The two things which probably contributed most to the mid-1980s decline of the video game industry were home computers and boredom. Home computers were becoming more affordable, and they could do many other things as well as play video games. And people were bored with playing the same games over and over; people lost interest.

6 In the late 1980s the introduction of the technologically advanced Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) revived the industry. The NES was a sophisticated machine with vastly improved graphics. With NES players could choose from over 100 different game cartridges, including popular games like *Mario Bros.*

The graphics on the Nintendo machine were run by 16-bit technology, which means each microchip inside the game contained 16,000 bits, or pieces, of information. Another company, Sega, entered the market in the mid-1990s with a 32-bit home system that improved graphics to the point where they were almost movie quality. Today 64-bit game systems are on the market, and the future promises further advancements.

Playing video games can mean hours and hours of fun. Part of the attraction of many of the games is that you get to be the hero in exotic worlds and in fantastic situations. But not everyone sees video games as harmless entertainment. A number of people are concerned with the level of violence presented in several games. And many people worry about the fact that playing video games is highly addictive. Whether these fears are well founded or not, video games seem to be a permanent part of our increasingly computer-based society.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Video Games. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Arcade video games versus home-played video games.
- b) Controversy surrounding video games.
- c) The popularity of video games.
- d) Developments in video games.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) Which was the first video game to be mass marketed?

2) What did many North American schools demand, to try to prevent students from skipping classes to play video games?

3) What are the probable causes of the video game industry bust in the mid-1980s?

4) Why do a number of people not view video games as harmless entertainment?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) The graphics of *Pong* were superlative, even by today's standards.

2) Home video game units never caught on like the arcade games.

3) The introduction of the technologically advanced Nintendo Entertainment System revived the video game industry.

4) Video games seem to be a passing fad.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) When video games first started to be available, they...
 - a) caught on slowly but surely.
 - b) quickly became extremely popular.
 - c) were truly successful only in America.
 - d) relied on extremely high-quality graphics.

- 2) The continuing appeal of video games seems at this time to depend especially on...
 - a) the creativity of game writers.
 - b) new technology.
 - c) addictive behavior.
 - d) players who take time off from work or school.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) What is your favorite video game? What is good about that particular game? Do you play on equipment in your own home? At an arcade? At a friend's house?

- 2) Is it true that video games can be addictive? What problems could such an addiction cause? Can you give examples of this effect in real life? What is the solution to this problem?

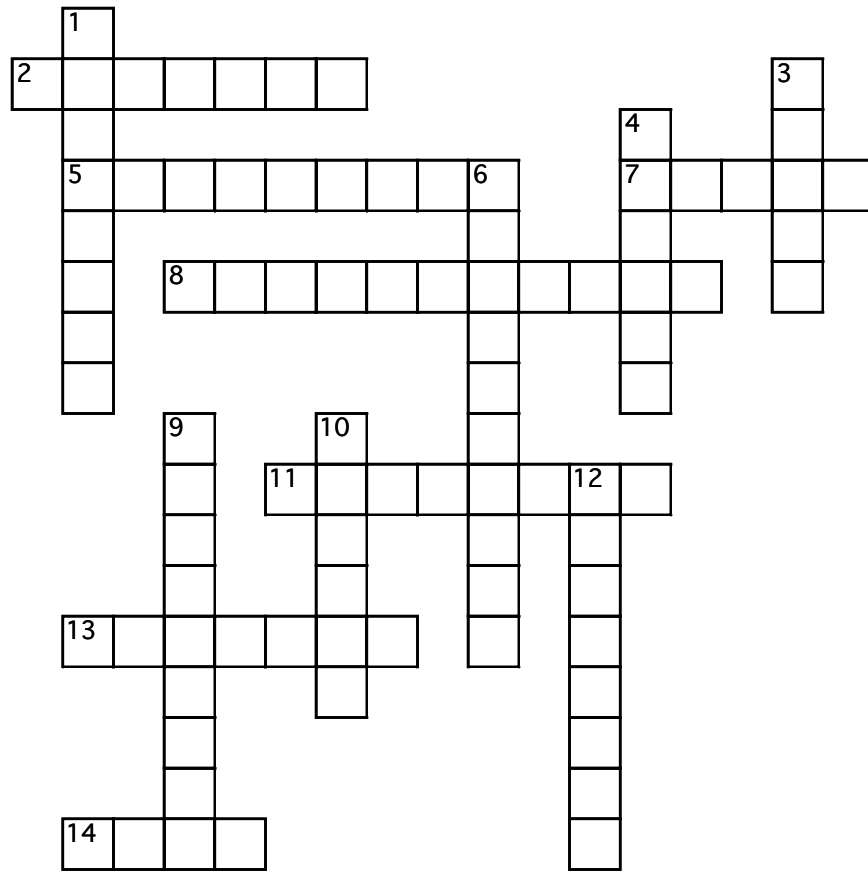
- 3) If you were going to create an educational video game, which all parents and all schools would approve, how would you design it? How would you make sure that kids wanted to play it?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1) primitive | a) glaring | b) expansive | c) crude |
| 2) vicinity | a) building | b) property | c) neighborhood |
| 3) boom | a) prosperity | b) pole | c) enjoyment |
| 4) bust | a) poverty | b) carnage | c) economic crash |
| 5) advanced | a) ahead | b) clever | c) interesting |
| 6) exotic | a) colorful | b) unusual | c) tame |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) Arcades became too _____ with some people.
- 5) Video games seem to be a _____ part of our computer-based society.
- 7) Playing video games can mean _____ and hours of fun.
- 8) Ferdinand Marcos ordered the _____ of all video game machines in his country.
- 11) Not everyone sees video games as _____ entertainment.
- 13) The sales of games and machines for use at home _____.
- 14) *Pong* was the first video game to be _____ marketed.

DOWN:

- 1) *Pong* was fun, but the graphics were primitive _____ to today's games.
- 3) People were _____ with playing the same games over and over.
- 4) With NES players could _____ from over 100 different game cartridges.
- 6) The graphics on the Nintendo machine were run by 16-bit _____.
- 9) Home _____ could do many other things as well as play video games.
- 10) Today 64-bit game systems are on the _____.
- 12) Students were _____ classes to play video games.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) Developments in video games.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The first video game to be mass marketed was *Pong*.
- 2) Many North American schools demanded that arcades not be located in the vicinity of schools to try to prevent students from skipping classes to play video games.
- 3) The affordability and versatility of home computers and boredom are probable causes for the video game industry bust of the mid-1980s.
- 4) A number of people do not view video games as harmless entertainment because the games are highly addictive and because several games present a great degree of violence.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F The graphics of *Pong* were primitive by today's standards.
- 2) F Home video games were very popular and sold extremely well.
- 3) T
- 4) F Video games seem to be a permanent part of our increasingly computer-based society.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) b

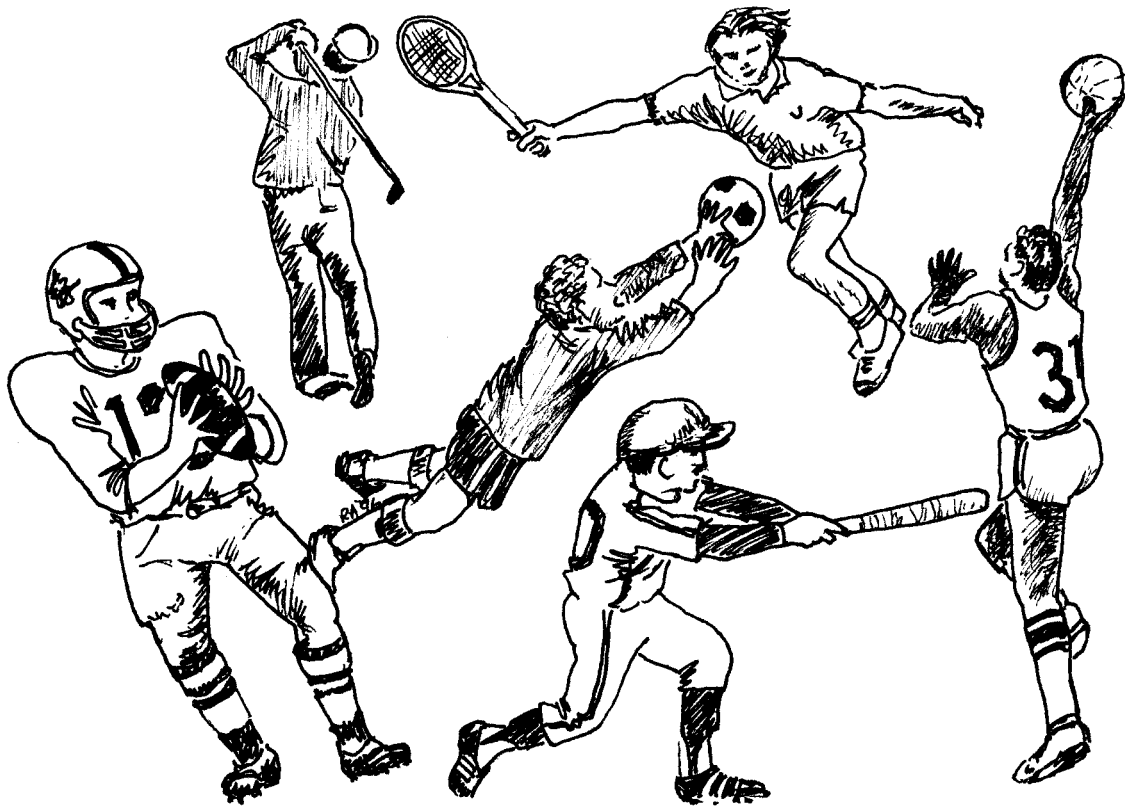
WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) c
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) a
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) popular 5) permanent 7) hours 8) destruction 11) harmless 13) plunged 14) mass

DOWN: 1) compared 3) bored 4) choose 6) technology 9) computers 10) market 12) skipping



Pro Athletes Today

- 1 How are professional athletes viewed by today's society? When we look at it closely, we see that sports fans have a rather uncertain relationship with pro athletes. Although pro athletes are seen as role models by millions of young people, many adults do not feel that pro athletes deserve that honor.
- 2 The impact of television on professional sports has been phenomenal. Because of television the audience for sports has grown immensely. Star players in the major sports are big celebrities. Their status in the public's mind rivals a movie star's status. And star athletes are paid accordingly. The average annual salary in the National Hockey League is over \$700 thousand, and in the National Basketball Association it is

over \$2.5 million.

A big part of adult fan resentment towards professional athletes stems from money. First and foremost on disgruntled fans' minds is that players seem to take the fans for granted. Players are thought of as being greedy and having a "me first" attitude. Here are some examples of things players have done to irk the fans: individual players have refused to play in games until they were paid more money; entire leagues have gone on strike, with money always as a key issue--this while the average citizen makes \$25 thousand a year; players' escalating salaries are blamed for continually rising ticket prices, which make it difficult or impossible for many people to attend games in person; fans believe

3

players today have no team loyalty: when a contract expires the player leaves to play in another city for the highest bidding owner. For the most part fans feel betrayed by these actions, especially because fans feel they--those of them who can still afford it--pay the players' salaries by buying tickets to the games.

4 Another reason professional athletes are not seen as good role models by many North American adults is because of the actions of a few players. With the media attention being paid to sports these days, if an athlete steps outside the law, the world will know about it in a matter of minutes. There definitely are athletes who have given their sport a black eye. But in fairness to athletes, only a small percentage of their number get into trouble.

5 Which brings us to the question, why do so many young people choose professional athletes as role models? You may be surprised to learn that the number one reason young people give for choosing an athlete as a role model

is not because of the athlete's prowess on the playing field. In a survey, students claimed to admire athletes as role models because of their character and integrity, and because athletes are seen to be active in the community, by doing such things as working for charities and counseling students on drug abuse. Professional athletes are respected as unselfish leaders who care about others.

Who is right? Adults or young people? Adults do have a legitimate grievance that sometimes players act as if they are bigger than the game they play, and it is understandable how players' salaries can bring charges that players are greedy. But the average player's career is short; so, can they be blamed for trying to make as much money as possible? And owners are willing to pay. Moreover, most athletes in fact are good role models. The majority of professional athletes are hard-working and devoted to their families. Money matters and a few bad apples have given modern athletes a bad name that they do not deserve.

6

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about the Pro Athlete Today. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Money in professional sports.
- b) Why professional athletes should be considered good role models.
- c) The truth about professional athletes.
- d) The attitudes of young people and adults towards professional athletes.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What has been the impact of television on sports?

2) Give some examples of things concerning money that athletes have done to irk their fans.

3) Why do students claim to admire athletes as role models?

4) What is the truth about the majority of athletes?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Players' salaries have gone down because of the impact of television on sports.

2) Adults think of players as generous and as concerned for their fans.

3) Only a small percentage of athletes get into trouble.

4) Owners are unwilling to pay players high salaries.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) The relationship between fans and professional athletes can be called “uncertain” because...
 - a) only fans truly love the game.
 - b) there is such a difference in the amount of money each makes.
 - c) adults and young people feel differently about them.
 - d) some athletes get into trouble.

- 2) It is surprising that young people do not give an athlete’s prowess on the playing field as their number one reason for choosing them as role models because...
 - a) that is when the athletes are the most visible.
 - b) young people only see the athletes on television.
 - c) athletes are greedy.
 - d) adults feel differently about athletes.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) How do you feel about professional athletes? Do you think they make good role models? Discuss.

- 2) Do you enjoy watching pro sports? If so, which sports? Which teams? Which stars?

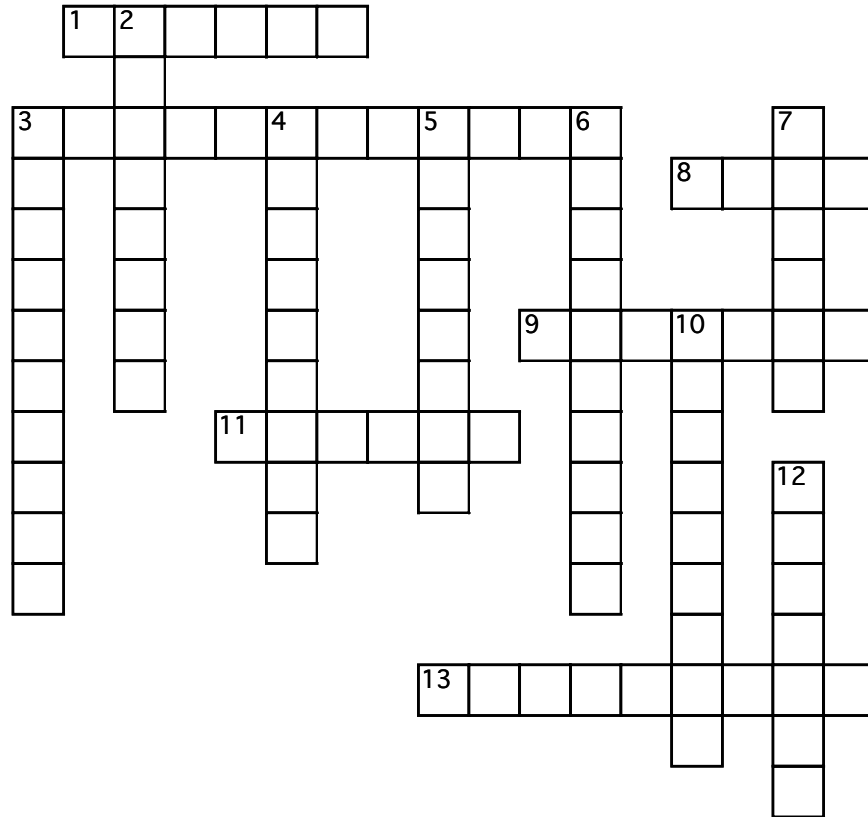
- 3) Compared to pro sports, what are the good or bad points of amateur sports?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) phenomenal | a) slight | b) unlimited | c) astonishing |
| 2) disgruntled | a) displeased | b) impoverished | c) crazed |
| 3) irk | a) pacify | b) delete | c) annoy |
| 4) black eye | a) bad image | b) scar | c) promotion |
| 5) prowess | a) skill | b) reserve | c) calm |
| 6) bad apples | a) heroes | b) hard bodies | c) wrongdoers |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) The _____ of television on professional sports has been phenomenal.
- 3) Sports fans today have a rather uncertain _____ with pro athletes.
- 8) In fact, most athletes are good _____ models.
- 9) Individual players have _____ to play until they were paid more money.
- 11) Sometimes players act as if they are _____ than the game they play.
- 13) Because of television the audience for sports has grown _____.

DOWN:

- 2) Pro athletes are seen as role models by _____ of young people.
- 3) A big part of adult fan _____ towards professional athletes stems from money.
- 4) Students admire athletes as role models because of their character and _____.
- 5) Fans feel they pay the players' _____ by buying tickets to the games.
- 6) Only a small _____ of athletes get into trouble.
- 7) Players' escalating salaries are _____ for continually rising ticket prices.
- 10) Professional athletes are respected as _____ leaders who care about others.
- 12) Fans believe players today have no team _____.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) The attitudes of young people and adults towards professional athletes.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The impact of television on professional sports has been phenomenal. Because of television the audience for sports has grown immensely. Star players in the major sports are big celebrities. Their status in the public's mind rivals a movie star's status. And star athletes are paid accordingly.
- 2) Here are some examples of things concerning money that players have done to irk the fans: individual players have refused to play in games until they were paid more money; entire leagues have gone on strike, with money always as a key issue; players' escalating salaries are blamed for continually rising ticket prices; and, when a contract expires a player leaves to play in another city for the highest bidding owner.
- 3) Students claim to admire athletes as role models because of their character and integrity, and because athletes are seen to be active in the community. Professional athletes are respected as unselfish leaders who care about others.
- 4) The majority of pro athletes are hard-working and are devoted to their families.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Television has made star players in the major sports into big celebrities. And star athletes are paid accordingly.
- 2) F Adults think of players as being greedy and having a "me first" attitude. Adults think the pro athletes take the fans for granted.
- 3) T
- 4) F Owners are willing to pay.

INFERENCES

- 1) c
- 2) a

WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) a
- 5) a
- 6) c

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) impact 3) relationship 8) role 9) refused 11) bigger 13) immensely

DOWN: 2) millions 3) resentment 4) integrity 5) salaries 6) percentage 7) blamed 10) unselfish
12) loyalty



Tobacco

1 Tobacco is native to the Americas, where it once grew wild, and in Native American cultures the smoking of tobacco has been traced back more than 2,000 years. It was only after Christopher Columbus and other Spanish explorers brought the leafy plant to Spain that tobacco became a product known in Europe. Cigars became a luxury item enjoyed by wealthy Europeans. Eventually, smoking spread around the globe.

2 Today tobacco is grown in more than 120 countries. China is the largest producer, followed by the United States, where it is that country's seventh largest cash crop. In an average year more than 7 million tons of tobacco is grown worldwide, which translates into over 3 1/2 trillion

cigarettes.

3 Tobacco is a tall plant, with large leaves. Seedlings are often started indoors because the plants are very delicate. Once transplanted outdoors, it takes tobacco plants about 4 months to be ready to be picked. After being harvested, various methods are used to cure the tobacco depending on the flavor desired by the buyer. And then the tobacco is ready to be made into cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco or chewing tobacco.

4 Until 1881, all cigarettes were made by hand. 1881 was the year an American, James Bonsack, invented a cigarette-making machine. The machine topped a long, narrow strip of cigarette paper with shredded tobacco

and then rolled it, pasted it closed, and cut it to the proper length for packaging. Bonsack's machine, coupled with improvements that made cigarettes easier to inhale, led to an increase in the number of cigarettes being made and smoked.

5 The most profound effect on how much people smoked in the United States, however, came from advertising. Before 1925, when the advertising and mass marketing of tobacco products began, the average American smoker smoked about 40 cigarettes a year. A heavy smoker by today's standards could smoke that many in a day. Advertisers succeeded by displaying an appealing image associated with smoking: men who smoked were shown to be tough and rugged, and women who smoked were shown to be elegant and glamorous.

6 By the early 1960s a growing concern over health issues related to tobacco smoking spawned an anti-smoking movement. In 1969 the U.S. government began to require health

warnings on cigarette packages. In different countries various measures to curb smoking have included banning the advertising of tobacco products and prohibiting smoking in public places. Between 1970 and 1990 cigarette consumption fell by almost 30 percent in the U.S., which left only 28% of the population as confessed smokers. While tobacco smoking is on the decline in the United States, tobacco consumption is on the increase in Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Russia.

Smoking is considered a health hazard ⁷ because tobacco contains several harmful substances. These include nicotine, carbon monoxide, ammonia and prussic acid. Diseases associated with smoking include various cancers, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and emphysema. Of course, the danger of becoming ill increases with the amount smoked. Studies have proved that passive smokers, people who do not smoke but are exposed to smoke from cigarettes, are at an increased risk of developing smoking-related illnesses.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Tobacco. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Health dangers associated with tobacco.
- b) How tobacco was introduced to Europe.
- c) The origin and development of the cigarette and of smoking.
- d) The evolution of the tobacco farming.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) How did tobacco reach Europe?

2) Why are tobacco seedlings often started indoors?

3) What had the most profound effect on the amount people smoked?

4) Is cigarette smoking becoming more or less popular in the United States?
What are the figures?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Christopher Columbus introduced tobacco to Native Americans.

2) Tobacco is the third largest cash crop in the United States.

3) In 1969 the U.S. government banned smoking in all public places.

4) Smoking is considered a health hazard because tobacco contains several harmful substances.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) We can infer from the passage that Christopher Columbus and the other explorers...
 - a) enjoyed smoking very much.
 - b) had some contact with Native Americans, who introduced them to tobacco.
 - c) knew that tobacco would immediately become popular in Europe.
 - d) thought that tobacco would grow well in Europe.

- 2) Based on the figures for tobacco consumption in the United States between 1970 and 1990, we can infer that...
 - a) the anti-smoking movement began to soften its position regarding smoking.
 - b) cigarettes again became a luxury item.
 - c) people no longer believed the cigarette advertisements.
 - d) efforts to reduce the amount of smoking were successful.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Do you smoke, or did you smoke at some earlier time? Why do people smoke?

- 2) Do you think it is reasonable to restrict smoking at work, in public buildings, or on public transport? What if any penalties should there be for people who allow their second-hand smoke to reach others?

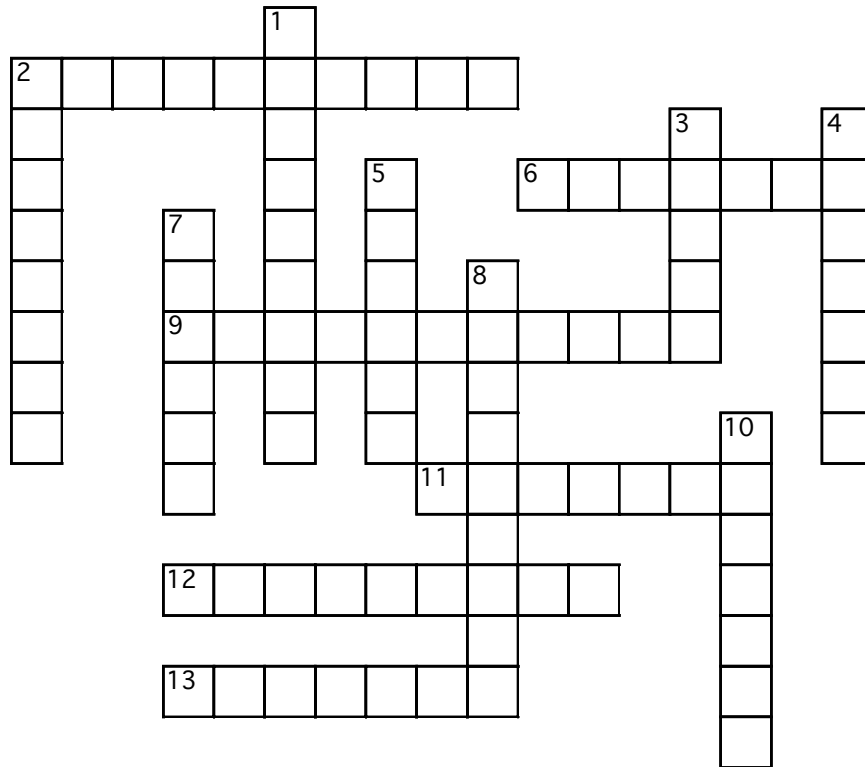
- 3) If a person wants to stop smoking, what is the best way to quit?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1) luxury | a) expensive | b) exotic | c) medicinal |
| 2) delicate | a) fragile | b) valuable | c) tiny |
| 3) cure | a) bleach | b) stretch | c) dry |
| 4) shredded | a) well cured | b) finely chopped | c) rolled up |
| 5) inhale | a) handle | b) breath in | c) afford |
| 6) confessed | a) admitted | b) unhealthy | c) enthusiastic |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) Until 1881, all _____ were made by hand.
- 6) Before 1925, the _____ American smoker smoked about 40 cigarettes a year.
- 9) Tobacco _____ is on the increase in some parts of the world.
- 11) Tobacco contains several _____ substances.
- 12) In an average year more than 7 million tons of tobacco is grown _____.
- 13) Some countries prohibit _____ in public places.

DOWN:

- 1) _____ are often started indoors because the plants are very delicate.
- 2) In Native American _____ smoking tobacco has been traced back many years.
- 3) Today tobacco is _____ in more than 120 countries.
- 4) Cigars became a luxury item enjoyed by _____ Europeans.
- 5) The danger of becoming ill increases with the _____ smoked.
- 7) It takes tobacco plants about 4 months to be ready to be _____.
- 8) Advertisers displayed an _____ image associated with smoking.
- 10) Women who smoked were shown to be _____ and glamorous.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

c) The origin and development of the cigarette and of smoking.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Tobacco reached Europe with Christopher Columbus and other Spanish explorers who brought it from the Americas.
- 2) Tobacco seedlings are often started indoors because they are so delicate.
- 3) Advertising had the most profound effect on the amount people smoked.
- 4) Cigarette smoking is becoming less popular in the United States. Between 1970 and 1990 cigarette consumption fell by almost 30 percent in the U.S., which left 28% of the population as confessed smokers.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Christopher Columbus introduced tobacco to Europe by bringing it there from the Americas.
- 2) F Tobacco is the seventh largest cash crop in the United States.
- 3) F In 1969 the U.S. government began to require health warnings on cigarette packages.
- 4) T

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) d

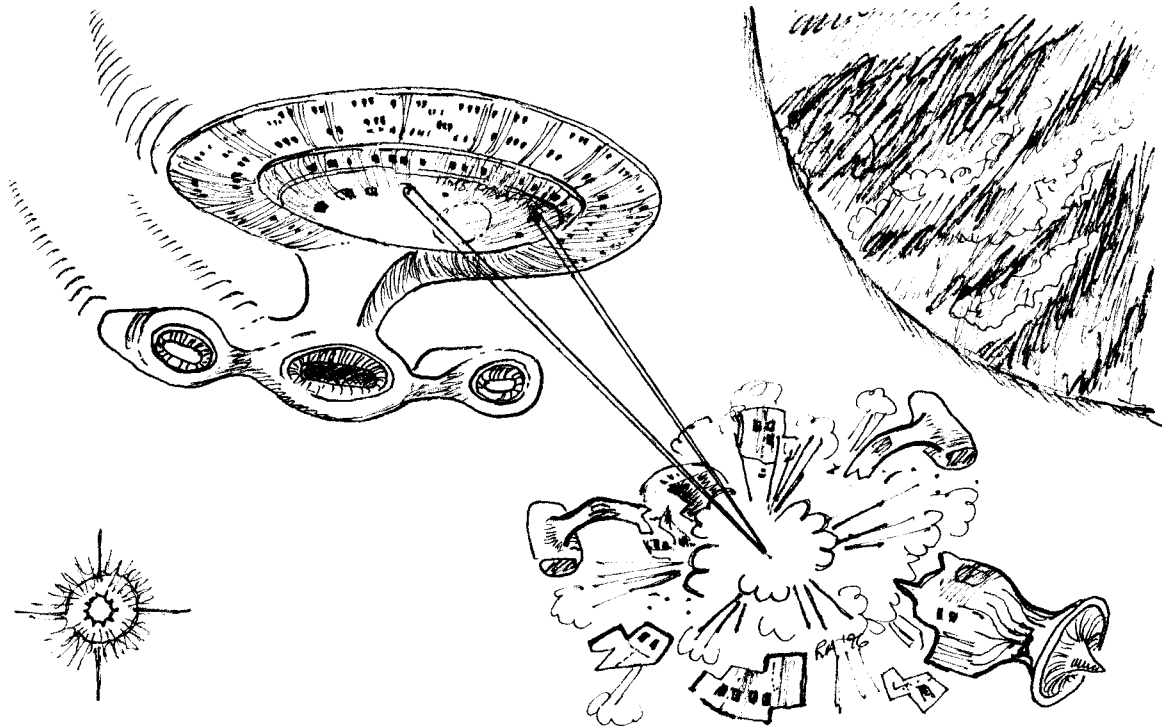
WORD POWER

- 1) a
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) b
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) cigarettes 6) average 9) consumption 11) harmful 12) worldwide 13) smoking

DOWN: 1) seedlings 2) cultures 3) grown 4) wealthy 5) amount 7) picked 8) appealing 10) elegant



Special Effects

1 Movies first started being made around 1895. The earliest filmmakers soon learned that by adjusting the speed of the film, they could create results that would leave audiences fascinated. These simple camera tricks were the first “special effects.” Think how far special effects have come in one hundred years! Thanks to special effects, today’s movie-makers are bringing dinosaurs to life, making hurricanes seem real, and surrounding our planet with flying saucers.

2 Special effects is the art of creating illusions on the screen. If a director wants a person to change from being a man to being a werewolf, the special effects technician gets the job done. If a director wants Superman to fly, the special effects people make the

superhero take off. To be a special effects expert, a person has to have a vivid imagination, and be unwilling to think that anything is impossible to simulate.

3 Special effects are created in a variety of ways. One method is by using makeup. Makeup artists are responsible for some of the most memorable screen characters, such as the apes in the 1968 movie *Planet of the Apes* and the werewolf in *An American Werewolf in London* (1982). The first Academy Award for effects makeup was given for this 1982 film.

4 Another special effects technique is known as a matte shot. In the simplest kind of matte shot, a black cut-out shape is placed in front of the camera’s

lens, which allows the camera to capture only the images it can see, not the blackened area. The director can then shoot other film, and insert it into the blocked out area to achieve the desired effect. Using matte shots was how Alfred Hitchcock created some of the horrifying scenes in his classic film *The Birds* (1963).

5 Perhaps the best remembered use of a mechanical contraption used as a special effect was the great white shark in the 1975 movie *Jaws*. The life-sized twenty-five-foot shark terrorized the oceanside town where the movie takes place. I think you will agree, that shark was scary! It was a masterful use of a mechanical special effect.

6 Today, computers are playing a big role in the way special effects are made. In fact, computers have revolutionized the film industry. Computer-generated images were first used on a large scale in *TRON* (1982). Recent movies such as *The Mask* (1995) and *Independence Day* (1996)

rely on computer graphics for their brilliant special effects. It is predicted that some day entire motion pictures--without sets, cameras, or actors--will be made with computers.

These are just a few examples of the techniques used by special effects people. Some of the other skills involved in special effects include reproducing various weather conditions, handling explosives, coordinating stunts, and working with both big and small models. Oftentimes, several methods for creating effects will be used in the same film. 7

Some of today's most well-attended movies owe their success to special effects. In some cases, the movie's plot has been a little thin, but the special effects have been so spectacular that audiences have not been able to stay away. Also, it seems that movie producers are trying to make each new effects-filled movie more awesome than the last. Imagine how advanced special effects will become in the 8

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Special Effects. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) What it takes to be a special effects expert.
- b) Some of the methods employed by special effects experts.
- c) The history of special effects.
- d) The future of special effects.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) How were the first special effects made?

2) What is special effects?

3) What is a matte shot?

4) What is predicted for the future use of computer-generated graphics in the movies?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) It does not take much imagination to be an effects expert.

2) The first Academy Award for effects makeup was given for the 1968 film *Planet of the Apes*.

3) Only one special effects method can be used in any one film.

4) Modern movie producers are trying to make each new effects-filled movie more awesome than the last.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Soon after movies started being made...
 - a) filmmakers realized that audiences loved special effects.
 - b) the special effects artist became an important part of the industry.
 - c) it became possible to simulate almost anything in the movies.
 - d) audiences began demanding more complicated special effects.

- 2) It seems that good special effects...
 - a) should be included in every movie.
 - b) are expensive to make.
 - c) are enough to get some people to go see a movie.
 - d) have only been made since computers started being used.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Would you like to work in special effects in the movie business? Do you think the special effects people are as talented and creative as other groups who help make films?

- 2) Do you enjoy movies with a lot of complicated special effects? Name a movie that is famous for its great special effects...name another that is also famous, but with no special effects. Which do you think is better?

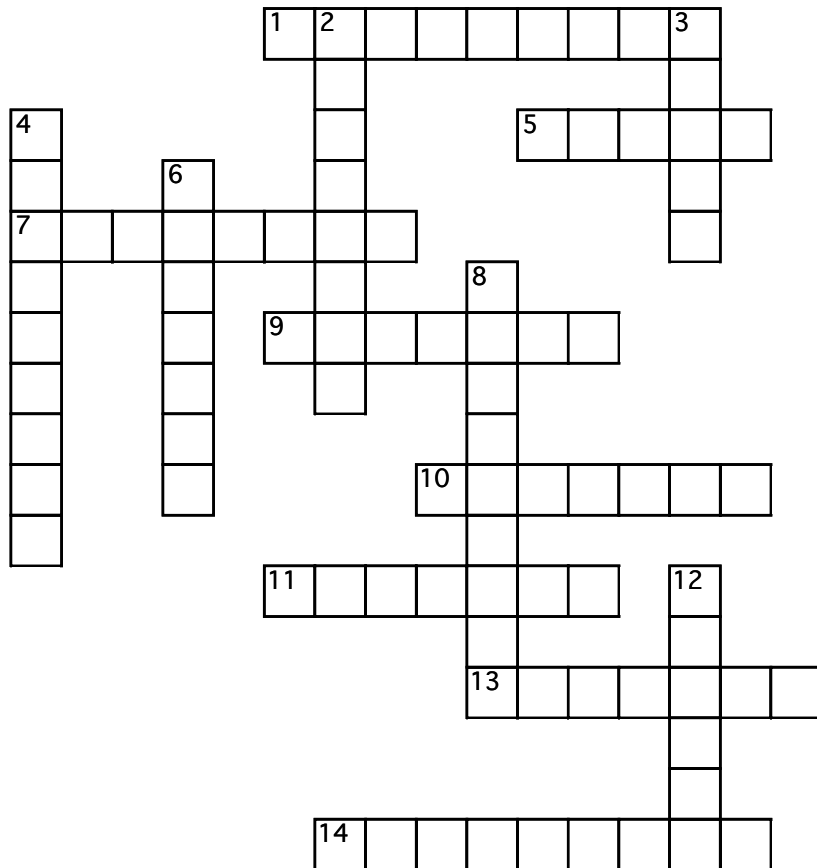
- 3) Do you think it is true that special effects in movies sometimes predict actual inventions that are only produced later in real life? Can you give an example?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) adjusting | a) altering | b) monitoring | c) expanding |
| 2) simulate | a) contemplate | b) eradicate | c) fabricate |
| 3) blocked out | a) covered over | b) invisible | c) registered |
| 4) contraption | a) fish | b) toy | c) device |
| 5) scale | a) proportion | b) screen | c) program |
| 6) plot | a) budget | b) story | c) tempo |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) The shark in *Jaws* was a _____ use of a mechanical special effect.
- 5) The best remembered use of a mechanical effect was the _____ in *Jaws*.
- 7) Special effects is the art of _____ illusions on the screen.
- 9) Oftentimes, several _____ for creating effects will be used in the same film.
- 10) Think how far special effects have come in one _____ years!
- 11) Some of today's most well-attended movies owe their _____ to special effects.
- 13) Movies first _____ being made around 1895.
- 14) You have to be _____ to think that anything is impossible to simulate.

DOWN:

- 2) Imagine how _____ special effects will become in the future!
- 3) Computer-generated images were first used on a _____ scale in *TRON*.
- 4) One special effects _____ is known as a matte shot.
- 6) Special effects are created in a _____ of ways.
- 8) Today, _____ are playing a big role in the way special effects are made.
- 12) It is predicted that some day entire _____ pictures will be made with computers.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) Some of the methods employed by special effects experts.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The first special effects were simple camera tricks made by adjusting the speed of the film. By doing this the earliest filmmakers could create results that would leave audiences fascinated.
- 2) Special effects is the art of creating illusions on the screen.
- 3) In the simplest kind of matte shot a black cut-out shape is placed in front of the camera's lens, which allows the camera to capture only the images it can see, not the blackened area. The director can then shoot other film, and insert it into the blocked out area to achieve the desired effect.
- 4) It is predicted that some day entire motion pictures--without sets, cameras, or actors--will be made with computer-generated graphics.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F To be a special effects expert a person has to have a vivid imagination.
- 2) F The first Academy Award for effects makeup was given for the 1982 film *An American Werewolf in London*.
- 3) F Oftentimes, several methods for creating effects will be used in the same film.
- 4) T

INFERENCE

- 1) a
- 2) c

WORD POWER

- 1) a
- 2) c
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) a
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) masterful 5) shark 7) creating 9) methods 10) hundred 11) success 13) started
14) unwilling

DOWN: 2) advanced 3) large 4) technique 6) variety 8) computers 12) motion



Satellites

1 On October 4, 1957 the Space Age began. That was the day that the former Soviet Union launched the first human-made satellite, Sputnik I. Today there are more than one thousand artificial satellites orbiting the earth.

2 A satellite is an object that revolves around a larger planet or star. There are two kinds of satellites: natural and artificial. Natural satellites include the moons around the planets, including ours. Of course, the earth is a natural satellite of the sun. Artificial satellites include all the objects humans have blasted into space that continue to revolve around the earth or any other planet. Famous artificial satellites include the Hubble Space Telescope and the space stations, Skylab, Salyut and Mir, where astronauts have lived

and conducted experiments while orbiting our planet.

3 When the first satellites were launched in the late 1950s, scientists were mostly concerned with proving that satellites were more than just science fiction. The cargo of Sputnik I was a thermometer and a radio transmitter. That transmitter was used to beam a radio signal back to the earth. Today some satellites can carry over 120,000 different messages at once, and there is a network of communication satellites that is shared by more than 100 nations around the globe.

4 Launching satellites is usually done with multistage rockets. These rockets must reach speeds of over 5 miles per

second (over 8 kilometers per second) to propel the satellite to a height of at least 100 miles (160 kms) above the earth. At that distance the satellite will no longer be affected by the earth's outer atmosphere, and will begin revolving around the planet in a nearly circular path.

5 A satellite that is lifted 22,300 miles (35,700 kms) into space will take exactly 24 hours to revolve around the earth. A satellite at that distance that has its orbit over the equator and rotates in the same direction as the earth will remain at the same spot over the earth's surface. Such a satellite is said to be in a geostationary orbit.

6 At times the position of a satellite must be adjusted to compensate for movements caused by forces at work in outer space. A satellite can be affected by such things as the sun, the moon, the planets, and any space debris that might come into contact with it. Small

rockets built into the satellite can be fired to move the satellite back to the exact spot where it is supposed to be located.

There are five principal types of artificial satellites: communications, scientific, military, weather, and navigation. Communications satellites carry telephone, television and radio signals. Scientific satellites are used to study outer space, such as the Hubble Space Telescope. Military satellites, which are sometimes called spy satellites, are used to spy on a country's enemies. Weather satellites transmit data that provides meteorologists with detailed weather information. And navigation satellites are used by airplanes and ships to pinpoint their positions with accuracy.

When you think of it, the satellite industry is still in its infancy. Who knows what future satellites will be able to do? Beam me up, Scotty!?

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Satellites. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Artificial versus natural satellites.
- b) The five principal types of satellites.
- c) The global communication satellite system.
- d) An introduction to satellites.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) When did the Space Age begin?

2) What is the difference between a natural and an artificial satellite?

3) How high must a satellite be propelled into space so as to not be affected by the earth's outer atmosphere?

4) What are the five principal types of artificial satellites?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) The United States launched the first human-made satellite.

2) The cargo of Sputnik was a thermometer and a radio transmitter.

3) Once in orbit, satellites remain in exactly the same position.

4) Military satellites are used by airplanes and ships to pinpoint their positions with accuracy.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) It appears that in our modern world everyone will...
 - a) have to know a lot about satellites.
 - b) use many services provided through satellites.
 - c) be in danger because of satellites.
 - d) see more and more satellites up in the sky.

- 2) When the writer says that "...the satellite industry is still in its infancy," it means that...
 - a) the Space Age began in 1957.
 - b) satellites are getting larger and larger.
 - c) satellites will probably be able to do a lot more in the future.
 - d) children easily understand how satellites work.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Some people are beginning to worry that, with all the satellites and other "space junk" in orbit around the earth, we are actually polluting outer space! Is this really a problem? Do we need rules?

- 2) Think about your activities over the past week: what different practical or recreational uses did you make of satellite-related technology?

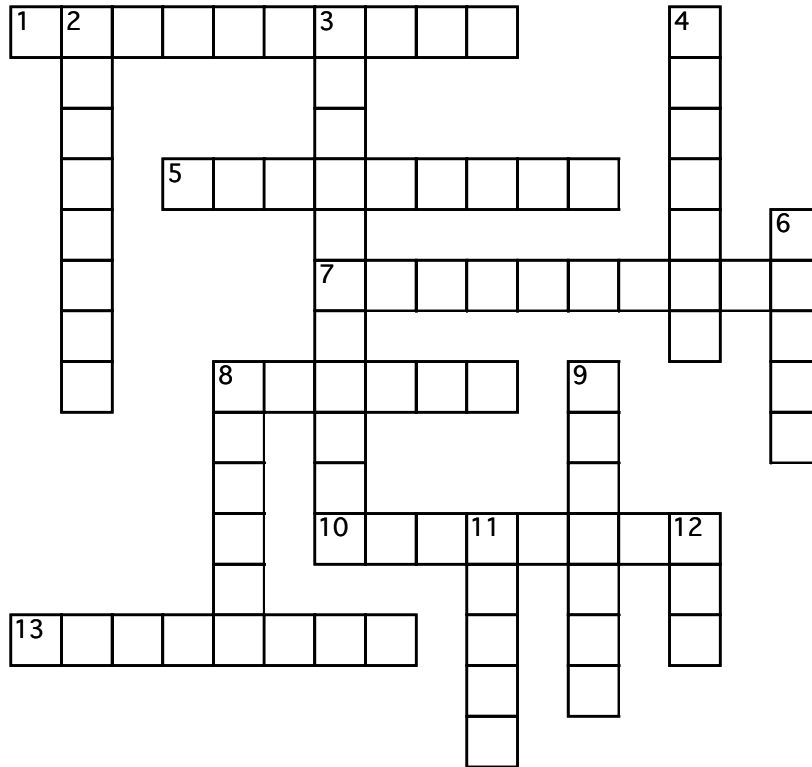
- 3) The more we rely on satellites for communications, the less we know about how to use beautiful old fashioned means of communication such as letters. Are we losing something?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1) artificial | a) untrue | b) manufactured | c) chemical |
| 2) network | a) system | b) schedule | c) grade |
| 3) compensate | a) make up | b) renew | c) measure |
| 4) debris | a) ships | b) gravity | c) junk |
| 5) transmit | a) receive | b) interpret | c) send |
| 6) pinpoint | a) locate exactly | b) adjust | c) surmount |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) _____ satellites are used by airplanes and ships to pinpoint their positions.
- 5) There are five _____ types of artificial satellites.
- 7) Launching satellites is usually done with _____ rockets.
- 8) Who knows what _____ satellites will be able to do?
- 10) A satellite is an object that _____ around a larger planet or star.
- 13) At times the position of a satellite must be _____.

DOWN:

- 2) The satellite will no longer be _____ by the earth's outer atmosphere.
- 3) The cargo of Sputnik I was a thermometer and a radio _____.
- 4) There are two kinds of satellites: _____ and artificial.
- 6) On October 4, 1957 the Space Age _____.
- 8) _____ artificial satellites include the Hubble Telescope and the space stations.
- 9) Scientists were mostly concerned with _____ that satellites could work.
- 11) Scientific satellites are used to study _____ space.
- 12) Military satellites are used to _____ on a country's enemies.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) An introduction to satellites.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The Space Age began on October 4, 1957. That was the day the former Soviet Union launched the first human-made satellite, Sputnik I.
- 2) The difference between a natural satellite and an artificial satellite is that a natural satellite is a satellite that originated in space, whereas an artificial satellite originated on earth and was put into orbit by humans.
- 3) A satellite must be propelled at least 100 miles (160 kms) into space so as to not be affected by the earth's outer atmosphere.
- 4) The five principal types of artificial satellites are communications satellites, scientific satellites, military satellites, weather satellites, and navigation satellites.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F The former Soviet Union launched the first human-made satellite.
- 2) T
- 3) F Once in orbit, satellites do not always remain in the same position. Satellite movements can be caused by forces at work in outer space.
- 4) F Military satellites, which are sometimes called spy satellites, are used to spy on a country's enemies. Navigation satellites are used by airplanes and ships to pinpoint their positions with accuracy.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) c

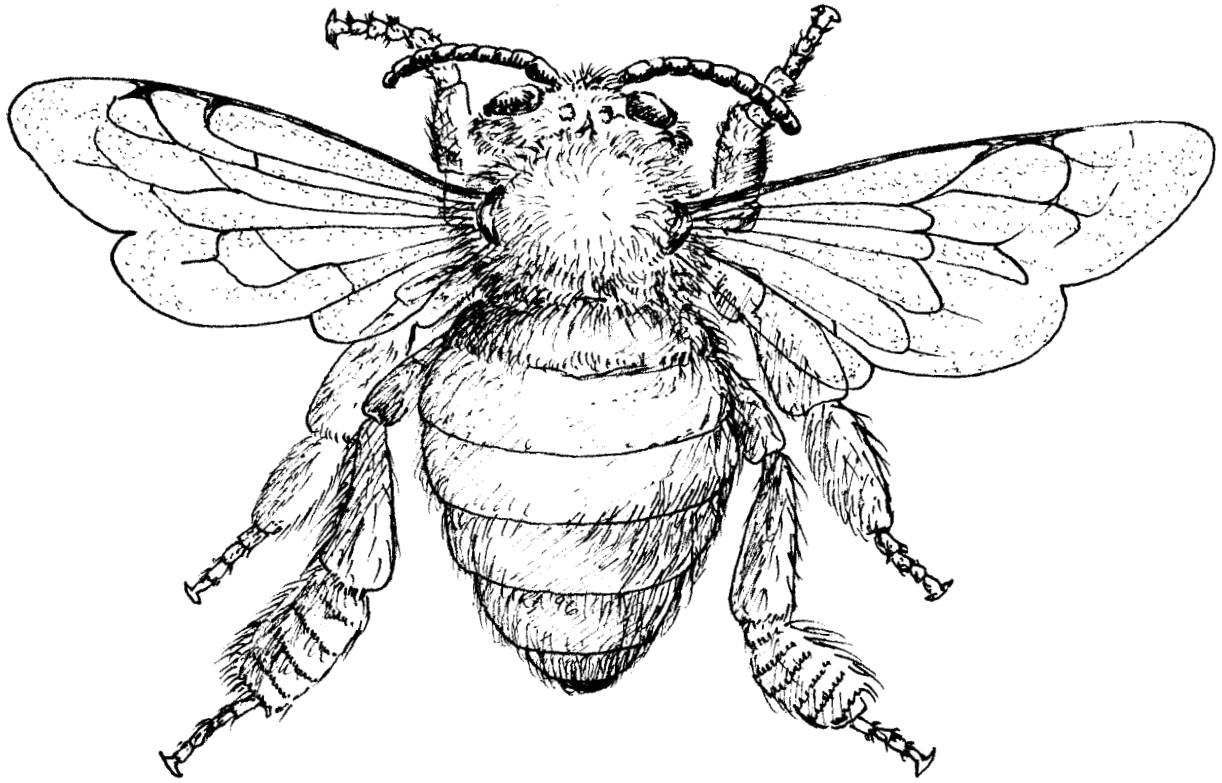
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) c
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) navigation 5) principal 7) multistage 8) future 10) revolves 13) adjusted

DOWN: 2) affected 3) transmitter 4) natural 6) began 8) famous 9) proving 11) outer 12) spy



Killer Bees

1 A killer bee looks almost exactly the same as any other honeybee. Actually, entomologists, scientists who study insects, call them African bees. The term killer bees became popular because of a Hollywood movie, *The Swarm*, and because of a few instances where people were actually killed by swarming African bees. Everyone has heard about how ferocious killer bees are. Killer bees arrived in the United States in 1990.

2 African bees are different from most other bees because of the climate in Africa. With no prolonged cold season, African bees need not worry about collecting supplies for winter; therefore, they build smaller nests. Because they build smaller nests, overcrowding becomes a problem. At

such times, some of the bees leave to form a new colony. New colonies are always forming and migrating. When the bees move together like this, it is called swarming. African bees can swarm a few times a year, while bees from more northern regions rarely do. Because it never gets cold, African bees can change nests if their food supply becomes unsatisfactory or if they sense any danger to their nest.

African bees are more hostile than 3 other bees because African bees have always built their nests out in the open, so they have been vulnerable to attack. African bees are now instinctively fierce. If one bee senses danger, it can send a signal that will have thousands of bees ready to attack in a matter of seconds. Swarming killer bees have

been credited with killing an animal as large as a horse, and one man who was killed is said to have had suffered over eight thousand stings.

4 African bees were introduced to the Americas in Brazil in 1956. They were imported into Brazil as an experiment to help boost national honey production. The experiments were supposed to be held under the strictest of conditions to prevent any queen bees from escaping. The scientists thought it could never happen, but it did. A queen and her followers escaped. Killer bees were loose in Brazil.

5 And it did not take long for African bees to take root in Brazil. The newcomers felt right at home. New colonies spread quickly as the bees reproduced and swarmed. African male bees mated with local queen bees, and their offspring were aggressive like their fathers. African bees attacked nests, killed other bees and stole honey. Word of attacks on people by hundreds of bees were reported by the media,

and news of the killer bees spread. As did the bees. By the early 1980s they had reached Panama and by the mid-1980s they had reached Mexico.

The killer bees arrived in Texas, U.S.A. in 1990. Today African bees have been spotted in all the most southern states. So far it remains to be seen how far north the bees will be able to go and to survive. Some scientists think killer bees will be confined to the lower states where it remains relatively warm all year, while other scientists think the bees will make it all the way to Canada. Time will tell.

One thing must be understood about killer bees: they do not attack without a reason. If you live in an area where killer bees are known to exist, be cautious around any bees. And for goodness sake, do not disturb any bees' nest. If you live in an area where killer bees are not known to exist, be happy for now, because they may be arriving soon.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Killer Bees. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The threat from killer bees.
- b) The facts about killer bees.
- c) The origin of killer bees.
- d) Being safe around killer bees.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) Why did the term killer bees become popular?

2) Why do African bees swarm more often than other types of honeybees?

3) In what year were African bees imported into Brazil?

4) How far north do scientists think killer bees will be able to go and to survive?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) It is only since being imported to the Americas that African bees have begun building their nests out in the open.

2) The African bees had problems adjusting to life in Brazil.

3) The media spread the killer bees.

4) Killer bees do not attack without a reason.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) African bees were brought to Brazil to...
 - a) help honey farmers.
 - b) replace the existing bee population.
 - c) introduce beekeeping and making honey as a new industry there.
 - d) mate with the local bee population to produce more aggressive offspring.

- 2) We can conclude that the spread of killer bees...
 - a) is guaranteed to remain only in the southern states.
 - b) could go as far north as Canada; nobody knows.
 - c) is not important.
 - d) has been determined exactly.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) What do you think of beekeeping as a hobby? Could you picture yourself as a beekeeper? On television sometimes we see people with bees or other scary insects all over their faces or bodies. Could you ever do that?

- 2) Killer bees are non-native creatures that have been introduced to the Americas. What other examples can you think of where non-native creatures were brought into a new environment? What were the results?

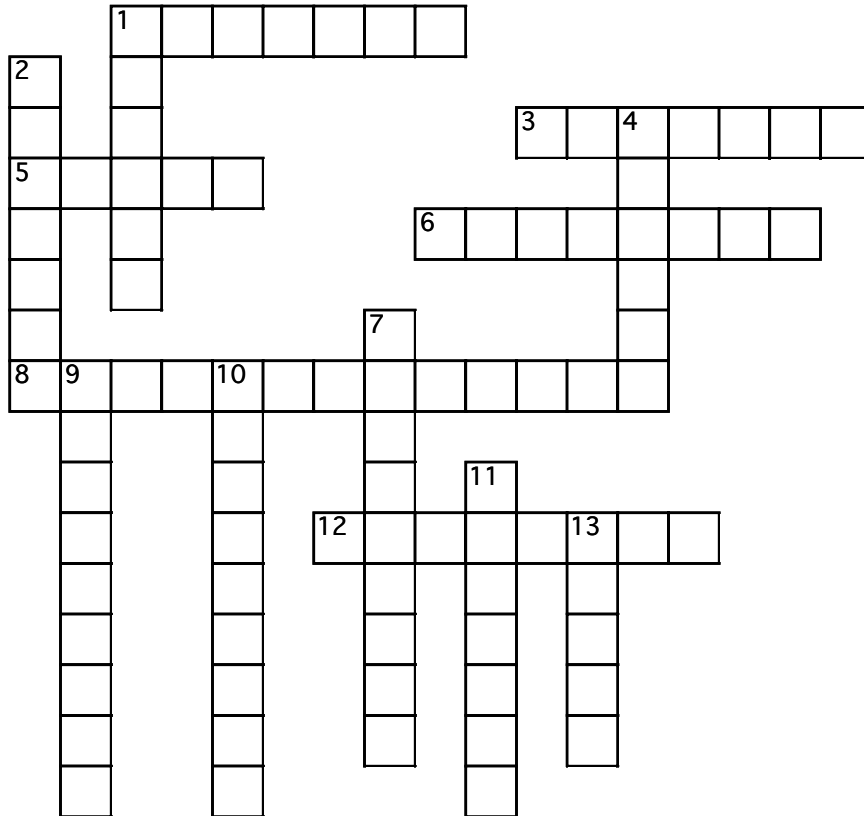
- 3) What would you do if you were being chased by a swarm of killer bees?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1) ferocious | a) timid | b) dedicated | c) fierce |
| 2) climate | a) elevation | b) weather | c) rainfall |
| 3) vulnerable | a) open | b) expected | c) asking |
| 4) strictest | a) tightest | b) least severe | c) highest |
| 5) spotted | a) targeted | b) sprayed | c) seen |
| 6) cautious | a) careful | b) daring | c) clumsy |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) Killer bees _____ in the United States in 1990.
- 3) Do not _____ any bees' nest.
- 5) African bees can _____ a few times a year.
- 6) Some scientists think killer bees will be _____ to the lower states.
- 8) _____ are scientists who study insects.
- 12) A killer bee looks almost exactly the same as any other _____.

DOWN:

- 1) One signal can have thousands of bees ready to _____ in a matter of seconds.
- 2) African bees are more _____ than other bees.
- 4) One man who was killed is said to have had suffered over eight thousand _____.
- 7) A queen and her _____ escaped.
- 9) The _____ felt right at home in Brazil.
- 10) New colonies are always forming and _____.
- 11) By the early 1980s they had _____ Panama.
- 13) African bees were imported to help _____ national honey production.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) The facts about killer bees.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The term killer bees became popular because of a Hollywood movie, *The Swarm*, and because of a few instances where people were actually killed by swarming African bees.
- 2) African bees swarm more often than other types of bees because the African climate allows them to, and because African bees build small nests overcrowding leads them to swarm more often.
- 3) African bees were imported into Brazil in 1956.
- 4) Scientists still debate how far north killer bees will be able to go and to survive. Some scientists think killer bees will be confined to the lower states where it remains relatively warm all year, while other scientists think the bees will make it all the way to Canada.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F African bees have always built their nests out in the open.
- 2) F It did not take long for African bees to take root in Brazil. The newcomers felt right at home. New colonies spread quickly as the bees reproduced and swarmed.
- 3) F Word of attacks on people by hundreds of bees were reported by the media, and news of the killer bees spread. The media did not spread the bees.
- 4) T

INFERENCE

- 1) a
- 2) b

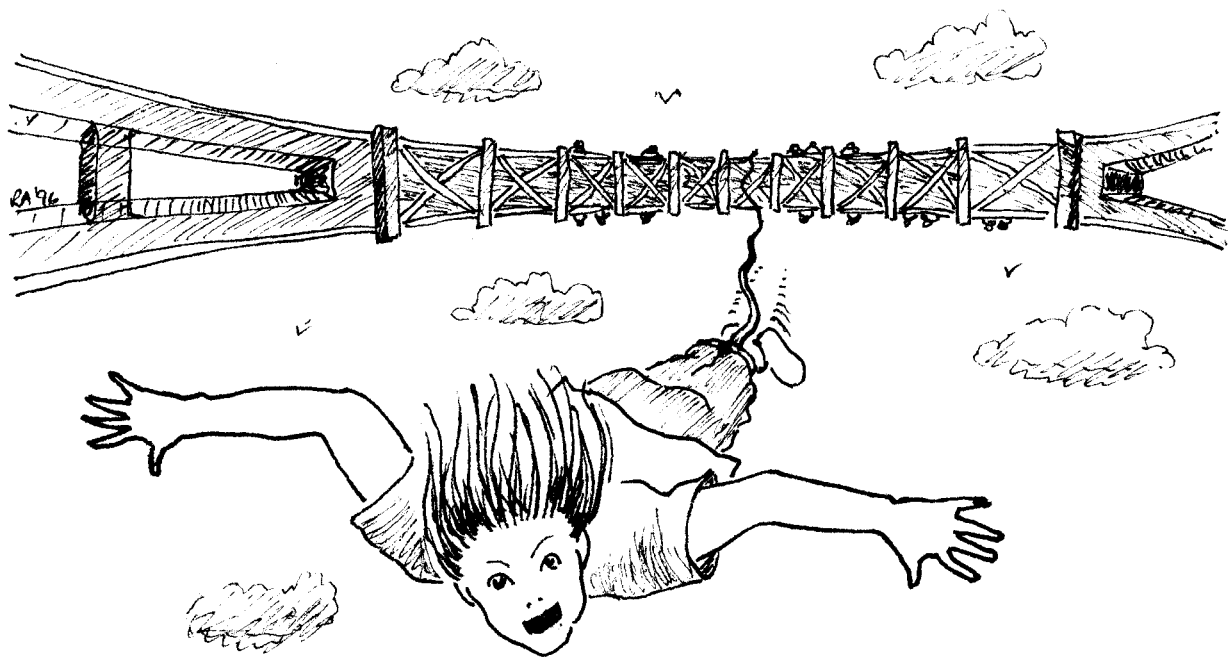
WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) b
- 3) a
- 4) a
- 5) c
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) arrived 3) disturb 5) swarm 6) confined 8) entomologists 12) honeybee

DOWN: 1) attack 2) hostile 4) stings 7) followers 9) newcomers 10) migrating 11) reached 13) boost



Generation X

1 They have been called a generation of cynics and slackers. Who are they? They are Generation X: anyone born between 1960 and 1980. In North America that means about 85 million people. Several influences shaped this generation, which is now coming of age and entering the work force. What were some of these influences? And what is it like to be a Gen Xer? And what is the future for Gen Xers?

2 Well, we may as well start at the beginning. Gen Xers are the product of their parents, and their parents are the Baby Boomers (born between 1945-1960). When the Boomers grew up and started having babies, several things changed in society, which undoubtedly must have affected their offspring. Divorce rates skyrocketed;

so, thousands of kids were raised by a single parent. There were more two-career families and day care centers popped up everywhere; so, thousands of youngsters were being taken care of by someone other than one of their parents. Boomers spent much less quality time with their children than their own parents did with them, and television sets became the baby sitters of North America's youth.

Also, unlike Generation X, previous generations have had something 3 momentous that has defined their existence as a group. World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Rock and Roll, and the flower children of the 1960s were all significant enough to unite their respective generations. For Gen Xers, the closest they have come

to some sort of collective identity has been the unjustified stereotypical portrayal in the media of Gen Xers as self-centered and unintelligent.

- 4 Generation X is the most racially and socially diverse generation in history. They are a generation that has inherited pollution, huge national debts, and only a slim chance that their standard of living will approach that of their parents. Unemployment is high among the Gen X age group: all the jobs are either taken by Boomers, or the Gen Xer does not have the necessary skills. And as higher education gets more and more expensive, fewer and fewer young people can afford it. These are the prospects from a Gen Xer's point of view.

- 5 Some people think Gen Xers are more reckless, more willing to take physical risks than past generations. Take, for example, the so-called "extreme" sports: these are familiar sports (skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, etc.) that in their extreme

versions are done in circumstances that expose the participants to greater dangers than the sports would normally present. Another Generation X risk-taking phenomena is bungee jumping.

In the year 2010 the first Baby Boomers will turn 65 years old, and, presumably, retire. As things look now, that date should scare all Gen Xers. It will be the date when the Baby Boomers begin to collect old age pension benefits from the Canadian or United States governments. Because there will be so many elderly, the pension system is either going to collapse or the Gen Xers are going to have to suffer sizeable deductions from their paychecks to keep it afloat. This is a very serious problem.

Contrary to the bad reviews in the press, Generation X is not sitting around passively watching events unfold. No chance. Generation X is not a generation of slackers. It is a generation of seekers.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Generation X. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) How the problems of Generation X arose.
- b) Influences and identity of Generation X.
- c) Generation X and the Boomers.
- d) Why the media have a negative view of Generation X.

6

7

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What is Generation X?

2) What are some of the things that affected Generation X as a result of changes in society around the time Baby Boomers started having babies?

3) What did previous generations have that Generation X lacked?

4) What is going to happen in 2010? How will it affect Gen Xers?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Boomers spent more quality time with their kids than their parents did with them.

2) Gen Xers are self-centered and unintelligent.

3) In the year 2010 the first Gen Xers will turn 65 years old.

4) Generation X is a generation of seekers.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) The media's portrayal of Generation X has been...
 - a) unfair.
 - b) warranted.
 - c) tasteful.
 - d) denied.

- 2) When Generation X is called a generation of seekers, it means that...
 - a) Gen Xers are going nowhere fast.
 - b) Gen Xers have a lot of good insights.
 - c) Gen Xers are go-getters.
 - d) Gen Xers have nothing to complain about.

INTERPRETATION

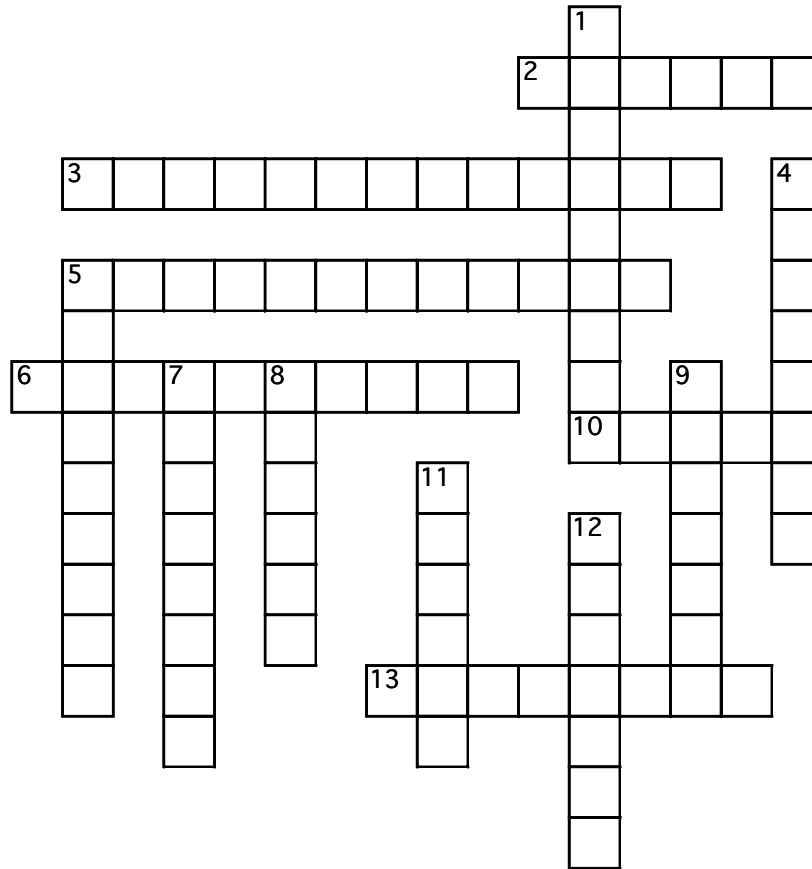
- 1) How do you think the members of Generation X will decide to raise their own children?
- 2) Do you consider yourself a member of Gen X? Why or why not?
- 3) What are the most important personal and global responsibilities of the generation of people who will be in their 20s in the next five to ten years?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1) cynics | a) futurists | b) anarchists | c) pessimists |
| 2) slackers | a) lazy people | b) shy people | c) tough people |
| 3) collective | a) contrived | b) rotten | c) mutual |
| 4) unjustified | a) unsupported | b) valid | c) juvenile |
| 5) presumably | a) most likely | b) carefully | c) quickly |
| 6) passively | a) restlessly | b) inactively | c) impatiently |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) There were more two-career families and day care centers _____ up everywhere.
- 3) The media unjustly portrayed Gen Xers as self-centered and _____.
- 5) Extreme sports expose the _____ to greater dangers.
- 6) Generation X is the most racially and socially diverse _____ in history.
- 10) The year 2010 should _____ all Gen Xers.
- 13) Some people think Gen Xers are more _____ than past generations.

DOWN:

- 1) Something _____ has defined their existence as a group.
- 4) Generation X is not a generation of _____.
- 5) Another Generation X risk-taking _____ is bungee jumping.
- 7) Generation X is now coming of age and _____ the work force.
- 8) Fewer and fewer young people can _____ an education.
- 9) Gen Xers' _____ are the Baby Boomers.
- 11) Thousands of kids were _____ by a single parent.
- 12) Boomers spent much less _____ time with their children.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) Influences and identity of Generation X.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Generation X is the generation of people born between 1960 and 1980.
- 2) When the Boomers grew up and started having babies, several things changed in society which undoubtedly must have affected their offspring. Divorce rates skyrocketed; so, thousands of kids were raised by a single parent. There were more two-career families and day care centers popped up everywhere; so, thousands of youngsters were being taken care of by someone other than one of their parents. Boomers spent much less quality time with their children than their own parents did with them, and television sets became the baby sitters of North America's youth.
- 3) Unlike Generation X, previous generations had something momentous that has defined their existence as a group. World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, Rock and Roll, and the flower children of the 1960s were all significant enough to unite their respective generations.
- 4) In the year 2010 the first Baby Boomers will turn 65 years old, and, presumably, retire. As things look now, that date should scare all Gen Xers. It will be the date when the Baby Boomers begin to collect old age pension benefits from the Canadian or United States governments, and because there will be so many elderly the pension system is either going to collapse or the Gen Xers are going to have to suffer sizeable deductions from their paychecks to keep it afloat. This is a very serious problem.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Boomers spent less quality time with their kids than their parents did with them.
- 2) F The portrayal of Generation X as self-centered and unintelligent is unjustified.
- 3) F In the year 2010 the first Baby Boomers will turn 65 years old.
- 4) T

INFERENCES

- 1) a
- 2) c

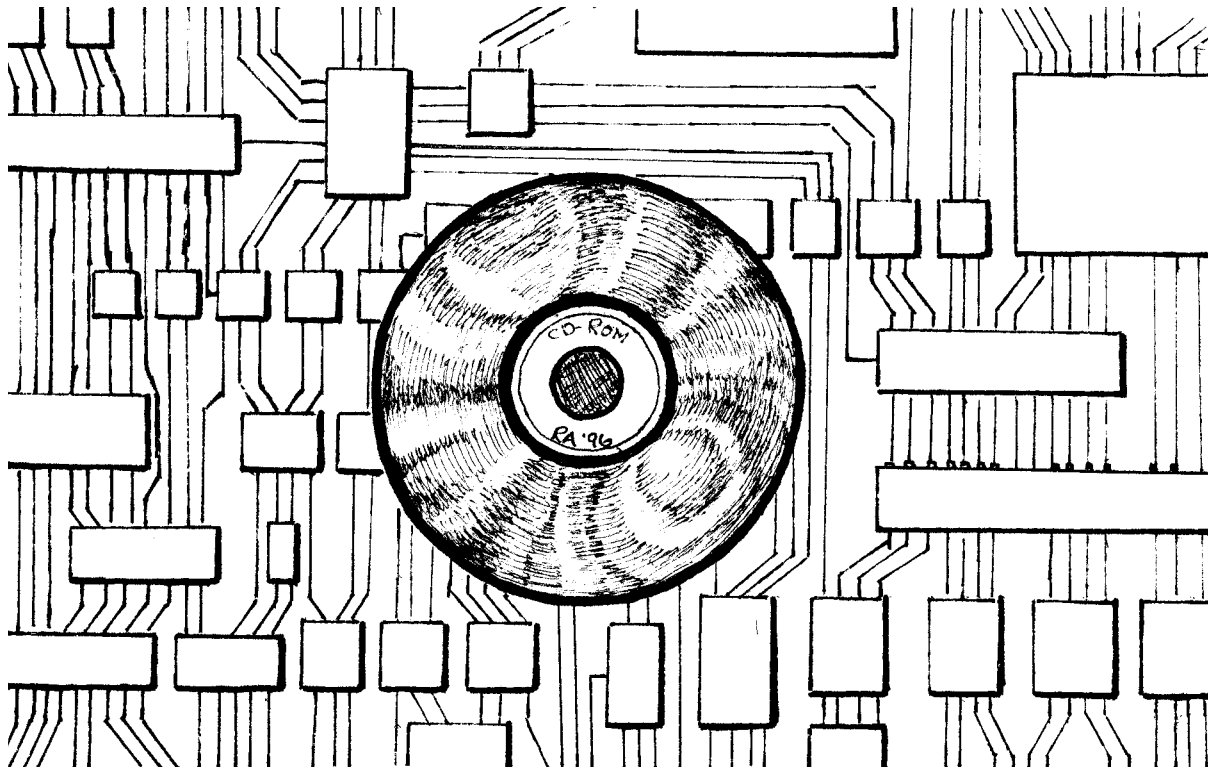
WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) a
- 5) a
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) popped 3) unintelligent 5) participants 6) generation 10) scare 13) reckless

DOWN: 1) momentous 4) slackers 5) phenomena 7) entering 8) afford 9) parents 11) raised
12) quality



CD-ROM

1 A long time ago, when people lived in caves, human knowledge was preserved in drawings on cave walls. Over time, papyrus, and later paper, and still later the printing press, made communicating ideas easier. Today, in the Information Age, conveying messages is easier than ever before. Besides the fax machine, the cellular phone, the Internet, E-mail and satellites, one of the most important methods of transmitting information is the CD-ROM.

2 CD-ROM is an acronym that stands for Compact Disc Read-Only Memory. A compact disc is a storage device on which audio, video, graphics or text can be stored. Compact discs were introduced in the early 1980s, at which time this new technology was just used

for recorded music: computer applications only came later, after modifications were made and features added to make it possible for CD players to communicate with computers effectively. Read-Only Memory means that new data cannot be added to the disc after it is made; CD-ROMs can only be read, not written to.

A CD-ROM disc looks exactly the same as an audio compact disc. In fact, the two are made exactly the same way. A CD is about 4 3/4 inches (12.7 centimeters) in diameter and is made from strong, transparent polycarbonate plastic, the same plastic used to make bulletproof glass. On one side of the CD a continuous spiral of microscopic dents, called *pits*, are

3

molded into the plastic. The surface between the pits, called a *land*, is flat. It is the pits and lands that make up the information on a CD-ROM. The readable side of the CD-ROM is coated with a layer of shiny aluminum, and the entire CD is coated with a clear lacquer to protect it from damage. After a label is stamped onto the CD, it is ready for the consumer.

- 4 The biggest advantage associated with CD-ROMs is the vast amount of storage space available on each disc. A full CD-ROM can hold over 600 megabytes of information, which equals almost 2,000 floppy diskettes or 250,000 typed pages. A CD-ROM can hold an entire 24 volume encyclopedia, with room to spare!
- 5 The most obvious things that make using CD-ROMs different from using regular computer media, besides the fact that the end user cannot write to a CD, is the way each reads information. A CD-ROM player is an optical device

that uses laser light to read the information stored on a CD. On the other hand, computers use magnetics to read and write data to floppy disks, diskettes and hard drives. And because CDs were originally designed for storing music, which is played from start to finish, accessing information is slower with CD-ROMs than magnetic disks, which were designed for fast, random access to data.

Nowadays, close to 30 million CD-ROMs are purchased annually. As their popularity has grown, so has the number of titles ready for use in this format. Almost all new software being produced has a CD-ROM version released. Games, encyclopedias, books on family health, business applications, educational software, phone books, magazines, consumer catalogs and CD-ROMs on many other subjects are now available. And to make all this new CD-ROM software quicker to use, faster and faster CD-ROM drives are coming on the market all the time.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about CD-ROM. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The storage capacity of CD-ROMs.
- b) CD-ROM: an important method of transmitting information.
- c) The difference between CD-ROM and regular computer media.
- d) How CD-ROMs are made.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What does CD-ROM mean?

2) On CD-ROMS, what purpose do pits and lands serve?

3) What is the biggest advantage associated with CD-ROMs?

4) Why are CD-ROMS becoming quicker to use?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) CD-ROMs look very different from audio CDs.

2) The entire CD-ROM is coated with a layer of shiny aluminum.

3) A CD-ROM player is an optical device that uses laser light to read information stored on a CD.

4) Only a few new software titles are available on CD-ROM.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) The modern time period is called the Information Age because...
 - a) communicating information has become so efficient.
 - b) people want to communicate more today than they did in the past.
 - c) the world is becoming a global village.
 - d) CD-ROMs hold so much information.

- 2) Accessing information on a CD-ROM is slower than accessing information on a magnetic disk because...
 - a) CD-ROMs hold so much more information than magnetic disks.
 - b) magnetic disk technology is better than CD-ROM technology.
 - c) information is accessed differently with each.
 - d) CD-ROMs can only be read, not written to.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Do you have access to a computer that can read CD-ROMs? If so, for what have you used this technology? Is the CD-ROM a toy or a real tool for research?

- 2) If you had the chance to make a CD-ROM, what would you want to put on it? In what ways could a CD-ROM serve your purpose better than traditional media (paper, audio tape, etc.)?

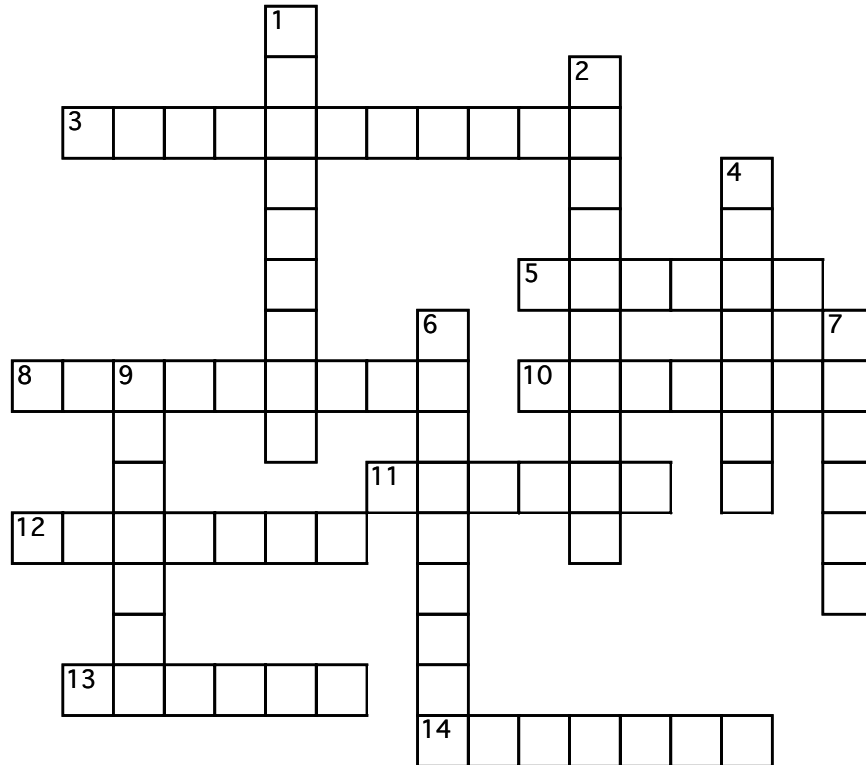
- 3) What CD-ROMs would you like to be able to buy and use right now? Make a list of your 'top 3' choices, with reasons.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1) conveying | a) whispering | b) hiding | c) communicating |
| 2) device | a) gadget | b) strategy | c) jester |
| 3) continuous | a) unbroken | b) lengthy | c) compressed |
| 4) spare | a) guard | b) left-over | c) refrain |
| 5) accessing | a) writing | b) saving | c) retrieving |
| 6) version | a) hand out | b) form | c) hardware |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 3) One of the most important methods of transmitting _____ is the CD-ROM.
- 5) A CD-ROM can hold an entire 24 _____ encyclopedia, with room to spare!
- 8) A long time ago, human _____ was preserved in drawings on cave walls.
- 10) The _____ between the pits, called a *land*, is flat.
- 11) Faster and faster CD-ROM drives are coming on the _____ all the time.
- 12) CD-ROMs can only be read, not _____ to.
- 13) Computers use magnetics to process data to _____ disks.
- 14) After a label is _____ onto the CD, it is ready for the consumer.

DOWN:

- 1) Nowadays, close to 30 million CD-ROMs are _____ annually.
- 2) Compact discs were _____ in the early 1980s.
- 4) A CD-ROM disc looks exactly the same as an audio _____ disc.
- 6) A full CD-ROM can hold over 600 _____ of information.
- 7) CD-ROM is an acronym that stands for Compact Disc Read-Only _____.
- 9) A CD-ROM player is an _____ device that uses laser light to read information.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

b) CD-ROM: an important method of transmitting information.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) CD-ROM is an acronym that stands for Compact Disc Read-Only Memory.
- 2) Pits and lands make up the information on a CD-ROM.
- 3) The biggest advantage associated with CD-ROMs is the vast amount of storage space available on each disc.
- 4) CD-ROMs are becoming quicker to use because faster and faster CD-ROM drives are coming on the market all the time.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F A CD-ROM disc looks exactly the same as an audio compact disc.
- 2) F Only the readable side of a CD-ROM is coated with a layer of shiny aluminum.
- 3) T
- 4) F Almost all new software being produced has a CD-ROM version released.

INFERENCES

- 1) a
- 2) c

WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) b
- 5) c
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 3) information 5) volume 8) knowledge 10) surface 11) market 12) written 13) floppy
14) stamped

DOWN: 1) purchased 2) introduced 4) compact 6) megabytes 7) Memory 9) optical



Cold War

1 The war is over! The year was 1991, and the cold war was finally over. The cold war, however, was not your usual type of war. Cold war is a term used to describe the chilly relations that existed since the end of World War II between the United States--along with its Western allies--and the Soviet Union--including other communist-controlled countries. As a war, the cold war was a battle of ideologies: capitalism against communism. It was the collapse of the Soviet Union that finally brought an end to the cold war, once and for all.

2 After World War II, the Soviet Union and the United States did not trust each other. The Soviet leaders were convinced that the Americans wanted to destroy the Soviet Union's political

system, while the American leaders suspected the Communists were trying to spread communism around the world. The first "shots" in the cold war came soon after World War II had ended, when Moscow installed Communist governments in several Eastern European countries.

Over the years, events which have highlighted cold war tensions have included the fighting of the Korean War (1950-1953), the Vietnam War (mid 1950s-1975), the building of the Berlin Wall (1961), the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), the fighting in Afghanistan (1978-1989), the massive build up of nuclear weapons by both sides, and the aiding (financial, military and other forms of aid) of governments and rebel forces in other

3

countries. People did die in wars and unrest associated with the cold war, but there was never any direct fighting between the two primary combatants.

- 4 Mikhail Gorbachev played a major role in bringing an end to the cold war. After he became general secretary of the Soviet Communist party in 1985, Gorbachev introduced sweeping political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union, and he began dialogues with Western leaders in an attempt to end the hostilities. Reforms at home were intended to give the people of the Soviet Union new rights and create a more open society. Rather than strengthening the Soviet federation, which was Gorbachev's intention, the new freedoms led to its destruction. Because of the easing of restrictions, independence movements formed in the various republics which made up the Soviet Union. Similar events took place in other Communist-run countries. Before too long, republics and countries began declaring their

independence from the Soviet Union. The Berlin Wall was torn down. In 1991 the Soviet Union ceased to exist. The cold war was over.

By the end of the cold war both sides had, we hope, learned these valuable lessons: both sides recognized that it was dangerous to stockpile nuclear weapons, and that an actual war would be suicide; both sides understood that fighting wars on foreign soil never solved anything; and both sides realized that problems at home were more pressing than fighting some battle of ideologies. 5

Although the collapse of the Soviet Union brought an unexpected end to the cold war, it would be nice to think that the leaders involved would finally have realized that there was no alternative but to recognize each other as brothers and sisters of the global village, and to think firstly of each other's self-preservation. 6

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about the Cold War. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The difference between a cold war and an actual war.
- b) How the cold war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union started.
- c) Capitalism versus communism.
- d) The cold war period and lessons to learn from it.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What is the term “cold war” used to describe?

2) After World War II, why did the Soviet Union and the United States not trust each other?

3) What was Mikhail Gorbachev’s role in ending the cold war?

4) What valuable lessons might we hope both sides learned from the cold war?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) The cold war was a battle of ideologies.

2) Gorbachev’s reforms did what he expected them to do.

3) The cold war continued for a while after the Soviet Union collapsed.

4) Fighting ideological battles is more important than combatting problems at home.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

1) The governments Moscow installed in Eastern European countries were...

- a) chosen from a list of Communist party candidates.
- b) controlled by the Soviet Union.
- c) only answerable to the people of their respective countries.
- d) elected by the people.

2) Governments and rebel forces received aid...

- a) during election campaigns.
- b) when they pledged allegiance to one of the superpowers.
- c) in times of natural disasters.
- d) when they ran out of money.

INTERPRETATION

1) If the Soviet Union had not collapsed, do you think the leaders would have been able to stop the cold war? Why? Why not?

2) What will happen to the world now that the Soviet Union no longer exists and the cold war is over? What do you see in the future on the world's political stage? Discuss.

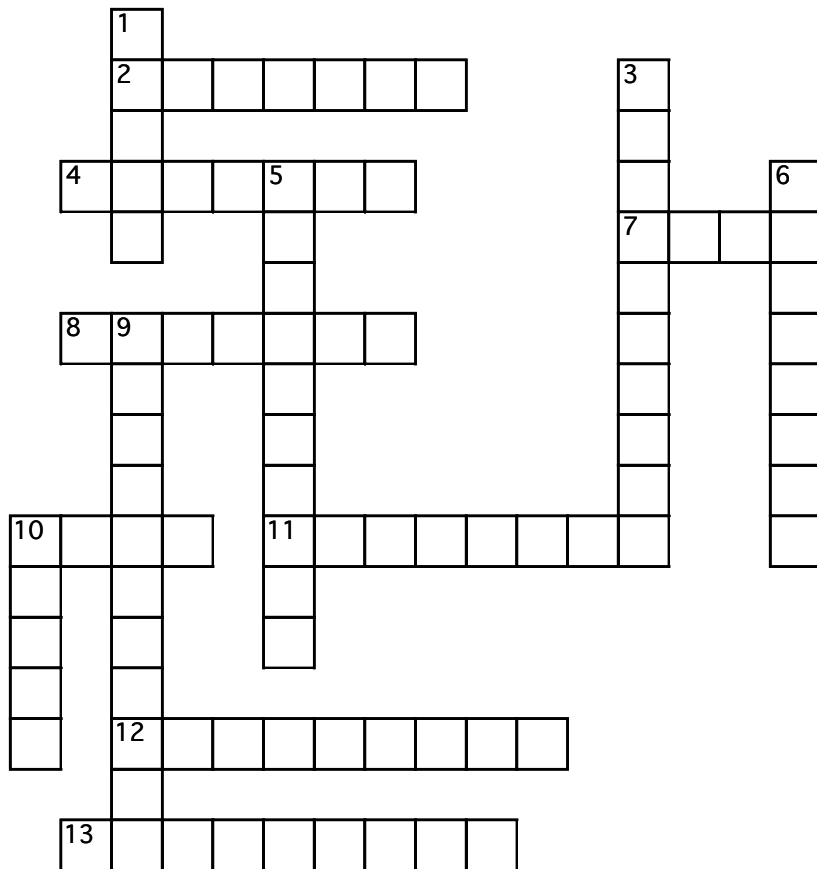
3) Do you think another cold war could start? If so, how? Where? Explain your views.

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1) chilly | a) annoying | b) disrespectful | c) cold |
| 2) "shots" | a) gunfire | b) actions | c) threats |
| 3) tensions | a) hostilities | b) aggravations | c) insults |
| 4) combatants | a) actors | b) fighters | c) politicians |
| 5) dialogues | a) discussions | b) treaties | c) confrontations |
| 6) restrictions | a) programs | b) designs | c) controls |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) Both sides recognized that an actual war would be _____.
- 4) Both sides carried out a _____ build up of nuclear weapons.
- 7) The cold war was _____.
- 8) Independence movements formed in the _____ republics.
- 10) The Berlin Wall was _____ down.
- 11) Reforms were _____ to give the people new rights in a more open society.
- 12) Moscow _____ Communist governments in Eastern European countries.
- 13) Republics and countries began _____ their independence.

DOWN:

- 1) The cold war, however, was not your _____ type of war.
- 3) People did die in wars and unrest _____ with the cold war.
- 5) As a war, the cold war was a battle of _____: capitalism against communism.
- 6) Mikhail Gorbachev played a major role in _____ an end to the cold war.
- 9) The leaders involved would finally have realized that there was no _____.
- 10) The Soviet Union and the United States did not _____ each other.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) The cold war period and lessons to learn from it.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Cold war is a term used to describe the chilly relations that existed since the end of World War II between the United States--along with its Western allies--and the Soviet Union--including other communist-controlled countries.
- 2) After World War II the Soviet Union and the United States did not trust each other because the Soviet leaders were convinced that the Americans wanted to destroy the Soviet Union's political system, while the American leaders suspected the Communists were trying to spread communism around the world.
- 3) Mikhail Gorbachev played a major role in bringing an end to the cold war. Gorbachev introduced sweeping political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union, and he began dialogues with Western leaders in an attempt to end the hostilities. Reforms at home led to the collapse of the Soviet Union, which signalled the end of the cold war.
- 4) By the end of the cold war both sides had, we hope, learned these valuable lessons: both sides recognized that it was dangerous to stockpile nuclear weapons, and that an actual war would be suicide; both sides understood that fighting wars on foreign soil never solved anything; and both sides realized that problems at home were more pressing than fighting some battle of ideologies.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) T
- 2) F Gorbachev's reforms did exactly the opposite of what he expected.
- 3) F The cold war was over for good once the Soviet Union collapsed.
- 4) F Problems at home are more pressing than fighting ideological battles.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) b

WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) b
- 3) a
- 4) b
- 5) a
- 6) c

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) suicide 4) massive 7) over 8) various 10) torn 11) intended 12) installed 13) declaring

DOWN: 1) usual 3) associated 5) ideologies 6) bringing 9) alternative 10) trust



Rain Forests

- 1 In recent times human activity has had a greater impact on the world's rain forests than ever before. Slash-and-burn agriculture, where trees are chopped down and everything else is burned to prepare the land for planting crops, as well as logging and mining are responsible for a great deal of the damage. When rain forests are cleared, the ecosystem is thrown out of balance, species of plants and animals become endangered, and the planet loses more of its natural filters--the trees--that prevent global warming.
- 2 There are basically two kinds of rain forest: temperate and tropical. Temperate means that the climate gets neither very hot nor very cold. Bigger temperate rain forests are located in Australia, New Zealand, Chile, the

United States, and Canada. The largest tropical rain forests in the world are the famous forest around the Amazon river in South America, and the forest around the Congo river in Africa. In tropical rain forests the temperature is constantly hot, and it rains often.

The climate in a tropical rain forest 3 makes it a place with an abundance of both plant and animal life. Even today scientists are discovering never-before-known species in the Amazonian rain forest; it is one of the last places on the planet not to be understood completely. In general, tropical rain forests are very humid. Temperatures average about 80 degrees Fahrenheit (26 degrees Celsius). Couple this with the more than 60 inches (150 centimeters) of rain that a tropical rain forest

receives each year, and it is easy to understand where the humidity comes from.

4 The trees in a tropical rain forest grow in layers. The top layer is made up of only the tallest trees in the forest. These can grow as tall as 200 feet (61 meters). Below the taller trees, on the next layer, is a vast population of shorter trees, between 60 and 100 feet tall (18 to 30 meters), which form a shell, or canopy. In many places there is a second canopy below this upper one. Because of the trees and other vegetation, the canopies are so thick at some places that no sunlight reaches the forest floor. Many species of vines live in almost total darkness beneath the canopies, making the rain forest a real jungle!

5 When acres of rain forest are clear-cut for agriculture, the soil to be farmed only contains enough nutrients to support two or three plantings, after which, the land will be abandoned,

and unless reforestation takes place, vines and coarse grasses will overtake the plot and part of the forest will disappear forever. In recent times, human activity has been responsible for destroying between 20 and 50 million acres of rain forest each year.

6 Scientists figure that over 40,000 species of plants grow in the Amazonian rain forest. Studies estimate that in tropical rain forests around the world a species goes extinct once every six hours. Think: what if one of the species which goes extinct could have been made into a medicine to cure cancer or could have held some other benefit for humankind?

7 Today rain forests cover less than six percent of the earth's total land surface. Remember, through photosynthesis green plants supply humans with oxygen to breath. The rain forests are the world's biggest provider of clean air. Can we survive without them?

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Rain Forests. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Human activity in the rain forests of the world.
- b) Plant life in rain forests.
- c) Information about rain forests.
- d) The total destruction of the world's rain forests.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What happens when rain forests are cleared?

2) How many kinds of rain forest are there? What are they called?

3) What grows in almost total darkness beneath the forest canopy?

4) How often does a species go extinct in tropical rain forests around the world?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) In temperate rain forests the temperature is constantly hot, and it rains often.

2) Tropical rain forests are very humid.

3) Scientists estimate that 40,000 species of plants have already been made extinct in the Amazonian rain forest.

4) Green plants supply humans with photosynthesis.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) When it comes to using rain forest land for agriculture, the author seems to be suggesting that...
 - a) the canopies are so thick that the trees must be cut down.
 - b) slash-and-burn is the best method.
 - c) the forest grows back automatically.
 - d) the land is not valuable enough as farmland to warrant losing the rain forest.

- 2) When the author calls the rain forest a “real jungle” it means that the rain forest is...
 - a) totally dark.
 - b) a great place for animals to live.
 - c) a tangle of plant life.
 - d) a scary place.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) What is your opinion regarding rain forests? Discuss.

- 2) Can we survive without the rain forests?

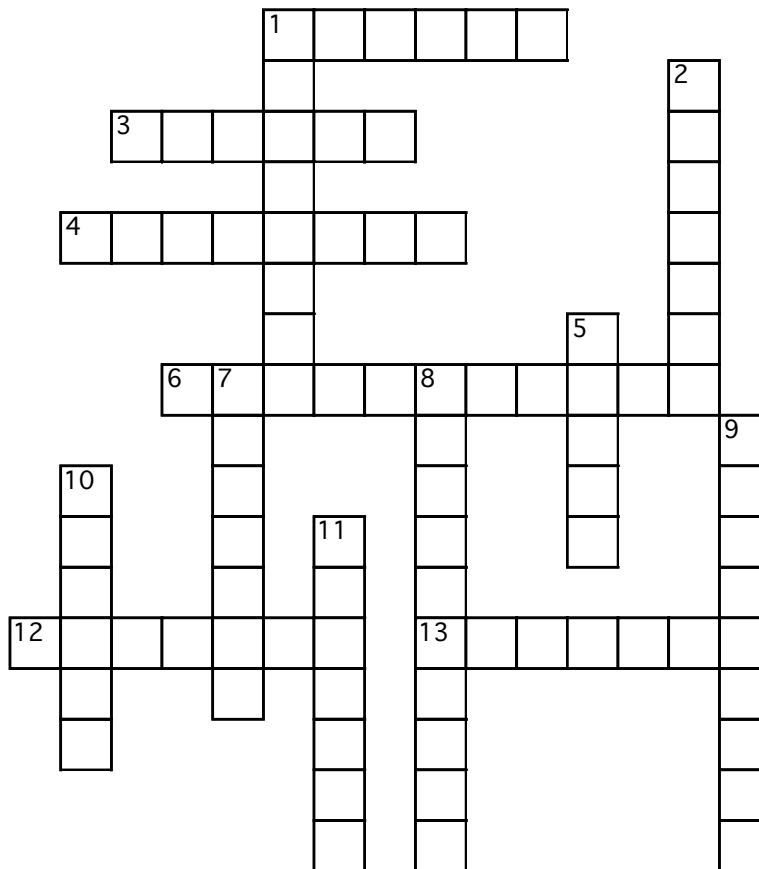
- 3) How have people living near and in the Amazonian rain forest been affected by human activity?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1) impact | a) neglect | b) effect | c) misfortune |
| 2) constantly | a) always | b) rarely | c) increasingly |
| 3) abundance | a) uniqueness | b) speciality | c) wealth |
| 4) vegetation | a) creatures | b) plants | c) vegetables |
| 5) nutrients | a) filters | b) organs | c) minerals |
| 6) abandoned | a) left behind | b) boarded up | c) torn apart |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 1) Over 40,000 species of _____ grow in the Amazonian rain forest.
- 3) In many places there is a second _____ below the upper one.
- 4) The canopies are so thick that no _____ reaches the forest floor.
- 6) Acres of rain forest is clear-cut for _____.
- 12) Rain forests cover less than six _____ of the earth's land surface.
- 13) Can we _____ without the rain forests?

DOWN:

- 1) The rain forests are the world's biggest _____ of clean air.
- 2) When rain forests are cleared the ecosystem is thrown out of _____.
- 5) Tropical rain forests are very _____.
- 7) Vines and coarse _____ will overtake the plot.
- 8) It is one of the last places on the planet not to be _____ completely.
- 9) There are basically two kinds of rain forest: _____ and tropical.
- 10) The trees in a tropical rain forest grow in _____.
- 11) Studies estimate that a species goes _____ once every six hours.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

c) Information about rain forests.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) When rain forests are cleared the ecosystem is thrown out of balance, species of plants and animals become endangered, and the planet loses more of its natural filters--the trees--that prevent global warming.
- 2) There are two kinds of rain forest. They are called temperate and tropical.
- 3) Vines grow in almost total darkness beneath the canopy.
- 4) Studies estimate that in tropical rain forests around the world a species goes extinct once every six hours.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F In temperate rain forests the climate gets neither very hot nor very cold. In tropical rain forests the temperature is constantly hot, and it rains often.
- 2) T
- 3) F Scientists figure that over 40,000 species of plants grow in the Amazonian rain forest. Studies estimate that in tropical rain forests around the world, a species goes extinct once every six hours.
- 4) F Through photosynthesis green plants supply humans with oxygen to breath.

INFERENCE

- 1) d
- 2) c

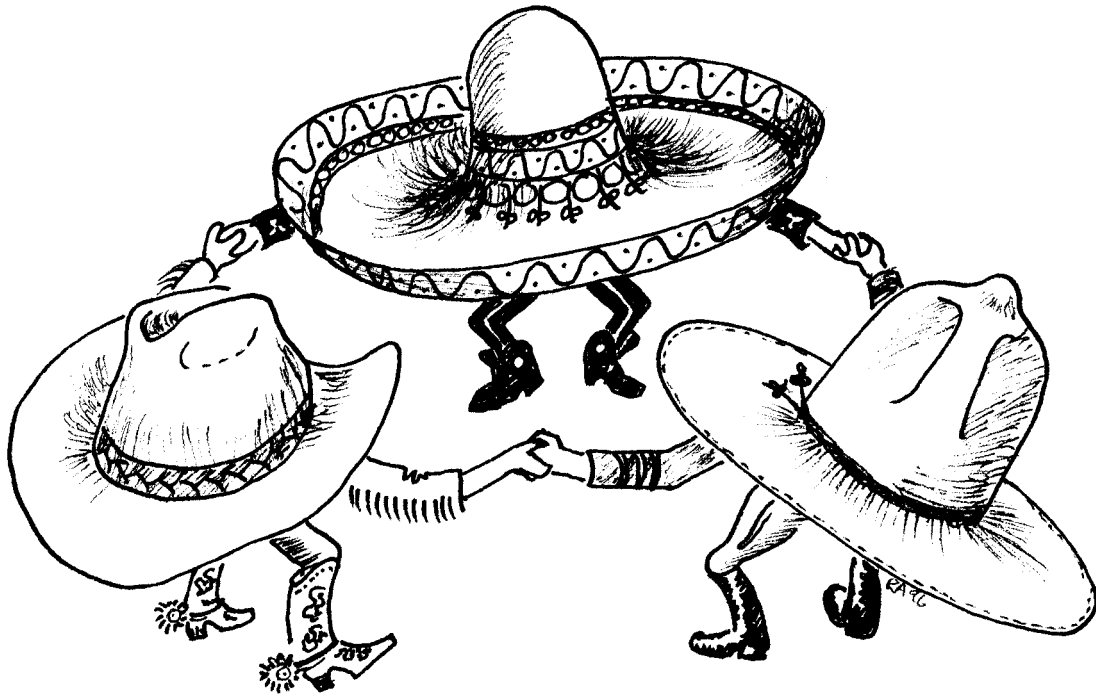
WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) c
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1) plants 3) canopy 4) sunlight 6) agriculture 12) percent 13) survive

DOWN: 1) provider 2) balance 5) humid 7) grasses 8) understood 9) temperate 10) layers 11) extinct



NAFTA

1 International trade is the exchange of goods and services among countries. Free trade between countries exists when goods and services can cross borders without tariffs or other restrictions. The NAFTA is the North American Free Trade Agreement, which is a treaty designed to eliminate trade barriers between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

2 The groundwork for the NAFTA was laid by Canada and the United States when the leaders of the two countries signed the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement on January 2, 1988. That free-trade pact went into effect January 1, 1989, with many of its provisions being phased in over a ten-year period. The trading partnership between Canada and the U.S. is the

largest in the world.

3 On February 5, 1991, Mexican President Salinas, Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney, and U.S. President Bush announced that talks would begin to achieve a three-way free trade agreement. Negotiations were successful and the NAFTA was signed by the three leaders on December 17, 1992, but it did not come into force until January 1, 1994.

4 The NAFTA document is over 1,000 pages long. There is a section in it covering tariffs, and a section on the rules concerning where goods were manufactured. Another part of the pact outlines the rules for foreign investors. Some key industries--energy, telecommunications, automotive,

agriculture and textiles--have detailed rules to follow under the NAFTA. In the agreement there are also measures to deal with any disputes that may arise between the signees, and there are environmental protection guidelines for the countries to follow. Under the rules of the NAFTA, not all tariff reductions will be entirely in place until the year 2009.

- 5 For Mexico, the NAFTA is at the heart of an economic strategy introduced by President Salinas. As a developing country, Mexico depends on foreign investment. The free trade deal has made Mexico into a profitable place for Canadian and U.S. companies to set up shop because goods now flow freely across borders without tariffs, and labor is cheapest in Mexico. The Mexican economy benefits.
- 6 Canadians were divided when it came to signing NAFTA. It was a serious political issue because many

Canadians believed, whether rightly or wrongly, that the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement had caused a large number of job losses, and that Canada stood to lose more jobs to the inexpensive work force in Mexico. Also, Canada does only a small percentage of its trade with Mexico.

In the United States, signing the NAFTA was also a much-discussed issue. On the positive side, Mexico has the potential to become a huge market for U.S. made goods. Mexico is America's third largest trading partner already and has a population of over 80 million people. On the negative side, Americans are worried about the flow of jobs south of the border.

The full effect of the NAFTA remains to be seen. People predict that more countries, starting with those in Central America, will join Mexico, Canada and the United States in free

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about NAFTA. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The benefits of NAFTA.
- b) The signing of NAFTA.
- c) The free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States.
- d) The rules of NAFTA.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What is international trade? When does free trade exist between countries?

2) Who signed the NAFTA? When?

3) What key industries have detailed rules to follow under the NAFTA?

4) Why was the NAFTA a much-discussed issue in the United States?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) The NAFTA was signed on February 5, 1991.

2) Canadian and U.S. companies profit from the cheaper labor in Mexico.

3) Canadians were unanimous in their desire to sign the NAFTA.

4) Americans have no worries about the NAFTA.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) When it comes to losing jobs to Mexico...
 - a) both Canadians and Americans worry about it.
 - b) there is a section in the NAFTA dealing with it.
 - c) Canadians are not concerned.
 - d) people should realize that jobs should be relocated to where labor is cheapest.

- 2) Proof that the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement caused a large number of job losses in Canada...
 - a) is between the lines.
 - b) is not reliable.
 - c) is not given.
 - d) is hidden in statistics.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Already, there are plans to expand the NAFTA. Is such expansion a good idea? What other nations might benefit from joining?

- 2) What other big trade agreements, like the NAFTA, exist in the world? Are they a good thing, or do they in fact risk having some bad effects?

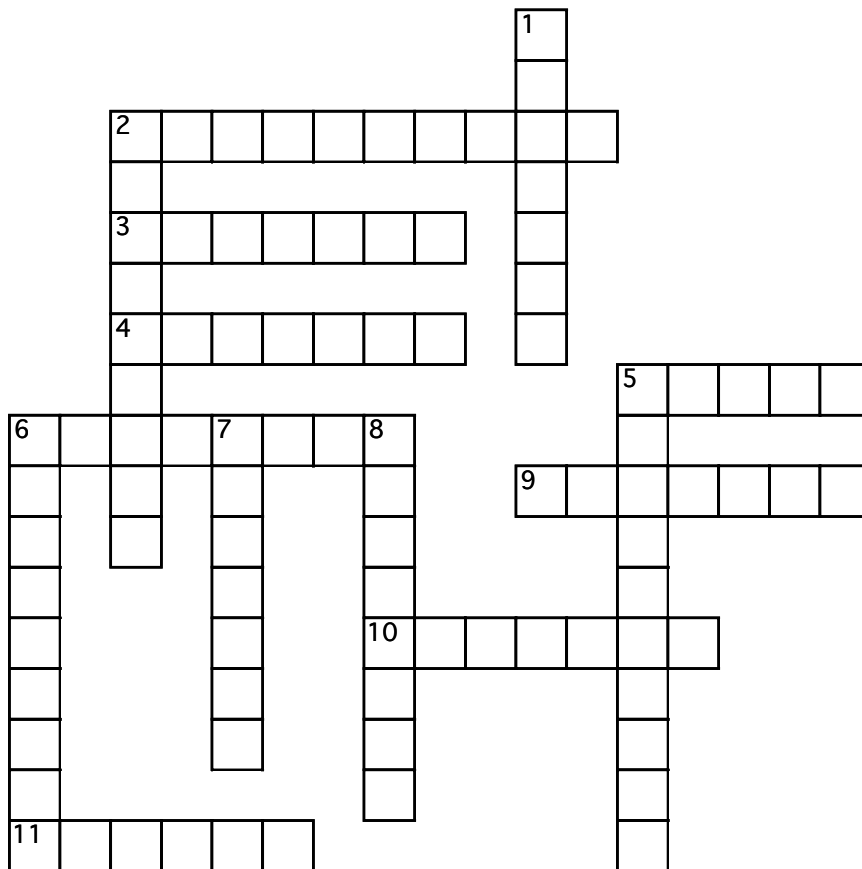
- 3) What, if any, were the advantages of living in the older-style world of more or less separate nations, before large trading groups were formed?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1) pact | a) agreement | b) discord | c) rules |
| 2) negotiations | a) discussions | b) encounters | c) arguments |
| 3) disputes | a) legislations | b) compromises | c) disagreements |
| 4) set up shop | a) cross the border | b) open a business | c) avoid customs |
| 5) divided | a) not in agreement | b) insulted | c) irate |
| 6) potential | a) desire | b) possibility | c) advantage |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) In the NAFTA there are environmental _____ guidelines.
- 3) The trading partnership between Canada and the U.S. is the _____ in the world.
- 4) Mexico is America's third largest _____ partner.
- 5) The NAFTA document is over 1,000 _____ long.
- 6) International trade is the _____ of goods and services among countries.
- 9) Part of the NAFTA outlines rules for _____ investors.
- 10) The full effect of the NAFTA _____ to be seen.
- 11) The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement went into _____ January 1, 1989.

DOWN:

- 1) The Mexican _____ benefits from the NAFTA.
- 2) The NAFTA was a serious _____ issue in Canada.
- 5) Canada does only a small _____ of its trade with Mexico.
- 6) The NAFTA is designed to _____ trade barriers.
- 7) The leaders announced that talks would begin to _____ a free trade agreement.
- 8) Not all tariff reductions will be _____ in place until the year 2009.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

c) The free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) International trade is the exchange of goods and services among countries. Free trade between countries exists when goods and services can cross borders without tariffs or other restrictions.
- 2) Mexican President Salinas, Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney, and U.S. President Bush signed the NAFTA on December 17, 1992,
- 3) The following are the key industries that have detailed rules to follow under the NAFTA: energy, telecommunications, automotive, agriculture and textiles.
- 4) In United States the NAFTA was much discussed because people could see a positive side and a negative side to the issue.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F On February 5, 1991, the three leaders announced that talks would begin to achieve a three-way free trade agreement. The NAFTA was signed by them on December 17, 1992, but it did not come into force until January 1, 1994.
- 2) T
- 3) F Canadians were divided in their desire to sign the NAFTA.
- 4) F Americans worry about jobs flowing south of the border into Mexico.

INFERENCES

- 1) a
- 2) c

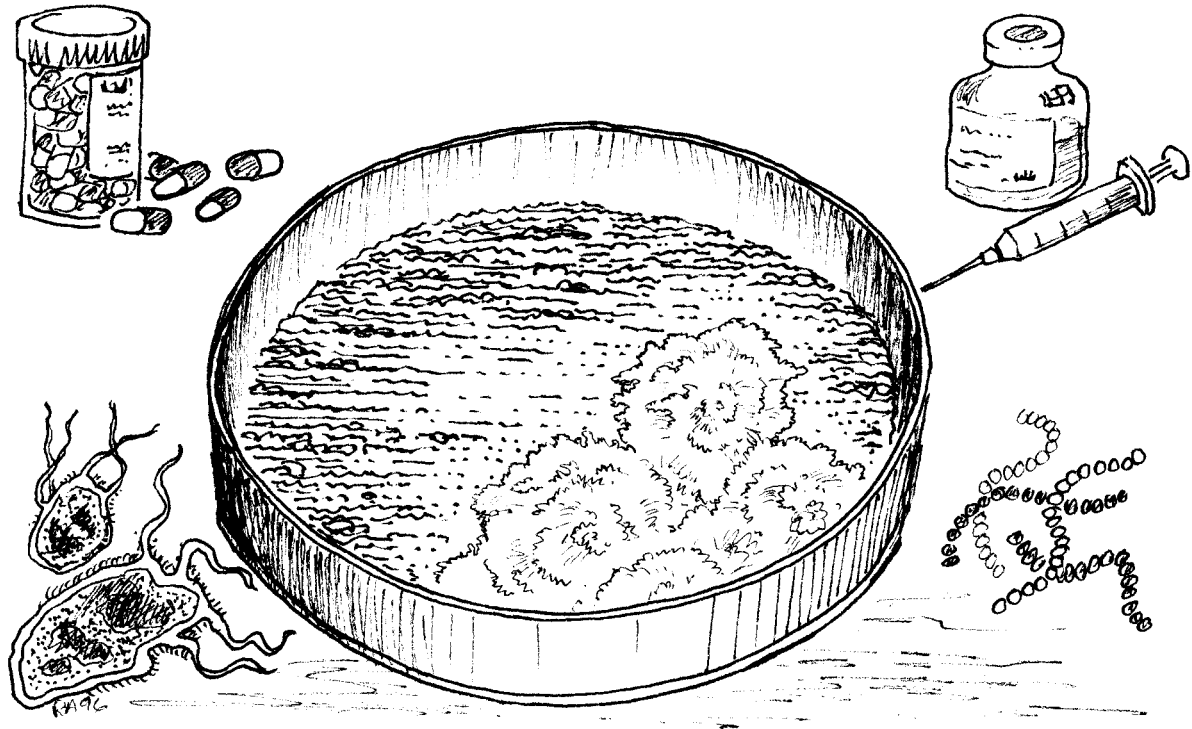
WORD POWER

- 1) a
- 2) a
- 3) c
- 4) b
- 5) a
- 6) b

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) protection 3) largest 4) trading 5) pages 6) exchange 9) foreign 10) remains 11) effect

DOWN: 1) economy 2) political 5) percentage 6) eliminate 7) achieve 8) entirely



Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

1 People get sick every day. No joke: our hospitals are full of sick people. And do you know what some people think is the worst place to be when you are sick? The hospital. Now, the point here is not to recommend that, if you are sick, you should not go to the hospital. By all means, go. That is where you will get the best care. But there is a growing concern that because of all the sick people in a hospital, you are more likely to contract a disease there, in the hospital, than you would be elsewhere. And what happens if you catch some sickness that is “going around” the hospital? Indeed, what if the bug you catch is resistant to antibiotics? This has happened to some people, and they have become very sick.

2 Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are now turning up in some hospitals. Read your local newspaper. Whether you live in a big city or a small town, it might have happened in your community hospital...anywhere in the world! If you look, the statistics prove that many antibiotics are becoming increasingly less successful in stopping some of the bacterial infections that they once controlled effectively. These sicknesses can be deadly.

3 Bacteria is the name given to some species of one-celled microscopic organisms. Bacteria are found everywhere. One way a bacterium can become drug-resistant is by mutating. Another way is when two bacteria mate and one of them carries

a resistance gene; the gene can be passed on to the new cell. In turn, this new cell could pass this characteristic on when it mates. Take note, bacteria reproduce as often as once every half hour.

- 4 Bacterial diseases whose very names once conjured up images of people dying in hospitals and in the streets, such as tuberculosis, dysentery and typhoid fever, are slowly making a comeback. In the past doctors were unable to cure people suffering from these diseases because they had no antibiotics. Today doctors have the antibiotics, but these are becoming less effective against new strains of these bacteria. Occasionally, when antibiotics are introduced and resistant bacteria are present, the antibiotic successfully kills all the non-resistant bacteria, which leaves the resistant ones alive with room to grow. Some doctors fear that in the future we might see a return to the days when plagues were not uncommon. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are one of the most serious problems doctors have ever had

to face.

A major concern to today's health professionals is the contribution being made to the development of drug-resistant bacteria by antibiotics placed in animal feed. Farm animals are given antibiotics because the drugs make the animals grow faster and produce more. There are reports which claim that almost half the antibiotics used in the United States are fed to animals. Only resistant bacteria survive these constant doses of antibiotics. The animals become a breeding ground for resistant bacteria. And these may be passed on, to other animals or to humans, in a number of ways.

Hospitals are not the only place where you might come into contact with mutant bacteria. In fact, any place you touch might be infected. Fortunately, antibiotic-resistant bacteria are not yet very common. And medical science is working hard to combat them. But there is a possible danger of which we should all be

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) The antibiotic-resistant bacteria problem.
- b) The return of several deadly illnesses.
- c) Why it can be dangerous to be in the hospital.
- d) How antibiotic-resistant bacteria reproduce.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) What are bacteria?

2) What are the names of some bacterial illnesses that are slowly making a comeback?

3) Why are farm animals given antibiotics?

4) What is medical science doing to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) Bacteria are only found in hospitals.

2) Bacteria are very slow to reproduce.

3) Some doctors are afraid that modern-day plagues may become possible.

4) Farm animals become a breeding ground for drug-resistant bacteria because they grow so fast.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) Because bacteria reproduce so quickly, we can infer that...
 - a) they also die quickly.
 - b) these infections can be deadly.
 - c) diseases caused by bacteria spread quickly.
 - d) a modern-day plague is a sure thing.

- 2) According to the writer, going to the hospital may seem like a double-edged sword because...
 - a) you get antibiotics there, but they may be resistant.
 - b) doctors do not immediately know whether a bacteria is drug-resistant or not.
 - c) there are too many sick people in hospitals.
 - d) you go there to get better, but you also have a chance of getting sick there.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Are you fearful of antibiotic-resistant bacteria? Do you think modern-day plagues are possible?

- 2) Do you think that placing antibiotics in animal feed should be banned worldwide? Or are the benefits of faster growth and better production greater than the risks presented by drug-resistant bacteria?

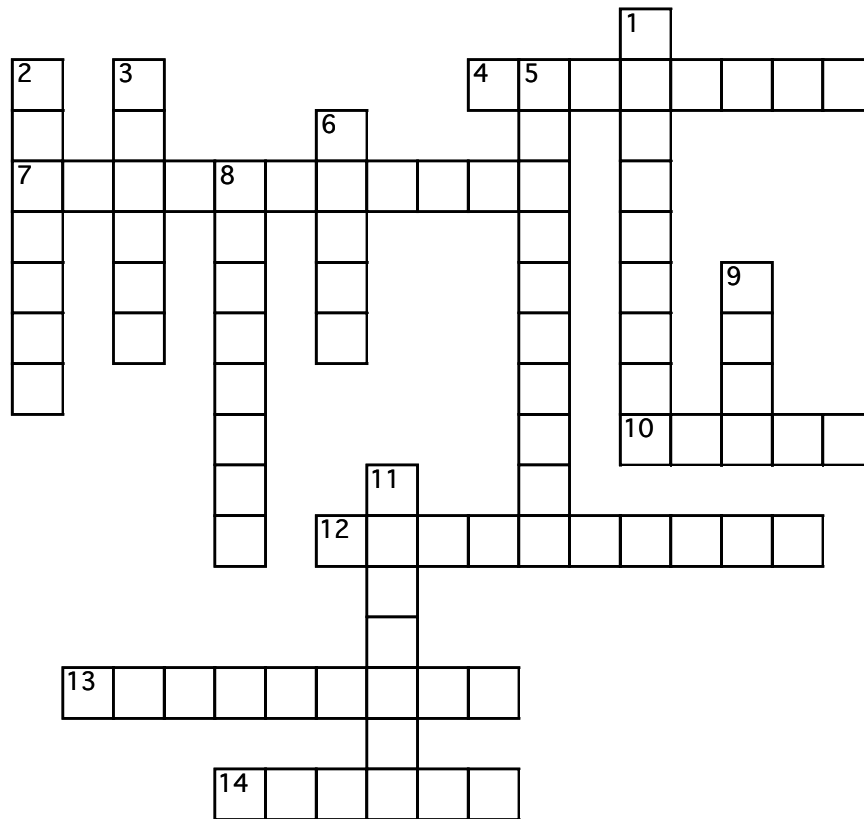
- 3) What do you think is the greatest problem facing humankind today?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) recommend | a) delay | b) offer | c) advise |
| 2) bug | a) disease | b) insect | c) antibiotic |
| 3) mutating | a) changing | b) splitting | c) sprouting |
| 4) comeback | a) exit | b) return | c) appearance |
| 5) uncommon | a) unusual | b) impossible | c) routine |
| 6) constant | a) measured | b) large | c) regular |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 4) The animals become a _____ ground for resistant bacteria.
- 7) Farm animals are given _____ because the drugs make the animals grow faster.
- 10) People get sick _____ day.
- 12) Many antibiotics are becoming less _____ in stopping bacterial infections.
- 13) Antibiotics are becoming less _____ against new strains of bacteria.
- 14) There is a possible _____ of which we should all be aware.

DOWN:

- 1) Bacteria _____ as often as once every half hour.
- 2) Some doctors fear a return to the days when _____ were not uncommon.
- 3) You can come into contact with _____ bacteria anywhere.
- 5) The _____ gene can be passed on to a new cell.
- 6) Bacteria are _____ everywhere.
- 8) One way _____ can become drug-resistant is by mutating.
- 9) The hospital is where you will get the best _____.
- 11) Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are now _____ up in some hospitals.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

- a) The antibiotic-resistant bacteria problem.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) Bacteria is the name given to a species of one-celled microscopic organisms.
- 2) Bacterial illnesses that are slowly making a comeback include tuberculosis, dysentery and typhoid fever.
- 3) Farm animals are given antibiotics because the drugs make them grow faster and produce more.
- 4) Medical science is working hard to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F Bacteria are found everywhere.
- 2) F Bacteria reproduce as often as once every half hour.
- 3) T
- 4) F Farm animals become a breeding ground for drug-resistant bacteria because only resistant bacteria can survive the constant doses of antibiotics that the animals are given.

INFERENCES

- 1) c
- 2) d

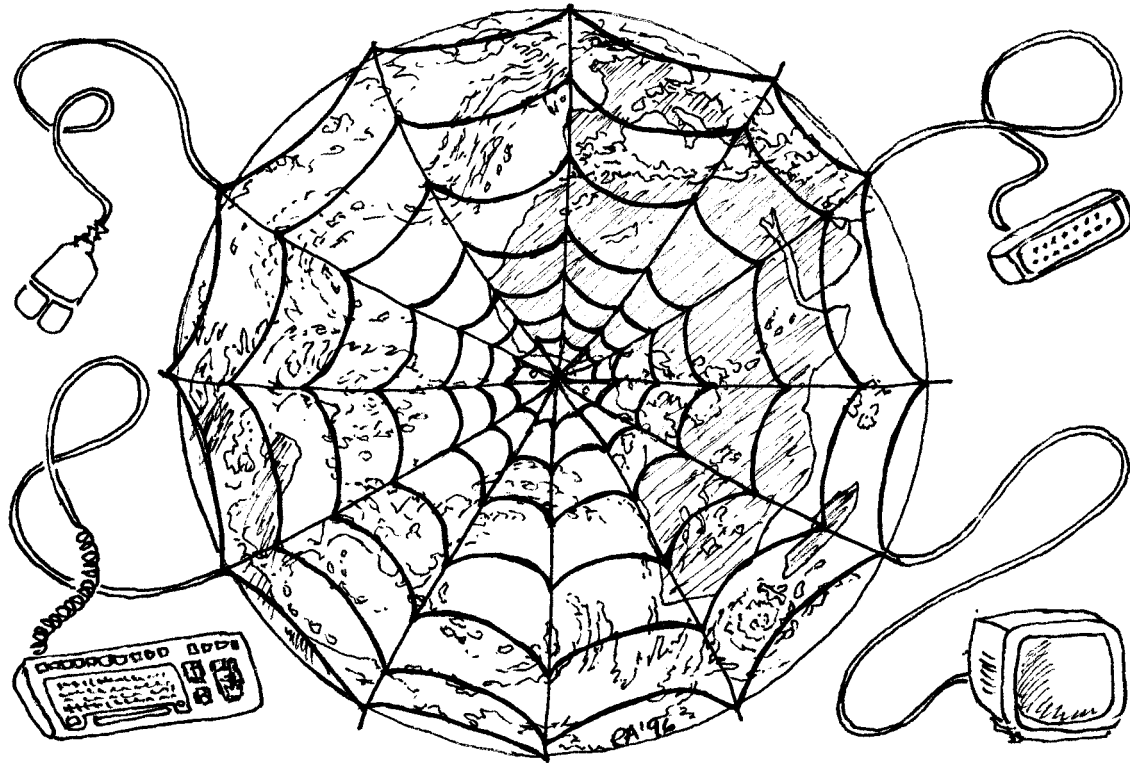
WORD POWER

- 1) c
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) b
- 5) a
- 6) c

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 4) breeding 7) antibiotics 10) every 12) successful 13) effective 14) danger

DOWN: 1) reproduce 2) plagues 3) mutant 5) resistance 6) found 8) bacteria 9) care 11) turning



Internet

1 The Internet is a worldwide network of computers. In fact, the Internet is made up of thousands of networks of computers that have the ability to exchange information. Other names you may have heard for the Internet are Cyberspace and the Information Superhighway. Here are a few things you might like to know before you go “surfing” the Internet.

2 The Internet started as a test program by the United States Defense Department. This was in 1969. The military wanted to design a computer network where there was no one main computer, and where every computer in the system could “talk” with every other computer. That way, in case part of the network was destroyed by an enemy attack, communications would

still be possible because the surviving network would still function.

3 By the mid-1980s, almost 1,000 similar networks had been established. Networks were set up by governments, libraries, businesses and individuals. As more people realized the usefulness of being on the Internet, more and more users came online. By the mid-1990s there were nearly 45,000 networks and over 30 million individual computers connected to the Internet. These numbers continue to grow at a staggering rate.

4 You can find almost anything imaginable on the Internet. You can get information from some of the biggest libraries in the world. You can check out how your favorite hockey

team is doing. You can buy all sorts of things, if you go online shopping. You can “download” (electronically copy) data and software from the Internet. You can listen to radio stations that broadcast over the Internet. You can send electronic mail, also called e-mail. You can spend hours visiting countless interesting web pages on the World Wide Web.

- 5 To get connected to the Internet you will need the following equipment: a computer, a modem, a telephone line, and the special software it takes to use the Internet. You also must pay a company, called a service provider, for access to the Internet. Well-known commercial service providers include CompuServe, The Microsoft Network and America Online.
- 6 E-mail is the most popular part of the Internet, probably because users can avoid most long distance telephone charges by using e-mail rather than talking. With e-mail it takes seconds to send a message anywhere in the world.

If you are not home to receive an e-mail message, your service provider will keep it for you until you retrieve it. There is easy software to send and receive e-mail messages, and you have a unique e-mail address to identify your mailbox.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is one ⁷ particular system on the Internet. Vast amounts of information are available on the WWW. The documents inside the WWW are called Web pages. Web pages are stored at places called Web sites, which can be a company, or a university or any agency that stores Web pages. When you explore the WWW you use a special program called a Web browser. All Web pages have a unique address known as the Uniform Resource Locator, or URL.

By allowing the nearly instantaneous ⁸ transfer of information to almost anywhere on the planet, the Internet has helped to bring neighbors in the global village even closer together.

THE MAIN IDEA

Circle the letter of the sentence or phrase which best describes the main idea of the article about the Internet. Be prepared to support your answer.

- a) Value of the Internet.
- b) The effect of the Internet on the global village.
- c) E-mail and the World Wide Web.
- d) History and features of the Internet.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

If you can, answer these questions from memory. If you cannot, look back at the article.

1) How did the Internet start?

2) By the mid-1990s, how many individual computers were connected to the Internet?

3) What equipment do you need to get connected to the Internet?

4) What happens if you are not home to receive an e-mail message?

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Write TRUE or FALSE under each statement. If the statement is false, write the statement correctly.

1) The military wanted to design a computer network where one main computer controlled all information exchanges.

2) In recent years, the number of new users going online has slowed considerably.

3) You must pay a service provider to get access to the Internet.

4) All e-mail mailboxes have a Uniform Resource Locator.

INFERENCES

Based on the article, circle the letter of the best sentence completion.

- 1) The number of Internet users is growing quickly because...
 - a) service providers have lowered their prices.
 - b) people are realizing that the Internet has a lot to offer.
 - c) using the Internet is a trend that is going to end quickly.
 - d) people want to find out what the U.S. Defense Department is doing.

- 2) To use the Internet and its features, it seems you need...
 - a) fast hardware.
 - b) special software.
 - c) to understand how to “download” data.
 - d) friends in other parts of the world.

INTERPRETATION

- 1) Do you use the Internet? If so, what do you do? If not, would you like to try? Why or why not?

- 2) Think of the different things you do each day...how many of them involve computers in some way?

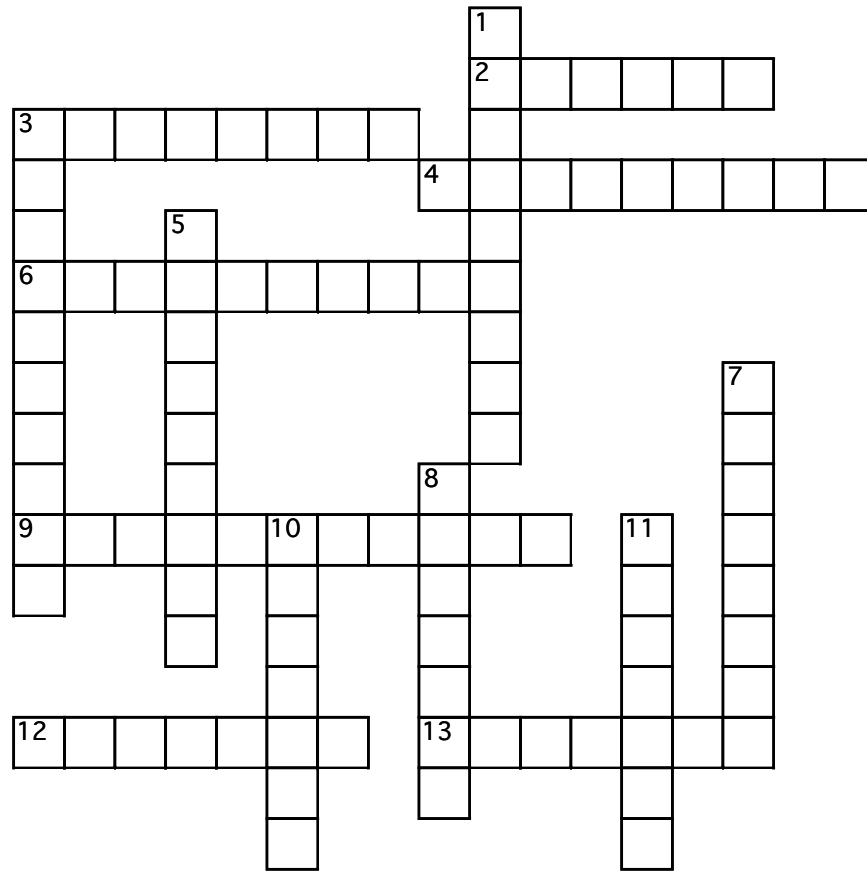
- 3) What do you think will be the future impact of the Internet on our daily lives? Give examples. Will the effect be good or bad?

WORD POWER

Circle the letter of the word that means the same as the word on the left.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) main | a) alien | b) central | c) compatible |
| 2) function | a) work | b) buzz | c) switch |
| 3) staggering | a) astounding | b) lamentable | c) depressing |
| 4) countless | a) relentless | b) surprisingly | c) numerous |
| 5) retrieve | a) transmit | b) collect | c) detain |
| 6) instantaneous | a) immediate | b) spontaneous | c) regrettable |

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2) You can buy all sorts of things, if you go _____ shopping.
- 3) The Internet is a network of computers that have the ability to _____ information.
- 4) The _____ network would still function.
- 6) Other names for the Internet are _____ and the Information Superhighway
- 9) Vast amounts of _____ are available on the World Wide Web.
- 12) The Internet started as a test _____ by the United States Defense Department.
- 13) By the mid-1980s, almost 1,000 _____ networks had been established.

DOWN:

- 1) The _____ inside the World Wide Web are called Web pages.
- 3) You can send _____ mail, also called e-mail.
- 5) The Internet has helped to bring _____ in the global village even closer together.
- 7) You must pay a company, called a service _____, for access to the Internet.
- 8) You can get information from some of the _____ libraries in the world.
- 10) With e-mail it takes seconds to send a _____ anywhere in the world.
- 11) E-mail is the most _____ part of the Internet.

ANSWER KEY

THE MAIN IDEA

d) History and features of the Internet.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

- 1) The Internet started as a test program by the United States Defense Department.
- 2) By the mid-1990s, over 30 million individual computers were connected to the Internet.
- 3) To get connected to the Internet you will need the following equipment: a computer, a modem, a telephone line, and the special software it takes to use the Internet.
- 4) If you are not home to receive an e-mail message, your service provider will keep it for you until you retrieve it.

REMEMBERING DETAILS

- 1) F The military wanted to design a computer network where there was not one main computer that controlled all information exchanges.
- 2) F In recent years, the number of new users going online has continued to rise at a staggering rate.
- 3) T
- 4) F An e-mail mailbox has an address, but it is a Web page that has a Uniform Resource Locator.

INFERENCES

- 1) b
- 2) b

WORD POWER

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) c
- 5) b
- 6) a

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 2) online 3) exchange 4) surviving 6) Cyberspace 9) information 12) program 13) similar

DOWN: 1) documents 3) electronic 5) neighbors 7) provider 8) biggest 10) message 11) popular

If only someone would come out with a low level ESL/EFL/Literacy reading and discussion text on topics that we find interesting! It would be great if that book covered subjects like Recycling, Single-Parent Families, Generation X and the Internet. It would be truly amazing if that book was **REPRODUCIBLE** and contained plenty of exercises, offering a good range of integrated activities for each unit. We could call the book **20 Questions...Answered.**

Book Two topics include:

1. Recycling
2. Ghosts
3. Snowboarding
4. Baltic States
5. Single-Parent Families
6. United Nations
7. Slang
8. Video Games
9. Pro Athlete Today
10. Tobacco
11. Special Effects
12. Satellites
13. Killer Bees
14. Generation X
15. CD-ROM
16. Cold War
17. Rain Forests
18. NAFTA
19. Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria
20. Internet



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