

## 90 A Seed Takes a Bow

You probably remember that chocolate is made from cacao seeds. These seeds grow on cacao trees. Note that *cacao* (not *cocoa*) is the accurate spelling. The mistake in spelling was made a long time ago by English importers.

The word *cacao* comes from two Mayan words meaning "bitter juice." The word *chocolate* came from two other Mayan words meaning "warm drink."

The cacao tree was first found in southern Mexico. In their wild state cacao trees grow up to 40 feet tall. But on a farm they are kept pruned to a height of about 15 feet.

Cacao trees require a mean temperature of about 80 degrees. They just cannot stand a cold or even cool climate. Another requirement is that they cannot stand direct sunlight. They are sensitive when young. They grow best in the shade of other trees. For example, they seem to like such trees as mango, rubber, banana, or breadfruit.

The cacao seed grows in a pod that looks like a long cucumber. It can be 14 inches long. Pods do not hang on stems. They pop directly out of a bare trunk or cling to the bare branches.

When the pods are ripe they are cut open. Each pod contains 25 to 50 seeds or beans. On the average, they are about an inch wide. The seeds are then taken out and fermented. When cured, no pulp clings to the seed. The yield, on the average, is one to two pounds of seed per tree per year. So you need many trees to satisfy the market. Most of the world's cacao comes from small family farms. The biggest producers are Ghana in West Africa and Brazil in South America.

### Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. The cacao seed grows in a long pod.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
b. Cacao seeds and trees have distinct characteristics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
c. Cacao trees produce cacao seeds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Who - Walter Scott  
What - Diners

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Subject Matter</b>        | 2 This passage deals mainly with<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. where cacao trees are grown.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. cacao seeds and cacao trees.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. cacao trees.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. products made from cacao seeds.                                                                                                                                           | _____ |
| <b>Supporting Details</b>    | 3 The cacao tree was first discovered in<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. Ghana.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. southern Mexico.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. Brazil.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. the southern United States.                                                                                                                                                                              | _____ |
| <b>Conclusion</b>            | 4 It is possible to conclude that the cacao tree<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. makes more pods if it is in the shade.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. is more popular in Mexico than anywhere else.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. grows under another tree because it likes company.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. is a fairly fussy plant.                                                                 | _____ |
| <b>Clarifying Devices</b>    | 5 When referring to the "mean" temperature, the author is referring to the<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. temperature that trees are forced to grow in.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. temperature colder than the trees would like.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. exact temperature necessary for cacao trees to live.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. average temperature suitable for cacao trees to grow. | _____ |
| <b>Vocabulary in Context</b> | 6 As used in this passage, <u>accurate</u> means<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. incorrect.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. correct.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. old.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. about the same.                                                                                                                                                                                         | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214.

Total  
Score

# 91 Icebergs

Fog at sea is dangerous. But icebergs at sea are terrifying. Just the mention of icebergs and we immediately think *Titanic*. Even though that ship struck a large berg, we know icebergs can be even larger. One of the largest ever seen was in the Antarctic region. It was 60 miles wide. It was over 200 miles long. Let us compare it to one of our states. It was twice as big as the state of Connecticut. An even more important measure of size is the depth of an iceberg. For example, the Antarctic berg towered about 400 feet above the surface of the ocean. But this was only about an eighth to a tenth of its total mass. Most of the berg—3,600 feet in this case—was under water.

How are icebergs formed? The iceberg first of all was part of a glacier or ice cap on land. The thickest ice cap of all is the Antarctic ice cap. It is 1,000 feet thick near the coast and 6,000 feet thick in the middle. The 6,000 foot portion is heavy beyond imagination. This weight in the middle puts pressure on the whole ice cap. The pressure pushes out the ice at the ends. The ends are pushed into the sea. When these ends break off, they become floating icebergs.

Let's shift to the North Atlantic. The bergs here break off the ice cap covering Greenland. The danger is that some of these bergs float into the routes of transatlantic liners. April, May, and June are the worst months. During these months, ships take a more southerly route.

Ships traveling at night are in special danger. After the *Titanic*, an ice patrol was formed to protect all ships. Ice patrols use planes and ships to locate icebergs. The patrol reports the position of all icebergs. It also charts the bergs' probable courses. No one wants another *Titanic*!

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Mark the statement that *is too broad*

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

Answer

Score

**M**

15

**B**

5

**N**

5

- a. Icebergs are formed from ice caps and glaciers.
- b. There are many dangers for ships in ice-filled waters.
- c. Icebergs' size and weight make them dangerous for ships.

☐
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Who - Mr. Walter Scott  
What - Diners

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                          |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Subject Matter           | 2 | This passage is mainly about<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. the <i>Titanic</i> .<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. icebergs from Antarctica.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. dangers from icebergs.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. what ice caps are.                                                                  | _____ |
| Supporting<br>Details    | 3 | One of the largest known icebergs came from<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. Greenland.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. the Arctic Circle.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. Antarctica.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. Iceland.                                                                                         | _____ |
| Conclusion               | 4 | If a ship were to travel from New York to England in April, it would probably<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. use the northerly route.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. use the southerly route.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. travel only in daytime.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. consider postponing until May. | _____ |
| Clarifying<br>Devices    | 5 | To describe the length of the largest iceberg the author uses<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. true accounts.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. humor.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. a story.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. a comparison.                                                                             | _____ |
| Vocabulary<br>in Context | 6 | In this passage, the word <u>towered</u> is closest in meaning to<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. reached.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. extended in height.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. extended in width.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. bent.                                                                | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214.

Total  
Score

## 92 Indispensable Rubber

Pearl Harbor. It was December 7, 1941. Japanese bombers destroyed or damaged 19 American ships. The loss was a nightmare. Nothing could be worse. But a greater loss came right after that. What happened was that there was no rubber.

The Japanese had captured almost all the rubber-growing lands. These were lands in the Far East. Nine-tenths of the world's supply of natural rubber was no longer available.

Without rubber, war production would stop. There was no doubt about it. Everything needed rubber. Trucks, jeeps, and planes needed tires. Artillery could not move. Shipbuilding would cease. The Army and Navy could not move. Rubber was a must. To emphasize: this was a greater crisis than Pearl Harbor.

What did the United States do? Latex, the sap from a rubber tree, was needed. But goldenrod and dandelions also produce latex. Fields of both were planted. Some latex was produced, but only small amounts. Desperation set in. Much more was needed. And quickly.

There was only one sure answer, to produce synthetic rubber. Chemists worked around the clock. They were successful. A fine rubber was quickly produced from oil. Production of war materials never stopped. American soldiers could be supplied.

After the war, new plantations were planted. Some were in South America, some in West Africa. Botanists developed better trees. These produce six times more latex than wild trees. Even hormones and vitamins are used to increase yields. The U.S. does not want to be caught short.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5

- The loss of rubber was greater than the loss of ships in Pearl Harbor.
- Wartime shortages can cause great hardships.
- After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. searched desperately for new sources for rubber.

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☐

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Walter  
what - Diners

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Subject Matter</b>        | <b>2</b> The passage centers on<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. finding an alternative rubber supply.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. making rubber.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. military problems after Pearl Harbor.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. production of rubber in the U.S.                                                                                       | — |
| <b>Supporting Details</b>    | <b>3</b> Rubber was needed for<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. children's toys.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. truck tires.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. tires for people's cars.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. soldiers' uniforms.                                                                                                                                         | — |
| <b>Conclusion</b>            | <b>4</b> From the last sentence you can guess that the U.S.<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. will not go to war again.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. buys up large rubber plantations during wars.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. will have a method for supplying rubber in the future.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. has increased its production of rubber.                | — |
| <b>Clarifying Devices</b>    | <b>5</b> Pearl Harbor is described in the first paragraph to<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. explain the hardships of war.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. show what a beautiful, peaceful place it had been.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. give the reader a historical time frame.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. remind the reader how terrible and destructive war can be. | — |
| <b>Vocabulary in Context</b> | <b>6</b> If something is <u>synthetic</u> it is<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. made of rubber.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. created from plants.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. man-made.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. natural.                                                                                                                                           | — |

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214.

Total  
Score



## 93 Gold and a Stagecoach Hero

Somehow the word *gold*, even in a hushed whisper, does strange things to people. What do people do? They rush, almost in a panic, to the newly discovered fields. For example, over 10,000 rushed to Alaska to pan the Klondike gold.

But one of the biggest rushes was to California in the 1840s. The "forty-niners" poured in from all parts of the world to pan the rich deposits. The miners brought thousands of ounces of gold into the banks. This was a good business for the banks, but it also presented a problem. The gold had to be moved eastward to stronger banks. The only transportation was the stagecoach.

Bandits, of course, would watch for shipments of gold. Watching paid off. A man named Sam Bass, for instance, stole \$50,000 in gold. A fortune in those early days!

The favorite target of bandits was the stagecoach. The bandits would pick a deserted spot. In such a spot some bandits waylaid Charley Parkhurst's stagecoach. Parkhurst was a stagecoach driver widely known for driving skill. The first time he was stopped and threatened, he gave up the gold. But he said, "I wasn't expecting this, but the next time, I'll be ready for you."

The next time came soon. And, as promised, Charley was ready. He shot the leader of the ill-starred gang. Then he whipped his horses right through the gang. They scattered like rabbits.

What made Charley's feat all the more remarkable was revealed at his death in 1879. The doctor's death certificate showed that Charley, old rough-and-tumble Charley, was actually *Charlotte* Parkhurst.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Charley Parkhurst's stagecoach was held up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
b. Gold rushes presented problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
c. Gold bandits targeted stagecoaches but were outsmarted by Charley Parkhurst.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Who - <sup>YMK</sup> Walter Scott  
What - Diners

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- |                          |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |       |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Subject Matter           | 2 | The main subject of this passage is<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. the dangers of the stagecoach.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. the life of Charley Parkhurst.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. the death of Charley Parkhurst.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. transporting gold.                                | _____ |
| Supporting<br>Details    | 3 | The bandits were looking for<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. stagecoaches.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. gold rushes.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. bank officials.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. shipments of gold.                                                                                          | _____ |
| Conclusion               | 4 | The passage suggests that a stagecoach driver<br>was assumed to be<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. a man.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. frightened of bandits.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. sympathetic to bandits.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. young and good looking.                                    | _____ |
| Clarifying<br>Devices    | 5 | The adjective "ill-starred" describes the gang's<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. intentions.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. reputation.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. luck.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. skill.                                                                                               | _____ |
| Vocabulary<br>in Context | 6 | As used in this passage, <u>waylaid</u> most closely means<br><input type="checkbox"/> a. attacked and captured.<br><input type="checkbox"/> b. chased and destroyed.<br><input type="checkbox"/> c. attacked from a hiding place and robbed.<br><input type="checkbox"/> d. forced to turn around and go back. | _____ |

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here  
and on the graph on page 214.

Total  
Score



## 94 Diners

Do you know what a diner is? These days it is a restaurant with booths and a long counter. Diners have a long history in America. But they used to look quite different.

The first diners appeared in 1872. This was in Rhode Island. A Mr. Walter Scott had the first horsedrawn diner. He sat on a box in the back of a covered wagon. Inside the wagon were chicken sandwiches. Scott would drive up to a factory. He would sell night workers sandwiches. He passed them through a hole in the covered wagon.

The first stationary diner appeared 15 years later. It was a walk-in place in Massachusetts, with stools and a kitchen. Sandwiches, deserts, coffee, and milk were available.

Diners began to look very interesting in the 1900s. Most of the horsedrawn ones were now standing along the sides of roads. But they kept their wagon shapes. Then unused trolley cars began to be converted to diners. The long, thin shape of these cars was perfect for a counter and some stools. As trains became very streamlined, many diners began to look like fancy train cars. They took on a sleek, smooth, silver appearance. Their insides were made of stainless steel and Formica. By the end of the 1930s, they usually had flashing neon signs outside. Perhaps you have seen diners like these in old movies.

For a while, it seemed that the classic diner was making a comeback. Many old ones were restored. Fancy ones were built new in a few big cities. The food in a diner is never extraordinary. Usually it is hamburgers or meat loaf. But people love these places for their atmosphere.

### Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Most restaurants change over time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
b. Some diners were restored trolley cars.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
c. Diners gradually changed from simple to rather classy eating places.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

many of them  
+ hum

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**      2      Another good title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. Building a Diner.
  - ☐ b. Dining in Style.
  - ☐ c. The Horsedrawn Diner.
  - ☐ d. Dining on Hamburgers and Meat Loaf.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Supporting Details**      3      The first diner appeared in
- ☐ a. the 1930s.
  - ☐ b. 1900.
  - ☐ c. 1887.
  - ☐ d. 1872.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Conclusion**      4      In the 1930s, the best diners looked rather
- ☐ a. large.
  - ☐ b. square-shaped.
  - ☐ c. brightly colored.
  - ☐ d. stylish.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Clarifying Devices**      5      The author presents the discussion of diners in
- ☐ a. spatial order.
  - ☐ b. order of importance.
  - ☐ c. order of difficulty.
  - ☐ d. chronological order.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Vocabulary in Context**      6      In this passage stationary means
- ☐ a. not moving.
  - ☐ b. something to write on.
  - ☐ c. made of bricks.
  - ☐ d. made of paper.

\_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 214.

Total Score

\_\_\_\_\_