

95 Remarkable Lakes

North America has some pretty unique lakes. For example, five of the world's largest lakes are here. They are the Great Lakes. Put them together. They form the world's biggest body of fresh water.

Superior is the largest Great Lake. It is also the biggest freshwater lake in the world. Superior's area is almost 32,000 square miles. At its deepest point this huge lake is over 1,300 feet deep. Superior is on the border between Northern Michigan and Ontario. Its water never gets very warm. This is because it is so far north. Even in summer, it may be only 45 to 50 degrees.

The next Great Lake is Huron. It is about 200 miles long. It covers about 23,000 square miles. Like Superior, it straddles the United States-Canadian border. Also like Superior, few cities of any size dot its banks.

Lake Huron is directly connected to Lake Michigan. This is the third Great Lake. It is the only one completely inside the United States. It is farther south than the other two. So its waters warm up a bit in the summer. For example, near its southern tip it may reach over 70 degrees. Chicago and Milwaukee are two big cities on Lake Michigan.

The final Great Lakes are Ontario and Erie. These lakes are quite a bit smaller than the others. Lake Erie borders on three states and Ontario. Lake Ontario borders on only one state. These two lakes lie close to each other. They have many cities built along them. These include Cleveland, Buffalo, and Toronto. One difference between them is this. Lake Erie is very shallow. But parts of Lake Ontario are very deep. At one point this lake is 800 feet deep.

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

- a. Chicago and Toronto are located on the Great Lakes. ☐
- b. There are five Great Lakes. ☐
- c. The Great Lakes have distinct characteristics. ☐

many of the
the hum

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|--|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | This passage deals mainly with
<input type="checkbox"/> a. physical characteristics of the Great Lakes.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. large lakes in the world.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Lake Superior.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. shipping on the Great Lakes. | _____ |
| Supporting Details | 3 | The only Great Lake completely inside the United States is
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Erie.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Superior.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Huron.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Michigan. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | It is safe to conclude from the article that
<input type="checkbox"/> a. cities are more likely to be built along the warmer lakes.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Lake Superior has many resorts for swimming.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Lake Michigan was discovered first.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. the five lakes are not that close together. | _____ |
| Clarifying Devices | 5 | The author develops this passage mainly by
<input type="checkbox"/> a. telling stories.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. pointing out similarities and differences.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. presenting a persuasive argument.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. explaining a process. | _____ |
| Vocabulary in Context | 6 | The word <u>straddles</u> , as used in the passage, means
<input type="checkbox"/> a. rides over.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. fights with.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. lies on both sides of.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. gets water from. | _____ |

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

Total Score

96 An Unusual Reference Book

Where do you find out about the world's longest walk? The world's tallest man? The world's oldest woman? You know the answer, of course. It is the *Guinness Book of World Records*. How would people find such unusual facts without this book?

The Guinness Book did not exist until 1951. Here is what happened. The managing director of Guinness Brewery was a curious man. He wanted answers to some questions about records. For example, he wanted to know what was the fastest flying game bird in Europe. But he was frustrated. There was no book to answer questions like this.

The director, Sir Hugh Beaver, contacted the McWhirter twins. They were brothers who owned a research agency. He asked them to put together a new reference book. It would include all kinds of unusual records. The brothers quickly accepted. The first edition of their book was published in 1955. Soon the *Guinness Book of World Records* was a best seller. It has sold more copies than any book except the Bible. A new edition is published every year.

Where do all the book's records come from? They are a combination of things like natural wonders, sports records, and stunts. (How many people would push an egg with their noses if they weren't trying to get into the book?) But the editors try to keep things honest. All records must be verified by an investigator. Only then are they printed.

The Guinness Book is big business. It is published in dozens of languages. There are TV shows and museums. It is proof of how intrigued people are with strange pieces of information.

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

- Researchers named McWhirter were asked to compile the new reference book.
- People like to read about unusual records.
- The *Guinness Book of World Records* has been compiling unusual records since the 1950s.

☐
☐
☐

Why - 280,000 people
to get a better
life than they
now have

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This selection is mostly about
☐ a. the McWhirter twins.
☐ b. a history of the Guinness Book.
☐ c. unusual records in the Guinness Book.
☐ d. Sir Hugh Beaver.
- Supporting Details** 3 The Guinness Book
☐ a. does not always check its records.
☐ b. is a best seller.
☐ c. is published only in English.
☐ d. has a full-length movie based on it.
- Conclusion** 4 It is clear from the passage that the McWhirter twins
☐ a. recognized that Sir Hugh's idea for a book was a good one.
☐ b. liked to do everything together.
☐ c. were involved in politics.
☐ d. were responsible for building Guinness museums.
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The sentence in parentheses in the fourth paragraph is
☐ a. a comparison.
☐ b. a story.
☐ c. one step in a process.
☐ d. an example.
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage verified means
☐ a. questioned.
☐ b. written up.
☐ c. proved the truth of.
☐ d. blocked.

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

Total
Score

97 The Oregon Trail

The United States was settled by people moving west. The eastern part of the country was settled fairly early. But in the mid-1800s, people were talking about going to far western regions. They heard about rich farmland along the West Coast. They heard about gold in California. Many wanted to start over, to build new lives. They wanted to be pioneers.

One trail in particular was utilized by these pioneers. It was the Oregon Trail. It began at Independence, Missouri. It ended in Fort Vancouver, Oregon. The distance was about 2,000 miles. Travel on this trail was hard. The first part of it crossed the dusty plains. Here the weather changed constantly. Then it climbed and crossed the Rockies through the steep, hard South Pass.

Most people traveled the trail by covered wagon. Inside the wagon were all their possessions. Women and children usually rode and slept in there. Wagons had canvas tops. These were soaked in oil. This made them rainproof. Usually oxen pulled the wagons. People brought these animals along to plow their new farms. But the oxen couldn't climb well. They had to be pushed up mountain passes. Often wagons got stuck in the mud. Then people would have to lighten the wagons. Sometimes this meant throwing out possessions. If there was no bridge across a river, the oxen had to haul the wagons across.

Along the trail were several forts. People could pick up some supplies at these, and repair broken wheels or axles. But food, water, and wood were usually hard to get.

Between 1845 and 1859, about 280,000 people used the Oregon Trail to go west.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

Mark the *main idea*

M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

N

5

- a. Traveling the Oregon Trail was a long, difficult ordeal.
- b. People used the Oregon Trail to get to the West.
- c. People carried some supplies, and picked up others on the trail.

☐

☐

☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. difficulties of traveling with oxen.
 - ☐ b. going west on the Oregon Trail.
 - ☐ c. the lands the Oregon Trail passed through.
 - ☐ d. the kinds of possessions people took on the trail.

- Supporting Details** 3 The Oregon Trail began
- ☐ a. in the Eastern United States.
 - ☐ b. at Independence, Missouri.
 - ☐ c. at Fort Vancouver.
 - ☐ d. at South Pass.

- Conclusion** 4 Pulling the wagons with oxen
- ☐ a. allowed the families to ride in the wagons.
 - ☐ b. had certain disadvantages.
 - ☐ c. made no sense.
 - ☐ d. provided a food supply if necessary.

- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author introduces the Oregon Trail by
- ☐ a. comparing it with other trails.
 - ☐ b. talking about the wagons traveling on it.
 - ☐ c. telling a story about a family on the trail.
 - ☐ d. telling its distance and where it went.

- Vocabulary in Context** 6 Utilized means
- ☐ a. built.
 - ☐ b. carried.
 - ☐ c. described.
 - ☐ d. used.

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

Total
Score

98 Booker T. Washington: Early Years

Tuskegee Institute. What is it? Where is it? If you said, "It is a historical black college in Alabama," you are correct. Is it as old as Yale, Harvard, or Princeton? No. It was founded in 1881. But its history is just as exciting. Harvard was founded by John Harvard. But who founded Tuskegee? The answer: Booker T. Washington.

Washington was born as a slave. The year was 1858 or 1859. After the slaves were freed, his family moved to West Virginia. As a child Washington had to work in a mine. But he met one African American there. This man read newspapers to the others. He inspired Washington to learn to read himself.

One man at the mine spoke about a college for blacks. Washington was thrilled. He found the full name. It was the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. It was located in Virginia. The school was 500 miles away. Washington was determined to study there.

The Institute had been founded by the American Missionary Association. That group was founded in Boston by fighters against slavery. The teachers were from the North. Their goal was to train young African-American men and women. To train them as skilled craftsmen. To make good farmers of them. To teach women to be skilled homemakers. The plan was this. These trained African Americans would train other African Americans. Many at the school were ex-slaves. They needed help to do well in white society. This school would greatly influence Washington. It would help him when he set up Tuskegee.

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

- Booker T. Washington's early education prepared him to set up Tuskegee.
- Tuskegee Institute was founded by Booker T. Washington.
- Booker T. Washington attended the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

☐

—

☐

—

☐

—

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This passage deals mostly with
☐ a. life on a plantation.
☐ b. trying to escape slavery.
☐ c. Booker T. Washington's early education.
☐ d. understanding what it takes to succeed. _____
- Supporting Details** 3 Booker T. Washington learned about reading by
☐ a. going to school.
☐ b. moving to West Virginia.
☐ c. listening to an African American read newspapers.
☐ d. working many jobs. _____
- Conclusion** 4 From the last two sentences of the passage, we can conclude that
☐ a. the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute impressed Washington.
☐ b. Washington wanted to stay at Hampton.
☐ c. Washington brought new students to Hampton.
☐ d. there were many schools like Hampton in the South. _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author begins the passage with information about Tuskegee Institute to
☐ a. explain what kind of school it is.
☐ b. compare it with Harvard.
☐ c. explain why Booker T. Washington went there.
☐ d. lead in to the Booker T. Washington story. _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 As used in the passage, determined means
☐ a. resolved.
☐ b. willing.
☐ c. happy.
☐ d. surprised. _____

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

Total
Score _____

99 Setting Up Tuskegee

Booker T. Washington graduated from the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. He gave the graduation address. He had learned many skills at Hampton. Among them, to lay bricks.

Three years later, a committee from Tuskegee wrote to Hampton. They asked for a white teacher for a normal school. The principal wrote back. He had no white teacher. But he had a talented African-American graduate. The committee wrote, "Send him at once."

Why was the school at Tuskegee founded? It was political. Colonel Foster, a white man, needed votes. Foster went to Lewis Adams, a black businessman. Adams made and sold shoes, harnesses, and tin articles. He made a deal with Foster. Foster must get money to support an African-American training school. And Adams would work to get him black votes.

The colonel agreed. The bargain was struck. Colonel Foster won his seat. The legislature acted. Some \$2,000 would be provided annually for salaries. The normal school for African-American teachers would be in Tuskegee.

So Washington went to Tuskegee. And here is what he found. A small southern town with dusty roads. Half of the people were black. There was no school there. There was not even a building. And there was no land for a building. No students had been recruited. There was no money for land. No money for anything. The \$2,000 was solely for salaries. The project looked hopeless. To Washington, it was a great challenge. He took a trip through the countryside. He saw how hard people's lives were. And he recruited 30 students. Half were women, half men.

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. Starting the school in Tuskegee was a challenge for Washington.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
b. The school had money only for teachers' salaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—
c. Washington started the school in Tuskegee despite the problems he faced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	—

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | The topic of this passage is
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Washington's education.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. adventures in Washington's life.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. the beginnings of the school in Tuskegee.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. teachers who worked in Tuskegee. | _____ |
| Supporting Details | 3 | Lewis Adams
<input type="checkbox"/> a. asked Washington to teach at the school.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. sold farm tools to whites.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. was against slavery.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. made a bargain with Colonel Foster. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | When Washington arrived at Tuskegee, we can conclude that he was
<input type="checkbox"/> a. surprised.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. amused.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. angry.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. ill. | _____ |
| Clarifying Devices | 5 | To explain the founding of Tuskegee, the author uses
<input type="checkbox"/> a. arguments.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. a list of steps.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. a story.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. a discussion of the present school. | _____ |
| Vocabulary in Context | 6 | The word <u>recruited</u> means
<input type="checkbox"/> a. signed up.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. accepted.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. refused.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. came. | _____ |

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

Total
Score
