

## 5 Two Unhappy Firsts

People enjoy talking about "firsts." They like to remember their first love or their first car. But not all firsts are happy ones. Some involve accidents or other sad events. Few people enjoy recalling the firsts that are bad.

One of history's bad but important firsts was the first car accident. Autos were still young when it happened. The crash took place in New York City. The year was 1896. The month was May. A man from Massachusetts was visiting the city in his new car. At the time, bicycle riders were still trying to get used to the new sets of wheels on the road.

In the accident, no one is sure who was at fault. In any case, the bike and the car collided. The man on the bike was injured. The driver of the car had to stay in jail and wait for the hospital report on the bicycle rider. Luckily, the rider was not killed.

Three years later, another automobile first took place. The scene was again New York City. A real estate broker named Henry Bliss stepped off a streetcar. He was hit by a passing car. Once again, no one is sure just how it happened or whose fault it was. The driver of the car was put in jail. Poor Mr. Bliss became the first person to die in a car accident.

Main Idea 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the *main idea*

Answer

Score

☐ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☐ B

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Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

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a. Not all firsts are happy firsts.

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b. The first car accident and the first death from a car accident are two very unhappy "firsts."

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c. It took bicycle riders a while to get used to cars on the road.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is about

- ☐ a. the first bicycle accident.
- ☐ b. accidents in large cities.
- ☐ c. two of the first auto accidents.
- ☐ d. the first vehicles with wheels.

Supporting Details 3 In each accident the driver was

- ☐ a. found guilty.
- ☐ b. set free.
- ☐ c. laughed at.
- ☐ d. put in jail for a while.

Conclusion 4 We can conclude that accidents involving cars

- ☐ a. happened most often in New York City.
- ☐ b. do not happen as often as they did in the early days of the auto.
- ☐ c. have killed many more people since Mr. Bliss was killed.
- ☐ d. were always the driver's fault.

Clarifying Devices 5 The "new sets of wheels" that bicycle riders had to get used to were

- ☐ a. the new tires on their bikes.
- ☐ b. automobiles.
- ☐ c. streetcars.
- ☐ d. the bicycles themselves.

Vocabulary in Context 6 Collided means

- ☐ a. hit each other hard.
- ☐ b. stopped.
- ☐ c. raced each other.
- ☐ d. traveled in the same direction.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 215.

Total  
Score

## 6 Sea Turtles

Did you know that a turtle can lay twelve eggs in one minute? A large sea turtle lays around 150 eggs at a time. She lays all these eggs in just a few minutes.

Large sea turtles live in the warm seas of the world. Except for when they lay their eggs, they spend their whole lives in water. When it is time to lay their eggs, the females swim to land. They usually return to the place where they themselves were born. How they find their way back there is a mystery.

When they reach shore, the big, heavy turtles crawl slowly up to the high water mark. Using their flippers, they pull themselves along the sand. They must struggle like mountain climbers to attain their goal. When they finally reach dry sand, they rest before beginning the difficult task of laying eggs.

The turtles lay the eggs in deep holes and cover them with warm sand. The sand protects the eggs from harm. Then the females leave them. After a few weeks, if you happened to be walking along the beach, you might see the sand begin to shake in one spot. Then you would see tiny black balls coming out of the sand. The tiny heads of baby turtles!

Baby turtles have a built-in sense of direction. As soon as they are hatched, they head for the water. Once the babies swim out to sea, they don't touch shore again until it is time for them to lay their own eggs.

Main Idea

1

Mark the *main idea*

Answer

Score

☒ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☒ B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

☒ N

5

- Sea turtles have fascinating life habits.
- Sea turtles swim to shore to lay their eggs.
- Large sea turtles lay their eggs in special ways.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

**Subject Matter** 2 The first sentence lets us know that this passage

is about

- ☐ a. turtles' lives.
- ☐ b. oceans.
- ☐ c. time.
- ☐ d. the size of turtles' eggs.

**Supporting Details** 3 Turtles bury their eggs

- ☐ a. to keep them cool.
- ☐ b. to protect them from danger.
- ☐ c. because of deep instinct.
- ☐ d. to protect them from the weather.

**Conclusion** 4 We can conclude from this passage that

- ☐ a. many turtles die while swimming to shore.
- ☐ b. female turtles protect their babies.
- ☐ c. once turtles land, they never return to the sea.
- ☐ d. the job of laying eggs takes tremendous strength.

**Clarifying Devices** 5 The writer compares turtles to mountain climbers

- ☐ a. because they lay their eggs in mountain areas.
- ☐ b. to give you a picture of how hard they work.
- ☐ c. to tell you that they like to climb.
- ☐ d. to tell you that mountain climbers are as slow as turtles.

**Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage, the word attain means

- ☐ a. see.
- ☐ b. push.
- ☐ c. bury.
- ☐ d. reach.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 215.

Total  
Score

## 7 The Whale Clan

If you're looking for a whale, you have a whole family of creatures to choose from. The papa of the whale family is, of course, the whale itself. But there are other members as well. Relatives, you might say.

Few people realize that dolphins are part of the whale clan. In fact, many people do not realize that dolphins aren't fish. Fish breathe through gills and lay eggs. The dolphin does neither. Dolphins, like all the members of the whale clan, are mammals. They breathe air, and they have babies like land mammals and feed them with milk. Dolphins are fascinating to watch. They can leap high out of the water and perform turns in the air. These leaps give the dolphin time to breathe.

Porpoises also belong to the whale family and are very much like dolphins. The main difference between dolphins and porpoises is the size and shape of the snout. The dolphin's nose is long and thin. The snout of the porpoise is short and stubby. Both creatures are smart and friendly to humans.

Not all the members of the whale family are friendly. Perhaps the difference in mood has to do with size. The giant whale is much grumpier than the smaller dolphin or porpoise. An angry whale can be hard to ignore. Perhaps this trait helped to inspire the story of Moby Dick, the Great White Whale who sank a ship and caused the crew to drown.

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. Like whales, dolphins are mammals.
- b. An animal family is made up of many different kinds of animals.
- c. Dolphins, porpoises, and whales are all part of the same family.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter 2 This passage is mostly about

- ☐ a. the food whales eat.
- ☐ b. three members of the whale family.
- ☐ c. the difference between dolphins and porpoises.
- ☐ d. Moby Dick.

Supporting Details 3 All members of the whale family breathe air because they are

- ☐ a. related.
- ☐ b. talented.
- ☐ c. mammals.
- ☐ d. fish.

Conclusion 4 We can conclude that

- ☐ a. porpoises breathe air and feed their babies milk.
- ☐ b. porpoises are much larger than dolphins.
- ☐ c. porpoises avoid human beings.
- ☐ d. porpoises do not leap out of the water.

Clarifying Devices 5 Calling porpoises and dolphins "relatives" of the whale means

- ☐ a. they are related by marriage.
- ☐ b. they belong to the same mammal family.
- ☐ c. they are born from whales.
- ☐ d. they live in the same area as whales.

Vocabulary in Context 6 In this passage the word trait means

- ☐ a. fear.
- ☐ b. mammal.
- ☐ c. anger.
- ☐ d. characteristic.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 215.

Total Score

## 8 Give Them a Hand

Right is right. Right? Of course. But is left wrong? Well, the ancient Romans thought so. As far as they were concerned, left-handed people were mistakes of nature. Latin, the language of the Romans, had many words that expressed this view. Some words we use today still have this meaning. The Latin word *dexter* means "right." The English word *dexterous* comes from this word. It means "handy." So, right is handy. But the Latin word for "left" is *sinistra*. The English word *sinister* was derived from this word. Sinister means "evil." Is it fair to call righties handy and lefties evil? Well, fair or not, many languages have words that express similar beliefs. In Old English, the word for *left* means "weak." That isn't much of an improvement over "evil."

Not very long ago, southpaws were often forced to write with their right hands. Doctors have since found that this can be very harmful. You should use the hand you were born to use.

People who use their left hands are just starting to get better treatment. But why all the name calling in the first place? One reason may be that there are not as many left-handed people as there are right-handed people. People who are different are often thought to be wrong. But attitudes do seem to be changing. Fair-minded right-handed people are finally starting to give lefties a hand.

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**

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- a. Many languages have words that express the idea that left is bad.
- b. Minorities often get bad treatment.
- c. Throughout history, left-handed people have been treated poorly.

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what - insect ponds  
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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

**Subject Matter** 2 This passage is about

- ☐ a. Latin words.
- ☐ b. the ancient Romans.
- ☐ c. attitudes toward left-handed people.
- ☐ d. weak and evil people.

**Supporting Details** 3 At one time, people who were left-handed were

- ☐ a. laughed at.
- ☐ b. very clumsy.
- ☐ c. forced to use their right hands.
- ☐ d. admired.

**Conclusion** 4 Lefties today are

- ☐ a. just as weak as lefties of the past.
- ☐ b. being treated better than lefties of the past.
- ☐ c. thought to be strange.
- ☐ d. being taught to use their right hands.

**Clarifying Devices** 5 "Fair-minded right-handed people are finally starting to give lefties a hand" means that they are

- ☐ a. applauding them.
- ☐ b. teaching them how to use their right hands.
- ☐ c. starting to give them a chance and help them out.
- ☐ d. shaking hands with them.

**Vocabulary in Context** 6 A southpaw is

- ☐ a. a type of a bear.
- ☐ b. a Roman citizen.
- ☐ c. a left-handed person.
- ☐ d. a person from the South.

Add your scores for questions 1-6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 215.

Total  
Score