93 A Fabled African Land

Sometimes people use the expression "going to Timbuktu" when they are traveling to a faraway, isolated place. Did you know that there really is a place called Timbuktu? Not only does it exist, but for centuries it was a very important city in Africa.

Timbuktu is located in the country of Mali, on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert. It was established in around 1100 A.D. as a camp for nomads traveling across the desert. Within two hundred years, it had grown into a fairly large city. Scholarly and religious leaders of Islam, the religion founded by Mohammed, made Timbuktu their home. An important university was built there. There was also a palace for the ruler and many mosques where people could worship. Even when a nonreligious ruler took over, Islamic scholars were used as counselors in religious and legal matters. From Timbuktu, Islam spread across the entire African continent.

Located near the desert and the Niger River, Timbuktu was also a crossroads for trade. In its markets people traded gold, salt, horses, and cloth from all over Africa. The city was a center of learning, wealth, and culture. A visitor in about 1510 described Timbuktu. He observed large buildings, a canal system carrying in fresh water, and the use of pure gold nuggets for money.

After about 1600, Timbuktu began to decline. It was conquered again and again. Today it is a small, rather poor city with few visitors. But still standing are the remains of three huge mosques, symbols of its glorious past.

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. Some places that sound unreal actually exist. ☐ ____

b. Timbuktu had many large buildings. ☐ ____

c. Timbuktu was an important religious and trading center. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. Score

bject Matter

2 This passage is mainly
- ☐ a. an explanation of why Timbuktu is no longer important.
- ☐ b. a history of Timbuktu.
- ☐ c. a summary of trade in the African desert.
- ☐ d. a story told by a traveler to Timbuktu. ____

pporting tails

3 Timbuktu became an important center of
- ☐ a. Judaism.
- ☐ b. Christianity.
- ☐ c. Islam.
- ☐ d. Buddhism. ____

nclusion

4 This passage leads the reader to believe that life in Timbuktu
- ☐ a. was hard.
- ☐ b. was pleasant.
- ☐ c. involved a lot of warfare.
- ☐ d. required a lot of travel. ____

larifying evices

5 In the third paragraph, telling where Timbuktu was located helps to explain its
- ☐ a. religious importance.
- ☐ b. importance as a trading center.
- ☐ c. climate.
- ☐ d. decline. ____

ocabulary Context

6 Mosques are
- ☐ a. tents.
- ☐ b. palaces.
- ☐ c. houses of prayer.
- ☐ d. open fields. ____

dd your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here nd on the graph on page 219. Total Score ____

94 The Great Wild West Show

Gold prospector, Pony Express rider, Civil War army scout: William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody was a true adventurer of the Wild West. What makes him unusual, however, is that he created a famous show about the West. This show, accurate or not, would be the basis of what many people thought that life in the West was like.

Cody was born in Iowa in 1847. He got his nickname by hunting buffalo to feed the crews building the Kansas Pacific Railroad. One story claims he earned the name by beating out another Buffalo Bill in an eight-hour gun battle. True or not, the story shows the kind of life Cody lived.

In addition to fighting, trapping, and scouting, Cody also acted in stage plays about his exploits. His stage experience led him to create his own show. In 1883, Buffalo Bill's Wild West appeared for the first time. This enormous outdoor production brought to life many dramatic elements of frontier life. Included were a Pony Express ride as well as an exhibition buffalo hunt featuring real buffalo. There was even a re-creation of Custer's Last Stand, with parts played by some of the Native Americans who had actually defeated Custer. The Lakota chief Sitting Bull, who had led the attack on Custer, was part of the show for one year. The sharpshooter Annie Oakley also played a starring role, thrilling audiences with her amazing shooting demonstrations.

Buffalo Bill's show was remarkably successful. He toured the United States and Europe with it for thirty years. Not everyone remembered the West the way he did, but his version influences books, TV shows, and movies even today.

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. Buffalo Bill's adventurous life led him to create his successful Wild West show. ☐ ____

b. Some say Buffalo Bill won his name in a gun battle. ☐ ____

c. The Wild West wasn't exactly like most TV westerns show it. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

bject Matter

2 The passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. Buffalo Bill's life and show.
- ☐ b. building the Kansas Pacific Railroad.
- ☐ c. the acts that made up the Wild West show.
- ☐ d. Buffalo Bill's career as a stage actor. ____

pporting
tails

3 A Native American who performed in Buffalo Bill's show was
- ☐ a. Crazy Horse.
- ☐ b. Sitting Bull.
- ☐ c. Chief Joseph.
- ☐ d. Annie Oakley. ____

nclusion

4 The writer seems to question whether
- ☐ a. Native Americans should have participated in Buffalo Bill's show.
- ☐ b. Buffalo Bill's portrayal of the West was accurate.
- ☐ c. Buffalo Bill was a good stage actor.
- ☐ d. Buffalo Bill should have toured Europe with his show. ____

ntifying
rices

5 A "re-creation of Custer's Last Stand" refers to
- ☐ a. an acting out of the battle.
- ☐ b. an actual battle.
- ☐ c. a retelling of the story, but with a new ending.
- ☐ d. a building of a battle monument. ____

cabulary
Context

6 In this passage, exploits means
- ☐ a. killings.
- ☐ b. childhood adventures.
- ☐ c. daring deeds.
- ☐ d. construction of the railroad. ____

your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 219. **Total Score** ____

95 A Terrible Year

Many people remember horrible years in their lives, times when nothing seemed to go right. Sometimes countries can have years like this too.

To many Americans, 1968 was a truly terrible year for their country. More and more people were protesting the government's involvement in Vietnam. African Americans were continuing to demand equal rights as citizens. The country was in a tense, hostile mood.

In early April, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., went to Memphis to lead a protest march of black sanitation workers. On the evening of April 4, as he was leaving his motel to go to dinner, he was shot and killed by an assassin. This senseless death provoked riots in many cities.

Just two months later, another political assassination took place. Robert Kennedy, brother of the late President, had decided to run for president himself. Many people saw Kennedy as a leader who might bring the country together. Kennedy won the California primary and had just made a victory speech. Then he too was shot.

These two violent deaths frightened many people. But the Democratic National Convention in August was a final outrage. While the delegates bitterly debated to select a candidate, out on the Chicago streets police were clashing with antiwar protesters. Once again, violence ruled.

Looking at the United States today, it may be hard to believe this year of trouble occurred. But those who lived through it will never forget it.

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. Everyone has bad years in their lives.	☐	____
b. Three violent events made 1968 a terrible year.	☐	____
c. Robert Kennedy had been a candidate for president.	☐	____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

ject Matter

2 Another good title for this passage might be

- ☐ a. Two Murders in Two Months.
- ☐ b. A Year of Senseless Violence.
- ☐ c. History in the Making.
- ☐ d. The Beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. ____

porting ils

3 Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed in

- ☐ a. New York.
- ☐ b. Chicago.
- ☐ c. California.
- ☐ d. Memphis. ____

clusion

4 The author seems to feel that life in the United States

- ☐ a. has always been violent.
- ☐ b. has been more peaceful since 1968.
- ☐ c. is never good for African Americans.
- ☐ d. is a constant battle between the rich and the poor. ____

tifying ices

5 The main idea of this passage is developed through

- ☐ a. three examples.
- ☐ b. biographies of King and Kennedy.
- ☐ c. vivid descriptions of locations.
- ☐ d. questions and answers. ____

abulary ontext

6 Assassination means

- ☐ a. murder of a well-known person.
- ☐ b. crime.
- ☐ c. protest.
- ☐ d. plot involving several people. ____

your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here on the graph on page 219.

Total Score ____

96 A Gift to the People

Many Americans take national parks for granted. Few people realize how these beautiful sites became public property.

Early in the country's history, federal policymakers began to recognize the importance of setting aside land, They saw more and more people moving west. They feared that this movement would cause some of our most beautiful scenery to be destroyed. In 1832, the government chose the first natural area to be legally protected. This was the Hot Springs region in Arkansas. It was a spot that many people had been visiting to seek cures for arthritis.

The first actual national park was Yellowstone. It was established in 1872. For years, people in the East had heard stories of this area. In it were places where hot water and steam supposedly spouted out of the earth. Then explorers returned with photographs showing that such an area really existed. And Congress was ready to protect it. They set the land aside "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." A second national park, Yosemite, was established in 1890. Its purpose was to protect a beautiful area of California from overdevelopment.

In 1901, conservationist Theodore Roosevelt became president. The number of national parks began to grow rapidly. Today there are over fifty of them, and people visit in great numbers. In fact, many parks are almost too popular. There is sometimes serious overcrowding. Also, too many people use the parks carelessly. As a result, some are experiencing serious damage. Lands set aside for all generations of Americans now run the risk of being destroyed.

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. Countries need places like national parks. ☐ ____

b. First established in the late 1800s, national parks have become more and more popular. ☐ ____

c. The United States now has over fifty national parks. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

bject Matter

2 Another title for this passage could be

- ☐ a. The National Parks of the United States.
- ☐ b. National Parks Around the World.
- ☐ c. The Establishment of Yellowstone Park.
- ☐ d. How Overcrowding Is Harming the National Parks.

_____

pporting
tails

3 The first national park was at

- ☐ a. Hot Springs.
- ☐ b. Yellowstone.
- ☐ c. Yosemite.
- ☐ d. the Grand Canyon.

_____

clusion

4 The reader can conclude that

- ☐ a. Theodore Roosevelt supported national parks.
- ☐ b. Yellowstone became popular as soon as it was founded.
- ☐ c. the government did not want to establish Yosemite as a park.
- ☐ d. soon people will not be allowed to use the national parks at all.

_____

rifying
ices

5 The information in this passage is presented

- ☐ a. in spatial order.
- ☐ b. in chronological order.
- ☐ c. in cause and effect order.
- ☐ d. from a late date to an earlier date.

_____

abulary
Context

6 A conservationist is a person who

- ☐ a. grabs land for himself or herself.
- ☐ b. tries to protect the land.
- ☐ c. is the first to settle in an area.
- ☐ d. raises crops in order to feed a family.

_____

your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here on the graph on page 219. **Total Score** _____

97 Animals Beware!

The history of executions is not a pleasant story. Executions that took place in the Middle Ages were especially bizarre. For example, many of the victims were animals. It was common for animals ranging from insects to wolves to be tried publicly. Ecclesiastical courts, which were courts that represented the church, would often decide that certain animals were witches or heretics. The court's punishment was often excommunication (expulsion from the church), torture, or death. One of the last animal executions took place in France in 1740. The presiding judge ordered that a cow be hung by its neck because he believed it to be a sorcerer.

One of the most striking stories recorded concerned a pig that lived six hundred years ago. This pig had killed a little girl—or at least this is what the judge was told. For its crime, the pig was to have its legs mutilated, and then it was to be hanged. In preparation for this grisly end, the pig was dressed up in a child's jacket and ceremoniously dragged into the public square. The execution was called a "six sous" job because the executioner was given six French sous, or pennies, to buy a pair of gloves in order to keep his hands clean during the execution.

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. In the Middle Ages, pigs were tried for crimes. ☐ ____

b. Killing animals was common during the Middle Ages. ☐ ____

c. Centuries ago, animals were often tried and executed. ☐ ____

Score 15 points for each correct answer. **Score**

ject Matter

2 The subject of the passage is
- ☐ a. animals.
- ☐ b. animal executions.
- ☐ c. hangings.
- ☐ d. the Middle Ages. ____

porting ails

3 About 600 years ago, people believed that animals could commit
- ☐ a. larceny.
- ☐ b. adultery.
- ☐ c. robbery.
- ☐ d. murder. ____

clusion

4 It is obvious that many people of the past were
- ☐ a. unhappy.
- ☐ b. peaceful.
- ☐ c. superstitious.
- ☐ d. angry. ____

rifying rices

5 The phrase "One of the most striking stories" is an indication that the story that follows will be
- ☐ a. very difficult.
- ☐ b. especially surprising.
- ☐ c. hard to take.
- ☐ d. very beautiful. ____

abulary Context

6 In this passage tried means
- ☐ a. given a trial.
- ☐ b. give a hard time.
- ☐ c. saw how it worked.
- ☐ d. melted for fat. ____

your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here on the graph on page 219.

Total Score ____