

83 The Long and Short of It

Every day we lace our talk with measurement words. We ask, "How much?" "How many?" and "How far?" At the store we buy meat by the pound, clothing by the size, and cloth by the yard. All athletic events are played on measured fields or surfaces. Rules are also filled with words of measurement. For example, in football we know that a first down means a gain of at least 10 yards. Words of distance, weight, and size help us understand and visualize what is seen or said.

In ancient times, people used parts of the body as units of measurement. The Romans used *uncia* to name the distance equal to the width of a thumb. The English picked up this word and renamed it an *inch*. They did not, however, accept the thumb as a unit of measure. They decided instead that an inch should be "three barley corns, round and dry, placed end-to-end lengthwise."

After this inch was accepted and used, the English then joined 12 inches and called it a *foot*. As it happened, 12 inches was roughly the length of a man's foot, so the foot-unit was widely used. To measure a room, all you had to do was put one foot in front of the other and count.

The inch and the foot worked so well that the English introduced a larger unit. They put together three lengths of a man's foot and called it a *yard*. Again, man had another useful unit—in this case, one he could use to pace off a large field quickly.

Then the English made a unit for the women, one especially for measuring cloth. They called this unit a *yard* too. The distance was from a man's nose to the tip of his middle finger.

Of course, there is a flaw in all this. Not all men are the same size. But no one seems to care.

Main Idea

1 _____

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<u>15</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<u>5</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<u>5</u>
a. The problems of measurement began centuries ago.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. The English recognized the need for a standard inch.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Various units of measurement developed over the centuries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | This article is mainly concerned with
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Roman measurement.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. the development of common units of measurement.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. what an inch and a foot are equal to.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. understanding measurement. | _____ |
| Supporting Details | 3 | The Romans decided that
<input type="checkbox"/> a. thumbs were about an inch wide.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. barleycorns were always the same size.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. people are not all the same size.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. a man's foot measures exactly 12 inches. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | Many units of measurement were developed
<input type="checkbox"/> a. to make it easier to figure out common lengths.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. because men were considered more important than women.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. for no particular reason.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. so the English could prove their superiority to the Romans. | _____ |
| Clarifying Devices | 5 | In the first paragraph the author gives
<input type="checkbox"/> a. a history of measurement.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. examples of how often we use measures.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. an explanation of football rules.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. a way of figuring out which measures are useful. | _____ |
| Vocabulary in Context | 6 | The word <u>flaw</u> is closest in meaning to
<input type="checkbox"/> a. defect.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. difference.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. change.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. danger. | _____ |

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

Total Score

84 The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

What group was named the North West Mounted Rifles? Back in 1873, this was the first name given to the Canadian Mounted Police. Why did the original name change? Because the United States objected. They thought the name sounded too much like a military force. And that was a problem. A treaty between the United States and Canada stated that no armed forces would patrol the 4,000-mile border. So the name became Canadian Mounted Police. The word *royal* was added in 1920. King Edward VII of England allowed them to use the prefix.

What is the mission of the Mounties? The words on their badge tell it all. The words are "Maintain the right." The Mounties cover miles and miles of territory to fulfill their mission. They are not like the local police in towns and cities. Their territory is the mountains, forests, and tundra of the rest of Canada.

The Mounties gained world fame during the Klondike gold rush. Gold was discovered in August 1896. More than 25,000 people joined the rush. People from all over the world sought their fortune in the frozen north. The Mounties kept law and order in the Canadian gold fields. (Many people believe the gold rush took place in Alaska. This is not so. The gold rush was in the Yukon Territory. This belongs to Canada.)

In ceremonies, you can still see the Mounties. You'll see the famous scarlet tunics that they wear. You'll also see their wide-brimmed hats. Their breeches are always tucked in high boots with spurs. Dressed to the hilt, the Mounties are a sight to see.

Main Idea

1 _____

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	M	<u>15</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	B	<u>5</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	N	<u>5</u>

- a. The Royal Mounties are Canadian law officers.
- b. The Mounties became famous during the gold rush.
- c. The Royal Mounties have policed Canadian territory for over a hundred years.

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter

- 2 This passage is mainly about
- a. the treaty between U.S. and Canada.
 - b. Canadian police.
 - c. the Royal Mounties.
 - d. a Canadian mission.

Supporting
Details

- 3 The Royal Mounties are recognized by their
- a. white shirts.
 - b. highly polished shoes.
 - c. short, dark hats.
 - d. scarlet tunics.

Conclusion

- 4 The Mounties became famous during the Klondike gold rush because
- a. they kept order and control over thousands of people.
 - b. it was cold and crowded but they stayed in the gold fields.
 - c. they helped discover the gold territory.
 - d. more people came to see the Mounties than ever before.

Clarifying
Devices

- 5 To explain how the Mounties got their present name, the author
- a. tells a detailed story about Edward VII of England.
 - b. describes their uniforms.
 - c. compares them to other policing forces.
 - d. refers to a U.S.-Canadian treaty.

Vocabulary
in Context

- 6 As used in this passage, fortune means
- a. luck.
 - b. future.
 - c. wealth.
 - d. goods.

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Total
Score

85 Protecting the Orange Crop

Frost on the windowpanes is a child's dream. Frost in the orange groves is a grower's nightmare. Here is the reason: frost can ruin the oranges and even kill the trees. How does this happen? When the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, juices in the leaves and oranges freeze. When it freezes, the juice expands. This swelling bursts the thin cells of the leaves and fruit. Then the oranges will spoil and the trees dry up.

When growers hear a forecast of frost, they act fast. Smudge pots ready for lighting are placed in the groves. Oil burners are also put out. Both are costly. For example, to protect an orange grove, 20 to 100 heaters are needed per acre.

Smudge pots and heaters are two ways of fighting frost. But now there is a new way. Odd as it sounds, growers use ice to fight freezing! Some spray their crops with water on a freezing night. The water freezes quickly, and then a strange thing happens. As long as ice stays wet, it can't get colder than 32 degrees. Trees and oranges can stand this temperature. If the ice ever became entirely frozen and dry, it might drop many degrees and ruin the crop. The trick is to continually spray water on the ice. The spraying keeps the temperature from going below 32 degrees even if the air is much colder. Jack Frost may be frustrated, but the oranges and trees are saved.

This strange kind of "ice blanket" works only on plants strong enough to stand the weight of frozen spray. The system is also used to protect banana plants on some Central American plantations.

Main Idea

1

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

- a. Oranges and orange trees can withstand ice.
- b. Frost can be prevented from killing plants.
- c. Orange trees can be protected from freezing in several ways.

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | The best alternate title for this passage is
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Jack Frost Triumphs Again.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Ways to Battle Frost.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. The Helpless Plant.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. The Battle of the Farmer. | _____ |
| Supporting Details | 3 | Ice can save fruit trees rather than destroy them if the trees are
<input type="checkbox"/> a. strong enough to support it.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. sprayed periodically.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. accustomed to frost.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. quickly defrosted. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | You can conclude from the passage that ice would not be used to prevent the freezing of
<input type="checkbox"/> a. banana trees.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. fir trees.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. delicate rose bushes.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. apple orchards. | _____ |
| Clarifying Devices | 5 | The first paragraph catches the reader's attention with
<input type="checkbox"/> a. vivid adjectives.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. an interesting comparison.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. personal opinions.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. a definition. | _____ |
| Vocabulary in Context | 6 | As used in this passage, <u>frustrated</u> means
<input type="checkbox"/> a. pleased.
<input type="checkbox"/> b. irritated.
<input type="checkbox"/> c. melted.
<input type="checkbox"/> d. said no to. | _____ |

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Total
Score