

78 Olympics and the Marathon

Records show that the first Olympic games were held in 776 B.C. Scholars, however, believe the games began hundreds of years before. They base this belief on slim clues on some old scrolls.

The games were not played continuously since 776 B.C. They were stopped in A.D. 394 because they became corrupt. The best athletes were not chosen. Choices were political. Even Emperor Nero entered, and he was no athlete. So the Olympics were not played for 1,500 years. Then a lucky thing happened. A group found ruins of the ancient Olympic stadium in 1878.

News spread. A rich French baron became interested. And in 1896 the games were renewed. The baron insisted that the marathon race be added. After all, he argued, the run from Marathon saved Athens and perhaps all of Greece. Here is that story.

The battle of Marathon took place in 490 B.C. A runner was sent to carry the news of victory to the army at Athens. The runner was a soldier named Pheidippides. He reported the victory. Then, exhausted, he dropped dead. He had run 22 miles and 1,470 yards. The distance was measured up to the high pile of brave dead. This spot is still marked.

But wait. Isn't the marathon 26 miles and 385 yards? Yes. But game by game, the distance varied. It was usually around 24 miles. The present length was finally set in 1924. Here is how it was agreed on. The Olympics of 1908 had been held in London. The starting line was at the royal residence at Windsor Castle. The goal was the stadium. This was exactly 26 miles. But the finishing line was extended 385 yards so that the race would end in front of the royal box.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	☒ M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	☐ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	☐ N	5
a. The Olympics have been played for hundreds of years.	☐	—
b. The distance of the marathon was originally based on Pheidippides' run.	☐	—
c. The Olympics and the marathon started years ago and developed through the years.	☐	—

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 The first paragraph lets us know that this passage is about
☐ a. the history of the Olympics.
☐ b. life when the Olympic games began.
☐ c. keeping records on history.
☐ d. today's Olympics. _____
- Supporting Details** 3 The marathon was added to the Olympic games because
☐ a. there was a great runner named Pheidippides.
☐ b. a French nobleman introduced the idea.
☐ c. a soldier ran 22 miles to carry a message.
☐ d. running had not yet been included in the games. _____
- Conclusion** 4 One could conclude from this passage that
☐ a. there are records showing how other Olympic traditions began.
☐ b. Olympics in the past were not well organized.
☐ c. English royalty have always been strong Olympic supporters.
☐ d. people and politics have always affected the Olympics. _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author presents the information by
☐ a. using precise dates and time,
☐ b. telling about events from the past.
☐ c. using the opinions of historians.
☐ d. giving a list of details. _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 In this passage corrupt means
☐ a. stopped.
☐ b. unorganized.
☐ c. difficult.
☐ d. dishonest. _____

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

Total
Score _____

79 The Man Who Planted Apple Trees

Does the name John Chapman ring a bell? Most people would answer no. But many people would have heard of Johnny Appleseed. Here is some information about the man.

Johnny was born in Massachusetts. He was born in 1774 and died in about 1845. He probably died in the wilderness. He is always pictured there. This is why he seemed like an American version of a prophet. Like a prophet, he tried to get people to listen to him.

And people did listen. But Johnny did more than just talk. He carried a bushel of apple seeds on his back. He also carried in his arms bundles of young apple tree sprouts. He planted them in open spots where the sun could shine on them. He planted them in open fields too. He planted them on the lands of settlers. He planted them on the lands of the Indians. Year after year, people ate the apples from his trees. They even dried the apples in the sun for winter's food.

Johnny was more than just a nurseryman. He was a medicine man too. He knew the healing power of herbs. He often helped settlers with boneset. This is a flowering plant that grows wild in meadows. When used as a tea, it reduces fevers. It helps broken bones heal faster too.

Johnny was also a military hero. The War of 1812 was raging. Lake Erie was a stronghold of the British. Johnny knew the Ohio River. He also knew northern Ohio. He carried precious messages between American commanders. He knew every path, trail, stream, and river. But Johnny was a true apple seed to the end. It is nice to think that he died gently placing soil around the tender roots of his last apple tree.

Main Idea

1

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

- Apple trees now grow over much of the United States.
- No one knows how Johnny Appleseed died.
- Johnny Appleseed lived in the wilderness planting seeds and helping others.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter 2 This passage is about Johnny Appleseed's
☐ a. personality.
☐ b. kindness.
☐ c. life.
☐ d. folktale. _____
- Supporting
Details 3 Johnny Appleseed not only planted seeds; he also
☐ a. picked apples.
☐ b. grew flowers.
☐ c. worked in medicine.
☐ d. fought in the War of 1812. _____
- Conclusion 4 We can assume from the passage that the author
☐ a. likes apples.
☐ b. knows many stories.
☐ c. believes Johnny Appleseed was special.
☐ d. was a great-grandchild of Johnny Appleseed. _____
- Clarifying
Devices 5 What does the author mean by "But Johnny was
a true apple seed to the end"?
☐ a. He died planting seeds and rests among the
apple tree roots.
☐ b. Until he died, he cared more about apple
trees than anything else.
☐ c. He was buried like an apple seed.
☐ d. At the end he looked small, like an apple
seed. _____
- Vocabulary
in Context 6 The word stronghold, as used in this passage,
means a
☐ a. tight fit.
☐ b. safe, well-protected place.
☐ c. way to travel.
☐ d. site of a small fort. _____

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

Total
Score _____

80 Rudolph's Rugged Relatives

Where do you find the country of Lapland on the map? You don't. Lapland is not a separate country. It is just a large area north of the Arctic Circle where the Lapp people live. They live in sections that belong to Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. The Lapps have no government of their own. They are governed by the country in whose area they live. These countries have respect for the Lapps' unique culture. They leave them to develop very much on their own lines.

Lapland is a bleak, barren region. The birches, pines, and firs that somehow survive are thin, bent by the wind, and stunted. The cold is intense and the growing season is very short. For three months, the sun never rises. For another three months, the sun never sets. About 34,000 people live in the region. The people look somewhat like Chinese or Japanese. Their average height is about five feet. However, they are strong and muscular.

Lapps originally came from east of the Urals in Russia. The Finns followed them. Being more advanced, they forced the Lapps farther and farther north. The Lapps found safety and peace in the icy northern wastes. In their own language they call themselves "the banished."

Lapp survival is tied entirely to a thick growth of mosses and lichens. The Lapps do not eat this growth. But reindeer do. They get strong and fat on this "grass" of the far north. The entire village folds its reindeer-skin tents and follows the herd's northward trek. As winter approaches and the snows begin, the herds stop, turn, and slowly head south. The village follows the herd. This cycle has been repeated for thousands of years. Will it be repeated for yet thousands more?

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	☐ M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	☐ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	☐ N	5
a. The Lapps follow reindeer herds as they move to new areas.	☐	_____
b. The Lapps are people of the Far North.	☐	_____
c. Lapland and its people have developed as a unique culture.	☐	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 The subject of this passage is
- ☐ a. reindeer.
 - ☐ b. the Arctic Circle.
 - ☐ c. a nation of people.
 - ☐ d. primitive people.
- _____
- Supporting Details** 3 Reindeer are important to the Lapps because they
- ☐ a. protect them.
 - ☐ b. eat unwanted grasses.
 - ☐ c. provide food and shelter.
 - ☐ d. lead villagers to new areas.
- _____
- Conclusion** 4 After reading this passage, we can guess that
- ☐ a. Lapp clothing is made from reindeer skin.
 - ☐ b. the Lapps celebrate winter holidays.
 - ☐ c. Lapland is a dark and unfriendly place.
 - ☐ d. herds of reindeer make living in Lapland difficult.
- _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 The author mentions the migration of Finns in order to explain the Lapps'
- ☐ a. racial connection to them.
 - ☐ b. dependence on reindeer.
 - ☐ c. reasons for living so far north.
 - ☐ d. primitive culture.
- _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 The word banished as used in this passage is closest in meaning to
- ☐ a. hopeless.
 - ☐ b. lonesome.
 - ☐ c. sent away.
 - ☐ d. scared.
- _____

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

Total
Score

81 The Steamship *Savannah*

Steamboats on rivers were a success. They easily plied the calm waters. But could they take the battering of a rough ocean? This question was put to the test in 1819.

The American packet ship, the *Savannah*, was planning to steam across the Atlantic. The *Savannah* was a 110-foot ship. It was not newly built. It was converted. It was a full-rigged sailing ship. It was simply refitted. A steam engine was added to power two side paddle wheels.

The *Savannah* left New York City on May 22, 1819. It docked at Liverpool, England, on June 20. The journey was made in 29 days. During the trip, the ship ran its engine only 85 hours. After that, the fuel was used up. The rest of the trip was made using sails. The *Savannah* returned to the United States under sail alone. The engine was not used. Nevertheless, the *Savannah* is in the records as the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

Another steamship also crossed the Atlantic, in 1838. It was the British ship, the *Sirius*. It used steam power all the way. It was also a side-wheeler. The trip took 18½ days.

These trips revealed one serious weakness. It was with the large side-wheels. The waves battered these rather fragile devices mercilessly. Something had to replace them. But what? The solution was the propeller. It was wholly under water at a ship's stern. It used power more efficiently.

The steamship the *Great Britain* was designed in 1845. It became the first propeller-driven ship to travel across the Atlantic.

Main Idea

1

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

- The success of the steamship led to the *Savannah* and other ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
- Steamships became the popular way to travel in the 1800s.
- The *Savannah* made its trip across the Atlantic using its steam engine and its sails.

☐
☐
☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | This selection centers on
☐ a. the first steamship.
☐ b. ocean-crossing steamships.
☐ c. the <i>Savannah</i> crossing the Atlantic.
☐ d. traveling by water. | _____ |
| Supporting
Details | 3 | The <i>Savannah</i>
☐ a. had two paddle wheels.
☐ b. had two sails.
☐ c. was the first steamship.
☐ d. only used its engine. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | From this passage, it appears that the steamship
☐ a. was the only way to travel.
☐ b. allowed people to travel to other countries.
☐ c. replaced sailboats.
☐ d. brought goods as well as people to the
United States. | _____ |
| Clarifying
Devices | 5 | Most of the passage is devoted to
☐ a. facts and statistics.
☐ b. a story.
☐ c. opinions of famous people.
☐ d. personal experiences. | _____ |
| Vocabulary
in Context | 6 | Something done <u>efficiently</u> is done
☐ a. very quickly.
☐ b. slowly.
☐ c. with lots of work.
☐ d. with little effort. | _____ |

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

Total
Score

82 The Test of All Tests

You have read about the Arabian horse. It was developed by the Arabs for use in the desert. It was bred to function under some of the harshest conditions in the world. Centuries of patient breeding were needed. Bloodlines were passed on from generation to generation of breeders.

The armies of Arabia used the horse for combat. (Camels were used for patrol duty.) Horses were chosen with great care. Over months, they were put through one test after another. One test was to respond to the ear-piercing sounds of an ancient Arabian horn. The sound had to pierce the din and tumult of battle. The horn of battle was used in the final, most important test.

For this final test, the horses were put into a strong wooden corral. The corral was at the top of a long, sloping hill. At the bottom of the hill was a freshwater lake. The horses were not fed, nor were they given any water. Horses became almost crazed with thirst. They threw themselves at the logged corral and tried to break out. The corral was much too high to jump. Finally, the horses were judged to be at the breaking point. Then the broad gates suddenly swung open. The herd exploded out of the corral. They practically flew down the slope. Their nostrils were smelling and their tongues "tasting" the water. The trainers watched intently. Before the first nose broke the surface of the water, the horn shrilled. It shrilled the most feared call of all. It was the fateful sound of RECALL. Only some horses galloped back. Only some horses' lips never touched the water. Only those were the horses that passed the final test. Only those were the horses that were kept. Only those would be entrusted with the lives of the fearless Bedouin.

Main Idea

1

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

- a. The armies of Arabia used horses for combat and camels for patrol. ☐
- b. Arabian horses were bred through difficult tests and training. ☐
- c. The horse was important to the armies of Arabia. ☐

had?

05

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|-------|
| Subject Matter | 2 | This passage is mostly about
☐ a. Arabian combat.
☐ b. why Arabs bred horses.
☐ c. training Arabian horses.
☐ d. armies of Arabia. | _____ |
| Supporting Details | 3 | During the final test the horses
☐ a. could not drink anything.
☐ b. heard the horn constantly.
☐ c. could only drink lake water.
☐ d. were fed hay. | _____ |
| Conclusion | 4 | We can conclude from this passage that
☐ a. Arabian trainers also fought in the army.
☐ b. the horses that passed the test fought in battle.
☐ c. the horses that did not pass were used for patrol duty.
☐ d. camels also had to survive tests and training. | _____ |
| Clarifying Devices | 5 | The author makes the horse training process clearer to the reader by
☐ a. describing a particular training activity.
☐ b. presenting a well-planned argument.
☐ c. narrating some eyewitness accounts.
☐ d. telling a story about a successful horse. | _____ |
| Vocabulary in Context | 6 | <u>Tumult</u> , in this passage, means
☐ a. excitement.
☐ b. commotion.
☐ c. killing.
☐ d. fear. | _____ |

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

Total
Score