# 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**

**Subject 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. ____

**Supporting Details** 3 The first national park was at

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

**Conclusion** 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. ____

**Clarifying Devices** 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. ____

**Vocabulary in 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. ____

**Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and 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**

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

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

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

**Clarifying Devices** **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. ____

**Vocabulary in Context** **6** In this passage <u>tried</u> means
- ☐ a. given a trial.
- ☐ b. give a hard time.
- ☐ c. saw how it worked.
- ☐ d. melted for fat. ____

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

# 98 The Day of the Dead

Perhaps you've heard of the Mexican celebration of the Day of the Dead. And perhaps, because it occurs around the same time, you thought this holiday was pretty much the same as Halloween. But if you thought this, you would be wrong.

The Day of the Dead is a time to remember departed relatives and friends, but not in a sad or morbid way. Families get together to share happy memories of the past, to feast on special foods, and to put flowers and other gifts on the graves of loved ones. Many people believe that on the Day of the Dead the spirits of the dead will return to join the living. This holiday is popular not only in Mexico. It is also celebrated in many regions of the United States and Central America. Festivities vary from location to location.

The origins of the Day of the Dead can be traced to the Aztec Indians. These early inhabitants of Mexico set aside an entire month to celebrate the dead. When the Spanish invaded, they changed the date of the holiday to coincide with the Catholic All Saints Day and All Souls Day, November 1st and 2nd.

One reason people sometimes confuse the Day of the Dead with Halloween is because skeletons are so much a part of the celebrations. One popular skeletal figure is Katarina, who wears a dress and plumed hat. Skulls and skeletons also decorate many baked goods and sugar candies prepared for the day.

**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. The Day of the Dead celebration involves interesting customs and traditions. ☐ ____

b. Skeletons are an important part of the celebration. ☐ ____

c. Many holidays honor the dead. ☐ ____

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

**Subject Matter** 2 This passage is mostly about

- ☐ a. things that are done to celebrate the Day of the Dead.
- ☐ b. differences between Halloween and the Day of the Dead.
- ☐ c. how the Day of the Dead became a holiday.
- ☐ d. people's fear of dying. ____

**Supporting Details** 3 The Day of the Dead is celebrated

- ☐ a. only in Mexico.
- ☐ b. throughout Europe.
- ☐ c. only in Central America.
- ☐ d. in Mexico, Central America, and the United States. ____

**Conclusion** 4 From this passage one can conclude that the Day of the Dead is

- ☐ a. a sad holiday.
- ☐ b. a joyful holiday.
- ☐ c. celebrated only by religious people.
- ☐ d. celebrated mostly by children. ____

**Clarifying Devices** 5 The word "But" at the end of the first paragraph signals

- ☐ a. a similarity.
- ☐ b. a contrast.
- ☐ c. an argument.
- ☐ d. a description. ____

**Vocabulary in Context** 6 The word <u>coincide</u> is used to mean

- ☐ a. overrun.
- ☐ b. replace.
- ☐ c. happen at the same time.
- ☐ d. happen later. ____

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

# 99 The Greatest Jumper

The world's best jumpers all come from Australia. Most Olympic athletes train for years before they succeed in making a twenty-foot long jump. But the kangaroo, the greatest jumper on earth, can travel in twenty-foot leaps, moving almost as fast as a car on the highway!

The kangaroo's build enables it to travel at this high speed for extremely long distances without stopping. Its small head and short front feet reduce resistance to the wind, giving the animal a streamlined appearance. All of the kangaroo's weight is concentrated on the back of its body—in the thick, long tail and the long hindquarters. The animal can sit on its tail as if it were a chair or use it to maintain balance during long bounds. The kangaroo's hind feet, which are like springboards when it jumps, can be as long as ten inches from heel to toe.

Another interesting aspect of the kangaroo is the strength in its front feet. If those front feet were to be dressed in boxing gloves, the kangaroo could probably win a boxing match. It is known that the kangaroo can deliver strong punches; it can also hop around and completely exhaust an opponent. But despite advantages in speed and endurance, the kangaroo will not hurt other animals and will eat only vegetables. And although the kangaroo can leap over five-foot fences as if they were nothing, this surprising animal really can't walk.

**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 animals can travel very fast. ☐ ____

b. The kangaroo's body allows it to do some amazing things. ☐ ____

c. The kangaroo could be a good boxer. ☐ ____

| | | Score 15 points for each correct answer. | Score |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Subject Matter** | 2 | This passage is concerned with<br>☐ a. runners and boxers.<br>☐ b. the kangaroo.<br>☐ c. Australia.<br>☐ d. jumping over fences. | ____ |
| **Supporting Details** | 3 | Although the kangaroo probably could beat a person in boxing, it can't<br>☐ a. walk.<br>☐ b. race as fast as a car.<br>☐ c. jump long distances.<br>☐ d. jump over fences. | ____ |
| **Conclusion** | 4 | The kangaroo can jump so rapidly because its<br>☐ a. survival depends on speed.<br>☐ b. body is ideally built for it.<br>☐ c. parents trained it.<br>☐ d. constant practice developed strong muscles. | ____ |
| **Clarifying Devices** | 5 | The author develops the main idea by<br>☐ a. using examples.<br>☐ b. telling separate kangaroo stories.<br>☐ c. citing research data.<br>☐ d. describing the countryside in Australia. | ____ |
| **Vocabulary in Context** | 6 | Reduce in this passage means<br>☐ a. cut down on.<br>☐ b. lose weight.<br>☐ c. shrink.<br>☐ d. increase. | ____ |

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

# 100 The Ageless Wonder

When Bill Veeck, owner of the Cleveland Indians baseball team, signed aging Leroy "Satchel" Paige, Veeck was accused of creating a cheap publicity stunt. It was the sort of move a lot of people thought would be bad for the team and bad for baseball. Paige had been a legendary pitcher in the Negro Leagues, so what was the objection? His age.

Paige was always secretive about the date of his birth, but at the time he was about to pitch his first major league game, most estimates put him at around forty-two years old. During his twenty years in the Negro Leagues, he had been the finest pitcher those leagues had ever seen. But the attitude in Cleveland was that he had been great in his day but had surely outlived his effectiveness.

The night Paige played in his first game with Cleveland, 51,013 fans flocked into Comiskey Park in Chicago to see what the old man could do against the powerful White Sox. Satch was in complete control. He gave up only five hits, and the Indians beat the Sox 5–0. A week later, Paige beat the Sox again in front of still another record-breaking crowd in the Indians' home stadium.

Veeck's faith in Paige had certainly been vindicated. The Indians won the American League Championship that year, and the contributions of the "Ageless Wonder," Satchel Paige, were responsible for a large part of their success.

**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. Despite his age, Paige proved to be an asset to the Cleveland Indians. ☐ ____

b. Many people thought Paige was too old to be in the Major Leagues. ☐ ____

c. Few people over forty play in the major leagues. ☐ ____

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

**Subject Matter**

2 The passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. the Negro League in baseball.
- ☐ b. Satchel Paige's early career.
- ☐ c. how Paige proved himself in the majors.
- ☐ d. Paige's first game in the majors. ____

**Supporting Details**

3 There was a crowd at Comiskey Park because
- ☐ a. Satchel Paige had never pitched before.
- ☐ b. Paige was very popular in Chicago.
- ☐ c. it was the American League playoffs.
- ☐ d. Satchel Paige was pitching for the first time in the major leagues. ____

**Conclusion**

4 The use of the phrase "cheap publicity stunt" in the first paragraph suggests that people believed
- ☐ a. Veeck didn't expect Paige to be good, but signed him to get publicity for the team.
- ☐ b. Bill Veeck didn't pay Paige very much.
- ☐ c. Paige wasn't really going to pitch, but was just going to be an attraction.
- ☐ d. publicity was all Paige cared about. ____

**Clarifying Devices**

5 The method used by the writer in the passage is
- ☐ a. logical argument.
- ☐ b. telling a story.
- ☐ c. questions and answers.
- ☐ d. exaggeration. ____

**Vocabulary in Context**

6 The best definition for the word <u>vindicated</u>, as used in the passage, is
- ☐ a. corrected.
- ☐ b. proved wrong.
- ☐ c. proved right.
- ☐ d. widely publicized. ____

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