68 The Honeybee

Honeybees are the only insects that make food eaten by man. These bees are social insects. They live and work in large groups. The group or colony may contain as many as 50,000 bees. A single bee may live only a few weeks. The colony, however, may go on living for many years. The queen herself may live as long as five years. After mating with only one drone, she can lay eggs for the rest of her life. She may lay up to a million eggs in her lifetime.

Bees fly into the fields to gather food and water. They store honey to eat in winter. A worker honeybee collects nectar all day. Yet in his lifetime the nectar he collects makes less than two ounces of honey. A colony, however, can gather 25 pounds of nectar in a day.

Worker honeybees suck up nectar. Their long tongues act like straws. The bee puts the nectar into an empty cell in the hive. When the cell is full, other bees put wax caps on the cells.

Wax is produced by special glands in a bee's abdomen. The wax comes out through pores and forms tiny white flakes. The bee moves the flakes up to its jaws. It chews the wax. When the texture is just right, the wax will become part of a cell.

Beekeeping is a highly developed art. Beekeepers tend about four million hives. They gather and sell over 200 million pounds of honey each year. They also gather and sell about four million pounds of wax. One of the uses of wax is in the making of lipsticks.

Bees are useful for many things. They pollinate flowers. They also pollinate blossoms of fruit trees. Many fruits and even vegetables would die out if bees did not pollinate the blossoms.

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. Honeybees work together.	☐	____
b. Colonies of bees provide both honey and wax for people.	☐	____
c. Bees have a short life span.	☐	____

who – penguins
what – can't fly

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

Subject Matter

2 This passage is primarily about
- ☐ a. beekeepers.
- ☐ b. wax and honey.
- ☐ c. how bees live and what they produce.
- ☐ d. why some insects live in colonies. ____

Supporting Details

3 According to the author
- ☐ a. beekeepers sell more honey than wax.
- ☐ b. the hive's cells are maintained by one bee.
- ☐ c. no bee lives more than a year.
- ☐ d. a farmer profits more from bees than a beekeeper. ____

Conclusion

4 From reading the passage, it is clear that bees
- ☐ a. get along better than humans.
- ☐ b. are more important to farmers' flowers than fruit trees.
- ☐ c. help fruits and vegetables grow.
- ☐ d. work harder than most insects. ____

Clarifying Devices

5 The purpose of the first sentence of this passage is to
- ☐ a. get your attention.
- ☐ b. tell a story.
- ☐ c. remind you of an incident.
- ☐ d. make you upset. ____

Vocabulary in Context

6 In this passage <u>social</u> means
- ☐ a. living in groups.
- ☐ b. friendly.
- ☐ c. talkative.
- ☐ d. large. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213. **Total Score** ____

69 An Unforgettable Tragedy

Here is an event that has lived in history. It is truly an unforgettable tragedy.

The event is the Fifth Crusade. This Crusade was better known as the Children's Crusade. It took place in 1212. This tragic crusade burned itself into the hearts, minds, memories, and imaginations of almost all the people in Europe. People felt bad about it for many years afterward. The reason for the long, lingering remorse might be this. Why did the parents let their children go? The Holy Land was a thousand miles away. It was held by hard-fighting Moslems. Did the parents not foresee life-and-death hardships? Did they think some magic carpet would whisk their children to the Holy Land?

This crusade was made up of young boys and girls. Many of the children were less than 12 years old. There were two armies. One was from France. The other was from Germany. None reached the Holy Land. Almost no children ever returned to their homes.

What happened to most of the children? Many died of hunger. Many died of cold weather. Fatigue took its toll. It is a long march to the Mediterranean Sea. Some did reach the sea. But it was stormy. Most children were drowned in overloaded ships. Some reached the shore of Africa. These were captured. Then they were sold as slaves.

Some people think that this great loss of children was woven into the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. (The piper led the children out of the town. They were never seen again.) Like the Piper, the Crusade had a powerful drawing power. But this Piper played a tune of death.

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 death of young boys and girls is sad and unforgettable. ☐ ____

b. The Children's Crusade led to the tragic death of many children. ☐ ____

c. Many children in the Crusade were not even 12 years old. ☐ ____

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

Subject Matter 2 This passage is mainly about
- ☐ a. the Fourth Crusade.
- ☐ b. the Piper's Crusade.
- ☐ c. crusades.
- ☐ d. the Fifth Crusade. ____

Supporting Details 3 According to the passage, all of the following are true about the Crusade except that
- ☐ a. parents wanted their children to live in a new country.
- ☐ b. the armies were from France and Germany.
- ☐ c. the children did not reach the Holy Land.
- ☐ d. children drowned in crowded ships. ____

Conclusion 4 It is clear from this passage that the author does not
- ☐ a. like the Pied Piper story.
- ☐ b. understand how parents could let their children leave.
- ☐ c. know what happened to the children in the Crusade.
- ☐ d. enjoy reading about history. ____

Clarifying Devices 5 The writer uses the word "but" in the last paragraph to indicate
- ☐ a. a contradiction.
- ☐ b. an exception.
- ☐ c. an argument.
- ☐ d. a comparison. ____

Vocabulary in Context 6 Fatigue means
- ☐ a. distance.
- ☐ b. sadness.
- ☐ c. exhaustion.
- ☐ d. loneliness. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213. **Total Score** ____

70 Ancient Firefighting

Fire is both a friend and a foe. It is a friend when under control. It is a foe when out of control.

Long ago, people found that fire could be put out by throwing water on it. This worked well when people lived some distance apart. But when people moved into towns, their houses were usually side by side. This closeness created a problem. Now a burning house was a danger to all.

The problem was soon solved. If a fire broke out, people quickly formed a line. The line led from a pond or well to the house that was on fire. Buckets of water were passed along the line.

With the passing of time, another problem arose. The buildings became bigger. With bigger buildings, you had bigger flames. These flames flared out. Now the firefighters could not get close enough to the burning building to throw the water from the buckets on it. How did they solve this problem? Old records give us a glimpse.

This may sound surprising. Fire equipment goes back to the time of Christ. Caesar Augustus (63 B.C.–A.D. 14) formed the first fire department in Rome. Seven hundred firefighters lived in firehouses throughout the city. They used a wheeled chariot that squirted water on fires. This "water squirt" was a huge syringe. The bulb may have been as long as a man's body. It was squeezed by means of a giant screw turned by a firefighter. Such squirts were also used when the Great Fire swept London in 1666. Hand syringes three feet long were also used. These squirts were held by two firefighters while a third worked the plunger.

It took the London fire to awaken people to the need for better equipment.

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. Water squirts were used to fight the Great Fire in London in 1666. ☐ ____

b. Methods for fighting fires have improved as the need arose. ☐ ____

c. Fires in places where people live can be dangerous. ☐ ____

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

Subject Matter 2 This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. firefighters.
- ☐ b. Caesar Augustus.
- ☐ c. the Great Fire of London.
- ☐ d. the development of firefighting techniques. ____

Supporting Details 3 Which of the following is **not** true?
- ☐ a. The water squirt was used only in Rome.
- ☐ b. A water squirt is a huge syringe.
- ☐ c. Caesar Augustus formed the first fire department in Rome.
- ☐ d. Firefighting techniques developed before the time of Christ. ____

Conclusion 4 From this passage you can conclude that during the time of Caesar Augustus
- ☐ a. people considered firefighting unimportant.
- ☐ b. people wanted to prevent forest fires.
- ☐ c. there were no fires in Rome.
- ☐ d. many lives were saved from fire. ____

Clarifying Devices 5 In the final paragraph the author uses which of the following methods?
- ☐ a. comparison
- ☐ b. direct quote
- ☐ c. personal opinion
- ☐ d. argumentative statement ____

Vocabulary in Context 6 As used in this passage a <u>syringe</u> is a
- ☐ a. water pail.
- ☐ b. kind of vacuum cleaner.
- ☐ c. a hose.
- ☐ d. tube with a valve that can collect and shoot out liquids. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213. **Total Score** ____

71 Basketball

Who invented basketball? Most people know the answer. It's James A. Naismith. Naismith was an instructor in physical education. He worked at a YMCA training school in Massachusetts. (Later this became Springfield College.) His goal was to provide an indoor sport for the winter.

Naismith conceived the game of basketball in 1891. He formed the basic rules. He asked the janitor to nail two boxes at each end of a gym. The janitor could only find some round half-bushel baskets. He nailed these to the balconies at each end. Players used a soccer ball. The object of the game was to put the ball into the basket. Thus, we have *basketball.*

The half-bushel baskets had fixed bottoms. When the ball went into the basket, there was a problem. A ladder had to be used to get the ball out. Soon metal baskets with bottoms replaced the wooden ones. These baskets had a small hole in the bottom. A pole was used to poke the ball out. The next improvement: the metal basket now had a closed net attached. Now the official pulled a cord attached to the net. The ball then would drop down. In about 1913, the bottomless baskets came into use. You wonder why it took so long. But getting the ball out of the baskets was not such a big job. The scores were low. A typical score for a full game might be 19 to 17.

Backboards were introduced in 1894. Before that, spectators would lean over balconies, blocking shots. The soccer ball was also replaced that year. The new ball came in two parts. The outer covering was leather. The inner part was a rubber bladder. The opening was laced. The laceless ball came into use in 1937. The molded ball of today became official in only 1950.

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. Half-bushel baskets were replaced with metal ones. ☐ ____

b. Over time, basketball has changed. ☐ ____

c. As basketball developed, many improvements were introduced. ☐ ____

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

Subject Matter 2 The best alternate title for this passage would be
- ☐ a. From Soccer Balls to Basketballs.
- ☐ b. The Inventor of the Basketball.
- ☐ c. Change Is Hard.
- ☐ d. Naismith and Indoor Sports. ____

Supporting Details 3 James A. Naismith was
- ☐ a. a college basketball coach.
- ☐ b. the creator of the metal basket.
- ☐ c. the inventor of basketball.
- ☐ d. a YMCA executive. ____

Conclusion 4 This passage suggests that
- ☐ a. basketball is a great indoor sport.
- ☐ b. the rules Naismith formed have not changed.
- ☐ c. metal baskets were the greatest improvement made.
- ☐ d. the pace of early games was rather slow. ____

Clarifying Devices 5 The author explains how basketball developed by
- ☐ a. telling about early players.
- ☐ b. giving examples.
- ☐ c. describing early basketball games.
- ☐ d. comparing the past with the present. ____

Vocabulary in Context 6 As used in this passage, the word conceived means
- ☐ a. started to understand.
- ☐ b. created.
- ☐ c. copied.
- ☐ d. organized. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213. **Total Score** ____

72 The Migration of Birds

Birds are lucky. They can chirp, "Have wings. Will travel." Birds migrate for various reasons. But mainly it's the food supply.

How do birds find their way? A partial answer: They follow such landmarks as coastlines. Some birds fly inland routes. Perhaps they follow rivers or mountain ranges. But some birds fly only at night. Then landmarks are of little use. There is still much to learn about migration.

Great distances are covered during migrations. The arctic tern holds the record. It flies 22,000 miles roundtrip. It leaves the Arctic Circle in late August. Its destination is the Antarctic Circle. Later, the terns fly north. They arrive at the Arctic Circle about mid-June.

The tern may hold the record, but the bobolink is competing. Bobolinks fly in one big flock. Their route is called the bobolink route. Few other birds ever use it. Flying only at night, they leave the island of Jamaica and fly 500 miles over the ocean nonstop to Mexico.

But the hummingbird is the real wonder bird. It may fly from the eastern United States over the Gulf of Mexico to the Yucatan in Mexico. How can such a small bird have enough energy to fly such a distance nonstop? This bird is the smallest and daintiest one in the U.S. It is less than four inches long. It lives on nectar from flowers. This nectar provides the power to its wings. The wings move about 60 to 70 times a second (not minute). You can be sure of this: there are no flower refueling stations on the gulf. There are no islands. Some speculate the birds get into air currents. But nobody really knows. It's a mystery. It's a wonder. It's good to still have wonders.

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. Birds travel great distances and fly interesting routes when they migrate. ☐ ____

b. The migration of birds is an amazing mystery. ☐ ____

c. Birds may follow landmarks such as coastlines during migration. ☐ ____

who – penguins
what – can't fly

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

Subject Matter

2 The subject of this passage is
- ☐ a. the bird that travels the farthest.
- ☐ b. birds' landmarks.
- ☐ c. birds' migration patterns.
- ☐ d. the greatest distance covered during migration. ____

Supporting Details

3 Arctic terns
- ☐ a. are the smallest bird.
- ☐ b. only fly at night.
- ☐ c. fly to Mexico.
- ☐ d. migrate to the Arctic Circle. ____

Conclusion

4 Based on some of the routes they fly, it is clear that
- ☐ a. some birds can travel nonstop without eating.
- ☐ b. the smallest bird has the most energy.
- ☐ c. birds sleep on the surface of water.
- ☐ d. some birds enjoy migration more than others. ____

Clarifying Devices

5 The last sentence indicates that the author
- ☐ a. will continue to research this subject.
- ☐ b. is annoyed no one has all the answers about migration.
- ☐ c. likes wondering about nature.
- ☐ d. likes the hummingbird the most of all the birds. ____

Vocabulary in Context

6 To speculate means to
- ☐ a. know.
- ☐ b. see.
- ☐ c. guess.
- ☐ d. agree. ____

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 213. **Total Score** ____