

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

Mark the *main idea*

Answer

Score

☒ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☐ B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

☐ N

5

- a. The problems of measurement began centuries ago. ☐
- b. The English recognized the need for a standard inch. ☐
- c. Various units of measurement developed over the centuries. ☐

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter** 2 This article is mainly concerned with
- ☐ a. Roman measurement.
 - ☐ b. the development of common units of measurement.
 - ☐ c. what an inch and a foot are equal to.
 - ☐ d. understanding measurement.
- _____
- Supporting Details** 3 The Romans decided that
- ☐ a. thumbs were about an inch wide.
 - ☐ b. barleycorns were always the same size.
 - ☐ c. people are not all the same size.
 - ☐ d. a man's foot measures exactly 12 inches.
- _____
- Conclusion** 4 Many units of measurement were developed
- ☐ a. to make it easier to figure out common lengths.
 - ☐ b. because men were considered more important than women.
 - ☐ c. for no particular reason.
 - ☐ d. so the English could prove their superiority to the Romans.
- _____
- Clarifying Devices** 5 In the first paragraph the author gives
- ☐ a. a history of measurement.
 - ☐ b. examples of how often we use measures.
 - ☐ c. an explanation of football rules.
 - ☐ d. a way of figuring out which measures are useful.
- _____
- Vocabulary in Context** 6 The word flaw is closest in meaning to
- ☐ a. defect.
 - ☐ b. difference.
 - ☐ c. change.
 - ☐ 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	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	☒ B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	☒ N	5

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

☐
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☐

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.

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

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>	☐ 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. 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.

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to the

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

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

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

Total
Score

86 Nighttime Sleep

Here is a statistic that will surprise you. More young people are killed each year by sleepy drivers than by drunk drivers. This proves one thing. Getting enough sleep can be a big problem. How are we dealing with the problem? Sleep clinics are popping up all over the United States. They are always working to find out more about sleep.

Driving when tired can be very dangerous. During the daytime, over half of drivers report feeling sleepy at some point. At night, over 80 percent of drivers sometimes get drowsy. And here is the most frightening of all. Almost one-quarter of all drivers have fallen asleep at the wheel.

What is going on here? One thing is that people are not getting enough sleep. One person out of three gets by on less than six hours a night. Many people have trouble falling asleep. Others fall asleep easily, but then wake up time after time. Few people get enough of the deep sleep they need to feel really rested.

Here are some facts to remember. Believe it or not, people need seven to nine hours of nighttime sleep to remain healthy. During that sleep, a person's immune system is built up. This helps fight off diseases and infections. And taking a nap in the daytime does not really help. It will make a person feel refreshed. But it cannot make up for the lack of nighttime sleep.

What if you are a person with real sleeping problems? What if you have tried all the home remedies like hot milk? You might consider going to a sleep clinic. Many such clinics look for volunteers. They will study your sleep problems, and you will not have to pay anything.

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. Nighttime sleep is important in preventing illness and unsafe driving.	☐	—
b. Sleepy drivers can cause accidents and kill people.	☐	—
c. Getting proper sleep is necessary for everyone.	☐	—

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter 2 This passage is mainly concerned with
- ☐ a. sleepy drivers.
 - ☐ b. data about sleep and sleepers.
 - ☐ c. taking naps.
 - ☐ d. sleep clinics.
- Supporting Details 3 Proper sleep
- ☐ a. can be had either at night or during the day.
 - ☐ b. is about 10 hours a night.
 - ☐ c. strengthens the immune system.
 - ☐ d. is less necessary as people get older.
- Conclusion 4 We can assume that lack of sleep could
- ☐ a. make a person gain weight.
 - ☐ b. not happen at a sleep clinic.
 - ☐ c. be dangerous for pilots.
 - ☐ d. have a bad effect on animals.
- Clarifying Devices 5 To help the reader understand that sleep is important, the writer uses
- ☐ a. several examples.
 - ☐ b. quotes from experts.
 - ☐ c. careful measurements.
 - ☐ d. strong arguments.
- Vocabulary in Context 6 The best definition for refreshed in this passage is
- ☐ a. newly purchased.
 - ☐ b. restored.
 - ☐ c. newly planted.
 - ☐ d. quiet.

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

Total
Score

87 The *Titanic*

The word "unsinkable" sunk the *Titanic*. How? Because everyone believed it.

The ship left Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912. She sailed for five days on calm seas, steaming at about 26 miles per hour. Pretty fast for a ship of over 46 thousand tons.

On April 14, wireless reports from other ships warned of icebergs ahead. Actually, six reports came in that day. But the "unsinkable" ship steamed on. No slowing down.

There was no moon that night. At 11:40 P.M. lookout Frederick Fleet saw the iceberg and phoned the bridge. A mountain of ice loomed against the dark sky. The berg was about 100 feet high. This means it extended about 900 feet below the surface. The ship veered at the last second. From above, it looked like a close shave. But at the bottom a scraping sound was heard.

It took 25 minutes to assess the damage. Water was pouring in. At 12:05, "Get the lifeboats ready" was ordered. By 2:20 A.M. the ship had sunk below the surface. So there were only about two free hours to load the lifeboats. The ship carried 2,207 people. Fully loaded, the lifeboats could take only 1,178. Already there was guaranteed doom for many. Most boats pulled away partially loaded. Boat #1, made for 40, carried only 12. Ultimately, only 705 people survived.

Just 10 miles away was the *Californian*, stopped since 10:30 P.M. Each ship could see the other's lights. But they could not communicate. The *Californian* shut down its wireless at 11:30. The *Titanic* crashed 10 minutes later. Its cry for help was unheard.

The *Carpathia*, many miles away, heard. Arriving after four hours, it picked up the survivors.

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

- There is really no such thing as an unsinkable ship.
- The sinking of the *Titanic* is an unforgettably sad and tragic story.
- A huge iceberg struck the bottom of the *Titanic*.

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Why - to cut trip by
to stop at - 28, 838
had 4 hrs at - 28, 838

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter 2 Another good title for this passage would be
 ☐ a. "Man the Lifeboats!"
 ☐ b. Just One Small Iceberg.
 ☐ c. A Beautiful Ocean Liner.
 ☐ d. A Watery Disaster.
- Supporting
Details 3 When the *Titanic* hit the iceberg it
 ☐ a. wired the *Californian*.
 ☐ b. had lifeboats ready.
 ☐ c. was night.
 ☐ d. immediately notified the passengers.
- Conclusion 4 From this passage we can infer that
 ☐ a. the *Titanic* did not have a large enough crew.
 ☐ b. passengers were not told to fill the lifeboats.
 ☐ c. more woman and children survived.
 ☐ d. most ships did not care what happened to
 others.
- Clarifying
Devices 5 The first paragraph in the passage suggests that
 ☐ a. no one was properly prepared for an
 emergency on the ship.
 ☐ b. if the ship was built correctly it would not
 have sunk.
 ☐ c. there should have been lifeboat drills on the
 ship.
 ☐ d. the *Titanic* was destined to sink.
- Vocabulary
in Context 6 As used in this passage, veered means
 ☐ a. steered.
 ☐ b. swerved.
 ☐ c. backed up.
 ☐ d. rocked.

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

Total
Score