

You've probably seen pictures of a bear in a forest ranger's hat. The caption usually reads, "Only you can prevent forest fires." Did you know that it was a real bear that inspired these drawings? He was named Smokey and he was chosen to be a living symbol of the national fire-prevention movement more than 30 years ago. The choice of Smokey as a symbol was a meaningful one. The real Smokey had been found, as a cub, in the remains of a smoldering forest fire.

Smokey's function has been to remind people that their carelessness could destroy acres of timberland and could cost the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands of animals in forests throughout the nation. One match or a smoldering campfire can turn a forest into an inferno.

The campaign for fire prevention will probably continue, with Smokey never aging in the pictures. However, the real Smokey the Bear and his mate Goldie have retired to the National Zoo in Washington, to be cared for for the remainder of their lives.

1. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) Smokey the Bear.
 - (b) people who cause fires.
 - (c) drawings of animals.
 - (d) putting out campfires.



Only you can prevent forest fires.

2. Forest fires are caused by
 - (a) careless people.
 - (b) bears.
 - (c) careful campers.
 - (d) hungry animals.
3. Forest fires
 - (a) usually hurt no one.
 - (b) destroyed Smokey the Bear.
 - (c) destroy timber and animals.
 - (d) do very little damage.
4. Smokey the Bear is part of a
 - (a) group of dancing bears.
 - (b) no-smoking campaign.
 - (c) three-ring circus act.
 - (d) fire-prevention campaign.
5. An inferno is a
 - (a) hiding place for animals.
 - (b) fiery place.
 - (c) cool area by a campfire.
 - (d) hundred acres.
6. A smoldering campfire is one that
 - (a) is completely out.
 - (b) was smothered well.
 - (c) could flare up again.
 - (d) is not dangerous.
7. Smokey and Goldie
 - (a) live in the wild forest.
 - (b) have six bear cubs.
 - (c) died in a forest fire.
 - (d) are well taken care of.
8. "Only you can prevent forest fires" is a message that
 - (a) people don't need anymore.
 - (b) we all should listen to.
 - (c) bears need to know.
 - (d) doesn't mean anything.

Time _____ # Correct _____

The word “fiddler” means different things to different people. For some, a fiddler is a person who plays a violin. A person who fools around and doesn’t get down to serious work may be referred to as a fiddler. Robert Taylor is a fiddler, but he doesn’t play the violin or fool around. He is a worm fiddler.

Several years ago, Taylor won the title of the world’s best worm fiddler in a contest held by the banks of the Choctawatchee River, while 700 spectators watched.

What is worm fiddling? What does a person do to fiddle worms? To fiddle worms, you hammer a stake into the ground and vibrate it in a way that makes the worms crawl out of the earth.

For vibration, some people use pieces of wood or axe handles. In the contest, Robert used an axe head, and that worked best of all. As the winner, he ended up with a total of twenty-one unearthed worms. This score beat the runner-up by a slim margin of one worm.

For all his efforts, Mr. Taylor was awarded a large trophy with—you guessed it—a six-inch worm on top.

1. The word fiddler

- (a) has more than one meaning.
- (b) refers to a musical instrument.
- (c) means eating worms.
- (d) is the same as puzzle.

2. Someone who fiddles

- (a) always gets work done.
- (b) might play the violin.
- (c) enjoys going fishing.
- (d) is difficult to find.

3. This story is mainly about

- (a) playing the violin.
- (b) digging up worms.
- (c) worm fiddling.
- (d) strange contests.

4. To vibrate the stake, Robert used

- (a) an axe handle.
- (b) an axe head.
- (c) a piece of wood.
- (d) a worm.

5. The contest took place

- (a) near a river.
- (b) near a swamp.
- (c) in the woods.
- (d) on a mountain.

6. A runner-up is someone who

- (a) climbs mountains.
- (b) raises the flag.
- (c) comes in second.
- (d) works on a track.

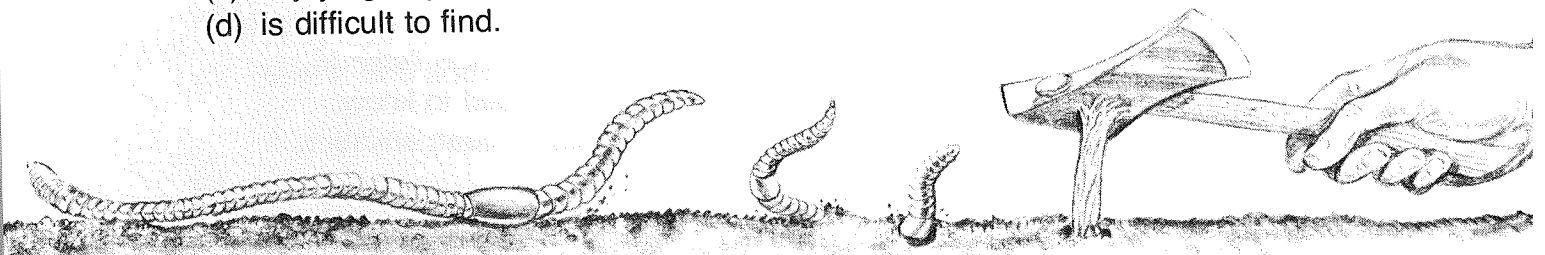
7. A reason to fiddle worms might be to

- (a) hold a worm race.
- (b) listen to the music.
- (c) get some lunch meat.
- (d) get fishing bait.

8. The word margin refers to

- (a) a space on the page.
- (b) a difference.
- (c) butter.
- (d) a kind of worm.

Time _____ # Correct _____



John Bradley was sleeping in his own bed when two police officers woke him up and told him to move on. He couldn't see anything wrong with what he was doing, but the officers did not approve. What were the officers doing by Bradley's bedside?

Actually, a more accurate question would be to ask what Bradley's bed was doing where the officers could find it.

Bradley was sleeping outside in front of his house. It was April, and the weather was fairly warm, but that wasn't why Bradley had moved his bed outside. A sewer gas drain behind his house smelled especially bad that night. From time to time, usually after a rain, the drain smelled awful, but that night the odor seemed to be worse than usual. Besides making him feel sick to his stomach, the gas frightened Bradley. He was afraid it might explode. He took a folding bed on wheels, and rolled it out in front of his house.

Bradley was tired. He remained fully dressed, got into his bed, and went to sleep. The next morning he awakened to the questions of the two police officers. They didn't believe Bradley's answers, and they thought he was just a wise guy. They didn't want a bed on the sidewalk. When Bradley went into the house to get some identification papers to prove that he was in front of his own house, the police officers tied the bed to their patrol car and towed it away.

Many people have had cars towed away for illegal parking, but John Bradley may be the first one to have had a bed towed.

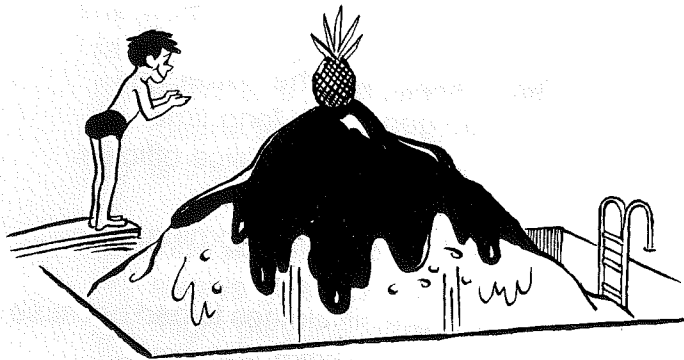
1. This story is mainly about
 - (a) sleeping in the backyard.
 - (b) Bradley and his towed bed.
 - (c) police in a large city.
 - (d) serious parking problems.
2. Bradley slept outside because
 - (a) the weather was so nice.
 - (b) he was locked out of his house.
 - (c) the police asked him to.
 - (d) gas from the sewer bothered him.
3. Another word for accurate is
 - (a) exact.
 - (b) pleasant.
 - (c) interesting.
 - (d) difficult.
4. The police officers
 - (a) were helpful to Bradley.
 - (b) needed an extra bed.
 - (c) thought the scene was funny.
 - (d) didn't take Bradley seriously.
5. When his bed was towed, Bradley
 - (a) went out and bought another.
 - (b) shot at the patrol car.
 - (c) probably was very angry.
 - (d) slept on the bare sidewalk.
6. Which happened first? Bradley
 - (a) left his clothes on.
 - (b) rolled out his bed.
 - (c) went to sleep.
 - (d) smelled the sewer gas.
7. The problem with the sewer gas
 - (a) had gone on a long time.
 - (b) entertained the police officers.
 - (c) ruined Bradley's bed.
 - (d) had started that morning.
8. Bradley wore his clothes to bed because
 - (a) he always slept that way.
 - (b) the April night was very cold.
 - (c) he was sleeping outside.
 - (d) the officers told him to.

Do you like ice cream? If you do, it's too bad you missed the party in St. Alban, Vermont, on April 15, 1983. The entire community joined in to create and consume the world's largest ice cream sundae.

This mammoth sundae was built in a swimming pool. The sundae measured 16 feet across and 12 feet high, and it contained 12½ tons of ice cream as well as numerous other ingredients. Among the toppings were chocolate syrup, nuts, a truckload of peaches, and a planeload of pineapples.

Before the sundae was built, the swimming pool was lined with dry ice. The first layer of ice cream was started with 500 three-gallon containers. Then loose ice cream was piled on top. The sundae was so high that the top couldn't be reached without the aid of a "cherry picker," the basket-type device on a ladder used by fire fighters and people who work in trees.

Dozens of area schools closed for the day so that students could attend the party and get some bites of the giant sundae. According to one news report, 190 buses and thousands of children attended the event.



1. People who love ice cream
 - (a) are always very fat.
 - (b) would have liked this sundae.
 - (c) should eat in swimming pools.
 - (d) usually live in Vermont.
2. The sundae contained
 - (a) mostly strawberry ice cream.
 - (b) toppings and 12½ tons of ice cream.
 - (c) enough for one meal.
 - (d) excellent cake and pie.
3. Which happened first?
 - (a) People ate the sundae.
 - (b) Peaches and pineapples were used.
 - (c) The chocolate sauce went on.
 - (d) Dry ice went into the pool.
4. School children ate the sundae because
 - (a) it wasn't a school day.
 - (b) they were very hungry.
 - (c) schools closed so they could.
 - (d) there was nothing else for them.
5. Something that's mammoth is
 - (a) very good to eat.
 - (b) extremely large.
 - (c) found in swimming pools.
 - (d) not good for you.
6. A basket on a ladder was used
 - (a) to put out a fire.
 - (b) for placing the dry ice.
 - (c) to reach the sundae's top.
 - (d) instead of a large dish.
7. To consume something means to
 - (a) build it all yourself.
 - (b) understand what it is.
 - (c) begin all over again.
 - (d) use or eat all of it.
8. This story is mainly about
 - (a) ice cream after dinner.
 - (b) how to fill a swimming pool.
 - (c) the world's largest sundae.
 - (d) staying out of school.

When people express a need for something—even if that need is imagined rather than real—it’s likely that someone will manufacture a product to meet that need. For example, from time to time predictions of a great earthquake disturb the people of Tokyo, Japan. This earthquake hasn’t happened yet, but people worry that it might. Some scientists warn that a quake as large as the one that rocked the city on September 1, 1923, could occur some time in the future.

Predictions of possible earthquakes make some of the residents of the world’s largest city quite anxious. To make these people feel more secure, a company has begun to manufacture and market a product called a “Quake Kit.” This kit is available in a major Tokyo department store. It consists of a canvas bag which contains five items:

- (1) a map of the city of Tokyo
- (2) a water jug (without the water)
- (3) one bar of candy
- (4) a flashlight
- (5) a raincoat (one size fits all)

On the outside of the kit there is a space provided for the owner’s name, address, blood type, and the name and address of someone to notify in case of injury or death.

Anyone could buy the items included in the kit for far less money than the packaged version costs, but sales of the quake kit are booming. As long as people are convinced they need something, they will buy it without stopping to see if it makes any sense.

1. The “quake kit”
 - (a) will save many lives.
 - (b) meets a need for food.
 - (c) meets an imagined need.
 - (d) could cause great harm.
2. An anxious person
 - (a) is about to be sick.
 - (b) has been injured.
 - (c) is scared or nervous.
 - (d) will buy nothing.
3. In each of the kits is
 - (a) a soda bottle.
 - (b) blood plasma.
 - (c) a candy bar.
 - (d) a supply of earth.
4. If people think they need something,
 - (a) someone will sell it to them.
 - (b) the stores won’t carry it.
 - (c) an earthquake will spoil it.
 - (d) they’ll refuse to buy it.
5. The items in the kit are
 - (a) all needed for life.
 - (b) extremely expensive to make.
 - (c) a rather silly collection.
 - (d) designed by scientists.
6. In a really bad earthquake,
 - (a) the kit would be of little use.
 - (b) the raincoat could save a life.
 - (c) scientists will give blood.
 - (d) no one would be injured.
7. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) saving lives in a storm.
 - (b) predictions scientists make.
 - (c) people buying earthquake kits.
 - (d) selling maps of Japan.
8. Without the earthquake kit
 - (a) many people would die.
 - (b) nothing much would change.
 - (c) people would be less anxious.
 - (d) stores would make no money.

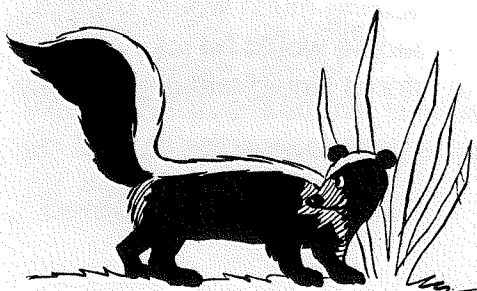
Animals have many different ways of keeping themselves safe from harm. Fierce animals such as bobcats or tigers can use their teeth or claws as weapons. Animals such as deer have the speed to run away from danger. An enormous animal such as an elephant or a hippopotamus is not likely to be bothered by something much smaller.

Many of the smaller animals have to be very clever and hide from an enemy. It's often unsafe to be small in a world full of larger, more dangerous creatures. A small skunk, however, will face bravely just about any danger. Even though a skunk has tiny teeth and small claws, most humans and other animals will leave a skunk alone.

What power does the skunk have to scare an enemy away? It gets rid of dangers by spraying a fluid that smells terrible into the air. When an enemy comes too close, the skunk lifts its tail and stamps a warning with its front paws. If the enemy is foolish enough to stay around, the skunk sprays a liquid with an awful odor. The smell is so bad that even the skunk leaves the scene in a hurry.

If the skunk sprays its foul fluid into another animal's eyes, that other animal will have trouble seeing for a while and its eyes will feel a stinging pain. The smell of a skunk can be noticed for a distance of half a mile or more.

1. This selection is mainly about
 - (a) using claws as weapons.
 - (b) keeping skunks as pets.
 - (c) how a skunk protects itself.
 - (d) the smell of skunk oil.



2. Speed helps deer to
 - (a) enjoy green fields.
 - (b) get away from enemies.
 - (c) find the nearest skunk.
 - (d) run with the elephants.
3. A skunk drives enemies away with
 - (a) sharp teeth.
 - (b) long claws.
 - (c) very loud noises.
 - (d) a bad smell.
4. An enemy is likely to
 - (a) run the other way.
 - (b) try to cause harm.
 - (c) smell very bad.
 - (d) be nice to everyone.
5. A skunk's spray can
 - (a) make the base for perfume.
 - (b) spread for several miles.
 - (c) bother an animal's eyes.
 - (d) attract many friends.
6. The story suggests that you should
 - (a) examine a skunk closely.
 - (b) meet a skunk face-to-face.
 - (c) hold a skunk by the tail.
 - (d) stay away from skunks.
7. Which happens first?
 - (a) An animal gets too close.
 - (b) The skunk sprays.
 - (c) The skunk stamps its feet.
 - (d) The skunk lifts its tail.
8. After spraying, the skunk leaves
 - (a) to spray somewhere else.
 - (b) because the smell is so bad.
 - (c) and plays with the enemy.
 - (d) to find some food.

In 1891, Dr. James A. Naismith invented the modern game of basketball. At the time, he was a teacher at a college in Springfield, Massachusetts. Dr. Naismith saw that a new sport was needed. People needed a game that could be played indoors. Winters in New England were very cold. People needed a game that was good exercise. But it couldn't be too rough. Not everybody could play football. So Dr. Naismith decided to invent a new game.

For the new game, Dr. Naismith used a ball, two peach baskets, and seven players on each side. He set it up to be played indoors. It was not as tough as football. Dr. Naismith wrote thirteen rules for his new game. Twelve of these rules are still used today in high school and college basketball. The only one that changed was the number of players on a team. Today there are only five players on each side instead of seven.

A person sitting on top of a ladder at the end of the court had to fish the ball out of the peach basket each time a goal was scored. Finally, someone got the bright idea to cut the bottom out of each basket. The hoop, as we know it today, was in use by 1906.

Dr. Naismith started a sport that has become very popular. Basketball is played by many people these days. The game is played both indoors and out. It is enjoyed by people of all ages.

1. We can thank Dr. Naismith for
 - (a) inventing baseball games.
 - (b) rules for ice hockey.
 - (c) the game of basketball.
 - (d) some great football plays.
2. Winters in New England were
 - (a) often without any snow.
 - (b) cold for outdoor sports.
 - (c) good for playing baseball.
 - (d) fine for picking peaches.
3. It is NOT true that basketball
 - (a) began in 1891.
 - (b) is played indoors and out.
 - (c) is rougher than football.
 - (d) uses a ball and baskets.
4. The changed rule has to do with
 - (a) the height of the baskets.
 - (b) the size of the team.
 - (c) scoring goals and fouls.
 - (d) where the baskets are located.
5. To invent something is to
 - (a) pay for it.
 - (b) dream it up or create it.
 - (c) explore with it.
 - (d) sell it to someone.
6. Which happened last?
 - (a) Two peach baskets were used.
 - (b) A team had seven players.
 - (c) A team had five players.
 - (d) Dr. Naismith invented a game.
7. The first baskets were made
 - (a) out of netting.
 - (b) from apple trees.
 - (c) quite close to the ground.
 - (d) without holes in the bottom.
8. Early basketball games used
 - (a) three baskets.
 - (b) people on ladders.
 - (c) extra basketballs.
 - (d) too few players.

Julieann, a heifer expecting her first calf, was sold by Sidney Kraftsow, a Florida cattle farmer, to another farmer. Julieann didn't seem to like the fact that she had been sold, and she didn't waste much time doing something about it.

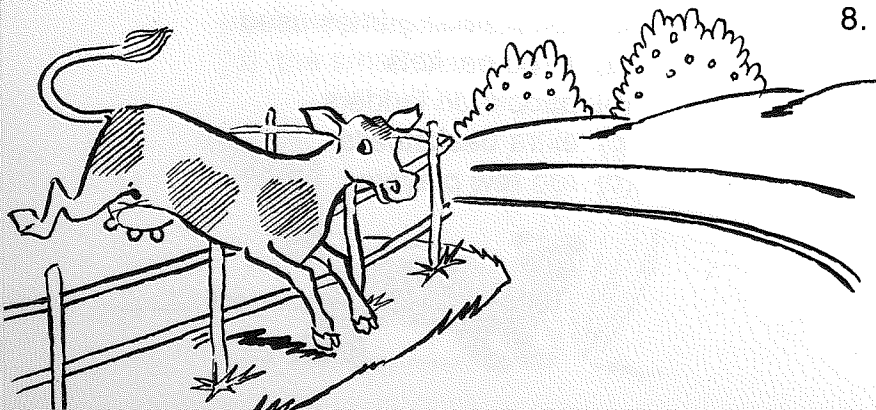
As soon as Kraftsow delivered the animal to the new owner 35 miles away, Julieann went into action. She jumped out of her pen and then leaped over two 4-foot-high barbed wire fences. Read Hayes, Julieann's new owner, managed to follow the heifer's tracks for a while, but he lost the trail when Julieann swam across a river.

About 20 hours after she left the Hayes farm, Julieann strolled back into Kraftsow's yard as if nothing had happened. She had lost about 100 pounds in her journey, and had suffered a few minor scratches. Other than that, she was fine.

Kraftsow called the animal a "free spirit" and admitted that she had often jumped over fences and wandered around. He said that's why he sold her in the first place. Julieann was known for getting into other people's citrus groves and helping herself to oranges and grapefruits, unusual snacks for cows. As soon as Mr. Hayes built a higher fence, he went to claim Julieann.

- Julieann was a
 - farmer's wife.
 - very old cow.
 - very unusual heifer.
 - newborn calf.

- Kraftsow sold Julieann because
 - he needed the money.
 - she didn't give any milk.
 - she was difficult to keep.
 - he stopped cattle farming.
- The story suggests that
 - few cattle eat citrus fruit.
 - barbed wire fences are foolproof.
 - the heifer cost too much.
 - cows can't jump or swim.
- A "free spirit" is someone who
 - doesn't spend any money.
 - steals oranges from others.
 - does his or her own thing.
 - is expecting a calf.
- This story is mainly about
 - a cow jumping over the moon.
 - cattle farming in Florida.
 - an unusual heifer named Julieann.
 - expecting a calf.
- Which happened last?
 - Julieann wandered around.
 - Kraftsow sold Julieann.
 - The heifer traveled 35 miles.
 - Hayes built higher fences.
- Someone who strolled
 - walked along calmly.
 - jumped and kicked.
 - sang softly.
 - upset everyone else.
- You can tell that a heifer is
 - always spotted.
 - a good milk producer.
 - never any trouble.
 - a young female cow.



A few years ago, the town of Upper Nyack, New York, ordered a shiny, new fire engine. It was very expensive, but the town felt that it was necessary for the protection of the people. The day the new truck arrived in Upper Nyack was a big event. People admired the large, gleaming vehicle. Fire fighters walked proudly among the onlookers and bragged about their new engine. Everyone was very happy and very excited. Everyone, that is, except for one gentleman in the crowd who shouted, "I still say it won't fit into the firehouse!"

With a great deal of confidence, the driver began to back the 52-foot engine into the firehouse. When he got it all the way to the back wall, the front of the engine was still outside, so he kept on going. When the truck was finally all the way in, the driver turned off the engine and everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The front door was closed. There was a large bulge in the back wall, but at least the fire engine was safely inside.

At three o'clock the next morning, residents of Upper Nyack heard a great roar and then a loud rumbling sound. It wasn't an earthquake, although some people thought it sounded like one. The concrete floor of the firehouse had split under the weight of the heavy truck. The fire engine had to be parked somewhere else while contractors made the firehouse six feet longer and repaired the cracked floor.

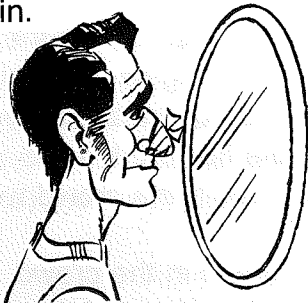
Somewhere in Upper Nyack, the gentleman who had spoken in the crowd is still laughing whenever he thinks about the incident.

1. The wall bulged because
 - (a) the engine was too big.
 - (b) it was built incorrectly.
 - (c) people pushed on it.
 - (d) fire had weakened it.
2. This story is mainly about
 - (a) fires in Upper Nyack.
 - (b) the man in the crowd.
 - (c) problems with a new fire engine.
 - (d) rebuilding a wall.
3. The fire engine was
 - (a) way too big to fight fires.
 - (b) too big for the firehouse.
 - (c) just the right size for Nyack.
 - (d) much too wide to use.
4. The weight of the fire engine caused
 - (a) the back wall to bulge.
 - (b) everyone to brag about it.
 - (c) the concrete floor to split.
 - (d) many people to buy new cars.
5. The people should have
 - (a) bought a bigger engine.
 - (b) built an extra fire house.
 - (c) made sure the engine ran.
 - (d) measured before buying.
6. Which came first? The
 - (a) back wall had a bulge.
 - (b) fire house was repaired.
 - (c) truck reached New York.
 - (d) concrete floor cracked.
7. As a result of damage to the firehouse,
 - (a) the new engine was sold.
 - (b) the fire truck was repaired.
 - (c) people had work to do.
 - (d) the man in the crowd was wrong.
8. The gentleman in the crowd
 - (a) turned out to be right.
 - (b) was a troublemaker.
 - (c) owned the firehouse.
 - (d) was a poor fire fighter.

Many people consider Abraham Lincoln to have been one of the most important leaders this country has ever had. You'll probably find numerous stories about Lincoln in your school library. Here's one about something that happened to Lincoln before he became president.

Lincoln had a good friend named Sullivan Cutcheon, who was the head of the school district in Springfield, Illinois. One day Cutcheon and Lincoln were fooling around. They were punching at each other just for fun. By accident, Cutcheon's fist landed a little bit too hard on Lincoln's face, and the future president's nose was broken. After Lincoln was elected president, he moved from Springfield to the White House in Washington, D.C. He still wrote to his friend Cutcheon, and even sent him an autographed picture.

Mr. Cutcheon's great-great-great grandson, Christopher Saffer, age 11, wrote the story of Lincoln's broken nose for his fifth grade class, in the spring of 1983. Christopher, who is in a special class for children with hearing problems, wants to be an artist when he grows up. He's already off to a good start. He used his talent to illustrate his report on Lincoln before he handed it in.



1. Abraham Lincoln was
 - (a) an excellent boxer.
 - (b) Sullivan Cutcheon's enemy.
 - (c) friends with Sullivan Cutcheon.
 - (d) someone with a hearing problem.
2. Christopher Saffer
 - (a) wrote a story about Lincoln.
 - (b) knew Lincoln personally.
 - (c) was Abe Lincoln's cousin.
 - (d) makes a living as an artist.
3. Cutcheon broke Lincoln's nose
 - (a) to go to the White House.
 - (b) because he disliked Abe.
 - (c) as a warning.
 - (d) by accident.
4. Christopher is in a special class
 - (a) because he's an artist.
 - (b) to learn how to read.
 - (c) with others who are deaf.
 - (d) to learn about Lincoln.
5. Which happened last?
 - (a) Lincoln and Cutcheon fooled around.
 - (b) Lincoln became President.
 - (c) Christopher wrote a story.
 - (d) Lincoln's nose broke.
6. To illustrate something is to
 - (a) add pictures to it.
 - (b) paint it a new color.
 - (c) copy it over in ink.
 - (d) send it to the White House.
7. After he became president, Lincoln
 - (a) fooled around with Cutcheon.
 - (b) sent Cutcheon some letters.
 - (c) wrote to Christopher.
 - (d) put a bandage on his nose.
8. This story suggests that
 - (a) accidents will happen.
 - (b) people often fight.
 - (c) compositions are easy to write.
 - (d) artists wear bandages.