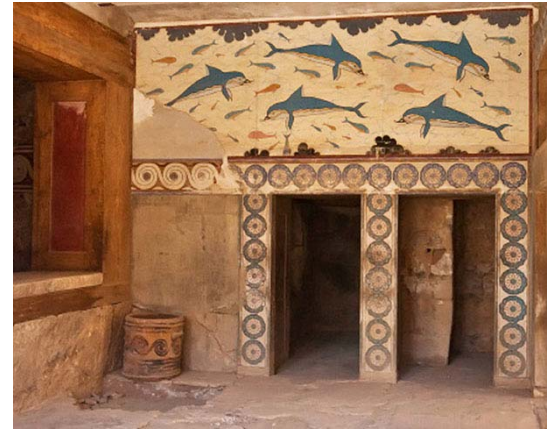


2,000 Years of Peace

More than three thousand years ago, there were people who lived in peace. They lived on Crete. Crete is an island near Greece. Archeologists believe there was peace in Crete for almost 2,000 years.

We know these people lived in peace because of the things they left behind. The people of Crete had peaceful paintings. They had pictures of birds, trees, and people. Leaping dolphins were painted on their walls. There were no paintings of war. Even though a few weapons were found, they were probably used only in ceremonies.



The people of Crete lived a life of ease. They had running water, just as we do. In Crete, men and women were equals. Both men and women had important jobs. There were male and female priests and doctors. Many people from Crete went to sea. They sailed to other lands to sell their things.

Studying the people of Crete can teach us many things. We can learn from their 2,000 years of peace.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Archeologists believe people on Crete lived in _____. Men and women on Crete lived as _____.

believe, equals, peace, people

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The people of _____ had peaceful paintings. They drew pictures of birds and _____ dolphins, not pictures of war.

believe, Crete, ease, leaping

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The people of Crete lived lives of _____, and many people traveled over _____ to sell things.

ease, Greece, peaceful, seas

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Archeologists think _____ in Crete had 2,000 years of _____.

equals, peace, people, seas

5. Why do archeologists think there was peace in Crete for 2,000 years?

Word List

sea	Crete	even
seas	crease	Steven
ease	grease	equal
tease	Greece	equate
these	fleece	believe
trees	peace	belief
three	priest	between

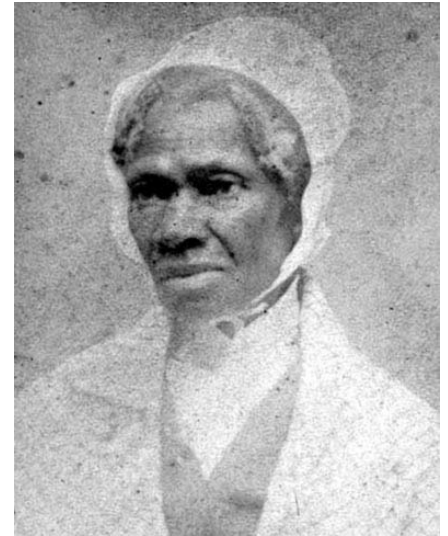
Ain't I a Woman?

In 1851, men and women did not have the same rights in the United States. So a meeting was held in Ohio to talk about equal rights. Women had come hoping to gain the same rights as men. But some men were saying women were too weak to have these rights.

Then a tall, plain woman came into the meeting. She had been a slave. She placed her hat at her feet and walked proudly to the stage. She stood straight and tall. Her voice was loud and clear.

She told the people how she had plowed fields. She told them how she had gathered grain. She said she didn't need a man's aid. She claimed she had worked as much as a man. "And ain't I a woman?" she asked.

The woman's name was Sojourner Truth. Her words changed the hearts of men who were there that day. People came up to shake her hand and thank her. Equal rights for women were on the way.



Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Sojourner Truth had been a _____ when she was young. She had worked hard in the fields gathering _____.

gain, grain, shake, slave

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

In 1851, women didn't have the _____ rights as men. Some women hoped to _____ these rights.

gain, same, say, state

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Sojourner _____ to a church in Ohio. She _____ a speech.

came, changed, gave, same

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Sojourner's words _____ the hearts of men in the church. People came up to thank her and _____ her hand.

changed, grain, saying, shake

5. How were the hearts of men different after Sojourner Truth gave her speech?

Word List

slave
save
gave
game
same
sake
shake

gain
grain
plain
slain
stain
strain
straight

saying
slaying
playing
place
lace
face
race

Calamity Jane

Martha Cannary lived in the late 1800s. But people didn't know her by her real name. They knew her as Calamity Jane. Calamity Jane became famous in the Wild West.

Calamity Jane was not the same as most other women in the Wild West. She dressed in men's clothes. She could ride a horse fast across the range. She helped drive a stagecoach across the plains. Calamity Jane was a straight shot with her gun. She later joined a Wild West show with other famous shooters. People came from far away to see the show.

Most people thought of Calamity Jane as a tough woman. But she had a soft side too. She helped take care of people with smallpox. She stayed up late and helped bathe them. She changed their beds. She made their food. Some people called her a saint for helping these people.

Calamity Jane wrote tales about her life. She claimed she had many adventures. People loved to read these stories. Today, many people visit her grave in South Dakota.



Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Calamity Jane lived in the _____ 1800s. She wore men's clothes and could ride across the _____ as fast as a man.

became, claimed, late, range

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Calamity Jane is known for her _____ shooting, but she also helped _____ care of sick people.

change, late, straight, take

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Calamity Jane helped _____ them, made their food, and _____
their beds.

bathe, became, changed, straight

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

People loved to read _____ about Calamity Jane's adventures. Many people
today go to visit her _____.

claimed, grave, range, tales

5. Why did some people call Calamity Jane a saint?

Word List

saint
faint
paint
pain
plain
slain
stain

straight
strayed
stayed
staged
raged
ranged
changed

stagecoach
offstage
takeoff
takeaway
mayday
today
daytime

Clown Shrimp

Deep within a coral reef, a clown shrimp is feasting on a meal. This shrimp has different feeding habits than many other shrimp. The clown shrimp likes to eat only one thing: starfish. A clown shrimp may feed on the same starfish for weeks.

The clown shrimp has an interesting appearance. This shrimp is small. It is white or cream-colored with bright purple or red spots. It has large, flat front claws. Its antennae are shaped like leaves.



Most people don't get the chance to see a clown shrimp in the sea. Clown shrimp are shy. They hide during the day.

You may be able to see a clown shrimp in an aquarium. But clown shrimp can be difficult to keep. They are sensitive. They need clean water. They also need starfish to feed on. Still, some people are willing to meet these needs. They want their aquariums to feature these neat-looking shrimp.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

A clown shrimp has antennae that are shaped like _____. It is white or _____-colored.

cream, feeding, leaves, reef

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The clown shrimp has different _____ habits than most other shrimp. A clown shrimp may feast on the same starfish for _____.

deep, feeding, leaves, weeks

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Most people don't get the chance to _____ a clown shrimp. These shrimp live _____ within a coral reef and hide during the day.

cream, deep, need, see

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

It can be difficult to meet the _____ of a clown shrimp. But some people still want their aquariums to _____ these neat-looking shrimp.

feature, feeding, meet, needs

5. Write a sentence telling what people must do in order to keep clown shrimp in an aquarium.

Word List

clean

glean

lean

leave

cleave

weave

heave

sea

seat

eat

beat

beak

week

seek

keep

seep

sleep

sheep

she

see

three

Even Dogs Dream

We all dream. People who study sleep tell us we dream. Each of us has a new dream about every 90 minutes while we sleep.

Dreams are like movies inside our heads. In dreams we flee from monsters. We get stranded on reefs of gold. We have electric eels for pets. Anything can happen in dreams. Doctors tell us that the dreams we have at night help us deal with our lives.

We are not the only animals who dream. Next time you see a sleeping dog, look at it closely. Its eyes may move under the lids. Its feet and legs may be moving. It may even give a little bark. The dog may be dreaming it is running down the street. It may be dreaming it is scratching a flea.



Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Dreaming is like watching a movie while we _____. Anything can happen in a _____.

deal, dream, feet, sleep

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

In our dreams, we might _____ from a monster. We might have an electric _____ as a pet.

deal, eel, feet, flee

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

People who study sleep tell us we _____. Dreams help us _____ with our lives.

deal, dream, flea, flee

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Even dogs may dream when they are _____. A dog may dream it is scratching a _____.

eels, flea, sleeping, street

5. How do we know dogs dream?

Word List

sleep
sleet
street
greet
greed
reed
reef

deal
real
reach
each
teach
team
dream

flea
fleabag
even
eventide
people
workpeople
laypeople

Is It Really a Flower?

There is a small white flower that looks like a pipe. It is called an Indian pipe.

Some people think the Indian pipe is not a true flower. They think it is a fungus because it grows with other fungi. You can find it in the woods. The soil there is alive with moss and mushrooms. Sometimes an Indian pipe can be found pushing its way up through fallen pine needles.



The Indian pipe is about four inches tall. It has a fine, thin stem, and it has a pipe-like head. It has no green leaves. The Indian pipe is entirely white. It feels waxy to the touch.

The Indian pipe becomes black when it is picked and dried. It becomes black when it dies. Its ripe seeds are black too.

The Indian pipe stands alone in the woods nodding its white head. It is not an easy plant to sight. Try to find one next time you are in the woods.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The Indian _____ is entirely white, and it has a _____ stem.

fine, pipe, ripe, time

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The Indian pipe's head looks _____ a pipe and is white when it is _____.

alive, dried, like, pine

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The Indian pipe might be found near _____, but it is not easy to
_____.

dried, find, pines, pipes

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The Indian pipe turns black when it is _____. Its seeds are black when they
are _____ or dried.

dried, find, fine, ripe

5. How is the Indian pipe different from most true flowers?

Word List

pipe
ripe
tripe
time
fine
site
white

dried
dies
pies
tries
tire
entire
entirely

find
mind
mine
fine
pine
pike
like

Jumping Mice

Tiny jumping mice get their name from the way they run. They run by pushing off with their big hind feet. They jump high as they run. Their long tails help them balance.

Jumping mice live in wild grasses and woods. In the summer they like to nest under piles of sticks. In the winter they hibernate. People can find them in sites all over America.



The jumping mice find grains, pine nuts, and wild berries to eat. They hold their food in their tiny front paws. They take little quick bites of food.

Jumping mice hide in wild grass. They hide from hawks and other meat-eating animals. A hawk gliding in the sky can find a jumping mouse. The hawk then spreads its talons and dives. The mouse flattens its body close to the ground. It stays still a long time. When it thinks the hawk is gone, it jumps away.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Tiny jumping mice live in _____ around America. They live in _____ grasses and woods.

hide, pines, sites, wild

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Jumping mice make _____ jumps as they run. They use their strong _____ feet to jump.

find, high, hind, time

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Jumping mice hold _____ nuts in their front paws and eat them in little _____.

bites, piles, pine, time

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

A hawk _____ from the sky to catch jumping mice. The mice _____ until the hawk flies away.

dives, hide, hind, piles

5. Why do jumping mice flatten their bodies close to the ground?

Word List

hide
ride
rice
mice
mile
file
pile

wild
child
mild
mine
fine
pine
line

hind
find
kind
mind
might
sight
sigh

Kites

Kites fly in the air at the end of a line. They glide like kite birds. That is how they got their name. The Chinese flew the first kites more than 3,000 years ago. Since then people have made many kinds of kites. Diamond-shaped kites need tails behind them. They often are bright colors. Fighting kites are small in size. They are used in kite races.

The wind and the kite's design make a kite rise high. A kite glides best in 8- to 20-mile-an hour winds.



One time Ben Franklin flew a kite in a thunderstorm. His idea was to show that storm clouds have electricity in them. He was right. There is electricity in storm clouds. The electricity went down his line of the kite. It went into a brass key tied to the end of the line. It caused a spark on the key. This was a dangerous experiment. He could have gotten hurt by the electricity in the clouds. You should not fly a kite in a thunderstorm or near electric wires.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Kites fly at the end of a _____. The first kites were used by the _____.

Chinese, glide, line, rise

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Kites that are diamond-shaped need tails _____ behind them, and _____ kites are used in races.

fighting, glide, size, tied

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Kites rise _____ and then _____ in the sky because of the wind and their design.

glide, high, idea, wire

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Ben Franklin used a kite to test his _____. Electricity in the storm clouds went down the _____ of his kite.

idea, line, right, size

5. Why is it dangerous to fly a kite near electric wires?

Word List

glide
side
size
rise
wise
wire
hire

right
sight
bright
fight
find
kind
mind

Chinese
minus
sinus
spinal
final
vital
vitamin

Land of Fire and Ice

In the far northern Atlantic Ocean lies the country of Iceland. Iceland is a land of opposites. It has hot and cold, dark and light. Some people call this island "the land of fire and ice."

Iceland has a cold climate. Icebergs float in the sea close by. Mile-wide glaciers cover parts of the country. Some glaciers have melted into icy cold lakes.

Yet this island is not all ice. It also has many volcanoes. About every five years, a volcano sends burning hot lava over the land. Even when they are not erupting, the volcanoes send heat into the ground around them. This heat warms lakes and springs where people can swim and dive.

In the winter, Iceland is mostly dark. But in summer, it is light all the time. Summer is a fine time to visit Iceland. The sun shines day and night.

To get to Iceland, people must take a boat or a flight. Many visitors travel across the ocean to explore the land of fire and ice.



Photo by David Karná

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Iceland _____ in the far northern Atlantic. People must take a boat or _____ to get to Iceland.

dive, flight, lies, shines

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Close by the island of Iceland, _____ float in the sea. Glaciers that are a mile _____ cover parts of the land.

five, flight, icebergs, wide

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

About every _____ years, a volcano erupts in Iceland. Volcanoes heat the lakes where people swim and _____.

dive, five, lies, light

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Summer is a _____ time to visit Iceland. In summer, the sun _____ day and night.

fine, five, ice, shines

5. Write a sentence telling why Iceland is called "the land of fire and ice."

Word List

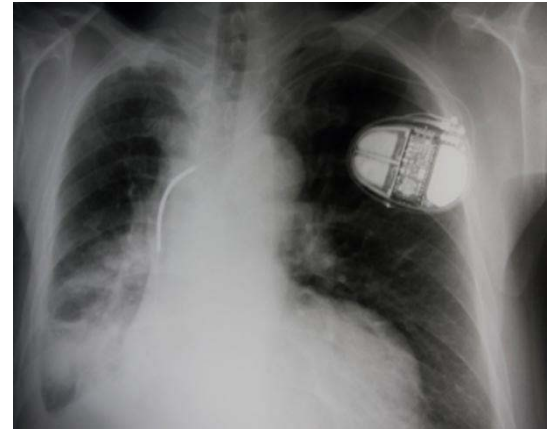
lies	light	time
dies	flight	dime
dives	flies	dive
chives	fries	five
child	cries	fine
wild	crime	mine
mild	grime	shine

The Pacemaker—A Heart Saver

The pacemaker is an electric machine. It is used to keep the heart beating at a normal rate.

The pacemaker is placed into the chest of someone whose heart does not work well. It makes the heart rate stay steady. Most often, it aids a heart that beats too slowly. It can also slow a racing heart.

The pacemaker is in a little case. This case is smaller than a bar of soap. Pacemakers are placed under the skin. Most are placed above the rib cage. Thin wires go from the pacemaker to the heart.



The pacemaker runs on a battery. The battery is made to last for years. When the battery runs down, a new pacemaker is needed. A pacemaker may have a sensor. This sensor sends a warning before the battery runs down.

Pacemakers are important for people whose hearts do not beat at the right rate. Pacemakers can save lives.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

A pacemaker is a machine that is in a little _____. A pacemaker can _____ people's lives.

cage, case, make, save

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

If a heart _____ is racing, a pacemaker can slow it. The pacemaker's batteries are _____ to last for years.

made, placed, rate, stay

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

A pacemaker can _____ a slow heart beat faster. It can also slow down a heart that is _____.

make, racing, rate, stay

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

A pacemaker is usually _____ under the skin above the rib _____.

cage, case, placed, racing

5. Why is the pacemaker an important machine for people?

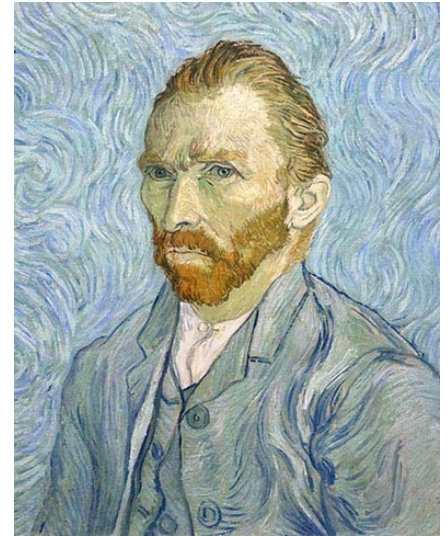
Word List

rate	aid	stay
plate	maid	may
place	raid	make
pace	rage	take
race	cage	rake
case	page	rave
base	sage	save

Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent Van Gogh lived in the Netherlands in the late 1800s. He failed as a businessman, so he trained to be a minister. He gave to the poor and cared for the frail. Then, when he was about 26, he became a painter.

Van Gogh felt the pain of others. He was sad. At first his paintings were made with dark colors. These colors made people see his pain. One of these early paintings, *The Potato Eaters*, shows poor, plain people. Later, Van Gogh started to use brighter colors. He made his paintings blaze with red, green, and yellow. Still, Van Gogh's pain didn't go away.



Van Gogh made over 800 paintings, but he sold only one. He felt like a failure. Many people thought Van Gogh had mental illness. He died at the age of 37.

Van Gogh's paintings became famous after he died. Today, they are some of the most famous paintings of all time. They have been framed and hung in places around the world.

Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Vincent Van Gogh was a great _____. Van Gogh felt the _____ of other people.

frail, pain, painter, painting

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

While Van Gogh was a minister, he _____ to the poor, and he cared for the _____.

frail, gave, painted, plain

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Van Gogh's first _____ had dark colors. Later, he made his paintings
_____ with bright colors.

blaze, framed, pains, paintings

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

The paintings of Van Gogh were _____ and hung in many places. Yet
Vincent felt he had _____.

failed, framed, plain, trained

5. Why did Van Gogh use dark colors in his painting *The Potato Eaters*?

Word List

made
fade
fate
late
rate
rage
age

failed
railed
rained
trained
framed
famed
named

painting
tainting
fainting
fainter
painter
later
rater

Wild Plants You Can Eat

There are many wild plants. Some are safe and good to eat. Some people like to seek out these plants. They like to cook them for a meal. They want to leave modern life behind. They want to live as people did long ago.

We all have a streak of wildness in us. It can be fun to try to get along without McDonald's. Food takes on new meaning when you find it yourself and cook it over a campfire.

Some plants you can eat are cattails, Japanese knotweeds, milkweed leaves, and dandelion greens. Some of these grow in the woods. Some grow in streams. Can you name one that grows in your backyard?

Do you like the idea of eating weeds, seeds, and other wild plants? If you do, you might like to read the book *My Side of the Mountain*. It is about a boy who makes a home in a tree. He lives alone in the wild. It was written by Jean George.



Quiz Questions

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

People can find wild plants in the woods and in _____. Some people even like to eat _____.

seeds, seeks, streaks, streams

2. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Some people like to _____ out wild plants and _____ that are safe to eat.

green, leave, seek, weeds

3. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Dandelions are _____ that can be found in our backyards. Some people
_____ dandelion greens.

eat, streaks, streams, weeds

4. Fill in the blanks with words from the list below.

Some people might want to _____ modern life behind. They have a
_____ of wildness.

eat, leave, meal, streak

5. What plants might the boy in *My Side of the Mountain* have eaten while he lived in the wild?

Word List

leaves

cleaves

heaves

heal

meal

Jean

meaning

streams

steam

team

teak

streak

weak

beak

weeds

seeds

seeks

Greeks

greens

trees

these