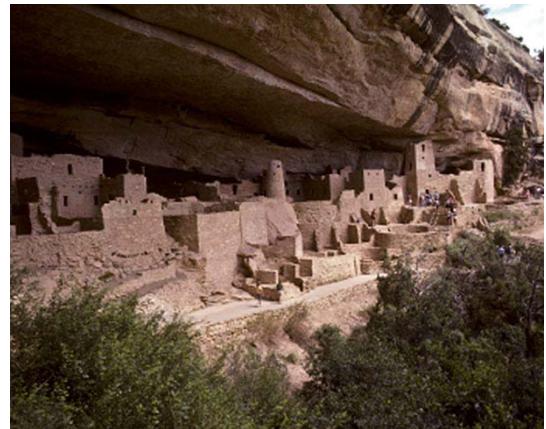


A Village on the Cliffs

Three men rode across the dry land. Sagebrush was everywhere. The men were looking for lost cattle when they came to the edge of a huge canyon. They stopped and looked across. They beheld a strange sight.

The men saw what looked like a large village, wedged in the canyon walls. It sat on the ledges of the cliffs.

There were no other people there. The people had left ages ago.



The men had found an ancient village. Early American Indians built it about 800 years ago. They lived there for about 100 years, and then they left.

Why did they leave? Did the weather change? Was there too little rain? Were they in danger from their enemies? No one knows for sure.

Today the village is called Cliff Palace, and many people go to Colorado to see it. Park rangers tell these tourists about the early American Indians who once lived on the cliffs.

Quiz Questions

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

There is an ancient _____ in Colorado called Cliff Palace. The village is _____ into the cliffs of a canyon.

age, changed, village, wedged

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

People thought maybe a _____ in the weather made the early American Indians leave their village. Or maybe there was _____ from enemies.

change, danger, range, stranger

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

Three men discovered a strange sight at the _____ of a canyon. They looked across to see a _____ sitting on the ledges of the cliffs.

edge, range, village, wedge

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

If you see this _____ village, ask a park _____ to tell you about the early American Indians who once lived there.

ages, edge, ranger, strange

5. Write a sentence telling how long ago the early American Indians left the ancient village.

Word List

edge	village	strange
wedge	pillage	change
ledge	spillage	range
pledge	ages	ranger
sledge	gages	danger
sludge	sages	manger
smudge	stages	stranger

Aardvarks

The aardvark is a bizarre animal. It looks like it was made from parts of other animals. It has a pig-like nose and large ears like a donkey's. Its tail is like a kangaroo's tail. The tail marks the ground as the aardvark walks. The aardvark has sharp claws. Its back is arched.

This bizarre animal sleeps during the day. It hunts when it is dark. The aardvark hunts for termites. It starts by digging a hole in the hard wall of a termite nest with its sharp claws. Next it sticks its long, sticky tongue into the hole. Then it licks up the termites.

Aardvarks protect themselves from harm. They dig far into the ground to hide. They hit their enemies with their tails or sharp claws.

Some people hunt aardvarks for their hides. Some people use aardvarks' sharp claws as charms.



Quiz Questions

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

The _____ is a bizarre animal. Its _____ look like they are from other animals.

aardvark, charms, large, parts

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

An aardvark has _____ ears like a donkey's, a nose like a pig's, and a tail like a kangaroo's. It has an _____ back.

arched, far, large, parts

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

Aardvarks can hunt in the _____. They use their claws both to hunt and to protect themselves from _____.

dark, hard, harm, marks

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

With their claws, aardvarks dig _____ into the ground to hide. Some people have made _____ from the aardvark's claws.

charms, far, hard, mark

5. Write a sentence telling why people hunt aardvarks.

Word List

sharp	large	parts
harp	barge	tart
hard	charge	start
chard	Marge	stark
charm	march	ark
harm	arch	dark
farm	arched	mark

Battle of the Bicyclists

In 1902, a man wanted more people to buy a sports magazine. How could he get some publicity? He decided to have a long bicycle race.

The race started on July 1, 1903. The route took racers about 1,500 miles around France. Racers rode that distance in six long parts. It took the man who would win more than 17 hours to finish the first part! The race lasted almost three weeks. Racers faced rough roads. Yet, the race was a big success. It has been held almost every year since. The race is called the Tour de France.



Now the Tour de France is longer. The parts are shorter, but there are more of them. Each year the route is a little different. Racers ride bicycles made for racing. They practice hard before the race. The racer who finishes all the parts in the shortest time wins. People in cities along the route get very excited.

Quiz Questions

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

A man decided to have a long _____ race. The race would help him get
_____ and sell magazines.
bicycle, cities, practiced, publicity

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

The _____ went around France. The _____ of the race was
over 1,500 miles.
distance, face, practice, race

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

The first Tour de France was a big _____ . It has been held almost every year
_____ 1903.

bicycle, practice, since, success

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

Racers _____ to get ready for the race. People in France are
_____ to watch.

cities, excited, practice, since

5. Write a sentence telling how the first Tour de France was different from Tour de France races now.

Word List

race	bicycle	excited
trace	cycle	recited
twice	cyclone	decided
spice	Cyclops	practiced
spicy	cypress	percent
pricy	cider	cell
icy	cipher	once

Cinco de Mayo

Fun fills the air. People meet in the center of Puebla. They wear fancy clothes. Some people dance. Some just enjoy the music. Others eat tacos and red rice. They have smiles on their faces. It is the fifth of May. They have come to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo means the fifth of May. It is a special day in Mexico. It was the day of a great battle. France and Mexico were at war. On May 5, 1862, the French marched to Puebla. They planned to take the city. They were certain they would win.

The Mexicans had fewer men. Still, they knew they had a chance to win. The fighting was fierce, but the Mexicans won. They saved their city. Since then, Mexicans have celebrated Cinco de Mayo.



Quiz Questions

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

_____ de Mayo is on the fifth of May. People celebrate this special day to remember a battle Mexico fought with _____.

Cinco, City, Fancy, France

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

On Cinco de Mayo, people in Mexico wear _____ clothes. They have red _____ and tacos to eat.

celebrate, city, fancy, rice

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

People in Puebla _____ Cinco de Mayo, a day when the French wanted to take over the _____.

celebrate, center, chance, city

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

The French had a better _____ to win the battle; they had more men. But after _____ fighting, the Mexicans won.

center, chance, fierce, since

5. Write a sentence telling two things Mexicans do to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Word List

city	dance	fancy
civil	chance	Nancy
civic	France	chancy
citizen	prance	spicy
cent	prince	pricy
center	since	pierce
century	wince	fierce

Garter Snakes

Years ago, men wore garters. The garters held up the men's socks. Many garters had stripes. They looked like the striped snakes in gardens. People started to call these snakes garter snakes.

Garter snakes can be brown or tan. They can be dark green or black. Many garter snakes have stripes, but some do not have any markings.

Garter snakes cannot see far. They cannot hear well. They use their tongues to smell. Their tongues dart in and out of their mouths. They are harmless.

Garter snakes are not hard to find. They live in many parts of North America. Some live as far north as the Arctic Circle. You can find them in marshes and parks. You can find them in backyards, farms, and even cities. However, they do not usually live in very hot deserts.



Quiz Questions

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

Years ago men wore _____ to hold up their socks. The garters looked like striped snakes found in _____.
dark, gardens, garters, markings

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

Garter snakes can be tan, brown, black, or _____ green. Some garter snakes do not have any _____.
dark, garden, markings, parks

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

Garter snakes cannot see _____, and they cannot hear. They _____ their tongues in and out of their mouths to smell things.

dark, dart, far, harm

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

Garter snakes can be found in many marshes and _____. It's a good thing they are _____!

dark, harmless, markings, parks

5. Write a sentence telling what a garter snake's tongue does to smell something.

Word List

farm	dark	garden
harm	mark	harden
charm	park	hard
hard	spark	harp
yard	part	hark
card	tart	mark
car	start	marking

Giants

You hear about giants in legends. You read about them on the pages of books. But did real giants ever live?

Ages ago, people believed in giants. They imagined giants were much larger than people. They thought most giants were dangerous. They thought a few were gentle. They told tales about giants. Why did they make up these tales?

These people did not understand nature. They heard the strange sounds of thunder. They saw mountain ranges. They told tales to explain these things. Laughing giants made thunder. Mountain ranges were groups of sleeping giants.

One time, people found huge, old bones. They thought the bones proved that giants once lived.

Now we know the bones were from dinosaurs. We know what causes thunder. We know how mountains form. We know giants lived only in stories. We still like those stories today.



Quiz Questions

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

Today, you might hear _____ about giants. But _____ ago, people thought giants really lived.

ages, legends, pages, ranges

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

People _____ that giants were mostly dangerous, but they thought a few were _____.

gentle, huge, imagined, strange

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

People said that laughing giants made the _____ sounds of thunder. They said mountain _____ were sleeping giants.

gentle, imagined, ranges, strange

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

These people also found _____ old bones and thought they were the bones of giants. Now we know they were dinosaur bones and that _____ only live in stories.

giants, huge, imagined, pages

5. Write a sentence telling why people no longer believe in giants.

Word List

ages	gentleman	giants
pages	pageboy	imagined
rages	sagebrush	engine
wages	stagehand	ginger
cages	stagecoach	gentle
sages	gemstone	legends
stages	birdcage	dangerous

Henry Ford

Henry Ford was born on a farm. He did not like farm chores. He thought they were boring. He did like mechanical things.

Henry was born more than 140 years ago. There were few cars then. People rode in wagons pulled by horses. Henry wanted to build something that could move by its own force. He wanted to build a car.

Henry worked on his car for almost three years. Sometimes he worked all night. Early one morning he was finished. He had built a car. It had four wheels. It even had a horn. There was one problem. The car did not fit through the garage door. Henry had to make the door bigger with an ax.



Years later, Henry thought of a way to make cars more quickly. He had each worker do one part of the job. His ideas forged the way into a new age. Now many things are made in this way.

Quiz Questions

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

Henry Ford was _____ on a farm. He thought chores were
_____, so he wanted to build cars.
boring, born, force, horn

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

Henry wanted to build something that didn't need _____. He wanted to build
something that could use its own _____ to move.
chore, force, horn, horses

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

Henry worked in his garage _____ three years building the car. Then on one _____ it was finally done.

boring, chore, for, morning

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

The car had four wheels, and it even had a _____ to beep. It was too big to fit through the garage _____. Henry had to use an ax to get the car out of the garage!

door, horn, horse, morning

5. Write a sentence that tells how you know that Henry Ford was really interested in building his car.

Word List

horn	chore	morning
born	core	morn
worn	score	corn
torn	sore	born
tort	fore	boring
fort	force	coring
forty	horse	scoring

Hurricanes

Hurricanes are strong storms. Their winds can hurl tree limbs through the air. Their rains can cause floods. They can hurt people and things.

A hurricane starts over a warm ocean. First hot air rises from the ocean's warm surface. The hot, wet air turns into clouds. Winds start to blow hard. These winds begin to curve. They blow the clouds in a circle. The clouds start to whirl. A hurricane is born.

Hurricane winds can blow up to 200 miles per hour. They can cause storm surges. A storm surge occurs when the wind pushes ocean water together. Then the wall of water spills over the land. Rainfall is heavy during a storm.

Hurricanes can move to land. Then the storms can form tornadoes. It is no surprise that people hurry away when a hurricane is coming.



Quiz Questions

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

Hurricanes are huge wind and rain _____. They start _____ an ocean.

forming, over, storms, turns

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

To form the hurricane, _____ hot, wet air from the ocean turns into clouds.

Then the clouds begin to blow into a _____.

circle, first, hard, hurl

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

The winds begin to _____. When the clouds whirl fast enough, a hurricane is _____.

born, curve, first, turned

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

Hurricane winds can make a huge wall of ocean water called a storm _____.

Hurricanes can move over land and _____ into tornadoes.

circle, hurl, surge, turn

5. Write a sentence that tells how clouds form when a hurricane is developing.

Word List

hard	storm	hurl
chard	form	hurt
card	fort	pert
cart	tort	per
mart	torn	fir
smart	born	first
start	worn	whirl

Kermit and the Puppet Master

Jim Henson was very clever. He turned cloth into puppets. Then he performed with them. He was a master at making the puppets come to life.

Kermit was one of Jim Henson's first puppets. Jim used his mother's old coat to make the puppet. He covered his hand with it. He shaped a mouth. Then he added ping-pong balls for eyes. He named it Kermit after a friend.

Jim performed while standing under the stage. People could see the puppet, but Jim could not. He needed to see it, so he figured out a way. While he performed, Jim watched his puppet on a television. That way he could see what a person watching was seeing.

Later Jim made more puppets. He called them Muppets. Each one had a quirk. Bert worried. Ernie dreamed. Big Bird was curious. Certainly, Jim was a master of puppets.

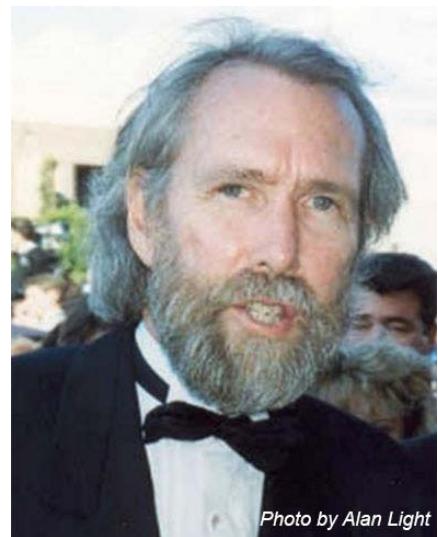


Photo by Alan Light

Quiz Questions

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

Jim Henson was a puppet _____. He made one of his _____.
puppets from an old coat.

bird, first, master, mother

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

Jim used his mother's coat to _____ his hand. Then he shaped a mouth and added eyes. He named this first puppet _____.

Bert, cover, Kermit, turn

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

After Jim made Kermit, he created other puppets that he named _____ and Ernie. Then, he made another one named Big _____.

Bert, Bird, Master, Mother

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

Every puppet Jim made had a different _____. Jim _____ with these puppets and made them come to life.

covered, performed, quirk, turn

5. Write a sentence telling how Jim Henson made Kermit, one of his first puppets.

Word List

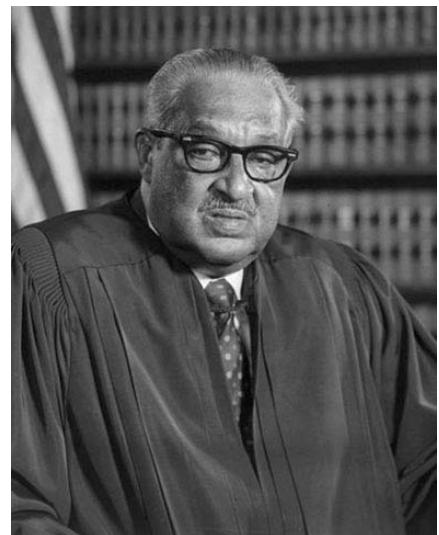
Bert	first	turn
pert	thirst	churn
perk	third	burn
jerk	bird	Burt
clerk	gird	curt
tern	girl	curl
fern	whirl	furl

Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was in trouble. His teacher threw him out. She said he could return later. But first, he had to learn part of the Constitution. Thurgood was often in trouble. He learned the Constitution well.

The Constitution helps form U.S. laws. Lawyers need to know it to do their work. Learning it served Thurgood well. He became a lawyer.

When Thurgood became a lawyer, many laws in the United States were not fair. Black and white people were kept apart. Black and white children could not play together in parks. They could not go to the same schools.



Thurgood worked to end these laws. He was smart and worked hard. He argued many cases in court. One time he argued for all children to go to the same schools. He won. Now all children can go to school together. It was a turning point for the United States. Thurgood had made his mark.

Quiz Questions

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

Thurgood Marshall was _____, but he often got in trouble at school. His _____ would make him leave the room.

lawyer, marked, smart, teacher

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

Thurgood's teacher said he could only _____ to the class
_____ he learned part of the Constitution.

after, marked, return, turn

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

When Thurgood grew up, he became a _____. At that time, some laws said that black and white children could not go to the same schools. Thurgood worked _____ to change those laws.

form, hard, lawyer, teacher

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

Thurgood went to court to _____ that all children should go to the same schools. He won his case. Thurgood Marshall had made his _____.

argue, form, mark, turn

5. Write a sentence that tells what Thurgood Marshall did that changed the schools.

Word List

smart	form	return
mart	fort	turn
mark	fork	burn
park	ford	bur
part	forge	were
hart	force	swerve
hard	for	served

Tornadoes

Have you seen "The Wizard of Oz"? It is a story about a girl named Dorothy. She was carried to the land of Oz by a tornado. What is a tornado? Can it really move people?

A tornado is a strong windstorm. It forms inside a storm cloud. Cold air and warm air come together. They make strong winds. A funnel forms. The funnel drops from the cloud. When it touches the ground, a tornado is born. It can move forward and turn corners. It lasts a short time.



Tornadoes have moved many enormous things. They have moved horses, houses, and trains. They have moved cars and people too. One time, the force of a tornado drove a fork into a tree trunk. No wonder people who see one never forget it.

Quiz Questions

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

In the _____ "The Wizard of Oz," a tornado carried Dorothy to the land of Oz. A tornado is a big _____.

fork, horse, story, windstorm

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

A tornado is made up of strong winds that _____ into a funnel. The funnel can move forward and turn _____.

corners, forks, form, horses

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

The _____ of a tornado can move many things. It can move people, _____, trains, and other enormous things.
force, forget, form, horses

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

Tornadoes last only a _____ time. Most people who see a tornado never _____ it.

force, forget, form, short

5. Write a sentence telling why people who have seen a tornado never forget it.

Word List

form	born	windstorm
dorm	horn	format
storm	horse	forklift
stork	force	hornbill
fork	fort	horseback
cork	sort	shortcut
pork	short	newborn

What Is Chirping in the Tree?

First, something stirs in a fir tree. Then you hear, "Chirr." What is chirping in the tree? Is it a bird? No, it is a red squirrel. Red squirrels live in trees. They build their nests in holes or on sturdy branches.

Red squirrels are furry animals with bushy tails. Their tails help them jump from tree to tree. They also use their tails as blankets. Red squirrels clean their tails often, so they do not get full of dirt.

Red squirrels eat seeds and fruit. They eat seeds from pine cones. One red squirrel can cut 100 pine cones from a tree in an hour. Then it hides them. It returns during the winter to eat them.

These perky animals are fun to observe, but do not get too close. Some red squirrels carry germs that can make a person sick.



Quiz Questions

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

You can hear red squirrels _____ like birds. You can _____ them in fir trees.

chirping, first, observe, stir

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

Red squirrels are _____ animals. They build their nests on the _____ branches of trees.

during, first, furry, sturdy

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

One red _____ can cut 100 pine cones from a tree in an hour. Red squirrels hide some of the pine cones and _____ to eat them in winter.
dirt, return, squirrel, stir

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

If you see something _____ in the trees, it might be a red squirrel. Do not get too close, because some squirrels carry _____.
during, fur, germs, stir

5. Write a sentence that tells why red squirrels hide pine cones.

Word List

person	fir	furry
permit	sir	flurry
perm	stir	slurry
germ	chirr	blurry
jerk	chirp	blurring
perk	birch	purring
perky	bird	during