

1

The largest desert in the world is the Sahara. This desert is almost as big as the United States of America. Even though it is hot there are plants and animals that live there. Some people live there too! These people raise animals and crops for food. They also live in tents so they can move as needed.



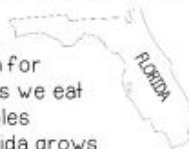
### The main idea is:

- A. The desert is a great place to visit.
- B. No one can live on the desert.
- C. The desert is a good place to live.
- D. A few people and animals live on the desert.

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2

Florida is known for its beaches, palm trees, and sunshine. It is known for other things as well. Many of the fruits we eat are grown in Florida. A couple examples include oranges and grapefruits. Florida grows more of these two fruits than any other state.



### The main idea is:

- A. Florida is known for its sunshine.
- B. Disney World makes Florida famous.
- C. Florida is known for many reasons.
- D. Florida is a large state.

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3



Have you heard that tea is the most popular drink in the world? There are more than 3,000 types of tea. They get their names from the areas in which they grow. The plants grow well in tropical regions where the weather is rainy and hot. It's a good thing there are so many kinds, people love tea!

### The main idea is:

- A. All tea tastes the same.
- B. More people drink tea than any other drink.
- C. Tea plants grow well in tropical regions.
- D. More people drink more coffee than tea.

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4

Sharks are often considered to be some of the scariest creatures, but they shouldn't be. Out of 250 different kinds of sharks only 7 are really dangerous to people. Sharks are very fast swimmers. Most live in the ocean, however a few can live in fresh water. It's fun to learn about them during shark week. They are not as dangerous as people think.



### The main idea is:

- A. Sharks can be found in the ocean and fresh water.
- B. All sharks will eat people.
- C. There are 250 different kinds of sharks.
- D. Most sharks are not dangerous.

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5

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1874. It actually took several years for telephone use to become widespread. Today, 95% of Americans now own a phone of some kind. The average American adult spends 2 hours, 51 minutes on their phone every day. That gives you an idea of how much people rely on telephones.



### The main idea is:

- A. Phones are important in our lives.
- B. Cell phones are better than land line phones.
- C. Most people talk too much on the phone.
- D. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

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6

The rattlesnake was named for the noise it makes when it gets scared or excited. At the end of its tail there are a bunch of little rings that fit into one another. Those rings make a loud rattling noise when the snake vibrates its tail. That loud rattling sound deters predators and serves as a warning to anyone who may pass by.

### The main idea is:

- A. Rattlesnakes are dangerous snakes.
- B. The rattlesnake is well named.
- C. There are many kinds of rattlesnakes.
- D. Rattlesnakes are predators.



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7



Corn is a food staple for people and animals. Farmers in the United States grow about one half of all the corn in the world. Most of the corn grown is used as animal feed. However, people also eat corn, cornmeal, and use corn oil.

### The main idea is:

- A. Corn is grown all over the world.
- B. Corn is a cereal grain.
- C. Corn is grown as food for people and animals.
- D. Popcorn tastes better than plain corn.

8

Surfing is a popular sport. It would probably be even more popular if good waves could be found at all beaches. In the United States, Hawaii and Southern California are the most popular surfing places. Hawaii is where surfing first started. It is known to have some of the best surfing waves in the world.



### The main idea is:

- A. Surfing requires good waves.
- B. Surfing is easy.
- C. All Hawaiians can surf.
- D. You can only surf in Hawaii and Southern California.

9

Elephants are some of the largest animals in the world. The African bush elephant is noted as the heaviest land animal. Because of their size they do not have any enemies except man. Even though elephants can average 6 feet in length and weigh up to 10 tons, they are usually peaceful.

### The main idea is:

- A. Elephants travel in herds.
- B. Elephants are peaceful.
- C. Elephants are some of the largest animals in the world.
- D. An elephant never forgets.



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10

One of the oldest household pests is the cockroach. They will eat any type of food. They are a health hazard because they can spread germs and diseases. Scientists say that the cockroaches have been on Earth for millions of years, and they have changed very little over that period of time.



### The main idea is:

- A. Cockroaches are fast bugs.
- B. Cockroaches can often bite people.
- C. There is no easy way to kill them.
- D. Cockroaches have existed for a long time.

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11

Living things need food. Different living things need different kinds of food. Plants make their own food. Some animals just eat plants. Other animals eat just meat. Some animals eat both plants and meat. Without a food source a living organism can not survive.

### The main idea is:

- A. Animals make their own food.
- B. All living things need food.
- C. Plants eat other plants.
- D. Vegetarians don't eat meat.



12

Today there are not many people in the United States who live on farms. 80 years ago, about half of the people who lived out in the country lived on a farm. Farm life today is different because of farm machines. Some of today's farms are family owned. Others are owned by big companies.



### The main idea is:

- A. Not many people live on farms today.
- B. Farm life is a great way of life.
- C. More people should live on farms.
- D. Farming is a hard way to make a living.

13

Beetles live in most parts of the world. They can live in water, underground, and on the ground. Some beetles are helpful to people, but most are harmful. Some beetles can damage the plants, crops, and the wood we depend on. Beetles will usually not bite you, but they may chew on the plants in your garden or beams in your home.

### The main idea is:

- A. Most beetles live in water.
- B. Most beetles are harmful to people.
- C. Beetles can fly.
- D. Most beetles are helpful to people.



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14

The sunflower is one of the largest flowers, and it is named for the way it follows the sun. These giants may grow up to ten feet tall. The flower itself is very large. The name sunflower comes from the Greek word helios "sun" and anthos "flower." The face of the flower follows the sun from east to west, so it is named appropriately.



### The main idea is:

- A. They are large flowers.
- B. Sunflowers are very important.
- C. How the sunflower got its name
- D. Sunflower seeds are good for you.

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15

Cats are popular house pets. Some cats have long hair and some have short hair. Their fur comes in a variety of colors and so do their eyes. A cat can be a one solid color, a mix of colors, or striped like a tiger. There are even cats that have no tails!



### The main idea is:

- A. There is a lot of variety in the cat family.
- B. Cats make the best pets.
- C. Cats are very similar.
- D. I'd prefer to have a dog.

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16

Caves were important to early man. They were used as homes. Caves provided sturdy shelters from wind, rain, and snow. A fire was often built in the opening to keep people warm and animals away. Some cave walls were decorated with pictures of animals and scenes from daily life. People were lucky if they were able to find a cave to call home.

### The main idea is:

- A. Fires were built to keep people warm.
- B. Caves were dangerous.
- C. All caves were decorated with paintings.
- D. Caves were homes for early man.



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17

Apples are grown in more parts of the world than any other fruit. My favorite place to get them is right up the road at Apple Hill. Apples can be eaten raw or cooked. Apple sauce, pie, apple butter, and cider are just a few popular treats made from apples. The United States grows more apples than any other country.

### The main idea is:

- A. Apples are hard to grow.
- B. Apples are a common fruit.
- C. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
- D. Red apples taste better than green apples.



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18



Deep sea divers require heavy equipment. Their belt is weighted and so are their shoes. Their helmet alone weighs 60 pounds. The diver wears a rubberized suit and carries a knife. Deep sea divers can do rescue work. They can also use special tools to fix broken pipes and cables under water.

### The main idea is:

- A. Deep sea divers need special equipment.
- B. Deep sea diving is dangerous.
- C. Deep sea diving is a good job to have.
- D. Deep sea diving can be fun.

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19

One of the most famous cartoonists in the world is Walt Disney. Disney liked to draw ever since he was a young boy. He ended up moving to Hollywood and drawing popular cartoons for a living. He created Mickey Mouse, Daffy Duck, Pluto the dog, and others. These characters are still well known today.



### The main idea is:

- A. He also created Disney Land.
- B. Drawing cartoons makes you famous.
- C. Disney created well known cartoon characters.
- D. Daffy Duck is Disney's most famous character.

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20

The squirrel is probably the best known wild animal. They seem to be everywhere. Different kinds of squirrels vary in size and color. Squirrels have many enemies. They are most usually active in the daytime and sleep at night. They like to eat nuts and hide them for later.

### The main idea is:

- A. Squirrels have very few enemies.
- B. Squirrels make great pets.
- C. Squirrels are wild animals.
- D. Squirrels carry diseases.



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21

Ships are responsible for much that has happened in the world today. People first used smaller boats and over time learned how to make boats bigger and bigger. Early ships had sails and oars. Later ships were moved by several sails. Today's ships use steam turbines or diesel engines.



### The main idea is:

- A. To describe ships over the years.
- B. To explain what ships do today.
- C. To discuss why we need more ships.
- D. To describe how to make a ship.

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22

People used to think that golf was a sport for older people. That idea has changed. Today, people of all ages enjoy the sport. The object of the game is to use as few strokes as possible to get the ball into the hole. My whole family likes to golf. My sister has even won a junior championship.

### The main idea is:

- A. It is expensive to go golfing.
- B. Golf is boring.
- C. Golf is a simple sport to play.
- D. Golf is for people of all ages.



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23

Did you ever wonder how a journalist gets a story? Journalists travel the world to find stories. They talk to people and write down information in note form. Back at their offices, the journalists use the notes they took to write the story.



### The main idea is:

- A. To describe why journalists are important.
- B. To describe how a journalist works.
- C. To outline the qualifications needed to be a journalist.
- D. To describe how a news office works.

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24

It is important to eat fruits because of the vitamins and minerals they contain. Fruits are eaten in a number of ways. They can be eaten fresh, frozen, dried, or canned. Jams and jellies are made from fruit. Juice is another way to enjoy fruit. Juices can be fresh, canned, or frozen. There are so many ways to enjoy delicious fruits.

### The main idea is:

- A. Everyone should eat fruit everyday.
- B. All fruits contain the same vitamins.
- C. Vegetables are better for you than fruit.
- D. Fruits can be eaten in many ways.



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