

The Science Project

Mrs. Thompson stood at the front of the classroom and pulled the last two popsicle sticks from the top. She read the names she had printed on them. "Our last two partners will be Dylan and Rachel. We have five minutes before recess. Please meet with your partner and begin to discuss what you might want to do for your science project."

Dylan's desk happened to be across the aisle from Rachel, so they slid their desks together and began to talk. Since Dylan had just arrived at the school a few weeks earlier, Rachel explained the project to him. "At the end of each science unit, Mrs. Thompson splits us into pairs and has us choose a science experiment from the unit. We have to make a poster about it. We have to list the materials, the procedure, the results, and what we learned."

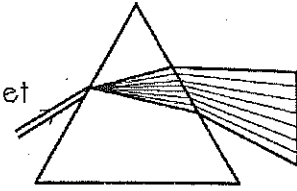
"I would like to do the prism experiment, where the light refracted into a rainbow. Is that okay with you?" asked Dylan.

"Sure," said Rachel. "That was cool how the prism bent the light and separated it into the seven colors of the visible light spectrum. I have one of those tri-fold poster boards at home. I'll bring it tomorrow."

"Okay," said Dylan. "We could split the board so that one of us does the middle section, and the other person does the two sides."

"That sounds good to me," agreed Rachel.

The next day during science, Dylan and Rachel gathered their materials and set to work. They decided to begin by conducting the experiment again so that it would be easier to draw it and write about it.



As Dylan picked up a marker, he warned Rachel, "I'm really good at drawing, but my handwriting is hideous. I'll try my best to make it neat."

Rachel clapped her hands in delight. "I'm the exact opposite. I love to do fancy lettering and I can write neatly, but I couldn't draw something decent if my life depended upon it. Let's rethink this! How about I do the writing and you do the drawing on the poster board?"

"That sounds good to me!" said Dylan.

1 **THEME**- Which statement best describes the theme of this passage?

1. If you are not good at something, don't waste your time doing it.
2. When conducting a science experiment, it is important to understand the scientific reasoning behind it.
3. When working in a group, it is smart to take advantage of each person's strengths.
4. It is not polite to point out another person's weakness.

2 **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**- Which of the following statements is a hyperbole?

- A. Rachel clapped her hands in delight.
- B. My handwriting is hideous.
- C. I would like to do the prism experiment.
- D. I couldn't draw something decent if my life depended on it.

3 **FINDING DETAILS IN A TEXT**- Which of these is NOT required to be listed on the display board?

- A. a hypothesis
- B. the procedure
- C. the materials needed to conduct the experiment
- D. an explanation

4 **GENRE**- What is the genre of this passage?

- A. science fiction
- B. informational
- C. fantasy
- D. realistic fiction

5 **VOCABULARY**- Which word has an affix that means "again?"

- A. results
- B. rethink
- C. earlier
- D. procedure

6 **CONTEXT CLUES**- What does "hideous" mean in this passage?

- A. the action of hiding
- B. smart
- C. awful
- D. neat

Opening Day

"You are so lucky!" said Paul. "I can't believe you got one of the special invitations to go to the Grand Opening of Disneyland!"

"I only got a special invitation because my dad works at the studio," Greg explained. "I'll ride all the rides and tell you which one is the best!"

"Okay," said Paul. "I'm going to watch the live television special. Maybe I will see you on TV. Have fun tomorrow!"

Two days later, Paul stopped by Greg's house and attacked him with a string of questions. "How was Disneyland? What was the best ride? What did you eat? Did you see Walt Disney himself?"

Greg groaned. "Ugh! It was a nightmare!"

Paul's eyes grew wide. "What? Why?"

"First of all, we were stuck on the freeway for two hours before we even got to Disneyland. Once we finally arrived, we discovered that the park was packed with people. Someone told my dad that only 11,000 special invitation tickets were issued, but 28,000 people got into the park. Can you believe that some crooks made counterfeit tickets to get into the park even though they weren't invited? Needless to say, they ran out of food before we even arrived," Greg explained.

"Oh, no," said Paul.

"Just wait, it gets way worse," Greg continued. "Do you remember how scorching hot it was yesterday? Well, the drinking fountains weren't working, and there were no drinks to buy. My mouth was as dry as a desert, and there was nothing I could do about it."

"Did you at least get to go on some fun rides?" asked Paul.

"No... there was a gas leak in Fantasyland, and that caused all the rides in Adventureland, Fantasyland, and Frontierland to be closed for the afternoon. So we decided to take a ride on the Mark Twain Riverboat, but they let too many people get on the boat. The boat ended up falling off its track and sinking into the mud because it was too heavy. When it finally got fixed, everyone rushed to the exit, and the boat tipped into the water. We had to wade through the water to get back on dry land."

"Will you ever go back?" asked Paul.

"Definitely," said Greg. "Once they get all the kinks worked out, I think it will be a great place to visit."

Opening Day Questions

1 **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE**- What was the author's purpose for writing this?

- 1. to entertain readers with a story about a boy who had a fun day at Disneyland on the day it opened
- 2. to entertain readers with a story that includes historical facts about what happened on the day that Disneyland opened
- 3. to persuade readers to ask their parents to take them to Disneyland
- 4. to persuade readers not to visit Disneyland

2 **CAUSE AND EFFECT**- What caused the Mark Twain Riverboat to fall off its track?

- A. a gas leak
- B. the person operating the ride pushed the wrong button
- C. there wasn't enough water in the lake
- D. too many people boarded the boat at once

3 **FINDING DETAILS IN A TEXT**- Which of the following events did NOT happen on Opening Day at Disneyland?

- A. The drinking fountains were broken.
- B. There was a gas leak that shut down many rides.
- C. Thousands of uninvited guests entered the park.
- D. The bathrooms were broken.

4 **GENRE**- What is the genre of this reading passage?

- A. biography
- B. realistic fiction
- C. historical fiction
- D. historical nonfiction

5 **VOCABULARY**- Identify the literary device present in this sentence:

My mouth was as dry as a desert, and there was nothing I could do about it.

- A. simile
- B. metaphor
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia

6 **CONTEXT CLUES**- What does "counterfeit" mean in this passage?

- A. something made to look like a real thing for the purpose of deception
- B. an amusement park ride that is temporarily broken
- C. a small area filled with a crowd of tense people
- D. a meal ticket that you can buy in advance prior to entering an amusement park

ALEX AND THE DOLL

The first thing Alex felt were the drips on his forehead. Each drop seemed heavier than the last. When he finally came to and his eyes cracked open, he could feel the dampness running off his chin and soaking the front of his shirt. He looked up into the darkness of the cave ceiling. As he did, another plump water droplet fell from above and splashed in his eye. Wiping it away with the back of his hand, Alex suddenly became very alert. He had slipped down a rock. He'd slipped into a cave. He needed to get back to Desiree.

As Alex clambered to his feet, his ankle wobbled. This was going to be a problem. He pressed his right palm into the rocky wall to keep his balance. A thin shaft of light was visible through a space between two gigantic boulders, and it drew Alex's attention to the small plastic doll with her crimson hair pulled back into a ponytail.

Alex sighed. He bent down to scoop Katy, the doll, off the ground. Desiree would never forgive him if he left Katy in the cave. With one hand still against the wall, he made his way carefully along the uneven slabs, following – what he believed – was the path back to the entrance of the cave.

But it wasn't.

A few steps later, Alex found himself in another rocky chamber. It was eerily similar to the one he'd fallen into. He doubled back, worried that he could walk from chamber to chamber and become hopelessly lost like tourists did in the catacombs below Paris.

"Daddy? Can you hear me?"

Alex exhaled. It was Desiree's voice! "Call out to me again!" he yelled, his voice echoing around him, ricocheting sharply off the walls.

"Daddy! Daddy! Did you find Katy? Is she okay?"

Alex laughed quietly to himself. He'd slipped down the rock into the cave whilst trying to retrieve his daughter's precious doll, and yet she was more concerned with the toy's wellbeing.

"Katy's doing just fine," he called back. He continued calling out to Desiree, following the sound of her voice. Eventually it led him out of the cave. And as the moment he emerged, Desiree was right there to give her doll a big hug!

Read the text and answer the following questions:

1. Why was Alex in the cave?

2. How did Alex feel in the cave? Explain why.

3. Why did Alex keep calling out to Desiree?

4. What would you say to Desiree after she hugged the doll? Why?

5. Suggest two ways that the story could be improved.

Name:

Period:

Date:

Title: "The History of Chocolate"

Chocolate has a long and rich history that dates back over 2,000 years. It is believed to have originated in the ancient Mesoamerican civilizations of Mexico and Central America. The Aztecs and Mayans believed that chocolate was a gift from the gods and used it as a form of currency. They also believed that chocolate had medicinal properties and would drink it as a beverage.

When the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the New World, they brought chocolate back to Europe with them. At first, chocolate was only available to the wealthy, who drank it as a luxury beverage. Eventually, chocolate became more widely available and started to be used in a variety of foods and products, such as chocolate bars and chocolate-covered sweets.

Today, chocolate is enjoyed all over the world and is a multi-billion dollar industry. It is made from the beans of the cacao tree, which are harvested and processed to make cocoa powder, cocoa butter, and chocolate. There are different types of chocolate, including milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate, which are made from different ratios of cocoa and other ingredients.

Questions:

1. What ancient civilizations are believed to have originated chocolate?

2. How did the Aztecs and Mayans use chocolate?

3. How was chocolate originally consumed in Europe?

4. How is chocolate made today?

5. What are the different types of chocolate?

Challenge List

List of US Reptiles (List of US Reptiles)

1. alligators

alligators

2. crocodiles

crocodiles

3. tortoises

tortoises

4. turtles

turtles

5. chameleons

chameleons

6. lizards

lizards

7. iguanas

iguanas

8. anoles

anoles

9. geckos

geckos

10. skinks

skinks

11. tegus

tegus

12. snakes

snakes

13. boa constrictors

boa constrictors

14. Gila monsters

Gila monsters

15. pythons

pythons

PARAGRAPH PRACTICE #1

Trace the cursive paragraph and copy it on the lines below.

Earth is the third largest planet from the Sun. Earth is the largest of the four inner planets. It is also the only planet known to support life. This is because it has the two most important tools to survive, oxygen and water.