



Name _____

Date _____

RECYCLING

Have you ever thought about the fact that most of what you own will one day be thrown out? Think about your clothes, the TV, and the stove. They will tear or break down. Or you may just want to get new, better things. But where do things go when you throw them out?

The bad news is that most of it goes to a landfill. A landfill is a big hole in the ground. It may have a concrete or plastic liner. This liner keeps chemicals from seeping into the groundwater around the landfill. Trash trucks filled with all the things that people throw out go to the landfill. They dump their loads into the hole. Bulldozers cover everything with soil. But there is a better way. And since we are running out of landfill space, more people are doing it.

The better way is recycling. Recycling lets many things be used again. Give away an old TV or stove. They can be fixed so that someone else can use them. Clothes can be sent to people who need them. Most glass, paper, plastic, and metal is recyclable. When people recycle these things, it helps the environment. It saves space in landfills. (Paper takes up more space in landfills than any other thing!) And instead of wasting these materials, they get used again.

Some people have recycle bins. They put their paper, metal, glass, and plastic into the bin. A special truck takes these things to a processing center. Other people must drive to a recycling center and drop off their things.

What happens at the recycling center? Paper is shredded and then mixed with water and wood pulp to make new paper. Glass, metal, and plastics are melted down. Then they are poured into molds to form new things. Glass jars are melted down and become new glass jars. Recycling lets things be used over and over.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following cannot be recycled?

a. dirty paper	c. plastic bag
b. dirty banana	d. soda can
2. What happens to glass jars that you throw out instead of recycle?
 - a. People dig through the trash, find them, and send them to a recycling center.
 - b. They get reused as food containers.
 - c. They take up space in a landfill.
 - d. They slowly rot and turn back into soil.
3. What is the most important reason to recycle paper?
 - a. It saves trees from being cut down.
 - b. It will keep us from running out of paper.
 - c. It keeps the cost of paper low.
 - d. A lot of people are doing it.
4. Which of the following is **true**?
 - a. Some people have to drive their things to a recycling center.
 - b. We have a lot of space available for landfills.
 - c. Glass takes up more space in landfills than any other thing.
 - d. Anything is recyclable.



Name _____

Date _____

CITIZEN TEST

Naturalized citizens are not born in the United States or its territories. They become citizens by fulfilling certain requirements. A requirement is something needed. What are some requirements to become a naturalized citizen?

One must be at least 18 years old. One must have good moral character. If one is moral, one is good. One does not commit crimes or hurt others. One must have lived in the United States for at least five years. One must pass two tests. One test is an English test. The other is a civics test. The civics test is on American history and government.

Not all people have to meet these requirements. Sometimes there are exceptions. Children can be naturalized. They do not have to be 18 years old. They can be naturalized if their parents apply for them. Sometimes older people do not have to learn English. Exceptions are made case by case.

Which president is called "the father of our country"? How many senators are in Congress? What is the capital of your state? Where is the White House located? What do the stars on our flag mean? These five questions are from a list of 96 questions. The list is for the civics test. People can use the list to study for the test. The test they take will not have all 96 questions. The test will only have some of the 96 questions.

What are the answers to the sample questions? The first answer is George Washington. He is the "father of our country." The second answer is 100. We have 50 states. We have two senators from each state. This means we have 100 senators. There are 50 answers to the third question! Each state has a different capital. The answer to the fourth question is Washington, D.C. Our White House is located there. The last question is about our flag. There are 50 stars on the flag. Each star stands for a state. How did you do on the questions? Did you know about our government?

STORY QUESTIONS

1. This story is mainly about . . .
 - a. who is a citizen.
 - b. the United States.
 - c. requirements for some citizens.
 - d. what to study for tests.
2. How many questions are on the study list for the civics test?
 - a. 18
 - b. 50
 - c. 100
 - d. 96
3. What question would most likely be on a civics test?
 - a. Who elects the president of the United States?
 - b. What ocean is the biggest ocean?
 - c. Do you know who invented the first car?
 - d. How old are you?
4. How can a child become a naturalized citizen?
 - a. Children cannot become naturalized citizens.
 - b. The child learns to speak English.
 - c. The child is born in the United States or its territories.
 - d. The child's parents apply for the child to become a citizen.



Name _____

Date _____

WHAT IS A BLOG?

A blog is a page on the Internet. The term “blog” used to refer to a web log. People used web logs to list links to various websites. They shared them with others. In other words, they kept logs of places they visited on the Internet. These web logs would have links on them. The term “link” is short for “hyperlink.” It’s a way to connect one webpage to another. When you click on a link, a new page will open.

Over time, people began to use blogs to write personal comments and reflections. Blogs became a form of online journaling. Blogs provide a place for readers to write what they think. Ideally, others will read the blog and comment with their reactions to what they have read. This will result in an ongoing conversation. Many teachers now use blogs with their students. Some blogs just have news and information. These blogs do not usually lend themselves to comments.

People also use blogs to list, or “log,” other blogs they like or their favorite websites. Often a blog will focus on a particular topic or issue. Blogs may contain links to other websites, pictures, lists, or videos. On the Internet, the blog displays the most recent entries first.

Blogs allow a group of people to communicate with each other on different topics. This allows people to create their own publishing space with information, links, and ideas they may want to share.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. You can find a blog . . .
 - a. on television.
 - b. in a newspaper.
 - c. on the Internet.
 - d. at the store.
2. A hyperlink is . . .
 - a. something that cannot control itself.
 - b. a way to connect two computers together.
 - c. a way to connect one webpage to another.
 - d. a new computer game.
3. Which type of blog usually gets fewer comments from readers?
 - a. information blogs
 - b. personal blogs
 - c. blogs that ask readers questions
 - d. blogs with links to favorite websites
4. Why would someone want to create a blog?
 - a. to try to use the telephone less
 - b. because the Internet won't work without it
 - c. because the teacher said to
 - d. to communicate with others online



Name _____

Date _____

COSMIC DNA SURPRISE

In the world around us we hear the letters DNA discussed. We hear them on TV. We hear them in the news. What do they mean? How do they work?

DNA is what we call the cells in our bodies that help us to grow. They are the cells that help us to have children that look like us. The shape of DNA looks a little like a braid.

Scientists thought DNA was only found in living things on the earth. They never thought they would find it in the universe outside the earth.

Not long ago, scientists were using a telescope. It was called the Spitzer Space Telescope. They saw a double helix shape. That is a shape that is usually found inside living things. They had never seen it in the sky.

They found out that this DNA shape in space is about 80 light years long. It is about 300 light years away from the black hole in the Milky Way. They think that it is moving at 620 miles every second. That is very fast!

Scientists think that the black hole is making the DNA turn very fast. The telescope showed them that there is DNA in other parts of the universe.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Another way to describe DNA would be . . .
 - donuts need ants.
 - don't need air.
 - cells that are square and long.
 - cells that make us grow and help us have children that look like us.
- Which word is a **synonym** for the word *usually*?

a. never	c. mostly
b. always	d. fast
- This passage is mostly about . . .
 - braiding DNA.
 - a discovery of DNA in the universe.
 - the shape of DNA.
 - using DNA on the earth.
- Which one of these is **NOT** true about DNA?
 - It is found in humans.
 - It helps us reproduce or make children that look like us.
 - It is not found in humans.
 - It has a shape like a braid.



Name _____

Date _____

COMMANDING OFFICER

Have you ever wondered why some people are so strong? Have you thought about how they do so much with their lives? When things are hard, they keep going.

Captain Chris Nunn is one of these people. When he was little, he was put up for adoption. A family in Texas adopted him. They taught him to work hard and never give up.

When he grew up, he wanted to be in the Army's Ranger School. This is a very challenging school. He had to do a lot of physical exercise, including hiking for long periods of time in the mountains. One day when he was in the mountains, a rattlesnake bit him. He was in a lot of pain, but he would not quit. Two days later he came limping out of the mountains. He passed the Ranger class.

Chris will tell you he always wants to do his best. He works as hard as he can. Sometimes people call him "Hurricane" because he gets angry if he thinks other people are not doing their best.

He became a commanding officer at age 29. Chris was working in Afghanistan in charge of many men and many thousands of dollars in army equipment. Captain Chris Nunn will keep doing his best. He hopes to make a difference in the world.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What word or words best describe Chris Nunn?
 - old and tired
 - quitter
 - never gives up
 - young and mean
- If Chris gave you advice, he would probably say . . .
 - "It's not the end of the world."
 - "Today is just another day."
 - "Don't worry. Be happy!"
 - "Never stop trying!"
- How old was Chris when he became a commanding officer?
 - 30
 - 38
 - 54
 - 29
- Another title for the passage could be . . .
 - "Riding in the Rain"
 - "Never Give Up!"
 - "How to Heal a Snake Bite"
 - "I Am the Captain"



Name _____

Date _____

TURNOFF WEEKS

For two different weeks each year, millions of TV and computer screens around the world are blank. They are off during Turnoff Week. More people participate every year since it began in 1994. Millions of people all over the world participate in Turnoff Week. The first Turnoff week of the year is in April and the second is in September.

Each year, U.S. kids spend less time in school than they do having “screen time,” that is, watching TV and/or using the computer. In fact, the only thing they spend more time doing than viewing TV is sleeping! Studies show that kids who watch too much TV are more likely to have reading problems. The creators of Turnoff Week want us to reduce our screen time, giving us more time to “think, read, create, and do the things we never have time for.”

Many kids are surprised at how much there is to do besides watch TV or play on the computer. They do puzzles, read books, and play games. They skate and ride bikes with friends. They play outdoors. Can you live without your favorite TV shows? Find out by joining this year’s Turnoff Week.

STORY QUESTIONS

- The word *participate* means . . .
 - get out of.
 - learn about.
 - dislike.
 - join in.
- How many Turnoff Weeks are there every year?
 - five
 - three
 - two
 - four
- According to the passage, American kids spend the most hours each week . . .
 - playing on the computer.
 - watching TV.
 - sleeping.
 - eating.
- Which of the following is something that the creators of Turnoff Week would **NOT** want you to do during Turnoff Week?
 - read a book
 - play video games
 - spend time with friends and family
 - turn the lights on in the house



Name _____

Date _____

WHAT THE PRESIDENT CAN'T DO

The president is a leader. In the United States, the president is elected. He or she is elected every four years. How is the president elected? People vote for a president every four years. The president leads the country. But there is one thing he or she can't do. What can't the president do?

The president can't make a new law. A law is a rule. The rules are to keep us safe. Some laws tell us what we can do. Other laws tell us what we can't do. We have laws about cars, seatbelts, schools, food, helmets, and more.

A law starts with an idea. The idea may be new. The idea may be to change an old law. Only people in Congress can make a new law. Congress has two parts. One part is the Senate. The other part is the House of Representatives. People in the Senate are called senators. People in the House are called representatives. Senators and Representatives are elected. People vote for them.

First, someone in Congress writes a bill. Second, Congress votes on the bill. The House votes on the bill. The Senate votes on the bill. The bill must pass the Senate and the House. If it passes, the bill is sent to the president. The president can sign the bill. If the president signs the bill, the bill becomes a law.

The president may veto the bill. If a bill is vetoed, it is not signed. It does not become law unless something happens. Congress must override the veto. To override the veto, Congress must vote again. Two-thirds of both the House and Senate must vote to pass the bill again. If two-thirds vote for the new rule, the bill becomes a law.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What can't the president do?
 - a. be a leader
 - b. veto a bill
 - c. make a new law
 - d. get elected every four years
2. This story is mainly about . . .
 - a. how a law is made.
 - b. the Senate.
 - c. the House of Representatives.
 - d. how Congress can override a veto.
3. The Senate is part of . . .
 - a. a bill.
 - b. the House of Representatives.
 - c. the president.
 - d. Congress.
4. People do **not** elect . . .
 - a. presidents.
 - b. senators.
 - c. bills.
 - d. representatives.



Name _____

Date _____

SAVING THE MOVIES

The first movies were made using black and white cameras. The film for the pictures were cut up and made into long strips. They were played on a movie projector in a theater. Today, people can see movies almost anywhere. They can see movies on computers. Others watch movies on iPods[®]. Some even watch movies on their cell phones. The world of movies is changing very fast.

Some filmmakers want to use digital photography for making movies. Digital photography is cheaper, takes fewer people and less space. It is easy to use and can be done in a small area. However, they do not turn out as clear as the original way of filming.

A man named Robert Rodriguez says that digital form is the new way to make movies. He says it is the way to keep movie theaters alive. He does not want them to become extinct.

Robert writes movies and shoots them. He directs them and puts them together. He even does the special effects. Robert does them all in digital format. He does this in his own home in Texas. He can make most movies for half of the money it would usually cost.

Rodriquez wants to make movies that can only be seen in theaters. His idea is to make movies, for less money, only to be shown in theaters. He feels this will help preserve the original way to watch a movie.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What makes Robert unusual?
 - a. He is trying to save the movie theaters.
 - b. He is making movies.
 - c. He only wants to make movies that can be shown on television.
 - d. He is the only filmmaker who lives in Texas.
2. Which of these is **NOT** something positive about digital movies?
 - a. They need fewer people to make them.
 - b. They cost less than making movies the old way.
 - c. They can be made using only a small amount of space.
 - d. They are not as clear as the other kind.
3. Where can't people watch movies today?

a. on the moon	c. on an iPod [®]
b. on a cell phone	d. on a television
4. To make movies digitally you would probably use a . . .

a. typewriter.	c. magnifying glass.
b. computer.	d. book.



Name _____

Date _____

HOSPITAL TECHNOLOGY

Many scientists today are trying to discover new ways to help doctors, nurses, and patients in hospitals. They are trying to create new machines that help to ease the pain of patients and make doctors' and nurses' jobs easier.

One machine that is helping patients is called a video remote interpreter, or VRI. It is a machine that helps people who are deaf. This machine connects to people outside the hospital that can help the deaf person communicate with the doctors and nurses.

Another machine is being made for people with bad burns. This machine will be set up next to the hospital bed. It will be close to, but not touching, the patient. This is important, as people with burns are often in a lot of pain. It hurts them even more to have the burns touched. Usually a doctor or nurse needs to take a sample of the burn. They need to get a part of the skin from the burn. They do this so they can test for infection. Getting the sample is painful for the patient. This machine will be able to test a burn for infection by using the air around the burn. It will not touch the skin of the patient.

Scientists are working every day to invent new technology for hospitals. They want to help people who are sick. They want to help people stay healthy.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. VRI stands for . . .
 - a. Very Runny Ink.
 - b. Very Realistic Intelligence.
 - c. Virtual Running Image.
 - d. Video Remote Interpreter.
2. Which word could be a **synonym** for *sample*?

a. skin	c. arm
b. piece	d. leg
3. Why did the scientists try to make a machine that can work near the burn patient?
 - a. so it can hum for the sick person
 - b. so it can make a new noise
 - c. so it can read the air and check for infections
 - d. so it can watch the patient
4. A VRI is used for patients who are . . .

a. blind.	c. in a lot of pain.
b. burned.	d. deaf.



Name _____

Date _____

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In 1976, Linda and Millard Fuller started Habitat for Humanity. This program builds houses for families that need them. The money that the family is able to pay for the needed house goes back to Habitat for Humanity. That money is then used to help build more houses. A lot of the money for the houses is paid by donations. Many people also donate their time to help build the houses. This means they do not get paid. They are called volunteers.

Many of the volunteers are people who build houses for a living. Some have no building experience, but still want to help. The people who are going to move into one of the houses also help build it. They work side by side with the volunteers. The frame of the house has to be built. The roof has to be put on. The walls have to be painted. Everyone puts in a lot of time hammering, painting, sawing, and gluing until the job is done.

Habitat for Humanity has built more than 300,000 houses around the world. They have helped to make life better for many people, one house at a time.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. The people who live in the Habitat houses . . .
 - a. pay double what they would for another house.
 - b. do not help build the house.
 - c. must help build the house.
 - d. get the house for free.
2. According to the passage, *volunteers* are people who . . .
 - a. know how to build houses.
 - b. don't like to paint.
 - c. families that live in houses.
 - d. don't get paid.
3. How many houses has Habitat for Humanity built?
 - a. over 300,000
 - b. 3,000
 - c. more than 3,000,000
 - d. 30,000
4. We can best describe Millard and Linda as . . .
 - a. people who love to save their money.
 - b. people who care about helping others.
 - c. people who love to buy fancy things.
 - d. people who live in a big house.



Name _____

Date _____

AYSO SOCCER

Have you ever wanted to kick a soccer ball? Have you ever wanted to play on a soccer team? AYSO soccer may be just the place for you. It is one of the largest soccer programs in the U.S.

What does AYSO mean? AYSO stands for American Youth Soccer Organization. It is a club that is in all 50 states. AYSO has five simple things it believes in.

The most important idea is that everyone plays. All players must play at least half of every game. This makes them feel like they are an important part of the team. They do not have to be worried about spending most of the time sitting on the sidelines.

The second belief is to have balanced teams. Teams that play each other should be made up of players that have the same amount of experience.

The third belief of AYSO is to have open registration. This means everyone is allowed to play. As long as a child is between the ages of 4–19, he or she can play.

Positive coaching is the fourth belief. Coaches in AYSO make soccer fun as well as a learning time. Children learn how to be supportive of each other and play like a team.

The last belief is that all players should be good sports. They should respect each other. Children learn that winning is not the most important thing. Being a good sport and doing your best is what playing in AYSO is all about.

STORY QUESTIONS

- The word *organization* means the same as . . .
 - game.
 - soccer ball.
 - house.
 - group or club.
- Who can play in AYSO?
 - children ages one to three
 - children ages 4–19
 - adults ages 40–50
 - only girls
- The author's purpose for this passage is . . .
 - to entertain the reader with soccer jokes.
 - to inform the reader about the rules of the soccer player.
 - to persuade the reader to kick a soccer ball on weekends.
 - to inform the reader about the five beliefs of the AYSO.
- Which statement is **NOT** true about AYSO?
 - Coaches are positive.
 - Teams should be balanced.
 - Only fantastic players get to play the game.
 - All players must play at least half of every game.



Name _____ Date _____

OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

Have you ever wanted to help other people but thought you were too young? There are many opportunities for kids to do great things. Some of them may seem small, but they make the people being helped extremely happy.

One activity you can do is to make greeting cards for people who are in a retirement home. Many of them can no longer leave their rooms. They do not have the chance to talk to many people, and often don't get much mail. You can help brighten their day with a cheerful card. You might even be able to arrange for a visit with them. You can read your card to them; they may even want you to make more so they can send them to friends! You could also read your favorite book to them, or play a card game. There are many activities that seniors would love to do with someone else.

Another group of people you can help is children in hospitals. If you can sew or knit, you can make a blanket for them to snuggle if they don't have toys from home. You can visit a hospital and play board games with the children there. You might want to read picture books to the younger children.

There are many things you can do to make someone's day a little brighter. You don't need money or a lot of skills. You can make a big difference in a person's life just by being willing to donate some of your time.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which activity is **NOT** mentioned in the passage?
 - making cards
 - making blankets
 - playing board games
 - running races
- A word or phrase that could mean the same as *brighten* is . . .
 - darken.
 - make sad.
 - make happier.
 - make sick.
- The main idea of this passage is . . .
 - the American Red cross wants you to help.
 - no matter how much you do, you will never make a difference.
 - kids are too young to help others.
 - kids can help many different people.
- Which of these could be another way kids could help out in the community?
 - Pick up litter from alongside the road.
 - Go on vacation.
 - Do your regular chores at home.
 - Steal candy bars at the grocery store.



Name _____

Date _____

KIDS' CLUBS

Clubs are great ways to meet people your age. They are also a way to enjoy many different exciting activities.

Girls Scouts of America is a program for girls. They can be 5–17 years in age. Girls meet every week of the school year. They learn to help out in the community. They learn to work as a team. They build life skills. They make friends. They build strong values and find out what makes them special.

Boy Scouts is for boys. Boy Scouts teach character. They teach the boys to be responsible citizens. They learn survival skills. Also, boys learn to build strong bodies. Boy Scouts are from 5–17 years old.

Awana Club is a club for both boys and girls. It is like Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts. Boys and girls from 3–17 may go to Awana. It meets every week of the school year. They learn to be responsible citizens. They do community service. They learn to build strong morals. They learn to develop character. There are contests and games each year.

Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Awana Club are just three of the many types of clubs available to you. Join one today!

STORY QUESTIONS

- What are all three clubs interested in building?
 - strong buildings
 - strong bodies
 - strong values
 - strong clubs
- A **synonym** for the word *join* could be . . .
 - quit.
 - make.
 - enter.
 - draw.
- The author's purpose for this passage is to . . .
 - entertain the reader with funny, new information.
 - inform the reader about clubs that he or she might be interested in joining.
 - persuade the reader to attend Boy Scouts.
 - none of the above.
- Boy and Girl Scouts have kids from the ages of . . .
 - 0–9.
 - 5–17.
 - 6–19.
 - 5–30.



Name _____ Date _____

JURY DUTY

Twelve people sit in a box. The box is in a courtroom. The box is a jury box. The twelve people make up a jury. Each person is a juror. Mothers and fathers may be jurors. Teachers may be jurors. Doctors may be jurors. All kinds of people can be jurors.

If a person is accused of doing something wrong, he or she has the right to a trial. If you are accused of something, you are blamed. You are charged. Sometimes a trial is needed to see if the charges are correct. One side tries to prove that the charges are correct. The other side tries to prove that the charges are not correct. Each side has lawyers. Lawyers are people who know all about laws.

A trial takes place in court. Sometimes, a judge decides if the charges are correct. Other times, the lawyers ask the judge for a trial by jury. Everyone has the right to a trial by jury if they ask. In a trial by jury, the jury decides if the charges are correct.

Letters are sent to all kinds of people. The people do many different jobs. Some people are rich. Some people are poor. All the people are U.S. citizens. All the people are at least 18 years old. The letters tell the people to come to court for jury duty. In court, lawyers talk to all the people. The jury is chosen.

The jury sits together. They sit in a jury box. They listen to all the lawyers. The judge listens, too. The judge makes sure that court rules are obeyed and that the trial is fair. After the trial, the jury goes away to talk together. No one else is there. The jury decides if the charges are correct. Sometimes it takes only 30 minutes to decide. Sometimes it takes days or even weeks!

STORY QUESTIONS

1. This story is mainly about . . .
 - a. what a jury does and who makes it up.
 - b. what happens when someone is charged.
 - c. what lawyers do in court.
 - d. what judges do when there is not a jury.
2. Who could **not** be on a jury?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. someone who is poor b. someone who is twelve years old 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. someone who is a U.S. citizen d. someone who is a rich
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3. What happens first?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A jury is chosen. b. A person is charged. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. Letters are sent out. d. Lawyers ask for a trial by jury.
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4. If someone is accused, they . . .

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. sent a letter. b. are blamed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. are chosen to be a juror. d. decide if the charges are correct.
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