

# Answer Key

## Ben Franklin's Lightning Experiment

1. smart
2. door
3. stormy
4. ward
5. worn
6. core
7. cord
8. warp
9. barnyard
10. fort
11. A
12. C
13. C
14. A
15. B
16. The actress felt a sense of satisfaction after tightening the loose screw on the prop.
17. The actress felt both vulnerable and exposed as the emotion of the scene overwhelmed her.
18. When she let out the shriek, the actress felt a sense of release as if her fears and doubts were being shed.
19. After the scene ended, the actress was in a sprawl on the ground, panting heavily, but she felt a sense of triumph.
20. The actress learned that sometimes, it's the moments that push us to the brink that bring out our true strength.

## Reading Comprehension

21. B
22. B
23. B
24. D
25. The donkey became a symbol for the Democratic party through Andrew Jackson, who was portrayed as a jackass in political cartoons during the 1828 campaign. The donkey came to represent Jackson's party of the common people.

26. Thomas Nast, a cartoonist supporting the Republican party, created the enduring symbols of the donkey and the elephant in a political cartoon in 1874. The donkey and elephant came to symbolize the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively.
27. Thomas Nast used the donkey and the elephant in his political cartoons to express his political views cleverly. Other cartoonists adopted this concept, contributing to the enduring popularity of these symbols beyond their official party emblems.
28. Using symbols like the donkey and the elephant in political cartoons can simplify complex political messages and create lasting impressions. Over time, these symbols, popularized by cartoonists like Thomas Nast, have become deeply ingrained in public

## A New Town Hall for Willow Creek

29. obsolete
30. ridicule
31. borough
32. refrain
33. borough
34. opponent
35. challenge
36. successful
37. official
38. fulfill
39. assistant

## Words needed in the passage:

challenge  
 obsolete  
 refrain  
 fulfill  
 successful  
 assistant  
 opponents  
 officials

borough  
ridicule

- 40. B
- 41. C
- 42. C
- 43. C
- 44. B
- 45. Because the building was obsolete and the officials were met with ridicule and criticism from their opponents.
- 46. They brought in food and refreshments for the hardworking crew.
- 47. That it was a fantastic success and the building was modern and aesthetically pleasing.
- 48. It stood as a symbol of progress and hope for the future, and it silenced the ridicule once and for all.
- 49. The once-obsolete borough had transformed into a thriving community, and the officials and community members were proud of their accomplishment.

# Answer Key

## Maya Lin's Artistic Vision and Achievements

1. relied
2. fascinated
3. complicated
4. applied
5. dripping
6. forbidding
7. injured
8. qualified
9. gnarled
10. skimmed
11. B
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. C
16. Maya Lin challenges viewers by creating complex and meaningful works that encourage them to rethink their assumptions about the world.
17. Maya Lin relies on her creativity and unique perspective to tackle challenges in her artistic work.
18. Maya Lin brings a sense of qualified craftsmanship to her work, and she finds new ways to push the boundaries of what is possible in art and design.
19. Maya Lin is motivated to continue creating by her unique way of seeing the world and her creative talents. She is always looking for new opportunities to apply her insights to the world around her.
20. We can infer that creativity, a unique perspective, and resilience are crucial in the world of art and design. Maya Lin's ability to challenge assumptions, push boundaries, and continue creating despite setbacks underscores the significance of these qualities in her field.

## Reading Comprehension

21. C
  22. D
  23. B
  24. B
  25. The California gray whales faced centuries of conflict with humans who hunted them for meat and oil. The vulnerability of these whales increased when their nurseries were discovered, leading to tragic targeting of defenseless baby whales.
  26. Whales, once fearful of humans due to centuries of hunting, have exhibited a surprising friendliness. Possible reasons include the cessation of whale hunting and speculation about the whales developing a fondness for the sound of boat motors.
  27. Whaling captain Charles Scammon discovered the whale nurseries in 1857, leading to increased vulnerability for California gray whales as these serene locations became easy targets for whaling ships.
  28. The transformation in whale behavior suggests a potential shift in whale-human interactions, presenting opportunities for improved conservation efforts. Understanding and respecting the whales' newfound friendliness could pave the way for collaborative conservation initiatives, fostering a more harmonious coexistence between humans and these majestic marine creatures.
- ### Unspecified fortress in a landscape
29. grammatical
  30. barren
  31. access
  32. irritate
  33. offensive
  34. fortress
  35. illusion
  36. mammals

- 37. dialogue
- 38. diaphragm

**Words needed in the passage:**

barren  
access  
Mammals  
dialogue  
irritated  
diaphragm  
offensive  
grammatical  
illusion  
fortress

- 39. A
- 40. C
- 41. B
- 42. B
- 43. D
- 44. The attackers relied on vague tactics that left the fortress vulnerable.
- 45. The defenders were left feeling fatigued and defeated, irritated by their inability to protect their territory.
- 46. The fortress was a symbol of safety and security.
- 47. The offensive had been a success, but at a great cost to both sides.
- 48. The grammatical defenses of the fortress could represent a system of rules or language that the defenders relied on for protection, but which were ultimately proven inadequate in the face of attack.

# Answer Key

## A Journey through Nature

1. eddies
2. countries
3. potatoes
4. identities
5. reptiles
6. zeros
7. surroundings
8. losses
9. B
10. B
11. C
12. C
13. B
14. The adventurers tried to keep their distance but felt a sense of awe and respect for the reptiles.
15. The adventurers realized that they were just visitors in the land, and it left them feeling a sense of loss. It shifted their perspective to recognize their place in the natural world.
16. They felt more and more connected to the natural world and gained a newfound appreciation for it. They also saw themselves as a part of something larger than themselves.
17. By the end of their journey, the adventurers viewed modern life as distant and meaningless compared to the raw power and beauty of the natural world, which they had come to appreciate.
18. We can infer that the passage conveys a message about the importance of recognizing our place as visitors in the natural world and gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation for the creatures and landscapes that call it home. It emphasizes the idea that humans are part of a larger ecosystem and should respect and connect with the natural world.

## Reading Comprehension

19. A
20. B
21. B
22. C
23. At the sun's core, nuclear reactions involve the splitting and fusing of gas atoms, generating a tremendous amount of heat and light. This process is akin to the sun acting as a perpetual hydrogen bomb.
24. The sun's colossal size allows it to hold an immense amount of atomic fuel, sustaining its luminosity for over five billion years. While it has the potential to burn for billions more, the distant future raises the question of exhausting its gases.
25. The potential burnout of the sun implies the end of life on Earth. However, the passage suggests hope in the possibility of humanity settling on another planet near a still-burning sun as a speculative solution.
26. The eventual burnout of the sun underscores the impermanence of cosmic bodies. It prompts contemplation about humanity

## Dreadful Things in a Peaceful Town

27. vengeance
28. ghastly
29. vague
30. camouflage
31. subtle
32. fatigue
33. chaos
34. debris
35. ridicule
36. borough

## Words needed in the passage:

- ghastly  
chaos  
vengeful  
vague

subtle  
camouflage  
debris  
fatigued  
ridicule  
borough

- 37. B
- 38. A
- 39. A
- 40. C
- 41. C
- 42. The community is divided into factions, and people are on edge.
- 43. They struggle to maintain order amid the chaos caused by the attacks.
- 44. A group of sharp-eyed citizens spots a suspicious figure lurking in the shadows and helps the officials track down the enemy's hideout.
- 45. The borough of Ashton is left with a renewed sense of unity and purpose.
- 46. The passage does not provide enough information to infer a specific reason behind the attacks.

# Answer Key

## Adventurers' Journey of Exploration and Growth

1. abilities
2. liberties
3. rattlers
4. beliefs
5. taxes
6. fangs
7. rodeos
8. difficulties
9. lashes
10. batches
11. possibilities
12. notches
13. B
14. B
15. B
16. B
17. B
18. The adventurers learned that every creature, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, possesses its own unique abilities and characteristics that make it valuable.
19. The adventurers perceived that some people lived freely and pursued their dreams, while others were burdened by taxes and restrictions. They also saw the potential for change despite the challenges they encountered.
20. The adventurers were inspired by the tenacity and determination they witnessed at rodeos and events. They saw value in pushing oneself to the limit and recognized the importance of taking on new challenges and overcoming obstacles.
21. The adventurers viewed the notches as badges of honor, symbolizing the challenges they had overcome and the progress they had made on their journey.
22. We can infer that the passage conveys a message about the importance of

recognizing the unique abilities and value in every creature and the potential for growth through embracing challenges. It emphasizes the idea that setbacks and disappointments are opportunities to learn and grow, and pushing oneself to the limit can lead to personal growth and self-discovery.

## Reading Comprehension

23. C
24. B
25. C
26. B
27. The fish-eating cormorant adapted in the Galapagos Islands by losing the use of its wings. It changed its way of obtaining food by waddling into the water to catch fish.
28. The name "Galapagos" translates to "tortoises" in Spanish. It reflects the significance of the islands as a sanctuary for giant tortoises, showcasing their prevalence and importance in the ecosystem.
29. One kind of lizard in the Galapagos Islands adapted by transitioning from a terrestrial diet to an aquatic lifestyle. This unique evolution made it the world's only lizard to find its food in the ocean.
30. The diverse adaptations on the Galapagos Islands contribute to a unique biodiversity. The long-term implications may include the development of specialized niches, potentially fostering ecological balance. However, human impacts and climate change could pose challenges to this delicate equilibrium.

## Toward A Better Environment

31. grotesque
32. aerial
33. excess
34. wretched

- 35. mechanism
- 36. chaos
- 37. digital
- 38. debris
- 39. efficiency
- 40. vague
- 41. enlighten
- 42. fulfill
- 43. infinity
- 44. abstract
- 45. subtlety

**Words needed in the passage:**

chaotic  
grotesque  
aerial  
excess  
digital  
mechanisms  
debris  
enlightened  
infinity  
subtlety  
fulfilling  
vague  
abstract  
efficiency  
wretchedness

- 46. A
- 47. B
- 48. B
- 49. B
- 50. A
- 51. Through digital mechanisms with subtle precision.
- 52. The need for endurance in the face of adversity.
- 53. It was repeated many times.
- 54. The satisfaction of the accomplishment was the reward in itself.
- 55. It emphasizes the importance of subtle and determined efforts towards environmental cleanliness and progress to protect the earth.



# Answer Key

## The Journey of A Gentle Soul

1. mental, gentle
2. dwelling, swelling
3. snapshot, plot
4. ponder, wonder
5. pumpkin, bumpkin
6. funnel, tunnel
7. factor, tractor
8. banner, runner
9. necklace, trace
10. ballot, palette
11. A
12. B
13. A
14. C
15. A
16. The strange bumpkin called out to her, and she carved a pumpkin necklace out of it, inspired by her curiosity and creativity.
17. The gentle soul was shocked when she heard her name called as the winner and likely felt a mix of surprise, joy, and disbelief.
18. Her victory and vow taught her that even the smallest moments in life can hold the potential for greatness. She learned to value her creative instincts and to follow her heart in her journey.
19. The gentle soul's actions in carving a pumpkin necklace, casting a colorful vote, and vowing to follow her heart and creative instincts reflect her gentle and imaginative nature, which is central to her character.
20. The story suggests that creativity and following one's passions can lead to unexpected and meaningful accomplishments. It conveys the idea that even the smallest, seemingly insignificant moments and actions can hold great value and the potential for greatness.

## Reading Comprehension

21. B
22. C
23. Nancy's father raised her to be a champion golfer, serving as her coach. At 12, she won her first state tournament, and at 18, she finished second in the U.S. Women's Open.
24. Nancy Lopez is popular among fans not just for her golfing prowess but also for her cheerful personality and gracious interactions with those who come to watch her play.
25. Nancy Lopez turned professional in 1977, earning Rookie of the Year with the highest prize money for a rookie. In 1987, she tied for the best score in the 30-year history of the LPGA championship, showcasing her exceptional skills and breaking records.
26. Nancy's father played a crucial role in her early success by raising her to be a champion golfer, teaching her the game, and acting as her coach.
27. Nancy Lopez describes her attitude towards golf as loving what she's doing, considering it more of a game than a job. She is popular beyond her athletic achievements due to her cheerful personality and warm interactions with fans.

## Climbing Mount Everest

28. although
29. symbolic
30. guarantee
31. repeatedly
32. challenge
33. mainstay
34. successful
35. diaphragm
36. endurance
37. official

**Words needed in the passage:**

symbolic  
guarantee  
repeatedly  
diaphragm  
mainstay  
Although  
challenge  
endurance  
successfully  
official

- 38. B
- 39. A
- 40. D
- 41. C
- 42. D
- 43. John's determination and success in climbing Mount Everest.
- 44. John's desire to prove himself as an elite climber.
- 45. John faced the challenges of a labored diaphragm, fatigue, debris on the slopes, and the chaos of the terrain.
- 46. John believed that his achievement would symbolize his endurance and strength.
- 47. It can be inferred that John's desire to challenge himself and succeed in climbing the highest peak in the world motivated him to repeatedly train for years.

# Answer Key

## The Great Serum Race in 1925

1. brutal
2. focus
3. vital
4. vanish
5. rival
6. withdraw
7. rotate
8. nylon
9. panic
10. C
11. C
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. The harsh winter made it an incredibly dangerous task to transport the serum to Nome, with blinding snowstorms, treacherous ice, and steep mountain passes.
16. Leonhard Seppala led one of the serum-carrying dog sled teams, including his famous dog Togo. They played a crucial role in delivering the serum to Nome.
17. Initially, people were fearful and anxious, but as the serum teams progressed, a sense of hope and security spread throughout the territory.
18. The story highlights themes of determination, bravery, and a united effort to save a community from devastation. It teaches us about the power of human and animal courage in the face of adversity.
19. The story reveals that in times of crisis, people can unite and demonstrate incredible determination and bravery to overcome challenges, even in the harshest conditions. It exemplifies the strength of human and animal courage when working together for a common cause.

## Reading Comprehension

20. B

21. B
22. B
23. B
24. The coelacanth had a stocky body covered in round, blue scales, sharp teeth, and a substantial tail with a small fin. Its unique feature was its flipper-like fins.
25. The discovery of a living coelacanth in 1938 sparked global interest and excitement. It reshaped scientific understanding, challenging the belief that coelacanths had gone extinct millions of years ago.
26. The second coelacanth capture in 1952 near the Comoro Islands marked a milestone, opening the door for subsequent discoveries and becoming subjects of intense scientific scrutiny and preservation.
27. The endurance of the coelacanth for 60 million years suggests remarkable adaptability and survival strategies, offering insights into the ways ancient species navigate and persist in the dynamic landscape of Earth's history.

## There Always Some Way Out!

28. accord  
candid
29. fundamental  
ghastly
30. dialogue  
speculate
31. opponent  
assistant
32. howled  
weigh

## Words needed in the passage:

- ghastly  
candid  
speculation  
howled  
accord

fundamental  
dialogue  
weighed  
assistant  
opponents

- 33. B
- 34. D
- 35. C
- 36. A
- 37. B
- 38. He cut it in half with scissors and handed a piece to each side.
- 39. He howled with joy.
- 40. The shift from animosity and aggression to dialogue and cooperation.
- 41. They shook hands and agreed to work towards a peaceful solution.
- 42. The outcome of the conflict was a peaceful resolution and a sense of hope for the future emerged.