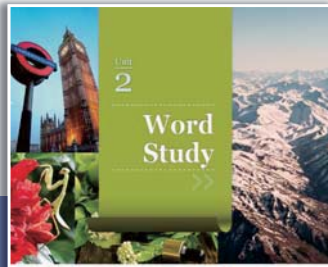
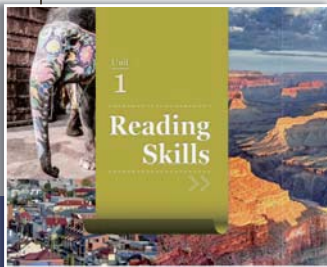


How Do I Use This Book?



- 1-1 Subject Matter
- 1-2 Main Idea
- 1-3 Supporting Details
- 1-4 Author's Purpose and Tone
- 1-5 Cause and Effect
- 1-6 Clarifying Devices
- 1-7 Making Inferences
- 1-8 Problems and Solutions
- 1-9 Fact or Opinion

- 2-1 Synonyms (Words With the Same Meaning)
- 2-2 Antonyms (Words With Opposite Meanings)
- 2-3 Words in Context
- 2-4 Review Test



A Wide Range of Reading Strategies

Each unit concentrates on one effective reading strategy that can help readers become more strategic and effective in understanding any text in any subject.

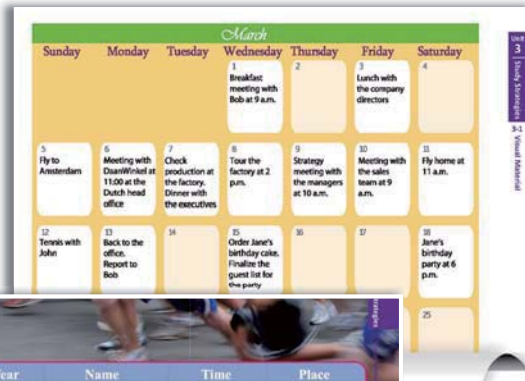
A Wide Variety of Reading Topics

The reading material incorporates different themes and various topics—including topics from arts & literature, history, culture, and science—to enrich readers' knowledge while strengthening their reading skills.



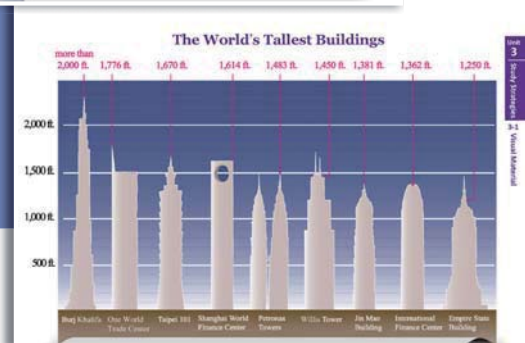
Various Forms of Colorful Graphics

Various forms of colorful graphics help enhance readers' learning experience.



Year	Name	Time	Place
1865	Richard Webster	4:36.5	England
1868	William Chinnery	4:29	England
1868	Walter Gibbs	4:28.8	England
1874	Walter Slade	4:26	England
1875	Walter Slade	4:24.5	London
1880	Walter George	4:23.2	London
1882	Walter George	4:21.4	London
1884	Walter George	4:18.4	Birmingham
1894	Fred Bacon	4:18.2	Edinburgh

source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipsa/A082924.html>



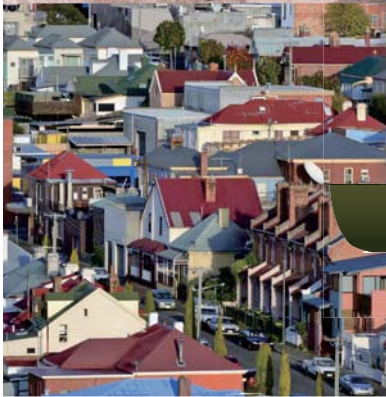
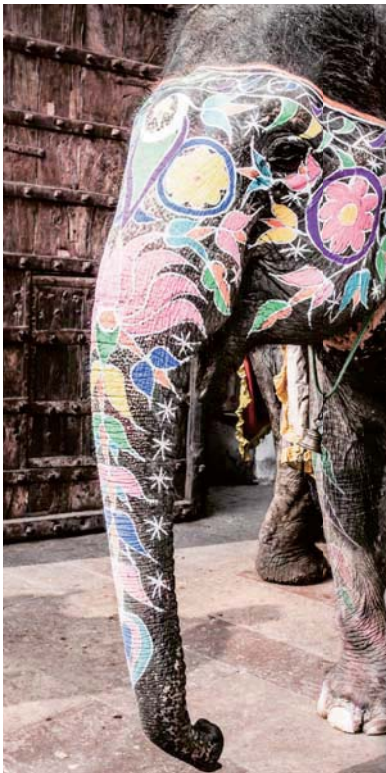
Questions

- Why did the unusual test planes most likely cause rumors about spaceships?
 - People thought a science fiction movie was being filmed at the base.
 - Odd shapes and lights are known to attract aliens and spaceships.
 - The test planes may have looked like spaceships to some people.
 - People may have seen strange-looking creatures inside the planes.
- When the author states that some rumors are harder to explain, he or she likely believes _____.
 - these rumors are more believable than the others
 - these rumors are more difficult to clear up
 - these rumors should be translated into English
 - these rumors are top secret for a good reason
- Which statement best expresses the author's attitude toward Area 51?
 - Rumors about aliens and spaceships are understandable, but probably not true.
 - Rumors about aliens and spaceships are likely true because the base is top secret.
 - Stories about spy planes and spaceships are equally suspicious.
 - The US government should be honest and put an end to the rumors.
- Why is Area 51 most likely not shown on official maps of the region?
 - Because Area 51 is not a city or town.
 - Because the government doesn't want aliens to find the base.
 - Because most of the structures are underground.
 - Because top-secret aircrafts are tested there.
- What can be inferred from the final paragraph of this passage?
 - People around the world are fascinated with stories about aliens and spaceships.
 - So much has been written about Area 51 that it is no longer a top-secret military base.
 - The US government once forced employees to work on spaceships at Area 51.
 - Visitors to the Nevada desert are likely to end up on TV or in the movies.

The town Rachel, near Area 51, enjoys celebrity among aviation enthusiasts and UFO hunters.

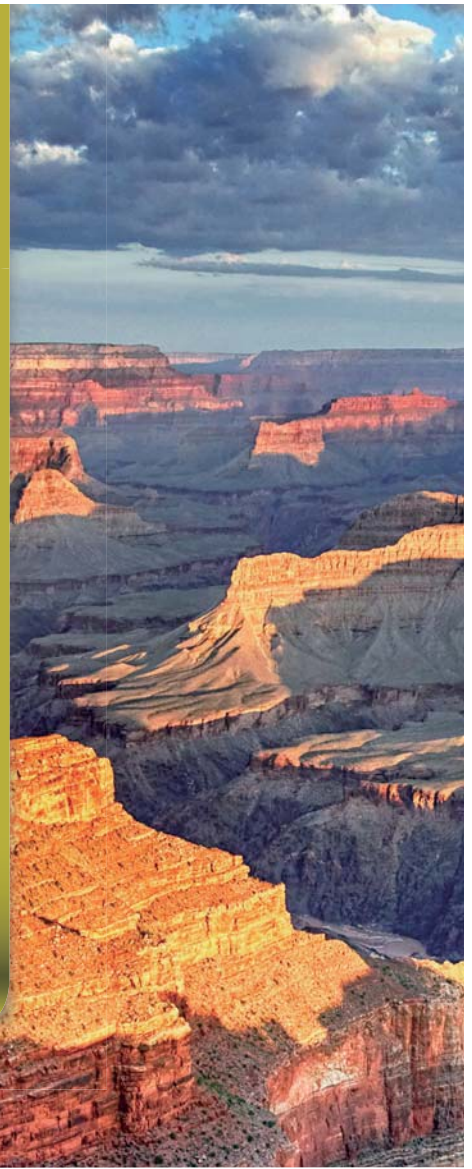
Focused, Meaningful Practice Tests

Each article is followed by five multiple-choice comprehension questions that reinforce word recognition and reading comprehension. Readers can evaluate themselves effectively by using these tests.



Unit
1

Reading
Skills



1-1 Subject Matter

1-2 Main Idea

1-3 Supporting Details

1-4 Author's Purpose and Tone

1-5 Cause and Effect

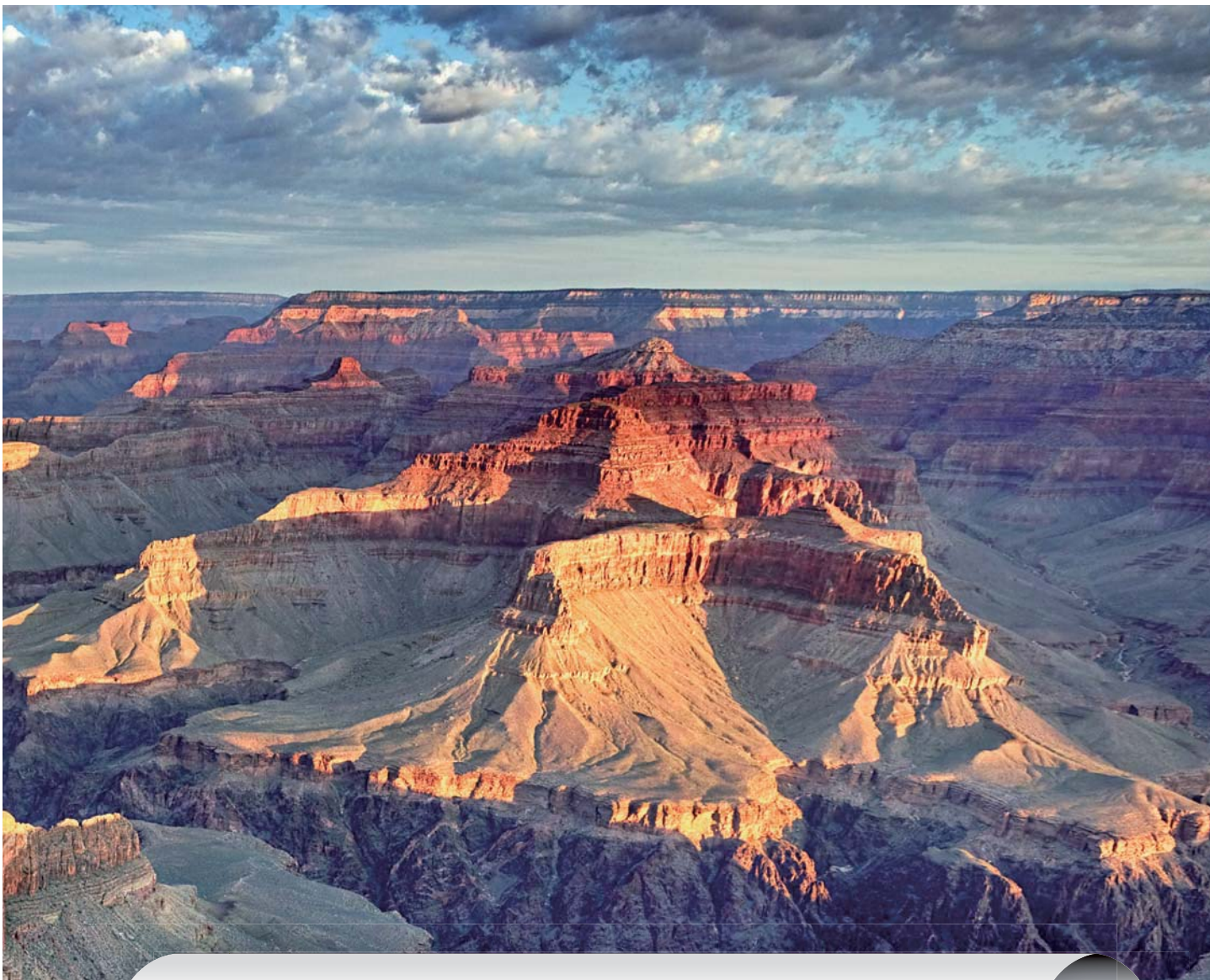
1-6 Clarifying Devices

1-7 Making Inferences

1-8 Problems and Solutions

1-9 Fact or Opinion

1-10 Review Test



There is a wealth of information out there, and it is accessible to anyone. The key to unlocking it is your reading skills. These skills help us absorb the facts that are buried in every magazine or newspaper article. That's not all. They also help us organize these facts so that we better comprehend them.

Think of it this way: reading skills don't just help us understand **what** an author writes, but **why** he or she writes it as well. This is what makes reading skills so valuable in every area of life, from elementary school to the world of business.

1-1 Subject matter

The **subject matter** of a passage is simply what the passage describes. It is usually the answer to the question “what is this passage about?” If you’re ever confused about what the subject matter of an article is, try reading through the article again and taking note of what each paragraph is presenting.



1 Incredible India

001



1 India is located in Asia between the Middle East and China. It has a long and fascinating history. India is also quickly becoming a wealthy country thanks to its rapidly developing economy.

2 Over 6,000 years ago, the people living in the Indus River basin built up a unique and thriving civilization. It transformed the entire area into a center of trade and religion and allowed for hundreds of years of wealth and prosperity.

3 Some say that this Indus civilization was just as vibrant as ancient Mesopotamia or Egypt. Culturally, it produced many of the world’s important religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism.

4 The golden age of the Indus civilization came to an end when the Aryans invaded in 1500 BC. This was first in a long line of foreign invasions that included the Persians, Greeks, Mongols, and eventually European merchant vessels and British colonialism.

5 In 1857, the people of India grew tired of foreign domination and rebelled against the British East India Company, a British monopoly that controlled most of India at the time. The rebellion ultimately failed.



As a result, Great Britain absorbed India as a formal colony of the British Empire.

6 India would not remain a colony forever. During the first half of the 20th century, millions of Indians participated in a nationwide political movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi organized peaceful demonstrations of civil disobedience that were aimed at resisting British rule. On August 15, 1947, India finally gained its independence, and on January 26, 1950, it became the Republic of India. 25

7 India has gone through many important economic changes and reforms. If you consider India's purchasing power, it is now the sixth largest economy in the world. It also has a youthful population that will continue to drive economic growth over the next decade. 30

8 Yet India is also grappling with some big problems, such as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition. Like many other Asian countries, there is a growing wealth gap between people who live in the countryside and those who live in the city. These are some of the problems that future governments will need to tackle. 35

« Amber Fort in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

» Hinduism can be traced back to Iron Age India.

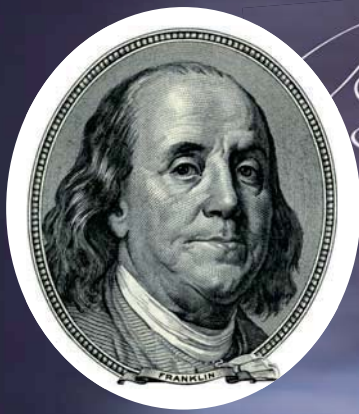


» Gandhi (1869–1948)

Questions

- Another good title for this passage might be _____.
 - India: The Once and Future Power
 - India: The Peaceful Country
 - India: The Oldest Country on Earth
 - India: The Economic Powerhouse
- This passage focuses on a(n) _____.
 - military
 - technology
 - civilization
 - economy
- The final paragraph is mostly concerned with India's _____.
 - history
 - problems
 - language
 - military
- The fifth and sixth paragraphs are mainly about _____.
 - the history of Britain in Asia
 - the rise and fall of British colonialism in India
 - life in India under the Mongols
 - Mahatma Gandhi
- The seventh paragraph focuses on India's _____.
 - leaders
 - people
 - cuisine
 - economy





B. Franklin

« Benjamin Franklin
(1706–1790)

3 When Lightning Strikes

003

1 Lightning is what we call those bright flashes in the clouds during a thunderstorm. Occasionally, a bolt of lightning will streak downward toward the ground. Thunder often accompanies lightning, creating a stunning natural display of light and sound.

2 Lightning has fascinated humans for thousands of years. The ancient Greeks believed that lightning bolts meant their god Zeus was angry. By 1752, our understanding had become a lot clearer and more scientific. That was the year that Benjamin Franklin used a key, a kite, and a raging thunderstorm to prove that lightning was, in fact, electricity.

» cloud-to-ground lightning

3 Since then, scientists have discovered that lightning is actually a discharge of static electricity. This electricity builds up when water droplets in the clouds come into contact with each other. Eventually, the static charge reaches a point where it tries to escape to somewhere that is less charged, and this place may be the ground. The resulting shift in static charge is a flash of lightning.

4 Cloud-to-cloud lightning is the most common type, and it can sometimes be observed from great distances. Cloud-to-ground lightning is the second most common, and it is the biggest threat to human life and property. There are other types of lightning as well, such as ball lightning, positive lightning, and perhaps the weirdest one of all: ground-to-cloud lightning.

5 Lightning can reach temperatures of over 29,000°C, which is hotter than the sun. It can also strike the same place over and over again. Skyscrapers



» Lightning hits a tree.



⤴ Lightning is a discharge of static electricity.

and other tall structures might get struck several times over the course of a single storm. That's why it is never a good idea to stand under a tall tree during a thunderstorm. A better option would be to stay in a car, because the metal can protect you, or to lie flat on the ground in an open area. 30

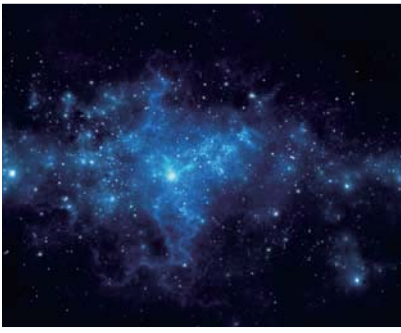
6 Over the past two decades, around 36 people are killed by lightning each year in the United States. Lightning is just as dangerous as other natural disasters like tornadoes and hurricanes. While it's true that your chance of being struck by lightning is very low, it's always better to be safe than sorry. 35

Questions



1. Another good title for this passage would be _____.
 - a. Flashes in the Sky
 - b. The Amazing Benjamin Franklin
 - c. A Guide to Lightning Safety
 - d. The Dangers of Lightning
2. The passage is mainly about a(n) _____.
 - a. storm
 - b. invention
 - c. thunder
 - d. natural phenomenon
3. The fifth paragraph is mostly concerned with lightning _____.
 - a. safety
 - b. science
 - c. color
 - d. frequency
4. The second paragraph centers on lightning's _____.
 - a. risks
 - b. historical impact
 - c. types
 - d. description
5. Which paragraph describes the modern scientific beliefs behind lightning?
 - a. The first paragraph.
 - b. The second paragraph.
 - c. The third paragraph.
 - d. The fourth paragraph.

5 How Many Stars Are There?



^ stars in the night sky

1 If you look up at the night sky from a busy city street, you'll see a few stars shining brightly. Do the same thing in the countryside or from a mountaintop, and you'll see a lot more of them. Just how many stars are there in space? You could try counting them yourself if you want, but it's probably a better idea to ask the experts at the European Space Agency (ESA). It has come up with its own estimates on the number of stars in our universe.

2 According to the ESA, there could be as many as 10^{23} stars in the universe. However, this is only a rough estimate. Remember that Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity states that time is not constant. Therefore, astronomers might be counting stars and galaxies that disappeared a long time ago.

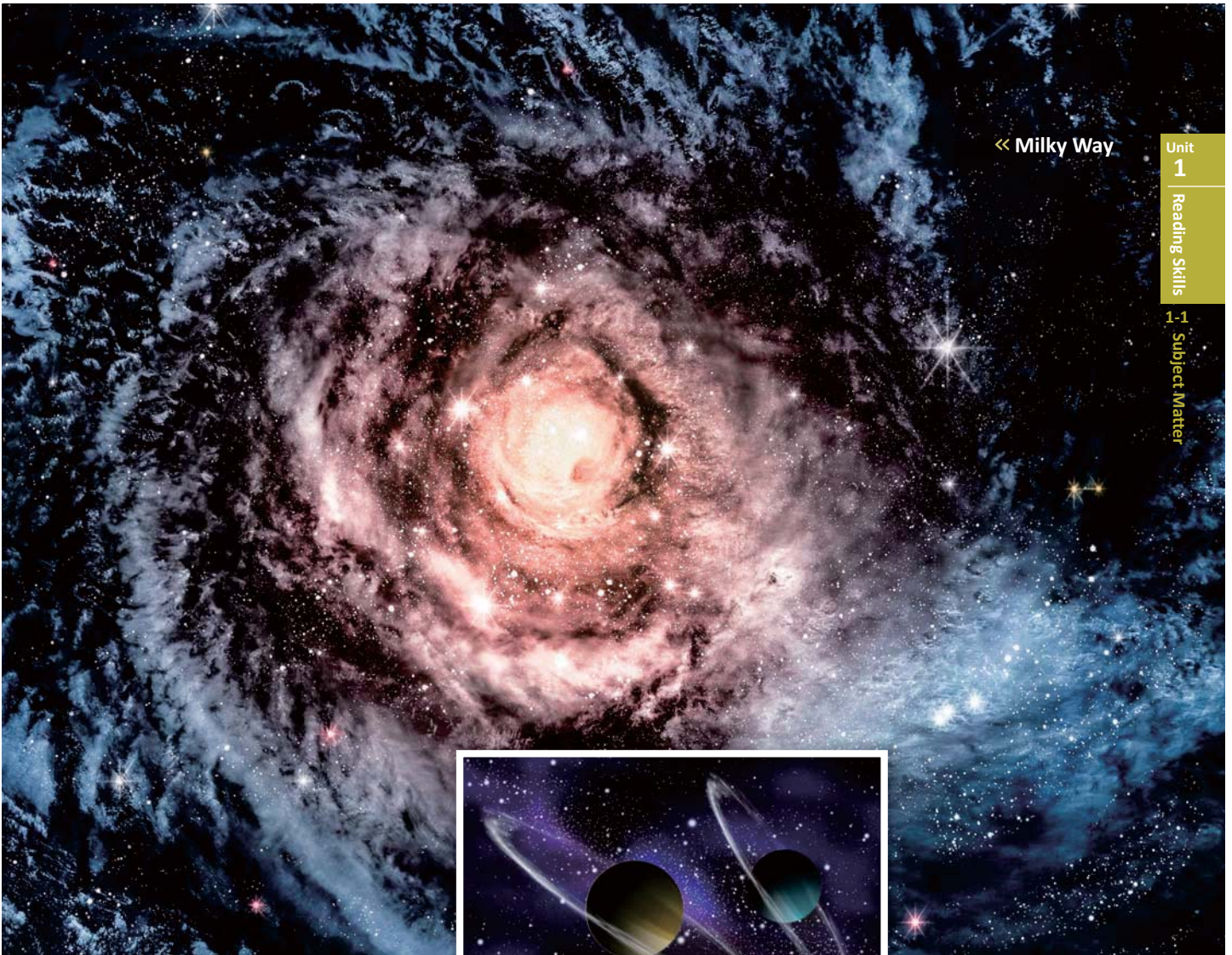
3 This giant number includes stars that are much larger than our sun, and others that are much smaller. It takes into account the trillions of galaxies that are spread out across our universe. Some of these galaxies are considered to be dwarf galaxies because they have as few as 10 million stars. Others are giant galaxies because they have more than a trillion stars.

4 The ESA estimate also includes the Milky Way, which is our solar system's home galaxy. Our sun is actually a medium-sized star. It's a member of the white cloud of stars in the Milky Way that can sometimes be seen stretching across a moonless night sky. According to ESA astronomers, the Milky Way is made up of at least 100 billion stars.

5 Many stars have planets orbiting around them. In fact, some astronomers believe that there are as many planets as there are stars out there. Perhaps intelligent life exists on these planets, just waiting to be discovered. If that's the case, maybe there are a few alien astronomers who can give us a more accurate answer regarding the number of stars in the universe.

galaxy >>





<< Many stars have planets orbiting around them.

Questions

1. Another good title for this passage might be _____.
 - a. Welcome to the Milky Way
 - b. A Star Is Born
 - c. Counting the Uncountable
 - d. Europe's First Space Agency
2. This passage is mostly about _____.
 - a. stars
 - b. galaxies
 - c. planets
 - d. Albert Einstein
3. The fourth paragraph is mostly concerned with _____.
 - a. the ESA
 - b. our galaxy
 - c. the sun
 - d. dwarf galaxies
4. The first paragraph focuses on _____.
 - a. destroying stars
 - b. counting stars
 - c. mapping stars
 - d. understanding stars
5. The final paragraph is mostly about _____.
 - a. the Milky Way
 - b. our solar system
 - c. stars
 - d. life on other planets

1-2 Main Idea

Authors write for a reason, and in any given passage the author is trying to communicate his or her point to you, the reader. The **main idea** or **point** of an article is not always obvious, so when reading, don't forget to ask yourself, "What point is the author trying to make?"

>> magician



6 Magicians

006



1 Magicians are performers who create illusions and do magic tricks. Magicians appear to produce something from nothing—pulling a dove from an empty hat, for example—or they may make something disappear (such as a magician's assistant who vanishes from a cabinet). They can seemingly transform one thing into another, such as changing a lady into a tiger, or they can destroy something and then restore it to its original state (for example, cutting a person in half, and then that person showing up looking quite healthy).

2 Magicians have many other skills, including teleportation, escapology, levitation, penetration, and prediction. A magician often uses a combination of these skills with each trick.

3 Magicians do seem to have some kind of supernatural power. There is indeed something mysterious about them. Perhaps it is their energy, knowing smile, and perfectly timed gestures.

4 I often closely watch magicians doing their tricks in the hope of understanding their mysterious art. I focus on their long-fingered hands and their every movement. Maybe, if I watch closely enough, one day I will see the flash of a coin being tucked into the cuff of a jacket or a card slipped from one hand to another.



<< A magician might pull doves from an empty hat.



5 Those who know the art of magic say that magicians are merely masters of deception. The secret of their art is actually simple: A magician distracts the audience by making people look at one place while he or she is secretly changing or moving an object elsewhere. When the audience's attention returns to the magician, the magic has already been done.

6 To be honest, many magicians are very good at what they do. However, I will continue trying to catch their deception. I just need to remember that when magicians are around, things are not always as they seem!

25

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Questions

>> levitation



1. What is the main point of the article?

 - a. Magic shows should be against the law.
 - b. Magicians use supernatural powers to perform tricks.
 - c. Watching magicians perform requires a lot of concentration.
 - d. Magicians perform tricks by skillfully deceiving the audience.
2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

 - a. Magicians can perform medical miracles.
 - b. Magicians do a lot of tricks with animals.
 - c. Magicians are very dangerous people.
 - d. Magicians appear to have amazing powers.
3. What is the main point discussed in the fourth paragraph?

 - a. Magicians must have long fingers to perform magic tricks.
 - b. Magic tricks are very complicated and require special powers.
 - c. The author wants to figure out magic tricks by observing magicians closely.
 - d. Magicians often use objects such as coins and cards to work their magic.
4. What is the fifth paragraph mainly about?

 - a. Magic tricks work because magicians are able to divert people's attention.
 - b. Magicians use magic to make the audience obey their commands.
 - c. People who go to magic shows need to pay close attention to the magician.
 - d. There are too many things to look at during a magic show.
5. What point does the author make in the final paragraph?

 - a. Magicians should be more honest with the audience.
 - b. Magicians are clever and good at misleading people.
 - c. Some things—such as magic—are not meant to be understood.
 - d. People should be careful around magicians.

Watch Out for These Killer Creatures!

>> hippopotamus



⤴ People mistakenly think the shark is the deadliest beast.



⤴ golden poison dart frog (cc by Wilfried Berns)



⤴ When all the victims are counted, humans are the most dangerous creatures on Earth.

1 When asked to identify the world's most dangerous creature, some people might say the lion or the tiger. Others might guess that the shark is the deadliest beast. But they would all be wrong. There is another, more dangerous creature that has killed far more people than any of these animals.

5

2 The box jellyfish is among the deadliest creatures of the seas. Also known as a sea wasp, this animal has venom that can easily kill a human. In fact, about a hundred people around the world die every year from box jellyfish stings. Box jellyfish can sting you in shallow water and they can sting you on dry land. So be careful where you step next time you're walking on a beach!

10

3 Killer creatures can come in small packages, like the golden poison dart frog. Found in Colombia, these bright little creatures can fit on the palm of your hand. But if you actually held one, you'd be dead in a matter of minutes. Just one of these little frogs carries enough poison to kill up to 20 humans.

15

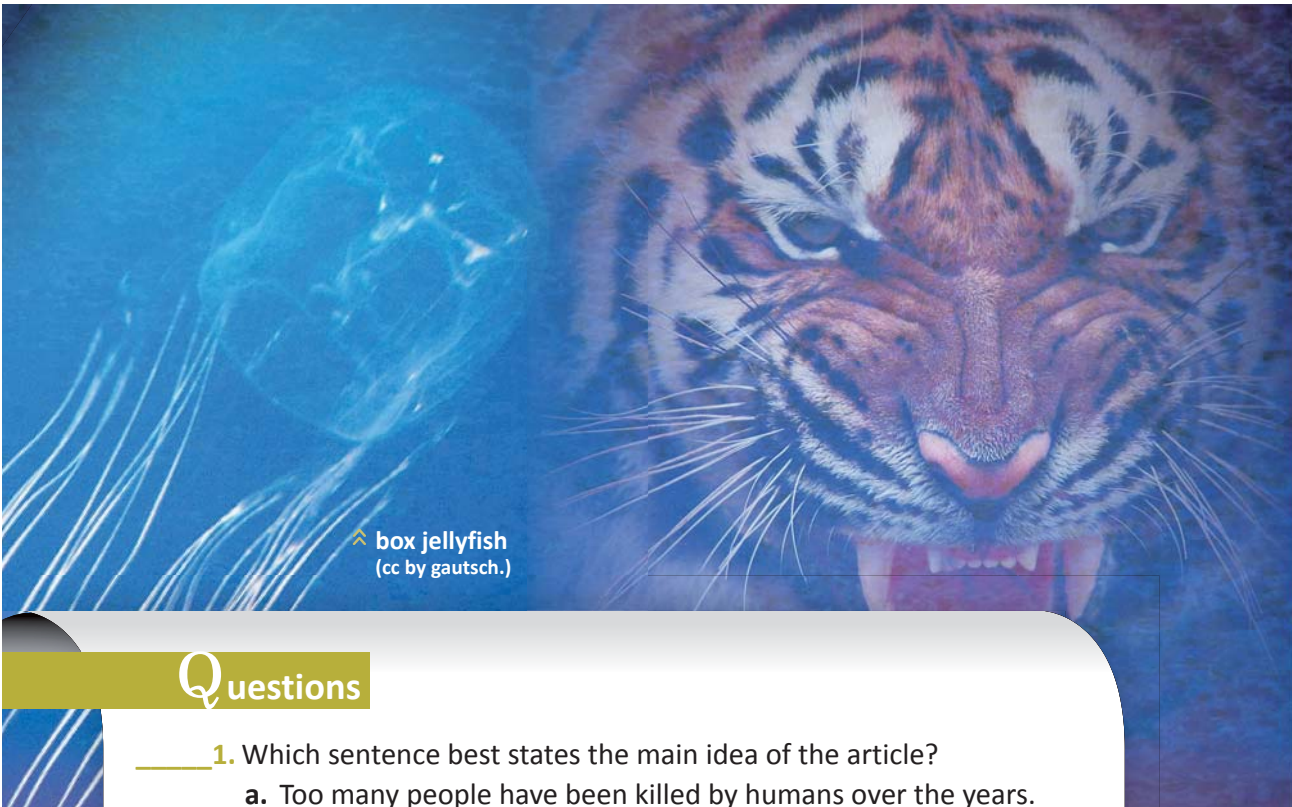
4 Then there's the hippopotamus, or "hippo" for short. Hippos are found in sub-Saharan Africa. Many view these giant plant-eaters as cute and passive, but in reality, they're very dangerous. Some researchers have called hippos the most aggressive animals on Earth. Even lions and crocodiles realize the danger and tend to avoid hippos in the wild. Hippo attacks are believed to result in around 500 deaths every year in Africa.

20

5 But none of these animals are the deadliest. That title belongs to none other than human beings. Through murder, violence, and war, we have killed more people than any other animal has. It is estimated that during the 20th century alone, up to 188 million people were killed in various wars. It's hard for any hippo, jellyfish, or dart frog to compete with that sad statistic.

25

30



box jellyfish
(cc by gautsch.)

Questions

1. Which sentence best states the main idea of the article?
 - a. Too many people have been killed by humans over the years.
 - b. There is a lot of disagreement over the world's deadliest creature.
 - c. There are many deadly creatures, but humans are the deadliest.
 - d. Hippos are one of the world's deadliest creatures.
2. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
 - a. Sharks are the deadliest creatures in the world.
 - b. People are often surprised by which animal is the deadliest in the world.
 - c. People believe that lions are the deadliest creature in the world.
 - d. There are many different brutal animals in the world.
3. What point does the author make in the third paragraph?
 - a. Golden poison dart frogs are very small and very deadly.
 - b. Golden poison dart frogs are found in Colombia.
 - c. Golden poison dart frogs can fit in the palm of your hand.
 - d. Golden poison dart frogs have enough poison to kill 20 humans.
4. Which sentence best states the main idea of the fourth paragraph?
 - a. Hippos are the deadliest creature in Africa.
 - b. Hippos may be cute, but they're actually very dangerous.
 - c. Lions and crocodiles tend to avoid hippos in the wild.
 - d. Over 500 Africans die from hippo attacks every year.
5. What is the main point of the final paragraph?
 - a. Humans tend to fight a lot of wars.
 - b. Humans are considered an animal, too.
 - c. The number of deaths from wars is a sad statistic.
 - d. Humans are the deadliest creature in the world.

