

# 01

## The Sweetest Poison



▲ Dogs can have serious reactions to chocolate.

- 1 When it comes to chocolate addictions, dogs are no different from humans. They love the sweet and delicious taste. But did you know that chocolate can be a death sentence for man's best friend?
- 2 Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine. These two ingredients are why it's almost impossible to fall asleep if you eat a candy bar before bedtime. Although they can make our hearts race, they aren't particularly harmful to us. A person would have to eat a lot of chocolate before he or she got seriously sick.
- 3 Dogs on the other hand are a completely different story. Their bodies cannot metabolize theobromine as quickly as we can. This means that it stays in their system for a very long time. While our chocolate buzz lasts for about 20 to 40 minutes, theobromine can remain in a dog's system for days.

- 4 The **symptoms** of chocolate poisoning are very serious. Early symptoms include vomiting, excessive urination, and the inability to sit still. As the theobromine continues to be absorbed into the dog's bloodstream, more serious symptoms begin to appear. These include dizziness, muscle twitching, and seizures. If the dog doesn't get to a veterinarian quickly, it could fall into a coma and eventually die.

- 5 Obviously, all chocolate is toxic to dogs. However, some types of chocolate are more dangerous than others. White chocolate has very low levels of theobromine. A 20-pound dog would have to eat 55 pounds of it to cause serious symptoms. Baking chocolate on the other hand is far more toxic. It only takes two ounces of baking chocolate to cause serious symptoms in a 20-pound dog. Generally speaking, the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for dogs to eat.



▲ Caffeine and theobromine can create a chocolate buzz.





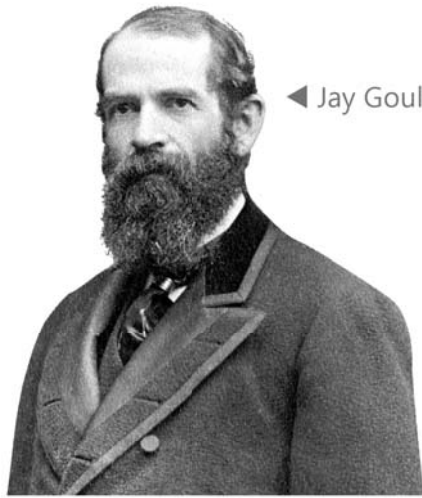
▲ White chocolate is relatively less toxic for dogs to eat.

- 6 You would think that dogs would stay away from something so harmful, but that is not the case. Dogs love eating chocolate as much as we do. They don't seem to care too much about the pain and suffering that come afterward. That's why it's extremely important to make sure that your dog never eats even the smallest amount of chocolate. It doesn't take much for it to develop a taste for chocolate.

## Questions

1. What would you say is the main topic of the article? ..... ♦Main Idea♦
  - a A food that is safe for humans is deadly for dogs.
  - b Tips on maintaining a good diet for pet dogs.
  - c Reasons why dogs love to eat sweet foods.
  - d Symptoms of food poisoning in dogs.
2. What is this article about? ..... ♦Subject Matter♦
  - a Dogs.
  - b Chocolate.
  - c Caffeine.
  - d Theobromine.
3. Which of the following is true? ..... ♦Supporting Details♦
  - a Chocolate is harmless for dogs to eat.
  - b Dogs hate the taste of chocolate.
  - c Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine.
  - d White chocolate is the most harmful kind of chocolate for dogs.
4. According to the article, which of the following is probably true? ..... ♦Inference♦
  - a Dogs used to be able to eat chocolate.
  - b White chocolate is less harmful to dogs.
  - c It's better to have some chocolate before bedtime.
  - d Most dogs are not interested in chocolate.
5. What does the word **symptom** in the fourth paragraph most likely mean? ..... ♦Words in Context♦
  - a A sign that you are sick.
  - b A natural talent.
  - c Something that interests you.
  - d A physical activity performed outside.
6. What tone does the author take in this article? ..... ♦Author's Tone♦
  - a A mocking tone.
  - b A concerned tone.
  - c A tragic tone.
  - d An indifferent tone.





◀ Jay Gould (1836–1892)

02



## The Barons Who Built America

1 Imagine an era when people went from rags to riches and then back to rags in mere weeks. Imagine politicians that could be bought and sold like stock. This was America's Gilded Age of the 1870s and 1880s. It was the age of the robber barons.

2 Robber barons were American businessmen who became incredibly wealthy in the period following the American Civil War. They made their fortunes building the railroads, oil fields, banks, steel mills and ports that eventually helped America become a global economic power. As the "robber" in their name suggests, some of them were willing to bribe, steal, and cheat in order to squash all of their competitors and establish monopolies.



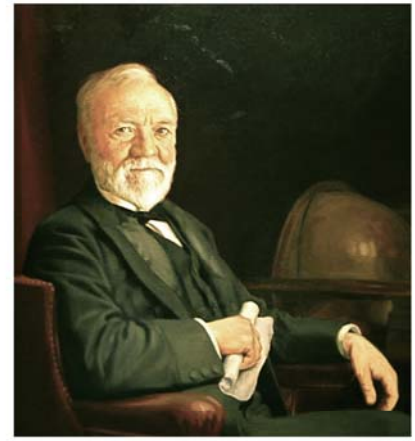
3 Jay Gould is one of the more notorious examples of a robber baron. He was born in 1836 and worked as a small-time businessman until his father-in-law appointed him manager of a struggling railroad. This opportunity marked the beginning of a career that was **characterized** by buying and selling railroad companies, often at the expense of the public. Mr. Gould was known to bribe public officials whenever his companies needed certain legislation passed. In 1869, he and his notorious partner, Jim Fisk, triggered a market panic by attempting to establish a monopoly on American gold. He was even involved in a conspiracy to kidnap a shady investor who had once accepted a bribe from him and then fled to Canada. According to a 2009 list on a popular American business Web site, Jay Gould is the eighth worst CEO in American history.

4 Not all of the robber barons were as shady as Jay Gould. In fact, some of them used their fortunes to improve society. Andrew Carnegie made a fortune in the steel industry and came to be regarded as the second-richest man in





history. However, Mr. Carnegie believed that "a man who dies rich dies disgraced." This philosophy led him to donate most of his money to social causes before his death. Mr. Carnegie built public libraries in not just the United States, but Canada, Ireland, and Australia as well. He also donated large sums to schools and universities throughout America.



▲ Andrew Carnegie  
(1835–1919)

## Questions

1. Which of the following can summarize this article? ..... ♦Main Idea♦
  - a America's Gilded Age was characterized by the robber barons.
  - b America's Gilded Age was an era of construction and discovery.
  - c Robber barons built railroads, oil fields, banks, and steel mills.
  - d All of America's robber barons were generous.
  
2. What is this article mainly about? ..... ♦Subject Matter♦
  - a Rich people.
  - b Railroads.
  - c Criminals.
  - d Monopolies.
  
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true? ..... ♦Supporting Details♦
  - a The robber barons built railroads, steel mills, and oil fields.
  - b Jay Gould gave his fortune to the needy before he died.
  - c Robber barons wanted to establish monopolies to make money.
  - d Andrew Carnegie made his fortune in the steel industry.
  
4. What can we infer from this article? ..... ♦Inference♦
  - a The robber barons and their associates were all eventually arrested.
  - b Andrew Carnegie and Jay Gould were friends.
  - c It was extremely difficult to make money during the Gilded Age.
  - d The American economy grew rapidly during the Gilded Age.
  
5. What does the word **characterized** in the third paragraph most likely mean? ..... ♦Words in Context♦
  - a Hated.
  - b Loved.
  - c Distinguished.
  - d Extremely prosperous.
  
6. What caused the marketing panic in 1869? ..... ♦Cause and Effect♦
  - a Too many robber barons bribing public officials.
  - b Jay Gould attempting to establish a monopoly on American gold.
  - c Andrew Carnegie using his fortune to build public libraries.
  - d Jay Gould kidnapping an investor who had betrayed him.



► In the United States, many girls celebrate sweet 16.



# 03

## Growing Up Around the World

1 The transition from childhood to adulthood is a long, difficult process for anyone. It is also very important socially, and every culture has its own way of celebrating it. Depending on where you live, your coming-of-age ceremony may be one of the happiest or unhappiest occasions of your life!

2 Just *when* one stops being a child is itself a question of culture. In Malaysia, some girls celebrate their 11th birthdays by reciting the final chapter of the Koran, Islam's holy text, from memory. This proves that they are now full members of the community. In the United States, "sweet 16" is the special birthday for many girls, whose families throw large parties for them. Americans can drive at 16, so some lucky girls get cars, too!

3 The Japanese celebrate adulthood even later—at age 20—for both girls and boys. Known as *Seijin No Hi*, the occasion includes traditional clothes, a ceremony at the local government office, gifts, and of course a big party. Twenty currently being the legal drinking age in Japan, it no doubt also includes quite a **hangover**!

4 While most coming-of-age traditions last only a short time, some go on for years. The Amish of North America are known for living as their ancestors did nearly two centuries ago. They reject electricity, cars, fashion, and sometimes even hot running water. At age 16, however, they are given freedom to do as they like on weekends. For many, this means dressing in modern styles, using modern conveniences, and so forth. Some young Amish people wind up spending years away from their communities. Some stay away forever. Those who wish to return to the Amish way of life, however, must do so by age 26.

5 Not all rites of passage are happy events, at least not for their participants. In the Amazon rain forest, 13-year-old boys of the Sateré-Mawé tribe must spend 10 minutes wearing a pair of gloves with stinging ants woven into them. Other tribes mark adulthood by tattooing young people's skin or filing down their teeth. Ouch!

▼ Amish family





- 6 Everyone grows up, no matter how or where. That means coming-of-age ceremonies will always be a part of life, including yours!

► Many Japanese girls celebrate *Seijin No Hi* by wearing *furisode*, a style of kimono with long sleeves that hang down.



## Questions

1. Which of these statements is closest to being the main idea of the passage? ..... ♦Main Idea♦
- a Sixteen-year-olds are allowed to drive in the United States.
  - b Growing up is difficult, and society makes it even worse.
  - c Coming-of-age celebrations vary greatly from culture to culture.
  - d Young Japanese people really shouldn't drink so much.
2. What does this passage deal with for the most part? ..... ♦Subject Matter♦
- a Rituals and ceremonies.
  - b Different ways of dressing.
  - c The Islamic holy book.
  - d Great birthday presents.
3. Which of the following is true about the Amish? ..... ♦Supporting Details♦
- a Their society died out nearly 200 years ago.
  - b They enjoy using electronic appliances and driving.
  - c They have to get married by the age of 26.
  - d Their young people choose their own way of life.
4. From the passage, what can we assume about tribal coming-of-age ceremonies? ..... ♦Inference♦
- a They're often very painful.
  - b They're only for boys.
  - c They always involve insects.
  - d Everyone really enjoys them.
5. What is a **hangover**? ..... ♦Words in Context♦
- a A party for someone's 20th birthday.
  - b A sick feeling caused by drinking too much.
  - c A traditional item of Japanese clothing.
  - d An official in a local government.
6. Which of the following statements is an opinion? ..... ♦Fact or Opinion♦
- a People in different countries are considered adults at different ages.
  - b It's more fun to come of age in the United States than in Malaysia.
  - c Coming-of-age ceremonies in some cultures would be crimes in others.
  - d Some rites of passage are for girls, some for boys, and some for both.



# 04

## Cradle to Cradle

► circular economy



- 1 Imagine flying into Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. After getting your passport stamped, you retrieve your suitcase from a luggage **conveyor belt** made of 99-percent recyclable materials. Once outside, you hop into a non-polluting electric taxi and ride to your hotel in the nearby Park 2020 complex. It looks like any other hotel, but it's not. The materials used to build it don't belong to its owners. They are simply being rented for as long as the hotel stays in business. If it ever closes, they will be reclaimed by their owners and used to construct new buildings. Any repairs to the hotel will be handled the same way.
- 2 These are just a few examples of a circular economy, in which use replaces consumption, and maximum effectiveness with minimal damage is the rule. The Netherlands is a world leader in this new way of doing business, but other countries are starting to catch up.
- 3 In a circular economy, resources are used for as long as possible and waste, if any, is minimized. That may just sound like recycling on a grand scale, but it goes a lot farther. Traditional recycling reduces the quality of materials, but circular practices maintain or even improve it. And they often do so by changing those materials completely.
- 4 Take the Shih An Farm in Kaohsiung, for example. It is home to 700,000 chickens, which produce a lot of eggs and an enormous amount of manure. While the eggs go to shops and restaurants, the manure goes straight to Taiwan's largest biogas power plant, located right on the farm. There it is mixed with wastewater, which has been used to wash eggs. The resulting gas is stored in huge tanks and used to provide electricity for over 1,000 homes. If you live in that area, your television, refrigerator, and smartphone may literally be powered by poop!
- 5 By reusing the toxic wastes generated by manufacturing and reducing the need for fresh resources, circular economies offer a double benefit. By focusing on repair rather than replacement, they also challenge the grabbing consumer





mentality of many people and corporations.  
Impressive advances have been made in technology;  
will the same be true of our attitudes?

► biogas power plant



## Questions

1. What is the main idea of this passage? ..... ♦Main Idea♦
  - a People who live in the Netherlands are really smart.
  - b Chicken manure can be used to power televisions.
  - c Traditional recycling is a waste of time and energy.
  - d A new style of manufacturing is becoming popular.
2. What would be another good title for this passage? ..... ♦Subject Matter♦
  - a The Nightmare of Toxic Waste.
  - b A High-Tech Visit to Amsterdam.
  - c Creating More by Consuming Less.
  - d Change Your Stupid Attitudes, People!
3. Which of these is an example of a circular economic practice? ..... ♦Supporting Details♦
  - a Flying into Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam.
  - b Recycling plastic bottles so they can be reused.
  - c Turning used acid and wastewater into cleaning fluid.
  - d Buying eggs from the Shih An Farm in Kaohsiung.
4. What is probably true of companies in the circular economy? ..... ♦Inference♦
  - a They're concerned about their impact on the environment.
  - b They don't make as much money as traditional companies.
  - c They only exist in the Netherlands and Taiwan.
  - d They all have power plants located right on their property.
5. What is a **conveyor belt**? ..... ♦Words in Context♦
  - a A special belt worn by people with back problems.
  - b A place to keep your luggage while you're flying.
  - c The person who stamps your passport at an airport.
  - d A long moving surface that carries items over a distance.
6. What is one likely result of having a circular economy? ..... ♦Cause and Effect♦
  - a The chickens at the Shih An Farm will produce a lot of eggs.
  - b Resources will be used as long as possible and waste will be minimized.
  - c The Netherlands will be the world leader in this way of doing business.
  - d Traditional recycling will reduce the quality of materials.