Lexile 1280

SOCIAL STUDIES & HISTORY
Lesson Tracker

Name: ___________________________ Teacher: ___________________________

**Step One**
Respond to the Before Reading Poll

**Step Two**
Read the Article

**Step Three**
Do the Activity Questions

**Step Four**
Respond to the After Reading Poll

**Step Five**
Answer the Thought Question

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Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

There are many different forms of government around the world, and people disagree about which type is best. What do you think about this quote from German writer and statesman Johann Wolfgang von Goethe?

"Which is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. When the founders of the United States were forming the country's government, their need for guidance prompted them to consult the thinking of ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, who in the 4th century BCE defined three main forms of government: rule of one (monarchy or autocracy), rule of a few (aristocracy or oligarchy), and rule of many (polity or direct democracy). Within each form, Aristotle differentiated between "correct" and "corrupt" types. For example, he favored polity over direct democracy, believing that the latter gave the poor (usually the majority of the population) too much power. America's founders did not favor direct democracy either, as they felt it would not protect the rights of all, including property owners.

Today, there are still governments of many, of few, and of one, though the meanings of some terms Aristotle used have changed. Here's a closer look at some of the many forms of government.

Monarchy

All monarchies have as their head of state a king or queen who has inherited the throne from a family member, but monarchies can differ in terms of how much power the monarch actually wields.

In an absolute monarchy, the ruler (usually a king or queen) fully controls the government, has the final say on all matters, commands the military, and appoints all the officials who make laws and administer government services. Saudi Arabia, ruled by King Salman, is a modern example of an absolute monarchy.

In a limited monarchy, or a constitutional monarchy, the monarch is the head of the government but does not have absolute power, instead holding a role that is mainly symbolic, with the actual form of government determined by the constitution of the country. King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands and Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom (UK) are examples of modern constitutional monarchs.

Democracy

The term democracy refers to governments that allow all citizens to influence the decisions of the government. Every citizen is equal under the law and free to organize political parties, support political
candidates, and vote according to agreed-upon rules. A constitution, which is usually a written document, specifies the structure of a democracy.

In a **direct** democracy, the people directly participate in government business, such as voting on whether a given law should be passed, whereas in a **representative** democracy, the people exercise their power through elected representatives. The U.S., in which the people elect members of Congress to represent them, is a representative democracy as well as a presidential government, meaning that the president is the head of both government and state. The U.S. president is empowered with selecting the cabinet (the officials who run the various departments), and appointees are subject to the approval of the Senate. Other presidential systems often follow a similar legislative process.

Some democracies have a **parliamentary** government, in which members of the legislature (or parliament) head the departments of government. The leader of a parliamentary government is called the prime minister. Theresa May, for example, is the UK's current prime minister.

**Republic**

Any country that is not led by a monarch (such as a king) can be called a republic. (Many republics today, such as the U.S., are democracies.) The leaders of a republic are supposed to represent the people. In ancient times, and even in the early years of the U.S., however, the leaders of republics or republican governments were usually a select group of people, and because U.S. founders believed in this kind of republicanism, they designated that only white men who owned property could participate in government.

**Dictatorship and Oligarchy**

A government that demands absolute obedience to authority and whose leaders rule by force and fear is a **dictatorship**. Dictators, or despots, impose their power regardless of the wishes of the people. Elections may be held in dictatorships, but only candidates from the ruling party can run. In a dictatorship, people lose their civil rights and freedoms, and openly opposing the government may result in persecution or arrest.

Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin were examples of totalitarianism, an extreme form of authoritarianism, in which every aspect of people's lives was controlled. Today, dictators hold power in Sudan, North Korea, and elsewhere in the world.

A dictatorship is run by one person, while an oligarchy is controlled by a small group of people who are often wealthier or more powerful than the general population. The Taliban rulers of Afghanistan, for example, were a religious oligarchy. Though the Taliban no longer runs the government in Afghanistan, it has been able to regain its power in pockets of the war-torn country.

**Centralized and Federalized Governments**

Governments may also be defined by how power is shared geographically within a country. In a **centralized** or unitary government, the national government makes all decisions. Smaller divisions of a centralized country, like provinces, act only under the authority of the center. Unitary governments are common throughout the world and include Britain, France, and Japan.

By contrast, Mexico, Canada, Germany, India, and other countries have a **federalized** government where power is decentralized, or shared between the states and the central government. If that sounds familiar, it is because the U.S. also adheres to this type of system.

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Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes how an absolute monarchy and a limited monarchy differ?

A. The head of an absolute monarchy inherits the throne from a family member, whereas the head of a limited monarchy is appointed by the previous ruler, who may or may not be family.
B. The head of an absolute monarchy is called a prime minister, whereas the head of a limited monarchy is referred to as a king or queen.
C. The ruler who heads an absolute monarchy commands the military forces, whereas the ruler in a limited monarchy only appoints officials to lead the military.
D. The ruler who heads an absolute monarchy has control over everything in the government, whereas the ruler in a limited monarchy has a role that's mainly symbolic.

Question 2
The Article talks mainly about __________.

A. Five types of modern governments that operate exactly as they were defined by Aristotle in the 4th century BCE
B. The influence of the United Kingdom's constitutional monarchy in the formation of the United States' representative democracy
C. People who have been persecuted after speaking out against totalitarian dictatorships
D. Governments around the world, the types of leaders they have, and how these leaders rule

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word differentiated, as it is used in the Article?

A. Discerned
B. Chose
C. Fluctuated
D. Balked

Question 4
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

A. How popular King Salman is today among the citizens of Saudi Arabia
B. How a country led by a dictator and a country led by a queen are similar and different
C. Theresa May's rise to power as the prime minister of the United Kingdom
D. The process followed when a democracy wants to make a change to the constitution

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. Citizens in a representative democracy would be foolish to ignore opportunities to vote in local or state elections.
B. Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. all have a federalized government where power is shared between the states and the central government.
C. People who live in a country led by a dictator can face punishments if they do not obey the rules set by the government in power.
D. The parliamentary democracy in the United Kingdom is currently led by Prime Minister Theresa May.
Question 6
The Article states:
In ancient times, and even in the early years of the U.S., however, the leaders of republics or republican governments were usually a select group of people, and because U.S. founders believed in this kind of republicanism, they designated that only white men who owned property could participate in government.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word designated, as it is used above?
A Reinstated
B Reminisced
C Stipulated
D Simulated

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A The founders of the U.S. government had an abundance of experience with helping to set up a system of leadership for a country.
B While monarchies have seen dramatic changes throughout the centuries, modern democracies operate the same as they did in ancient times.
C Most citizens who reside in the United States do not exercise their right to vote in elections for members of Congress.
D People who live in Sudan are less likely to speak out against the actions taken by their leaders than people who live in the United States.

Question 8
Which quote from the Article best supports the opinion that some forms of government are quite strict?
A Every citizen is equal under the law and free to organize political parties, support political candidates, and vote according to agreed-upon rules.
B Any country that is not led by a monarch (such as a king) can be called a republic. (Many republics today, such as the U.S., are democracies.) The leaders of a republic are supposed to represent the people.
C Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin were examples of totalitarianism, an extreme form of authoritarianism, in which every aspect of people's lives was controlled.
D By contrast, Mexico, Canada, Germany, India, and other countries have a federalized government where power is decentralized, or shared between the states and the central government.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
"Which is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Compare and contrast the various forms of government discussed in the Article. Use facts and details from the Article in your response, including examples, when possible.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

New ideas from the Enlightenment era helped shape the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. What do you think of this quote from Enlightenment philosopher Charles-Louis Montesquieu?

"To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Founding Fathers wrote the documents that would be the basis for the United States government during a period called the Enlightenment. Shaped by the writings of several philosophers, the ideas of the Enlightenment heavily influenced both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

The Enlightenment

During the Enlightenment era, which began in Europe in the late 17th or early 18th century, new ideas about human existence took hold, including beliefs about people's basic rights and the level of control they should have over their governments and their futures. Because many of these ideas were based in science and reason, this time was also called the Age of Reason.

Enlightenment thinkers believed that people should have the right to express themselves, to move around freely, and to petition the government, and they also believed that human beings are born with fundamental, basic rights. One philosopher who advanced these beliefs was John Locke.

Born in England in 1632, Locke produced a number of writings that influenced future leaders, including Thomas Jefferson, who helped America gain independence from Britain nearly 150 years after Locke was born. Locke's ideas helped shape the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Locke's Writings

Locke's writings include the book *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. In it, the philosopher states his belief that people are born with a mind like a *tabula rasa*—a blank slate or page—and that during a person's life, that blank slate gets filled up with what the person experiences with his or her five senses.
Due to disparate experiences, people learn and develop differently, but they still share a human nature that is the same for all people everywhere.

Locke also believed that all human beings share a set of innate "natural rights," which include life, liberty, and property. Locke believed that people are not given these rights but are born with them.

Locke wondered what life would be like if people didn't have a government. In this scenario, which Locke called a "state of nature," there would be no rules, no one in charge, and no way for people to protect their natural rights. Locke believed that the purpose of government is to end the state of nature and provide people with certain safeguards—most importantly, protection of people's natural rights.

Further, Locke believed that a government can be legitimate only if it is based on a social contract with citizens, in which the people agree to relinquish some freedoms if the government agrees to protect everyone's rights.

Enlightenment thinkers like Locke believed that governments had a responsibility to hold up their end of the social contract. If a government failed, then citizens would no longer agree to be governed, and they would have the right to revolt (as the colonists did during the American Revolution). This idea is known as "consent of the governed."

Such notions were a departure from the way governments customarily related to the governed, protecting citizens from foreign invaders while maintaining absolute authority over the people, as in the case of kings who ruled citizens whether they consented or not. To Enlightenment thinkers, this traditional way of governing was unacceptable.

Montesquieu's Thinking

The brightest Enlightenment thinkers influenced leaders in Europe and became popular with Americans who wanted independence. Locke was among these thinkers, as was Charles-Louis Montesquieu (MON-teh-skew).

Born in 1689 in the city of Bordeaux, France, Charles-Louis de Secondat inherited his uncle's fortune and title of Baron de Montesquieu at age 27. Montesquieu spent a lot of time thinking about how governments should be created and maintained, and his ideas guided the Founding Fathers when they wrote the United States Constitution. Even today, Montesquieu's thinking impacts the way people think about governments around the world.

The term "liberty" means different things to different people. While some believe that liberty means being able to speak and act without being inhibited by laws and rules (in other words, being able to do whatever you want), Montesquieu believed that liberty is the peace of mind that comes from being safe. Further, he believed that safety can exist only if everyone follows the law and that if governments could provide and enforce clear laws that everyone would follow, they could increase liberty, alleviate the problems of society, and improve human life.

Montesquieu studied the laws, customs, and governments of European countries to see how they created and enforced laws. He admired the government of England, which consisted of a king to enforce laws, Parliament to create laws, and courts to interpret laws. Each of these three parts had its own purpose, functioning with what Montesquieu called the "separation of powers."

For Montesquieu, dividing the powers of government was just the first step. The philosopher thought that each part of the government needed to be balanced with the other parts, and that to achieve this, each of the parts, or branches, of government should be equal. Concerned that people would suffer and lose their liberty if one branch had more power than the others, Montesquieu suggested that each branch have the ability to limit the power of the other two branches. In England, if the king tried to take too much control, the Parliament or the courts could act to stop him. Today, we call this the system of "checks and balances."
When the Founding Fathers created a government for the new United States, they embraced many Enlightenment ideas. The U.S. Constitution recognizes that citizens are born with basic rights and creates the three branches of government, as well as the system of checks and balances.

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**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>disparate (adjective)</th>
<th>essentially different</th>
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<tr>
<td>innate (adjective)</td>
<td>naturally existing in a person or animal since its birth</td>
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**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
Based on information in the Article, in what way do John Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu contrast?

A. Locke influenced government leaders to give up power in a social contract with citizens, whereas Montesquieu influenced the Founding Fathers to create a new government with the separation of powers.

B. Locke influenced the Founding Fathers to protect citizens from foreign invaders, whereas Montesquieu believed that citizens should have the right to revolt against a government with which they did not agree.

C. Locke believed that all citizens have basic rights and that the government should have three branches, whereas Montesquieu believed in the customs and governments of European countries that relied on kings to enforce laws.

D. Locke believed that the government must protect people's rights to life, liberty, and property, whereas Montesquieu believed that government must enforce clear laws to increase liberty and improve human life.

**Question 2**
The Article talks mainly about __________.

A. How America gained independence from Britain more than a century after the birth of John Locke, whose ideas helped shape the new country's government

B. How the Founding Fathers came up with the philosophies they relied upon when creating the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

C. How Charles-Louis de Secondat became a baron and why he had so much time to study the laws, customs, and governments in Europe

D. How Thomas Jefferson came to be aware of *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, which shaped his beliefs and actions

**Question 3**
Which is the closest synonym for the word *innate*, as it is used in the Article?

A. Acquired

B. Contemporary

C. Obsolete

D. Inherent
Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?
A. If a government agrees to protect everyone's rights, then citizens ought to be willing to give up as many freedoms as requested.
B. When a country is ruled by a king with absolute authority, citizens will typically find a good reason to revolt.
C. The best way to make a society safe is for everyone to have enough liberty to speak and act without being hindered by laws.
D. The Declaration of Independence includes some ideas that were written about during an era called the Enlightenment.

Question 5
According to the Article, what is one reason why the U.S. Constitution sets up three branches of government with a system of checks and balances?
A. The Founding Fathers who wrote the Constitution were influenced by philosophers like Charles-Louis Montesquieu, who believed that each part of government should be able to limit the power of the other parts.
B. Because Charles-Louis Montesquieu was one of the brightest Enlightenment philosophers, the Founding Fathers agreed that his opinions should carry more weight than those of other thinkers from that era.
C. Because John Locke wrote about humans being born with a set of natural rights that included life, liberty, and property, the Founding Fathers set up a branch of government to protect each of those human rights.
D. The Founding Fathers were concerned about the colonists revolting against a new government, so they decided to create three branches of government in the event that the citizens did not agree to be governed by their new rulers.

Question 6
The Article states:

The term "liberty" means different things to different people. While some believe that liberty means being able to speak and act without being inhibited by laws and rules (in other words, being able to do whatever you want), Montesquieu believed that liberty is the peace of mind that comes from being safe.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word inhibited, as it is used above?
A. Comforted
B. Incensed
C. Hindered
D. Liberated
Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that philosophers from the era of Enlightenment had ideas that people still respect?

A Montesquieu spent a lot of time thinking about how governments should be created and maintained, and his ideas guided the Founding Fathers when they wrote the United States Constitution. Even today, Montesquieu's thinking impacts the way people think about governments around the world.

B Locke wondered what life would be like if people didn't have a government. In this scenario, which Locke called a "state of nature," there would be no rules, no one in charge, and no way for people to protect their natural rights.

C Montesquieu studied the laws, customs, and governments of European countries to see how they created and enforced laws. He admired the government of England, which consisted of a king to enforce laws, Parliament to create laws, and courts to interpret laws.

D Locke's writings include the book *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. In it, the philosopher states his belief that people are born with a mind like a *tabula rasa*—a blank slate or page—and that during a person's life, that blank slate gets filled up with what the person experiences with his or her five senses.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A John Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu were not the only popular philosophers during the Age of Reason.

B Charles-Louis Montesquieu hoped that his definition of liberty would one day be incorporated into the documents for a new government.

C Thomas Jefferson preferred the philosophical ideas of Charles-Louis Montesquieu over those of John Locke.

D John Locke's writings heavily influenced Montesquieu's desire to study traditional European governments.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
"To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What was the Enlightenment? How did the writings of philosophers John Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu help shape the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution? Use facts and details from the Article in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the U.S. Constitution. Any new amendments must be approved by the United States Congress, along with three-quarters of the 50 states. What do you think?

**It should be easier to add amendments to the Constitution.**
Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. The contents of the U.S. Constitution create the three branches of our government and give directions for how the federal government works, and while the document was written in 1787, it guides our governing officials to this day.

When the Constitution went into effect in 1788, it consisted of a Preamble and seven articles. (The Bill of Rights and additional amendments had yet to be ratified.) Here's more about what the articles say.

Article I creates the Congress—the legislative branch of our government—which makes laws. The legislative branch makes our government a representative democracy because in such a democracy, citizens elect people to represent their needs and concerns in government. Article I describes how Congress should be organized (into the Senate and the House of Representatives), outlines the qualifications for becoming a legislator, and states how often Congress should hold elections and convene as a group.

Article I lists the powers of Congress, which include declaring war, collecting taxes, borrowing money and paying debts, creating lower federal courts, and making laws regarding these areas. Congress can also make laws related to regulating commerce, coining money, establishing post offices, becoming a citizen, providing patents, and punishing pirates.

Article II describes the job of the executive branch, which carries out laws and is headed by the president. Article II outlines the requirements for becoming president, the powers of the office, and action that may be taken in the event of presidential misconduct. It also explains the Electoral College, the process by which the president is selected.

Although the overall job of the executive branch is to carry out and enforce laws, Article II gives the president a list of specific duties, including acting as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces; maintaining a Cabinet of advisors who run the 15 executive departments, including the State Department and the Treasury; granting pardons or reprieves (such as stays of executions) to federal criminals;
negotiating treaties with other countries; appointing ambassadors, Supreme Court justices, federal court judges, and Cabinet members; delivering a State of the Union address to Congress; representing the United States when dealing with foreign countries; and ensuring that laws are carried out.

Article III creates the judicial branch, which interprets laws to decide what they mean and whether they have been followed in specific cases. Article III creates the Supreme Court and authorizes Congress to create federal courts below the Supreme Court. Article III also gives criteria about what kinds of cases the Supreme Court and federal courts can hear. Under Article III, federal judges are appointed, not elected, and they remain on the bench until they retire, die, or are removed for misconduct. Article III also guarantees trial by jury for criminal cases and explains the crime of treason.

Article IV of the Constitution addresses how the states should interact with one another by establishing that each state must respect the laws and court decisions of the other states. If a criminal flees from one state to another, the state where the crime was committed can request that the criminal be extradited (returned to face charges). Article IV also says that new states can be admitted to the Union with the authorization of Congress and the president, and that all states must have a republican, or representative, type of government.

Article V delineates how the Constitution can be amended. The Founders purposely intended for this process to be onerous, and indeed, the Constitution has been amended only 27 times (including the first 10 amendments, known as the Bill of Rights). Believe it or not, there are only two steps to the amendment process: approval in the U.S. Congress and approval by the states. But these steps are difficult, especially the second one, since three-quarters of the states must ratify new amendments in order for them to pass. With so much approval required, changing the Constitution can take years.

Article VI states that the laws and treaties of the U.S. government are "the supreme law of the land," and that if a state law is not in agreement with a federal law, federal law wins out. This article also requires officials working in the state and federal governments to take an oath to support the Constitution no matter what.

Article VII says that the Constitution could not take effect until at least nine out of the thirteen states approved it. (New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution on June 21, 1788.)

The seven Articles of the Constitution continue to serve as guidelines for how the government should operate.

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**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>convene</td>
<td>(verb) to assemble, often for an official, public, or formal purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>delineate</td>
<td>(verb) to outline or define</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>onerous</td>
<td>(adjective) difficult or troublesome</td>
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Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A. The U.S. Constitution ensures that federal law remains "the supreme law of the land" through Article VI.
B. The U.S. Constitution contains an article that outlines the qualifications for becoming a legislator.
C. The U.S. Constitution contains seven articles that serve as directions for how the federal government should operate.
D. The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787, but it was not ratified by at least nine of the thirteen states until June 21, 1788.

Question 2
Why did the Founders create a legislative branch of the federal government?
A. To ensure that every citizen charged with a crime or with criminal treason has the right to a trial by jury
B. To ensure that each state must respect the laws and court decisions of the other states, provided these do not conflict with federal laws
C. To ensure that it was difficult to make new amendments to the Constitution by requiring three-quarters of the states to approve them
D. To ensure that the government was a representative democracy in which citizens elect people to represent their needs and concerns in government

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word onerous?
A. Navigable
B. Debatable
C. Inarguable
D. Laborious

Question 4
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. The role of the Electoral College in selecting a president
B. The input each state provided into the making of the U.S. Constitution
C. The history and importance of the Bill of Rights
D. The ideas and documents that provided the framework for the U.S. government

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. The Founders believed that state governments should be more powerful than the federal government.
B. The Founders knew that the U.S. Constitution would eventually be changed entirely to reflect the nation's changing ideas.
C. The rules outlined by the seven Articles of the Constitution were never intended to be followed precisely.
D. The rules outlined by the seven Articles of the Constitution are non-negotiable unless an amendment is approved.
Question 6
The Article states:

But these steps are difficult, especially the second one, since three-quarters of the states must ratify new amendments in order for them to pass. With so much approval required, changing the Constitution can take years.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word ratify, as it is used above?
A. Exploit  
B. Evaluate  
C. Simplify  
D. Sanction

Question 7
In what way are Article II and Article III of the U.S. Constitution similar?
A. Both articles outline the process for handling cases of misconduct within the executive branch of the federal government.  
B. Both articles provide specific direction for powers and duties in one of the three branches of the federal government.  
C. Both articles empower the states to decide independently if they should acknowledge the laws of another state.  
D. Both articles underscore the importance the Founders placed on federal law as "the supreme law of the land."

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that even though laws are enforced, they can be understood differently?
A. Article III also guarantees trial by jury for criminal cases and explains the crime of treason.  
B. Article III creates the Supreme Court and authorizes Congress to create federal courts below the Supreme Court.  
C. Under Article III, federal judges are appointed, not elected, and they remain on the bench until they retire, die, or are removed for misconduct.  
D. Article III creates the judicial branch, which interprets laws to decide what they mean and whether they have been followed in specific cases.
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

**It should be easier to add amendments to the Constitution.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Do you think any one article of the Constitution is more important than the others? Why or why not? Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
What Are Your Rights? (1280L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The U.S. Constitution outlines certain rights for American citizens, but the government sometimes limits these rights. What do you think?

The U.S. government should be allowed to limit people's rights.
Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. "Hey, I have rights, you know!" As an American, you know you have rights. The government isn't allowed to exert control over certain areas of your life. But that doesn't mean you're allowed to run amok and do whatever you want. The government can make laws that dictate what Americans aren't allowed to do. So what exactly are Americans' rights? Where do they come from, and when is it OK to limit them?

If you've read the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights, then you've seen the word "right" numerous times. A right is an entitlement or claim to something. The Declaration states that we all have "certain unalienable rights," including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The Founders believed these to be natural rights that can't be given nor taken away. (And if those rights are denied, the Founders believed, then the people have a right to revolt.)

Other rights Americans have that the government cannot deprive them of are listed in the U.S. Constitution. You'll find some of them described in the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution) and others outlined in the 17 other amendments. These rights include freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and the right to not allow the government to search your home without a warrant. Some rights, like freedom of speech, are guaranteed to everyone living in the U.S., not just U.S. citizens, and other rights, like voting, belong only to U.S. citizens.

Rights are guaranteed, but they're not boundless. Limits are applied to certain rights, particularly where public safety or economic stability is concerned. For example, you're not allowed to yell "fire" in a crowded theater (unless there's really a fire) because that could cause panic, and people might get hurt. And while

Photo Credit: Rowland Scherman for USIA/National Archives and Records Administration
In the 1963 March on Washington, protestors were asking for equal rights for all Americans.
you have the right to peaceful assembly, the government can put limits on protest locations if day-to-day activities are going to be disrupted.

It's important to be able to differentiate between instances in which the government is acting judiciously in limiting rights and times when it is infringing on the rights of the people. And that has happened; many times in U.S. history, laws have been devised with intent to inhibit constitutional rights, particularly those of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, women, and other minority groups.

Part of the struggle to reverse those laws was made possible by the First Amendment to the Constitution, which grants freedom of speech and the right to assemble, essentially allowing Americans to protest unjust laws. For example, the Jim Crow laws that discriminated against African Americans might still exist today if it wasn't for the hard work of people in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Jim Crow laws permitted separate public facilities—like schools and bathrooms—for black Americans. They also allowed for measures that made it difficult for African Americans to exercise their voting rights. There had always been resistance to the discrimination that black people faced, but it was during the civil rights movement that people joined together, organized, and protested unjust laws more tenaciously than ever before.

Partly a result of activism, discriminatory laws have been declared unconstitutional and new laws expanding the rights guaranteed to women and other minorities have been passed, proving that while laws can sometimes limit people's rights, they can also be designed to protect or broaden people's rights.

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**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>differentiate (verb)</th>
<th>to recognize a difference between two or more things</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tenaciously (adverb)</td>
<td>persistently</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

A. Because citizens could panic, and people could get hurt, the government is permitted to put limits on protest locations.

B. Because Jim Crow laws discriminated against African Americans, people protested these unjust laws during the civil rights movement.

C. Because the Founders believed in natural rights, the Constitution allows only citizens of the United States to vote.

D. Because the discriminatory Jim Crow laws have been declared unconstitutional, the government isn't allowed to search people's homes without a warrant.

**Question 2**
What is this Article mainly about?

A. In the decades since the civil rights movement, new laws have expanded the rights of minorities.

B. Americans are guaranteed certain rights, but those rights are not boundless.

C. The First Amendment provides freedom of speech and the right to assemble.

D. The Founders believed that people have a right to revolt if their natural rights are taken away.
Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. The Declaration of Independence states that our unalienable rights include "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
B. Putting limits on protest locations is an example of the government unreasonably overstepping its power.
C. Jim Crow laws once permitted separate bathrooms for black Americans.
D. Some of the rights of Americans are listed in amendments to the Constitution.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word tenaciously, as it is used in the Article?

A. Cautiously
B. Docilely
C. Foolishly
D. Doggedly

Question 5
Suppose Kara wants to find out about the Jim Crow laws. She would find most of her information

A. By visiting a website that tells about the people who wrote the Declaration of Independence and what prompted them to take action
B. By reading a book about the rights that are guaranteed to all Americans in the first 10 amendments to the Constitution
C. By watching a documentary about the experience of African Americans during the civil rights movement
D. By reading an article that describes the steps that must be taken to change existing laws in America

Question 6
Which two words are the closest synonyms?

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

A. Disrupt and regulate
B. Infringe and grant
C. Inhibit and curb
D. Deprive and bestow

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that rights are not boundless?

A. And while you have the right to peaceful assembly, the government can put limits on protest locations if day-to-day activities are going to be disrupted.
B. The Declaration states that we all have "certain unalienable rights," including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The Founders believed these to be natural rights that can't be given nor taken away.
C. If you've read the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights, then you've seen the word "right" numerous times. A right is an entitlement or claim to something.
D. Other rights Americans have that the government cannot deprive them of are listed in the U.S. Constitution. You'll find some of them described in the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution) and others outlined in the 17 other amendments.
Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A  A majority of the activists who protested during the 1960s were disappointed with the way their efforts eventually affected the Jim Crow laws.
B  The Founders probably believed that too much government control would interfere with "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."
C  The Founders probably did not expect any government leaders to ever try to deny people their natural rights.
D  While the government can place limits on some rights, it has not yet placed any limits on Americans' freedom of speech.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

The U.S. government should be allowed to limit people's rights.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Describe the rights guaranteed to all Americans and explain the role that laws play in limiting rights, as well as protecting or expanding them. Use facts and details from the lesson, including relevant examples, in your response.
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At Home

Lexile 1280

ANSWER KEY
Forms of Government

Answer key

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes how an absolute monarchy and a limited monarchy differ?

D The ruler who heads an absolute monarchy has control over everything in the government, whereas the ruler in a limited monarchy has a role that's mainly symbolic.

Question 2
The Article talks mainly about __________.

D Governments around the world, the types of leaders they have, and how these leaders rule

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word differentiated, as it is used in the Article?

A Discerned

Question 4
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.

B How a country led by a dictator and a country led by a queen are similar and different

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Citizens in a representative democracy would be foolish to ignore opportunities to vote in local or state elections.

Question 6
The Article states:

In ancient times, and even in the early years of the U.S., however, the leaders of republics or republican governments were usually a select group of people, and because U.S. founders believed in this kind of republicanism, they designated that only white men who owned property could participate in government.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word designated, as it is used above?

C Stipulated

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

D People who live in Sudan are less likely to speak out against the actions taken by their leaders than people who live in the United States.

Question 8
Which quote from the Article best supports the opinion that some forms of government are quite strict?

C Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin were examples of totalitarianism, an extreme form of authoritarianism, in which every aspect of people’s lives was controlled.
Shaping a Government
Answer key

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, in what way do John Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu contrast?

D Locke believed that the government must protect people's rights to life, liberty, and property, whereas Montesquieu believed that government must enforce clear laws to increase liberty and improve human life.

Question 2
The Article talks mainly about _________.

B How the Founding Fathers came up with the philosophies they relied upon when creating the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word innate, as it is used in the Article?

D Inherent

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

D The Declaration of Independence includes some ideas that were written about during an era called the Enlightenment.

Question 5
According to the Article, what is one reason why the U.S. Constitution sets up three branches of government with a system of checks and balances?

A The Founding Fathers who wrote the Constitution were influenced by philosophers like Charles-Louis Montesquieu, who believed that each part of government should be able to limit the power of the other parts.

Question 6
The Article states: The term "liberty" means different things to different people. While some believe that liberty means being able to speak and act without being inhibited by laws and rules (in other words, being able to do whatever you want), Montesquieu believed that liberty is the peace of mind that comes from being safe.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word inhibited, as it is used above?

C Hindered

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that philosophers from the era of Enlightenment had ideas that people still respect?

A Montesquieu spent a lot of time thinking about how governments should be created and maintained, and his ideas guided the Founding Fathers when they wrote the United States Constitution. Even today, Montesquieu's thinking impacts the way people think about governments around the world.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that _________.

A John Locke and Charles-Louis Montesquieu were not the only popular philosophers during the Age of Reason.
The Articles of the Constitution
Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
C The U.S. Constitution contains seven articles that serve as directions for how the federal government should operate.

Question 2
Why did the Founders create a legislative branch of the federal government?
D To ensure that the government was a representative democracy in which citizens elect people to represent their needs and concerns in government.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word onerous?
D Laborious

Question 4
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
D The ideas and documents that provided the framework for the U.S. government

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
D The rules outlined by the seven Articles of the Constitution are non-negotiable unless an amendment is approved.

Question 6
The Article states:
But these steps are difficult, especially the second one, since three-quarters of the states must ratify new amendments in order for them to pass. With so much approval required, changing the Constitution can take years.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word ratify, as it is used above?
D Sanction

Question 7
In what way are Article II and Article III of the U.S. Constitution similar?
B Both articles provide specific direction for powers and duties in one of the three branches of the federal government.

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that even though laws are enforced, they can be understood differently?
D Article III creates the judicial branch, which interprets laws to decide what they mean and whether they have been followed in specific cases.
What Are Your Rights?

Answer key

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

B Because Jim Crows laws discriminated against African Americans, people protested these unjust laws during the civil rights movement.

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?

B Americans are guaranteed certain rights, but those rights are not boundless.

Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B Putting limits on protest locations is an example of the government unreasonably overstepping its power.

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word tenaciously, as it is used in the Article?

D Doggedly

Question 5
Suppose Kara wants to find out about the Jim Crow laws. She would find most of her information ________.

C By watching a documentary about the experience of African Americans during the civil rights movement

Question 6
Which two words are the closest synonyms?

C Inhibit and curb

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that rights are not boundless?

A And while you have the right to peaceful assembly, the government can put limits on protest locations if day-to-day activities are going to be disrupted.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that ________.

B The Founders probably believed that too much government control would interfere with “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”
Lexile 980

DIVERSITY ARTICLES & ANSWER KEYS
All Hair Is Created Equal (980L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In some U.S. states, new laws protect African Americans from discrimination based on how they style their hair. What do you think?

**Hairstyles should be a personal choice.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

An African American girl gets her hair braided. California's CROWN Act makes it illegal for employers and public schools to ban hairstyles such as braids.

ARLINGTON, Texas (Achieve3000, November 7, 2019). Kerion Washington applied for a job at Six Flags Over Texas in March 2019, but the 17-year-old was turned down. The decision had nothing to do with his interview, qualifications, or willingness to work. So why didn't the amusement park hire him? Believe it or not, it was because of his hairstyle. The length and style didn't violate any of the company's employee guidelines. But the African American teen was told that to get the job he'd need to cut off his dreadlocks.

Kerion Washington is just one of many people who've faced this kind of injustice. You might have seen stories shared on social media of African Americans confronting similar situations: Students being turned away from schools. Athletes being disqualified from competitions. Professionals being passed over for promotions. And all because of how they style their hair. These incidents are examples of **hair discrimination**. And there's a whole lot more at stake than the freedom to follow the latest fashion trends. Hair discrimination affects people's civil rights. It's considered a form of racial discrimination, and some places now have specific laws against it.

In July 2019, California passed the CROWN Act. It has a goal of Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural hair. The law makes it illegal for employers and public schools in the state to ban black hairstyles, such as braids, twists, and dreadlocks. The state of New York passed a similar law soon after that.

It's important to know why these laws were put in place. To do that, you need to wrap your head around how schools and employers are allowed to treat people. First off, dress codes are a legal thing. Schools and employers are entitled to make rules about how students and employees can dress and wear their hair. (Yep, like it or not, your school has the right to decide whether you can show up to class in flip-flops or dye your hair fuchsia.) But if the rules—or how they're interpreted—unjustly affect only certain groups of people, that's discrimination.

For this reason, dress codes that don't allow hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks are discriminatory. Although the rules apply to everyone in theory, in practice, they mostly affect people of black heritage. For one thing, these styles are an important part of black culture. For another, some people from other races can't wear these styles because their hair doesn't have the right texture for them.
Why have dress codes prohibited these hairstyles? For a long time, they were underappreciated or even stigmatized. Hairstyles typically worn by people from other races were seen as more professional and appropriate for school and work. Because these attitudes were so common, black people often felt compelled to straighten their hair, even at places that didn't have clear policies requiring it. That called for expensive treatments involving chemicals, heat, and a whole lot of time and effort. These expectations were an especially big burden for black women, many of whom may still feel pressured to straighten their hair even today.

But head's up: All that's starting to change. The natural hair movement is made up of people who celebrate black hair's curly texture and take pride in its natural beauty. Social media has given power to the movement. It's helped build an online community of African Americans sharing haircare advice and styling expertise. #Naturalistas!

One person who understands the importance of holding your head high and standing up for your rights is Kerion Washington. He didn't cut his hair to satisfy Six Flags' demands. However, his career prospects are looking good after his story went viral on social media, with lots of people voicing encouragement and unity. His photo even caught the eye of a talent scout for a modeling agency. Now he's on his way to becoming a professional model!

Video credit: Associated Press

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>heritage (noun)</td>
<td>the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation—usually singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>illegal (adjective)</td>
<td>not allowed by the law: not legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racial (adjective)</td>
<td>relating to or based on race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stigmatize (verb)</td>
<td>to describe or regard (something, such as a characteristic or group of people) in a way that shows strong disapproval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

A. Hairstyles typically worn by people from other races have long been seen as more professional and appropriate for school and work, prompting many black women to use expensive treatments involving chemicals and heat to straighten their hair.

B. Social media has given power to the natural hair movement, helping to build an online community of African Americans who celebrate black hair's curly texture and share haircare advice and styling expertise.

C. Kerion Washington's story of hair discrimination went viral on social media, after which his photo caught the eye of a talent scout for a modeling agency, and he is now on the path to becoming a professional model.

D. African Americans have been discriminated against for years because of how they style their hair, but that's all starting to change thanks to the growing natural hair movement and laws such as the CROWN Act.
Question 2
Which is the closest synonym for the word illegal?
A plentiful
B mature
C criminal
D critical

Question 3
The Article states:
For this reason, dress codes that don't allow hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks are discriminatory. Although the rules apply to everyone in theory, in practice, they mostly affect people of black heritage. For one thing, these styles are an important part of black culture.

Why did the author include this passage?
A To explain why some hairstyle guidelines that are supposed to apply to everyone equally are actually unfair to African Americans
B To emphasize the importance of dress code and style theories when it comes to developing policies that govern business practices and public agencies that rely on public support to fund their programs
C To show that the dress codes and hairstyle guidelines written by public school administrators and businesses are fair when they are enforced by people who understand the importance of being culturally respectful
D To demonstrate that companies with business dress codes understand the importance of building employee good will and want to encourage a wide range of individual styles

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A Social media has been used to further the natural hair movement and has helped unite groups of people who have shared interests.
B Other states will eventually make laws similar to California's CROWN Act because people deserve the right to express their individuality in the way they dress and style their hair.
C The process of straightening hair requires a commitment of effort, expense, and time, especially for African American women in the workplace.
D Dress codes found in student handbooks are legal, giving public schools and employers the right to make rules about how students dress, style, and conduct themselves.

Question 5
Which question is not answered by the Article?
A Why haven't all 50 states in the U.S. passed laws like California's CROWN Act?
B Why don't more people wear their hair in styles that are common in black culture?
C Why were some black hairstyles banned by student and employee dress codes?
D Why do some African Americans feel as though they have to straighten their hair even today?
Question 6
The Article states:

So why didn't the amusement park hire him? Believe it or not, it was because of his hairstyle. The length and style didn't violate any of the company's employee guidelines. But the African American teen was told that to get the job he'd need to cut off his dreadlocks.

Which is the closest synonym for the word violate?
A. disobey
B. recover
C. consume
D. filter

Question 7
According to the Article, why have dress codes prohibited African American hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks?
A. Hairstyles typically worn by people from other races were seen as more professional and appropriate for school and work.
B. Schools and employers are entitled to make rules about how certain groups of people can dress and wear their hair.
C. African Americans preferred to straighten their hair, even at places that didn't have explicit policies requiring it.
D. Not everyone can wear these hairstyles, since most people from other races don't have the right hair texture for them.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that discrimination has been supported for years in the form of dress codes and style guidelines?
A. [Kerion Washington] didn't cut his hair to satisfy Six Flags' demands. However, his career prospects are looking good after his story went viral on social media, with lots of people voicing encouragement and unity. His photo even caught the eye of a talent scout for a modeling agency. Now he's on his way to becoming a professional model!
B. You might have seen stories shared on social media of African Americans confronting similar situations: Students being turned away from schools. Athletes being disqualified from competitions. Professionals being passed over for promotions. And all because of how they style their hair. These incidents are examples of hair discrimination.
C. First off, dress codes are a legal thing. Schools and employers are entitled to make rules about how students and employees can dress and wear their hair. (Yep, like it or not, your school has the right to decide whether you can show up to class in flip-flops or dye your hair fuchsia.)
D. The natural hair movement is made up of people who celebrate black hair's curly texture and take pride in its natural beauty. Social media has given power to the movement. It's helped build an online community of African Americans sharing haircare advice and styling expertise. #Naturalistas!
Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement. **Hairstyles should be a personal choice.**

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Briefly explain California's CROWN Act. Do you think all U.S. states should pass similar laws? Why or why not? Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
Day of the Dead Barbie (980L)

Step 1: Article (Read the Article)

EL SEGUNDO, California (Achieve3000, September 16, 2019). Dying to get your hands on the brand-new Day of the Dead Barbie? Well, sit tight for now and keep breathing because the doll sold out almost immediately after its release in September 2019. Barbie manufacturer Mattel Inc. issued the new toy to celebrate Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead: the time-honored Mexican holiday, which takes place November 1 through November 2. And if early sales are any indication, Day of the Dead Barbie will have a very long life indeed.

If you saw the Disney animated movie Coco, you already have some idea what the holiday represents. It's a time when Mexicans fondly remember their dear, departed loved ones. And these relatives temporarily return to the world of the living. What you might not know is that Día de los Muertos is thousands of years old. It started with the Aztec, Toltec, and other Nahua people of central Mexico. Yes, the holiday involves the dead and starts the day after Halloween. But you mustn't think of it as ghoulish. Its timing is coincidental and its aim is anything but scary.

Día de los Muertos is actually a cheerful way of coexisting with loss. The ancient cultures that conceived it believed that mourning the dead was disrespectful. They viewed death as an essential part of life. And they saw the deceased as still-active members of the community who live on in the hearts and minds of their surviving relatives.

Therefore, the Mexican way to honor the departed often involves a good time. So the holiday includes lively processionals, traditional mariachi bands, and enough merriment to...well, to wake the dead.

The cornerstone of Día de los Muertos is the ofrenda. That's an altar that is set up in homes and cemeteries. Food and drink are placed upon the ofrenda, as well as photographs of the deceased, candles, and marigold flowers. The flowers are meant to guide the spirits to the altars with their bright colors and strong scent. Just think of it all as a welcome home party. And the dead are cordially invited! They are welcome to feast, dance, and play music with their loved ones.

Two other important elements of Día de los Muertos are colorful costumes and glittering makeup. And Day of the Dead Barbie is done up right for the occasion. She's all decked out in a black gown and a headpiece. They're decorated with colorful butterflies and flowers. Her face is painted like a traditional Mexican skull mask, with stitched lips and festive ornamentation.

Day of the Dead Barbie also fits right in with the many Barbies that have lined toy store shelves since the doll first hit the market in 1959. At the outset, there was only a blonde Barbie and a brunette Barbie. But
time, inclusivity, and changing attitudes about women have yielded Barbies of every shade, ethnicity, and profession: from African American and Native American to Chinese and Russian to dentist and veterinarian Barbies.

However, Day of the Dead Barbie has received some criticism on social media. Some postings claim that Mattel is guilty of cultural appropriation. This is loosely defined as using the traditions, arts, and symbols of one group for the purposes of a different group. These online critics say Mattel is basically using Day of the Dead to sell Barbies and rake in the bucks. But others have expressed pure delight. They're happy that Mexican culture is being honored and celebrated in such a mainstream way.

Who's right? As the saying goes, the customer always is. And, commercially speaking, Day of the Dead Barbie looks like she's gonna knock 'em dead.

Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>coincidental (adjective)</th>
<th>happening because of a coincidence: not planned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>festive (adjective)</td>
<td>cheerful and exciting: suited to a celebration or holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inclusive (adjective)</td>
<td>open to everyone: not limited to certain people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>temporary (adjective)</td>
<td>continuing for a limited amount of time: not permanent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?

A Because a new Barbie doll celebrating the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos was released by an American toy maker, some people complained that the company was guilty of cultural theft and that it only wanted to profit off of another culture's traditions.

B Since Día de los Muertos began thousands of years ago with the Aztec, Toltec, and Nahua people of central Mexico, many Mexicans today feel that the new doll released by Mattel should better reflect the holiday's origins.

C Since many people consider the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos to be ghoulish because it involves dead people and begins the day after Halloween, some have expressed outrage that Mattel would target the sale of such a scary doll at children.

D Because the new Día de los Muertos Barbie doll produced by Mattel Inc. sold out very quickly after its release, Mattel has vowed not to create any more of the dolls as a way to keep the value of the existing dolls high.
The cornerstone of the Day of the Dead celebration is the altar, or ofrenda, which is set up to guide spirits home to their loved ones.

Mattel began marketing Barbie dolls in 1959, years before its release of the Day of the Dead doll, at a time when only blonde and brunette Barbies were offered to buyers.

The Day of the Dead Barbie celebrating the Mexican holiday sold out quickly, and the public's response to its release has ranged from condemnation to delight.

Mattel's new Day of the Dead Barbie wears a black gown and a headpiece that are decorated with butterflies and flowers, and her face is painted like a Mexican skull mask.

During Día de los Muertos, family members decorate the altar, or ofrenda, with food, drink, photographs, candles, and flowers for their loved ones who have passed away.

There is no better way for the Mattel toy company to honor Mexico's rich cultural traditions than by creating a doll that celebrates the important holiday Día de los Muertos.

A new Barbie doll released by Mattel has received some criticism on social media, with some postings complaining that the toy company is guilty of cultural theft.

In the years since the first blonde and brunette Barbie dolls were released, Mattel has expanded its lineup to include African American, Native American, Chinese, and Russian dolls.

How Mattel has responded to claims on social media that its new Day of the Dead Barbie doll is an example of the inappropriate use of another culture's traditions

How changing attitudes about women have affected the types of dolls that Mattel has released over the years

Why the public's reaction to the release of Mattel's new Day of the Dead Barbie has ranged from criticism to praise

Where the popular Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, was first celebrated thousands of years ago

Which is the closest synonym for the word festive?

A mirthful
B attractive
C complicated
D barren
Question 6
The Article states:

However, Day of the Dead Barbie has received some criticism on social media. Some postings claim that Mattel is guilty of cultural appropriation. This is loosely defined as using the traditions, arts, and symbols of one group for the purposes of a different group. These online critics say Mattel is basically using Day of the Dead to sell Barbies and rake in the bucks. But others have expressed pure delight. They're happy that Mexican culture is being honored and celebrated in such a mainstream way.

Why did the author include this passage?
A To point out that Mattel had engaged in cultural appropriation long before it released its Día de los Muertos doll
B To suggest that most of the reaction to Mattel's new Day of the Dead doll has not been good
C To explain Mattel's original motivation for creating a doll that honors the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos
D To highlight the widely varied public response to toymaker Mattel's release of its Day of the Dead doll

Question 7
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?
A Mattel Inc. does not plan to create any more Day of the Dead Barbies even though the dolls quickly sold out after being released.
B Many of the Mexicans who celebrate Día de los Muertos find the holiday and its horrifying images and symbols to be frightening.
C Today's Barbie dolls appeal to a much greater range of children than the original Barbie dolls did back in 1959.
D The outfits worn by those celebrating the Day of the Dead are typically black and are entirely lacking in color so as to show respect for the dead.

Question 8
Look at this passage from the Article:

Some postings claim that Mattel is guilty of cultural appropriation. This is loosely defined as using the traditions, arts, and symbols of one group for the purposes of a different group. These online critics say Mattel is basically using Day of the Dead to sell Barbies and rake in the bucks.

In this passage, the word appropriation means __________.
A the act of taking something in a way that is illegal, unfair, etc.
B the process of spreading something out over a wide area or space
C an awareness and understanding of the feelings of other people
D an attitude held by someone who works very hard to support something
Marley Dias received The Trailblazer Award at the Bounce Trumpet Awards, which honors African American leaders who have achieved greatness and inspired others.

WEST ORANGE, New Jersey (Achieve3000, September 26, 2019). Marley Dias has been on a mission since 2015, when she was an 11-year-old kid with a passion for reading. That year, Marley had a bone to pick with her teacher, her middle school, and the literary world at large. Where were the books that featured girls of color as the protagonists, she wondered? She certainly couldn't find any at her school in West Orange, New Jersey.

There were, however, plenty of stories about white boys with dogs. Marley's teacher had assigned five such books that fateful year in fifth grade. Marley enjoyed reading them, but she felt overlooked and underrepresented. She longed to see herself in some of these assigned books. And she wanted to see people from other cultures and with different life experiences represented as well.

Marley had good reason to feel literarily left out: Of the 3,400 young adult and children's books published in 2015, only about 8 percent of them had an African American main character. And the percentages dropped even lower when it came to books with Native American, Latino, and Asian/Pacific main characters.

So what does it take to get a person of color as a literary main attraction?

Well, it takes an activist like Marley Dias to even the score. And that's what she set out to do just three months into 6th grade. In November 2015, she launched a social media campaign called #1000BlackGirlBooks. It launched along with the GrassROOTS Community Foundation, a public health and social action organization run by her mom. (Apparently, the activist apple doesn't fall far from the tree.)

Right from the get-go, Marley had a guiding purpose and a clear set of goals: Collect a thousand books with black girls as the main characters. Donate the books to communities that need them. Develop a resource guide to help readers find these books. And encourage educators and lawmakers to consider diverse reading material for school curriculums. There was one goal, however, that had nothing to do with other people's books—it had to do with the one she herself planned to write.

And just so you know, Marley always achieves her goals—and then some.

By August 2019, #1000BlackGirlBooks had collected and distributed over 12,000 books. And Marley had launched a summer reading program with JetBlue Airways, which has a literacy campaign called "Soar with Reading." Thanks to the JetBlue partnership, six vending machines packed with books were set up in public schools throughout New York City from August through Labor Day. And get this: Kids could take as many books as they liked, free of charge.

Marley is also making good on her goal to put together a resource guide. Today, 700 of the 1,000 titles she's collected are already catalogued by author's name and reading level. And she's always spreading the
Always dreaming of becoming a published author, Marley Dias wrote a book in which she covered everything from her family, her love of sushi, and her trip to Ghana to tips for kids on how to make their dreams come true.

In 2015, Marley Dias was assigned five books to read during the school year, and although she enjoyed the books, she felt underrepresented because all of the stories were about white boys with dogs.

As a way of spreading the word about diverse book offerings to the widest possible audience, Marley Dias has appeared as a guest on *Ellen, The View,* and *CBS This Morning* as well as given lectures at The United State of Women Summit.

Seeing that girls of color were grossly underrepresented as the protagonists of books in her middle school's library, Marley Dias launched a program to offer more diverse title choices in communities that needed them.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

- Out of the 3,400 young adult and children's books published in 2015, only 8 percent of them featured African Americans as the main characters.
- Marley Dias became a published author at the age of 13 when she wrote *Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You,* a book that gives kids tips on how to make their dreams come true.
- Thanks to a summer reading program started by Marley Dias, six vending machines packed with free books were made available to students in New York City public schools.
- Because books that feature diverse protagonists are so much more interesting, work should be done to include more of these kinds of books in school libraries.

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>curriculum (noun)</td>
<td>the courses that are taught by a school, college, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diverse (adjective)</td>
<td>made up of people or things that are different from each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literacy (noun)</td>
<td>the ability to read and write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literary (adjective)</td>
<td>of or relating to literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>protagonist (noun)</td>
<td>the main character in a novel, play, movie, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Step 2: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

- Always dreaming of becoming a published author, Marley Dias wrote a book in which she covered everything from her family, her love of sushi, and her trip to Ghana to tips for kids on how to make their dreams come true.
- In 2015, Marley Dias was assigned five books to read during the school year, and although she enjoyed the books, she felt underrepresented because all of the stories were about white boys with dogs.
- As a way of spreading the word about diverse book offerings to the widest possible audience, Marley Dias has appeared as a guest on *Ellen, The View,* and *CBS This Morning* as well as given lectures at The United State of Women Summit.
- Seeing that girls of color were grossly underrepresented as the protagonists of books in her middle school's library, Marley Dias launched a program to offer more diverse title choices in communities that needed them.
Question 3
The Article states:
Marley Dias has been on a mission since 2015, when she was an 11-year-old kid with a passion for reading. That year, Marley had a bone to pick with her teacher, her middle school, and the literary world at large. Where were the books that featured girls of color as the protagonists, she wondered? She certainly couldn't find any at her school in West Orange, New Jersey.

Why did the author include this passage?
A To compare Marley Dias' passion for reading with other students her age at a middle school in West Orange, New Jersey
B To emphasize how difficult it was for Marley Dias to choose a library book to read when the selection at her school was so large
C To show that Marley Dias' love of books and reading was so great that she would later go on to become a published author at an early age
D To provide the reason why Marley Dias launched her #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, which has collected and distributed more than 12,000 books

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word diverse?
A groundbreaking
B indistinguishable
C baffling
D actual

Question 5
Which information is not in the Article?
A How many books were collected and distributed by August 2019 as a result of Marley Dias' #1000BlackGirlBooks program
B How many libraries purchased a copy of the recently published book Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You
C What Marley Dias discussed when she appeared at a reading party that she planned at the White House
D What percentage of young adult and children's books released in 2015 featured an African American as the main character

Question 6
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.
A the book Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You is a work of fiction that features a number of imaginary characters
B Marley Dias refuses to read library books that don't include African Americans as the main characters
C JetBlue Airways helped fund the six vending machines that were packed with books and set up in New York City public schools
D students can easily find books that feature African American protagonists in school libraries around the country
Question 7
Look at this passage from the Article:

Marley’s unconquerable spirit brings to mind an old saying. It goes, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it." Maybe that should be amended to "ask Marley Dias to do it," but chances are, she's already booked.

In this passage, the word amended means __________.
A to change some of the words and the meaning of something
B to prepare and produce (a book, magazine, etc.) for sale
C to send out (signals, programs, etc.) by radio or television
D to explain in a way that is easier for someone to understand

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Marley Dias knows how to work with others in order to achieve her goals?
A By August 2019, #1000BlackGirlBooks had collected and distributed over 12,000 books. And Marley had launched a summer reading program with JetBlue Airways, which has a literacy campaign called "Soar with Reading." Thanks to the JetBlue partnership, six vending machines packed with books were set up in public schools throughout New York City from August through Labor Day. And get this: Kids could take as many books as they liked, free of charge.
B There were, however, plenty of stories about white boys with dogs. Marley's teacher had assigned five such books that fateful year in fifth grade. Marley enjoyed reading them, but she felt overlooked and underrepresented. She longed to see herself in some of these assigned books. And she wanted to see people from other cultures and with different life experiences represented as well.
C Marley had good reason to feel literarily left out: Of the 3,400 young adult and children's books published in 2015, only about 8 percent of them had an African American main character. And the percentages dropped even lower when it came to books with Native American, Latino, and Asian/Pacific main characters.
D Marley Dias has been on a mission since 2015, when she was an 11-year-old kid with a passion for reading. That year, Marley had a bone to pick with her teacher, her middle school, and the literary world at large. Where were the books that featured girls of color as the protagonists, she wondered? She certainly couldn't find any at her school in West Orange, New Jersey.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Some people are trying to save African American cemeteries that date back to the late 1600s and early 1700s. What do you think?

**People should do whatever it takes to preserve early American history.**

Do you agree or disagree?

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**Step 2: Article (Read the Article)**

*Photo credit: Zach Gibson/Getty Images*

The Tucker cemetery, where the first black child born in English North America is likely buried, was restored after decades of neglect. **HAMPTON, Virginia** (Achieve3000, October 28, 2019). Tattered toys, cast-off junk, and tangled underbrush hid a secret from most who wandered near: This plot of land had a story—history was buried there.

From the looks of it just a few years ago, you'd never know that this site in Hampton, Virginia, was possibly the first African cemetery in what would become the United States. It dates back to the 1600s. And William Tucker—the first black child born in the North American colonies—is likely buried there.

Tucker's parents were some of the first Africans kidnapped and brought to North America in 1619. Their captors traded those who had survived the journey to the colonists in return for food and supplies. William was named after the colonist who enslaved him and his parents.

The land is an agonizing reminder of a disgraceful past. But to many in the Hampton community, who didn't know what was under all that litter, the land wasn't an important warning of a history that should never be repeated—it was just a serious mess.

That was until the Tucker family, likely descendants of William, rallied to save the land. With some volunteers and grant money, the family got busy giving the cemetery the TLC it deserved. They cleared out the land, put up a fence, and, using X-ray technology, identified 100 unmarked graves.

A historian told the Tuckers that in the past, seeds would have been planted at the burial sites in place of headstones. The family looked at all the standing and fallen trees. They were astounded by how much history had taken root there.

Many African Americans struggle to trace their lineage back to their early ancestors. The English colonists rarely kept records of slaves, and those they did create were often destroyed. Cemeteries are one of the few tangible links to the past. They're also a place to find common ground—where understanding, empathy, and respect can grow.

"We exist because they worked hard," Brenda Tucker said, reflecting on her ancestors. "They struggled. They did whatever they had to do to survive."
William Tucker's family was among the first in what is now the United States. But unlike the Pilgrims and other European colonists, you don't hear a lot about early African Americans. The Tuckers would like to change that.

And the good news is, they're not alone in their efforts to shift the narrative. The Tuckers are part of a growing movement to save early African American cemeteries. They also want to make sure the stories they hold are brought to light.

In Newport, Rhode Island, you'll find one of the oldest public cemeteries in the United States: Newport's Common Burying Ground. Keith Stokes and his wife, Theresa Guzmán Stokes, have worked to restore the history of slaves and free black Americans buried in one section dating back to 1705. There are fewer than 300 gravestones, but it is thought those mark just a fraction of the people buried there. The real number may be closer to 3,000.

Among them lies Charity "Duchess" Quamino. She was a slave whose frosted plum cakes earned her the title of "Pastry Queen of Rhode Island." She eventually earned enough wealth to buy freedom for herself and her children.

Stories of Quamino and others highlight the lives and accomplishments of people who are far too often left out of the American tale. There are also untold numbers of African American burial grounds yet to be discovered, since many slave and segregated African American graveyards were left off official maps. Marked with trees and other objects, these graves are hidden in plain sight. Often they're found only after being accidentally unearthed by construction crews.

Now, some lawmakers are trying to protect these cemeteries. They hope to establish the African American Burial Grounds Network as part of the National Park Service. The network would provide funds and technology to support the efforts of people like the Tuckers and the Stokeses on a national scale—helping to uncover the past and preserve it for the future.

*Voice of America contributed to this story.*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>empathy (noun)</td>
<td>the ability to share someone else's feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>segregate (verb)</td>
<td>to separate groups of people because of their particular race, religion, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tangible (adjective)</td>
<td>easily seen or recognized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

A Although there are fewer than 300 gravestones in one section of Newport's Common Burying Ground, Keith Stokes and his wife, Theresa Guzmán Stokes, believe that the correct number of people buried there is probably closer to 3,000.

B Because colonists seldom kept records of slaves in the early colonies, little is known about them, but some people, like the Tuckers, are now trying to save early African American cemeteries because they provide a tangible link to a history that is much too often overlooked.

C Charity "Duchess" Quamino, a slave whose incredible baking skills earned her the title of "Pastry Queen of Rhode Island" and who eventually earned enough money to buy freedom for herself and her children, is one of the many people buried in a cemetery in Newport, Rhode Island.

D William Tucker, the first black child born in the English North American colonies, was the son of some of the first Africans kidnapped and transported to North America in 1619 and is believed to be buried at a recently cleaned-up cemetery in Hampton, Virginia.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Little is known of the first slaves in North America because the colonists didn't often keep records of enslaved people, and what records they did create were often destroyed.

B By protecting cemeteries where slaves were buried, people like the Tuckers and the Stokeses are taking on an enormous task best left to professionals.

C In the past, seeds would have been planted at the burial sites of slaves in place of headstones, so it is possible to locate gravesites by looking for standing and fallen trees.

D The parents of William Tucker, the first black child born in what would become the United States, survived the journey to the colonies and were traded for food and supplies.

Question 3
The Article states:

There are also untold numbers of African American burial grounds yet to be discovered, since many slave and segregated African American graveyards were left off official maps. Marked with trees and other objects, these graves are hidden in plain sight. Often they're found only after being accidentally unearthed by construction crews.

Why did the author include this passage?

A To point out that official maps are now being updated to include the locations where African American slaves were buried

B To show how difficult it can be to locate the cemeteries where African American slaves lie buried

C To suggest that people are not trying hard enough to uncover the gravesites of African American slaves

D To draw attention to the fact that many African American slaves were never buried with their families
Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word empathy?
A temptation
B appreciation
C dedication
D communication

Question 5
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?
A Some of the many cemeteries where African American slaves are buried are completely unrecognizable to passersby.
B Slaves were seldom buried but were instead more often cremated, with their ashes scattered among trees.
C Slaves weren't familiar with the practice of marking burial locations with gravestones and instead planted seeds to mark the sites.
D Some of the larger cemeteries where African American slaves lie buried have been turned into National Parks.

Question 6
Which information is not in the Article?
A Why so many African Americans struggle to trace their lineage back to their enslaved ancestors
B Why the practice of marking burial sites with headstones was not more widely adopted by slaves
C What some lawmakers are working to establish as a way of uncovering and preserving the past
D What could be found at a graveyard in Hampton, Virginia, before the Tucker family cleaned it up

Question 7
Read this passage from the Article:
Many African Americans struggle to trace their lineage back to their early ancestors. The English colonists rarely kept records of slaves, and those they did create were often destroyed. Cemeteries are one of the few tangible links to the past.

In this passage, the word lineage means __________.
A something that has occurred that affects the present
B something that is difficult to deal with or to overcome
C the people of a remote area, thought of as a community
D the people who were in someone's family in past times
Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that there is a good reason why some early African American cemeteries are so hard to locate?

A. Now, some lawmakers are trying to protect these cemeteries. They hope to establish the African American Burial Grounds Network as part of the National Park Service. The network would provide funds and technology to support the efforts of people like the Tuckers and the Stokeses on a national scale.…

B. A historian told the Tuckers that in the past, seeds would have been planted at the burial sites in place of headstones. The family looked at all the standing and fallen trees. They were astounded by how much history had taken root there.

C. Among [those buried in Newport's Common Burying Ground] lies Charity "Duchess" Quamino. She was a slave whose frosted plum cakes earned her the title of "Pastry Queen of Rhode Island." She eventually earned enough wealth to buy freedom for herself and her children.

D. Tucker's parents were some of the first Africans kidnapped and brought to North America in 1619. Their captors traded those who had survived the journey to the colonists in return for food and supplies. William was named after the colonist who enslaved him and his parents.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)
Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
People should do whatever it takes to preserve early American history.

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)
Explain what is being done to try to save colonial African and early African American cemeteries and why. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
In the 1930s, an author started writing stories about her life in the late 1800s. Now, some people say these books are offensive. What do you think?

Writers of the past should not be judged by the standards of today.
Do you agree or disagree?

### Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

CHICAGO, Illinois (Achieve3000, September 10, 2018). In the 1930s and 1940s, Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote a series of books, beginning with *Little House in the Big Woods*. The Little House books are aimed at young readers. They are about Wilder's life, from childhood to adulthood, on the American frontier. Generations of readers have been charmed and fascinated by Wilder's descriptions of her family's struggle to survive against threats like wolves, blizzards, and failed crops. But the books have what many call an ugly underside: offensive descriptions of African Americans and Native Americans. It's this characteristic of Wilder's work that led a division of the American Library Association to remove the author's name from a major children's book award in June 2018.

The board of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) made the unanimous decision at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The name of the award was changed from the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award to the Children's Literature Legacy Award. Explaining its decision, the association stated that Wilder's work "includes expressions of stereotypical attitudes inconsistent with ALSC's core values."

Part of the criticism is based on Wilder's treatment of Native Americans in her writing. The books describe young Laura and her family settling in Kansas in the 1870s, on land where Osage Indians already live. Laura's mother, Caroline ("Ma"), repeatedly expresses fear and hatred of the Indians. Her father, Charles ("Pa"), is a bit more accepting. Yet he clearly believes that Native Americans are inferior to white people. Pa tells Laura that the U.S. government is planning to move the Indians west. He states his belief that it's the right of the white settlers to take the land from the Indians. Pa's explanation reflects a commonly held view among white Americans in the mid-to-late 19th century.

Wilder's narrative also includes racist descriptions of Native Americans. In one scene, the author presents Native Americans as uncivilized. She describes their "furry" clothing made from animal pelts and their "fierce" expressions.

The racism in the books doesn't end there. At one point, Wilder describes her father's participation in a minstrel show. These shows were popular among white people well into the 20th century. They featured white people in blackface playing African Americans in a stereotypical and insulting way.
Still, not everyone agrees that Wilder's name should have been removed from the award. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association operates a museum at the farmhouse in Mansfield, Missouri, where Wilder and her husband lived for many years. The association expressed disappointment with the ALSC's decision. Jean Coday, the Mansfield museum's director, says Wilder believed her books were historically accurate and reflected American life. Coday notes that Wilder wrote her books decades ago. Her words reflect views that were common at the time.

"However difficult it may be to agree with social [customs] within these years, the fact remains that was a different time, and what was accepted then would not be today," Coday said. "Mrs. Wilder was writing a historical account of her childhood to inform today's children how proud they may be in their heritage and their nation."

Others agree that it's not fair to judge the writing of long ago by today's standards. They point to William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and Ernest Hemingway. These authors all wrote things that are considered offensive today. Critics of the ALSC's decision say it's dangerous to condemn authors on this basis. It could lead to the censorship of any literature that is objectionable to anyone. And condemning books that contain racism erases something that should not be forgotten or denied. Instead, they say, books should be read critically. Readers need to understand that not all ideas expressed should be accepted without question.

Wilder's defenders also argue that the author's books offer "teachable moments." They say that parents and educators can use the books to teach children about racism and why it's wrong.

But other people say celebrating an author like Wilder can spread ideas to children who aren't ready to see them critically. They point out that adults are not always around to guide children through books. Rather than a celebrated author, they say, Wilder should be a proceed-with-caution author. Many accept the fact that Wilder's books are still on library shelves. But they believe taking the author's name off the award is a step in the right direction. It's a public criticism of Wilder that they believe is deserved.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

**Dictionary**

- **censorship (noun)** the blocking or forbidding of anything that is thought to be inappropriate
- **inconsistent (adjective)** not in agreement
- **offensive (adjective)** having to do with something said or done that hurts feelings or makes someone feel put down
- **stereotypical (adjective)** having to do with an image or opinion (often inaccurate and insulting) about an entire group of people
- **unanimous (adjective)** agreed on by everyone

**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

Question 1
According to the Article, why was Laura Ingalls Wilder's name removed from a major children's book award?

A. Her books were written decades ago, in the 1930s and 1940s.
B. Her books contain offensive descriptions of African Americans and Native Americans.
C. Her books contain disturbing stories about wolves and other threats on the American frontier.
D. Her books were aimed solely at young readers of American heritage.
Question 2
What does this Article primarily discuss?

A. After Laura Ingalls Wilder's family settled in Kansas in the 1870s, her mother expressed fear and hatred of Indians.
B. Laura Ingalls Wilder's series of books, beginning with *Little House in the Big Woods*, is still on the shelves of many libraries today.
C. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association operates a museum in Mansfield, Missouri, where Wilder and her husband lived for many years.
D. Laura Ingalls Wilder's name has been removed from a major children's book award because of racist content in her books.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word *offensive*, as it is used in the Article?

A. Insulting
B. Courteous
C. Quaint
D. Modern

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

A. Reading examples of the racism and stereotypical attitudes common in the 19th century on the American frontier influences the attitudes of today's youth.
B. On the American frontier, the 1870s was an exciting time in the nation's history for families starting a new life dependent on farming.
C. The board of the Association for Library Service to Children made the unanimous decision to change the name of an award at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.
D. The decision by the board of the Association for Library Service to Children to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from an award was warranted.

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A. Laura Ingalls Wilder and her mother, Caroline, were strongly opposed to the U.S. government's plan to move the Osage Indians west.
B. It often happens that content in books is viewed very differently decades after the books were written.
C. Jean Coday plans to close the Mansfield museum now that Laura Ingalls Wilder's writing has received so much public criticism.
D. Jean Coday is more familiar with the works of William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and Ernest Hemingway than she is with the Little House books, which were written for children.
Question 6
The Article states:

Jean Coday, the Mansfield museum's director, says Wilder believed her books were historically accurate and reflected American life. Coday notes that Wilder wrote her books decades ago. Her words reflect views that were common at the time.

Which would be the closest antonym for the word accurate, as it is used above?

A. Inspiring
B. Inconvenient
C. Interesting
D. Incorrect

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that library officials feel confident in their decision to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from the award?

A. It could lead to the censorship of any literature that is objectionable to anyone.
B. The board of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) made the unanimous decision at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.
C. Coday notes that Wilder wrote her books decades ago. Her words reflect views that were common at the time.
D. They say that parents and educators can use the books to teach children about racism and why it's wrong.

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

A. The ALSC will reconsider its decision to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from its children's book award.
B. Other children's books written long ago will become subject to examination by literary groups wanting to identify offensive material.
C. Jean Coday will lead the committee in charge of selecting the next winner of the Children's Literature Legacy Award.
D. The ALSC will recommend that elementary school teachers across the U.S. read the Little House books out loud to their students.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.

Writers of the past should not be judged by the standards of today.

• Agree
• Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Summarize both sides of the argument described in the Article. Do you agree with the decision to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from a children’s book award? Why or why not? Provide convincing evidence, including details from the Article, to support your view.
All Hair Is Created Equal

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

D African Americans have been discriminated against for years because of how they style their hair, but that's all starting to change thanks to the growing natural hair movement and laws such as the CROWN Act.

Question 2
Which is the closest synonym for the word illegal?

C criminal

Question 3
The Article states:

For this reason, dress codes that don't allow hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks are discriminatory. Although the rules apply to everyone in theory, in practice, they mostly affect people of black heritage. For one thing, these styles are an important part of black culture.

Why did the author include this passage?

A To explain why some hairstyle guidelines that are supposed to apply to everyone equally are actually unfair to African Americans

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B Other states will eventually make laws similar to California's CROWN Act because people deserve the right to express their individuality in the way they dress and style their hair.

Question 5
Which question is not answered by the Article?

A Why haven't all 50 states in the U.S. passed laws like California's CROWN Act?

Question 6
The Article states:

So why didn't the amusement park hire him? Believe it or not, it was because of his hairstyle. The length and style didn’t violate any of the company's employee guidelines. But the African American teen was told that to get the job he'd need to cut off his dreadlocks.

Which is the closest synonym for the word violate?

A disobey

Question 7
According to the Article, why have dress codes prohibited African American hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks?

A Hairstyles typically worn by people from other races were seen as more professional and appropriate for school and work.

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that discrimination has been supported for years in the form of dress codes and style guidelines?

B You might have seen stories shared on social media of African Americans confronting similar situations: Students being turned away from schools. Athletes being disqualified from competitions. Professionals being passed over for promotions. And all because of how they style their hair. These incidents are examples of hair discrimination.
Day of the Dead Barbie

Answer key

Question 1
What is a cause and effect relationship that takes place in the Article?
A Because a new Barbie doll celebrating the Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos was released by an American toy maker, some people complained that the company was guilty of cultural theft and that it only wanted to profit off of another culture’s traditions.

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?
C The Day of the Dead Barbie celebrating the Mexican holiday sold out quickly, and the public’s response to its release has ranged from condemnation to delight.

Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
B There is no better way for the Mattel toy company to honor Mexico's rich cultural traditions than by creating a doll that celebrates the important holiday Día de los Muertos.

Question 4
Which information is not in the Article?
A How Mattel has responded to claims on social media that its new Day of the Dead Barbie doll is an example of the inappropriate use of another culture's traditions.

Question 5
Which is the closest synonym for the word festive?
A Mirthful

Question 6
The Article states:

However, Day of the Dead Barbie has received some criticism on social media. Some postings claim that Mattel is guilty of cultural appropriation. This is loosely defined as using the traditions, arts, and symbols of one group for the purposes of a different group. These online critics say Mattel is basically using Day of the Dead to sell Barbies and rake in the bucks. But others have expressed pure delight. They’re happy that Mexican culture is being honored and celebrated in such a mainstream way.

Why did the author include this passage?
D To highlight the widely varied public response to toymaker Mattel's release of its Day of the Dead doll.

Question 7
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?
C Today's Barbie dolls appeal to a much greater range of children than the original Barbie dolls did back in 1959.

Question 8
Look at this passage from the Article:

Some postings claim that Mattel is guilty of cultural appropriation. This is loosely defined as using the traditions, arts, and symbols of one group for the purposes of a different group. These online critics say Mattel is basically using Day of the Dead to sell Barbies and rake in the bucks.

In this passage, the word appropriation means __________.
A The act of taking something in a way that is illegal, unfair, etc.
Marley Dias Is an Open Book

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
D Seeing that girls of color were grossly underrepresented as the protagonists of books in her middle school's library, Marley Dias launched a program to offer more diverse title choices in communities that needed them.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
D Because books that feature diverse protagonists are so much more interesting, work should be done to include more of these kinds of books in school libraries.

Question 3
The Article states:
Marley Dias has been on a mission since 2015, when she was an 11-year-old kid with a passion for reading. That year, Marley had a bone to pick with her teacher, her middle school, and the literary world at large. Where were the books that featured girls of color as the protagonists, she wondered? She certainly couldn't find any at her school in West Orange, New Jersey.

Why did the author include this passage?
D To provide the reason why Marley Dias launched her #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, which has collected and distributed more than 12,000 books.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word diverse?
B indistinguishable

Question 5
Which information is not in the Article?
B How many libraries purchased a copy of the recently published book Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You.

Question 6
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.
C JetBlue Airways helped fund the six vending machines that were packed with books and set up in New York City public schools.

Question 7
Look at this passage from the Article:
Marley's unconquerable spirit brings to mind an old saying. It goes, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it." Maybe that should be amended to "ask Marley Dias to do it," but chances are, she's already booked.

In this passage, the word amended means __________.
A to change some of the words and the meaning of something

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Marley Dias knows how to work with others in order to achieve her goals?
A By August 2019, #1000BlackGirlBooks had collected and distributed over 12,000 books. And Marley had launched a summer reading program with JetBlue Airways, which has a literacy campaign called “Soar with Reading.” Thanks to the JetBlue partnership, six vending machines packed with books were set up in public schools throughout New York City from August through Labor Day. And get this: Kids could take as many books as they liked, free of charge.
Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

B Because colonists seldom kept records of slaves in the early colonies, little is known about them, but some people, like the Tuckers, are now trying to save early African American cemeteries because they provide a tangible link to a history that is much too often overlooked.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

B By protecting cemeteries where slaves were buried, people like the Tuckers and the Stokeses are taking on an enormous task best left to professionals.

Question 3
The Article states:

There are also untold numbers of African American burial grounds yet to be discovered, since many slave and segregated African American graveyards were left off official maps. Marked with trees and other objects, these graves are hidden in plain sight. Often they're found only after being accidentally unearthed by construction crews.

Why did the author include this passage?

B To show how difficult it can be to locate the cemeteries where African American slaves lie buried

Question 4
Which is the closest synonym for the word empathy?

B appreciation

Question 5
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?

A Some of the many cemeteries where African American slaves are buried are completely unrecognizable to passersby.

Question 6
Which information is not in the Article?

B Why the practice of marking burial sites with headstones was not more widely adopted by slaves

Question 7
Read this passage from the Article:

Many African Americans struggle to trace their lineage back to their early ancestors. The English colonists rarely kept records of slaves, and those they did create were often destroyed. Cemeteries are one of the few tangible links to the past.

In this passage, the word **lineage** means __________.

D the people who were in someone's family in past times

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that there is a good reason why some early African American cemeteries are so hard to locate?

B A historian told the Tuckers that in the past, seeds would have been planted at the burial sites in place of headstones. The family looked at all the standing and fallen trees. They were astounded by how much history had taken root there.
Question 1
According to the Article, why was Laura Ingalls Wilder's name removed from a major children's book award?

B Her books contain offensive descriptions of African Americans and Native Americans.

Question 2
What does this Article primarily discuss?

D Laura Ingalls Wilder’s name has been removed from a major children's book award because of racist content in her books.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word offensive, as it is used in the Article?

A Insulting

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

C The board of the Association for Library Service to Children made the unanimous decision to change the name of an award at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

B It often happens that content in books is viewed very differently decades after the books were written.

Question 6
The Article states:
Jean Coday, the Mansfield museum's director, says Wilder believed her books were historically accurate and reflected American life. Coday notes that Wilder wrote her books decades ago. Her words reflect views that were common at the time.

Which would be the closest antonym for the word accurate, as it is used above?

D Incorrect

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that library officials feel confident in their decision to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from the award?

B The board of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) made the unanimous decision at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.

B Other children's books written long ago will become subject to examination by literary groups wanting to identify offensive material.