Achieve3000 Literacy™
At Home

Lexile 1080

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

Watch me soar! Mark off each lesson step as you finish it. Use the back of this paper if you need more space to add more lessons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Title</th>
<th>Before Reading Poll</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>First Try Activity Score</th>
<th>After Reading Poll</th>
<th>Thought Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The U.S. Constitution created a strong federal government with three branches—the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Each branch is designed to check the power of the other two. What do you think of this quote from philosopher John Locke?

"Where there is no law, there is no freedom."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. During the American Revolution, the Founding Fathers met to develop a government that would take over as soon as the British left. By 1777, they had produced the Articles of Confederation. This was the original plan for the government of the United States. But the Articles created a weak federal government, and after 10 years, the Founders decided they would need an entirely new document—the Constitution.

The Constitutional Convention
The Founding Fathers wanted a government that had greater authority than the states. On May 14, 1787, delegates from each state except Rhode Island assembled in Philadelphia for the Constitutional Convention. There, they agreed on a federalist government, in which a central power would oversee and share authority with the states. To make sure the federal government would not have too much power, they created three branches and a system of checks and balances: The legislative branch would make the laws, the judiciary would interpret the laws, and the executive branch would enforce the laws. Under this system of checks and balances, each branch would check the power of the other two.

The Founders also had to decide how the states would be represented in this new federal government. The bigger (more populous) states wanted the population of a state to determine the amount of representation. But the smaller states cried foul. The bigger states, they argued, would end up deciding the laws for everyone. The smaller states suggested that each state should have an equal number of representatives. However, that would end up giving smaller states too much power. Finally, delegates from Connecticut submitted a solution: Why not have a bicameral legislature—a lawmaking body made up of two houses? The Senate would have an equal number of representatives from each state, while representation in the House of Representatives would be based on a state's population.
The compromises didn't end there. The delegates decided that the executive office would consist of one person (the president), and that the national government would have the power to tax and regulate trade between states. All these decisions gave the new federal government more authority than it had under the Articles of Confederation. There were still several delegates who disagreed with the way the federal and state governments would share power. These delegates' concerns would be addressed when the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1789.

Ideas in the Constitution
At the time the United States was founded, many of the world's governments were based on a system of nobility, in which power was based on social class and passed down through families. The Founding Fathers wanted to flip that type of system on its head. They believed in popular sovereignty, the principle that a government's power is derived from the people.

Popular sovereignty may be the most fundamental idea behind the U.S. Constitution. You see it in the very first line, "We the People...," as well as in Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Constitution. These Articles create a government whose officials are either elected by the people or chosen by representatives who were elected by the people. Throughout the Constitution, there is a common theme: "The States" have a say in almost everything. That may not sound like popular sovereignty at first, but it is. Article 4 guarantees that voters in each state will have the right to elect their own state government officials, so the ultimate power of state governments lies with the people. So even where the Constitution gives power to "the States," it is actually giving power to the people who elect state officials. If you look closely at the government structure set up by the Constitution, you'll see how each part ultimately links back to the people.

Popular sovereignty goes hand in hand with a concept called consent of the governed. Government by the people requires the consent of the people. This is in contrast to most historical governments. They didn't care what their citizens thought about the government's actions because they didn't need to. When the people you govern don't have any way to take away your power, who cares what they think? The Founders found this lack of regard for the will of the people to be unacceptable. As a result, consent of the governed is found everywhere in the Constitution. Although the phrase is not used explicitly, it is implied in the way the members of the government are chosen. Under the Constitution, the "governed" (the people) give their consent—and express their disapproval—by voting. In reality, citizens don't get to consent to everything the government does, and the Constitution doesn't intend for citizens to be quite that involved. It creates a republic—a government where citizens elect representatives to government. Those representatives are empowered to make all kinds of decisions, but if they displease too many citizens, the people might not consent to letting them keep their jobs.

There's something else to remember about the Founders' support of these ideas: When the document was written, large groups of "governed" people did not have the power of consent. Women, people of color, enslaved people, and poor people who owned no land were all denied the right to vote. In breaking away from Britain, the Founding Fathers wanted to escape a power system based on birth and social class, but like most people at that time, they generally accepted that it was OK to deny power to people based on factors such as gender and race.

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Dictionary
empower (verb) to give someone power or authority
explicitly (adverb) in a manner that makes the meaning of something very clear
imply (verb) to suggest that something is true without actually saying it
populous (adjective) having many people
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
According to the Article, why did the Founding Fathers decide to create an entirely new plan for the United States government 10 years after producing the Articles of Confederation?
A. The Articles of Confederation did not provide states with enough authority.
B. The Articles of Confederation imposed too many taxes on trade between states.
C. The Articles of Confederation created a weak federal government.
D. The Articles of Confederation failed to reflect the concept of popular sovereignty.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?
A. In 1787, the Founding Fathers generally found it acceptable to deny power to people based on factors such as gender and race.
B. The state of Rhode Island did not send a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.
C. The U.S. Constitution created a strong federal government that shared power with state governments.
D. In 1787, large and small states disagreed about how the states would be represented in the new federal government, which led to a bicameral legislature.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word implied, as it is used in the Article?
A. Contradicted
B. Hinted
C. Justified
D. Concealed

Question 4
Based on information in the Article, in what way are the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution similar?
A. Both documents were created with the goal of setting up a plan for a new American government.
B. Both documents set up three branches of government, along with a system of checks and balances.
C. Both documents empowered the federal government to tax and regulate trade between states.
D. Both documents created a bicameral legislature made up of representatives from each state.

Question 5
This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on __________.
A. The ideas and documents that provided the framework for the U.S. government
B. The biographies and accomplishments of the Founding Fathers
C. The history and importance of nobility and social class as a ruling power
D. The input of each state into the making of the U.S. Constitution
Question 6
Which two words are the closest **synonyms**?
*Only some of these words are used in the Article.*
A. Unacceptable and appropriate
B. Concept and idea
C. Solution and predicament
D. Original and ultimate

Question 7
Which quote from the Article best supports the idea that the Founding Fathers knowingly created a governing system that other world leaders might not have embraced at the time?
A. There's something else to remember about the Founders' support of these ideas: When the document was written, large groups of "governed" people did not have the power of consent.
B. The Founding Fathers wanted to flip that type of system on its head. They believed in **popular sovereignty**, the principle that a government's power is derived from the people.
C. But the Articles created a weak federal government, and after 10 years, the Founders decided they would need an entirely new document—the Constitution.
D. The Founders also had to decide how the states would be represented in this new federal government.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. The Founding Fathers were unwilling to author and pass a governing document that did not have input from every state.
B. The Founding Fathers debated extensively with one another about the best ways to implement their shared ideals.
C. The Founding Fathers regretted breaking away from Britain when they discovered how difficult it is to create a new government.
D. The Founding Fathers knew from the start of the Constitutional Convention how they planned to set up the new U.S. 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.
"**Where there is no law, there is no freedom.**"
- Agree
- Disagree

**Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)**

Explain the goals of the Founding Fathers when they met for the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Use facts and details from the Article in your response.
Political Parties in the U.S. (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The U.S. has several political parties, each with its own beliefs. What do you think of the following quote by American author and screenwriter Ray Bradbury?

"Anyone [who] belongs to a [political] party stops thinking."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, Green—sound familiar? These are just a few of the political parties in the U.S.

A political party is an organized group of voters with similar political views. (Political views are a person's ideas about how the government should run and how the issues facing our country should be solved.)

You'll probably be most aware of U.S. political parties during an election season, when each party fights hard to get its candidates elected to office. (Cue the endless political ads on TV, with candidates earnestly presenting their views on issues that matter most to them.) Winning in local, state, and national elections means that a party gains more influence in the government, and greater influence means the party in power can pass the legislation it favors. The two most influential parties—by far—are the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. But how did they get that way?

The Big Two

The presidential election of 1796 was the first U.S. election in which two major candidates represented different political parties: the Democratic-Republican Party, which believed state governments should have a certain amount of power, and the Federalist Party, which believed in a strong national government.

Today, the now-separate Republican Party and Democratic Party are the two main political parties in the U.S. These two parties have gained so much power that almost every person elected to office belongs to one of them. For example, President Donald J. Trump is a Republican. Former President Barack Obama is a Democrat.
Both Republicans and Democrats want to improve the lives of Americans; however, each party takes a different approach. For example, the Republican Party is very pro-business: Republicans believe that the federal government should have a small role in regulating business in order for the economy to flourish. In fact, Republicans believe the federal government shouldn't have a big role in people's lives overall.

Democrats, however, believe the federal government should have a significant role in people's lives—especially when people are in need. For example, Democrats support domestic social services such as government-funded food assistance programs, whereas Republicans believe the government should spend less money on these kinds of services and that helping people in need is the role of private citizens and organizations.

The differences between the two parties don't end there. Many Democrats favor gun control laws, while Republicans argue for the right to bear arms. Democrats tend to want the people who make the most money to pay higher taxes, but Republicans disagree. And the long list of differing opinions goes on.

**Third Parties**

As a multiparty system, America also has smaller political parties. These are referred to as "third parties." But when it comes to elections, many states have rules that third parties must meet before they can put a candidate on the ballot. For example, a state might require that the party first collect a certain number of signatures from registered voters.

The Libertarian Party has emerged as the largest third party in the U.S. Its platform is based on the belief that the government shouldn't be involved in businesses, education, or health care. Libertarians also believe that requiring people to pay taxes is wrong.

The Green Party is another third party that has made a name for itself. As the name suggests, its members believe in protecting the environment and providing access to clean water. Members of this party also promote gender equality, economic equality, and more.

Third parties might be small, but they can have a big effect on election results. After all, they can win some of the votes that would have gone to one of the major party candidates.

**Political Parties and You**

When you register or preregister to vote, the application will probably let you check a box to join a political party. Here's why you might want to do that: In some states, you need party membership to take part in that state's primary election or caucus, which helps to decide who a party's candidate for president will be. The candidate is chosen from a field of people who have declared that they want to run for office and campaign for the party's nomination. But joining a political party isn't a requirement for a general election, and even if you check a box, you can still vote for anyone you want.

It's no wonder political parties work so hard to get your vote. During elections, political parties try to influence voters by distributing information about candidates and issues. Next time you see a campaign ad on television, look closely at the fine print at the bottom of the screen. You might see that a political party has funded the ad.

Party volunteers at the local, state, and national level also work to support their candidates by raising money, campaigning, and urging people to get out and vote on Election Day. It's your chance to get involved!

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Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes the difference between Democrats and Republicans?

A. Republicans believe that the economy flourishes when the government does not regulate businesses; Democrats believe that the economy flourishes only with higher taxes.
B. Republicans believe that the federal government should have a very limited role in people's lives; Democrats believe that the federal government should have a significant role.
C. Republicans believe that private organizations and individuals should pay for domestic social programs; Democrats believe that only food assistance programs should be privately funded.
D. Republicans believe that the government should not require anyone to pay taxes; Democrats believe that it is the responsibility of the wealthiest Americans to pay all the taxes.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

A. Third parties can affect the outcome of elections by drawing away votes from the major political parties.
B. The Libertarian and Green Parties are the two largest third parties to have emerged in recent years.
C. America has a multiparty system composed of major political parties and smaller political parties.
D. Many Democrats favor gun control laws and domestic social programs whereas Republicans oppose both.

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

A. Profession
B. Admittance
C. Agenda
D. Publicity

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

A. How many people vote in national elections
B. How political parties choose their candidates
C. How the platforms of political parties differ
D. How elections are generally conducted

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. Democrats may have good intentions, but they don't know what's best for businesses.
B. Democrats and Republicans have conflicting views of governmental involvement.
C. Even though third parties are small, they have altered the outcome of national elections.
D. Some states require membership to a political party in order to vote during a primary election.
Question 6
The Article states:

In fact, Republicans believe the federal government shouldn't have a big role in people's lives overall. Democrats, however, believe the federal government should have a significant role in people's lives—especially when people are in need.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word significant, as it is used above?
A. Indifferent
B. Substantial
C. Enthusiastic
D. Minor

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Republicans believe the government has limited financial responsibilities to the community?
A. For example, Democrats support domestic social services such as government-funded food assistance programs, whereas Republicans believe the government should spend less money on these kinds of services and that helping people in need is the role of private citizens and organizations.
B. Many Democrats favor gun control laws, while Republicans argue for the right to bear arms.
C. For example, the Republican Party is very pro-business: Republicans believe that the federal government should have a small role in regulating business in order for the economy to flourish.
D. Both Republicans and Democrats want to improve the lives of Americans; however, each party takes a different approach.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. The platforms of third parties are totally different from the platforms of major parties.
B. Third parties never have much of a serious effect on the outcome of a federal election.
C. Third party candidates often generate enough interest to win national elections.
D. Third parties have to prove that they have enough support to nominate a candidate for election.

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.
"Anyone [who] belongs to a [political] party stops thinking."
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)
Compare and contrast the four political parties discussed in the lesson. Then, explain which political party you would join if you were able to vote and why. Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
The Bill of Rights consists of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It protects some rights of American citizens. What do you think?

Individual Americans' rights should be protected by the states they live in, not by the federal government.

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. Most Americans know they have certain rights, such as the right to freedom of speech and the right to a fair trial. But those rights are not included in the body of the United States Constitution. Instead, they are listed in the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution was not originally accompanied by a bill of rights. But some Americans believed that the way it was written allowed the federal government to claim powers beyond those listed in the Constitution. After all, the British government had violated individual rights so severely that Americans had revolted. These Americans insisted that citizens' individual rights be written down, with some states refusing to ratify the Constitution without a bill of rights. So in 1789, James Madison proposed 19 amendments to the Constitution. On December 15, 1791, 10 of them were ratified. Those amendments, known as the Bill of Rights, put limits on the power of the government.

What are the rights that are guaranteed to Americans in the Bill of Rights?

The First Amendment states that the government cannot interfere with the expression of ideas in speech or in print. It also protects the right of the people to "assemble," such as by gathering for a protest. Finally, this amendment states that the government cannot create or favor a religion. It also cannot limit a citizen's right to express religious beliefs.
The Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms. The colonists had found it necessary to arm themselves against the British crown; what if the people needed to rise up against a government that was abusing its powers?

The Third Amendment forbids the government from forcing citizens to allow soldiers to use their homes. Before the Revolutionary War, a British law allowed British soldiers the right to take over private homes in America.

The Fourth Amendment prevents the government from conducting "unreasonable" search and seizure upon an individual or upon private property. In other words, government officials cannot search a person or a person's property without proving to a judge that they have good reason to do so.

The Fifth Amendment provides protections for people who have been accused of crimes. It states that people cannot be tried twice for the same crime, they cannot be compelled to say something that could be self-incriminating, and they cannot be put in prison without a fair trial. Also, the government cannot take away a person's property without compensation.

The Sixth Amendment guarantees people accused of crimes the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury. Those accused must also be informed of the charges against them. In addition, witnesses must face the accused, and the accused are allowed to have their own witnesses and be represented by a lawyer.

The Seventh Amendment sets up the terms under which federal trials must be heard by a jury (rather than only a judge).

The Eighth Amendment states that judges cannot impose excessive bail and fines or cruel and unusual punishment.

The Ninth Amendment states that although specific rights are listed, that does not mean that people do not have other rights as well.

The Tenth Amendment says that the powers of the federal government are limited to those listed in the Constitution. All other government powers belong to state and local governments.

Over time, additional amendments have guaranteed Americans rights beyond what is in the Bill of Rights. For example, in the 1860s and 1870s, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments added rights for former slaves and other people of color. In the 20th century, the Nineteenth and Twenty-Sixth Amendments granted the vote to women and to citizens as young as 18. Today, people are campaigning to amend the Constitution to add rights for groups that are still disadvantaged.

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Dictionary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>compensation</td>
<td>something, often money, that is given to make up for a loss</td>
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<tr>
<td>excessive</td>
<td>more than is acceptable or necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td>impartial</td>
<td>unbiased; not favoring any side of an issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>incriminating</td>
<td>suggesting guilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>ratify</td>
<td>to give formal approval to something</td>
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Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

A The current campaigns to add new amendments on behalf of disadvantaged groups
B The list of individual protections guaranteed to Americans in the Bill of Rights
C The reasons why some states initially refused to ratify the Constitution
D The amendments that were added to the Constitution in the 20th century
Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A. Both the Sixth and Eighth Amendments have to do with people who commit or are accused of crimes.
B. People continue to campaign to add amendments to the Constitution centuries after the first 10 amendments were ratified.
C. Of the 19 amendments proposed by James Madison in 1789, 10 were ratified in 1791 and are known as the Bill of Rights.
D. The First Amendment has proven to be the most important of the first 10 amendments, since it guarantees freedom of expression.

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

A. Neutral
B. Opinionated
C. Reluctant
D. Enthusiastic

Question 4
Suppose Shahd wants to find out about the events that contributed to women being granted the right to vote. She would find most of her information __________.

A. In an article exploring the process of ratifying the first 10 Constitutional amendments
B. In a biography of James Madison focused on his contributions to U.S. history
C. In a biography of an early American who revolted against the British government
D. In an article about the lead-up to the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution

Question 5
Based on information in the Article, in what way are the Fifth and Sixth Amendments similar?

A. Both amendments were added to the U.S. Constitution in the 20th century.
B. Both amendments ensure that citizens cannot be tried twice for the same crime.
C. Both amendments prevent the government from taking away a person's property.
D. Both amendments concern the rights of citizens who have been accused of crimes.

Question 6
The Article states:

The Fifth Amendment provides protections for people who have been accused of crimes. It states that people cannot be tried twice for the same crime, they cannot be compelled to say something that could be self-incriminating, and they cannot be put in prison without a fair trial.

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

A. Discouraged
B. Permitted
C. Forced
D. Equipped
Question 7
The author probably wrote this Article in order to __________.
A. Provide an overview of the individual rights listed in what is known as the Bill of Rights
B. Make a case as to why an amendment giving women the right to vote should have been included in the Bill of Rights
C. Question why Americans were worried about having a Constitution that didn't list individual rights
D. Familiarize the reader with the process of ratifying new amendments to the Constitution

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that the Constitution is a document that will continue to evolve?
A. The Tenth Amendment says that the powers of the federal government are limited to those listed in the Constitution.
B. Most Americans know they have certain rights, such as the right to freedom of speech and the right to a fair trial.
C. Today, people are campaigning to amend the Constitution to add rights for groups that are still disadvantaged.
D. These Americans insisted that citizens' individual rights be written down, with some states refusing to ratify the Constitution without a bill of rights.

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. Individual Americans' rights should be protected by the states they live in, not by the federal government.
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)
Do you think any single right in the Bill of Rights is more important than the others? Explain your reasoning using facts and details from the Article.
What's Your Opinion? (1080L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Lobbyists and interest groups work to persuade the public and lawmakers to support certain issues. What do you think?

Allowing this type of work is wrong.
Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. Should there be stricter gun laws? Should health care be free? Should teachers be paid more? These are just some of the hot topics we hear about on the news and then debate around the dinner table. After all, we all have opinions.

Sometimes, our own opinion aligns with the public opinion, or the view that a significant portion of the public has about an issue. Public opinion is measured by polls or surveys that ask a sampling of people what they think. So whenever you hear things like "Two-thirds of Americans oppose…" or "A majority of Americans believe…", you are probably hearing the results of public opinion polls.

Public opinion polls can help the government decide which laws to make. After all, our government is made up of people who represent us, so if polls show most Americans are in favor of a particular bill, Congress might feel bold enough to pass it into law.

Interest Groups

Interest groups try to influence public opinion, as well as the views and actions of lawmakers, by gathering resources and people who share the same view on an issue and then working to persuade the public and lawmakers to support government actions that help their own interests. These groups may hire lobbyists to meet with members of the government and discuss the groups' issues and concerns. There are hundreds of interest groups in the United States, and most can be divided into five different categories.

Public-interest groups focus on topics that affect the general public like education, the environment, and politics.
Economic-interest groups promote the economic interests of business, labor, and trade organizations. Professional groups advocate for people in particular professions, such as doctors, lawyers, or teachers. Ideological groups promote policies based on a set of core political or religious beliefs. Single-issue groups focus on one narrow topic, such as immigration or drunk driving.

Interest groups use several strategies to influence government, including endorsing candidates and raising money to help them get elected. But there are rules in place to avert a situation in which groups "buy" a candidate's loyalty to their cause.

Mass Media

In addition to interest groups, public opinion is influenced by another powerful factor: the mass media, which includes newspapers, radio, magazines, social media, and television and is largely responsible for deciding which issues society cares about. Think about it: An issue won't get on the public agenda if nobody has heard about it.

Politicians are aware of the power of mass media. In recent years, many have used social media to promote their political agendas. One popular platform that has been used to influence public opinion is Twitter, where politicians can sum up their views about an issue using just a few words at a time. And when it's time to have a more in-depth discussion about the issue, politicians go on television in order for their message to reach millions of homes around the country.

It's not surprising that mass media plays a role in election results. By spreading the ideas of each candidate, it helps people decide whom they should vote for on Election Day.

Propaganda

While they are consuming mass media content from politicians and the government, some citizens are careful about weeding out propaganda. Propaganda is media that uses carefully crafted messages to manipulate people's actions and beliefs. There are many propaganda techniques, including one-sided messages that can appeal to people's emotions instead of their judgment and reasoning.

Another method is name-calling. Name-calling is exactly what it sounds like: using negative words and bad names to create angst and dislike for people, ideas, or institutions. Name-calling can be verbal or visual. When done visually, it shows a person or thing in an unflattering way. You can find both techniques in political cartoons, political attack ads, and talk shows.

Public opinion can be shaped in many ways, so it's important to look critically at the messages we come across each day.

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Dictionary

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<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>angst (noun)</td>
<td>feelings of dread or anxiety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>avert (verb)</td>
<td>to prevent something from happening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lobbyist (noun)</td>
<td>someone who tries to influence public officials for or against a specific cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manipulate (verb)</td>
<td>to change something so that you can get what you want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
According to the Article, what might cause Congress to pass a law?
A. Propaganda negatively influences the American public to dislike or fear a certain idea.
B. Interest groups endorse certain candidates and contribute money to their election.
C. Public opinion polls indicate that most Americans express support of a certain bill.
D. Politicians use social media and mass media to reach millions of American homes.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?
A. Politicians are becoming more dependent on social media platforms, like Twitter, to win elections.
B. Some citizens carefully weed out messages that contain propaganda, because they don't want to be manipulated.
C. Interest groups, mass media, and propaganda can all affect public opinion about politicians and issues in America.
D. Most interest groups can be divided into five categories, ranging from public-interest groups to single-issue groups.

Question 3
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
A. Public opinion is typically measured by polls or surveys that ask a sampling of people how they feel about something.
B. Interest groups use a variety of strategies to achieve their goals, including endorsing political candidates during elections.
C. Congress hasn't done nearly enough to address public outrage over American gun control policies.
D. Some interest groups employ lobbyists to meet with government officials and discuss their concerns.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word avert, as it is used in the Article?
A. Avoid
B. Prevent
C. Assist
D. Relent

Question 5
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes how public-interest groups and ideological groups differ?
A. Public-interest groups focus on issues that impact a majority of Americans, while ideological groups focus on issues based on the beliefs of particular groups.
B. Public-interest groups rely on private meetings to persuade members of government, while ideological groups rely on mass media to persuade the general public.
C. Public-interest groups try to affect public opinion to achieve their goals, while ideological groups try to persuade lawmakers to achieve their goals.
D. Public-interest groups advocate for laws that affect the general public, while ideological groups advocate for laws that affect people in particular professions.
Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that public opinion is a powerful force in America?
A. So whenever you hear things like "Two-thirds of Americans oppose..." or "A majority of Americans believe..." , you are probably hearing the results of public opinion polls.
B. Interest groups use several strategies to influence government, including endorsing candidates and raising money to help them get elected.
C. While they are consuming mass media content from politicians and the government, some citizens are careful about weeding out propaganda.
D. After all, our government is made up of people who represent us, so if polls show most Americans are in favor of a particular bill, Congress might feel bold enough to pass it into law.

Question 7
The Article states:

Sometimes, our own opinion aligns with the public opinion, or the view that a significant portion of the public has about an issue.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word aligns, as it is used above?
A. Alternates
B. Corresponds
C. Copes
D. Asserts

Question 8
Based on the Article, the reader can predict that __________.
A. In the future, candidates will be able to "buy" the endorsement of interest groups that support their cause.
B. Lawmakers will eventually pass laws that regulate or eliminate the use of negative propaganda during elections.
C. Interest groups, mass media, and propaganda will affect the outcome of the next major election in America.
D. Politicians will rely entirely on social media, rather than mass media, to promote their political agendas.

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.

Allowing this type of work is wrong.
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain the factors that influence public opinion in America. Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
Lexile 1080

ANSWER KEY
### Creating the Constitution

**Answer key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 1</th>
<th>According to the Article, why did the Founding Fathers decide to create an entirely new plan for the United States government 10 years after producing the Articles of Confederation?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> The Articles of Confederation created a weak federal government.</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 2</th>
<th>Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> The U.S. Constitution created a strong federal government that shared power with state governments.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3</th>
<th>Which is the closest synonym for the word implied, as it is used in the Article?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> Hinted</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 4</th>
<th>Based on information in the Article, in what way are the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution similar?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Both documents were created with the goal of setting up a plan for a new American government.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 5</th>
<th>This Article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on _________.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> The ideas and documents that provided the framework for the U.S. government</td>
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<tr>
<th>Question 6</th>
<th>Which two words are the closest synonyms?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> Concept and idea</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 7</th>
<th>Which quote from the Article best supports the idea that the Founding Fathers knowingly created a governing system that other world leaders might not have embraced at the time?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> The Founding Fathers wanted to flip that type of system on its head. They believed in popular sovereignty, the principle that a government's power is derived from the people.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 8</th>
<th>The reader can infer from the Article that __________.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> The Founding Fathers debated extensively with one another about the best ways to implement their shared ideals.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Political Parties in the U.S.
Answer key

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes the difference between Democrats and Republicans?

B Republicans believe that the federal government should have a very limited role in people's lives; Democrats believe that the federal government should have a significant role.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?

C America has a multiparty system composed of major political parties and smaller political parties.

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

C Agenda

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

C How the platforms of political parties differ

Question 5
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

A Democrats may have good intentions, but they don't know what's best for businesses.

Question 6
The Article states:

In fact, Republicans believe the federal government shouldn't have a big role in people's lives overall. Democrats, however, believe the federal government should have a significant role in people's lives—especially when people are in need.

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

B Substantial

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that Republicans believe the government has limited financial responsibilities to the community?

A For example, Democrats support domestic social services such as government-funded food assistance programs, whereas Republicans believe the government should spend less money on these kinds of services and that helping people in need is the role of private citizens and organizations.

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

D Third parties have to prove that they have enough support to nominate a candidate for election.
What's in the Bill of Rights?

Answer key

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
B The list of individual protections guaranteed to Americans in the Bill of Rights

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
D The First Amendment has proven to be the most important of the first 10 amendments, since it guarantees freedom of expression.

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

Question 4
Suppose Shahd wants to find out about the events that contributed to women being granted the right to vote. She would find most of her information ________.
D In an article about the lead-up to the addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution

Question 5
Based on information in the Article, in what way are the Fifth and Sixth Amendments similar?
D Both amendments concern the rights of citizens who have been accused of crimes.

Question 6
The Article states:
The Fifth Amendment provides protections for people who have been accused of crimes. It states that people cannot be tried twice for the same crime, they cannot be compelled to say something that could be self-incriminating, and they cannot be put in prison without a fair trial.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word compelled, as it is used above?
C Forced

Question 7
The author probably wrote this Article in order to ________.
A Provide an overview of the individual rights listed in what is known as the Bill of Rights

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that the Constitution is a document that will continue to evolve?
C Today, people are campaigning to amend the Constitution to add rights for groups that are still disadvantaged.
**Question 1**
According to the Article, what might cause Congress to pass a law?

*C Public opinion polls indicate that most Americans express support of a certain bill.*

**Question 2**
Which of these is *most* important to include in a summary of this Article?

*C Interest groups, mass media, and propaganda can all affect public opinion about politicians and issues in America*

**Question 3**
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

*C Congress hasn’t done nearly enough to address public outrage over American gun control policies.*

**Question 4**
Which is the closest *antonym* for the word *avert*, as it is used in the Article?

*C Assist*

**Question 5**
Based on information in the Article, which of the following best describes how public-interest groups and ideological groups differ?

*A Public-interest groups focus on issues that impact a majority of Americans, while ideological groups focus on issues based on the beliefs of particular groups.*

**Question 6**
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that public opinion is a powerful force in America?

*D After all, our government is made up of people who represent us, so if polls show most Americans are in favor of a particular bill, Congress might feel bold enough to pass it into law.*

**Question 7**
The Article states:

> Sometimes, our own *opinion aligns* with the public opinion, or the view that a significant portion of the public has about an issue.

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

*B Corresponds*

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

*C Interest groups, mass media, and propaganda will affect the outcome of the next major election in America.*
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><strong>heritage (noun)</strong></th>
<th>the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation—usually singular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>illegal (adjective)</strong></td>
<td>not allowed by the law: not legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>racial (adjective)</strong></td>
<td>relating to or based on race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>stigmatize (verb)</strong></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 is decked out in her finery just in time for Día de los Muertos.

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 processions, 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**

| **coincidental (adjective)** | happening because of a coincidence : not planned |
| **festive (adjective)** | cheerful and exciting : suited to a celebration or holiday |
| **inclusive (adjective)** | open to everyone: not limited to certain people |
| **temporary (adjective)** | continuing for a limited amount of time: not permanent |

**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?

mirthful
attractive
complicated
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?

A 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.
B 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.
C 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.
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.

Step 2: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
A 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.
B 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.
C 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.
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 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.
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?

---

**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**

- **empathy (noun)** the ability to share someone else's feelings
- **segregate (verb)** to separate groups of people because of their particular race, religion, etc.
- **tangible (adjective)** easily seen or recognized
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. Why 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.

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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.
Wilder's Name Removed From Award (980L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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)

*This is a re-creation of the cabin where the Ingalls family settled in Kansas in the late 1800s.*

**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**

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 1</th>
<th>What is this Article mainly about?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 2</th>
<th>Which is the closest <strong>synonym</strong> for the word <em>illegal</em>?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C criminal</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 3</th>
<th>The Article states:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 4</th>
<th>Which of these is a statement of opinion?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B Other states will eventually make <strong>laws</strong> similar to California's CROWN Act because people deserve the right to express their individuality in the way they dress and style their hair.</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 5</th>
<th>Which question is <strong>not</strong> answered by the Article?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Why haven't all 50 states in the U.S. passed laws like California's CROWN Act?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Question 6</th>
<th>The Article states:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 <strong>violate</strong> 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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *violate*?

| A | disobey |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 7</th>
<th>According to the Article, why have dress codes prohibited African American hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Hairstyles typically worn by people from other races were seen as more professional and appropriate for school and work.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 8</th>
<th>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?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>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 <strong>hair discrimination</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.
### Uncovering the Past

**Answer key**

**Question 1**
What is this Article mainly about?

*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?

*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?

*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*?

*appreciation*

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

*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?

*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 ____________.

*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 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.*
Wilder's Name Removed From Award

Answer key

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.