Achieve3000 Literacy™
At Home

Lexile 980

SOCIAL STUDIES & HISTORY
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.

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<th>Lesson Title</th>
<th>Before Reading Poll</th>
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A Bill of Rights: Yes or No? (980L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

After the U.S. Constitution was written, some leaders were concerned that the document did not protect the rights of individuals. They wanted a bill of rights. Others believed that adding a bill of rights was unnecessary. What do you think of this quote from Founding Father Thomas Jefferson?

"A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. The year was 1787, and leaders of the new United States of America had already written the Constitution, which explained exactly how the new government would work. But the Constitution couldn't take effect until 9 out of the 13 states ratified it, and some Americans—called Anti-Federalists—didn't like the document. Anti-Federalists were concerned that the Constitution created a strong federal government but did not list citizens' individual rights.

Today, it's hard to understand the uncertainty that many Americans were feeling. When the Constitution was proposed, it created a type of government that had never been tried before: one that has limited power given to it by the people. Early Americans had very recently experienced just the opposite. The British government from which they'd broken free had unlimited power, restrained only by a few laws that were often ignored. It was no wonder the Anti-Federalists didn't trust the Constitution.

To understand how frightening the situation was, think about this: British law did list individual rights. Some of these were in the Magna Carta. Others were in the English Bill of Rights, which had been written fewer than 100 years before America's revolution. The rights in these documents were citizens' only protection from a government that could be abusive and unpredictable and over which citizens had almost no control.

Anti-Federalists were perplexed as to how the men at the Constitutional Convention could have left a list of rights out of the Constitution, especially when Britain had one. Most states also had a bill of rights, and those that didn't at least listed individual rights directly in their constitutions. The U.S. Constitution didn't even do that. What it did do was say that the Constitution was the "supreme law of the land." It was superior to state laws and constitutions. So not only did the Constitution fail to protect individual rights, but
it also overruled the protections in state constitutions. It seemed that a bill of rights would be needed to ensure that the federal government could not overstep its bounds.

Supporters of the Constitution—called Federalists—argued that there was no need to list individual rights. They felt the Constitution created a government that couldn't abuse power. The government could do only what the Constitution said it could do. If the Constitution didn't say that the government would limit free speech or any other freedom, it couldn't. Besides, Federalists pointed out, several rights actually were listed in the Constitution. For example, the document required that the government have a lawful reason for detaining someone in prison and protected the right to a fair trial. It also stated that Americans could not attain a title of nobility. To early Americans, nobility was a threat to liberty. That's because in Britain, most government power was held by nobles.

Federalists even believed that a bill of rights could be dangerous. They argued that it would be unwise to put limits on powers the government doesn't even have. Limiting a power implies that the government has that power, they said, so why even suggest that and invite future leaders to take advantage of it?

Both the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists had reasonable arguments. The Federalists were focused on replacing the Articles of Confederation, which had failed to give the federal government enough power to be functional. The Anti-Federalists focused further back to when the 13 colonies had to throw off the rule of an unlimited and abusive British government. But both sides wanted to avoid being governed by the British. Ultimately, the Federalists understood the fears that the Anti-Federalists had.

The two sides compromised. The Anti-Federalists agreed to the Constitution. And instead of listing Americans' rights in the main part of the Constitution, the Federalists agreed to the Bill of Rights as the first 10 amendments to the document. The Bill of Rights was ratified on December 15, 1791. The document covers three categories of rights: individual freedoms, protections against government abuse and power, and the rights of people who have been accused of crimes. One of the amendments states that these are not the only rights citizens have.

The Bill of Rights was a gesture of goodwill that was meant to bring everyone together around the new Constitution. Above all, the goal was to see the United States become a nation of unified people.

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**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>detain</td>
<td>(verb) to force someone to stay in a place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>functional</td>
<td>(adjective) capable of performing; operative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imply</td>
<td>(verb) to suggest that something is true without actually saying it</td>
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<tr>
<td>ratify</td>
<td>(verb) to give formal approval to something</td>
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<tr>
<td>restrain</td>
<td>(verb) to limit or stop</td>
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Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
According to the Article, how are the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution different?

A. The Articles of Confederation gave greater power to the states, and the Constitution gave more power to individual citizens.
B. The Articles of Confederation did not give the federal government enough power, and the Constitution made the federal government the "supreme law of the land."
C. The Articles of Confederation closely mirrored the British form of government, and the Constitution focused on creating strong state governments.
D. The Articles of Confederation ensured that the federal government would not overstep its bounds, and the Constitution limited the rights of individual citizens.

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?

A. Why the idea of adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution created disagreement between the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists and how this was resolved
B. Why the men at the Constitutional Convention argued for creating a "supreme law of the land" that overruled the individual protections provided by state constitutions
C. Why the Magna Carta listed only some individual rights and why the English Bill of Rights listed others
D. Why the U.S. Constitution did not provide a path for Americans to attain a title of nobility when Britain gave most power to nobles

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

A. Accusing
B. Confining
C. Defending
D. Liberating

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?

A. The best way to ensure that individual rights are protected is for the Constitution to list the individual rights of citizens.
B. The Constitution explained how the government would work but could not take effect until 9 out of the 13 states ratified it.
C. When a country's government is based upon a sensible document like the Constitution, citizens benefit and can lead happier lives.
D. Since the Constitution was already noted as the "supreme law of the land," adding a separate bill of rights to it was a waste of time.
Question 5
According to the Article, what is one reason why Anti-Federalists did not trust the Constitution?
A. The men at the Constitutional Convention were overly concerned that the federal government would overstep its bounds.
B. Early Americans had experienced living under an unpredictable British government, which abused its nearly unlimited power.
C. Early Americans were concerned about the federal government becoming helpless against a revolt by the individual states.
D. The men at the Constitutional Convention refused to acknowledge that a majority of states had to ratify the Constitution for it to go into effect.

Question 6
The Article states:
The Anti-Federalists focused further back to when the 13 colonies had to throw off the rule of an unlimited and abusive British government. But both sides wanted to avoid being governed by the British. Ultimately, the Federalists understood the fears that the Anti-Federalists had. The two sides compromised.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word ultimately, as it is used above?
A. Reluctantly
B. Ignorantly
C. Alarmingly
D. Eventually

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that the Federalists primarily agreed to the Bill of Rights because they supported the Constitution?
A. Some of these were in the Magna Carta. Others were in the English Bill of Rights, which had been written fewer than 100 years before America's revolution. The rights in these documents were citizens' only protection from a government that could be abusive and unpredictable and over which citizens had almost no control.
B. The Bill of Rights was a gesture of goodwill that was meant to bring everyone together around the new Constitution. Above all, the goal was to see the United States become a nation of unified people.
C. So not only did the Constitution fail to protect individual rights, but it also overruled the protections in state constitutions. It seemed that a bill of rights would be needed to ensure that the federal government could not overstep its bounds.
D. Most states also had a bill of rights, and those that didn't at least listed individual rights directly in their constitutions. The U.S. Constitution didn't even do that. What it did do was say that the Constitution was the "supreme law of the land." It was superior to state laws and constitutions.
Question 8

The reader can infer from the Article that __________.

A. In 1787, the leaders of the new United States of America considered delaying the ratification of the Constitution until a few years passed to see if additional changes were needed.
B. In 1787, the leaders of the new United States of America considered giving the federal government unlimited power.
C. In 1787, the leaders of the new United States of America believed that the Constitution would provide the foundation for a truly better nation.
D. In 1787, the leaders of the new United States of America feared that the protections outlined in the U.S. Constitution would likely not stand the test of time.

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.
"A Bill of Rights is what the people are entitled to against every government, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What were the major points of disagreement between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the inclusion of citizens' individual rights in the U.S. Constitution? How was this dispute resolved? Use facts and details from the Article in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Voting and community service are important, but they are not required by law. What do you think?

People should be required to vote and volunteer in their communities.
Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. Do you have homework, household chores, and an after-school job? We all have duties and responsibilities at home, school, or work. But what about as members of society? In the United States, neither our government nor our society can function unless the people fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

The duties of citizenship are the things that citizens are required to do. They include:

- Obeying the law
- Paying taxes
- Serving in the armed forces (if called on during a draft)
- Serving on a jury (when asked by the court)

Americans have the right to express objections to the duties required of them. They may argue that a law is unjust or that their taxes are too high. But if they defy that law or fail to pay those taxes, they can expect that there will be legal consequences.

While duties are the things Americans are required to do, responsibilities are the things they should do as good citizens. These include:

- Voting and staying informed about the government and elections
- Participating in the government
- Being active in the community
- Defending the rights of others

People who assume civic responsibilities, like voting, running for office, or doing community service, are often called "good citizens," or "active citizens." Since civic responsibilities aren't required, failing to
undertake them doesn't lead to legal penalties. But stepping forward to carry them out is important. In fact, everyone in our society benefits when people decide to take on civic responsibilities. You can think about this in terms of your school, which is a type of community. Suppose a teacher asks if anyone in your class is willing to sell cupcakes for a bake sale to raise money for new cafeteria tables. No one is required to spend a weekend selling cupcakes, and no one will be punished for saying no. But the school relies on willing participants to raise that money so that everyone can benefit from the new tables.

Similarly, communities across the U.S. rely on people's willingness to be active citizens. Imagine if there were no activists working to change unjust laws or volunteers working to improve their communities. We would live in a very different society.

What's more, the United States needs active citizens to function as a democracy. In the U.S., elected officials are meant to represent the interests of the people, but they may not do so if the people don't hold them to that duty by staying informed about the issues and voting in elections.

So how do you become an active citizen? You might start by checking in at the offices of your town or city (such as city hall) to see if there are opportunities for community service. There are also plenty of organizations that rely on help from volunteers, including tweens and teens. The Rotary Club is an international organization that promotes humanitarianism through service. The Red Cross provides aid to people who have been affected by disasters. These are just a couple of examples. If you're not sure which organization is a good fit for you, ask a teacher or counselor at your school for some resources.

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**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>humanitarianism</th>
<th>noun</th>
<th>the act of helping human beings in order to promote their well being</th>
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<tr>
<td>penalty</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>punishment</td>
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**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**
According to the Article, why do Americans pay taxes?

A. It is a way to find organizations that assist people who have been affected by disasters.
B. It is necessary for Americans to voluntarily assume this civic responsibility to be considered "active citizens."
C. It is an act of community participation that often results in just laws and lower taxes.
D. It is considered a duty of citizenship, and there are legal consequences for not fulfilling these duties.

**Question 2**
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.

A. Becoming a Dutiful and Active American Citizen
B. Ways To Stay Informed About Elected Officials
C. Volunteering To Improve Your Local Community
D. Joining an Organization That Is a Good Fit for You
Question 3
Based on information in the Article, which best describes the difference between civic duties and civic responsibilities?
A. Civic duties are only required of people who serve on juries, whereas civic responsibilities are required of people who participate in government elections.
B. Civic duties were created to guarantee that our government functions as planned, whereas civic responsibilities were created to make sure people gain experience as volunteers.
C. Civic duties are required actions of American citizens, whereas civic responsibilities are voluntary but important actions.
D. Civic duties carry legal consequences if done incorrectly, whereas civic responsibilities done incorrectly only result in fines.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word penalties, as it is used in the Article?
A. Expressions
B. Limits
C. Rewards
D. Complaints

Question 5
The author's purpose for writing this Article was probably to __________.
A. Criticize people who exercise their right to vote without being informed about the government
B. Explain the difference between the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship
C. Convince the reader to volunteer for any fundraising events that take place in schools
D. Examine the problems caused in society when teens do not fulfill their duties as citizens

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that people in the U.S. have many choices about ways to become active citizens?
A. No one is required to spend a weekend selling cupcakes, and no one will be punished for saying no. But the school relies on willing participants to raise that money so that everyone can benefit from the new tables.
B. You might start by checking in at the offices of your town or city (such as city hall) to see if there are opportunities for community service. There are also plenty of organizations that rely on help from volunteers, including tweens and teens.
C. Do you have homework, household chores, and an after-school job? We all have duties and responsibilities at home, school, or work. But what about as members of society? In the United States, neither our government nor our society can function unless the people fulfill their duties and responsibilities.
D. Americans have the right to express objections to the duties required of them. They may argue that a law is unjust or that their taxes are too high. But if they defy that law or fail to pay those taxes, they can expect that there will be legal consequences.
Question 7
The Article states:

Americans have the right to express objections to the duties required of them. They may argue that a law is unjust or that their taxes are too high. But if they defy that law or fail to pay those taxes, they can expect that there will be legal consequences.

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

A. Discover  
B. Distrust  
C. Discuss  
D. Disobey

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

A. Volunteer organizations like the Red Cross likely have offices in locations across the U.S.  
B. Most communities probably have a shortage of people who are willing to serve on juries.  
C. Volunteering in one's community is much more time consuming than volunteering at school bake sales and other events.  
D. People who stay informed about the government are considered to be more important than people who volunteer to help others.

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 be required to vote and volunteer in their communities.

- Agree  
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Summarize the difference between the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. Which one of these duties or responsibilities do you think is most important, and why? Use facts and details from the lesson in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

One young woman has been working to make sure all kids have access to an education. What do you think?

**It's not hard to provide kids with an education.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

This is Malala Yousafzai, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

OXFORD, England (Achieve3000, August 6, 2018). At England's Oxford University, students from around the world pore over books about politics, economics, and more. After classes, they might unwind with friends by listening to music or grabbing something to eat. Among these students is Malala Yousafzai. She is the 21-year-old activist from Pakistan who was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, two years after she was shot by Taliban militants for promoting girls' education in her home country. Like other college students her age, Malala is often consumed with books, best friends, and Beyoncé. Yet her life is also filled with extraordinary events, like her headline-making return to Pakistan in March 2018.

Accompanied by security guards and traveling in a convoy of vehicles, the humble college student was treated like a celebrity during the visit. During her stay, Malala gave a speech. She also met with the country's prime minister. It was Malala's first time back in Pakistan since she was shot.

At the time of the shooting in 2012, Malala was living in Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan. She was enrolled at a school founded by her father, educator Ziauddin Yousafzai. This was in defiance of the Taliban, a militant group that took over the region in 2007. The Taliban had passed a series of strict measures. These included banning women and girls from attending school. Malala's father, however, stood up to the Taliban. He kept his school open to girls. He did this even in the face of intense threats.

Inspired by her father's actions, Malala began giving TV interviews at age 11 about the importance of education. In 2009, she wrote a blog about life under Taliban rule. But her newfound fame made Malala a target for the Taliban. The group's attempt to end her life left her seriously injured. After the attack, she was flown to England to receive medical care.

When Malala finally returned to Pakistan for her 2018 visit, she couldn't help but cry. "I usually don't cry," she said. "I was happy to be home, [and] I wanted to be home…. I was so desperate to see my land again."

Malala was equally ecstatic to be back at her family home in the country. She plans to return there after her studies at Oxford are complete. "I saw my old school trophies, my drawings," she said. "And I just tried to remember each and every day and how we lived in that house before I was attacked."

Since her recovery, Malala and her father cofounded Malala Fund. It helps female students in Pakistan. According to Malala, the fund has invested $6 million in girls' education in Pakistan, opening the first
secondary school for girls in Pakistan's Shangla District. Malala Fund also operates in other countries marked by conflict, including Syria, Kenya, Nigeria, and Jordan.

Promoting education for girls isn't always easy, as opposing forces continue to prove willing to do just about anything to stop it. On August 3, 2018, in fact, 11 schools in Pakistan were burned down by suspected militants. In a tweet, Malala commented that "extremists have shown what frightens them most—a girl with a book."

Despite setbacks, Malala often makes appearances with leaders around the world to promote her cause. But on campus in England, the young activist appreciates the simple joys of being a college student. She's mentioned on social media that she finds Oxford exciting and beautiful. She also enjoys studying.

*The Associated Press and Voice of America contributed to this story.*

**Dictionary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>convoy</td>
<td>a group of ships or motor vehicles traveling together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extraordinary</td>
<td>amazing; not common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invest</td>
<td>to put money into something in the hopes that it will grow in value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prestigious</td>
<td>respected or celebrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recovery</td>
<td>healing after an injury or illness</td>
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**Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)**

**Question 1**

Which event in the Article took place third?

*This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.*

A. Malala Yousafzai was flown from Pakistan to England to receive medical care following the Taliban's attempt to end her life.
B. Malala Yousafzai wrote a blog post about what it was like to live under Taliban rule in Pakistan.
C. Malala Yousafzai received the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting girls' education in her home country of Pakistan.
D. Malala Yousafzai returned to Pakistan to give a speech and meet with the prime minister.

**Question 2**

Which of these should **not** be included in a summary of this Article?

A. A militant group called the Taliban targeted Malala Yousafzai for speaking out about the importance of education and tried to end her life in 2012.
B. In 2018, well-known activist Malala Yousafzai made her first return visit to her home country of Pakistan since she was shot by militants.
C. Like many of her fellow students, Malala Yousafzai unwinds after classes at Oxford University by listening to music with her friends.
D. Malala Yousafzai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting girls' education in her home country of Pakistan.
Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word extraordinary?
A Typical
B Remarkable
C Outdated
D Futuristic

Question 4
According to the Article, what caused the Taliban to target and attack Malala Yousafzai in 2012?
A Her decision to cofound Malala Fund, which invests money in girls' education
B The fame she had received for speaking out against Taliban rule and in support of education
C Her choice to move away from Pakistan and begin her studies at England's Oxford University
D The attention she had received after being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize at such a young age

Question 5
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.
A Most of Malala Yousafzai's classmates must be unaware of the fact that she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her activism.
B Most of Malala Yousafzai's classmates expect to win the Nobel Peace Prize before they finish their coursework at Oxford University.
C Malala Yousafzai's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, would likely prefer that the funds from the foundation he cofounded with his daughter be used primarily to help girls outside of Pakistan.
D Malala Yousafzai's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, is likely very proud of the work his daughter has done in support of promoting girls' education in Pakistan.

Question 6
The Article states: The Taliban had passed a series of strict measures. These included banning women and girls from attending school.
Which would be the closest synonym for the word strict, as it is used above?
A Contrasting
B Similar
C Mild
D Harsh

Question 7
Which quote from the Article best supports the idea that Malala Yousafzai is exceptionally dedicated to activism?
A Like other college students her age, Malala is often consumed with books, best friends, and Beyoncé.
B Inspired by her father's actions, Malala began giving TV interviews at age 11 about the importance of education. In 2009, she wrote a blog about life under Taliban rule.
C At the time of the shooting in 2012, Malala was living in Swat Valley in northwest Pakistan.
D The group's attempt to end her life left her seriously injured. After the attack, she was flown to England to receive medical care.
Question 8
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?
A Malala Yousafzai will decide to end her connection with Malala Fund so that she can spend more time on her coursework at Oxford University.
B Malala Yousafzai will leave her activism behind and live a quiet life outside the spotlight when she graduates from Oxford University.
C Malala Fund will continue to raise money in hopes of promoting education for girls around the world.
D Malala Fund will shift its focus from countries marked by conflict and concentrate its efforts on improving education in England.

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

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
It's not hard to provide kids with an education.
- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

What words would you use to describe Malala Yousafzai, and why did you choose those words? What surprised you most about her life? Explain. Use facts and details from the Article in your response.
Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

The Founding Fathers read about different ideas that affected what they thought about government. What do you think of this quote from Cato's Letters?

"Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech."

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Founding Fathers did not invent the American system of government out of thin air. They were exposed to various ideas that affected the way they thought government should work and helped inform their criticism of the British government.

What would have been on the minds of American colonists who were about to start a revolution? Here's a peek at what might have been on the shelf of a private colonial library.

The Magna Carta

The Founding Fathers would have been familiar with the Magna Carta. It was created in response to the actions of a king. During the Middle Ages, the king generally shared some of his powers with the wealthy nobility. The nobility would carry out the king's wishes. In exchange, the king would allow the nobles to make some local decisions. But in the early 13th century, King John of England broke this tradition by refusing to share his powers.

Drawn up by nobles in 1215, the Magna Carta limited the power of the king and protected certain rights for nobles. It demanded that laws and punishments be fair and equal, that landowners have certain rights, and that free men who were accused of crimes receive due process of law. (That last clause did not apply to unfree peasants. Peasants made up a large portion of England's population and were obliged to work on land controlled by nobles.) The document, which the nobles forced King John to sign, introduced the
concepts of limited government, rule of law, and due process. It also helped create the nation's Parliament, which is similar to Congress in the U.S.

The Mayflower Compact
Fast forward more than 400 years. The next document in the colonial library would likely be the Mayflower Compact. It was written to solve a basic problem: Who is in charge? The Mayflower Compact got its name from the Mayflower, the ship on which the Pilgrims left England in 1620. Although the vessel was bound for the Virginia colony, a strong storm blew it off course. It ended up in what is now Massachusetts. This area was an independent territory. In need of a government, the men agreed to create one that would serve the common good, and to follow its rules and protect one another. This concept is called self-government.

The English Bill of Rights
A couple of decades after the Mayflower Compact was created, the English Parliament began battling it out with the king in a series of civil wars. Parliament eventually prevailed. In 1689, it passed the English Bill of Rights. Like the Magna Carta, this document expanded the rights of the Parliament and the people. It also limited the powers of the king even more. It created free elections to Parliament. And it gave the king's subjects the right to bear arms and to petition the government. The effects of the English Bill of Rights could be felt both in Britain and in the British colonies in America.

Other Resources
In addition to older documents, the colonists also kept track of the events and writings of their own era. In the 18th century, some publications advocated for new ways of governing.

In the 1720s, two authors using the aliases Cato the Elder and Cato the Younger published a series of newspaper editorials in Britain arguing against the king's heavy-handed rule. Titled Cato's Letters, these articles discussed concepts such as freedom of expression. Cato's Letters became so popular that they were made into a book. Half of colonial America owned a copy. Not long after the book of letters was published, the actions of the British monarchy started becoming unbearable to many colonists. By the 1760s, King George III and Parliament were making increasing demands on the colonies. This prompted many colonists to talk of breaking away from Britain. In the mid-1770s, representatives from most of the 13 colonies met in Philadelphia. They discussed options for the future. In 1776, while these meetings were happening, an American colonial journalist named Thomas Paine published a pamphlet called Common Sense. Rather than introduce new ideas, Paine explained ongoing arguments for independence in a way that was easy for everyday colonists to understand. He encouraged them to support the fight for independence from Britain. Just six months later, the Declaration of Independence was signed.

 Portions of this reading were created by iCivics, Inc. and are used with their permission.

Dictionary

| **advocate** (verb) | to speak out strongly for something |
| **concept** (noun)  | an idea |
| **editorial** (noun) | an article that gives the opinion of those who run a newspaper or magazine |
| **petition** (verb) | to request something formally and in writing |
Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of these must have happened second?
This question asks about when events happened. It does not ask where in the Article the events appear. Look back at the Article for clues, such as dates.
A The Mayflower Compact was written to create a government that would serve the common good of the Pilgrims.
B The series of editorials called Cato's Letters was published to further the argument against the king’s heavy-handed rule and highlight concepts like freedom of expression.
C The Magna Carta was created in response to the actions of King John, who refused to share power with wealthy nobility.
D The English Bill of Rights was passed to expand the rights of Parliament and limit the power of the king.

Question 2
Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this Article?
A The Mayflower was originally bound for the Virginia colony, but a strong storm blew it off course, causing it to end up in what is now Massachusetts.
B During the Middle Ages, the king shared some power with wealthy nobles by allowing them to make some local decisions.
C What the Founders read greatly affected what they believed about how a government should work.
D By the 1760s, King George III and Parliament were making life unbearable for many colonists, who began to talk of breaking away from Britain.

Question 3
To advocate for something means to __________ it.
A Destroy
B Question
C Promote
D Create

Question 4
According to the Article, why were the Pilgrims in need of a government?
A The Pilgrims worried that self-government would not offer them the protections they would require.
B The Pilgrims were unhappy with the government in the Virginia colony where they planned to arrive.
C The Pilgrims wanted to create a government that very closely resembled the one they knew in England.
D The Pilgrims ended up in what is now Massachusetts, an area that was an independent territory at the time.

Question 5
According to the Article, in what way were the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights similar?
A Both documents were drawn up by nobles against the wishes of the king.
B Both documents expanded the right of people to petition the government.
C Both documents limited the powers of the king while expanding the rights of people.
D Both documents resulted in the creation of a lawmaking body similar to the U.S. Congress.
Question 6
The Article states:

A couple of decades after the Mayflower Compact was created, the English Parliament began battling it out with the king in a series of civil wars. Parliament eventually prevailed. In 1689, it passed the English Bill of Rights.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word *eventually*?
A. Ultimately
B. Unfortunately
C. Predictably
D. Probably

Question 7
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. Thomas Paine, who wrote in a way that was easy for everyday colonists to understand, was the first journalist in the American colonies.
B. Thomas Paine, an American colonial journalist, must have read *Cato's Letters*.
C. Thomas Paine, who published *Common Sense*, must have supported the British monarchy.
D. Thomas Paine, a journalist in his time, had plans to become a government official in the American colonies.

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that King John was likely displeased about having to sign the Magna Carta?
A. The Founding Fathers would have been familiar with the Magna Carta. It was created in response to the actions of a king.
B. That last clause did not apply to unfree peasants. Peasants made up a large portion of England's population and were obliged to work on land controlled by nobles.
C. Drawn up by nobles in 1215, the Magna Carta limited the power of the king and protected certain rights for nobles.
D. The nobility would carry out the king's wishes. In exchange, the king would allow the nobles to make some local decisions.

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. "Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as public liberty, without freedom of speech."

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Which document discussed in the Article contains the most important ideas? Why do you think those ideas are more important than the ideas expressed in the other documents? Use facts and details from the Article in your response.
A Bill of Rights: Yes or No?
Answer key

Question 1
According to the Article, how are the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution different?
B The Articles of Confederation did not give the federal government enough power, and the Constitution made the federal government the "supreme law of the land."

Question 2
What is this Article mainly about?
A Why the idea of adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution created disagreement between the Anti-Federalists and the Federalists and how this was resolved

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

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?
B The Constitution explained how the government would work but could not take effect until 9 out of the 13 states ratified it.

Question 5
According to the Article, what is one reason why Anti-Federalists did not trust the Constitution?
B Early Americans had experienced living under an unpredictable British government, which abused its nearly unlimited power.

Question 6
The Article states:
The Anti-Federalists focused further back to when the 13 colonies had to throw off the rule of an unlimited and abusive British government. But both sides wanted to avoid being governed by the British. Ultimately, the Federalists understood the fears that the Anti-Federalists had. The two sides compromised.

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

Question 7
Which passage from the Article best supports the notion that the Federalists primarily agreed to the Bill of Rights because they supported the Constitution?
B The Bill of Rights was a gesture of goodwill that was meant to bring everyone together around the new Constitution. Above all, the goal was to see the United States become a nation of unified people.

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
C In 1787, the leaders of the new United States of America believed that the Constitution would provide the foundation for a truly better nation.
Question 1
According to the Article, why do Americans pay taxes?
D It is considered a duty of citizenship, and there are legal consequences for not fulfilling these duties.

Question 2
The best alternate headline for this Article would be __________.
A Becoming a Dutiful and Active American Citizen

Question 3
Based on information in the Article, which best describes the difference between civic duties and civic responsibilities?
C Civic duties are required actions of American citizens, whereas civic responsibilities are voluntary but important actions.

Question 4
Which is the closest antonym for the word penalties, as it is used in the Article?
C Rewards

Question 5
The author's purpose for writing this Article was probably to __________.
B Explain the difference between the duties and responsibilities of American citizenship

Question 6
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that people in the U.S. have many choices about ways to become active citizens?
B You might start by checking in at the offices of your town or city (such as city hall) to see if there are opportunities for community service. There are also plenty of organizations that rely on help from volunteers, including tweens and teens.

Question 7
The Article states:
Americans have the right to express objections to the duties required of them. They may argue that a law is unjust or that their taxes are too high. But if they defy that law or fail to pay those taxes, they can expect that there will be legal consequences.

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

Question 8
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A Volunteer organizations like the Red Cross likely have offices in locations across the U.S.
Question 1
Which event in the Article took place third?

C Malala Yousafzai received the Nobel Peace Prize for promoting girls' education in her home country of Pakistan.

Question 2
Which of these should not be included in a summary of this Article?

C Like many of her fellow students, Malala Yousafzai unwinds after classes at Oxford University by listening to music with her friends.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word extraordinary?

B Remarkable

Question 4
According to the Article, what caused the Taliban to target and attack Malala Yousafzai in 2012?

B The fame she had received for speaking out against Taliban rule and in support of education

Question 5
Based on the Article, the reader can infer that __________.

D Malala Yousafzai's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, is likely very proud of the work his daughter has done in support of promoting girls' education in Pakistan.

Question 6
The Article states:

The Taliban had passed a series of strict measures. These included banning women and girls from attending school.

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

D Harsh

Question 7
Which quote from the Article best supports the idea that Malala Yousafzai is exceptionally dedicated to activism?

B Inspired by her father's actions, Malala began giving TV interviews at age 11 about the importance of education. In 2009, she wrote a blog about life under Taliban rule.

Question 8
Based on the Article, which is most likely to happen?

C Malala Fund will continue to raise money in hopes of promoting education for girls around the world.
What the Founders Read

Answer key

Question 1
Based on information in the Article, which of these must have happened second?

A The Mayflower Compact was written to create a government that would serve the common good of the Pilgrims.

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

C What the Founders read greatly affected what they believed about how a government should work.

Question 3
To advocate for something means to ________ it.

C Promote

Question 4
According to the Article, why were the Pilgrims in need of a government?

D The Pilgrims ended up in what is now Massachusetts, an area that was an independent territory at the time.

Question 5
According to the Article, in what way were the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights similar?

C Both documents limited the powers of the king while expanding the rights of people.

Question 6
The Article states:

A couple of decades after the Mayflower Compact was created, the English Parliament began battling it out with the king in a series of civil wars. Parliament eventually prevailed. In 1689, it passed the English Bill of Rights.

Which would be the closest synonym for the word eventually?

A Ultimately

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

B Thomas Paine, an American colonial journalist, must have read Cato’s Letters.

Question 8
Which statement from the Article best supports the idea that King John was likely displeased about having to sign the Magna Carta?

C Drawn up by nobles in 1215, the Magna Carta limited the power of the king and protected certain rights for nobles.
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DIVERSITY ARTICLES & ANSWER KEYS
All Hair Is Created Equal (980L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

**Hairstyles should be a personal choice.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

*Photo credit: Associated Press*

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.
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

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

Step 2: Activity (Answer the Questions)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Step 2: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?
- Always dreaming of becoming a published author, Marley Dias wrote a book in which she covered everything from her family, her love of sushi, and her trip to Ghana to tips for kids on how to make their dreams come true.
- In 2015, Marley Dias was assigned five books to read during the school year, and although she enjoyed the books, she felt underrepresented because all of the stories were about white boys with dogs.
- As a way of spreading the word about diverse book offerings to the widest possible audience, Marley Dias has appeared as a guest on Ellen, The View, and CBS This Morning as well as given lectures at The United State of Women Summit.
- Seeing that girls of color were grossly underrepresented as the protagonists of books in her middle school's library, Marley Dias launched a program to offer more diverse title choices in communities that needed them.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
- Out of the 3,400 young adult and children's books published in 2015, only 8 percent of them featured African Americans as the main characters.
- Marley Dias became a published author at the age of 13 when she wrote Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You, a book that gives kids tips on how to make their dreams come true.
- Thanks to a summer reading program started by Marley Dias, six vending machines packed with free books were made available to students in New York City public schools.
- Because books that feature diverse protagonists are so much more interesting, work should be done to include more of these kinds of books in school libraries.
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.
Uncovering the Past (980L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

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

People should do whatever it takes to preserve early American history.
Do you agree or disagree?

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

HAMPTON, Virginia (Achieve3000, October 28, 2019). Tattered toys, cast-off junk, and tangled underbrush hid a secret from most who wandered near: This plot of land had a story—history was buried there.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Voice of America contributed to this story.*

**Dictionary**

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

Question 1
What is this Article mainly about?

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

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

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

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

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?

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

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

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

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

Question 3
The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Agree
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Explain what is being done to try to save colonial African and early African American cemeteries and why. Include facts and details from the Article in your response.
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**

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

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

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

- A. Her books were written decades ago, in the 1930s and 1940s.
- B. Her books contain offensive descriptions of African Americans and Native Americans.
- C. Her books contain disturbing stories about wolves and other threats on the American frontier.
- D. Her books were aimed solely at young readers of American heritage.
Question 2
What does this Article primarily discuss?
A. After Laura Ingalls Wilder's family settled in Kansas in the 1870s, her mother expressed fear and hatred of Indians.
B. Laura Ingalls Wilder's series of books, beginning with *Little House in the Big Woods*, is still on the shelves of many libraries today.
C. The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association operates a museum in Mansfield, Missouri, where Wilder and her husband lived for many years.
D. Laura Ingalls Wilder's name has been removed from a major children's book award because of racist content in her books.

Question 3
Which is the closest synonym for the word *offensive*, as it is used in the Article?
A. Insulting
B. Courteous
C. Quaint
D. Modern

Question 4
Which of these is a statement of fact?
A. Reading examples of the racism and stereotypical attitudes common in the 19th century on the American frontier influences the attitudes of today's youth.
B. On the American frontier, the 1870s was an exciting time in the nation's history for families starting a new life dependent on farming.
C. The board of the Association for Library Service to Children made the unanimous decision to change the name of an award at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.
D. The decision by the board of the Association for Library Service to Children to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from an award was warranted.

Question 5
The reader can infer from the Article that __________.
A. Laura Ingalls Wilder and her mother, Caroline, were strongly opposed to the U.S. government's plan to move the Osage Indians west.
B. It often happens that content in books is viewed very differently decades after the books were written.
C. Jean Coday plans to close the Mansfield museum now that Laura Ingalls Wilder's writing has received so much public criticism.
D. Jean Coday is more familiar with the works of William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and Ernest Hemingway than she is with the Little House books, which were written for children.
Question 6
The Article states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement. **Writers of the past should not be judged by the standards of today.**

- Agree  
- Disagree

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

Summarize both sides of the argument described in the Article. Do you agree with the decision to remove Laura Ingalls Wilder's name from a children’s book award? Why or why not? Provide convincing evidence, including details from the Article, to support your view.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 1</th>
<th><strong>What is this Article mainly about?</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>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>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 2</th>
<th><strong>Which is the closest synonym for the word illegal?</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>criminal</td>
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| 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? |
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>To explain why some hairstyle guidelines that are supposed to apply to everyone equally are actually unfair to African Americans</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 4</th>
<th><strong>Which of these is a statement of opinion?</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Question 5</th>
<th><strong>Which question is not answered by the Article?</strong></th>
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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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| 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? |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>disobey</td>
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<tr>
<th>Question 7</th>
<th><strong>According to the Article, why have dress codes prohibited African American hairstyles like Afros, cornrows, or dreadlocks?</strong></th>
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<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>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question 8</th>
<th><strong>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?</strong></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 hair discrimination.</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?
B Because colonists seldom kept records of slaves in the early colonies, little is known about them, but some people, like the Tuckers, are now trying to save early African American cemeteries because they provide a tangible link to a history that is much too often overlooked.

Question 2
Which of these is a statement of opinion?
B By protecting cemeteries where slaves were buried, people like the Tuckers and the Stokeses are taking on an enormous task best left to professionals.

Question 3
The Article states:

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

Why did the author include this passage?
B To show how difficult it can be to locate the cemeteries where African American slaves lie buried.

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

Question 5
What is one inference the reader can make from the Article?
A Some of the many cemeteries where African American slaves are buried are completely unrecognizable to passersby.

Question 6
Which information is not in the Article?
B Why the practice of marking burial sites with headstones was not more widely adopted by slaves.

Question 7
Read this passage from the Article:

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

In this passage, the word lineage means __________.
D the people who were in someone's family in past times

Question 8
Which passage from the Article best supports the idea that there is a good reason why some early African American cemeteries are so hard to locate?
B A historian told the Tuckers that in the past, seeds would have been planted at the burial sites in place of headstones. The family looked at all the standing and fallen trees. They were astounded by how much history had taken root there.
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.