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Introduction

Organized by specific reading skills, this book is designed to enhance students’ reading comprehension. The engaging topics provide meaningful and focused practice. The reading passages are presented in a variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Subject matter from across the curriculum, including topics from science, history, and literary classics, deepens student knowledge while strengthening reading skills.

The grade-appropriate selections in this series are an asset to any reading program. Various reading skills and concepts are reinforced throughout the book through activities that align to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts. To view these standards, please see the Common Core Alignment Chart on page 4.

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Dyes

Can you imagine how dull everything around you would seem without color? Dye is a substance that gives color to many things. For over 5,000 years, people have used dyes. Until the mid-1800s, only natural dyes were used. These dyes came from different parts of plants, such as the bark, roots, berries, or flowers. Certain plants produce certain colors. The indigo plant produces a blue dye. The madder plant produces bright red and brown dyes. The bark and leaves of oak, maple, and walnut trees were used to make yellow, orange, and black dyes.

In 1856, an 18-year-old boy in England discovered how to make dyes from chemicals. Chemical dyes are **synthetic**. This means that they are manufactured, not natural. Today, almost all dyes are synthetic. Synthetic dyes are made in thousands of beautiful shades.



- The two major types of dyes that have been used are _____.
 - indigo and liquid
 - chemical and synthetic
 - natural and synthetic
 - roots and berries
- Dyes made with chemicals were discovered in the year _____.
 - 1856
 - 1800
 - 1922
 - 500
- Which of the following is the best topic sentence for the first paragraph?
 - Without color, everything would seem dull.
 - For thousands of years, people used natural dyes.
 - The madder plant makes red and brown dyes.
 - The indigo plant produces a blue dye.
- Dyes that are made from chemicals are _____.
 - natural
 - shades
 - liquid
 - synthetic

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

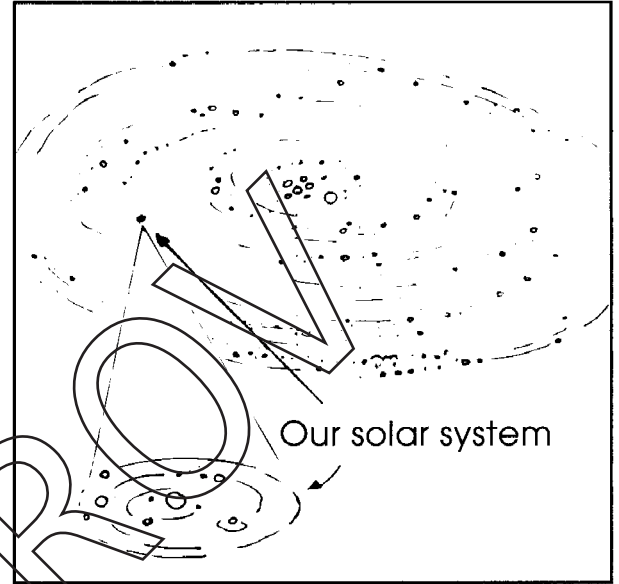
The Milky Way

The Milky Way galaxy is a part of outer space made up of Earth, its solar system, and all the stars you can see at night. There are over 100 billion stars in the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is shaped much like a CD. It has a center that the outer part goes around.

The Milky Way is always spinning slowly through space. It is so large that it would take 200 million years for the galaxy to turn one complete time.

Many stars in the Milky Way are in clusters. Some star clusters contain up to one million stars!



1. Which of the following correctly lists the objects from smallest to largest?

- A. Earth, solar system, galaxy
- B. solar system, star, Earth
- C. galaxy, solar system, star
- D. solar system, Earth, galaxy

2. How are Earth and the solar system related?

- A. They both are forms of star clusters.
- B. They are seen at night.
- C. The solar system is part of Earth's atmosphere.
- D. Earth is part of the solar system.

3. Describe the Milky Way galaxy.

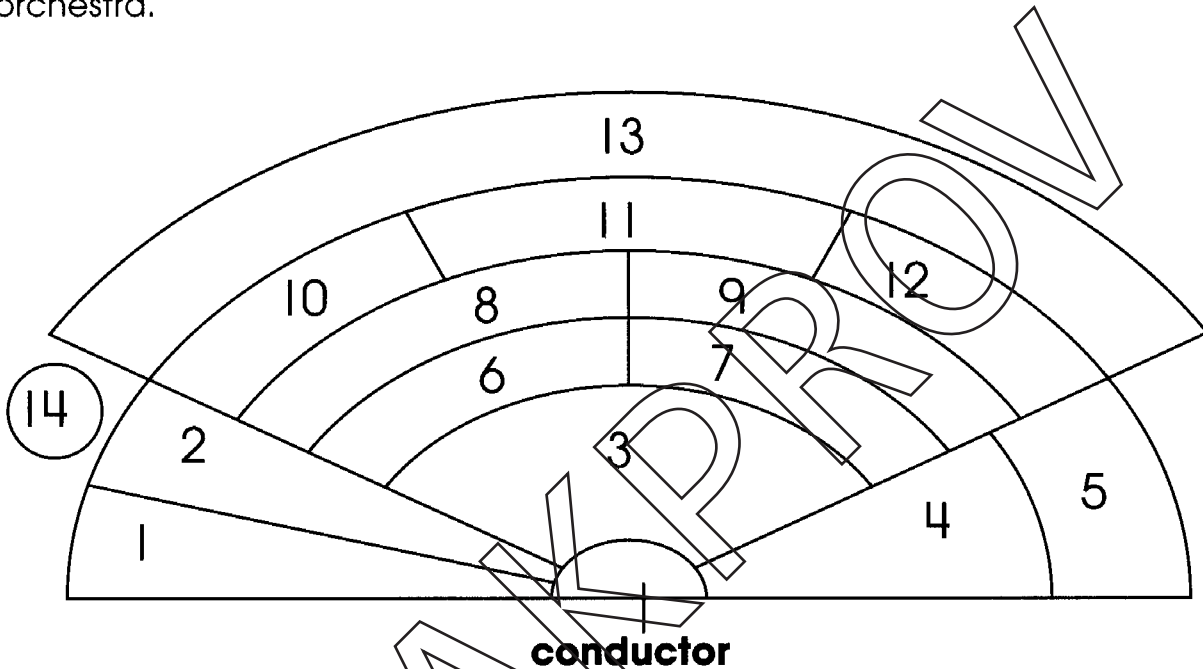
4. Which has more stars, a star cluster or the Milky Way?

5. Which is larger, a star or a star cluster?

Read the passage and review the diagram. Then, answer the questions on page 61.

Symphony Instruments

Emily is going with her father to hear the symphony orchestra. She likes listening to the violins. Her father likes listening to the woodwinds and brass. When she arrives, her father explains that the orchestra musicians must be seated in special places in order to make the music sound just right. The diagram below shows where musicians normally sit in an orchestra.



Strings

1. First Violins
2. Second Violins
3. Violas
4. Cellos
5. Double Basses

Woodwinds

6. Flutes
7. Oboes
8. Clarinets
9. Bassoons

Brass

10. Horns
11. Trumpets
12. Trombones/Tuba
13. Percussion/Timpani
14. Harp

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Decision

The birds are chirping. Little green leaves are just beginning to form on the branches of the trees. Crocuses and early spring flowers bring color to the downtown yards. A gentle breeze whispers of warm weather. Heath is walking slowly with his head down. He does not notice any of the morning's beauty. He has to decide what to do.

Heath's best friend, Shane, wants them to skip school today. Shane has big plans for the day. Shane wants to do daring things. Heath really likes Shane. They are great friends. Heath doesn't want to hurt Shane's feelings or for Shane to think he is a chicken. Still, Heath knows it is wrong to skip school. Heath knows he can get into a world of trouble—at home and at school. And trouble at home would make the school trouble look like a party. Heath suddenly knows what his decision has to be.

1. When does the story take place? _____
2. Where does the story take place? _____
3. Who are the characters? _____

4. What is the problem? _____

5. How do you predict the problem will be solved? _____

Highlight the details that helped you decide this.



Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

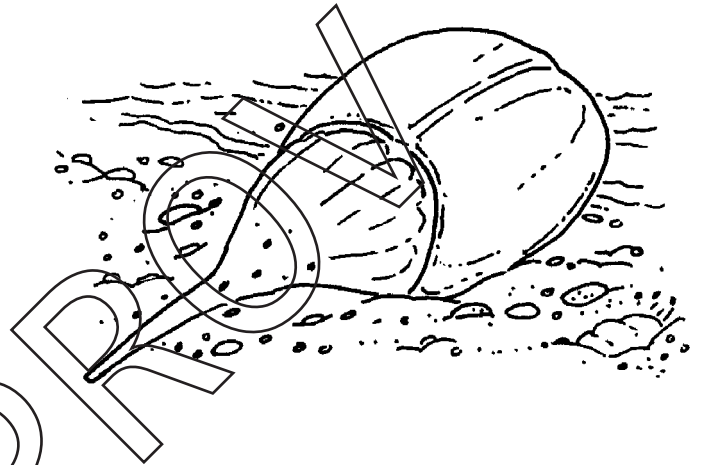
Water's Edge

Gabe walked down to the water. The sun was setting. The sky was blazing with oranges, yellow, pinks, and reds. The tide was coming in. At the edge of the water was an odd-looking creature about one foot long. Its body seemed to be in three parts. The first part was about three-fourths of a hemisphere. Fitting into the hemisphere was a smaller body part with jagged edges. A long, hard, pointed tail poked its way out of the smaller body part. "What is that thing?" wondered Gabe. "Can it hurt me?"

He saw Hannah walking toward him on the beach and called her over. "Do you know what this is?" he asked.

"It's a horseshoe crab," replied Hannah. "My older sister studies them. She knows a lot about horseshoe crabs."

"Great," said Gabe. "I want to know more about them."



1. When does the story take place? _____
2. Where does the story take place? _____
3. Who are the characters? _____

4. What is the problem? _____

5. How do you predict the problem will be solved? _____

Highlight the details that helped you decide this.