

Please check the website for additional assignments. <http://www.sunflower.k12.ms.us/>

Click on schools

Click on Gentry

Gentry High School Summer Learning 10th Grade

English

Login to Zoom Monday and Wednesday. You may call in if you do not have access to a computer.

Your Zoom teacher may provide you alternate methods for viewing passages as well. Email your teacher for additional support lblackmanhamilton@sunflower.k12.ms.us

Math-

Login into Zoom Monday and Wednesday. You may call in if you do not have access to a computer.

- **Algebra I** --Create a Gmail email account and email your teacher so that you can receive the additional assignments jcochran@sunflower.k12.ms.us
- **Geometry & Algebra II**- You may email your teacher nswami@sunflower.k12.ms.us for additional support

Additional math activities are attached.

Science and History

Complete the attached assignments.-



SUNFLOWER COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Miskia Davis, Superintendent
"United for Excellence"

Summer School 2020 Zoom Class for 10th Grade ELA

Hello

Parents

You are receiving this letter because your student has been selected for virtual summer school. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering virtual summer school classes to students so they can be better prepared for the upcoming school year!

You student's summer school teacher for **ELA** is **Lilly Blackman**. Lilly Blackman will be teaching virtual summer school every Monday and Wednesday at **09:00 am**. Lilly Blackman will be serving students from **Gentry High**.

Here are the steps needed to join the virtual class from your computer:

1. Navigate to sunflower-k12-ms-us.zoom.us.
2. Click the large blue bottom that says "Join - Connect to a meeting in progress".
3. Enter this meeting ID: **847 5957 5968**
4. Enter this meeting password: **521063**

If you cannot access Zoom from the computer, you can call into the virtual class:

1. Call this number: **(312) 626-6799**
2. Enter this meeting ID: **847 5957 5968**
3. Enter this meeting password: **521063**

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's base school!



SUNFLOWER COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Miskia Davis, Superintendent
"United for Excellence"

Summer School 2020 Zoom Class for 10th Grade Math

Hello

Parents

You are receiving this letter because your student has been selected for virtual summer school. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering virtual summer school classes to students so they can be better prepared for the upcoming school year!

Your student's summer school teacher for **Math** is **John Cochran**. John Cochran will be teaching virtual summer school every Monday at **10:00 am** and every Wednesday at **11:00 am**.

On Mondays, John Cochran will be serving students from **Gentry High**.

On Tuesdays, John Cochran will be serving students from **Thomas Edwards Sr. High**.

Here are the steps needed to join the virtual class from your computer:

1. Navigate to sunflower-k12-ms-us.zoom.us.
2. Click the large blue button that says "Join - Connect to a meeting in progress".
3. Enter this meeting ID: **815 6385 3083**
4. Enter this meeting password: **282129**

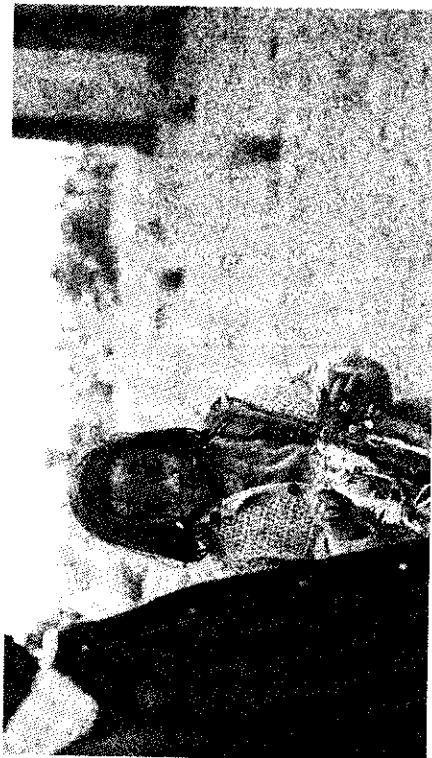
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1. Call this number: **(312) 626-6799**
2. Enter this meeting ID: **815 6385 3083**
3. Enter this meeting password: **282129**

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's base school!

Pennsylvania lumber company makes a bold statement with Super Bowl ad

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02/08/17
Word Count: 898



EIGHTY FOUR, Pa. — All it took was a few minutes of expensive, emotional advertising during the Super Bowl to pull this little town in the far southwestern corner of Pennsylvania into the center of the national debate on immigration.

Despite the anger and sudden attention, many people here said Monday that they did not see the now-famous 84 Lumber ad as particularly political.

"It was sad," said Jennie Ryan, 28, a nurse from nearby Washington, Pennsylvania. "It showed the struggles that other people experience who are not from here."

"It was a bit of a tear-jerker," said George Gavlik, 50, a field technician in the oil and gas industry from Pittsburgh. Asked if it seemed too political, Gavlik shrugged and said, "It's their right."

Mary viewed the Super Bowl ad — a tale of a mother and daughter traveling through Mexico on their way to the U.S. border — as an ambiguously pro-immigration. It came as something of a surprise, in part, because it was promoting a little-known company that apparently was wading into the raging debate on television's largest stage: 84 Lumber.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <http://newsela.com>.

1

Ad Appears Critical Of Trump's Immigration Policy

The homebuilding supply company that carries the town's name is headquartered here, in a county that voted 61 percent for President Donald Trump. The company's chief executive, Maggie Hardy Magerko, said she voted for him. Yet many took the message as criticizing Trump's immigration platform.

In the original ad, the mother and daughter arrive at the U.S. border and confront an imposing wall, like the one the president has proposed. It seems a heartbreaking end to a hopeful journey until they discover a door that opens onto a sunlit and welcoming America.

"The wall to succeed is always welcome here," reads a tagline.

Fox, the network that broadcast the Super Bowl, rejected 84 Lumber's original version of the ad, refusing to let the company show the wall.

That rejection prompted the company to send viewers to the 84 Lumber website to see the full version. So many people wanted to view it that the company's website crashed Sunday night.

Some have criticized the ad as promoting illegal immigration, but the overwhelming response was supportive. Steve Radick, vice president and director of public relations of the agency that created the ad, said the commercial was not a direct response to the current debate about immigration and refugees that has been one of Trump's hallmarks. But, Radick said, the clear aim was to take a stand.

Meant To Reflect The World Today

"When you are doing a big advertising campaign, especially Super Bowl advertising, you can't just be talking about your company," he said. "You have to make sure you're reflecting what is going on in the world today."

Some residents of Eighty Four took the ad as a vague reference to the American dream. For most of those interviewed Monday, their vision of Americas that it is a magnet for the world — but with a front door that is not open to everyone.

Others said it was just exciting to see their tiny town's company on the big stage.

A 51-year-old trucker who spoke anonymously for fear of blowback said the ad did not bother him despite the fact that he supports the idea of a big, strong wall on the southern border. He said he voted for Trump but voted for former President Barack Obama twice.

"They can put up an electric fence as far as I'm concerned," the trucker said. "The president is political with it, so what's the problem?"

Trump has done more in the first two weeks than Obama did in eight years," he said.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <http://newsela.com>.

2

Marcia Minor Opps, 53, who described her family as conservative, said she has warm feelings toward the Hardy family, which started 84 Lumber, it was founder John Hardy who 40 years ago urged Opps' mother to expand her milk and ice cream shop into a country restaurant.

Opps said she was perplexed when she saw the ad. "I didn't know what it was trying to say because the people who work at 84 Lumber are all American," she said. "Maybe they were just saying that people from all over the world want to get here but sometimes it's hard."

When Opps' 76-year-old mother, Beverly Minor, watched it, she thought the message was that "it is a privilege to be here." Auding her own view, she said: "It's not something we owe everybody."

Immigration Is Not Simply A Partisan Issue

All Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, a pro immigration advocacy organization, said the outpouring of support for the ad reflects the complicated view Americans have about immigration. "The immigration issue is not as partisan as President Trump will have you believe," Noorani said. "And I think this ad and this company is evidence of that."

Noorani said the emotional nature of the ad, and its response, goes to the heart of the debate: "The argument about immigration is about culture and values, not politics and policy."

Others said that given the reliance on immigrants, the ad was not a complete surprise.

"I've met a lot of CEOs who will admit privately that they need immigrants," said Raul Anjos-Ojeda, a professor in the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at UCLA. But to do it like this, in the Super Bowl for everybody to see, was an act of courage."

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

4

Quiz

Quiz

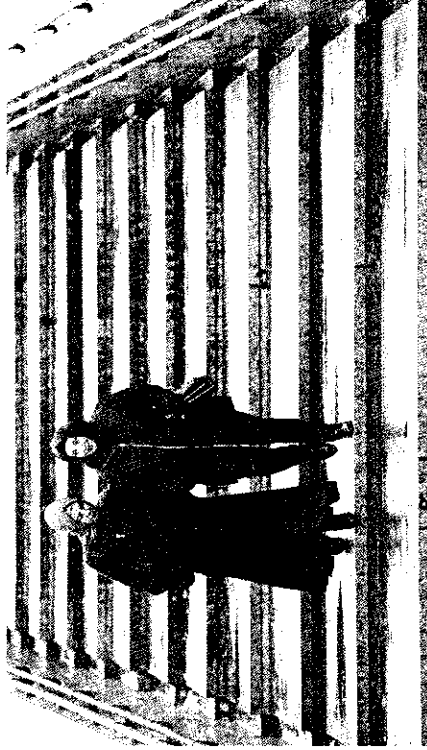
1. Steve Ratnick would be MOST likely to agree with which of the following statements?
 - (A) Companies have a responsibility to address political issues.
 - (B) 84 Lumber was surprised by the response to the ad.
 - (C) Most people were confused by the purpose of the ad.
 - (D) The Super Bowl is a great opportunity to advertise your company.
2. Which of the following people in the article would be MOST likely to agree with the idea that 84 Lumber should NOT have made an ad supporting immigration?
 - (A) Jennie Ryan
 - (B) George Gavlik
 - (C) Maggie Hardy Magerko
 - (D) Beverly Minor
3. The central idea of the article is developed by
 - (A) detailing the content of 84 Lumber's Super Bowl ad
 - (B) summarizing the process for creating 84 Lumber's Super Bowl ad
 - (C) highlighting the response to 84 Lumber's Super Bowl ad
 - (D) discussing the importance of companies making political comments
4. Which of the following sentences from the article BEST develops a central idea?
 - (A) The homebuilding supply company that carries the town's name is headquartered here, in a county that voted 61 percent for President Donald Trump.
 - (B) Some have criticized the ad as promoting illegal immigration, but the overwhelming response was supportive.
 - (C) Trump has "done more in the first two weeks than Obama did in eight years," he said.
 - (D) When Opps' 76-year-old mother Beverly Minor watched it, she thought the message was that "it is a privilege to be here."

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

4

EU court rules against headscarves in workplace on grounds of neutrality

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.17.17
Word Count 726



PARIS, France — The European Union Court of Justice reached a decision on a case about a headscarf ban in private businesses. They decided that private businesses can legally prohibit female Muslim employees from wearing their headscarves as long as it is part of a policy of neutrality. They cannot ban the headscarves in order to target a particular religion.

The courts decided that such a ban is not what the court calls "direct discrimination." The European Union Court of Justice is the highest court in the 28-nation European Union. The European Union works together in trade and economic matters, and all members must follow EU law.

The conclusion by the court was in response to two cases brought by a Belgian woman and a French woman. Both women were fired for refusing to remove their headscarves. The decision offers some clarity on a long-standing question about whether bans by some countries on religious symbols in classrooms, for example, can be extended to the workplace.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

1

Court Ruling Becomes Part Of Political Battleground

The court's response fed right into the French presidential campaign, giving the platform of far-right leader Marine Le Pen a boost. Le Pen is a leading candidate in the spring election who wants to do away with all religious symbols. France already bans headscarves and other religious symbols in classrooms as well as face-covering veils in streets.

However, critics quickly voiced fears that the decision risks becoming a setback to all working Muslim women.

"Today's disappointing rulings ... give greater leeway to employers to discriminate against women -- and men -- on the grounds of religious belief," said a statement by Amnesty International, a human rights advocacy group. "At a time when identity and appearance has become a political battleground, people need more protection against prejudice, not less."

Awareness Groups Fear Companies Will Discriminate

Georgina Siklosy, of the European Network Against Racism in Brussels, expressed concern that the decision could have extremely negative effects on Muslim women and other minority populations in Europe, like Sikhs with turbans or Jews with kippans. It might force many of them to choose between working and wearing religious garments.

The Open Society Justice Initiative, a group that works with lawyers to promote human rights and tolerance, submitted a statement supporting the women and expressing their disappointment in the court's decision.

The group's policy officer, Maryam Hiradoun, argued that the decision "weakens the guarantee of equality that is at the heart of the EU's anti-discrimination directive." The Court of Justice pointed to this promise in weighing the cases.

"Certainly, many employees who are asking themselves questions about religious signs in their companies will look at these decisions and probably put in place internal regulations," said lawyer Claire Wacquet, who represents the French woman in question. "Some will certainly do this."

Cases Differ Where Internal Company Policy Is Concerned

The EU Court of Justice made separate decisions on the cases but linked them in the end. They were referred to the Court of Justice by courts in Belgium and France.

In the Belgian case, Samira Achbita, a receptionist at a security firm, was fired in June 2006 for wearing an Islamic headscarf. The headscarf was banned in a new set of internal rules by her company that prohibited visible signs of political, religious or philosophical beliefs. Belgium's high court sought guidance from the Court of Justice, which is based in Luxembourg.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

2

The French case was different. Asma Bougnaoui's dismissal as a design engineer was based not on internal rules but on the complaint of a customer unhappy with her Islamic headscarf. The court's response made clear that a company can have "its own policy to maintain neutrality. This, they decided, is critical to ensuring non-discrimination."

But a complaint by a client should not have led to her dismissal. The court said that an employer's readiness to take into account the wishes of a customer does not qualify for the measure set out by the European Union.

"The question asked was, 'Is it enough for a client to say 'it bothers me that you are sending me a veiled employee'? ... The (court) answered, 'No, this is not enough,'" said Bougnaoui's lawyer Waquet. The employer's accommodation to a client "is not an essential and decisive factor."

Although both France and Belgium sought guidance from the European court, the home courts must still rule on each case.

Quiz

1 Read the first paragraph of the article.

The European Union Court of Justice reached a decision on a case about a headscarf ban in private businesses. They decided that private businesses can legally prohibit female Muslim employees from wearing their headscarves as long as it is part of a policy of neutrality. They cannot ban the headscarves in order to target a particular religion.

Which idea is BEST supported by the paragraph?

- (A) Public organizations are not affected by the European Union Court of Justice's decision about headscarves at work.
- (B) Muslim women can be prohibited from wearing headscarves if their headscarves are primarily worn for religious reasons.
- (C) The European Union Court of Justice ruled that only female Muslim employees are banned from wearing headscarves.
- (D) Private businesses can ban headscarves at work as long as the ban applies to all employees and not just some.

2 According to the article, the ruling may also affect people who are not Muslim. Which selection from the article BEST supports this idea?

- (A) They decided that private businesses can legally prohibit female Muslim employees from wearing their headscarves as long as it is part of a policy of neutrality.
- (B) The conclusion by the court was in response to two cases brought by a Belgian woman and a French woman. Both women were fired for refusing to remove their headscarves.
- (C) France already bans headscarves and other religious symbols in classrooms as well as face-covering veils in streets. However, critics quickly voiced fears that the decision risks becoming a setback to all working Muslim women.
- (D) Georgina Sklasy, of the European Network Against Racism in Brussels, expressed concern that the decision could have extremely negative effects on Muslim women and other minority populations in Europe, like Sikhs with turbans or Jews with kippahs.

3 Based on the article, which statement BEST reflects one of the author's beliefs?

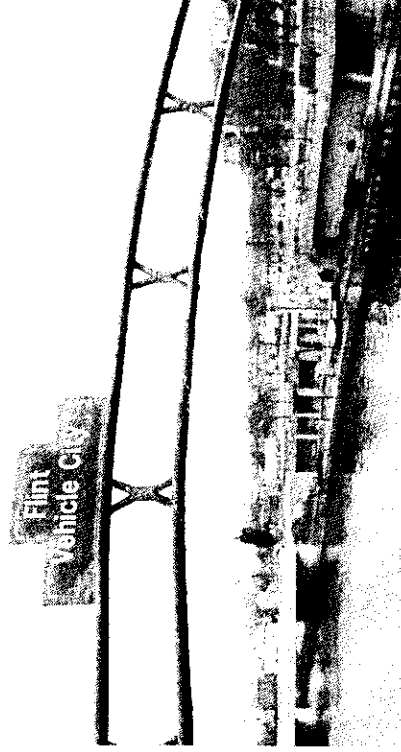
- (A) Human rights groups in Europe are becoming increasingly neutral to issues surrounding religious clothing.
- (B) The decision of the EU Court of Justice should eventually be accepted by all 28 nations in the EU.
- (C) Immigrants in Europe are not receiving the assistance they need from the EU Court of Justice.
- (D) The decision of the EU Court of Justice addresses a controversial issue present in European countries.

4 Which answer choice explains the author's MAIN purpose for writing the article?

- (A) To describe an issue that pertains to Muslims in Europe and to argue in favor of one side of the issue
- (B) To describe a ruling that pertains to Muslims in Europe and to present some concerns about that ruling
- (C) To present two cases that were heard by the EU Court of Justice and to explain why the court took those cases
- (D) To announce a decision made by the EU Court of Justice and to highlight the support for the decision

Flint residents will no longer receive help on their water bills

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.06.17
Word Count 802



Residents in Flint, Michigan, are about to start paying the full cost of their water again. But what's flowing from their taps has yet to be declared safe to drink without an approved filter.

On Wednesday, state officials will end a program that has helped pay residents' bills for more than two years. The program began after a series of ill-fated decisions by state-appointed emergency managers left the city's water system contaminated with lead. Since that 2014 disaster, the state has spent roughly \$41 million in efforts to help offset local utility bills. Residents have gotten a 65 percent credit each month on their water use, while commercial accounts received a 20 percent credit.

Anna Hixson, a spokeswoman for Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, a Republican, said the credits are ending "because the city's water meets all federal water quality standards. These are outlined in the Lead and Copper Rule and Safe Drinking Water Act. Hixson said the threshold honors an agreement reached by Snyder, the Flint government and state lawmakers who originally set aside money for the utility bill credits. Even so, she added

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

1

the state will continue to provide water filters and filter replacement cartridges. Those will "assure residents that the water is safe for consumption, even as lead service line replacement is underway."

Frustration Over End Of Relief Program

The news about the relief program is fueling another round of frustration in Flint, which has one of the highest water rates in the country.

"They want to make it look like they've resolved this thing, that it's fixed," said Tim Monahan, a carpenter who survived a harrowing bout of Legionnaires' disease after the water problems began. "It's been three years, and we still can't drink the water."

At a recent news conference, Flint Mayor Karen Weaver argued against ending the credits. She said the state should continue to pick up the tab for residents' water until it is "tap-drinkable without a filter."

"This is a trust issue, that's what it is," said Weaver, who criticized state officials for giving short notice about the credits ending. She had urged that they continue through March and possibly longer.

State Says Water Test Result Levels Are Acceptable

Last month, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said the latest analysis showed the city system tested "below action levels of the federal Lead and Copper Rule." The department said that system levels were "comparable to cities with similar size and age of infrastructure."

"This is good news," Director Heidi Greither said at the time. "The Flint water system is one of the most monitored systems in the country for lead and copper, and we remain committed to continuing work in Flint as the city recovers."

Such results, however, don't necessarily ensure that the water is safe. City residents continue to be advised not to drink the water unless it has been properly filtered, and many residents still refuse to use it for cooking or bathing. They rely instead on bottled water.

Number Of Unpaid Accounts Will Likely Increase

Now that Flint residents will be responsible for paying the full amount of their water bills, the number of delinquent accounts in the city is expected to rise. A delinquent account is one that has not been paid on time. Residents who are behind on their bills aren't eligible to have their aging pipes replaced - despite many lines containing a significant source of lead.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

2

Monahan said he and other residents worry the state will also end distribution of bottled water, though officials have insisted that won't happen anytime soon. His monthly water credit has been very small, only about \$15 or \$20 since he uses so little water these days. Even so, "it's the principle of the whole thing," Monahan said. "We shouldn't be paying for the water at all."

For decades, Flint paid Detroit to have water piped in from Lake Huron. Anti-corrosion chemicals were added along the way to keep metals from getting into the water. Then in early 2014, with the city under the control of an emergency manager appointed by Snyder, officials switched to Flint River water in an effort to cut costs.

State Officials Made A Fatal Mistake

But state officials failed to ensure the corrosion-control treatment was continued. That oversight allowed rust, iron, and lead to leach from aging pipes and wind up in residents' homes. The disaster exposed thousands of children to high levels of lead, which can cause long-term physical damage and mental impairment. The contamination also has been linked to the deaths of a dozen people who died of Legionnaires' disease. More than a dozen state and local officials have been charged with crimes in connection with the water crisis.

Nearly three years later, many residents still don't trust the water. And they trust government officials even less.

Quiz

Read the last paragraph of the section "Number Of Unpaid Accounts Will Likely Increase" and the first paragraph of the section "State Officials Made A Fatal Mistake."

For decades, Flint paid Detroit to have water piped in from Lake Huron. Anti-corrosion chemicals were added along the way to keep metals from getting into the water. Then in early 2014, with the city under the control of an emergency manager appointed by Snyder, officials switched to Flint River water in an effort to cut costs.

But state officials failed to ensure the corrosion-control treatment was continued. That oversight allowed rust, iron and lead to leach from aging pipes and wind up in residents' homes. The disaster exposed thousands of children to high levels of lead, which can cause long-term physical damage and mental impairment. The contamination also has been linked to the deaths of a dozen people who died of Legionnaires' disease. More than a dozen state and local officials have been charged with crimes in connection with the water crisis.

Which of the following ideas is BEST supported by the information in the two paragraphs?

- (A) The contamination of Flint's water was caused by metals in both Lake Huron and Flint River; however, Flint River contained more toxic materials.
- (B) Although state officials attempted to save money by switching the source of Flint's water supply, the purification of that water ended up costing the state more.
- (C) The contamination of Flint's water was not caused by switching the source of its supply; rather, it was caused by failing to properly treat the new source of water.
- (D) Although Flint's water pipes are rusted and corroded of dangerous substances, the water crisis can be easily solved by treating the water with chemicals.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

4

2

Is the article suggesting that all Flint residents should begin to use their city's water supply now that it meets federal water quality standards? Which sentence from the article supports your answer?

- (A) Yes, Anna Healer, a spokeswoman for Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, a Republican, said the credits are among "because the city's water meets all federal water quality standards."
- (B) No. The news about the roll-out program is fueling another round of frustration in Flint, which has one of the highest water rates in the country.
- (C) Yes. Last month, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality said the latest analysis showed the city system tested "below action levels of the federal Lead and Copper Rule."
- (D) No. City residents continue to be advised not to drink the water unless it has been properly filtered, and many residents still refuse to use it for cooking or bathing.

3

The author MOST appeals to the readers' sense of fear by

- (A) explaining how people were vulnerable to disease and mental impairment.
- (B) highlighting that filters are needed to ensure water is safe to cook with and drink.
- (C) describing how much money was spent on the relief program for residents.
- (D) comparing lead levels in Flint's water to those of other states around the country.

4

Which statement BEST reflects Tim Monahan's beliefs about the state's decision to end water credits for Flint residents?

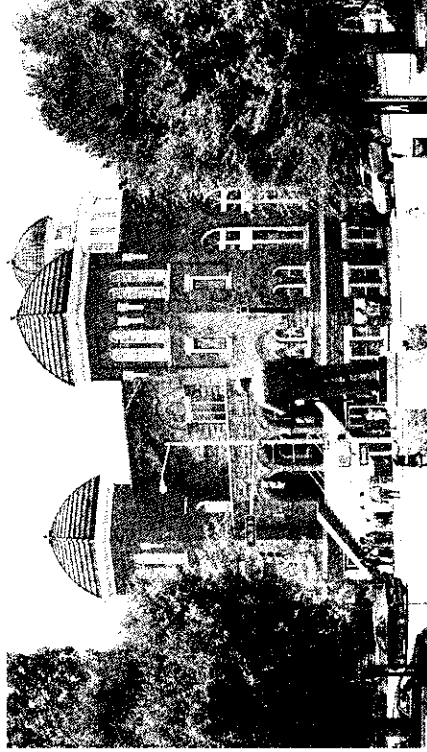
- (A) The state should provide Flint residents with a smaller water credit instead of taking it away.
- (B) The state wants to relieve the water crisis is over, but the water is still not safe.
- (C) The state should stop giving out bottled water and instead focus on fixing Flint's tap water.
- (D) The state wants to charge people high prices for water to improve the quality of Flint's water.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

5

President Obama protects yet more historical and ecological sites

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.17.17
Word Count 966



Washington Post Photo: Hal Yalgaer

President Barack Obama declared five new national monuments on Thursday including an Alabama church bombed by segregationists and forests in Oregon.

Obama has now used his executive authority more than any other president in history to protect iconic historic, cultural and ecological sites across the country.

The three new monuments in the South show how Obama has pushed to expand America's identity through the story of its public lands.

Two of the new monuments, in Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama, were the sites of violence against African-American children and a group of civil rights activists. The third, in Beaufort, South Carolina, commemorates the period between the Civil War and the push for segregation in the 1880s. During that time, freed slaves worked to establish schools and communities of their own.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <http://newsela.com>

1

Obama Preserves History

In a statement, Obama noted that the monuments "preserve critical chapters of our country's history." He said they "ensure that our national parks, monuments and public lands are fully reflective of our nation's diverse history and culture."

The president also enlarged the California Coastal National Monument by 5,000 acres and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon by roughly 42,000 acres. Many environmentalists and scientists had argued the two protected areas needed to include more land to guard against the future impacts of climate change.

Alan Spears is the National Parks Conservation Association's cultural resources director. "There was a time when we only focused on men on horseback, with swords," Spears said. "That was a different time. We've expanded the definition of what's important, and what's nationally important."

Obama Is Fond Of The Antiquities Act

Obama has now used the Antiquities Act more than any other president in American history. He has created or expanded 34 national monuments, two more than Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had previously held that title.

The Birmingham Civil Rights National Historical Park includes the site of the September 15, 1963, bombing of the city's 16th Street Baptist Church. The bombing killed four girls and injured 22 other people. The death of the four girls, who were attending Sunday school, outraged many Americans and helped convince lawmakers to pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The Freedom Riders National Monument memorializes the May 14, 1961, attack on a bus in Anniston. It was carrying an interracial group of young men and women who were challenging segregation on public transportation. The former Greyhound bus station where the riders attempted to board, as well as the site where the bus was firebombed and burned shortly afterward, will be part of the monument.

First Monument To Reconstruction

Obama's decision to establish a monument to Reconstruction was more surprising.

There was not a single site in the national park system dedicated to telling the story of Reconstruction, the period right after the Civil War.

Many Republicans in the South have come to embrace the idea of highlighting some of the more painful aspects of the region's history to help aid racial reconciliation. The entire Alabama House delegation, including six Republicans, signed on to legislation to create the Birmingham Civil Rights National Historical Park site.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <http://newsela.com>.

2

Amistigon mayor Jack Draper said in an interview that the monument to the Freedom Riders was broadly supported in the community, as well as by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

"We've come a long way," Draper said. "People need to understand we've come a long way. The community at large has embraced this and recognized that this is a story that ought to be told."

Controversy Over Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

However, at least one of the new protected landscapes, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, is more controversial.

Jack Williams, Trout Unlimited's chief scientist, said enlarging it was critical. Warmer temperatures, decreased winter snowpack and different types of storms have affected local streams and rivers needed by imperiled native fish species.

The new designation would likely mean better road maintenance and restrictions on cattle grazing or timber logging in key areas along waterways. "These will reduce erosion," Williams added.

But Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattleman's Association, said that his members "are extremely disappointed in this going through. The impact it has on grazing land, timber production and on jobs will be devastating. It'll hurt our ranchers who are managing these properties."

Rosa said that what is happening in Oregon is a story playing out across the West. The federal government is grabbing land, local governments are losing taxable property, and local ranchers and timber workers are losing work. He also said that the designation would limit access to the land for hikers, birdwatchers and other outdoors enthusiasts.

Some Feel Antiquities Act Needs Reform

"The Antiquities Act really needs to be reformed. Hopefully President Trump will do something about that. This thing has been abused by so many presidents," Rosa said. He said the 1906 law was meant to preserve historic cultural sites, but "it's turned into this thing for outgoing presidents to ensure their environmental legacy, it's really a serious abuse of what the Antiquities Act was supposed to do."

Oregon outfitter David Willis has spent 34 years fighting to first establish the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and then extend it. He said the region serves as a land bridge to "a veritable Noah's Ark of biodiversity."

Willis was so stubborn about pushing for federal protection that in the 1990s he mailed an Interior employee material about the region every day for three weeks, until he got a meeting with the interior secretary. In President Bill Clinton's final weeks, office Willis managed to corner the president four separate times to press for expanding the monument, but that moment did not arrive until 17 years later, on Thursday.

"The job isn't done, but it's a great step forward," Willis said. "We're trying to protect the best, and restore the rest."

Quiz

1 Read the sentence from the article.

In a statement, Obama noted that the monuments "preserve critical chapters of our country's history."

Which of the following paragraphs from the article BEST supports this statement?

- (A) Two of the new monuments, in Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama, were the sites of violence against African-American children and a group of civil rights activists. The third, in Beaufort, South Carolina, commemorates the period between the Civil War and the push for segregation in the 1890s. During that time, freed slaves worked to establish schools and communities of their own.
- (B) The president also enlarged the California Coastal National Monument by 5,000 acres and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon by roughly 42,000 acres. Many environmentalists and scientists had argued the two protected areas needed to include more land to guard against the future impacts of climate change.
- (C) "There was a time when we only focused on men on horseback, with swords," Spauls said. "That was a different time. We've expanded the definition of what's important, and what's nationally important."
- (D) "We've come a long way," Draper said. "People need to understand we've come a long way. The community at large has embraced this and recognized that this is a story that ought to be told."

2 Read the selection from the section "Controversy Over Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument."

Rosa said that what is happening in Oregon is a story playing out across the West. The federal government is grabbing land, local governments are losing taxable property, and local ranchers and timber workers are losing work. He also insisted that the designation would limit access to the land for hikers, birdwatchers and other outdoors enthusiasts.

Which idea is BEST supported by this selection?

- (A) The federal government does not think about ranchers and timber workers before creating monuments.
 - (B) Local governments intend to continue collecting taxes on the land that has been made into monuments.
 - (C) Some ranchers think the federal monuments take rights and opportunities away from local communities.
 - (D) Outdoors enthusiasts across the West are opposed to the creation of any new monuments by the federal government.
- 3 Which section of the article "FIRS" introduces a point of view that opposes the perspective of President Obama?
- (A) "Obama Is Fond Of The Antiquities Act"
 - (B) "First Monument To Reconstruction"
 - (C) "Controversy Over Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument"
 - (D) "Some Feel Antiquities Act Needs Reform"

4 According to the article, which of the following people have perspectives MOST IN AGREEMENT with each other?

- (A) David Willis and President Clinton
- (B) Jack Williams and David Willis
- (C) Jerome Rosa and Jack Williams
- (D) President Obama and Jerome Rosa

Basketball leads other sports in nearing an end to religious headwear ban

By Associated Press; adapted by Newsela staff on 02/06/17
Word Count 650



NEW YORK, N.Y. — The International group that governs basketball is close to changing its longstanding ban on anyone wearing religious headwear in competition. The rule change clears the way for athletes to wear hijabs, turbans and yarmulkes in international competitions.

The International Basketball Federation, a so-called FIBA, recently told its playing rules committee to create a proposal that outlines how headgear can be worn safely during games. The goal is to approve the changes at a meeting in May, the organization announced last week.

The move comes after a long two-year study about the headwear and a high-profile protest. Numerous athletes wrote an impassioned letter addressed to FIBA President Horacio Muratore. The letter called for an end to the rule and was signed by a dozen WNBA players including Breanna Stewart, team's guards Billie Jean King and Marissa Navrátilová, and U.S. Olympic fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

"I am a Muslim, and I think anybody should have the right (to wear headgear)," said Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried, who also signed the letter and won a gold medal with the United States in the 2014 Basketball World Cup. "Jewish — hey, if you're Gothic, whatever your religion is — Muslim, Christian, Catholic, it doesn't matter. You should be able to support your religion and wear whatever is part of your religion," he said.

Ban Was In Place For Two Decades

The rule banning religious headgear was enacted 20 years ago and was not meant as a ban against any religion, and stood without complaint until recently. Some groups saw the rules as a ban against the participation of players of certain faiths.

According to FIBA, headgear was banned for safety reasons in case it fell off and someone would slip on it or become entangled.

Other sports have already changed such rules.

The International Football Association Board, soccer's governing body, in 2012 approved headscarves for female Muslim players. This reversed a ban that has been enforced since 2007. FIFA, soccer's governing body, said the following year that men could wear head covers during matches, provided they were the same color as the jersey, had a "professional appearance" and did not "pose any danger."

"I am against discrimination in all forms and the headgear ban serves to discriminate based on religion and unfairly impacts the participation of women and girls," Stewart said. "There is no legitimate safety concern, so why have it? Sports should be accessible to everyone and we have the opportunity as a basketball community to lead the way in that effort so we should."

Keeping It Inclusive

Athlete Ally — an organization dedicated to ending homophobia and transphobia in sports and educate athletic communities to stand up against anti-LGBT discrimination — joined with Shirzanan, a media and advocacy organization for Muslim female athletes, to send the letter to FIBA on Jan. 25. It urged leaders to "immediately lift the ban on religious headgear."

"There's a growing need of intersectional membership," Athlete Ally founder Hudson Taylor said. "If there are any groups of people isolated and excluded in sports or otherwise in the sports community, we feel we should support them."

Seeking A Solution

The committee that will figure out how to change the rule includes U.S. women's coach Geno Auriemma and NBA Vice President of Basketball Operations Kiki Vandeweghe. Auriemma was in favor of change.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

"I know that sports is the one great place where race, religion and ethnicity and politics shouldn't enter into it, but unfortunately it always does encroach upon it," Aur emma told The Associated Press.

"Anything that encourages participation, let's get as many people playing as possible. Make the game as inclusive as possible within reason. You don't want to put people in a position on the floor where it could cause a problem for the player or the opponent. I'm sure if enough intelligent people get together, they can come up with an intelligent solution to this," he said.

Quiz

1. Is the article suggesting that religious headwear is hazardous to basketball players? Which selection supports your answer?
 - (A) Yes. According to FIBA, headgear was banned for safety reasons in case it fell off and someone would slip on it or become entangled.
 - (B) Yes. FIBA, soccer's governing body, said the following year that men could wear head covers during matches, provided they were the same color as the jersey, had a "professional appearance" and did not "pose any danger."
 - (C) No. "There is no legitimate safety concern, so why have it? Sports should be accessible to everyone and we have the opportunity as a basketball community to lead the way in that effort so we should."
 - (D) No. "You don't want to put people in a position on the floor where it could cause a problem for the player or the opponent."
2. Which paragraph from the introduction [paragraphs 1-4] outlines what prompted FIBA to consider lifting the headwear ban?
 - (A) The article MOST appeals to the reader's sense of morality by:
 - (B) highlighting that FIBA allows men to wear head coverings during soccer matches
 - (C) highlighting that the headwear ban prevents the participation of many women and girls
 - (D) highlighting that the original intent of the headwear ban was to ensure player safety
3. Which paragraph from the introduction [paragraphs 1-4] outlines what prompted FIBA to consider lifting the headwear ban?
 - (A) The article MOST appeals to the reader's sense of morality by:
 - (B) highlighting that FIBA allows men to wear head coverings during soccer matches
 - (C) highlighting that the headwear ban prevents the participation of many women and girls
 - (D) highlighting that the original intent of the headwear ban was to ensure player safety
4. Which statement MOST accurately summarizes the perspectives presented in the article?
 - (A) About half of the people in the article want the ban to be lifted solely, and the other half want a slower process.
 - (B) Women in the article want the headwear ban eliminated, but men in the article think the ban is appropriate.
 - (C) FIBA wants the ban to stay, but everyone else in the article supports lifting the ban.
 - (D) In general, the people quoted in the article all agree that the headwear ban should be lifted.

Japan's owl cafes are not for everyone, especially animal welfare groups

By Millie Kerr, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.09.17
Word Count: 718



David Marechal/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

Several owl species sit tico to a makeshift wooden perch as a TV plays a loud, animated owl-themed film behind them in the dimly lit room.

This is Tokyo's Forest of Owl cafe, it's filled with locals and tourists even on a weekday morning. At the start of 2017, its resident owls are posted and photographed by more Japanese customers than usual as a good luck charm for the new year. Fukuro — the Japanese word for owl — means good luck or protection from hardship.

Here, owls aren't merely lucky — they're cute, or "kawaii," which is a culture all on its own in Japan. Hello Kitty and Pikachu are examples of kawaii cultural icons in Japan.

"Owls Make Terrible Pets"

The Akiba Fukuro cafe website promises customers a relaxing experience and claims owls are like therapy for "tired hearts." But birds of prey experts warn that owls make terrible pets. Animal welfare groups consider cafe conditions questionable, if not abusive.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

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"Owls have acute hearing and vision. They are birds of prey who have evolved perfectly for flight and precision hunting," said Peira, an animal rights group, in a statement. "It's cruel to deny wild animals the opportunity to fulfill their basic behavioral needs by intensively confining them and exposing them to constant human harassment."

Rob Laidlaw is executive director of the animal rights charity Zoocheck. He says animal cafe environments can cause "chronic stress, negative emotional states and deteriorating physical health." Taken together, this could cause owls to bite or scratch visitors.

Improving Animal Welfare Laws

Owl cafe practices vary in Japan. Only some allow petting. But animal rights groups believe many of them violate legal welfare requirements by restraining owls with ropes and disrupting their natural sleep cycles by keeping them awake during the day.

Japan's animal welfare laws offer limited guidance on what to do with owls. But improvements may be on the horizon, says Sayoko Yamada, director of the Kanagawa Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Yamada predicts legislators will amend Japan's animal welfare laws by 2020, anticipating international scrutiny accompanying the 2020 Olympics. It is believed that Japan passed its first animal welfare legislation in 1973, just in time for a visit from Queen Elizabeth II.

For the time being, animal cafes are on the rise in Japan. According to the website Where in Tokyo, the Japanese capital has 48 animal cafes featuring a range of inhabitants, from cats and dogs to birds and snakes. Fourteen of Tokyo's animal cafes are bird-centric. At least half of Tokyo's eight owl cafes opened in the last two years.

Harry Potter's Influence

Some believe the surge stems from Japan's appreciation for the latest trends. Cat cafes are now so abundant, they're considered uncool. Owl popularity is also linked to the popularity of Harry Potter.

In the United Kingdom, where pet owls are legal, hardly anyone owned owls prior to the publication of the Harry Potter books. Owl ownership then soared during the height of the series' popularity and dropped off by the time the final book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," was published. Once people realized the cost and complexity of caring for an owl, they abandoned their "catharted pets." J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series,

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

2

publicly denounced the practice of keeping owls as saris-claunes had to make room for neglected animals. But in 2015, 60,000 Londoners bid for the chance to visit a pop-up owl cafe that promised to donate proceeds to an owl charity.

More Animal Appreciation

Japan's attractions do not claim to advance conservation. Animal experts acknowledge that cafes may foster animal appreciation, but say they are more likely to inspire customers to buy pet owls than donate to animal welfare.

Sumo Yamamoto, a Japanese owl expert, does not consider the trend for owl cafes an immediate threat to the conservation of owl species. Most birds on display are bred in captivity, either in Japan or abroad, Yamamoto says.

However, chicks stolen illegally from the wild sometimes end up in legal markets. In 2014, a Belgian court convicted four traders of buying birds permits for endangered species to make chicks caught in the wild appear to be captive-bred. The traders were part of a larger crime network involved in the illegal wildlife trade throughout parts of Europe and the U.K.

Quiz

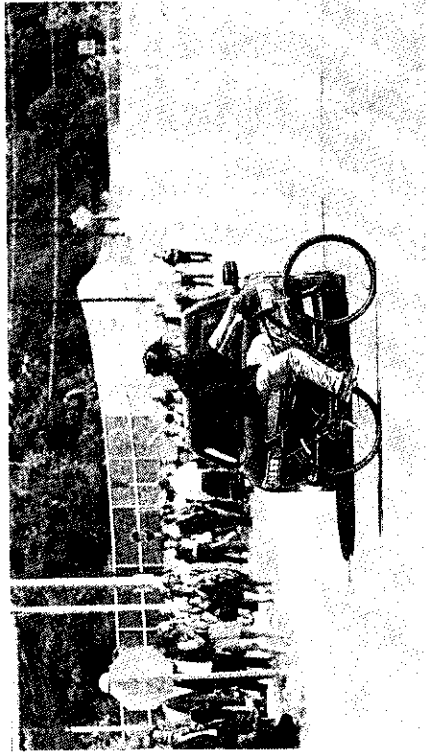
- Which of the following sentences from the article BEST develops a central idea?
 - "In Akiba, Fukuro's owl cafe website promises customers a relaxing experience and claims owls are 'the therapy for tired hearts'."
 - But animal rights groups believe many of them violate legal welfare requirements by restricting owls with cages and disrupting their natural sleep cycles by keeping them awake during the day.
 - According to the website Where in Tokyo, the Japanese capital has 400,000 owl cafes housing a range of inhabitants: "from cats and dogs to birds and snakes."
 - In 2014, a Belgian court convicted four traders of buying birds permits for endangered species to make chicks caught in the wild appear to be captive-bred.
- Read the sentence from the end of "Owls Make Terrible Pets."

Animal welfare groups consider owl conditions questionable, if not abusive.

- Does this sentence support a CJJRAA idea in the article? Why or why not?
 - Yes, it suggests that groups are taking action against owl cafes.
 - Yes, it introduces a concern people have about owl cafes.
 - No, it does not describe how owls are treated in owl cafes.
 - Yes, it does not provide evidence that owls are abused.
- Which of the following people or groups quoted in the article would be LEAST likely to agree with the idea that owl cafes are harmful to owls?
 - Sumo Yamamoto
 - Osayoro Yamaguchi
 - French owl law
 - J.K. Rowling
- Based on the article, which of the following is the LEAST influential factor to the changes Japan makes to its animal welfare laws?
 - animal rights groups
 - wildlife experts
 - concern for animal safety
 - tourism's effect on

New rule could have new vehicles talking to each other within four years

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.21.16
Word Count 793



AP Photo/Pau

WASHINGTON — All new cars and light trucks would be able to talk wirelessly with each other under a new rule the Transportation Department proposed Tuesday. Officials say the technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths and transform driving. Vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V, enables cars to transmit their locations, speed, direction and other information 10 times per second. That lets cars detect, for example, when another vehicle is about to run a red light. It also lets other cars know when another vehicle is braking hard, changing lanes or coming around a turn in time to prevent a crash.

The technology has the potential to prevent or lessen the severity of up to 80 percent of collisions that don't involve alcohol or drugs, officials said.

V2V will provide 360-degree situational awareness on the road, said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "We are carrying the ball as far as we can to realize the potential of transportation technology to save lives."

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Proposal Is Being Reviewed

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said it is reviewing the proposal. So far, it says that V2V fits in with automated safety features that are increasingly being added to vehicles.

Automakers and the government have been working together to develop the V2V technology for more than a decade. Under the department's proposal, V2V systems would be required to "speak the same language."

The Federal Highway Administration plans to help transportation planners integrate wireless technology into roadway infrastructure such as traffic lights, stop signs and work zones. Cars could communicate information on road conditions to the infrastructure, which could then be passed along to other vehicles as they come along. Traffic lights would know when to stay green to avoid unnecessary waiting and reduce traffic jams.

There is a 90-day period for people to comment. Officials said they expect it will be about a year before a final rule is released.

Proposal: All Cars Would Have Technology In Four Years

The proposal says half of new vehicles would have the technology within two years after a final rule is issued, and 100 percent of vehicles would have it within four years. It would still take years or even decades after that for the full potential of V2V to be realized. That's because V2V can prevent collisions only among vehicles that have it.

The process of putting V2V in all America cars may go faster if devices are developed that will add the technology to older vehicles.

Some automakers aren't waiting for the final rule. General Motors has already said it plans to include V2V in some 2017 Cadillacs. The 2017 Mercedes E-Class sedans are also equipped with V2V.

V2V's range is up to about 1,000 yards in all directions, even when sight is blocked by buildings or other obstacles. That lets the technology detect a potential collision even before the driver can see the threat. Sensors and cameras of self-driving cars only sense what's immediately around the vehicle.

V2V, Self-Driving Cars Could Work Well Together

Industry and government officials see the two technologies as complementary. Ultimately, self-driving cars with V2V may be the answer to traffic jams. They'll be able to synchronize vehicles so they can merge seamlessly and safely travel closely back-to-back at higher speeds. That would improve traffic flow and increase the number of cars on the highway.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

The proposal requires that V2V systems employ a security level of at least 128-bit encryption. It must also follow the standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

To protect privacy, V2V messages are anonymous. They don't contain any information on the driver, owner of the vehicle, make or model, vehicle identification number or license plate. The messages are also short and not kept, so it's not possible to use the messages to determine where a vehicle has been or to search for it among others on the road, said Debra Belzina. She is an engineer with the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute who works on the technology.

One Challenge Is Tech Firms That Want To Grab Bandwidth

One hurdle facing the technology is its exclusive right to use the 5.9 GHz radio spectrum that Congress specifically set aside for V2V years ago. Since then, there has been such an explosion in the number of wireless devices and demand for ever faster Wi-Fi that technology companies want permission to use the same bandwidth.

The Federal Communications Commission is in the first phase of a three-phase testing program to see if sharing the spectrum with Wi-Fi would interfere with V2V signals.

Spectrum sharing should be allowed, only if it can be proven that no harmful interference occurs," the auto alliance said in a statement. "Any interference could result in a crash, or even worse, an injury or fatality."

Quiz

Quiz

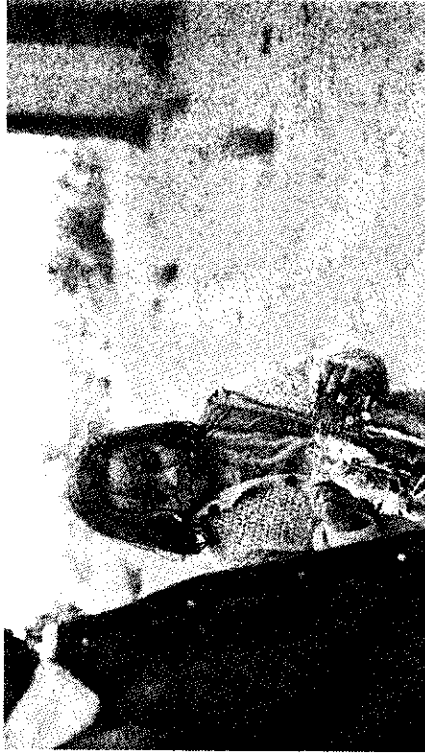
- Which of the following sentences from the article BEST develops a central idea?
 - "Officials say the technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths and transform driving."
 - "Vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V, enables cars to transmit their locations, speed, direction and other information 10 times per second."
 - "Automakers and the government have been working together to develop the V2V technology for more than a decade."
 - "The process of putting V2V in all American cars may go faster if devices are developed that will add the technology to older vehicles."
- Which action below provides an accurate and objective summary of the article?
 - V2V technology is saving hundreds of lives, and it will be legally required in all cars in two years.
 - V2V technology has the potential to save hundreds of lives, but there are still several difficulties in implementing the technology.
 - V2V technology could save lives, but it cannot work with current Wi-Fi demands on the radio spectrum.
 - V2V technology is meant to save lives, but it is expensive and does not work reliably.
- Which of the following statements BEST represents Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx's opinion about V2V technology in the article?
 - Since V2V technology is legally required in all cars, the government must support its effectiveness by testing Wi-Fi capabilities.
 - Since V2V technology is unproven, it is too early to determine if the technology is effective in preventing accidents.
 - Since V2V technology has the potential to do so much good, the government is actively supporting the development of the technology.
 - Since V2V technology can easily be installed in all cars, it will be a new legal requirement for all registered vehicles to have the technology.

Quiz

- How does the article develop the idea that V2V technology has some difficulties to overcome?
 - by stating that self-driving cars could make V2V technology obsolete before it has a chance to be tested
 - by stating that V2V technology cannot interpret road conditions or identify other hazards
 - by stating that most cars have V2V technology already, but the technology is not being used
 - by stating that many technology companies want to use the bandwidth that has been set aside for V2V technology, which could make its signals unreliable

Pennsylvania lumber company makes a bold statement with Super Bowl ad

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02/08/17
Word Count 898



EIGHTY FOUR, Pa. -- All it took was a few minutes of expensive, emotional advertising during the Super Bowl to pull this little town in the far southwestern corner of Pennsylvania into the center of the national debate on immigration.

Despite the anger and sudden attention, many people here said Monday that they did not see the now-famous 84 Lumber ad as particularly political.

"It was sad," said Jennie Ryan, 28, a nurse from nearby Washington, Pennsylvania. "It showed the struggles that other people experience who are not from here."

"It was a bit of a tear-jerker," said George Gavlik, 50, a field technician in the oil and gas industry from Pitsburgh. Asked if it seemed too political, Gavlik shrugged and said, "It's their right."

Many viewed the Super Bowl ad as a tale of a mother and daughter traveling through Mexico on their way to the U.S. border as unambiguously pro-immigration. It came as something of a surprise, in part, because it was promoting a little-known company that apparently was wading into the raging debate on television's largest stage, 84 Lumber.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Ad Appears Critical Of Trump's Immigration Policy

The homebuilding supply company that carries the town's name is headquartered here, in a county that voted 61 percent for President Donald Trump. The company's chief executive, Maggie Hardy Magerko, said she voted for him. Yet many took the message as criticizing Trump's immigration platform.

In the original ad, the mother and daughter arrive at the U.S. border and confront an imposing wall, like the one the president has proposed. It seems a heartbreaking end to a hopeful journey, until they discover a door that opens onto a sunlit and welcoming America.

"The will to succeed is always welcome here," reads a tagline.

Fox, the network that broadcast the Super Bowl, rejected 84 Lumber's original version of the ad, refusing to let the company show the wall.

That rejection prompted the company to send viewers to the 84 Lumber website to see the full version. So many people wanted to view it that the company's website crashed Sunday night.

Some have criticized the ad as promoting illegal immigration, but the overwhelming response was supportive. Steve Radick, vice president and director of public relations of the agency that created the ad, said the commercial was not a direct response to the current debate about immigration and refugees that has been one of Trump's hallmarks. But, Radick said, the clear aim was to take a stand.

Meant To Reflect The World Today

"When you are doing a big advertising campaign, especially Super Bowl advertising, you can't just be talking about your company," he said. "You have to make sure you're reflecting what is going on in the world today."

Some residents of Eighty Four took the ad as a vague reference to the American dream. For most of those interviewed Monday, their vision of America is that it is a magnet for the world -- but with a front door that is not open to everyone.

Others said it was just exciting to see their tiny town's company on the big stage.

A 51-year-old trucker who spoke anonymously for fear of blowback said the ad did not bother him despite the fact that he supports the idea of a big, strong wall on the southern border. He said he voted for Trump but voted for former President Barack Obama twice.

"They can put up an electric fence as far as I'm concerned," the trucker said. "The president's political with it, so what's the problem?"

Trump has done more in the first two weeks than Obama did in eight years, he said.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Marcia Minor Opps, 53, who described her family as conservative, said she has warm feelings toward the Hardy family, which started 84 Lumber. It was founder John Hardy who 40 years ago urged Opps' mother to expand her milk and ice cream shop into a country restaurant.

Opps said she was perplexed when she saw the ad. "I didn't know what it was trying to say because the people who work at 84 Lumber are all American," she said. "Maybe they were just saying that people from all over the world want to get here but sometimes it's hard."

When Opps' 76-year-old mother, Beverly Minor, watched it, she thought the message was that "it's a privilege to be here." Adding her own view, she said: "It's not something we owe everybody."

Immigration Is Not Simply A Partisan Issue

Ali Noorani, the executive director of the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigrant advocacy organization, said the outpouring of support for the ad reflects the complicated view Americans have about immigration. "The immigration issue is not as partisan as President Trump will have you believe," Noorani said. "And I think this ad and this company is evidence of that."

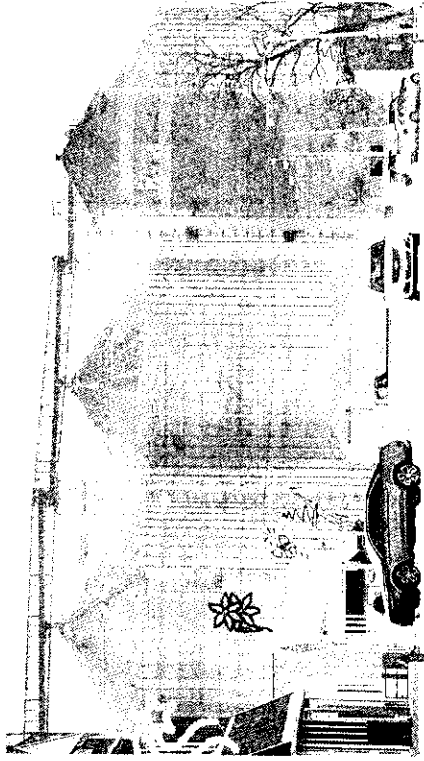
Noorani said the emotional nature of the ad, and its response, goes to the heart of the debate: "The argument about immigration is about culture and values, not politics and policy."

Others said that given the reliance on immigrants, the ad was not a complete surprise.

"I've met a lot of CEOs who will admit privately that they need immigrants," said Raul Ilinojosa-Ojeda, a professor in the Department of Chicana and Chican Studies at UCLA. "But to do it like this, in the Super Bowl for everybody to see, was an act of courage."

As rural America's population shifts, towns are in need of resuscitation

By The Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 01/06/17
Word Count 834



An Omaha newspaper

RENNICK, Iowa — Once-bustling Rennick, Iowa, lost its grocery store, hardware store, school and Ford dealership years ago. When its sole bar closed last June, it seemed to some residents there wasn't much of a town left.

A group of seven friends and spouses who had met at the bar for decades took matters into their own hands. One of them bought the place and the others pooled their money to fix it up. They stepped by the bar after work to replace floors and walls on steamy summer nights before reopening it in September as the Blue Moose Saloon.

It was an impressive achievement and one that is becoming more common.

Scrambling To Hold On

As people continue to move away from rural America, residents of some towns are scrambling to hold onto at least a few places where people can still get together. It's not just bars closing up shop, but grocery stores, cafes and more.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

They don't expect to turn around their communities' prospects. But after watching so many businesses give up, they feel they have to draw the line somewhere.

"There are two (other) places not too far over in Lu Verne, but it's not our place," one of the Blue Moose owners, Ron Oberhelman, said. He is a 59-year-old farmer who has seen the population fall from about 500 residents to 235.

"It's not our hometown," he said. "When your local place closes up, you're pretty much lost."

Rennick's wide streets are usually empty, apart from a trickle of people who stop at the small post office, do business at the towering silver Gold Eagle grain elevators or work at a seed production plant. But cars and pickups begin pulling up to the Blue Moose not long after it opens each afternoon at 4, offering a refuge from the icy December wind that blows off the snowy farmland surrounding the community about 90 miles north of the capital, Des Moines.

The Hub Of The Community

It is a similar situation in the Missouri River village of Decatur, Nebraska. There, a dozen people put up money to help the owners rebuild when the Green Lantern Steakhouse burned in 2008. The restaurant, established in 1956, was what brought people into town and served as the main meeting spot in the community of 450, which is an hour's drive north of Omaha.

"It's not very easy to have a strong, active small town," said Matt Connealy, who lives on a farm just outside town. "You have to do things that don't always make the best sense financially."

Once reopened, the restaurant resumed its place as the community's hub. Home to high school graduation parties and baby showers, near the entrance, notices are crammed on a bulletin board, so, as Connealy said, "if you want to find out what's happening, that's where you go."

Populations In Decline

U.S. Census figures show that more than one-third of rural counties have a lower population now than in 1930. In Iowa, about two-thirds of the state's 99 counties have lost population for decades. In addition to fewer potential customers, businesses in rural areas face stiff competition from online shopping and from larger cities' chain stores, which offer big savings for those willing to drive another 30 or 40 miles.

Charles Fluharty, who heads the Rural Policy Research Institute at the University of Iowa, said he has seen an increase in rural neighbors joining together to save local spots. Some create cooperatives, which are jointly owned and run by the co-ops' members, or they seek government and private grants.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Without gathering placards, the residents fear that people in town will not know each other. They won't know who's getting married, who's sick or who needs help.

"There's a sense of, 'we've got to take care of ourselves, and that means we've got to take care of one another' because we've all we've got," Flurnary said.

Any Means Necessary To Save The Town

In Koster, Minnesota, the 486 residents went so far as gaining approval from the state Legislature for the city to own the local food store. Residents later formed a co-op, and the Koster Market sign reads: "Proud to be community owned."

Marcia Dahle, who used to be the market manager, said the grocery store relies increasingly on volunteer help. It delivers to elderly people at home and takes special orders for meat.

"We try to bend over backward to help people in town," she said.

Residents of Bowdon, North Dakota, population 35, also created a co-op to save a meat-cutting plant after the owner died. Although it only employs a few people, co-op board member Larry Crowder said it was "the busiest place on Main Street," and residents "bored Bowdon's cafe and co-op grocery store could fail if the plant was not there to draw people into town."

They managed to sell 100 shares of the plant at \$5,500 apiece to help fund a new facility.

"They did it to save the town," Crowder said.

Quiz

- Which of the following excerpts BEST summarizes a MAIN idea of the article?
 - As people continue to move away from rural America, residents of some towns are scrambling to hold onto at least a few places where people can still get together.
 - "It's not very easy to have a strong, active small town," said Matt Conneally, who lives on a farm just outside town. "You have to do things that don't always make the best sense financially."
 - In addition to fewer potential customers, businesses in rural areas face stiff competition from online shopping and from larger cities' chain stores, which offer big savings for those willing to drive another 30 or 40 miles.
 - Although it only employed a few people, co-op board member Larry Crowder said it was "the busiest place on Main Street," and residents feared Bowdon's cafe and co-op grocery store could fail if the plant was not there to draw people into town.
- Select the paragraph from the section "Scrambling To Hold On" that would be MOST important to address in an objective summary of the article.
 - Which of the following would BEST describe Matt Conneally's reaction to people in Renwick, Iowa reclaiming the Blue Moose Saloon?
 - shocked that people would spend their own money to keep a bar open
 - supportive of the Blue Moose as a gathering place for the community
 - confused by why the community initially allowed the bar to close
 - concerned that the Blue Moose does not have a bulletin board for notices
- Which of the following people mentioned in the article would MOST likely agree that people need a local spot to call their own?
 - Charles Flurnary
 - Marcia Dahle
 - Larry Crowder
 - Ron Oudard

Harry Potter's world could cast a spell, lure visitors to Universal Studios

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 04/14/16
Word Count 977



At Six Flags in Los Angeles, Times/TNS

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Six decades ago, Walt Disney opened what would become the nation's prototypical theme park, a fantasy land built around Sleeping Beauty Castle inspired by the classic fairy tale and Disney's soon-to-be-released animated film.

Universal Studios Hollywood has long been considered second-rate compared with its rival. But on Thursday, Universal opened the gates to its own fantasy fortress: a 200-foot-tall Hogwarts Castle, inspired by the popular Harry Potter books and movies.

In the hybrid-corporative world of Southern California theme parks, it's "Game on!"

Universal Studios Hollywood's new Wizarding World of Harry Potter presents the first serious challenge to the preeminence of Disneyland.

"The product offerings at Universal are such a high quality that they are of the same level as Disney in many aspects," said Dennis Spiegel, president of International Theme Park Services in Cincinnati. "Ono. His company designs and develops theme parks around the country."

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Eerie Themes, Opening-Day Glitches

As Thursday dawned, fog machines swirled a gray mist around the archway entrance to Universal Studios Hollywood's new attraction. Haunting music from the Potter films wafted over the crowd of more than 250 devotees who had been in line since before 2 a.m.

There were a few problems, despite the park's technical rehearsals.

The complex 3D-HD dark ride, called Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, broke down for a few minutes when Sarah Mahony was riding.

The projection in front of her froze and then went black, but the sea kept moving as a recorded voice repeated: "Please stay in your seats, everything is all right." Despite a few nervous moments, she later cracked it up to the attraction's "first-day jitters."

Moaning Myrtle Heard In Bathrooms

Inside the six-acre model of Hogsmeade village from J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books and films that followed, the varied architecture suggests a place that grew over time. There are signs of faux age, like rust. Props from the films are sprinkled throughout. Moaning Myrtle can be heard in the bathrooms.

This kind of immersive storytelling and attention to detail bring the park into Disney's league. Experts said the estimated \$500 million attraction also could become such a tour-de-force that it cuts into Disneyland's busyness this summer.

Andrew Dinh, roaming the Potter land with his 5-year-old daughter, Taylor, had already spent about \$500 on items including robes, wands, skirts and temporary tattoos.

"It's born for her and me," admitted Dinh, 36, a Riverside County deputy sheriff.

Disneyland Answers With "Star Wars"

When a similar Harry Potter world opened in 2010 at Universal's Islands of Adventure theme park in Orlando, Fla., attendance jumped 30 percent at that park that year. Nearby, visitation numbers at Disney's Magic Kingdom nearly crept 1.5 percent.

But Disney and its not sitting idly by. The park has started construction on the 14-acre expansion based on the blockbuster "Star Wars" films. A completion on date has yet to be announced.

Strictly by the numbers, Disneyland is packed with more attractions and draws more than twice as many visitors as Universal Studios Hollywood.

But Universal Studios Hollywood's attendance has been increasing its number of visitors and attractions faster.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

Universal's Attendance Grows Faster

Estimates are that Disneyland hosted 16.8 million visitors in 2014, a 3.5 percent increase over the previous year. Universal Studios Hollywood welcomed 6.8 million visitors, an 11 percent increase over the previous year, the study said.

From 2010 through 2014, Universal Studios Hollywood saw annual attendance rise by 1.8 million visitors, or 36 percent. During the same period, Disneyland's annual attendance increased by about 800,000 visitors, or 5 percent.

The rapid attendance growth at Universal Studios Hollywood comes courtesy of some new big-ticket attractions.

In 2012, Universal Studios Hollywood opened Transformers: The Ride-3D. Then in 2014 it opened the Despicable Me Minion Mayhem ride and Super Silly Fun Land. The park launched Fast and Furious: Supercharged last year as well as Springfield, a city block of eateries inspired by the fictional town in the TV show "The Simpsons."

Just in time for summer, Universal Studios Hollywood plans to open a haunted maze based on the AMC series "The Walking Dead." The show's executive producer and frequent director Gregory Nicotero will oversee the creation of the animatronic zombies.

Newest Disney Ride Was Buzz Lightyear

Disneyland hasn't built a major new ride since it added the interactive Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters in 2005.

Disneyland has "retooled several attractions to appeal to fans of 'Star Wars,'" acquired by Disney along with Lucasfilm for \$4 billion in 2012. Part of Tomorrowland has been converted into Star Wars Launch Bay, a hall where parkgoers can play "Star Wars" video games, buy merchandise and meet costumed characters from the films.

Universal Studios Hollywood started more than 50 years ago as a side attraction to Universal's television and movie studios.

The theme park's centerpiece had been a tram ride that let visitors glimpse the movie-making process. Stunt shows and exhibits on makeup and special effects were added in the early years.

"Now Both Are Playing Chess"

The park began to aim for Disney-quality attractions in 1996 with the Jurassic Park ride, based on the blockbuster directed by Steven Spielberg and featuring life-size animatronic dinosaurs.

The park added several other big-ticket attractions in the following years, including a 3-D King Kong to replace an aging automaton ape on the tram ride that burned in a 2008 fire.

The pace of new attractions accelerated soon after the park's parent company, Comcast Corp., in 2013 announced plans for a \$1.6 billion, 25-year makeover of the park and the adjacent studio facilities.

With the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Universal Studios Hollywood can now crow about a feature that rivals the technology and sophistication of Disneyland, said Dave Koenig, author of several books on Disney.

"Universal is back in the game," he said. "Before, one was playing checkers and one was playing chess. Now both are playing chess."

Quiz

1. Which of the following details from the article BEST contributes to its central idea?
 (A) Universal's Hogsmeade Village has taken us to make it look older and that are objects from the "Harry Potter" line everywhere.
 (B) Universal recently launched big-ticket attractions based on Harry Potter, the "Fast and Furious" movies, and "The Simpsons."
 (C) When a Harry Potter attraction opened at Universal's Florida park, visitor numbers rose there and fell at the Magic Kingdom.
 (D) Universal's 2016 "Hogwarts Castle is a fantasy fortress inspired by the popular Harry Potter books and movies.
2. Which of the following sentences from the section "How Did We Playing Cross" is MOST appropriate to include in a summary of the article?
 (A) The park began to attract Disney-quality attractions in 1986 with the Jurassic Park ride, based on the blockbuster directed by Steven Spielberg and featuring life-size animatronic dinosaurs.
 (B) The park added several other big-ticket attractions in the following years, including a 3-D King Kong to replace an aging animatronic ape on the Park ride that burned in a 2008 fire.
 (C) The pace of new attractions accelerated soon after the park's parent company, Comcast Corp., in 2013 announced plans for a \$1.6 billion, 25-year makeover of the park and the adjacent studio facilities.
 (D) With the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Universal Studios Hollywood can now crow about a feature that rivals the technology and sophistication of Disneyland, said Dave Karger, author of several books on Disney.
3. How does the article develop the idea that Wizarding World might pull into Disneyland's business this summer?
 (A) by highlighting Universal's more popular attractions in the past several years, then comparing the success of those rides with Wizarding World's success thus far
 (B) by describing Wizarding World's features and early popularity, then giving examples of how Universal's recent attractions have led to strong attendance growth
 (C) by exploring the issues Universal rides have had in the past, then explaining why Wizarding World is one of the more technologically advanced attractions on the planet
 (D) by analyzing how closely Wizarding World resembles the Harry Potter books, then predicting that Universal will soon surpass Disneyland in total visitors
4. Which answer choice would BEST describe Universal's recent approach toward increasing attendance, as portrayed in this article?
 (A) Universal rides that have fallen apart in recent years, and compares the rides with those at Disneyland.
 (B) It builds rides that are noticeably sophisticated, and shows off the rides features all throughout the park.
 (C) It opens rides that are based on very popular movies and realizes that the rides are technologically advanced.
 (D) it does this rides that are very enjoyable, and encourages visitors to fall in love with all of the rides details.

Beyoncé's Super Bowl halftime show sparks criticism, support

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela on 02.12.16
Word Count 644



Nia V. Meyer/Bay Area News Group/ AP

Sunday's football game between the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers was the third most-watched telecast on broadcast in U.S. history. The viewership peaked at 115.5 million not during the game itself, but rather during the 30-minute halftime show.

The data confirms what many have been saying: Not only did Beyoncé upstage fellow performers Coldplay and Bruno Mars, she dominated the entire Super Bowl.

The singer's performance of her new single "Formation" touched upon police brutality toward blacks. It also celebrated 1960s black activist Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party of the 1960s and 1970s.

Now, the debate rages on about whether it was appropriate for Beyoncé to inject politics into her performance.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

1

Former NYC Mayor Says Performance Was "Outrageous"

The same elements of the performance that have been widely praised for showcasing black empowerment have also attracted strong criticism from the likes of former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani. On Monday, Giuliani called Beyoncé's "attack" on police officers "outrageous."

At issue are, among other things, the "X" formation that dancers created on the field and the Afro and black boric they sported. The first channeled Malcolm X, while the second referenced the distinctive look of the Black Panthers.

Another, quieter political display was not shown on-screen but is now catching fire online. It occurred after the halftime show, when a group of Beyoncé's dancers was approached by two organizers for the Black Lives Matter movement Bay Area chapter.

Ronisha Johnson and Rhoeema Emy Calloway knew what they wanted out of their halftime show tickets — a way to spread the story of Mario Woods to a larger audience than they had ever had before. Woods, a 26-year-old black man, was shot and killed by San Francisco police officers in December.

As Beyoncé's dancers walked off the field with their fists in the air, Johnson and Calloway ran up to a group of them with a sign that read "Justice 4 Mario Woods."

Dancers Were Eager To Hold Sign For Cameras

The organizers said in interviews with reporters that the performers did not hesitate, and they were eager to be photographed holding the sign.

"The dancers were really excited to take pictures," Calloway said. "They didn't second-guess taking a stand in solidarity with us for Mario Woods, and it seemed they had already heard the story."

Since then, there has been plenty of time for photos and a video to spread across the Internet.

Gwen Woods, Mario's mother, said she was moved by the photos.

"I was really depressed, and that gave me a jolt," she said. "To see them with the sign in the stands, it jolted me back into reality — it inspired me. ... I am so thankful to these dancers that they acknowledged this."

Justice Department Reviewing SFPD

At the start of this month, the Justice Department announced a review of the San Francisco Police Department in the wake of Woods's death. The killing was captured in a video that shows Woods being shot by five officers who fired 15 rounds after Woods walked toward them with a knife in his hand.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

2

Woods had a history of mental illness and had stabbed someone earlier that day.

The dancers' gesture was applauded by some who viewed it as a fitting addendum to Beyoncé's program, while others thought it ignored certain facts of the case that support the police account of the incident.

Beyoncé's "Formation" music video features a black boy in a hoodie dancing in front of armed police, as well as graffiti that reads "Stop shooting us." After its release last week, some Twitter users who claimed the video is unfair to police began calling on people not to watch Beyoncé's Super Bowl performance.

At a pre-Super Bowl party in San Francisco on Friday night, singer Alicia Keys also made a statement in support of Woods at the start of her performance.

Quiz

- Read the passage from the introduction:

The data confirms what many have been saying: Not only did Beyoncé upstage fellow performers Coldplay and Bruno Mars, she dominated the entire Super Bowl.

Which of the following is the BEST substitute for upstage?
 (A) beat
 (B) ignore
 (C) kick off
 (D) overshadow
- Read the passage from the section "Justice Department Reviewing SFPD."

The dancers' gesture was applauded by some who viewed it as a fitting addendum to Beyoncé's program, while others thought it ignored certain facts of the case that support the police account of the incident.

Which of the following BEST defines "addendum"?
 (A) extra part
 (B) conclusion
 (C) unnecessary part
 (D) necessary ending

- Read the following paragraphs from the article. Which one represents a major transition in the article's development?

- (A) Now, the debate rages on about whether it was appropriate for Beyoncé to inject politics into her performance.
- (B) At issue are, among other things, the "X" formation that dancers created on the field and the Afro and black cones they wore. The first channeled Malcolm X, while the second referenced the distinctive look of the Black Panthers.
- (C) Another, quieter, political display was not shown on-screen but is now catching fire online. It occurred after the halftime show, when a group of Beyoncé's dancers was approached by two organizers for the Black Lives Matter movement Bay Area chapter.
- (D) The organizers said in interviews with reporters that the performers did not hesitate, and they were eager to be photographed holding the sign.

- Read the final paragraph of the article.

At a pre-Super Bowl party in San Francisco on Friday night, singer Alicia Keys also made a statement in support of Woods at the start of her performance.

Why does the author choose to conclude with this paragraph?

- (A) to show that most entertainers also support Woods
- (B) to imply that Beyoncé's dancers made the right choice in taking the pictures
- (C) to show that Beyoncé and her dancers are not alone among entertainers raising these issues
- (D) to imply that the best way to make social change is through entertainers stepping up and speaking out

No, your Facebook friends did not take a vacation en masse to the Dakotas

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.03.16
Word Count 966



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

By now, depending on your Facebook filter bubble, you've probably seen it: a Facebook "friend" "checking in" at Standing Rock, North Dakota, and then a separate post explaining the clever ploy that reads something like this:

"The Morton County Sheriff's Department has been using Facebook check-ins to find out who is at Standing Rock in order to target them in attempts to disrupt the prayer camps. SO Water Protectors are calling on EVERYONE to check-in at Standing Rock, ND to overwhelm and confuse them. This is concrete action that can protect people putting their bodies and well-beings on the line that we can do without leaving our homes."

The posts include additional data as to how to keep law enforcement from seeing them. For example, they purposely misspell "Standing Rock" so they don't appear in a search for the name.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>

False Information Supports Sioux Protest

The idea is spreading through Facebook to help protesters who are trying to block the continued construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. Protesters say the pipeline would endanger the water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and destroy sacred burial grounds and artifacts. According to the Facebook meme, having thousands of supporters from across the country "checking in" at Standing Rock would help protesters there by flooding police with false information.

No one so far seems to know who started the idea or if it will actually work as stated. A representative for one of the major protest camps told The Washington Post in an email that the idea did not originate from them. Still, they support the viral post because of the attention it's directing to their cause. "We support the tactic, and think it is a great way to express solidarity," a spokesman for the Sacred Stone Camp wrote. "It looks like the copy and paste technique has created a unique way of generating numbers of support."

Who Started It?

The Sacred Stone Camp has been protesting the Dakota Access pipeline since April. It is an important point of activity in the protests, which grew dramatically in August. As the representative pointed out, though, there are many camps and points of contact for people protesting the pipeline at this point. The way the protests are organized doesn't give any of those camps the authority to speak for all organizers.

Fact-checking website Snopes tried to get to the bottom of the meme's origins. So far, it has left the matter as "unproven." The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has not yet commented on the idea on its official Facebook page. Several activist pages that stand in solidarity with the pipeline protests have also shared the post; it's not clear whether any of them came up with the idea or are just passing it along.

Policing The Internet

As the meme spread, the Morton County Sheriff's Department said in a statement that it does not track Facebook check-ins for the protest camp or any location. The department said it is "absolutely false." The Sacred Stone Camp didn't specifically address check-ins in its statement to us; it did say, however, that there is no court-ordered law enforcement watching social media.

In fact, as The Washington Post reported earlier this month, Facebook was one of three major social networks to grant access to Google+. The other two were Instagram and Twitter. Google+ provides real-time information to law enforcement on protesters, according to an ABC 10 report. Five hundred law enforcement agencies reportedly use the

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>

Quiz

1 Place the sentence from the section "Fencing the Internet."

The ACLU has asked social media companies to do more to shield its users from surveillance as a result of its report on Geofeedia's access.

Does this particular sentence support the main idea of the article? Why or why not?

- (A) Yes, because it points out the issue of police enforcement, infringing on individuals' rights, which is relevant to what is happening with Facebook and the Standing Rock protest.
- (B) Yes, because it describes how social media companies like Facebook can be instrumental in promoting social change, which is what the Standing Rock protest is all about.
- (C) No, because it proves that law enforcement has not used Geofeedia to track protesters, which would show how ineffective the Facebook posts on Standing Rock are.
- (D) No, because the ACLU supports law enforcement, which is who the protesters are fighting against in the pipeline battle.

2 Fencing on any level, whether in person or on Facebook, is helping the anti-pipeline movement.

Which citation BEST supports the main idea above?

- (A) "We support the tactic, and think it is a great way to express solidarity," a spokesman for the Sacred Stone Camp wrote.
- (B) "There is a massive social media following, which plays a key role in this struggle," the statement said.
- (C) "We appreciate a diversity of tactics and encourage people to come up with creative ways to act in solidarity, both online and as real physical allies."
- (D) "We also need 10,000, 100,000 people to join us here on the ground," it added.

3 What is the MOST important reason why Facebook users are posting on behalf of the protesters?

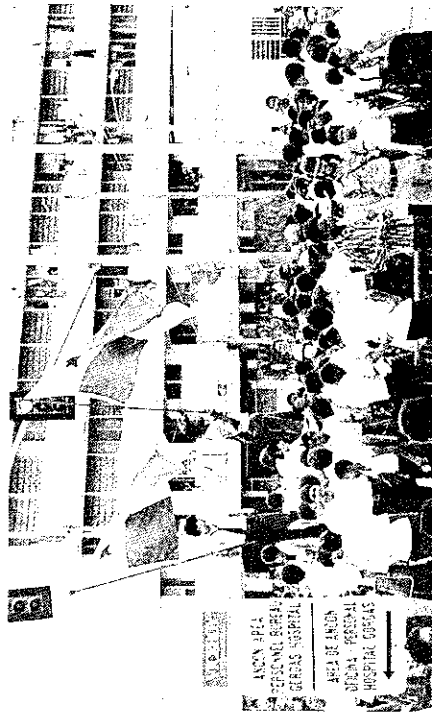
- (A) to show other users how to get to Standing Rock, South Dakota
- (B) to overwhelm law enforcement with erroneous information
- (C) to stop Geofeedia from tracking their protesting activity
- (D) to get the ACLU to support their online privacy rights

4 How does the author develop the article's central idea about the Standing Rock protest?

- (A) by providing the Sioux tribe's own statements about the installation of the pipeline and then describing how they organized their protest
- (B) by explaining how people on social media are getting involved in the Sioux tribe's protest and then describing the overall effects of their actions
- (C) by exploring the Sioux tribe's past conflict with law enforcement and then comparing it to what is happening with the pipeline
- (D) by framing the article with anecdotes about protesters' challenges and then explaining how the movement has promoted change

Great Cities: How the U.S.-run Canal Zone divided Panama for a century

By Drew Reed, The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.20.16
Word Count 1,440



Readers

Editor's Note: The creation of the transoceanic canal came at a heavy price for Panama. Thousands of workers died, and the U.S. controlled Canal Zone produced an "apartheid" atmosphere that divided white and black workers. The project stoked political and economic tensions that led to decades of regional conflict.

Panama is a small country in Central America. At its narrowest point is the Panama Isthmus, a 48-mile stretch of land that separates the Atlantic Ocean from the Pacific. When Vasco Núñez de Balboa crossed this land on foot in 1513, he had little intent of becoming the first European explorer to reach the Pacific Ocean. But his trek revealed Panama's strategic location: the discovery was a treasure as great as any of the plunder brought home by Spanish conquistadors.

After Balboa's discovery, it didn't take long for Spain's royal court to imagine a canal crossing Panama. This channel would link the Atlantic and Pacific, saving ships from having to make the long and treacherous journey around the southern tip of South

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

America. Unfortunately, given the technology of the time, building the canal was all but impossible. One Spanish official told the king, "There is not a prince in the world with the power to accomplish this."

U.S. Political Maneuvering Led To Canal Rights

It was nevertheless an important overland route for centuries to come — and when a group of American businesses finally succeeded in building a railroad through Panama's dense jungle in 1855, the line proved immensely popular. Many locals, however, weren't happy. A year after it opened, fights broke out between some Panamanians and the train's passengers.

International tensions coiled over, too. Emboldened by the expansionist beliefs of President Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. officials amplified the tension between Panama and Colombia — so that when negotiations with Colombia broke down, the U.S. government backed local Panamanians, allowing them to win their independence. In return, America was given the right to build a canal across the country. The centuries-long dream of a transoceanic link would finally be fulfilled.

It came at a heavy price for Panama, however. The U.S. required it to give up 5 miles of land along each side of the planned 48-mile canal route, where the U.S. would have complete control. This area would be known as the Panama Canal Zone.

The Canal Zone opened on May 4, 1904. After America took over, construction began on the canal and on homes, schools, hospitals, offices and recreational areas for the thousands of new American residents who would come to call themselves Zonians. The Canal Zone's "thorough separation" from the rest of Panama instilled in its inhabitants a special degree of American pride.

Divided By Race, Society, Salary

The Canal Zone was governed by a system of rigid social divisions. Residents were divided into "gold-roll" and "silver-roll" workers. Gold-roll workers were exclusively white, while silver-roll workers were mainly black; most of them migrants from Caribbean island nations. "Every rank and shade of a man has a different salary," said one Zonian quoted in Suzanne P. Johnson's *Brief History of the Canal Zone*. "And exactly in accordance with that salary is he housed, treated and furnished down to the last item."

Naturally, silver-roll workers bore most of the risks and hazards of constructing the canal. As mountains of dirt were hauled from the canals' path, and mammoth lock gates that would allow ships to climb the country's mountainous terrain were lowered into place, impoverished workers from the West Indies died in the thousands. Accidents, disease and miserable work conditions all contributed to the slaughter. In the end, the canal's official death toll came to 5,609 workers, only 350 of whom were white.

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>.

For those Zonians not confined to the silver roll, life was good -- and much the canal opened in August 1914, their lives only got better. All the comforts of American life were available in the zone. Theater screened the latest movies from American studios, convenience stores sold the same goods Zonians were used to back home, and restaurants served hamburgers and milkshakes.

For Panama, however, the effects of the canal and its surrounding U.S.-controlled zone were far less positive. From the beginning, American construction efforts were designed to offer little economic benefit to Panamanians. American officials prohibited Panamanians from working on the canal, and Panamanian businesses from providing services to the Canal Zone or to ships passing through.

The existence of the zone was a sore spot for residents of nearby Panama City. Though technically allowed inside it, their presence was heavily discouraged by American authorities. "Panamanian residents couldn't cross their own country at times without having to answer to a foreign police," says Michael Donoghue, author of *Borderland on the Isthmus: Race, Culture and the Struggle for the Canal Zone*.

Protest Over Flag Signaled A Beginning Of The End

By the 1950s, tensions had reached a point where authorities agreed to build a wall along the border between Panama City and the Canal Zone. Though the wall did not fully limit access to the zone, it further stoked hostilities.

On Jan. 9, 1964, they reached a tipping point, when a group of angry students at Panama's Instituto Nacional marched into the Canal Zone and insisted on raising Panama's flag above Balboa High School. When students and staff rejected them, they became violent, destroying property in the zone. Authorities responded by spraying tear gas at the crowd. Twenty-eight people were killed, most of them Panamanians.

The incident led to international uproar and a crisis with the U.S. Though newly elected President Lyndon Johnson reacted deftly, preserving U.S. control over the Canal Zone for the time being, its days as an American territory were numbered. The expansionist mentality of the early 1900s had given way to the careful strategizing of the Cold War, a long period of tension between Western powers and the Soviet Union.

In 1977, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian President Omar Torrijos signed two treaties that would phase out U.S. control of the Canal Zone and the canal itself. Though many Panamanians were relieved by this goal, the hostilities were far from finished.

Drug Money Boosted City's Banking Reputation

By 1980, Panama City was known as a center for international banking, supported both by global trade and Colombian drug dealers looking to make their money. During the elections that year, iron-president Manuel Noriega appeared to have been beaten by his challenger, Guillermo Endara. Noriega, a former source for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, had

savored some of his U.S. ties after a fallout with the Ronald Reagan administration. After the election, Noriega refused to step down, claiming the U.S. had meddled with the election results.

On Dec. 20, 1989, U.S. troops invaded Panama in an attack the White House called Operation Just Cause. The goal of the invasion was to overthrow Noriega and place Endara in power, in doing so, U.S. forces caused extensive damage to civilians and their property, leaving much of Panama City in ruins. While official U.S. government figures held that 516 Panamanians were killed in the conflict, human rights groups in Panama placed the death toll as high as 3,500.

It was an ugly end to nearly a century of American rule in Panama. "I wouldn't wish such destruction or my worst enemy," said Rosa Turner, a resident of the city, in an interview 25 years after the invasion. "We don't even know where the remains of our deceased loved ones are, to leave them flowers at their tombs."

The Canal Today

Panama City is much different today. Looking at the city from the viewpoint on Isla Perico, visitors can catch a glimpse of an immense cluster of high-rises in the city's central San Francisco district. The city's banking boom has continued unabated in recent years -- and so too have its shady deals, as revealed in the "Panama Papers" leaks.

An expansion of the canal -- set to open in May -- will let in ships up to three times larger than the current limit.

Meanwhile, many of the Canal Zone's structures remain. After the mass departure of Americans following its closure, some of the lavish homes built there were purchased by wealthy Panamanians. Other structures have simply been abandoned.

Despite the inequalities of modern-day Panama City and the upheavals that have shaken the city for much of its history, Panamanians remain proud of their identity -- which remains solidly attached to the canal. As one columnist recently wrote in *La Estrella de Panama*: "The canal is a natural resource that belongs to all of us, and thus it requires the genuine, responsible and patriotic involvement of all of us."

Quiz

1 Read the paragraph from the article.

The creation of the transoceanic canal came at a heavy price for Panama. Thousands of workers died, and the U.S.-controlled Canal Zone produced an "apartheid" atmosphere that divided white and black workers. The project stoked political and economic tensions that led to decades of regional conflict.

Which word in the paragraph BEST helps explain what the author means by an "apartheid" atmosphere in the Panama Canal Zone?

- (A) quiet
- (B) divided
- (C) tense
- (D) conflicted

2 Read the sentence from the article.

The expansionist mentality of the early 1900s had given way to the careful strategizing of the Cold War, a long period of tension between Western powers and the Soviet Union.

In the sentence above, the phrase "expansionist mentality" MOST LIKELY refers to:

- (A) the expansion of U.S. territory through military or other means
- (B) the expansion of U.S. business interests through trade agreements
- (C) the expansion of U.S. infrastructure through the building of roads and canals
- (D) the expansion of U.S. political power through treaties and the "forming of" alliances

3 What BEST describes the purpose of the section "Patent Over Fag Signaled A Beginning Of The End"?

- (A) to describe how the Panama Canal Zone had grown less important to U.S. interests over time
- (B) to argue that the continued U.S. occupation of the Panama Canal Zone was illegitimate
- (C) to explain why the U.S. government was so determined to maintain control of the Panama Canal Zone
- (D) to show how international pressures caused the United States to rethink its role in the Panama Canal Zone

4 Read the paragraph from the article.

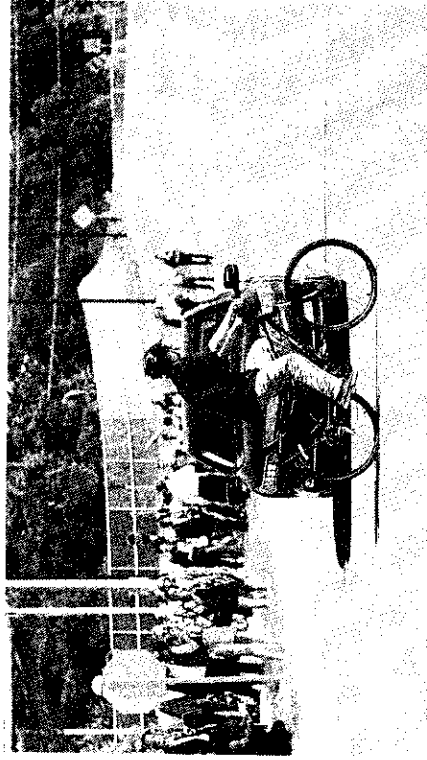
For those Zonians not confined to the silver roll, life was good - and once the canal opened in August 1914, their lives got better. All the comforts of American life were available in the zone. Theater screens the latest movies from American studios, convenience stores sold the same goods Zonians were used to back home, and restaurants served hamburgers and milkshakes.

Why does the author include this paragraph in the article?

- (A) to contrast the way of life within the Canal Zone to that of the rest of Panama
- (B) to describe how the Panama Canal made American goods more easily accessible
- (C) to explain the source of the animosity between Americans and Panamanians at the time
- (D) to discuss the economic benefits of the Panama Canal on the area around the Canal Zone

New rule could have new vehicles talking to each other within four years

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 12/21/16
Word Count 793



Source

AP Photo/PAJ

WASHINGTON — All new cars and light trucks would be able to talk wirelessly with each other under a new rule the Transportation Department proposed Tuesday. Officials say the technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths and transform driving.

Vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V, enables cars to transmit their locations, speed, direction and other information 10 times per second. That lets cars detect, for example, when another vehicle is about to run a red light. It also lets other cars know when another vehicle is braking hard, changing lanes or coming around a turn in time to prevent a crash. The technology has the potential to prevent or lessen the severity of 40 to 80 percent of collisions that don't involve alcohol or drugs, officials said.

"V2V will provide 360 degrees of situational awareness on the road," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "We are carrying the ball as far as we can to realize the potential of transportation technology to save lives."

This article is available at 5 reading levels at <https://newsela.com>

Proposal Is Being Reviewed

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers said it is reviewing the proposal. So far it says that V2V fits in with automated safety features that are increasingly being added to vehicles.

Automakers and the government have been working together to develop the V2V technology for more than a decade. Under the department's proposal, V2V systems would be required to "speak the same language."

The Federal Highway Administration plans to help transportation planners integrate wireless technology into roadway infrastructure such as traffic lights, stop signs and work zones. Cars could communicate information on road conditions to the infrastructure, which could then be passed along to other vehicles as they come along. Traffic lights would know when to stay green to avoid unnecessary waiting and reduce traffic jams.

There is a 90-day period for people to comment. Officials said they expect it will be about a year before a final rule is released.

Proposal: All Cars Would Have Technology In Four Years

The proposal says half of new vehicles would have the technology within two years after a final rule is issued, and 100 percent of vehicles would have it within four years. It would still take years or even decades after that for the full potential of V2V to be realized. That's because V2V can prevent collisions only among vehicles that have it.

The process of putting V2V in all America cars may go faster if devices are developed that will add the technology to older vehicles.

Some automakers aren't waiting for the final rule. General Motors has already said it plans to include V2V in some 2017 Cadillacs. The 2017 Mercedes E-Class sedans are also equipped with V2V.

V2V's range is up to about 1,000 yards in all directions, even when sight is blocked by buildings or other obstacles. That lets the technology detect a potential collision even before the driver can see the threat. Sensors and cameras of self-driving cars only sense what's immediately around the vehicle.

V2V, Self-Driving Cars Could Work Well Together

Industry and government officials see the two technologies as complementary. Ultimately self-driving cars with V2V may be the answer to traffic jams. They'll be able to synchronize vehicles so they can merge seamlessly and safely have closely packed together at higher speeds. That would improve traffic flow and increase the number of cars on the highway.

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The proposal requires that V2V systems employ a security level of at least 128-bit encryption. It must also follow the standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

To protect privacy, V2V messages are anonymous. They don't contain any information on the driver, owner of the vehicle, make or model, vehicle identification number or license plate. The messages are also short and not kept, so it's not possible to use the messages to determine where a vehicle has been or to search for it among others on the road, said Debra Bezzina. She is an engineer with the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute who works on the technology.

One Challenge Is Tech Firms That Want To Grab Bandwidth

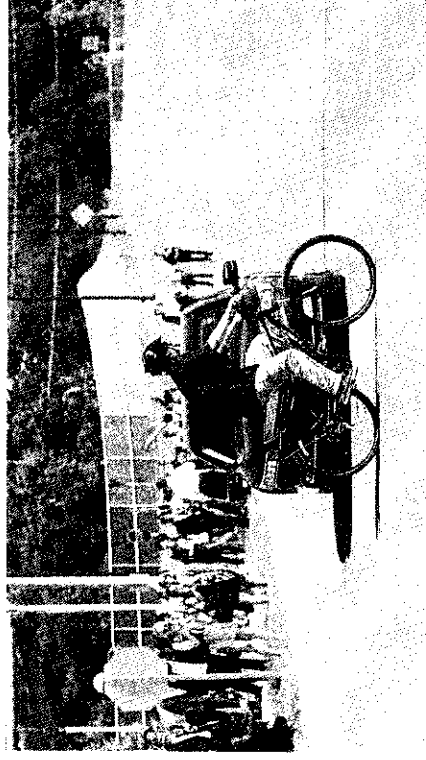
One hurdle facing the technology is its exclusive right to use the 5.9 GHz radio spectrum that Congress specifically set aside for V2V years ago. Since then, there has been such an explosion in the number of wireless devices and demand for ever faster Wi-Fi that technology companies want permission to use the same bandwidth.

The Federal Communications Commission is in the first phase of a three-phase testing program to see if sharing the spectrum with Wi-Fi would interfere with V2V signals.

Spectrum sharing should be allowed "only if it can be proven that no harmful interference occurs," the auto alliance said in a statement. "Any interference could result in a crash, or even worse, an injury or fatality."

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Quiz

- 1 Which of the following sentences from the article "Be-S" conveys a central idea?
 - (A) "Officials say the technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths and transform driving."
 - (B) "Vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V, enables cars to transmit their locations, speed, direction and other information 10 times per second."
 - (C) "Automakers and the government have been working together to develop the V2V technology for more than a decade."
 - (D) "The process of building V2V in all American cars may go faster if devices are developed that will add the technology to older vehicles."
- 2 Which statement below provides an accurate and objective summary of the article?
 - (A) V2V technology is saving hundreds of lives, and it will be legally required in all cars in two years.
 - (B) V2V technology has the potential to save hundreds of lives, but there are still several difficulties in implementing the technology.
 - (C) V2V technology could save lives, but it cannot work with current Wi-Fi demands on the radio spectrum.
 - (D) V2V technology is meant to save lives, but it is expensive and does not work reliably.
- 3 Which of the following statements "Be-S" represents? Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx's opinion about V2V technology in the article?
 - (A) Since V2V technology is legally required in all cars, the government must support its effectiveness by testing Wi-Fi capabilities.
 - (B) Since V2V technology is unproven, it is too early to determine if the technology is effective in preventing accidents.
 - (C) Since V2V technology has the potential to do so much good, the government is actively supporting the development of the technology.
 - (D) Since V2V technology can easily be installed in all cars, it will be a new legal requirement for all registered vehicles to have the technology.

- 4 How does the article develop the idea that V2V technology has some difficulties to overcome?
 - (A) by stating that self-driving cars could make V2V technology obsolete before it has a chance to be tested
 - (B) by stating that V2V technology cannot interpret road conditions or identify other hazards
 - (C) by stating that most cars have V2V technology already, but the technology is not being used
 - (D) by stating that many technology companies want to use the bandwidth that has been set aside for V2V technology, which could make its signals unreliable



Name: _____

Class: _____

The Ambitious Guest

By Nathaniel Hawthorne

1837

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was an American author, best known for his Romantic novel The Scarlet Letter. Much of Hawthorne's writing is set in New England, including the following story, which is based off of a true event: the Wiley tragedy of Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. In this story, a young traveler with big dreams stops by a family cottage in the mountain pass. As you read, take notes on how setting and narrative contribute to the story's dramatic irony.

One September night a family had gathered round their hearth and piled it high with the driftwood of mountain-streams, the dry cones of the pine, and the splintered ruins of great trees that had come crashing down the precipice. Up the chimney roared the fire, and brightened the room with its broad blaze. The faces of the father and mother had a sober gladness; the children laughed. The eldest daughter was the image of Happiness at seventeen, and the aged grandmother, who sat knitting in the warmest place, was the image of Happiness grown old. They had found the "North Star's ease"¹ in the bleakest spot of all New England. This family were situated in the Notch of the White Hills, where the wind was sharp throughout the year and pitilessly cold in the winter, giving their cottage all its fresh inclemency before it descended on the valley of the Saco. They dwelt in a cold spot and a dangerous one, for a mountain towered above their heads so steep that the stones would often rumble down its sides and startle them at midnight.

The daughter had just uttered some simple jest that filled them all with mirth, when the wind came through the Notch and seemed to pause before their cottage, rattling the door with a sound of wailing and lamentation before it passed into the valley. For a moment it saddened them, though there was nothing unusual in the tones. But the family were glad again when they perceived that the latch was lifted by some traveller whose footsteps had been unheard amid the dreary blast which heralded his approach and wailed as he was entering and went moaning away from the door.

¹ Terminology referring to a sense (or peace) of tranquility. The term is also the name of a North American violet.



Though they dwell in such a solitude, these people held daily converse with the world. The romantic pass of the Notch is a great artery through which the life-blood of internal commerce is continually throbbing between Maine on one side and the Green Mountains and the shores of the St. Lawrence on the other. The stage-coach² always drew up before the door of the cottage. The wayfarer with no companion but his staff paused here to exchange a word, that the sense of loneliness might not utterly overcome him ere³ he could pass through the cleft of the mountain or reach the first house in the valley. And here the teamster on his way to Portland market would put up for the night, and, if a bachelor, might sit an hour beyond the usual bedtime and steal a kiss from the mountain-maid at the backdoor, might sit on those primitive taverns where the traveller pays only for food and lodging, but meets with a homely kindness beyond all price. When the footsteps were heard, therefore, between the outer door and the inner one, the whole family rose up, grandmother, children and all, as it about to welcome some one who belonged to them, and whose fate was linked with theirs.

The door was opened by a young man. His face at first wore the melancholy expression, almost despondency, of one who travels a wild and bleak road at nightfall and alone, but soon brightened up when he saw the kindly warmth of his reception. He felt his heart spring forward to meet them all, from the old woman who wiped a chair with her apron to the little child that held out its arms to him. One glance and smile placed the stranger on a footing of innocent familiarity with the eldest daughter.

"Ah! this fire is the right thing," cried he, "especially when there is such a pleasant circle round it. I am quite benumbed, for the Notch is just like the pipe of a great pair of bellows;" it has blown a terrible blast in my face all the way from Bartlett."

"Then you are going toward Vermont?" said the master of the house as he helped to take a light knapsack off the young man's shoulders.

"Yes, to Burlington, and far enough beyond," replied he. "I meant to have been at Ethan Crawford's to-night, but a pedestrian lingers along such a road as this. It is no matter; for when I saw this good fire and all your cheerful faces, I felt as if you had kindled it on purpose for me and were waiting my arrival. So I shall sit down among you and make myself at home."

The frank-hearted stranger had just drawn his chair to the fire when something like a heavy footstep was heard without, rushing down the steep side of the mountain as with long and rapid strides, and taking such a leap in passing the cottage as to strike the opposite precipice. The family held their breath, because they knew the sound, and their guest held his by instinct.

"The old mountain has thrown a stone at us for fear we should forget him," said the landlord, recovering himself. "He sometimes nods his head and threatens to come down, but we are old neighbors, and agree together pretty well, upon the whole. Besides, we have a sure place of refuge hard by: if he should be coming in good earnest."

² A stagecoach is a type of covered wagon used to carry passengers and goods inside.

³ Ere? is an archaic word meaning "before."

⁴ A bellows or pair of bellows is a device constructed to furnish a strong blast of air, often used to nurture a fire.

Let us now suppose the stranger to have finished his supper of bear's meat, and by his natural felicity of manner to have placed himself on a footing of kindness with the whole family; so that they talked as freely together, as if he belonged to the mountain-brood. He was of a proud yet gentle spirit, haughty and reserved among the rich and great, but ever ready to stoop his head to the lowly cottage door and be like a brother or a son at the poor man's fireside. In the household of the Notch he found warmth and simplicity of feeling, the pervading intelligence of New England, and a poetry of native growth which they had gathered when they little thought of it from the mountain-peaks and chasms, and at the very threshold of their romantic and dangerous abode. He had travelled far and alone; his whole life, indeed, had been a solitary path, for, with the lofty caution of his nature, he had kept himself apart from those who might otherwise have been his companions. The family, too, though so kind and hospitable, had that consciousness of unity among themselves and separation from the world at large which in every domestic circle still keep a holy place where no stranger may intrude. But this evening a prophetic sympathy impelled the refined and educated youth to pour out his heart before the simple mountaineers, and constrained them to answer him with the same free confidence. And thus it should have been, is not the kindred of a common fate a closer tie than that of birth?

The secret of the young man's character was a high and abstracted ambition. He could have borne to live an undistinguished life, but not to be forgotten in the grave. Yearning desire had been transformed to hope, and hope, long cherished, had become like certainty that, obscurely as he journeyed now, a glory was to beam on all his pathway, though not, perhaps, while he was treading it. But when posterity should gaze back into the glim of what was now the present, they would trace the brightness of his footsteps, brightening as meager glories faded, and confess that a gifted one had passed from his cradle to his tomb with none to recognize him.

"As yet," cried the stranger, his cheek glowing and his eye flashing with enthusiasm - "as yet I have done nothing. Were I to vanish from the earth to-morrow, none would know so much of me as you - that a nameless youth came up at nightfall from the valley of the Saco, and opened his heart to you in the evening, and passed through the North by sunrise, and was seen no more. Not a soul would ask, 'Who was he?' Whether did the wanderer go? But I cannot die till I have achieved my destiny. Then let Death come: I shall have built my monument."

There was a continual flow of natural emotion gushing forth amid abstracted reverie which enabled the family to understand this young man's sentiments, though so foreign from their own. With quick sensibility of the ludicrous, he blushed at the ardor into which he had been betrayed.

"You laugh at me," said he, taking the eldest daughter's hand and laughing himself. "You think my ambition as nonsensical as if I were to freeze myself to death on the top of Mount Washington only that people might spy at me from the country roundabout. And truly that would be a noble pedestal for a man's statue."

"It is better to sit here by this fire," answered the girl, blushing, "and be comfortable and contented, though nobody thinks about us."

"I suppose," said her father, after a fit of musing, "there is something natural in what the young man says; and if my mind had been turned that way, I might have felt just the same. - It is strange, wife, how his talk has set my head running on things that are pretty certain never to come to pass."

5. **Felicitous** (noun): a pleasing quality or happiness

"Perhaps they may," observed the wife. "Is the man thinking what he will do when he is a widower?"

"No, no," cried he, repelling the idea with repugnant kindness. "When I think of your death, Esther, I think of mine too. But I was wishing we had a good farm in Bartlett or Bethlehem or Littleton, or some other township round the White Mountains, but not where they could tumble on our heads. I should want to stand well with my neighbors and be called squire and sent to General Court for a term or two; for a plain, honest man may do as much good there as a lawyer. And when I should be grown quite an old man, and you an old woman, so as not to be long apart, I might die happy enough in my bed, and leave you all crying around me. A slate gravestone would suit me as well as a marble one, with just my name and age, and a verse of a hymn, and something to let people know that I lived an honest man and died a Christian."

"There, now!" exclaimed the stranger; "it is our nature to desire a monument, be it slate or marble, or a pillar of granite, or a glorious memory in the universal heart of man."

"Were in a strange way to night," said the wife, with tears in her eyes. "They say it's a sign of something when folks' minds go a-wandering so. Hark to the children!"

They listened accordingly. The younger children had been put to bed in another room, but with an open door between; so that they could be heard talking busily among themselves. One and all seemed to have caught the infection from the fireside circle, and were outvying each other in wild wishes and childish projects of what they would do when they came to be men and women. At length a little boy, instead of addressing his brothers and sisters, called out to his mother.

"If I tell you what I wish, mother," cried he, "I want you and father and grandma, and all of us, and the stranger too, to start right away and go and take a drink out of the basin of the Flume."

Nobody could help laughing at the child's notion of leaving a warm bed and dragging them from a cheerful fire to visit the basin of the Flume -- a brook which tumbles over the precipice deep within the Notch.

The boy had hardly spoken, when a wagon rattled along the road and stopped a moment before the door. It appeared to contain two or three men who were cheering their hearts with the rough chorus of a song which resounded in broken notes between the cliffs, while the singers hesitated whether to continue their journey or put up here for the night.

"Father," said the girl, "they are calling you by name."

But the good man doubted whether they had really called him, and was unwilling to show himself too solicitous of gain by inviting people to patronize his house. He therefore did not hurry to the door, and, the lash being soon applied, the travellers plunged into the Notch, still singing and laughing, though their music and mirth came back drearily from the heart of the mountain.

"There, mother!" cried the boy, again; "they'd have given us a ride to the Flume."

6. **Patronize** (verb): to frequent (a business) as a customer

Again they laughed at the child's pertinacious⁷ fancy for a night-ramble. But it happened that a light cloud passed over the daughter's spirit; she looked gravely into the fire and drew a breath that was almost a sigh. It forced its way, in spite of a little struggle to repress it. Then, starting and blushing, she looked quickly around the circle, as if they had caught a glimpse into her bosom. The stranger asked what she had been thinking of.

"Nothing," answered she, with a downcast smile; "only I felt lonesome just then."

[187] "Oh, I have always had a gift of feeling what is in other people's hearts," said he, half seriously. "Shall I tell the secrets of yours? For I know what to think when a young girl shivers by a warm hearth and complains of lonesomeness at her mother's side. Shall I put these feelings into words?"

"They would not be a girl's feelings any longer if they could be put into words," replied the mountain-nymph, laughing, but avoiding his eye.

All this was said apart. Perhaps a germ of love was springing in their hearts so pure that it might blossom in Paradise, since it could not be matured on earth; for women worship such gentle dignity as his, and the proud, contemplative, yet kindly soul is oftenest captivated by simplicity like hers. But while they spoke softly, and he was watching the happy sadness, the lightsome shadows, the shy yearnings, of a maiden's nature, the wind through the Notch took a deeper and drearier sound. It seemed, as the fanciful stranger said, like the thral strain of the spirits of the blast who in old Indian times had their dwelling among these mountains and made their heights and recesses a sacred region. There was a wail along the road as if a funeral were passing. To chase away the gloom, the family threw pine-branches on their fire till the dry leaves crackled and the flame arose, discovering once again a scene of peace and humble happiness. The light hovered about them fondly and caressed them all. There were the little faces of the children peeping from their bed apart, and here the father's frame of strength, the mother's subdued and careful mien,⁸ the high-browed youth, the budding girl and the good old grandam, still knitting in the warmest place.

The aged woman looked up from her task, and with fingers ever busy was the next to speak.

"Old folks have their notions," said she, "as well as young ones. You've been wishing and planning and letting your heads run on one thing and another till you've set my mind a-wandering too. Now, what should an old woman wish for, when she can go but a strip or two before she comes to her grave? Children, it will haunt me night and day till I tell you."

[188] "What is it, mother?" cried the husband and wife at once.

Then the old woman, with an air of mystery which drew the circle closer round the fire, informed them that she had provided her grave-clothes some years before -- a nice linen shroud, a cap with a muslin ruff, and everything of a finer sort than she had worn since her wedding-day. But this evening an old superstition had strangely recurred to her. It used to be said in her younger days that if anything were amiss with a corpse -- if only the ruff were not smooth or the cap did not set right -- the corpse, in the coffin and beneath the clods, would strive to put up its cold hands and arrange it. The bare thought made her nervous.

⁷ **Pertinacious (adjective):** stubborn or persistent.
⁸ **Mien (noun):** air or bearing; demeanor.

"Don't talk so, grandmother," said the girl, shuddering.

"Now," continued the old woman, with singular earnestness, yet smiling strangely at her own folly, "I want one of you, my children, when your mother is dressed and in the coffin. -- I want one of you to hold a looking-glass over my face. Who knows but I may take a glimpse at myself and see whether ails right?"

"Old and young, we dream of graves and monuments," murmured the stranger youth. "I wonder how manners feel when the ship is sinking and they, unknown and undistinguished, are to be buried together in the ocean, that wide and nameless sepulchre?"

[189] For a moment the old woman's ghastly conception so engrossed the minds of her hearers that a sound abroad in the night, rising like the roar of a blast, had grown broad, deep and terrible before the fated group were conscious of it. The house and all within it trembled; the foundations of the earth seemed to be shaken, as if this awful sound were the peal of the last trump. Young and old exchanged one wild glance and remained an instant pale, affrighted, without utterance or power to move. Then the same shriek burst simultaneously from all their lips.

"The slide! The slide!"

The simplest words must intimate, but not portray, the unutterable horror of the catastrophe. The victims rushed from their cottage and sought refuge in what they deemed a safer spot, where, in security and fled right into the pathway of destruction. Down came the whole side of the mountain in a cataract of ruin. Just before it reached the house the stream broke into two branches, shivered not a window there, but overwhelmed the whole vicinity, blocked up the road and annihilated everything in its dreadful course. Long ere the thunder of that great slide had ceased to roar among the mountains the mortal agony had been endured and the victims were at peace. Their bodies were never found.

The next morning the light smoke was seen stealing from the cottage chimney up the mountain-side. Within, the fire was yet smouldering on the hearth, and the chairs in a circle round it, as if the inhabitants had but gone forth to view the devastation of the slide and would shortly return to thank Heaven for their miraculous escape. All had left separate tokens by which those who had known the family were made to shed a tear for each. Who has not heard their name? The story has been told far and wide, and will for ever be a legend of these mountains. Poets have sung their fate.

"There were circumstances which led some to suppose that a stranger had been received into the cottage on this awful night, and had shared the catastrophe of all its inmates; others denied that there were sufficient grounds for such a conjecture. Woe for the high-souled youth with his dream of earthly immortality! His name and person utterly unknown, his history, his way of life, his plans, a mystery never to be solved, his death and his existence equally a doubt, -- whose was the agony of that death-moment?"

The Ambrosian Guest / Nathaniel Hawthorne is in the public domain

⁹ As in landslide, or avalanche.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the **best answer** or **respond in complete sentences**.

1. PART A: Which of the following best describes the central theme in the text?
 - A. Both life and death cannot be planned.
 - B. Fame is the only thing that can outlast the living.
 - C. Good company should be valued above fame.
 - D. Ambition alone will not make you successful.
2. PART B: Which of the following best supports the answer to PART A?
 - A. "But I cannot die till I have achieved my destiny. Then let Death come: I shall have built my monument." (Paragraph 12)
 - B. "It is better to sit here by this fire," answered the girl, blushing, "and be comfortable and contented, though nobody thinks about us." (Paragraph 15)
 - C. "Old and young, we dream of graves and monuments," murmured the stranger-youth." (Paragraph 39)
 - D. "His name and person utterly unknown, his history, his way of life, his plans, a mystery never to be solved, his death and his existence equally a doubt," (Paragraph 44)
3. How does the family react to the arrival of the young man?
 - A. They ask him to leave but change their minds.
 - B. They welcome him and laugh at what he says to them.
 - C. They welcome him and discuss what he says to them.
 - D. They argue with him before discussing what he says to them.
4. How do paragraphs 14-15 reveal the different points of view between the young man and the family's eldest daughter?
 - A. They reveal that young man believes in nobility, but the daughter doesn't think it is important.
 - B. They reveal that the young man is cold, but the daughter has managed to stay warm.
 - C. They reveal that the young man wants more from life, but the daughter is satisfied with her current life.
 - D. They reveal that the young man likes the daughter, but she doesn't like him.
5. How do the details of the setting contribute to the text's themes and central ideas?
 - A. The contrast between a warm and happy home with the threat of the mountain foreshadows the danger to come.
 - B. The contrast between the description of the fire and the mountain symbolizes the hope that the family has.
 - C. The contrast between the young man's ambition and the family's satisfaction illustrates why it is important to travel.
 - D. The contrast between the young boy's innocent humor and the grandmother's superstition reveals how life experience shapes you.

6. How does the author use setting and character to develop situational irony?



Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In the context of this passage, what can we learn from tragedy? Keep in mind that this story is based off of an historical event. Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
2. In the context of this passage, how do people face death? What do the characters want from their individual lives and deaths? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Cone

By H.G. Wells
1911

Herbert George Wells (1866-1946) was a British author and father of the science fiction genre, perhaps best known for his novel The Time Machine. In this story, an ironworks manager leads his friend on a tour of his company shortly after discovering a terrible secret. As you read, identify moments when the author uses foreshadowing to build suspense.

The night was hot and overcast, the sky red, rimmed with the lingering sunset of mid-summer. They sat at the open window, trying to fancy the air was fresher there. The trees and shrubs of the garden stood stiff and dark; beyond in the roadway a gas-lamp burnt bright orange against the hazy blue of the evening. Farther were the three lights of the railway signal against the lowering sky. The man and woman spoke to one another in low tones.

"He does not suspect?" said the man, a little nervously.

"Not he," she said peevishly, as though that too irritated her. "He thinks of nothing but the works and the prices of fuel. He has no imagination, no poetry."

"None of these men of iron have," he said sententiously. "They have no hearts."

"He has not," she said. She turned her discontented face towards the window. The distant sound of a roaring and rushing drew nearer and grew in volume; the house quivered; one heard the metallic rattle of the tender.¹ As the train passed, there was a glare of light above the cutting and a driving tumult of smoke; one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight black oblongs — passed across the dim grey of the embankment, and were suddenly extinguished one by one in the throat of the tunnel, which, with the last, seemed to swallow down train, smoke, and sound in one abrupt gulp.

"This country was all fresh and beautiful once," he said; "and now — it is Gehenna.² Down that way — nothing but pot-banks and chimneys belching fire and dust into the face of heaven... But what does it matter? An end comes, an end to all this cruelty... To-morrow." He spoke the last word in a whisper.

"O-m-m-m-m," she said, speaking in a whisper too, and still staring out of the window.

1. **Sententious (adjective):** given to making or pronouncing remarks, self-righteous
2. **Tender:** is likely referring to a car attached to a locomotive for carrying fuel or water.
3. **Gehenna** is a biblical term that has become associated with a miserable or wicked place.

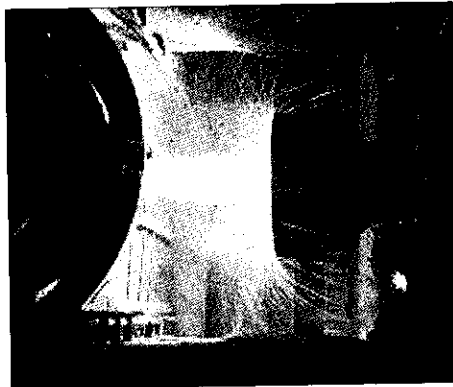


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"Dear!" he said, putting his hand on hers.

She turned with a start, and their eyes searched one another's. His softened to his gaze. "My dear one!" she said, and then: "It seems so strange — that you should have come into my life like this — to open —" She paused.

"To open?" he said.

"All this wonderful world —" she hesitated, and spoke still more softly — "this world of love to me."

Then suddenly the door clicked and closed. They turned their heads, and he started violently back. In the shadow of the room stood a great shadowy figure — silent. They saw the face dimly in the half-light, with unexpressive dark patches under the penthouse brows. Every muscle in Raut's body suddenly became tense. When could the door have opened? What had he heard? Had he heard all? What had he seen? A tumult of questions.

The new-comer's voice came at last, after a pause that seemed interminable. "Well?" he said.

"I was afraid I had missed you, Horrocks," said the man at the window, gripping the window-hedge with his hand. His voice was unsteady.

The clumsy figure of Horrocks came forward out of the shadow. He made no answer to Raut's remark. For a moment he stood above them.

The woman's heart was cold within her. "I told Mr. Raut it was just possible you might come back," she said, in a voice that never quivered.

Horrocks, still silent, sat down abruptly in the chair by her little work-table. His big hands were clenched; one saw now the fire of his eyes under the shadow of his brows. He was trying to get his breath. His eyes went from the woman he had trusted to the friend he had trusted, and then back to the woman.

By this time and for the moment all three half understood one another. Yet none dared say a word to ease the pent-up things that choked them.

It was the husband's voice that broke the silence at last.

"You wanted to see me?" he said to Raut.

Raut started as he spoke. "I came to see you," he said, resolved to lie to the last.

"Yes," said Horrocks.

"You promised," said Raut, "to show me some fine effects of moonlight and smoke."

"I promised to show you some fine effects of moonlight and smoke," repeated Horrocks in a colourless voice.

123 "And I thought I might catch you, to-night before you went down to the works," proceeded Raut, "and come with you."

There was another pause. Did the man mean to take the thing coolly? Did he after all know? How long had he been in the room? Yet even at the moment when they heard the door, their attitudes... Horrocks glanced at the profile of the woman, shadowy pallid⁴ in the half-light. "Then he glanced at Raut, and seemed to recover himself suddenly. 'Of course,' he said, 'I promised to show you the works under their proper dramatic conditions. It's odd how I could have forgotten.'"

"If I am troubling you —" began Raut.

Horrocks started again. A new light had suddenly come into the sultry gloom of his eyes. "Not in the least," he said.

"Have you been telling Mr. Raut of all these contrasts of flame and shadow you think so splendid?" said the woman, turning now to her husband for the first time, her confidence creeping back again, her voice just one half-note too high. "That dreadful theory of yours that machinery is beautiful, and everything else in the world ugly. I thought he would not spare you, Mr. Raut. It's his great theory, his one discovery in art."

124 "I am slow to make discoveries," said Horrocks grimly, damping her suddenly. "But what I discover..." He stopped.

"Well?" she said.

"Nothing," and suddenly he rose to his feet.

"I promised to show you the works," he said to Raut, and put his big, clumsy hand on his friend's shoulder. "And you are ready to go?"

"Quite," said Raut, and stood up also.

125 There was another pause. Each of them peered through the indistinctness of the dusk at the other two. Horrocks' hand still rested on Raut's shoulder. Raut half fancied still that the incident was trivial after all. But Mrs. Horrocks knew her husband better. knew that grim quiet in his voice, and the confusion in her mind took a vague shape of physical evil. "Very well," said Horrocks, and, dropping his hand, turned towards the door.

"My hat?" Raut looked round in the half-light.

"That's my work-basket," said Mrs. Horrocks, with a gust of hysterical laughter. "Her hands came together on the back of the chair. 'Here it is!' he said. She had an impulse to warn him in an undertone, but she could not frame a word. 'Don't go!' and 'Beware of him!' struggled in her mind, and the swift moment passed.

"Got it?" said Horrocks, standing with the door half open.

4. **pallid** (adjective): pale or white

Raut stepped towards him. "Better say good-bye to Mrs. Horrocks," said the ironmaster, even more grimly quiet in his tone than before.

126 Raut started and turned. "Good-evening, Mrs. Horrocks," he said, and their hands touched.

Horrocks held the door open with a ceremonial politeness unusual in him towards men. Raut went out, and then, after a wordless look at her, her husband followed. She stood motionless while Raut's light footfall and her husband's heavy tread, like bass and treble, passed down the passage together. The front door slammed heavily. She went to the window, moving slowly, and stood watching — leaning forward. The two men appeared for a moment at the gateway in the road, passed under the street lamp, and were hidden by the black masses of the shrubbery. The lamp-light fell for a moment on their faces, showing only unmeaning pale patches, telling nothing of what she still feared, and doubted, and craved vainly to know. Then she sank down into a crouching attitude in the big arm-chair, her eyes wide open and staring out at the red lights from the furnaces that flickered in the sky. An hour after she was still there, her attitude scarcely changed.

The oppressive stillness of the evening weighed heavily upon Raut. They went side by side down the road in silence, and in silence turned into the rinder-made by-way that presently opened out the prospect of the valley.

A blue haze, half dust, half mist, touched the long valley with mystery. Beyond were Hanley and Etruria,⁵ grey and dark masses, outlined thinly by the rare golden dots of the street lamps, and here and there a gaslit window, or the yellow glare of some late-working factory or crowded public-house. Out of the masses, clear and slender against the evening sky, rose a multitude of tall chimneys, many of them reeking, a few smokeless during a season of "play." Here and there a pallid patch and ghostly stunted beehive shapes showed the position of a pot-bank, or a wheel, black and sharp against the hot lower sky, marked some colliery⁶ where they raise the iridescent⁷ coal of the place. Nearer at hand was the broad stretch of railway, and half invisible trains shunted — a steady puffing and rumbling, with every run a ringing concussion and a rhythmic series of impacts, and a passage of intermittent puffs of white steam across the further view. And to the left, between the railway and the dark mass of the hill beyond, dominating the whole view, colossal, inky-black, and crowned with smoke and fitful flames, stood the great cylinders of the Jeddah Company Blast Furnaces, the central edifices⁸ of the big ironworks of which Horrocks was the manager. They stood heavy and threatening, full of an incessant turmoil of flames and seething molten iron, and about the feet of them rattled the rolling-mills, and the steam hammer beat heavily and splashed the white iron sparks hither and thither. Even as they looked, a truckful of fuel was shor into one of the giants, and the red flames gleamed out, and a confusion of smoke and black dust came boiling upwards towards the sky.

"Certainly you get some fine effects of colour with your furnaces," said Raut, breaking a silence that had become apprehensive.

Horrocks grunted. He stood with his hands in his pockets, frowning down at the dim steaming railway and the busy ironworks beyond, frowning as if he were thinking out some knotty problem.

5. Hanley and Etruria are towns in Staffordshire, England. The former was once known for its deep coal mining.
6. A colliery is a coal mine and is connected by railways.
7. **iridescent** (adjective): having or causing a shining, rainbowlike display of light and color
8. a large or massive structure

Raut glanced at him and away again. "At present your moonlight effect is hardly ripe," he continued, looking upward. "The moon is still smothered by the vestiges⁹ of daylight."

Horrocks stared at him with the expression of a man who has suddenly awakened. "Vestiges of daylight?... Of course, of course." He too looked up at the moon, pale still in the midsummer sky. "Come along," he said suddenly, and, gripping Raut's arm in his hand, made a move towards the path that dropped from them to the railway.

Raut hung back. Their eyes met and saw a thousand things in a moment: that their eyes came near to say, Horrocks' hand tightened and then relaxed. He let go, and before Raut was aware of it, they were arm in arm, and walking, one unwillingly enough, down the path.

"You see the fine effect of the railway signals towards Burslem," said Horrocks, suddenly breaking into loquacity.¹⁰ "Striding fast, and tightening the grip of his elbow the while, "little green lights and red and white lights, all against the haze. You have an eye for effect, Raut. It's a fine effect. And look at those furnaces of mine, how they rise upon us as we come down the hill. That to the right is my pet -- seventy feet of him. I packed him myself, and he's boiled away cheerfully with iron in his guts for five long years. I've a particular fancy for him. That line of red there -- a lovely bit of warm orange you'd call it, Raut -- that's the puddlers' furnaces, and there, in the hot light, three black figures -- did you see the white splash of the steam-hammer then? -- that's the rolling mills. Come along. Clang, clatter, how it goes rattling across the floor! Sheet tin, Raut -- amazing stuff. Glass mirrors are not in it when that stuff comes from the mill. And, squelch! -- there goes the hammer again. Come along!"

Raut had to stop talking to catch at his breath. His arm twisted into Raut's with bemumbling tightness. He had come striding down the black path towards the railway as though he was possessed. Raut had not spoken a word, had simply hung back against Horrocks' pull with all his strength.

"I say," he said now, laughing nervously, but with an undertone of snarl in his voice, "why on earth are you nipping my arm off, Horrocks, and dragging me along like this?"

At length Horrocks released him. His manner changed again. "Nipping your arm off?" he said. "Sorry. But it's you taught me the trick of walking in that friendly way."

"You haven't learnt the refinements of it yet then," said Raut, laughing artificially again. "By jove! I'm black and blue." Horrocks offered no apology. They stood now near the bottom of the hill, close to the fence that bordered the railway. The ironworks had grown larger and spread out with their approach. They looked up to the blast furnaces now instead of down, the further view of Etruria and Hanley had dropped out of sight with their ascent. Before them, by the stile,¹¹ rose a notice-board, bearing still dimly visible, the words "BEWARE OF THE TRAINS" half hidden by splashes of sooty mud.

"Fine effects," said Horrocks, waving his arm. "Here comes a tram. The puffs of smoke, the orange glare, the round eye of light in front of it, the melodious rattle. Fine effects! But these furnaces of mine used to be finer, before we shoved cones in their throats, and saved the gas."

"How?" said Raut. "Cones?"

⁹ "Vestiges or remnants."

¹⁰ **Loquacious (adjective):** talkative, usually to excess.

¹¹ "Stile" refers to a step or set of steps for passing over a fence or wall.

"Cones, my man, cones. I'll show you one nearer. The flames used to flare out of the open throats, great -- what is it? -- pillars of cloud by day, red and black smoke, and pillars of fire by night. Now we run it off in pipes, and burn it to heat the blast, and the top is shut by a cone. You'll be interested in that cone."

"But every now and then," said Raut, "you get a burst of fire and smoke up there."

"The cone's not fixed, it's hung by a chain from a lever, and balanced by an equipoise.¹² You shall see it nearer. Else, of course, there'd be no way of getting fuel into the thing. Every now and then the cone dips, and out comes the flare."

"I see," said Raut. He looked over his shoulder. "The moon gets brighter," he said.

"Come along," said Horrocks abruptly, gripping his shoulder again, and moving him suddenly towards the railway crossing. And then came one of those swift incidents, vivid, but so rapid that they leave one doubtful and reeling. Halfway across, Horrocks' hand suddenly clenched upon him like a vice, and swung him backward and through a half-turn, so that he looked up the line. And there a chain of lamp-lit carriage-windows telescoped swiftly as it came towards them, and the red and yellow lights of an engine grew larger and larger, rushing down upon them. As he grasped what this meant, he turned his face to Horrocks, and pushed with all his strength against the arm that held him back between the rails. The struggle did not last a moment, just as certain as it was that Horrocks held him there, so certain was it that he had been violently lugged out of danger.

"Out of the way," said Horrocks, with a gasp, as the train came rattling by, and they stood panting by the gate into the ironworks.

"I did not see it coming," said Raut, still, even in spite of his own apprehensions, trying to keep up an appearance of ordinary intercourse.

Horrocks answered with a grunt. "The cone," he said, and then, as one who recovers himself, "I thought you did not hear."

"I didn't," said Raut.

"I wouldn't have had you run over then for the world," said Horrocks.

"For a moment I lost my nerve," said Raut.

Horrocks stood for half a minute, then turned abruptly towards the ironworks again. "See how fine these great mounds of mine, these clinker-heaps, look in the night! That truck yonder, up above there! Up it goes, and out tilts the slag. See the palpitating¹³ red stuff go sliding down the slope. As we get nearer, the heap rises up and cuts the blast furnaces. See the quiver up above the big one. Not that way! This way, between the heaps. That goes to the puddling furnaces, but I want to show you the canal first." He came and took Raut by the elbow, and so they went along side by side. Raut answered Horrocks vaguely. What, he asked himself, had really happened on the line? Was he deluding himself with his own fancies, or had Horrocks actually held him back in the way of the train? Had he just been within an ace of being murdered?

¹² a counter-balance



Suppose this slouching, scowling monster did know anything? For a minute or two then Raut was really afraid for his life, but the mood passed as he reasoned with himself. After all, Horrocks might have heard nothing. At any rate, he had pulled him out of the way in time. His odd manner might be due to the mere vague jealousy he had shown once before. He was talking now of the ash-heaps and the canal. "Eigh?" said Horrocks.

"What?" said Raut. "Rather! The haze in the moonlight. Fine!"

"Our canal," said Horrocks, stopping suddenly. "Our canal by moonlight and firelight is an immense effect. You've never seen it? Fancy that! You've spent too many of your evenings phantandering up in Newcastle there. I tell you, for real fluid effects — But you shall see. Boiling water..."

As they came out of the labyrinth of clinker-heaps and mounds of coal and ore, the noses of the rolling-mill sprang upon them suddenly, loud, near, and distinct. Three shadowy workmen went by and touched their caps to Horrocks. Their faces were vague in the darkness. Raut felt a futile impulse to address them, and before he could frame his words, they passed into the shadows. Horrocks pointed to the canal close before them now: a weird-looking place it seemed, in the blood-red reflections of the furnaces. The hot water that cooled the tuyeres¹³ came into it, some fifty yards up — a tumultuous, almost boiling affluent, and the steam rose up from the water in silent, white wisps and streaks, wrapping damply about them, an incessant succession of ghosts coming up from the black and red eddies, a white uprising that made the head swim. The shining black tower of the larger blast-furnace rose overhead out of the mist, and its tumultuous riot filled their ears. Raut kept away from the edge of the water, and watched Horrocks.

"Here it is red," said Horrocks, "blood-red vapour as red and hot as sin; but yonder there, where the moonlight falls on it, and it drives across the clinker-heaps, it is as white as death."

Raut turned his head for a moment, and then came back hastily to his watch on Horrocks. "Come along to the rolling-mills," said Horrocks. The threatening hold was not so evident that time, and Raut felt a little reassured. But all the same, what on earth did Horrocks mean about "white as death" and "red as sin"? Coincidence, perhaps?

They went and stood behind the puddlers for a little while, and then through the rolling-mills, where amidst an incessant din the deliberate steam-hammer beat the juice out of the succulent iron, and black, half-naked Titans¹⁴ rushed the plastic bars, like hot scolding-wax, between the wheels. "Come on," said Horrocks in Raut's ear, and they went and peeped through the little glass hole behind the tuyeres, and saw the tumbling fire writing in the pit of the blast-furnace. It left one eye blinded for a while. Then, with green and blue patches dancing across the dark, they went to the lift by which the trucks of ore and fuel and lime were raised to the top of the big cylinder.

¹³ something or troubling strongly and quickly

¹⁴ A Titan is a vessel through which an air blast is delivered to a large or blast furnace

¹⁵ a reference to the Titans of Greek mythology, the generation of gods that came before the Olympians; gods such as Zeus and Athena; before being banished to Tartarus, the deepest part of the underworld



And out upon the narrow rail that overhung the furnace, Raut's doubts came upon him again. Was it wise to be here? If Horrocks did know — everything! Do what he would, he could not resist a violent trembling. Right under foot was a sheer depth of seventy feet. It was a dangerous place. They pushed by a truck of fuel to get to the railing that crowned the plume. The reek of the furnace, a sulphurous vapor streaked with pungent bitterness, seemed to make the distant hillside of Hanley quiver. The moon was riding out now from among a drift of clouds, halfway up the sky above the undulating, wooded outlines of Newcastle. The steaming canal ran away from below them under an indistinct bridge, and vanished into the dim haze of the flat fields towards Burslem.

"That's the cone I've been telling you of," shouted Horrocks; "and, below that, sixty feet of fire and molten metal, with the air of the blast frothing through it like gas in soda-water."

Raut gripped the hand-rail tightly, and stared down at the cone. The heat was intense. The boiling of the iron and the tumult of the blast made a thunderous accompaniment to Horrocks' voice. But the thing had to be gone through now. Perhaps, after all...

"In the middle," bawled Horrocks, "temperature near a thousand degrees. If you were dropped into it... flash into flame like a pinch of gunpowder in a candle. Put your hand out and feel the heat of his breath. Why, even up here I've seen the rain-water boiling off the trucks. And that cone there. It's a damned sight too hot for roasting cakes. The top side of it's three hundred degrees."

"Three hundred degrees!" said Raut.

"Three hundred centigrade, mind!" said Horrocks. "It will boil the blood out of you in no time."

"Eigh?" said Raut, and turned.

"Boil the blood out of you in... No, you don't!"

"I let me go!" screamed Raut. "I let go my arm!"

With one hand he clutched at the hand-rail, then with both. For a moment the two men stood swaying. Then suddenly, with a violent jerk, Horrocks had twisted him from his hold. He clutched at Horrocks and missed, his foot went back into empty air; in mid-air he twisted himself, and then cheek and shoulder and knee struck the hot cone together.

He clutched the chain by which the cone hung, and the thing sank an infinitesimal amount as he struck it. A circle of glowing red appeared about him, and a tongue of flame, released from the chaos within, flickered up towards him. An intense pain assailed him at the knees, and he could smell the singeing of his hands. He raised himself to his feet, and tried to climb up the chain, and then something struck his head. Black and shining with the moonlight, the throat of the furnace rose about him.

Horrocks, he saw, stood above him by one of the trucks of fuel on the rail. The gesticulating figure was bright and white in the moonlight, and shouting, "Fizzle, you 'ool! Fizzle, you hunter of women! You not-blooded hound! Bull-bull! boil!"

¹⁶ Undulate (verb): to move in a wavelike motion, rising and falling



Suddenly he caught up a handful of coal out of the truck, and flung it deliberately, lump after lump, at Raut.

"Horrocks!" cried Raut. "Horrocks!"

He clung crying to the chain, pulling himself up from the burning of the cone. Each missile Horrocks flung hit him. His clothes charred and glowed, and as he struggled the cone dropped, and a rush of hot suffocating gas whooped out and burned round him in a swift breath of fame.

His human likeness departed from him. When the momentary red had passed, Horrocks saw a charred, blackened figure, its head streaked with blood, still clutching and lurching with the chain, and writhing in agony — a cinder animal, an inhuman, monstrous creature that began a sobbing, intermittent shriek.

Abruptly, at the sight, the ironmaster's anger passed. A deadly sickness came upon him. The heavy odour of burning flesh came drifting up to his nostrils. His sanity returned to him.

"God have mercy upon me," he cried. "O God! what have I done?"

He knew the thing below him, save that it still moved and felt, was already a dead man — that the blood of the poor wretch must be boiling in his veins. An intense realisation of that agony came to his mind, and overcame every other feeling. For a moment he stood irresolute, and then, turning to the truck, he hastily tilted its contents upon the struggling thing that had once been a man. The mass fell with a thud, and went radiating over the cone. With the thud the shriek ended, and a boiling confusion of smoke, dust, and flame came rushing up towards him. As it passed, he saw the cone clear again.

Then he staggered back, and stood trembling, clinging to the rail with both hands. His lips moved, but no words came to them.

Down below was the sound of voices and running steps. The clangour of rolling in the shed ceased abruptly.

"The Cone" by H. G. Wells (1911) is in the public domain.



Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best summarizes a theme in the story?
 - A. Love, especially when it is immoral, cannot overcome true evil.
 - B. Everyone has the capacity for evil, but it takes strength to forgive rather than take revenge.
 - C. Revenge is justified when a person is betrayed by someone they trusted.
 - D. Industrial progress degrades one's humanity and respect for life.

PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

 - A. "None of these men of iron have," he said sententiously. "They have no hearts." (Paragraph 4)
 - B. "Raut half fancied still that the incident was trivial after all. But Mrs. Horrocks knew her husband better" (Paragraph 35)
 - C. "Was he deluding himself with his own fancies, or had Horrocks actually held him back in the way of the train? Had he just been within an ace of being murdered?" (Paragraph 67)
 - D. "Abruptly, at the sight, the ironmaster's anger passed. A deadly sickness came upon him... His sanity returned to him." (Paragraph 91)

3. Compare the attitudes of Mr. Horrocks, Mrs. Horrocks, and Mr. Raut towards the ironworks company. What do these attitudes reveal about their characters? Cite evidence from the text in your answer.

4. PART A: What does the word "oppressive" mean as used in paragraph 42?

- A. unfair
- B. humid
- C. peaceful
- D. overwhelming



5. PART B: Which of the following phrases best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "Stillness of the evening" (Paragraph 42)
- B. "weighed heavily upon" (Paragraph 42)
- C. "sloe by side down the road in silence" (Paragraph 42)
- D. "A blue haze, half dust, half mist" (Paragraph 43)

6. How does the imagery used to describe the ironworks in paragraph 43 contribute to the story's theme?

- A. It describes the ironworks as awe-inspiring, contributing to the theme that technology should be revered as beautiful.
- B. It describes the ironworks as dangerously emitting flames, contributing to the theme that anger consumes people and only hurts themselves.
- C. It describes the ironworks as powerful and advanced compared to the valley, contributing to the theme that technological progress is beneficial, despite its costs.
- D. It describes the ironworks as a polluting and menacing mass in the valley, contributing to the theme that industry destroys nature.

7. How does the incident with the train in paragraphs 60-68 develop the story's narrative point of view?

- A. This event highlights the third-person limited point of view from Raut's perspective by voicing Raut's doubts and preventing the reader from knowing Horrocks' intentions.
- B. The narration states that Horrocks' purposefully held Raut near the train, providing a look into Horrocks' point of view and confirming that he intends to kill Raut.
- C. This event uses the third-person omniscient point of view to contrast Horrocks' plan to kill Raut against Raut's complete obliviousness to Horrocks' revenge plot.
- D. The narration implies that Raut is unaware of Horrocks' anger because Raut dismisses any notion of suspicion he may have following the incident with the train.

8. PART A: How does Mr. Raut's fate affect Mr. Horrocks after he takes his revenge?

- A. Mr. Horrocks is overcome by his anger and becomes inhuman in his rage, killing Raut quickly and without hesitation.
- B. Mr. Horrocks is horrified and sickened by what he has done to Raut in his anger, and so he quickly puts Raut out of his misery.
- C. Mr. Horrocks is terrified that someone will discover his crime, so he destroys the evidence by tipping Raut into the cone.
- D. Mr. Horrocks is unmoved by Mr. Raut's pained cries and finishes him off by burying him in the cone with fuel from the truck.

9. PART B: Which of the following paragraphs best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. Paragraph 85
- B. Paragraph 90
- C. Paragraph 91
- D. Paragraph 94



10. How does the author use foreshadowing to build suspense in the story? Provide three examples of foreshadowing in your answer.



Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In the context of this passage, what are the costs and benefits of technology? Consider how industry is portrayed in this text and whether or not this depiction is objective or story-driven. Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
2. In the context of this passage, how do people face death? Did Mr. Raul realize what Mr. Horrocks' intentions were? If so, why did he continue on the tour with him? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
3. In the context of this story, was revenge justified? Is revenge ever justified? When? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Sleeping

By Katharine Weber
2003

Katharine Weber (b. 1955) is a contemporary American non-fiction writer and novelist. In this story, a young girl is asked to babysit—but the job turns out to be different than she expected. As you read, take notes on the unusual details the main character notices and how these details contribute to the story's final realization.

She would not have to change a diaper, they said. In fact, she would not have to do anything at all. Mrs. Winter said that Charles would not wake while she and Mr. Winter were out at the movies. He was a very sound sleeper, she said. No need to have a bottle for him or anything. Before the Winters left they said absolutely please not to look in on the sleeping baby because the door squeaked too loudly.

Harriet had never held a baby, except for one brief moment, when she was about six, when Mrs. Antler next door had surprisingly bestowed¹ on her the tight little bundle that was their new baby, Andrea. Harriet had sat very still and her arms had begun to ache from the tension by the time Mrs. Antler took back her baby. Andy was now a plump seven-year-old, older than Harriet had been when she held her that day.

After two hours of reading all of the boring mad piled neatly on a desk in the bedroom and looking through a depressing wedding album filled with photographs of dressed-up people in desperate need of orthodonture² (Harriet had just ended two years in braces and was very conscious of malocclusion³ issues) while flipping channels on their television, Harriet turned the knob on the baby's door very tentatively, but it seemed locked. She didn't dare turn the knob with more pressure because what if she made a noise and woke him and he started to cry?

She stood outside the door and tried to hear the sound of a baby breathing but she couldn't hear anything through the door but the sound of the occasional car that passed by on the street outside. She wondered what Charles looked like. She wasn't even sure how old he was. Why had she agreed to baby-sit when Mr. Winter approached her at the swim club? She had never seen him before, and it was flattering that he took her for being capable, as if just being a girl her age automatically qualified her as a baby-sitter.

- ¹ **Bestow (verb)**: to give or present
- ² Orthodonture refers to the branch of dentistry dealing with the prevention or correction of irregularities of the teeth.
- ³ Malocclusion refers to a misalignment of teeth.

By the time the Winters came home, Harriet had eaten most of the M & M's in the glass bowl on their coffee table: first all the blue ones, then the red ones, then all the green ones, and so on, leaving, in the end, only the yellow.

"They gave her too much money and didn't ask her about anything," Mrs. Winter seemed to be waiting for her to leave before checking on the baby. Mr. Winter drove her home in silence. When they reached her house he said, My wife, He hesitated, then he said, You understand, don't you? and Harriet answered Yes without looking at him or being sure what they were talking about although she did really know what he was telling her and then she got out of his car and watched him drive away.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the **best answer** or **respond in complete sentences**.

- PART A: Why is Mr. Winter's and Harriet's interaction at swim club significant to the story's plot? [RL.3]

 - Mr. Winter knows Harriet to be mature for her age, so he asks Harriet to take the unusual babysitting job to calm his wife's concerns.
 - Mr. Winter asks her to babysit even though she has never seen him before, implying that he doesn't care who babysits Charles and that he is a neglectful father.
 - Harriet suspects that Mr. Winter only approached her to babysit because of her age and because she's a girl; this awareness is one of the first steps towards her growing up.
 - Mr. Winter asks her to babysit even though she has never seen him before; this unusual approach is a clue that something is off concerning the Winter family.
- PART B: Which TWO other details from the story have a similar effect as the answer to Part A? [RL.5] [RL.7]

 - She would not have to change a diaper, they said. In fact, she would not have to do anything at all! (Paragraph 1)
 - "He was a very sound sleeper, she said" (Paragraph 1)
 - "Harriet had never held a baby, except for one brief moment" (Paragraph 2)
 - "Andy was now a plump seven-year-old, older than Harriet had been when she held her that day." (Paragraph 2)
 - "Harriet turned the knob on the baby's door very tentatively, but it seemed locked"
 - "She didn't dare turn the knob with more pressure because what if she made a noise and woke him and he started to cry?" (Paragraph 3)

- How is the word choice regarding the parents' surname significant to the story? Cite evidence from the text in your response. [RL.4]

- PART A: Which of the following best describes a theme of the story? [RL.2]

 - People sometimes grieve in mysterious ways.
 - Guilt can cause great changes in a person.
 - Family supports each other no matter what.
 - Death can force a person to grow up more quickly.
- PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]

 - "Harriet had never held a baby, except for one brief moment, when she was about six, when Mrs. Antler next door had surprisingly bestowed on her the tight little bundle that was their new baby, Andrea." (Paragraph 2)
 - "Two hours of reading all of the boring mail piled neatly on a desk in the bedroom and looking through a depressing wedding album" (Paragraph 3)
 - "She wondered what Charles looked like. She wasn't even sure how old he was. Why had she agreed to babysit when Mr. Winter approached her at the swim club?" (Paragraph 4)
 - "Mrs. Winter seemed to be waiting for her to leave before checking on the baby... When they reached her house he said, My wife. He hesitated, then he said, You understand, don't you?" (Paragraph 6)



Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. Some literary critics read this story as a "coming of age" tale and assume that this experience is one of Harriet's first introductions to the adult world. Based on your critical reading, what does the story reveal about the adult world?
2. In the context of this story, what does it mean to be grown up? Support your answer with evidence from this text, your own experience, and other art, history, or literature.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Sonnet 43By Elizabeth Barrett Browning
1850

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) was an English poet during the Romantic Movement. "Sonnet 43" is one of the most famous poems written in the English language. This poem was originally published in 1850 in a collection called *Sonnets from the Portuguese*. "My Little Portuguese" is a nickname Browning used for her husband. As you read, take notes on the tone and mood of this poem.

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,
 I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
 My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
 For the ends of being and ideal grace,
 I love thee to the level of every day's
 Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light,
 I love thee freely, as men strive for right,
 I love thee purely, as they turn from praise,
 I love thee with the passion put to use
 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith,
 I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
 With my lost saints, I love thee with the breath,
 Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
 I shall but love thee better after death.



"Sonnet 43" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning is licensed under CC BY NC ND 2.0

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following statements best describes a central theme of the poem? [RL.2]
 A. Love is unconditional and eternal.
 B. Coming of age is when one is willing to give up everything for another person.
 C. True freedom comes from freedom of the soul.
 D. Love requires sacrifice and is not always constant.
2. PART B: Which of the following quotes best support the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 A. "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." (Line 1)
 B. "I love thee to the depth and breadth and height / My soul can reach" (Lines 2-3)
 C. "I love thee freely, as men strive for right. / I love thee purely, as they turn from praise." (Lines 7-8)
 D. "I love thee with the passion put to use / In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith." (Lines 9-10)
3. Which of the following best summarizes how the speaker quantifies her love? [RL.3]
 A. The speaker quantifies her love in specific numbers and instances.
 B. The speaker refuses to quantify her love, which is uncountable.
 C. The speaker compares her love to great distances, grand ideas, strong emotions, etc.
 D. The speaker talks about her love only in terms of religious ideas, like the soul.
4. What do the lines 13-14 "If God choose, / I shall but love thee better after death" reveal about the narrator's perspective or beliefs? [RI.6]
 A. The narrator believes she and her loved one shall be together in the afterlife.
 B. The narrator fears she will be separated from her loved one after death.
 C. The narrator believes her love is so strong that it will not fade even in death and grow stronger.
 D. The narrator has faith in a grand design, that God will "choose" what is best for her and her lover.

5. How does the poem's use of repetition contribute to the tone of the poem? [RL.5] [RL.4]

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. How does the speaker conceptualize love and death? Does the speaker fear death? Explain your answer.

2. In the context of this poem, how are we changed by love? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

World Map and US Map Instructions

10th and 11th Grade

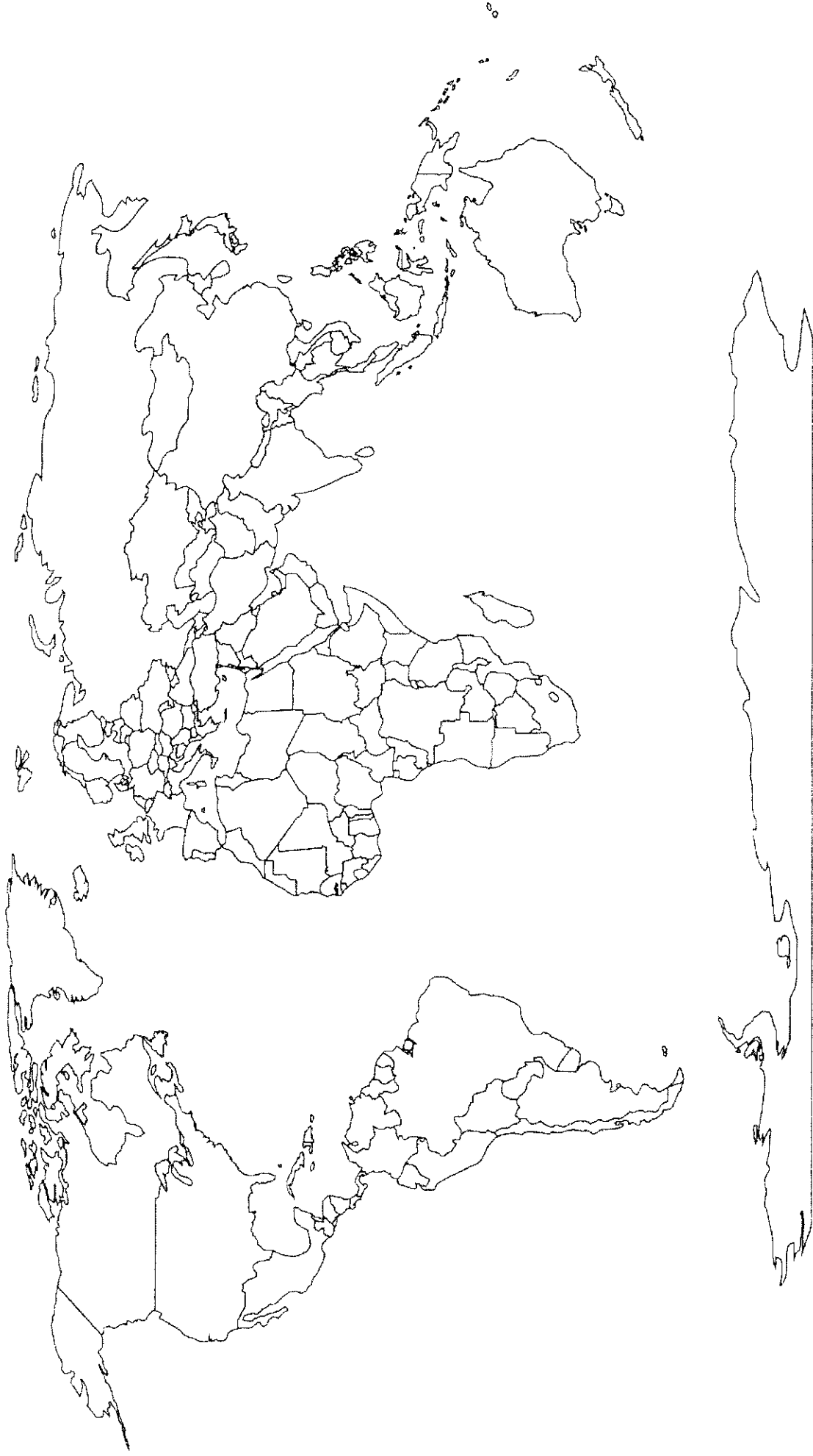
World Map:

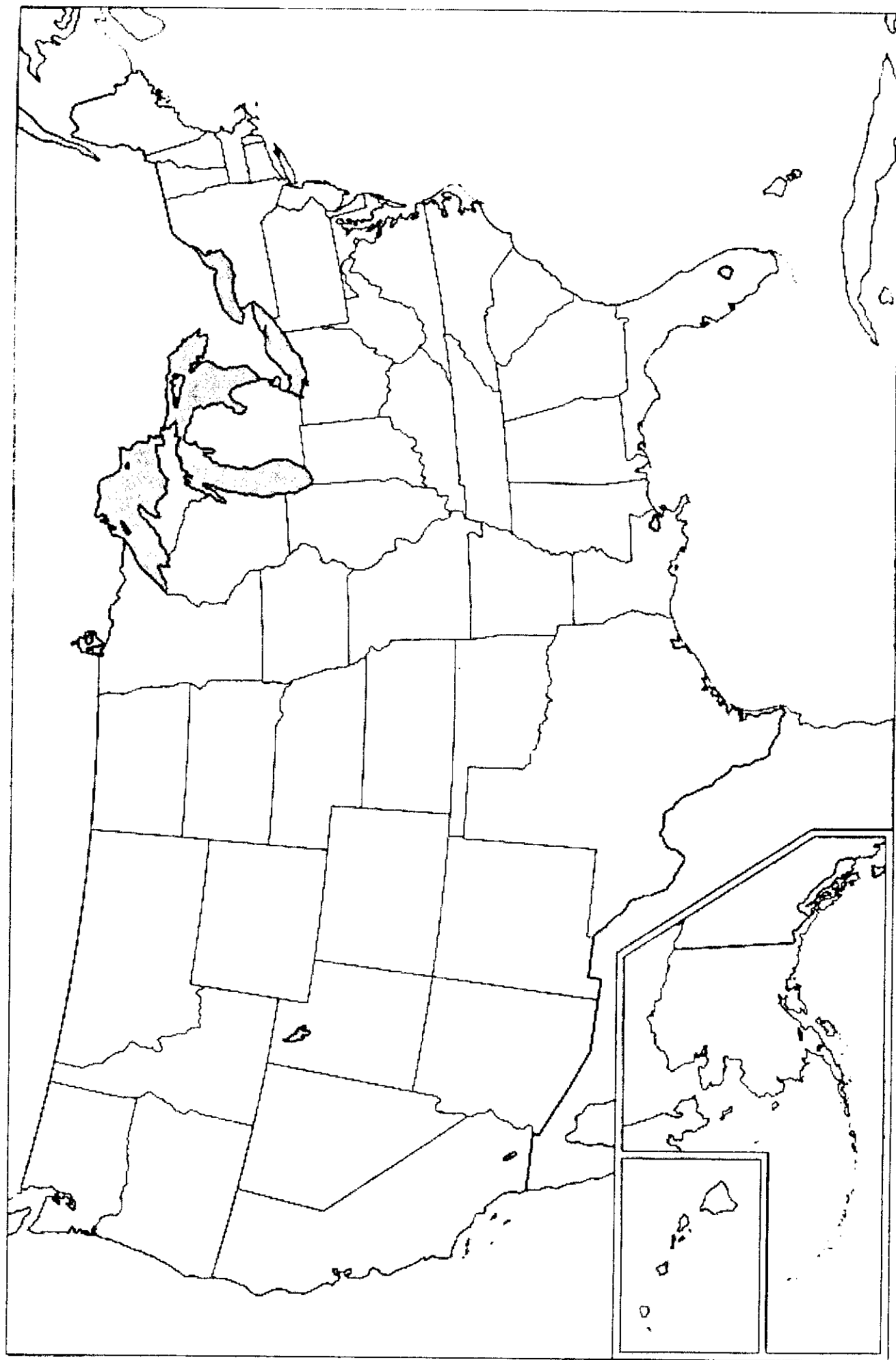
Label the following. Use the letter/number to identify the location, do not write the names. When you identify the United States you will write "A", the Pacific Ocean, write "8"

Continents	Countries	Oceans
1. North America 2. South America 3. Antarctica 4. Europe 5. Asia 6. Australia 7. Africa	A. United States B. Canada C. Mexico D. Russia E. Germany F. United Kingdom/Britain G. Japan H. Italy I. Cuba J. China K. North Korea L. South Korea M. Vietnam N. Panama O. France P. Guam Q. Puerto Rico R. Phillipians	8. Pacific 9. bAtlantic 10. Indian 11. Arctic 12. Southern *Color the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans blue. *Trace the path of the Mississippi River in blue.

US Map: Label all 50 states. You will write the name of the state within the actual state. For the smaller states, draw lines to indicate the states and write the names on the lines.

World Robinson Projection Map with Country Outlines





World History Vocabulary

Fill in the table for each word. Look up the definition, write the word in a sentence and either draw or attach a picture for each word. You should have a *DIFFERENT* sentence for each word.

Word	Definition	Sentence	Picture
Democracy			
Communism			

<i>Foreign</i>			
<i>Domestic</i>			
<i>Economy</i>			
<i>Social</i>			

Political

Immigration

Militarism

Diplomacy

<i>Nationalism</i>			
<i>Push Factor</i>			
<i>Pull Factor</i>			
<i>Tariff</i>			



Lesson 1 Questions

What might happen if there were no rules, laws, or government?

Imagine that you live on an island far away. There are no rules, no laws, and no government. There is no one to tell you what to do.

Name your imaginary far away island:

Where in the world is your island located?



Answer the following questions in your journal under the following title:

Lesson 1 Questions

1. Would anyone have the right to govern you? Would you have the right to govern anyone else? Why?
2. Would you have any rights? What might they be?
3. What might people who were smarter or stronger than others try to do? Why?
4. What might people who were not as smart as others or who were weaker than others try to do? Why?
5. What might life be like for you, your family, and everyone else in a state of nature?

Activity:

Draw a map of your imaginary island and include the following: physical features, a compass rose, a key/legend, and label your map with other features you imagine to exist on your island

*What would life be like without any government?
How would people protect their rights?*

Project: Summer Jobs

Goal: Your job is to analyze different summer job opportunities and determine which job opportunities are best for you to meet your personal goal and your interests.

Situation:

1. You wish you had more of your own money to spend the way you want to spend it. You have convinced your parents to let you get a job this summer before high school to earn your own spending money. You want to earn as much money as possible this summer, because you won't be able to work when school starts.
2. In order to know how much money you can earn this summer, you need to calculate how many days you can work from the time school ends this year and the time you start high school next year. There are 7 weeks in the summer for you to work. Determine what days of the week you will work.
3. You are to select 3 jobs from the list of summer job opportunities in the Summer Job Opportunities for Teens Sheet. Your task is to analyze these job opportunities using mathematical reasoning of linear relationships.

Product Requirements

Construct a poster display of an analysis of the three job opportunities containing the following information on the front of the poster:

1. Include a Title for project.
2. Include your Name, Date, and Period.
3. Include your Summer Job Goal.
4. Create a Word Model for each of the three jobs.
5. Create an Equation Model for each of the three jobs; Write and solve an equation for each job you choose, showing the maximum amount of money you can make for all 7 weeks of summer.
6. Create a Table Model of values for each of the three jobs showing the maximum amount of money you can make for all 7 weeks of summer.
7. Create one Graph Model with all three job choices graphed, showing the earnings for each job per week for all 7 weeks of summer. Label each graph of a line.
8. Explain the income potential of three different job opportunities of your choice. Explain which of the three job opportunities will pay the most over the 7 weeks of summer and provide evidence for your reasoning.
9. You will need to decide which job will allow you to earn the most money and meet your interests and goals. Explain which job you choose why you choose that job, and support your decision with evidence of mathematical reasoning of linear relationships based on your models.

2019-2020

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[illegible]

