

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MARK: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUIZ 1

## 4 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

Early in the nineteenth century, American youths were playing a game, somewhat like the English game of rounders, which contained all the elements of (5) modern baseball. It was neither scientifically planned nor skillfully played, but it furnished considerable excitement for players and spectators alike. The playing field was a sixty-foot square (10) with goals, or bases, at each of its four corners. A pitcher stationed himself at the center of the square, and a catcher and an indefinite number of fielders supported the pitcher and completed (15) the team. None of these players, usually between eight and twenty on a side, covered the bases. The batter was out on balls caught on the fly or the first bound, and a base runner was out if he (20) was hit by a thrown ball while off base. The bat was nothing more than a stout paddle with a two-inch-thick handle. The ball was apt to be an impromptu affair composed of a bullet, cork, or (25) metal slug tightly wound with wool yarn and string. With its simple equipment and only a few rules, this game steadily increased in popularity during the first half of the century.

1. The title that best expresses the main idea of this selection is  
(A) "Baseball Rules."  
(B) "An English Game."  
(C) "Baseball's Predecessor."  
(D) "American Pastimes."
2. The rules of this game required  
(A) eight fielders.  
(B) a pitcher, a catcher, and one fielder for each base.  
(C) twenty fielders.  
(D) no specific number of players.
3. This selection suggests that  
(A) the game of baseball has grown more complicated over the years.  
(B) the game described was very dangerous.  
(C) baseball originated in the United States.  
(D) the game described required skilled players.
4. The word *impromptu* in line 23 means  
(A) carefully planned.  
(B) careless.  
(C) informal.  
(D) skillful.

## QUIZ 2

### 4 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

John J. Audubon, a bird watcher, once noticed that a pair of phoebes nested in the same place year after year, and he wondered if they might be the same (5) birds. He put tiny silver bands on their legs, and the next spring the banded birds returned to the same nesting place.

This pair of phoebes were the first birds to be banded. Since that time, (10) naturalists, with the aid of the federal government's Fish and Wildlife Department, band birds in an effort to study them. The bands, which are made of lightweight aluminum so as not to harm (15) the birds, bear a message requesting finders to notify the department. Careful records of these notifications are kept and analyzed. In this way, naturalists have gained a great deal of knowledge about the nesting habits, migration patterns, and populations of a large variety of bird species. Most importantly, they are able to identify those species that are in danger of extinction.

- The title below that best expresses the main idea of this passage is  
 (A) "The Migration of Birds."  
 (B) "One Method of Studying Birds."  
 (C) "The Habits of Birds."  
 (D) "The Work of John Audubon."
- Audubon's purpose in banding the phoebes was to  
 (A) satisfy his own curiosity.  
 (B) start a government study of birds.  
 (C) gain fame as the first birdbander.  
 (D) chart the phoebe's migration patterns.
- Audubon proved his theory that  
 (A) silver and aluminum are the best metals for birdbands.  
 (B) the government should study birds.  
 (C) phoebes are the most interesting birds to study.  
 (D) birds return to the same nesting place each spring.
- The word *habits* in line 20 means  
 (A) naturalists.  
 (B) living environments.  
 (C) behaviors.  
 (D) ecosystem.

## QUIZ 3

### 4 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

A vast stretch of land lies untouched by civilization in the back country of the eastern portion of the African continent. With the occasional exception of a big-  
(5) game hunter, foreigners never penetrate this area. Aside from the Wandorobo tribe, even the natives shun its confines because it harbors the deadly tsetse fly. The Wandorobo nomads depend on the  
(10) forest for their lives, eating its roots and fruits and making their homes wherever they find themselves at the end of the day.

One of the staples of their primitive  
(15) diet, and their only sweet, is honey. They obtain it through an ancient, symbiotic relationship with a bird known as the Indicator. The scientific community finally confirmed the report, at first dis-  
(20) credited, that this bird purposefully led the natives to trees containing the honeycombs of wild bees. Other species of honey guides are also known to take advantage of the foraging efforts of some  
(25) animals in much the same way that the Indicator uses men.

This amazing bird settles in a tree near a Wandorobo encampment and chatters incessantly until the men an-  
(30) swer it with whistles. It then begins its leading flight. Chattering, it hops from tree to tree, while the men continue their musical answering call. When the bird reaches the tree, its chatter be-  
(35) comes shriller and its followers examine the tree carefully. The Indicator usually perches just over the honeycomb, and

the men hear the humming of the bees in the hollow trunk. Using torches, they  
(40) smoke most of the bees out of the tree, but those that escape the nullifying effects of the smoke sting the men viciously. Undaunted, the Wandorobos free the nest, gather the honey, and  
(45) leave a small offering for their bird guide.

1. The word *symbiotic* is synonymous with  
(A) partnership.  
(B) adversary.  
(C) parasitic.  
(D) opponent.
2. According to the selection, one characteristic of the Wandorobo tribe is that its members  
(A) avoid the country of the tsetse fly.  
(B) have no permanent homes.  
(C) lack physical courage.  
(D) live entirely on a diet of honey.
3. The title that best expresses the topic of this selection is  
(A) "Life in the African Backwoods."  
(B) "The Wandorobo Tribe."  
(C) "Locating a Honeycomb."  
(D) "Men and Birds Work Together."
4. The word *incessantly* in line 29 means  
(A) intermittently.  
(B) loudly.  
(C) constantly.  
(D) strangely.

## QUIZ 4

### 3 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

The proud, noble American eagle appears on one side of the Great Seal of the United States, which is printed on every dollar bill. The same majestic bird can (5) be seen on state seals, half dollars, and even in some commercial advertising. In fact, though we often encounter artistic representations of our national symbol, it is rarely seen alive in its native (10) habitat. It is now all but extinct.

In the days of the founding fathers, the American eagle resided in nearly every corner of the territory now known as the continental United States. Today the (15) eagle survives in what ornithologists call significant numbers only in two regions. An estimated 350 pairs inhabit Florida, and perhaps another 150 live in the Chesapeake Bay area of Delaware, (20) Maryland, and Virginia. A few stragglers remain in other states, but in most, eagles have not been sighted for some time.

A federal law passed in 1940 protects (25) these birds and their nesting areas, but it came too late to save more than a pitiful remnant of the species' original population.

1. An ornithologist is a person who studies
  - (A) geographical regions.
  - (B) the history of extinct species.
  - (C) the populations of certain areas.
  - (D) the habits and habitats of birds.
2. Today eagles are found in the greatest numbers in
  - (A) Florida.
  - (B) Delaware.
  - (C) the Chesapeake Bay region.
  - (D) Virginia.
3. The selection implies that
  - (A) the number of eagles is likely to increase.
  - (B) the eagle population decreased because of a lack of protective game laws.
  - (C) there were only two localities where eagles could survive.
  - (D) the government knows very little about eagles.

## QUIZ 5

### 4 Questions • 4 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

The Alaska Highway, which runs 1,523 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska, was built by U.S. Army Engineers to counter a  
(5) threatened Japanese invasion of Alaska. It was rushed through in an incredibly short period of nine months and was therefore never properly surveyed. Some of the territory it passes through has not  
(10) even been explored.

Although the story that the builders followed the trail of a wandering moose is probably not true, the effect is much the same. The leading bulldozer simply  
(15) crashed through the brush wherever the going was easiest, avoiding the big trees, swampy hollows, and rocks. The project was made more complicated by the necessity of following not the short-  
(20) est or easiest route but one that would serve the string of United States-Canadian airfields that stretch from Montana to Alaska. Even on flat land, the road twists into hairpin curves. In rough  
(25) terrain it goes up and down like a roller coaster. In the mountains, sometimes clinging to the sides of cliffs 400 feet high, it turns sharply, without warning, and gives rear seat passengers the stom-  
(30) ach-grIPPING sensation of taking off into space. There is not a guardrail in its entire 1,500-mile length. Dust kicks up in giant plumes behind every car and on  
(35) windless days hovers in the air like a

Both the Canadian Army and the Alaskan Road Commission, which took over from the Army Engineers in 1946, do a commendable but nearly impossible job  
(40) of maintaining the road. Where it is built on eternally frozen ground, it buckles and heaves, on the jellylike muskeg it is continually sinking and must be graveled afresh every month. Bridges thrown  
(45) across rivers are swept away in flash floods. Torrential thaws wash out miles of highway every spring. On mountain-sides, you can tell the age of the road by counting the remains of earlier roads  
(50) that have slipped down the slope.

1. The title that best expresses the main idea of this selection is
  - (A) "The Alaskan Road Commission."
  - (B) "Building and Maintaining the Alaska Highway."
  - (C) "Exploring Alaska."
  - (D) "Driving Conditions in the Far North."
2. The Alaska Highway was built to
  - (A) make the route between Alaska and the States shorter.
  - (B) promote trade with Canada.
  - (C) meet a wartime emergency.
  - (D) aid exploration and surveying efforts.

3. The job of maintaining the road is complicated by the
  - (A) threat of invasion.
  - (B) forces of nature.
  - (C) lack of surveying.
  - (D) age of the road.
4. The word *terrain* in line 25 refers to
  - (A) geographical features of the land.
  - (B) geographical mountains and valleys.
  - (C) a specific land area.
  - (D) swamps.

## QUIZ 6

### 3 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

When the first white men came to North America, they found an abundance of valuable natural resources. Forests covered enormous areas; the soil was extremely fertile; and the forests, prairies, streams, and rivers abounded with wildlife. Later, huge quantities of gas, oil, and minerals were discovered.

These resources were so vast that it seemed they could never be exhausted. The forests were cleared for farmland. Grasslands and prairies were plowed and planted with crops. Mammals and birds were hunted for food and sport, and eventually factories, mills, and power companies were built on nearly every river. Minerals and oil were used to supply and power a young industrial nation.

The effects of these actions became apparent within a relatively short period of time. Timber shortages were predicted. The fertile soil was washed away by rain and blown about in great dust storms by the wind. Several species of birds began to disappear, and some of the great mammals became extinct.

Many rivers were made unfit for fish by the pollution of factories. The seemingly inexhaustible stores of oil and minerals began to show signs of depletion.

Since that time, Americans have sponsored the creation of conservation programs in the hope that future generations may continue to share and enjoy the natural resources that are part of our heritage.

1. The title that best expresses the main idea of this selection is
  - (A) "The First White Men in America."
  - (B) "The Loss of America's Natural Resources."
  - (C) "Our American Heritage."
  - (D) "The Cause of Our Timber Shortages."
2. The word *depletion* in line 31 means
  - (A) extinction.
  - (B) running out.
  - (C) having the quality of being inexhaustible.
  - (D) destruction.

3. It seemed to the early settlers that
- (A) there was a shortage of minerals.
  - (B) there had been a great deal of soil erosion.
  - (C) the natural resources were inexhaustible.
  - (D) resources should be carefully used.

## QUIZ 7

### 4 Questions • 4 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

The peopling of the Northwest Territory by companies from the eastern states, such as the Ohio Company under the leadership of Reverend Manasseh Cutler of Ipswich, Massachusetts, furnishes us with many interesting historical tales.

The first towns to be established were Marietta, Zanesville, Chillicothe, and Cincinnati. After the Ohio Company came the Connecticut Company, which secured all the territory bordering Lake Erie, save a small portion known as fire lands and another portion known as Congress lands. The land taken up by the Connecticut people was called the Western Reserve and was settled almost entirely by New England people. The remainder of the state of Ohio was settled by Virginians and Pennsylvanians. Because the British controlled Lakes Ontario and Erie, the Massachusetts and Connecticut people made their journey into the Western Reserve through the southern part of the state. General Moses Cleaveland, the agent for the Connecticut Land Company, led a body of surveyors to the tract, proceeding by way of Lake Ontario. He quieted the Indian claims to the eastern portion of the reserve by giving them five hundred pounds, two heads of cattle, and

one hundred gallons of whiskey. Landing at the mouth of the Conneaut River, General Moses Cleaveland and his party of fifty, including two women, celebrated Independence Day, 1796, with a feast of pork and beans with bread. A little later, a village was established at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and was given the name of Cleaveland, in honor of the agent of the company. It is related that the name was afterward shortened to Cleveland by one of the early editors because he could not get so many letters into the heading of his newspaper.

1. Reverend Manasseh Cutler
  - (A) led the Ohio Company.
  - (B) owned the Western Reserve.
  - (C) led the Connecticut Land Company.
  - (D) settled the Congress lands.
2. The title that best expresses the main idea of this selection is
  - (A) "The Settling of the Northwest Territory."
  - (B) "Control of the Great Lake Region."
  - (C) "The Accomplishments of Reverend Manasseh Cutler."
  - (D) "The Naming of Cleveland, Ohio."

3. In the last sentence of the selection, the word *related* is used to mean
  - (A) associated with.
  - (B) rumored.
  - (C) reported.
  - (D) thought.
4. The selection suggests that General Cleaveland at first found the Indians to be
  - (A) extremely noisy people.
  - (B) hostile to his party of strangers.
  - (C) starving.
  - (D) eager to work with him.

## QUIZ 8

### 3 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

- Along the shores of the Indian Ocean, from Africa around to the large islands southeast of Asia, is found a pretty little shellfish that is noted for furnishing
- (5) what may have been the first money ever used. Its shell, called a cowrie, is white or light yellow, and is about one inch long. Millions of people around the ocean were using these cowries, separately or on strings, for money long before furs or cattle or other kinds of money were used anywhere, as far as is known. Cowries have been found in Assyria, many miles inland, and in China they
- (10) were used with several other kinds of shells. Tortoise shells had the highest value there, so it might be said that the tortoise shells were the dollar bills while the cowries were the coins. Now, after
- (15) thousands of years, there are still some tribes in Africa, India, and the South Seas that use cowries.
1. The author believes that the earliest money may have been in the form of
    - (A) cattle.
    - (B) furs.
    - (C) shells.
    - (D) string.
  2. It is surprising to learn that cowries were used in Assyria because
    - (A) cowries are only one inch long.
    - (B) cattle were plentiful in Assyria.
    - (C) Assyria is away from the sea-coast.
    - (D) tortoise shells took the place of dollars.
  3. The Chinese used \_\_\_\_\_ for money.
    - (A) cattle.
    - (B) tortoise shells.
    - (C) shellfish.
    - (D) whale's teeth.



## QUIZ 9

### 4 Questions • 4 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

From Gettysburg to the Battle of the Bulge, carrier pigeons have winged their way through skies fair and foul to deliver the vital messages of battle. Today, in spite of electronics and atomic weapons, these feathered heroes are still an important communication link in any army.

No one could be surer of this than the men at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, the sole Army pigeon breeding and training center in this country. On the roosts at Fort Monmouth perch many genuine battle heroes, among them veteran G.I. Joe.

In 1943, one thousand British troops moved speedily ahead of the Allied advance in Italy to take the small town of Colvi Vecchia. Since communications could not be established in time to relay the victory to headquarters, the troops were due for a previously planned Allied bombing raid. Then, one of the men released carrier pigeon G.I. Joe. With a warning message on his back, he flew 20 miles in 20 minutes, arriving just as the bombers were warming up their motors. For saving the day for the British, the Lord Mayor of London later awarded G.I. Joe the Dickin Medal, England's highest award to an animal.

Even when regular message channels are set up, equipment can break or be overloaded or radio silence must be observed. Then, the carrier pigeon comes into his own. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, he completes his mission. In

Korea, Homer the homing pigeon was flying from the front to a rear command post when he developed wing trouble. Undaunted, Homer made a forced landing, hopped the last two miles and delivered his message. For initiative and loyalty, Homer was promoted to Pfc.—Pigeon First Class!

1. The writer of this passage evidently believes that carrier pigeons
  - (A) have no usefulness in modern warfare.
  - (B) should be forced to fly only in emergencies.
  - (C) are remarkably reliable as message carriers.
  - (D) should receive regular promotions.
2. G.I. Joe was rewarded for
  - (A) preventing unnecessary loss of life.
  - (B) guiding a bomber's flight.
  - (C) returning in spite of an injured wing.
  - (D) bringing the news of an allied defeat.
3. G.I. Joe's reward was a
  - (A) promotion.
  - (B) reception given by the Lord Mayor.
  - (C) chance to retire to Fort Monmouth.
  - (D) medal.

4. The word *vital* in line 4 means

(A) extremely important.

(B) frequent.

(C) recent.

(D) written.

## QUIZ 10

### 4 Questions • 3 Minutes

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then decide which of the responses is the best answer to each question. Circle the letter that appears before your answer.

“Sophistication by the reel” is the motto of Peretz Johannes, who selects juvenile films for Saturday viewing at the Museum of the City of New York. Sampling (5) the intellectual climate of the young fans in this city for the past two years has convinced him that many people underestimate the taste level of young New Yorkers. Consequently, a year ago (10) he began to show films ordinarily restricted to art movie distribution. The series proved enormously successful, and in September, when the program commenced for this season, youngsters from (15) the five boroughs filled the theater.

As a student of history, Mr. Johannes has not confined himself to productions given awards in recent years, but has spent many hours among dusty reels (20) ferreting out such pre-war favorites as the silhouette films of Lotte Reiniger made in Germany. One program included two films based on children’s stories, “The Little Red Lighthouse” and (25) “Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel.” The movies are shown at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., with a short program of stories and a demonstration of toys presented during the intermission.

- Mr. Johannes found that the children’s taste in motion pictures
  - was more varied than had been thought.
  - ruled out pictures made before their own day.
  - was limited to cartoons.
  - was even poorer than adults had suspected.
- Admission to the program described is
  - limited to children in the neighborhood of the museum.
  - for Manhattan only.
  - available for all the city.
  - for teenagers only.
- Mr. Johannes
  - followed an established policy in planning his programs.
  - has failed so far to secure a good audience.
  - limits his programs to the newest award-winning pictures.
  - evidently is a good judge of children’s tastes.
- Ferreting out* (line 20) a picture is
  - giving it a trial run.
  - searching diligently for it.
  - reviving it.
  - banning it.