The Genius of Tesla

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What was the author's purpose for writing this biography?

Ⓐ to inform readers about Nikola Tesla's life

Ⓑ to entertain readers with Thomas Edison jokes

Ⓒ to inform readers about alternating current power

Ⓓ to persuade readers to use less electricity

2. Which of the following details from the story can't be proven?

Ⓐ Tesla was born in 1856 in what today is Croatia.

Ⓑ "I know two great men and you are one of them."

Ⓒ Marconi sent a radio signal transmission in 1901.

Ⓓ Westinghouse bought the rights to use Tesla's inventions.

3. Tesla conducted _____, or *scientific tests or trials*.

Ⓐ concerts

Ⓑ interviews

Ⓒ surveys

Ⓓ experiments

4. How did the author organize the information in the biography?

Ⓐ He used each section to describe an important invention Tesla made.

Ⓑ He used sections to compare Tesla to other important scientists.

Ⓒ He used sections to describe the sequence of major events in Tesla's life.

Ⓓ He focused solely on events that would persuade readers to dislike Tesla.

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Name _____ Date _____

5. What happened after Tesla began building a tower in 1901?

Ⓐ Tesla died at age eighty-six while living in a hotel room.

Ⓑ Tesla built a new laboratory using money from Westinghouse.

Ⓒ Tesla learned about inventing from his mother, who built appliances.

Ⓓ Tesla invented a highly efficient light bulb for a group of investors.

6. What did the word **inventions** mean in the story?

Ⓐ documents

Ⓑ new devices

Ⓒ forces

Ⓓ old devices

7. How is AC electricity different from DC electricity?

Ⓐ AC electricity only works through coils.

Ⓑ AC electricity moves rapidly back and forth.

Ⓒ AC electricity moves in one direction in a straight line.

Ⓓ AC electricity only travels short distances.

8. Why did the story include the graphs comparing AC and DC electricity?

Ⓐ to demonstrate how alternating current could be sent through the air

Ⓑ to highlight the influence alternating current had on technology

Ⓒ to describe the importance of both types of current

Ⓓ to help the reader visualize the differences between the currents

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9. What major event happened before Tesla began working with George Westinghouse?

Ⓐ Tesla worked with Westinghouse to light the World's Fair in Chicago.

Ⓑ Tesla built a special coil that produced high-voltage alternating current.

Ⓒ Tesla worked to increase the voltage of Edison's DC electric system.

Ⓓ Tesla experimented with using radio waves to send wireless signals.

10. What was the main idea of the section "A Lasting Influence"?

Ⓐ Tesla's AC current made a big impact at the World's Fair in 1893.

Ⓑ Tesla was greatly influenced by his time with Thomas Edison.

Ⓒ Tesla's work in radio signals encouraged Marconi's experiments.

Ⓓ Tesla had a large influence on technology and the modern world.

11. Extended Response: How was the author's perspective on Marconi's accomplishment different from Tesla's recorded opinion? Write several sentences describing the two possible interpretations and your own opinions on who deserved more credit, Tesla or Marconi, and why.

12. Extended Response: Write a paragraph to describe the effect Tesla's research and inventions had on the modern world and how his work has influenced your life.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

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Main Comprehension Skill: Sequence Events

1. Ⓐ *Author's Purpose*
2. Ⓑ *Fact or Opinion*
3. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
4. Ⓒ *Text Structure*
5. Ⓐ *Sequence Events*
6. Ⓑ *Vocabulary*
7. Ⓑ *Compare and Contrast*
8. Ⓓ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
9. Ⓒ *Sequence Events*
10. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
11. Answers will vary. Example: *The author made a point that Marconi was using a lot of Tesla's ideas, and the story indicates that it was unfair for Marconi to receive the credit and money while Tesla got nothing. Yet Tesla's response was that Marconi was a good man and should keep working. He acknowledged that Marconi was using his patents, but didn't seem bitter about it. The author seemed angrier than Tesla did about the unfair turn of events. I also think it was unfair for Marconi to receive all the credit. He used Tesla's ideas, and Tesla was ready to send the signal himself before his lab burned down. He deserved to share the honor of radio signal transmissions. The government didn't even credit Tesla with his work on the radio until after he was dead. I feel that Tesla had a lot of bad luck in his life.*
12. Answers will vary. Example: *Tesla's work with alternating current brought electricity to the country and became the foundation for electricity in our houses. After he discovered how to send electricity through the air without wires, electricity could be used for even more purposes. Also, his work with radio waves was instrumental in the creation of the radio. Thanks to Nikola Tesla, I live in a comfortable house powered by electricity. I can listen to the radio and use wireless technology in my phone and computer, all because of early achievements Tesla made.*