

For many centuries people have wondered about Stonehenge. They have studied the large circle of huge stone pillars. Some stones still stand erect. But others lie on the ground where they fell hundreds of years ago. Scientists have suggested that Stonehenge was a religious temple. Or, that it was a device to keep track of time.

The word Stonehenge means the "hanging stones," and it is an appropriate name. Some of the stone pillars still stand, just as they did 4,000 years ago. Across the tops of a few of the pillars, connecting to one another, are smaller stones that seem to "hang" in space.

Stonehenge stands on a rise in a rolling plain near Salisbury, England. The outer ring of stones at Stonehenge was made of 30 massive pillars. Some of them weigh up to 40 tons. These stones probably came from a quarry which is located 25 miles away. They had to be hauled over this distance by the people who built Stonehenge. They had to be cut into shape and set into place. After that, the smaller stones, called lintels, were set on top of them. Within the main ring of pillars at Stonehenge is another ring of smaller stones. These pillars weigh about 5 tons each. They are called bluestones because of their coloration. The closest quarry for stones like these is about 250 miles from the Salisbury Plain.

Stonehenge began as a large, circular ditch, built about 1900 B.C. This ditch is about 300 feet in diameter. As the people dug, they piled the soil along one rim and so a mound was made. Fifty-six holes inside the mound were probably dug at the same time.

Two hundred years later, the ring of bluestones was built. It was near the center of the ditch and mound. Only a few of these stones now stand; most have fallen over or have been removed. A broad avenue, now a slight depression in the land with mounds on either side, runs from Stonehenge across the Salisbury Plain. Some scientists think it was the main entrance and was built during this time period.

A hundred years or more went by before the large stone pillars were added, and their lintels set in place. Thus, at least 300 years were required to complete the "mystery" of Stonehenge.

Recalling Facts

1. Stonehenge may have functioned as a
 - ☐ a. fort.
 - ☐ b. temple.
 - ☐ c. village.
2. How many pillars made up the outer ring of stones?
 - ☐ a. 30
 - ☐ b. 15
 - ☐ c. 10
3. When was the first part of Stonehenge completed?
 - ☐ a. about 1600 B.C.
 - ☐ b. about 1900 A.D.
 - ☐ c. about 1900 B.C.
4. Name the type of stone that was used to build the inner ring of smaller pillars.
 - ☐ a. bluestone
 - ☐ b. granite
 - ☐ c. marble
5. What is an important part of Stonehenge besides the "hanging stones"?
 - ☐ a. a grove of trees
 - ☐ b. a ring-shaped ditch
 - ☐ c. a stone quarry

Understanding the Passage

6. From this selection we can conclude that
 - ☐ a. the purposes of Stonehenge are still not known.
 - ☐ b. Stonehenge was unimportant to its builders.
 - ☐ c. Stonehenge is no longer an object of curiosity.
7. Choose the best title for this article.
 - ☐ a. Different Types of Stone in Great Britain
 - ☐ b. A Mystery in Stone
 - ☐ c. Prehistoric People of Great Britain
8. Stonehenge was probably built
 - ☐ a. with iron tools.
 - ☐ b. by hundreds of people.
 - ☐ c. within a period of a few years.
9. Which ring of stones supports the lintels?
 - ☐ a. the outer ring
 - ☐ b. the inner ring
 - ☐ c. the third ring
10. What is another term for lintel?
 - ☐ a. pillar
 - ☐ b. column
 - ☐ c. "hanging stone"

What happens to all the solid waste produced in the United States? Well, some of it is thrown away. It litters streets, roadways, the countryside, and waterways. Some of it is burned in open air. Still some trash is left to sit in the open at garbage dumps. These dumps smell, look bad, and attract rats and insects. Some of the trash is buried. Valuable materials that might have been reused are thus lost. Some of the buried waste can be harmful. It leaks deadly chemicals which poison the land and the water.

Waste is everywhere. Each year we throw away more than 7 million television sets. We junk 7 million old cars and trucks. We use and discard 48 billion cans and 26 billion bottles. We toss out 30 million tons of paper. Waste disposal costs us four and a half billion dollars a year. Something has to be done with all this trash and garbage. Even though we are not sure of the best way to get rid of trash, we must make an effort.

Open garbage dumps are the most common places we put our solid wastes. Therefore, it's a good place to start. These dumps can be made better by turning them into clean landfills. In such a landfill, a layer of soil is applied daily over the waste. This helps to keep pests away and cuts down on the water pollutants that wash off in the rain. A landfill does away with the need to burn the waste, and this prevents wind-blown litter. When filled, the site can be planted with grass, shrubs, and trees and made into a park.

But ordinary sanitary landfills may not stop waste matter from seeping through the soil and ruining water supplies. Dangerous waste matter needs landfills that are sealed in a special way to stop seepage. In the past, harmful waste was burned. It was also dumped into waterways. But then pollution controls went into effect. More of these wastes showed up in landfills. The yearly amount of harmful waste is on the rise. Our health is threatened by the unsafe waste from these landfills.

There are good ways to get rid of the most dangerous waste without harming health or the ecology. But costs of such disposal are high. Federal and state governments are working with business firms and citizens to solve these cost and waste problems.

Recalling Facts

1. Open dumps attract
 - ☐ a. game animals.
 - ☐ b. rats and insects.
 - ☐ c. trash collectors.
2. Some of the buried waste has deadly
 - ☐ a. chemicals.
 - ☐ b. insects.
 - ☐ c. plants.
3. How many junk cars and trucks are thrown away each year?
 - ☐ a. 7 million
 - ☐ b. 26 billion
 - ☐ c. 30 billion
4. Garbage dumps can be made better by turning them into
 - ☐ a. clean landfills.
 - ☐ b. parking lots.
 - ☐ c. usable canals.
5. The yearly amount of harmful waste is
 - ☐ a. decreasing.
 - ☐ b. increasing.
 - ☐ c. stable.

Understanding the Passage

6. Open garbage dumps are
 - ☐ a. beautiful.
 - ☐ b. dangerous.
 - ☐ c. restful.
7. We can see that many people
 - ☐ a. have open garbage dumps in their yards.
 - ☐ b. save millions of tons of newspapers.
 - ☐ c. throw away things that can be reused.
8. A clean landfill takes the place of
 - ☐ a. a beautiful park.
 - ☐ b. an open garbage dump.
 - ☐ c. an unpolluted waterway.
9. Getting rid of waste is
 - ☐ a. easy.
 - ☐ b. expensive.
 - ☐ c. unpopular.
10. This article hints that
 - ☐ a. litter along the highway is usually cleaned up by the town.
 - ☐ b. more and more people are concerned with waste disposal.
 - ☐ c. waste disposal is not an important problem.

Folklore is the customs, traditions, and beliefs that a group of people have passed on from generation to generation. They are usually passed on by the spoken word. In this way, folklore combines the dances, stories, arts and crafts, music, and religion of a culture.

Myths are the earliest types of folklore. Myths explain life and death. They explain the forces of nature. Myths are often related to religion. For example, we know that every star is a sun. People of long ago did not know what stars were. They made up myths to understand them. Every culture has its own stories to explain these twinkling lights. Ancient peoples told stories about changing seasons. The heroes of myths are usually gods and goddesses who act like humans but have unusual powers.

The fairy tale entertains and amuses. It takes place in a magical place where unusual things happen. All fairies have mystical powers. One popular fairy tale is *Cinderella*. She was a poor orphan who finally married a prince and lived "happily ever after." Cinderella had a fairy godmother who could change a pumpkin into a carriage. She did this just by waving her hand.

The fable shows people how they should live. Most fables tell stories about animals with human traits. They end with a moral. The best-known fables were collected by Aesop. He was a Greek slave who lived in the 5th century B.C. He did not write these fables, but he made them popular.

One popular fable is the story of the tortoise and the hare. The two animals had a race to see which was faster. The hare ran ahead of the tortoise and lay down for a rest. The tortoise plodded slowly by and won. The moral of this fable is simple. A person who works slowly and steadily will do more than one who works too quickly.

The legend, like the fable, also instructs. However, the legend is closer to life than the fable. It is sometimes based on a true story. Legends may tell about people who really lived and events that really occurred.

The stories of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table are legends. Many things have happened in these legends that can be traced to events in English history. But the story of Arthur is probably not true. There may have been a Merlin who actually lived. But can we believe that he really possessed magical powers?

Recalling Facts

1. What is the earliest type of folklore?
☐ a. legend
☐ b. myth
☐ c. fairy tale
2. The fairy tale
☐ a. entertains and amuses.
☐ b. instructs.
☐ c. records history.
3. The heroes of myths are
☐ a. dragons.
☐ b. fairies.
☐ c. gods and goddesses.
4. Which of the following is closer to life?
☐ a. a myth
☐ b. a legend
☐ c. a fairy tale
5. Cinderella was a
☐ a. poor orphan girl.
☐ b. fairy godmother.
☐ c. historical person.

Understanding the Passage

6. Folklore seems to be present in
☐ a. only western cultures.
☐ b. all cultures of the world.
☐ c. few cultures of the world.
7. Who collected the most famous fables?
☐ a. Merlin.
☐ b. Aesop.
☐ c. Cinderella.
8. The stories of King Arthur and his Knights
☐ a. cannot be traced in English history.
☐ b. can be traced in French history.
☐ c. can be traced in English history.
9. Explanations of the natural world are often told in
☐ a. fairy tales.
☐ b. legends.
☐ c. myths.
10. A popular fable is the story of
☐ a. a hare and a tortoise.
☐ b. Cinderella.
☐ c. King Arthur.

4 Blacksmith of the Gods

What are volcanoes? The word "volcano" comes from "Vulcan." This was the name of a Roman god. Centuries ago, people believed that Vulcan was the blacksmith of the gods. A volcano was the chimney of his forge. When clouds of dust billowed from the volcano and hot lava poured out, they thought Vulcan was at work. Vulcan made thunderbolts for Jupiter, king of the gods. He also made weapons for Mars, god of war. Today, of course, we know that volcanoes are part of nature. There's nothing magic about them.

Volcanoes are different from mountains. They are not made the way mountains are. They are made by the build-up of their own lava, ash, and dust. Most volcanoes are hills shaped like cones. These hills have formed around openings in the earth's surface. The openings are above pools of melted rock. These burning pools are found deep in the earth. At times, this liquid is forced up by gas pressure. When this happens, the melted rock breaks through weak places in the earth's crust. It pours from the opening as lava. It may even shoot into the air as thick clouds of lava dust. Pieces of lava fall back around the opening. Some of the finer dust may be blown away by the wind and fall to the ground many miles away.

The melted rock below the surface is known as "magma." After it is released from a volcano, it is called lava. It is red-hot when it first pours from the volcano. Then it slowly changes to dark red, gray, or black as it cools. Very hot lava glows like hot tar. Cool lava flows more slowly, like thick honey.

All lava that comes to the crust of the earth contains gas. The gas escapes easily from thin lava. But if the lava is thick and pasty, the gas escapes with explosive force. Gas in lava may be compared with the gas in a bottle of soda pop. Try an experiment. Put your thumb over the top of a soda bottle and shake it. You will see that the gas separates from the soda and forms bubbles. When you take your thumb away, there is a small explosion of gas and liquid. The gas in lava acts in somewhat the same way. It causes the terrible explosions that throw out great masses of solid rock as well as lava, dust, and ashes.

Recalling Facts

1. Long ago, people thought that Vulcan was a
 - ☐ a. blacksmith.
 - ☐ b. messenger.
 - ☐ c. warrior.
2. People thought that Vulcan made thunderbolts for
 - ☐ a. Jupiter.
 - ☐ b. Pluto.
 - ☐ c. Neptune.
3. Volcanoes are made of
 - ☐ a. iron and dust.
 - ☐ b. lava and ash.
 - ☐ c. sand and salt.
4. Most volcanoes are hills shaped like
 - ☐ a. cones.
 - ☐ b. saddles.
 - ☐ c. straws.
5. The melted rock below the earth's surface is known as
 - ☐ a. lava.
 - ☐ b. magma.
 - ☐ c. ore.

Understanding the Passage

6. We can see that the Romans
 - ☐ a. attacked Greece and killed her people.
 - ☐ b. often built cities near a volcano.
 - ☐ c. worshipped more than one god.
7. Volcanoes can be
 - ☐ a. harmful.
 - ☐ b. helpful.
 - ☐ c. useful.
8. The dust cloud from a volcano
 - ☐ a. can be seen at a distance.
 - ☐ b. is often filled with water.
 - ☐ c. usually settles near the volcano.
9. The magma or melted rock is very
 - ☐ a. hot.
 - ☐ b. soft.
 - ☐ c. sticky.
10. An exploding volcano is
 - ☐ a. calm.
 - ☐ b. noisy.
 - ☐ c. still.

Bows and arrows are one of man's oldest weapons. Early man hunted with the bow more than 8,000 years ago. It was an important discovery for man. It gave him a deadly weapon with which he could kill his enemies. He could also kill prey from a distance.

The ordinary bow, or shortbow, was used by nearly all early people. This bow had limited power and a short range. However, man overcame these faults by learning to track his prey at close range. In fact, some African pygmies still hunt this way. They get very close to their prey, then shoot it with poisoned arrows. Even the American Indian rarely tried a shot past forty yards.

The longbow was most likely discovered when someone found out that a five-foot piece of wood made a better bow than a three-foot piece. The final length of the longbow was probably six feet, six inches. Hundreds of thousands of these bows were made and used for 300 years. However, not one is known to survive today. We believe that a force of about 100 pounds was needed to pull the string all the way back on a longbow. Anyone who used this bow had to be very strong.

The English longbow arrows were made of oak, ash, or birch. The arrows were usually feathered with wing feathers from the grey goose. The arrowheads were made of steel. They were broad and barbed. The archer carried twenty-four such arrows into battle. He could shoot one every five seconds if he had to. This made him a fearful enemy.

For a long time the bow was just a bent stick and a string. In fact, more changes have taken place in the bow and arrow in the past twenty-five years than in the last seven centuries. Today's bow is forceful. It is as exact as a gun. Plus, it requires little strength to draw the string. Modern bows also have fine sights. An expert can hit a bull's-eye many times in a row from a good distance away. In indoor contests, perfect scores from forty yards are common. Matches have been lost when a winning arrow was stopped by one already in the bull's-eye.

The invention of the bow itself ranks with the discovery of fire and the wheel. It was a great step forward for man.

Recalling Facts

1. Bows and arrows are one of man's oldest
 - ☐ a. charms.
 - ☐ b. toys.
 - ☐ c. weapons.
2. The bow was used more than
 - ☐ a. 8,000 years ago.
 - ☐ b. 20,000 years ago.
 - ☐ c. 30,000 years ago.
3. The shortbow had limited
 - ☐ a. length.
 - ☐ b. power.
 - ☐ c. use.
4. Anyone who used the longbow had to be
 - ☐ a. fat.
 - ☐ b. strong.
 - ☐ c. tall.
5. The arrowheads on a longbow were made of
 - ☐ a. feathers.
 - ☐ b. steel.
 - ☐ c. wood.

Understanding the Passage

6. Early man used the bow and arrow to
 - ☐ a. defend himself.
 - ☐ b. keep warm.
 - ☐ c. plant crops.
7. Man tracked his prey when he used the shortbow because the shortbow did not
 - ☐ a. bend easily.
 - ☐ b. shoot far.
 - ☐ c. weigh much.
8. When at close range, early man used
 - ☐ a. the shortbow.
 - ☐ b. the longbow.
 - ☐ c. rocks.
9. The longbow was probably discovered
 - ☐ a. before the shortbow.
 - ☐ b. at the same time as the shortbow.
 - ☐ c. after the shortbow.
10. Today's bows are very
 - ☐ a. accurate.
 - ☐ b. colorful.
 - ☐ c. heavy.

In one sense, an allowance is a child's share of the family income. It can be a good experience that parents can provide for their children. The amount should be what the family can afford. It should be given to the youngster to do with as she pleases. It should not be used as a tool to win the youngster's good behavior.

An allowance is not a bribe. It should be thought of as a learning tool. It can give a youngster firsthand experience in learning how to spend money. It can teach her how to get the best value for what she buys. It can help her use her skills in arithmetic.

Many youngsters make mistakes and buy unwisely at first. Some rush out to spend all their money the moment they get it. They forget that once it is spent, there will be no more for several days. From such haste, youngsters can learn how to choose wisely and spend carefully.

Parents need to know when to begin to give an allowance. They also want to decide how much to give. When a youngster starts school, she may want an allowance. She may have friends who receive one. A good time for considering an allowance may be when a youngster makes daily requests for ice cream or candy. This will help her to see the value of money.

At first a youngster may receive only half an allowance but get it twice a week. This would be a help to someone who finds a full week too long. A youngster will soon figure out that she can have two candy bars this week, or she can save her allowance for two weeks and buy a toy. She learns that she cannot have both the candy and the toy.

A wise parent will not control her child's buying. If a child makes her own mistakes with her own money, she is more apt to learn from her mistakes. Also, a child should not be made to save a part of each week's allowance. An allowance should not be taken away as punishment for bad behavior. An allowance should not be thought of as pay for doing household chores.

A youngster should be encouraged to be generous. An allowance should help her see that money isn't everything. No amount of money can buy friendship. Things such as love and respect do not have a price tag.

Recalling Facts

1. An allowance gives a child a chance to share in the family's
 - ☐ a. chores.
 - ☐ b. meals.
 - ☐ c. income.
2. The amount of an allowance should depend upon what the family can
 - ☐ a. afford.
 - ☐ b. borrow.
 - ☐ c. inherit.
3. An allowance can give a child the chance to use her
 - ☐ a. arithmetic skills.
 - ☐ b. map skills.
 - ☐ c. reading skills.
4. An allowance should be given once or twice a
 - ☐ a. week.
 - ☐ b. month.
 - ☐ c. year.
5. An allowance should not be used as a tool to win a child's
 - ☐ a. friends.
 - ☐ b. good behavior.
 - ☐ c. self-respect.

Understanding the Passage

6. Parents should give an allowance to
 - ☐ a. make the child behave.
 - ☐ b. pay a child for chores.
 - ☐ c. teach the value of money.
7. We can see that children learn the value of money by
 - ☐ a. listening to friends.
 - ☐ b. making mistakes.
 - ☐ c. visiting the bank.
8. At first, most youngsters spend their money
 - ☐ a. foolishly.
 - ☐ b. carefully.
 - ☐ c. wisely.
9. An allowance should encourage a youngster to be
 - ☐ a. bold.
 - ☐ b. stingy.
 - ☐ c. unselfish.
10. This passage hints that giving the child an allowance
 - ☐ a. can be harmful to the child.
 - ☐ b. is a good experience for the child.
 - ☐ c. takes away the child's self-respect.

Life during the Middle Ages was hard. People were always at war. Therefore, castles were built to protect people from their enemies.

The castle was the home of a lord and his family. It was also the home of the soldiers. The soldiers were there to protect the castle, the lord, and his family. They also protected the village from attack. The castle was also the prison and the treasure house. It was even the center of local government.

Most castles were built on a hill or high ground. This made the castle easy to defend. A moat (a deep ditch filled with water) was built around the castle. A drawbridge, which could be raised and lowered with winches and chains, lay across the moat.

During the Middle Ages, most castles were built in the shape of a square. They had a large tower in each corner. These towers were usually made of stone. A thick stone wall ran from tower to tower and formed an area called the inner ward. A large central tower was called the keep. This was always the strongest part of the castle. The lord and his family lived on the upper floors of the keep. The soldiers lived on the lower levels. The keep had many secret rooms and getaway passages. It was here, in the keep, that all the village people would hide during times of great danger. There were many underground tunnels leading to the keep. The other towers were used for the prison. The great hall was the place used for town meetings. The kitchen and bake shop were also part of the castle.

The space outside the towers and wall was called the outer ward. This outer ward was surrounded by another wall. This second wall also ran around the whole village. The top of this wall had a walk for the soldiers and battlements (high stone shields). From behind the battlements, the soldiers could hide to shoot their arrows and cast stones at the enemy.

At the end of the Middle Ages, castles disappeared. They were replaced by forts. But many rich homes, homes of lords and earls, were still built in the shape of a castle. Castles have always held the interest of people. Even today in European countries the old romantic castles are a big tourist attraction. Many people flock to see these ancient buildings.

Recalling Facts

1. Castles were used to protect people from their
 - ☐ a. enemies.
 - ☐ b. friends.
 - ☐ c. pets.
2. The castle was also a
 - ☐ a. church.
 - ☐ b. market.
 - ☐ c. prison.
3. Most castles were built on a
 - ☐ a. cliff.
 - ☐ b. hill.
 - ☐ c. lake.
4. The ditch filled with water that surrounded the castle was called a
 - ☐ a. crevice.
 - ☐ b. keep.
 - ☐ c. moat.
5. Battlements are stone
 - ☐ a. shields.
 - ☐ b. statues.
 - ☐ c. towers.

Understanding the Passage

6. People during the Middle Ages were
 - ☐ a. friendly.
 - ☐ b. poetic.
 - ☐ c. warlike.
7. We can see that castles were
 - ☐ a. small shacks.
 - ☐ b. sturdy buildings.
 - ☐ c. tiny caves.
8. If a friend wished to enter the castle, the drawbridge had to be
 - ☐ a. destroyed.
 - ☐ b. lowered.
 - ☐ c. raised.
9. This article hints that castles were mostly made of
 - ☐ a. stone.
 - ☐ b. straw.
 - ☐ c. wood.
10. Getaway passages were probably used when people wanted to
 - ☐ a. escape.
 - ☐ b. fight.
 - ☐ c. vacation.

Wood decay is caused by small plants called fungi. These plants cannot live on wood that has a moisture content of less than about 30 percent. The wood in most well-built homes is safe because the moisture content is rarely above 15 percent. The way to stop decay is simple. Keep wood dry.

Keeping wood dry is not always that easy to do. The outside walls of a house are open to rain that blows against them. Soil carries water. It can wet any wood that touches it. Also, if there are plumbing leaks in your home, the inside wood can get wet.

Wood must be kept dry at all times because wood soaks up water and holds it for a long time. From time to time, heavy rains can supply enough water for decay to begin.

If you know that wood will become wet, it can be protected. Wood can be treated with preservatives. For long term safety, the preservative should be put on under pressure. If the wood comes in touch with the ground, only pressure treatment will do the job. Some pieces of wood that only get wet from time to time can be treated to stop decay by brushing on a preservative. The correct chemical to use for treatment depends upon what the wood is used for. Some chemicals give off a terrible smell. These are not good for use indoors. Others cause paint to peel. You should mention what the wood is used for when you buy the preservative.

Mold and stain fungi can attack wood. Molds grow mainly on the surface but may get inside the outer sapwood. The dark color caused by mold on wood can be removed by light sanding. Stain fungi go beyond the outer layers and cause a dark color that cannot be removed. Both molds and stain feed on wood. By themselves, they do not decay or weaken the wood. But, they do increase the wood's ability to take on and hold moisture. Thus, they increase the possibility of future decay. If you see signs of molds and stain fungi, you may have a problem.

Wood decays slowly at temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. So, decay is more rapid in the South than in the North. Decay is also more rapid in humid than in dry regions, even though the plants that cause decay are present everywhere throughout the United States.

Recalling Facts

1. Wood decay is caused by small plants called
 - ☐ a. algae.
 - ☐ b. fungi.
 - ☐ c. germs.
2. In order to live, wood decaying plants need a moisture content of
 - ☐ a. 15 percent or less.
 - ☐ b. 25 percent.
 - ☐ c. 30 percent or more.
3. The wood in most well-built homes has a moisture content which is rarely above
 - ☐ a. 15 percent.
 - ☐ b. 30 percent.
 - ☐ c. 65 percent.
4. Which of the following is a good carrier of water?
 - ☐ a. cloth
 - ☐ b. iron
 - ☐ c. soil
5. Wood can be protected from decay by using
 - ☐ a. cement.
 - ☐ b. preservatives.
 - ☐ c. water.

Understanding the Passage

6. Wood-decaying plants live well in wood that is
 - ☐ a. dry.
 - ☐ b. smooth.
 - ☐ c. wet.
7. The outside walls are constantly in contact with
 - ☐ a. insects.
 - ☐ b. moisture.
 - ☐ c. plants.
8. The best way to keep wood from decaying is to
 - ☐ a. keep it dry.
 - ☐ b. sand it.
 - ☐ c. split it.
9. Molds can cause wood to
 - ☐ a. bend and snap.
 - ☐ b. change color.
 - ☐ c. splinter easily.
10. The possibility of wood decay is high in the southern United States because of the
 - ☐ a. higher temperatures.
 - ☐ b. many rivers.
 - ☐ c. salt water.

Our sixteenth president was Abraham Lincoln. He was born in a log cabin in Kentucky on February 12, 1809. Abe did not have an easy life. When he was nine years old, his mother died.

At the age of 21, Abe set out for Illinois. He worked at many jobs. He split rails for fences. He worked as a clerk in a store. He served as a village postmaster. Because Abe had to work, he could not always go to school. In fact, Abe had very little schooling. Even so, he did much reading and studying during his spare time. By 1837, he had passed the examination to practice law. His self-education had paid off.

At that time, Lincoln moved to Springfield, the capital of Illinois. As a lawyer and politician, he became well known throughout the state. When he was 37 years old, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. Later, when he returned from Washington, he helped organize the new Republican Party. In 1858, Lincoln became a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He took part in several famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas, the other candidate. Lincoln lost the election, but he became famous. His fame spread throughout the country.

In 1860, Lincoln was asked to run for President by the Republican Party. As a candidate, he promised two things. He promised to hold the states together. He promised to stop the spread of slavery in the country. Lincoln won the election. But he was not able to keep his promises without bloodshed. His term of office was not a peaceful one.

Just as he was elected, the Southern states began to leave the union. Soon, war broke out between the North and the South. Abe was elected for a second term a few months before the War between the States ended. In 1865, a heartbroken President saw the war finally come to a close.

Abe wanted all the people to help rebuild our land. He also wanted them to keep it free. He hoped the states could be joined once more.

However, Abe didn't see his dreams come true. On April 14, 1865, he attended the Ford Theatre in Washington. There, Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, an actor. The next morning Lincoln died. The whole nation mourned the passing of one of the greatest leaders history has ever known.

Recalling Facts

1. Abraham Lincoln was born in
 - ☐ a. Kentucky.
 - ☐ b. Louisiana.
 - ☐ c. Mississippi.
2. Abe's mother died when he was
 - ☐ a. five.
 - ☐ b. seven.
 - ☐ c. nine.
3. In 1837, Abe passed the test to practice
 - ☐ a. law.
 - ☐ b. medicine.
 - ☐ c. religion.
4. The War between the States ended in
 - ☐ a. 1809.
 - ☐ b. 1860.
 - ☐ c. 1865.
5. Lincoln was killed by
 - ☐ a. Benedict Arnold.
 - ☐ b. John Wilkes Booth.
 - ☐ c. Stephen A. Douglas.

Understanding the Passage

6. This article hints that Lincoln's parents were not
 - ☐ a. happy.
 - ☐ b. kind.
 - ☐ c. rich.
7. Which political party did Lincoln belong to?
 - ☐ a. Democratic
 - ☐ b. Republican
 - ☐ c. Socialist
8. We can see that in 1858
 - ☐ a. Lincoln became President.
 - ☐ b. Stephen Douglas became a senator.
 - ☐ c. war broke out between the states.
9. We can conclude from this article that Lincoln
 - ☐ a. could not stop the War between the States.
 - ☐ b. fought in the War between the States.
 - ☐ c. wanted the War between the States.
10. Lincoln died during his
 - ☐ a. first term in office.
 - ☐ b. second term in office.
 - ☐ c. third term in office.

10 Planning to Plant?

Planting a tree correctly will help the new tree you plant live and grow properly. There are some guides for proper tree planting.

One thing you should do is to plant at the right time of the year. Some trees should be planted in the early spring; some in the fall. The best time depends on the kind of tree you are going to put in the ground. If there is a label on the tree, it will have this information. Or, you can ask the salesperson at the nursery.

Be sure, too, that the hole you dig is big enough. If your tree has bare roots, the hole must be deep and wide enough for them to fit without cramping. Some trees are sold with a ball of burlap around the roots. Holes for these trees should be at least 12 inches wider than the diameter of the ball. If plastic has been used to wrap the roots, remove it before planting. A burlap wrap only needs to be loosened after the tree is in the ground. Before planting, protect the tree roots from drying. Keep the tree and roots away from the sun and wind.

After placing the tree in the hole, spread the roots out evenly. Be careful not to damage them. Tamp and water the soil with care around the roots.

Water the tree right after planting. Keep on watering the tree at regular periods for the next two years. Water heavily near the roots about once a week for several hours during the growing season. Continue this well into the fall. The soil should be soaked, but not flooded.

Do not fertilize the tree at planting time. If you do, you may burn the roots. Whether to fertilize and when to fertilize depends again on the type of tree. Other things to keep in mind are the kind of soil and the time of year.

When planting trees more than three feet tall, other things must be considered. The tree will have to be supported until the roots have taken. Connect the tree to poles using rubber-wrapped wires. You will need to support the new tree for one or two years. Also, the bark on new trees is tender. You may need to protect the bare trunk with burlap. Keep animals away from the tree. Put up a fence with chicken wire to prevent animal damage.

Recalling Facts

1. When you plant a tree, make sure you plant it at the right time of the
 - ☐ a. day.
 - ☐ b. week.
 - ☐ c. year.
2. Before planting, protect the tree roots from the
 - ☐ a. dew.
 - ☐ b. rain.
 - ☐ c. sun.
3. When you place the tree in the hole, you should
 - ☐ a. fill the hole with water.
 - ☐ b. pack rocks in the hole.
 - ☐ c. spread out the roots.
4. After you plant your tree, you should water it at regular times for two
 - ☐ a. days.
 - ☐ b. months.
 - ☐ c. years.
5. If you fertilize the tree at planting time, you may
 - ☐ a. burn the roots.
 - ☐ b. damage the bark.
 - ☐ c. strip the leaves.

Understanding the Passage

6. This article tells us how to
 - ☐ a. choose a tree.
 - ☐ b. cut down a tree.
 - ☐ c. plant a tree.
7. If you plant a tree at the wrong time, it might
 - ☐ a. bloom.
 - ☐ b. die.
 - ☐ c. wilt.
8. When you plant your tree, you must be careful not to damage the
 - ☐ a. bark.
 - ☐ b. leaves.
 - ☐ c. roots.
9. Newly planted trees need a lot of
 - ☐ a. fertilizer.
 - ☐ b. water.
 - ☐ c. wind.
10. This article hints that a newly planted six-foot tree must be
 - ☐ a. sprayed.
 - ☐ b. supported.
 - ☐ c. trimmed.