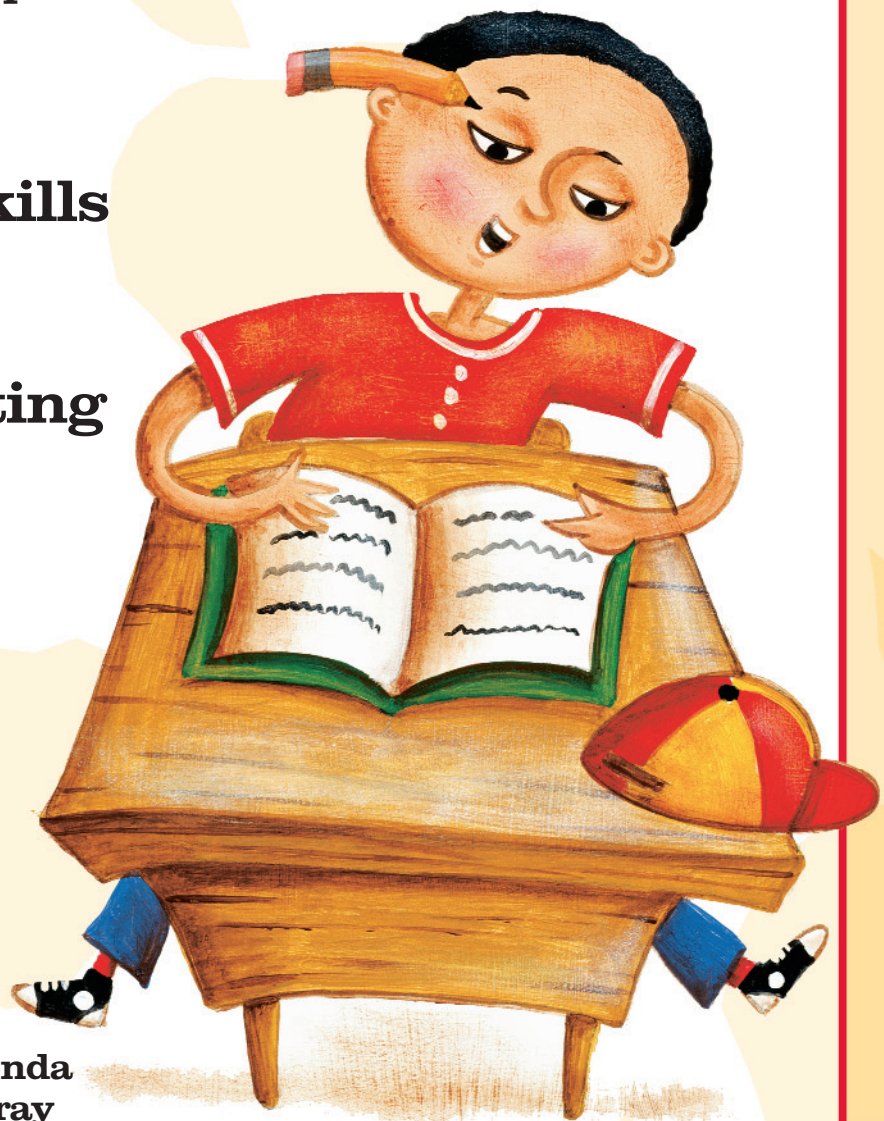




The Comprehensive **Expository Writing** Guide

- Informative Pieces • Expository Essays
- “How to” Pieces • Reports
- Compare/Contrast

**All The Skills
You Need
To Teach
Good Writing**



by **Barbara Mariconda
& Dea Paoletta Auray**

Empower  **ng**TM
Writers

Second Edition



USING THE COMPREHENSIVE EXPOSITORY WRITING GUIDE WITH COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Section 1: Recognizing Genre/Organization – Student Pages



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Name _____

NARRATIVE, EXPOSITORY, or PERSUASIVE? - 1



Read the following paragraphs. Determine whether each paragraph is Narrative, Expository or Persuasive.

- 1.) Pizza can be good for you. You can put vegetables on it. Eating it is easy. You don't even need a fork! It smells yummy in the oven! This is why the school should have pizza every day!

- 2.) The sun is really a big, hot star! It is very far away, but still gives us light. It keeps us warm. Plants cannot grow without the sun.

- 3.) I saw something near the tree. "What is that?" I asked. I looked and looked. It was a little man! He wore a green outfit. The little man smiled. He had a pot of gold. It was a leprechaun!

Name _____

NARRATIVE, EXPOSITORY, or PERSUASIVE? - 2



Read the following paragraphs. Determine whether each paragraph is Narrative, Expository or Persuasive.

- 1.) I gasped when I saw the magical car! It seemed to glow! I couldn't believe the bright red wings on the sides! There was a glass door that opened by itself. Then, the amazing car seemed to talk to me! "Get in," it whispered, "I'll take you for a magical ride!"

- 2.) You say you're afraid of going on a rollercoaster? There's nothing to be afraid of. They are very safe - and very exciting! You get strapped in and hang on tight! The car creeps up and then roars around the track. It feels a little bit like flying! You can go with a friend and scream your head off. What could be more fun? The next time you go to the carnival, you should take a terrific ride on a rollercoaster!

- 3.) Penguins are interesting flightless birds. They live in very cold places and move easily around the snow and ice. They are strong swimmers. They use their wings like flippers to move through the water. These black and white birds waddle on their webbed feet.

Name _____

NARRATIVE, EXPOSITORY, or PERSUASIVE? - 3



Read the following paragraphs. Determine whether each paragraph is Narrative, Expository or Persuasive.

- 1.) I know that some people think having a dog can be difficult. But I think that dogs make perfect pets. Sure, you have to walk a dog, but walking is great exercise! If you're worrying about shedding, then a dog with hair rather than fur (like a poodle or a shitzu) would never leave a hair on the furniture or rug. I know you feel that dogs require a lot of attention - but they can be helpful - as watchdogs, or fetching your newspaper! Having a dog could wind up being the best decision you'll ever make!

- 2.) I turned quietly and peered into the dark hallway. The coast was clear. I was going to figure out what was going on, once and for all! Tiptoeing silently, I made my way down the corridor. I quietly reached for the doorknob, turned it slowly, and took a deep breath. I took a step inside. The lights went on. "SURPRISE!" I gasped. The room was filled with balloons and streamers. All my friends were singing "Happy Birthday!" I was shocked!

- 3.) Have you ever seen someone tune a piano? A piano has a lot of metal strings on the inside. When the weather changes these strings can stretch. This causes the piano to sound "out of tune". A tuner must come with special tools to tighten the strings inside. He or she uses a meter that sounds different tones. The tuner must adjust each string to match the correct notes. With a special tool they turn each peg, just a tiny bit at a time. The tuner will play each of the 88 keys on the piano, listening carefully, adjusting the strings until the piano sounds perfect! Your piano should be tuned at least twice a year in order for it to sound its best.

THE EXPOSITORY PILLAR

INTRODUCTION Lead/Topic Sentence		
Main Idea#1 _____		
Detail	Detail	
Detail	Detail	
Main Idea#2 _____		
Detail	Detail	
Detail	Detail	
Main Idea#3 _____		
Detail	Detail	
Detail	Detail	
CONCLUSION		

Name _____

Birds



Look out the window. Are there any birds out there? Birds come in all colors. They sing in many ways. They also build nests. Let's learn about birds!

How can you tell one kind of bird from another? By their feathers! Feathers come in many colors. In my yard you can see red birds called cardinals. Robins have red and brown feathers. Do you know a crow by its black feathers? Green, blue, yellow - if you look around you can see birds in all colors!

Go outside and listen. You will hear birds singing. Some birds chirp. Other birds sound like this: cheep! cheep! cheep! Owls say HOOT! HOOT! Have you ever heard a bird coo? Do you know what kind of bird quacks?

Birds live in nests. Most make their nests in trees. Birds get string and grass. They use twigs and bits of paper. They put them together on a branch to make a nest. That's where they lay their eggs!

If you see a bird, look at its color and hear its song. Look in a nearby tree to see a nest! Birds are fun to see!

Name _____

Birds

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Circle the introduction.
- 3.) Box the conclusion.
- 4.) Circle the title/topic.
- 5.) Underline the lead (a question) in red.
- 6.) Underline the topic sentence (what the piece is all about) in blue.
- 7.) Underline each MAIN IDEA. Write a “blurb” (word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
- 8.) Read this detail: *The cockatoo has white feathers.* Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
- 9.) Read this detail: *Other birds make their nests out of mud.* Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
- 10.) Number the references to each main idea restated in the conclusion. (Using paragraph numbers)
- 11.) Fill in the summarizing framework/author’s prewriting plan:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Birthdays!



The best part of getting older is having a birthday! Don't you just love the party games, gifts, and food?

A birthday party is all about games! All of your friends come to play. Pin the Tail on the Donkey is a game kids love. Sometimes we play Musical Chairs. The music stops. The one who cannot sit on a chair is out! At my last party we had a sack race.

I love to open gifts. They come in boxes in pretty paper. Some come in gift bags. You can try to guess what's inside! My grandma brings gifts of a shirt or pants. I think toys are the best gifts of all! Video games are my favorite. Games like "Sorry" and puzzles are fun, too.

Most kids have food at their party. Hot dogs or pizza are best. Of course, a birthday cake is a must. Chocolate with sweet frosting is what I like. Sometimes your mom will make cupcakes or brownies. Chips and cookies are good party snacks.

Is your birthday coming soon? Start now to plan for the best games and food. And, you can dream about the gifts!

Name _____

Birthdays

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Circle the introduction.
- 3.) Box the conclusion.
- 4.) Circle the title/topic.
- 5.) Underline the lead in red.
- 6.) Underline the topic sentence (what the piece is all about) in blue.
- 7.) Underline each MAIN IDEA. Write a “blurb” (word or two) in the margin next to the paragraph explaining what the entire paragraph is about.
- 8.) Read this detail: *You need ice cream with the cake.* Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
- 9.) Read this detail: *Another fun game to play is “Twister”.* Where does this detail belong? Paragraph # _____
- 10.) Number the references to each main idea restated in the conclusion. (Using paragraph numbers)
- 11.) Fill in the summarizing framework/author’s prewriting plan:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Baseball



“Three strikes, you’re out!” Have you ever heard these words at a baseball game? Baseball is an exciting sport that has a long history, requires a minimal amount of equipment, and attracts players and fans alike!

Baseball is played with a bat and small hard ball. Nine players play on each team. One player pitches the ball and another tries to hit the ball with the bat. Then the hitter runs base to base, trying to run “home”. The other team tries to prevent this!

People have played baseball for a long time. It began in America more than one hundred years ago. In the year 1845, a baseball club was formed in New York City. It was called the Knickerbocker Baseball Club. This club formed a team that began playing all around America.

Many people play baseball. Professional players make a lot of money! They play baseball as a full-time job! Other people play for fun. Old people, young people, men, and women play on teams all over the world! Many schools have their own baseball teams!

Other people love to watch this fast-moving sport. They go to big ballparks called **stadiums** to see the games. Stadiums can seat thousands of people. You can buy a program, a hot dog, or a soda at the stadium. You can hear the people cheer! You might even catch a fly ball! But you don’t have to go to a stadium to enjoy watching baseball. You can watch a game on TV. On TV you get to see the players up close. You can see replays of the best parts of the game.

This American sport with its interesting history is fun to play and exciting to watch! So grab a bat and ball, or, buy yourself a ticket to a big league game! Whether you play or watch, baseball is the great American pastime!

Name _____

Baseball

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Circle the **introduction paragraph**.
- 3.) Underline the **main idea sentence** in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- 4.) Write a word or two (blurb) in the margin next to each paragraph to tell what each paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to find out how to play baseball, which paragraph would you read?

- 6.) Which paragraph would you read to find out where people go to watch baseball?

- 7.) Which paragraph outlines the history of baseball? _____
- 8.) If you wanted to find out who plays baseball, which paragraph would you read?

- 9.) In paragraph 5, list the word referent the author uses in place of the word baseball. _____
- 10.) Box the **conclusion**.
- 11.) Fill in the summarizing framework/author's prewriting plan:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Reindeer



We have all heard stories of Santa and his magical reindeer. But did you know that these special deer are real animals? These beautiful, helpful creatures love cold weather and have an unusual diet.

Reindeer look different from other kinds of deer. Unlike most kinds of deer, both male and female reindeer have antlers! Male reindeer have very long, branched antlers. Female reindeer have shorter antlers. Reindeer have short, strong legs and have a short brownish coat. Their coat gets darker in the winter and lighter in the summer. They have long shaggy white fur under their necks, around their tails and over their hoofs. The male reindeer, called a **stag**, is about six feet long and three feet high at the shoulder. The female, called a **doe**, is a bit smaller. They have large hooves that help them walk in ice and snow.

Reindeer have always lived in the coldest parts of Northern Europe and Asia. In Norway and Sweden, reindeer have been trained to wear harnesses and pull sleds. Because reindeer were so helpful to the people of Norway and Sweden, they were brought to Alaska in 1887. These Alaskan reindeer are called **caribou**.

What can these cold-weather animals find to eat? They eat all kinds of vegetation. They find dry grass and leaves, tender moss and a cold weather plant called lichen that grows on rocks and frozen ground. The reindeer use their antlers and hooves to scrape snow and ice away from their food.

For hundreds of years, reindeer have been important to the people in these cold places. They take people from place to place by pulling sleds. They also provide people with milk and meat to keep them healthy and strong. Their furry skins are used to make warm clothing and boots.

The next time you read or sing a holiday song about reindeer, imagine what reindeer actually look like and where they live, what they eat, and how they help people. You will know quite a lot about these interesting creatures!

Name _____

Reindeer

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Circle the **introduction paragraph**.
- 3.) Underline the **main idea sentence** in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- 4.) Write a word or two (blurb) in the margin next to each paragraph to tell what each paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to find out what reindeer look like, which paragraph would you read again? _____
- 6.) Which paragraph would you read to find out what reindeer eat? _____
- 7.) Which paragraph tells where reindeer live? _____
- 8.) If you wanted to know why reindeer are important to people, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 9.) List three **word referents** the author uses in place of the word “reindeer”.

- 10.) Box the **conclusion**.
- 11.) Fill in the summarizing framework. This was the author’s prewriting plan.
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____
MAIN IDEA #4: _____

Name _____

Native American Games



There are some things that all people have in common. One thing is that people everywhere like to have fun! No matter where you live, people like to play games! The Native American people played many interesting games. How did the games of the Native Americans differ from the games we play?

Since Native Americans are close to nature, it is not surprising that they “borrowed” toys from the woodlands. Long ago, there were no plastic toys or toys made in factories. All of the toys were made by hand from things found in nature. They used wood from trees, bits of bone, shells, stones, plants, and clay to make toys. This makes sense because there were no department stores nearby where you could go and simply buy a toy or game! Since nowadays we spend less time in nature, it makes sense that most of our toys are store bought, rather than made from natural materials.

Still, many of the games Native Americans played were like games we play today! They’d toss small stones or nuts into a basket or a hole in a tree. Doesn’t that sound a little like basketball? Another game used a ball of deer hair wrapped in deer hide that was knocked around with long sticks. That game is a little like hockey! Just like many of our sports today, these games required practice and skill.

People in all cultures sometimes like to play alone. Native Americans used hummers, made of bone or wood buttons on a string. The player would wind it up and let it go, making a buzzing, humming sound. Tops were made from wood and clay. Toss and catch toys were made from pointed sticks or bones, with string or gut attached to a ball or cup. The object of this game was to toss the object onto the pointed stick. Dolls were made from leather or corn husks. Nowadays we have modern versions of these toys. But we have much more. Video games were not available to the Native Americans of yesterday. We also have interactive, electronic toys for all ages that can be played alone.

There are other games that can be played without any toys at all! Native Americans played games like tag and held relay races. Hide and seek was another favorite. These games are still enjoyed by children today - all over the world!

Whether made from nature or bought in a store, we share many games with the Native Americans of yesterday. Playing alone or together, with or without toys, everyone loves to play!

Name _____

Native American Games

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Circle the **introduction paragraph**.
- 3.) Underline the **main idea sentence** in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- 4.) Write a word or two (blurb) in the margin next to each paragraph to tell what each paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to find out about toys made from nature, which paragraph would you read again? _____
- 6.) Which paragraph would you read to find out about Native American games that are like popular games today? _____
- 7.) Which paragraph tells about games played alone? _____
- 8.) If you wanted to add this detail, where would you put it? Other Native American toys were made from animal skins. Paragraph # _____
- 9.) List at least three **differences** and three **similarities** between Native American games and modern day games.
Similarities: _____
Differences: _____
- 10.) Box the **conclusion**.
- 11.) Fill in the summarizing framework. This was the author's prewriting plan.
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____
MAIN IDEA #4: _____
- 12.) Do you think the author shared this information as a "how-to" or as a "compare/contrast" piece? Why? Write your answer on the back of this page.

Name _____

Modern Inventions That Make Life Easy



What could be better than an ice cold Pepsi, a video of your favorite movie and a big bowl of popcorn? Before you answer, give a nod of appreciation to your refrigerator, microwave, and video technology. Modern inventions sure make life easy!

One modern day marvel we take for granted is the refrigerator! Before the refrigerator was invented, people had to depend on the ice box! Ice was delivered every couple of days. Since the shelf life of food was only several days, people had to go to market often. Now we can go for weeks at a time using foods our refrigerator keeps cold and fresh. I was reminded how important our refrigerator was during last fall's hurricane. We lost power for four days and our food was ruined! It didn't take long before we got tired of eating canned food from the pantry!

What about the VCR or DVD player? It's hard to believe that when your grandparents were young they could not rent a video or DVD to watch at home. That's because the VCR and DVD player hadn't been invented yet! Nowadays millions of American households have at least one DVD player! After all, why pay nine or ten dollars to go to a movie theater when you can rent a DVD for two or three dollars and enjoy it right there in your cozy living room? Don't have three dollars? Can't decide what to watch on TV? Then use your VCR to record one TV program while you watch another! Want to be a TV star? Pop in some of those famous family home videos and get a laugh or two watching your brothers and sisters being silly.

Beep...beep! You know that sound--it's the sound of your microwave! The microwave brings new meaning to the term convenience food. Easy snacks used to be limited to cookies and chips. But the microwave puts popcorn and nachos, potato skins and chicken nuggets just minutes away! This invention is tops in speed and convenience. I can honestly say that the microwave is the most important innovation in cooking in the last two thousand years!

So pour that Pepsi, listen for the last kernel of popcorn to pop, and settle down with the remote control to the DVD player and enjoy the modern inventions that make life easy--the refrigerator, microwave, and video and DVD technology!



Name _____

Modern Inventions That Make Life Easy

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Look at paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 and underline the main idea sentences in each.
Then write one word in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) List three supporting details that illustrate how the DVD/VCR makes life easy.

- 6.) If you wanted to find a statistic (number fact) about DVD players, what paragraph would you skim and scan? _____
- 7.) If you wanted to locate a bold opinion about the microwave, what paragraph would you skim and scan? _____
- 8.) If you wanted to reread the anecdote about the refrigerator going off during the hurricane, what paragraph would you skim and scan? _____
- 9.) Read paragraph two - what is the word referent the author uses in place of the word *invention* in the main idea sentence? _____
- 10.) Reread the conclusion paragraph. Underline the 3 words that restate the main ideas in the piece.
- 11.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

The Desert Habitat



Saguaro cactus reach toward the sky. Lizards bask in the baking sun. Red cliffs rise from the shifting sand. The landscape, climate, and wildlife make the desert a most remarkable habitat.

The desert landscape is unique and beautiful. Since there is little water, there are few trees and plants. However, you can find at least 100 varieties of cactus dotting the horizon, some with thorns, others with bright flowers and fruit. I have a cactus plant on my windowsill at home. Interesting red rock formations have been carved into the desert cliffs by centuries of hot desert wind. The contrast of golden sand and turquoise blue sand can take your breath away.

The climate in this environment is harsh. The temperature ranges from 20 degrees in the evening to 120 degrees during the day. There is very little rainfall. In fact, there is less rainfall in the desert than anywhere else on earth--as little as an inch a year! In Connecticut, we get quite a bit of rain. The air is very dry in the desert and wind storms are common. It can also snow in the desert, but usually during the coldest winter nights. Clearly, only the hardiest of people, animals, and plants can survive in this challenging place.

If you enjoy wildlife you will find an interesting variety in the desert! The sleek kit fox and comical prairie dog spend a lot of time underground. Colorful lizards and slithery snakes live under rocks and in hollowed-out cactus. There are many varieties of birds--dwarf owls, Gila woodpeckers and road runners among them. The road runner cartoon is my favorite. Naturalist Dr. Bill Smith says, "From scorpions to tarantulas, rattlesnakes to tortoises, you can find them all in the desert!"

So why not grab your camera, canteen, binoculars, and field guide and head to the desert? The unique scenery, wild weather, and amazing array of wildlife await you!

Name _____

The Desert Habitat

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Look at paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 and underline the main idea sentences in each.
Then write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 each contain an extraneous, irrelevant detail that does NOT support the main idea. Find each of these and cross them out.
- 6.) List three supporting details that illustrate how the desert landscape is beautiful.

- 7.) If you wanted to reread a quote about desert wildlife, what paragraph would you skim and scan?
- 8.) If you wanted to find a statistic (number fact) about cactus, what paragraph would you skim and scan? _____
- 9.) If you wanted to locate an amazing fact about desert temperatures, what paragraph would you skim and scan? _____
- 10.) In paragraph 3 the author uses two different word references in place of the word desert. Name them: _____
- 11.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Chinese New Year



“Gung Hay Fat Choy!” That is the greeting that ushers in the Chinese New Year! Observing the Chinese calendar, participating in colorful, noisy celebrations, and enjoying the delicious variety of traditional foods make this an experience not to be missed!

The Chinese calendar is different than ours. Their calendar is based on a twelve-year cycle. Every year is represented by a different horoscope sign. Each sign is an animal. People born in that year are said to share the same characteristics with that animal. For example, my father was born in the year of the Goat. Like the Goat, he is careful and persistent. Born in the year of the Dragon? You are fearless and protective. Chinese New Year is usually celebrated for an entire week during January or February.

Chinese New Year’s celebrations are very exciting! There are parades in the streets with traditional music and dancing. Many people take part in the Lion Dance. They are hidden beneath a huge, brightly colored lion puppet and weave through the crowded streets. Do you like fireworks? There are always plenty of bright, noisy fireworks during Chinese New Year’s festivities. Children receive small red envelopes containing a lucky coin with good wishes for the coming year.

Traditional foods are an important part of the New Year’s celebrations. Days are spent preparing special dishes. Many kinds of fish, shrimp, and shellfish are enjoyed by all. Rice dishes, Chinese noodles and dumplings are also favorites. Did you know that certain kinds of seaweed are a delicious and nutritious part of the Chinese New Year’s menu? Chef Daniel Wong says, “You haven’t experienced the New Year until you’ve sampled my egg drop soup with wontons!”

Whether you’re born in the year of the Horse or the year of the Snake, mark your calendars and be sure to set aside some time for these special New Year’s festivities and foods. “Gung Hay Fat Choy!”



Name _____

Chinese New Year

- 1.) Number each paragraph. (Remember, each paragraph is indented!)
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Look at paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 and underline the main idea sentences in each. Then write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) Read the following detail sentences that the author left out. Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph they'd best belong.
 - Roast pork and barbequed spare ribs are also delicious. Paragraph # _____
 - It is a great honor to lead the Lion Dance. Paragraph # _____
 - Many prepare roast duckling as a part of the feast. Paragraph # _____
 - Everyone born in a given year celebrates their birthday during the New Year's celebration instead of on their actual birthday! Paragraph # _____
 - The horoscope animals include the Rabbit, the Boar, the Horse, the Dragon, the Goat, the Monkey, the Tiger, the Dog, the Sheep, the Rat, the Snake, and the Ox. Paragraph # _____
 - At the end of the meal everyone looks forward to fortune cookies! Paragraph # _____
 - Many people perform in martial arts demonstrations. Paragraph # _____
 - Families set up elaborate religious shrines in their homes in honor of their ancestors. Paragraph # _____
- 6.) Circle the QUOTE that shows something about delicious food.
- 7.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

All About Eggs



You've all seen someone crack open an egg when cooking or baking. What is inside an egg? You've seen the yellow part and the clear part. But do you know the other important things about that egg that help a chick grow and hatch?

Let's look closely at everything inside an egg. The thick clear liquid part is called the white or albumin. The yellow part is called the yolk. I like eating the yolk when I have sunnyside-up eggs. There is also a thin white skin or lining called the shell membrane. At the wider end of the egg there is an air space. There may also be a small white spot on the yolk. This white spot could be the beginning of a chick!

If a fertilized egg is kept warm, many changes will take place inside the shell. The white spot will get bigger and bigger. It becomes a group of cells that will multiply and grow into a chick. This group of cells is called the embryo. Soon the chick's head and body start to form. The heart, blood vessels, eyes, wings, and legs take shape. A clear pouch called the amniotic sac surrounds and protects the embryo. Soon feathers appear. I have a colorful collection of feathers from all kinds of birds.

In three weeks, the chick will hatch! Hatching takes a lot of work for the chick. They must stretch and move against the hard shell. They use something called an egg tooth to make a crack in the shell. The egg tooth isn't really a tooth. It is a pointy part of their beak. I broke a tooth once on a piece of hard candy. The shell quivers and breaks open a little at a time. Hours later the chick emerges, all wet and very tired.

Soon the chick will grow into a hen or a rooster and the cycle - from the simplest cell inside the shell, to an embryo, to a newly hatched chick - will begin again. So what do you think comes first--the chicken or the egg?

Name _____

All About Eggs

- 1.) Number each paragraph in this piece.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 each contain an extraneous irrelevant detail that does NOT support the main idea. Find each of these and cross them out.
- 6.) If you wanted to reread the information explaining how a chick hatches, which paragraph would you read? _____

List three supporting details that illustrate how a chick hatches.

- 7.) Read the detail sentences below that the author left out. Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph they'd best belong. If it's an extraneous, irrelevant detail, cross it out.

- The newly hatched chick looks scrawny and thin. Paragraph # ____
- You might even see a speck of blood in the albumen. Paragraph # ____
- The chick often rests while its feathers dry off. Paragraph # ____
- Eggs can also be kept warm in an incubator. Paragraph # ____
- We get eggs in our Easter baskets. Paragraph # ____
- As the chick grows, it is tightly compressed in its shell. Paragraph # ____
- Usually the mother hen sits on the egg to warm it. Paragraph # ____

- 8.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Mexico



Beautiful scenery, exotic wildlife, fascinating culture--that's what you'll find south of the border. Mexico is a neighbor we should learn about.

The landscape and scenery in Mexico is beautiful and varies from place to place. You can enjoy coastal plains and mountains. For those who like exploring, there are both lush jungles and barren deserts. The beautiful and famous Rio Grande is Mexico's longest river. White-water rafting on rivers is a fun thing to do. Of course, Mexico also has miles and miles of beaches along the Pacific coast and the Gulf of Mexico. We live near Southport Beach. There are both modern and ancient beautiful buildings to see across this great land.

Mexico provides many different habitats for a variety of animals. In the north, you can find wolves and coyotes. Ocelots, jaguars, peccaries, bears, and pumas all call the forests of Mexico home. Did you know that along Mexico's coasts you can find seals? What's more, many types of reptiles live in Mexico. Some of these include turtles, iguanas, rattlesnakes, and lizards. We had a pet iguana once in school.

What is it like to live in Mexico? Children must go to school until they are fifteen. People speak Spanish as well as Native American languages. You may be surprised to learn that most Mexican people belong to the Catholic Church. How do people get around in Mexico. Most travel by car, train, or plane. Mexico is a fun place to take a vacation. The Mexican people are a hard-working group who work mostly at mining, farming, fishing, and manufacturing. But work is not all they do! Mexico is well-known for its music and dancing, as well as its delicious, spicy foods! The Mexicans are welcoming people who know how to celebrate and entertain.

Given its marvelous landscape, remarkable wildlife, and rich culture, is it any wonder people the world over come to Mexico to vacation? Perhaps someday you may travel to our wonderful south of the border neighbor--Mexico!



Name _____

Mexico

- 1.) Number each paragraph in this piece.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 each contain an extraneous, irrelevant detail that does NOT support the main idea. Find each of these and cross them out.
- 6.) List three supporting details that illustrate how Mexico provides habitats for many kinds of animals.

- 7.) Read these detail sentences that the author left out. Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph they'd best belong. If it's an extraneous, irrelevant detail, cross it out.

- Thousands of species of birds can be found throughout Mexico. Paragraph # _____
- Also, Mexico has more than 1,400 colleges with 2 million students! Paragraph # _____
- You must handle turtles carefully because they carry disease. Paragraph # _____
- Mexican culture is a mix of Spanish, Indian, and American traditions. Paragraph # _____
- Hardwood trees, coconut palms, nut, and olive trees grace the landscape. Paragraph # _____
- Fish of all kinds are found along the coast, and in river estuaries. Paragraph # _____
- Catching fish is a good way to have a little fun. Paragraph # _____
- Many people enjoy jobs in the tourist industry, in hotels, and shops. Paragraph # _____
- "Here we find cactus, yucca, and mesquite trees," says Naturalist Juan Madera. Paragraph # _____

- 8.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Sandcastles



It's a sunny, warm afternoon and you're heading to the shore for an afternoon of fun. If you plan ahead, you can build a sandcastle! You'll need some simple equipment, the perfect site, and a lot of imagination! In just a few easy steps, you can become an expert sandcastle designer!

Be sure to bring along all of the equipment you'll need. Several sand pails or buckets of various sizes are necessary as forms or molds for your structure. You'll also need these to haul water to your site. Most sand castle architects prefer a plastic shovel, but an old tablespoon or scoop work just as well for shoveling moist sand into the buckets. For those little extra touches, bring along some interesting kitchen containers - rectangular plastic storage boxes, extra large rounded measuring spoons or cups, or cylinder-shaped tin cans left over from yesterday's soup or tuna fish to make interesting shapes.

When you arrive at the beach, you must choose a site for your build. Is the tide low or high? Is the tide coming in or out? Choose a site that is not too far from the water, and a place that will be safe from waves for at least an hour or two. But be careful - for a firm foundation, the sand on your site should be moist, not dry and dusty. You'll also want to avoid a spot where bathers will run. Stay out of the path to the snack bar and the restrooms! You don't want your creation flattened or kicked into total destruction!

Now it's time to begin construction. Level the sand where you'd like your castle to stand. Next, shovel your largest bucket full of moist sand and pack it down. Carefully invert the bucket, holding the open end close to the level ground. Once the bucket is resting bottom up on the ground, gently lift it. What will remain is your first molded section of sandcastle! Smooth it with your hands and go on to the next section. Use the various sized buckets and containers to add sections and towers and turrets. Once you have the basic castle design complete, begin searching for decorative elements - interesting scallop or clam shells, smooth round stones and pieces of worn, smooth seaglass. These become walls, doors, windows, and ledges. Make a fence of hollow rounded reeds and sea grass. Seaweed can be placed around the edges for landscaping. Finally, dig a moat around the perimeter and a channel all the way down to the water. When a wave comes in, the water will rush forward, filling your moat!

So the next time you head for the beach, feeling creative, lug along your supplies, scope out the perfect site, and begin construction! You can be the King or Queen of your castle in no time at all!

Name _____

Sandcastles

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to learn about the equipment you'll need, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 6.) If you wanted to learn how to build a sandcastle, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 7.) List three details illustrating how to choose a sandcastle construction site:

- 8.) Read these detail sentences that the author left out. Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph they'd best belong.
 - You can use a stick or twig to draw designs on your castle walls. Paragraph# _____
 - You also want to be sure your site is not too wet and mushy. Paragraph# _____
 - A soda bottle with the bottom cut out creates an interesting castle shape.
Paragraph# _____
 - Feathers make interesting decorations as well. Paragraph# _____
- 9.) Locate at least three details that explain what something looks like and why it's important - underline "What it looks like" in red, "Why it's important" in blue.
- 10.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____
- 11.) Is this a compare/contrast or a how-to piece?

Name _____

Bears



It's hard to believe that these large carnivorous, often ferocious relatives of the dog, raccoon, and panda are the inspiration for millions of cuddly, soft stuffed toys! There are many kinds of bears, living in numerous places around the globe. Their behavior and interesting appearance fascinate their human neighbors everywhere.

Many kinds of bears can be found in a wide variety of places, mostly in wild mountain, forest, and arctic areas. In fact, bears inhabit every continent except Africa, Antarctica, and Australia. The largest bear, the Kodiak, which weighs almost a ton, is found in the wilderness and wide open spaces of Alaska. The Kodiak is related to the Grizzly bear. Grizzly bears, with their dark fur edged in white, live in many areas of the United States and Canada. Brown bears, which are smaller than the Kodiak and the Grizzly, and the North American black bear (which isn't always black - but brown, white, golden, even bluish tinted!) also live in the U.S. and Canada. The coast of the Arctic Ocean is home to the distinctive white polar bear, so at home in the snow and ice. Asia is where the slow moving sloth bear is found, with its unique long snout, and the sun bear characterized by its short black fur with a "bib" of light-colored fur.

What do all of these bears have in common? They all belong to the family Ursidae. These large furry mammals have thick, weighty bodies and can stand upright. Their teeth are large and numerous, and although bears are carnivorous, they are equipped with teeth that grind and crush rather than tear. This is because they are unique among carnivores in that they eat vegetation as well! You can recognize most bears by their rather squared off snout, short, rounded ears, and

Name _____

short stubby tail. They have feet similar to human feet - complete with a heel and a sole. In fact, bears' hind feet have five toes! Their long, curved, sharp claws are used to tear at food and to move nimbly - in some cases even climb trees!

Bears' behavior has always fascinated human beings. Some bears hibernate through the winter, doing without food, and entering a deep sleep state in which their metabolisms slow down dramatically. These large animals, which may appear somewhat clumsy and slow, are actually fairly fast runners. A mother bear may charge at any threat to her cubs, human or animal. In order to fuel their large bodies, bears must eat quite a lot. In addition to their diet of meat, bears will eat berries and fruit, as well as fish. They have been known to raid campsites, foraging through the trash for food scraps of any kind. Bears also love honey and have no problem batting down a bees' nest and swiping it with their claws, scooping out gobs of thick, sweet honey. They communicate through a complicated "marking" system in which they claw, gnaw, or chew at tree trunks as a means of warning other bears to stay clear of their territory.

If you ever find yourself camping in a National Park, or hiking in a nature preserve, keep your eyes open for a member of the Ursidae family. If you spot any type of bear, stay calm, and move quietly away. These beautiful, yet sometimes menacing beasts, and the habitats they live in certainly deserve our respect!

Name _____

Bears

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to reread about the habitat of the bear, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 6.) If you wanted to review the various kinds of bears, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 7.) List three details illustrating interesting bear behavior:

- 8.) Read these detail sentences that the author left out. Use numbers to indicate in which paragraph they'd best belong.
 - Bears have an extremely sensitive sense of smell that helps them locate food. Paragraph # _____
 - If you travel to South America, you might see a black bear with yellowish facial markings called the spectacled bear. Paragraph # _____
 - The Moon Bear from Southeast Asia is black with a white "V" shape on its chest. Paragraph # _____
 - Year-old bears are protected by their mothers from older male bears who often kill and eat them. Paragraph # _____
 - The loss of wilderness areas is a threat to all types of bears all over the world. Paragraph # _____
- 9.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____

Name _____

Learn To Play Guitar



For as long as you can remember, you listen to music and what you notice most, what excites you most, is the sound of the guitar. You've always thought that playing the guitar is something you'd be good at - you just feel it! So how do you go about becoming, not just a guitar-playing wanna-be, but a musician who can eventually play guitar professionally?

Before you do anything else, you need to get your hands on a guitar. Some people feel that they don't want to invest a lot of money in an instrument before they know whether or not they'll continue to play. You might borrow a guitar from a friend or family member - many times people have perfectly suitable musical instruments packed away in their closets or attics. Another excellent and cost effective option is instrument rental. Most reputable music shops have a number of economical rental plans - often times the amount you spend on rent can be applied toward an eventual purchase. Also, if you want to purchase an instrument, look at the classified ads. Be certain that the guitar you rent or buy is a name brand - a Gibson, Ovation, or Fender are excellent choices. Do your research ahead of time. Talk to guitarists for tips on brands to look for and music retailers to visit.

After you have an instrument, you need to find a teacher. While some people are self-taught, and while there are numerous helpful books available to teach yourself, nothing beats having a skilled professional lead you through the beginning stages and beyond. In this way, you learn basic musicianship, including music reading, chord structure, and solid technique. You also have the privilege of playing along with a seasoned, experienced musician. As you become skilled, your teacher also becomes a source of networking,

Name _____

hooking you up with other musicians in order to form a band or ensemble. Finding a teacher involves doing a little homework. Talk to other musicians and ask them for references. If you don't know any other musicians, call a local university with a music program, or a reputable music shop. They can provide you with names. Meet your potential teacher before committing to lessons. See if there's a good personality match, and see if this teacher can offer you what you want. If your goal is to play jazz and the teacher's personal taste is rock or classical, you've got the wrong teacher. You may need to interview several teachers before finding the right one.

The next step is, by far, the most important. Practice. Practice. And practice some more. You could have the best instrument and the best teacher in the world, but if you don't practice, you won't become a guitarist. The key to practice is consistency. Set aside at least an hour a day, and find someplace to practice where there are no distractions. Move through your lesson carefully and mindfully. Listen and think. When something is difficult, stop, go back, think, and repeat the difficult section, slowly and deliberately. Some students record their lessons, and then play along with the tape. Others enjoy playing with CDs. This forces accuracy, promotes ear training, and moves you along toward the kind of confidence required to play with others. Keep in mind, that an experienced teacher will not only give you music that is fun - musical growth involves technique-building through daily exercises, scales, and chords. The more you challenge yourself and devote yourself to practice, the better you will become!

So you want to play guitar? Get yourself an instrument, find the right teacher, and get down to work. Practice makes perfect! And who knows - someday you may be on the road as a professional guitarist - or you may even take on some students of your own!

Name _____

Learn To Play Guitar

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to reread about finding a teacher, which paragraph would you read?

- 6.) If you wanted to read about getting a guitar, which paragraph would you read?

- 7.) Read the following detail that the author wants to add to the piece: *Before you rent or buy an instrument, be sure it comes with a case and extra strings.* In which paragraph does this detail belong? _____
- 8.) Read the following detail that the author wants to add to the piece: *You might consider finding a practice partner as a means of challenging yourself.*
In which paragraph does this detail belong? _____
- 9.) Read the following detail. Would you include this detail? Why or why not? *If you play the piano, it is even more difficult to get an instrument, because pianos cost more than guitars and are expensive to rent.*
Would you include this? _____
If you included it, in which paragraph would it belong? _____
- 9.) Reread the conclusion paragraph. Find each reference to the main ideas. Number them to indicate to which paragraph they refer.
- 10.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____
- 11.) Is this a straight information piece, a compare/contrast piece, or a how-to piece?

Name _____

The Right Wheels for You!



You've saved your money for years, dreaming of the day you'd put the key in the ignition of your very own car, turn the key, and step on the gas. You've done well, and now you have the money, you have the license, and all that's left to do is buy the car of your dreams. You've narrowed it down to two - an SUV or a sports car. What will you need to consider before you make up your mind?

For many people, it's all about style. A sports car definitely makes a statement - it says the driver is adventurous, spontaneous, and fun. The sleek lines suggest sophistication and speed, and it is exciting sitting close to the ground - feeling nearly one with the road. You can imagine speeding along a shoreline road, wind in your hair, the music blasting. Still, the SUV makes a style statement of its own as well. Casual, outdoorsy, it suggests a rugged determination and a spirit of independence. Off road or on, sitting behind the wheel of an SUV makes you feel as though you can conquer the world.

Another consideration is size. If you're someone who can travel light, the sports car can work. Many sports cars are two seaters, so you have to be willing to limit your passengers to one! On the other hand, an SUV is typically large, roomy, with collapsible back seats for hauling gear of all kinds. Most SUVs can easily hold six passengers. If you're into road trips and drag along a lot of luggage, you'll need to get a luggage rack to compensate for the small trunk in the sports car. The SUV usually comes equipped with a luggage rack, and many are equipped to tow a trailer. This makes it easy to put your boat in the water or haul your jet-ski!

Nowadays, everyone is concerned with gas mileage. If you've chosen a smallish



Name _____

sports car with a V4 or a V6 engine, you'll smile at the gas pumps. These perky little cars will stretch your fuel dollars far. SUVs are another story. True, you can get a V6, but these larger vehicles require more gas to run, and the larger V8 models are truly gas guzzlers. Without a doubt, the smaller sports cars (with the exception of the V8 high performance sports vehicles) are more economical from the standpoint of fuel.

Of course, everyone needs to think about safety. Here, the SUV comes out on top. The smaller sports cars are typically not as crash-resistant as their larger counterparts. Because of their size, they are often harder to see in a side or rear view mirror and can therefore become involved in accidents. Also, ask any insurance agent about insurance costs for sports cars and you'll see that, statistically, drivers of sports cars are less inhibited and tend to be risk-takers, which can result in a greater number of accidents. The SUV's size and weight, in addition to their 4 wheel drive features make these the more stable vehicle. One caution however - some SUV drivers develop a false sense of confidence in their vehicle's ability to travel through snow, ice, and rain. They tend to drive faster than conditions safely suggest, which can also result in accidents.

There are certainly many factors to weigh in making the sports car vs. SUV decision. Whatever you decide, take your time, do your research, and be sure to line up the style, size, economic, and safety features with your personality carefully before making this major purchase! Then go enjoy the open road!

Name _____

The Right Wheels For You!

- 1.) Number each paragraph.
- 2.) Draw a ring around the introduction paragraph.
- 3.) Draw a box around the conclusion paragraph.
- 4.) Underline the main idea sentences in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5. Write a word or two in the margin that tells what the whole paragraph is about.
- 5.) If you wanted to reread about gas mileage, which paragraph would you read?

- 6.) If you wanted to read about style, which paragraph would you read? _____
- 7.) Read the following detail that the author wants to add to the piece: *In considering your automobile style, be sure it's a good fit with your personality and lifestyle requirements.* In which paragraph does this detail belong? _____
- 8.) Read the following detail that the author wants to add to the piece: *Think about what you'll need to carry, and ask yourself, realistically if your vehicle can accommodate that.* In which paragraph does this detail belong? _____
- 9.) Read the following detail. Would you include this? Why or why not? *Trucks and large luxury sedans can also use a lot of gas.*
Would you include this? _____ Why or why not? _____
- 9.) Reread the conclusion paragraph. Find each reference to the main ideas. Number them to indicate to which paragraph they refer.
- 10.) What is this piece all about? Fill in the summarizing framework:
TOPIC: _____
MAIN IDEA #1: _____
MAIN IDEA #2: _____
MAIN IDEA #3: _____
MAIN IDEA #4: _____
- 11.) Is this a straight information piece, a compare/contrast piece, or a how-to piece?

Name_____

Carnival Fun - 1

It's a Friday night and you have nothing to do. If you're lucky, there's a carnival in town. Carnivals are fun.

Carnivals have lots of rides like ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds. You can play bingo there. Sometimes there is a giant slide that you slide down on a sack. It is fun to have cotton candy at the carnival.

You can take a chance and win a stuffed animal. My mother likes to buy fried dough with powdered sugar. My sister loves to ride on a wild ride called "The Spider". The ball toss game is fun, too. You can get a hot dog and fries there.

That is why I love the carnival.

Name _____

At the Carnival - 2

Don't you just love going to the carnival? There are rides, games, and good food. I will tell you all about it.

The first thing I will tell you about are the rides. My favorite ride is the ferris wheel. My sister likes the merry-go-round best. There is a fast ride called "The Spider" that my brother loves. There is also a spinning teacup ride that can make you dizzy.

Carnival games are fun. You can put a quarter on the board and spin the wheel and if your number comes up you win a prize! You can do the penny toss game or the dunking booth. There is bingo, too. You can win stuffed animals, small toys, hats, posters, and all kinds of prizes.

There is a lot of food at carnivals. Cotton candy is my favorite. My mother gets fried dough with powdered sugar on it. You can buy hot dogs or hamburgers. Sometimes they have meatball grinders, french fries, and more.

So now I have told you all the reasons I like the carnival. There are rides, games, and food to enjoy. Do you like the carnival?

Name _____

A Night at the Carnival - 3

Bright lights and music, laughter and excitement, good fun and great food! Where, you ask? At the carnival, that's where! There is no place like the carnival for exciting rides, challenging games of chance, and delicious food!

The incredible rides are what brings most people to the carnival. In fact, 9 out of 10 people polled at carnivals nation-wide report that rides are what attracts them to the fairgrounds. I will never forget my first ride on the ferris wheel--the thrill of soaring over the trees and the blinking carnival lights in a swing sized for two! Then, of course, there's the merry-go-round with its old fashioned music and brightly painted wooden horses. For those who enjoy speed and excitement, there's The Whip and The Spider. You can hear the screams from these rides for miles around!

If you're feeling lucky, then carnival games are the thing for you! Place a quarter on your lucky number as the Roulette Wheel is spun. Your heart pounds with the rapid tick-tick-tick of the wheel slowing to a stop. If the wheel stops at your number, you're the winner! Do you have a good eye and a steady hand? If so, you should try the ring toss or the penny pitch booth. There are even opportunities to dunk an unfortunate adult into a tub of water. All you need to do is hurl a baseball at the target on the dunking booth. Then SPLASH! You did it! And did you know that at least 50% of people who try their hands at a carnival game walk away with a prize of some kind?

You will never go hungry at a carnival, that's for sure! Next time you're at the carnival, close your eyes and inhale. What you'll smell is the mouth-watering aroma of popcorn, hot dogs and fries. My mother never leaves the carnival without a large, flaky piece of scrumptious fried dough dusted in powdered sugar. You can also find other delicacies like meatball grinders or onion blossoms. What I love best are the pink, mile-high puffs of cotton candy and icy snow cones oozing with rainbow colored syrup. Just thinking about carnival food makes my stomach start to rumble and growl!

So while there are certainly fancier places to go than the carnival, I can't think of one place more exciting and fun. For me, the rides, the games, and the food make a night at the carnival better than a night at the Ritz! And a whole lot cheaper, too!

Name _____

Going to the Beach - 1

My favorite place to spend the day is at the beach. There is always something to do at the beach. I like to collect all different kinds of shells. I collect clam shells, mussel shells, oyster shells, and much more. You can play volleyball at the beach. You can watch seagulls. Sometimes you can see a school of fish or a jellyfish. At the beach you can soak up the sun, but be careful you don't get burned. Too much sun can cause skin cancer!

Swimming is good exercise, and what better place than the beach? It is fun to bring your beach chairs and blankets. You can have a beach party with your friends. Don't forget to bring a cooler. You can read, take a walk, jump the waves, or visit with your friends. You can play frisbee, too.

You should bring sunglasses, a hat, and suntan lotion to the beach. You might even see a horseshoe crab. Fiddler crabs and snails are all around the beach, too.

So now you know why I like the beach.

Name _____

Going to the Beach - 2

Going to the beach can be a fun way to spend the day. I will tell you all of the reasons that the beach is fun.

There is lots to do at the beach. You can bring a chair and read a good book. You can lay back and soak up the sun. (Just be sure you don't get a sunburn!) You can play frisbee or volleyball. You can swim, walk, jump the waves, and much more.

When you go to the beach you need to bring certain things. You need a beach chair, blanket, or towel to sit on. It is smart to bring a cooler with some cold drinks in it. It is good to bring a hat, sunglasses, and suntan lotion. If you like to walk around a lot, you should bring some beach shoes.

You can enjoy nature at the beach. You can see horseshoe crabs, seagulls, and jellyfish. There are snails and fiddler crabs. There are all kinds of fish and crabs and other things. There are shells that you can collect. There are all kinds of shore birds, too.

So I like the beach because there is lots to do, and because you can enjoy lots of activities there. So if you can, bring your stuff to the beach and enjoy yourself there.

Name _____

Beach Days - 3

The crash of the waves against your ankles, the warmth of the sun on your shoulders, the calling of the gulls all around you--the beach is definitely the place to be!

Beach activities are never boring! If you enjoy quiet relaxation, you can simply bring a comfortable chair and a good book! Are you a sun worshipper? Then find a comfortable stretch of sand and lay down and fry! There's no place like the beach for sunbathing! You say you enjoy moving around? Getting a little exercise? Well then, grab a frisbee and a few friends and you're in business. There's nearly always a volleyball game to join. Or, if you prefer to be on your own, a long walk along the shore is always a treat. And then, once you've worked up a sweat, you can dive into the cool blue water, or jump the waves as they break against the shore.

The beach can be heaven if you come prepared. It's worth buying yourself a folding, adjustable beach chair--one with a cool canvas seat and back, smooth wooden arms, and sturdy, non-rust legs. If you're the sprawl-out-on-the-sand type, you'll want a thick, washable blanket or comforter to lie on. Of course, if you intend to enjoy the water at all, a thick, bright, extra large beach towel is a necessity. Oh--and for all of you sunworshippers--you'll need sunblock, a hat, and sunglasses. Beach shoes with protective rubber soles make beachcombing safe and comfortable--and your feet will thank you for them! Since beach weather is usually pretty warm, a lightweight cooler stocked with plenty of ice, bottled water, and a couple of Cokes is just the thing! On his way to the beach, my Uncle Ted, a longtime beach lover, always says, "Have cooler will travel!" He not only brings a variety of soft drinks, but some deli sandwiches, chips, and napkins, too!

Name _____

People are not the only ones who enjoy the beach! Have you stopped to notice the abundance of wildlife in the seashore habitat? The water is filled with schools of small fish. Sometimes, if you're paying attention, you can feel them pinging against your legs as you wade into the surf. You might mistake a colorful jellyfish for an exotic jello mold--glistening purple, blue, and red jiggling forms in the water and on the shore. Gulls, pipers, and cranes hunt and fish along the water's edge and in the tall marsh grasses. A pair of binoculars can bring the birds up close and personal for you. Fiddler crabs skittering side to side waving their one giant claw, and the helmet-like horseshoe crabs can also be seen along the shore. Pink, white, and tawny colored shells--the remains of a variety of shellfish--clams, mussels, and oysters to name a few, are strewn about like jewels. Snails by the thousands creep along at your feet, keeping you company!

So you say you're bored? You're tired of the same old routine? You'd like to go someplace that's beautiful to look at, someplace where you can meet lots of fun people, see lovely scenery, watch interesting wildlife? A place where you can relax or work out, chill out or charge up? Well, if any of that sounds appealing, slather on the sunblock, pack up your gear, grab the cooler and head out to the beach for a day of fun in the sun!

Name _____

Gardenville School - 1

Gardenville School is a great place to be. There are a lot of terrific people to see each day. I love to climb on the new playground equipment and use the overhead bars for chin-ups. Our field trip to Old Sturbridge Village is something that the fourth grade always looks forward to.

Mrs. Fetzer, our principal, always has a smile and cheers us on to do our personal best. Mrs. Elliot works hard to keep the building looking clean and neat inside and out and lots of other stuff. There are cool after-school programs like dance, magic, tennis, and much more.

Once a year we have a fun talent show. Our school has carpeting, computers, and even a refrigerator door where Mrs. Fetzer hangs our best work. You can join the orchestra and band. There is Spanish and lots more.

The grounds have nice gardens and bushes everywhere. The PTA helps keep it nice. The teachers all are ready to help us. The classrooms all have nice new furniture, bookcases, and more. There is an all-purpose room where we have lunch and a gym where we have phys-ed. We even have assembly programs and Officer Friendly and DARE. Ms. Blake teaches chorus and Mr. Lynch does phys-ed. We have a media center with tons of stuff in it.

That is why I like Gardenville School.

Name _____

Gardenville School - 2

Gardenville School is a great place for many reasons. I will tell you why I like Gardenville School.

First of all, the building and grounds are very nice. It was done over a few years ago and we had a new addition put on. We have nice bright hallways with skylights in the ceiling. The classrooms are nice, too. There is carpeting everywhere and the furniture is new. Besides classrooms, there is an all-purpose room, a gym, a media center, and even a computer lab. Outside there is a blacktop area and two playgrounds. There is a big grassy hill to play kickball on. There is a baseball field with a dugout. The PTA put in nice gardens all around the outside.

There are lots of great people there every day. Mrs. Fetzer, our principal, always makes us feel good with her nice smile. Mrs. Elliot helps keep the building clean. Mrs. Clark helps us in the office. Our teachers are always there to help us, whether we're in their class or not. Mrs. Cotter, Mrs. Davies, and Mr. Diego help us in fourth grade. I like seeing Ms. Blake for music and Mr. Lynch for phys-ed.

Besides our regular subjects, there are specials and many other activities. Field trips are always special, especially the fourth grade trip to Sturbridge Village. After-school programs like dance, magic, and tennis are really fun. Band, orchestra, and Spanish are other special things we can do in school. Art, computer lab, and phys-ed are other favorites. There are assemblies with music, plays, dancing, Officer Friendly, and the DARE Officer.

So you can see why Gardenville School is a great place to go to school.

Name _____

Gardenville School - 3

Would you like to visit a place that's not only pleasing to the eye, but as interesting as a museum? A place where the people are friendly and helpful, supportive and lots of fun? Can you imagine spending your time at a place that offers a home to the mind and heart? If the answer is yes, it's time for a visit to Gardenville School! Gardenville School is unique in many ways!

If the word school makes you think of drab old bricks and concrete, patched asphalt, dull tiled floors and dingy windows, you haven't been to Gardenville! In 1998, Gardenville School was completely renovated. Out with the old linoleum, in with the cheery blue wall-to-wall carpeting! The hallways are brightened by skylights, the classrooms filled with sleek new furniture. The building boasts a large, well-equipped gymnasium and an all-purpose room complete with fold-out tables, cafeteria, and stage. No modern school would be complete without a bright, well-stocked media center, and Gardenville is no exception! Our media center is the information hub of the school and link to the world beyond! The computer lab, networked to computers throughout the building is another modern, up-to-date technological link to the world! Our beautiful grounds include several safe, modern play areas with new equipment, a well-groomed ball field and dugout, as well as blacktop and open grassy areas for all kinds of outdoor activity. The grounds are dotted with carefully planned gardens that attract butterflies and birds.

Of course, it is people who make Gardenville School a Home for the Mind and Heart! I believe it is our principal, Mrs. Fetzer, who really sets the positive, up-beat tone of the school. Like an engineer, she steers us all in positive directions. Stop by any day at all and you will see her greeting students, cheering them on with her favorite expression: "Do your personal best!" And could the school run without our secretary? Never! Mrs. Clark, always a smile on her face, phone to her ear, pencil in

Name _____

hand, helps keep the school running like a well-oiled machine. If you're not feeling quite up to par, our school nurse, Mrs. Norton, is there with thermometer in hand, always ready to offer a band-aid, an ice-pack, or a quick nap on the couch! And who can we thank for keeping the building ship-shape? Mrs. Elliot, our head custodian, of course, who spends her days keeping dust and dirt at bay. The teachers, whether you've ever been in their class or not, are always ready to lend an ear, or a hand, or heart. I will never forget the time in kindergarten when I got lost looking for the nurse's office. Mrs. Bennett was there in a jiffy, with a smile, a hug, and a big grown-up second grade guide to get me where I needed to be!

Reading, writing, and 'rithmetic? It's a whole lot more than that! For the future Beethovens of the world, Gardenville offers band and orchestra. See yourself in the Olympics someday? Mr. Lynch, our physical education teacher, can help get you in shape! Habla Espanol? Not yet?! Gardenville's Spanish program can help! Even Vincent van Gogh would have high praise for this amazing school's art program and yearly exhibit. And besides all of these regular activities, Gardenville's students are lucky to enjoy special assemblies on dance, music, and theater. They also have terrific opportunities to take field trips. The fourth grade trip to Sturbridge Village is usually a big favorite! And above and beyond all of that are our after-school programs in everything from dance to magic, tennis to science! Top all of that off with visits from Officer Friendly and the DARE Officer and you've just about got it all, right here under one roof!

So, what's the recipe for a terrific school? Start with a beautiful, up-to-date facility, mix in a variety of terrific and talented people, and spice it up with generous portions of enrichment of all kinds. The result? A five-star dish--Gardenville School!!

BONUS: Write a similar piece about YOUR school! Be sure that it is well organized and fully elaborated!

Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 1



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) Cats are very playful! They like to play with a ball of string. My cat enjoys playing with a small red ball. My dog plays with a ball too. Some cats have little toys that look like mice. They bat them around and sneak up on these toy mice.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

- 2.) Making a snowman is fun. You start with a big snowball. Make a smaller snowball. Put this on top of the big snowball. Put a smaller snowball on the top for its head. Use rocks for eyes and a carrot for a nose. You can use sticks for arms. A snowman needs a hat too! Be sure you wear a hat when it is cold. A scarf looks good on a snowman too.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 2



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) Everyone enjoys carving a pumpkin! First pick out a nice, round pumpkin. Draw a face on the pumpkin with a marker. I have a set of ten markers for school. Cut out the eyes, nose and mouth. Put a candle inside and you have a jack-o-lantern!

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

- 2.) It is good to save money. You can get a piggy bank or a small box. When your grandma gives you a dollar, put it in your bank. Sometimes your grandma might give you toys. Pennies add up faster than you think! Put nickels and dimes in your bank too. Before you know it you will have money to buy something special!

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 3



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) Traveling by train is easier than driving. It is more enjoyable than driving because you avoid the headaches of traffic jams. Instead of worrying about driving you can sit on the train and read, or take a nap! Trains are faster than cars, too. Most trains have a snack bar for refreshments so there's no need to stop to eat. They also provide bathrooms. Planes are faster than cars too, and they show movies as you fly.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

- 2.) Want to avoid a cold? Wash your hands often! Everything you touch is covered in germs and bacteria. Pick up these germs on your fingertips, put your hand near your mouth, and that's it-you're sick! You can't avoid germs, but washing your hands often with soap and water kills germs and washes away bacteria that can make you ill. Very warm water is best, and it's important to rub your hands together and really scrub!

A small fingernail brush can clean under those dirty nails! A manicure makes your nails look much nicer. Washing your hands often is the key to preventing the spread of illness.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 4



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) Have you ever played the card game "War"? You need a deck of fifty two cards and two players. Shuffle the cards and deal them evenly to each player. On the count of three, each player flips over the top card in their deck. The player with the highest card takes all of them! If two players throw down the same card, you have a WAR! Each player places three cards face down and flips up the fourth! The highest number takes them all! The player that runs out of cards is the loser. My friend Sean always beats me at Crazy Eights!

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

- 2.) The salt marsh is home to many interesting creatures. This habitat with its tall beach grasses and muddy ground is the perfect place for shore birds to nest. Red-winged blackbirds perched on the reeds and long-legged herons wading in the water are common. Long beaked pipers can be seen pecking at the soil for food - small snails, hermit crabs, and even sand worms. Worms make really good bait for fishing. Raccoons often hunt here for small fish, clams, and green crabs. Large brown horseshoe crabs sometimes navigate through the mud when the tide is low.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?



Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 5



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) Maintaining an automobile can be expensive. There are many related costs that are not immediately apparent. For example, drivers must not only purchase their vehicle, but they must pay for car insurance. Insurance is also necessary for homeowners to protect against fire, theft, and natural disasters. Of course, motor vehicle operators also need to keep fuel in their tanks, and gasoline is very expensive. Periodically, the oil should be changed to keep the engine running smoothly and efficiently. Some people change the oil themselves, but most folks bring the car to a dealership or gas station and pay, not only for the oil, but for the mechanic's time. In time, tires and wiper blades must be replaced, and most drivers also open their wallets and dish out dough for a decent car wash - and remember - the wax and polish is extra!

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

- 2.) Need a little extra cash? Consider babysitting or dogsitting. Both of these jobs are usually available right in your own neighborhood. You'll need to ask yourself, are you better suited to dealing with young children or sometimes frisky canines? It's a good idea to spend some time with the neighborhood toddlers and pups before you agree to the job. Toddlers tend to be quite demanding, and are often susceptible to tantrums and crankiness. Dogs can be demanding, too, but in other ways. You don't want the pup you're watching to chew the furniture or to mess the carpet! Cats are much easier! Toddlers can be very talkative, telling you their every need. Dogs, of course, don't talk, which can make the job easier - except they can't tell you what they want as easily! Both pups and children might give you a break and take a nap on your watch and leave you free to watch a little TV! Whether you choose kids or pups (both are awfully cute!) this is a great way to earn some spending money!

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

Name _____

Irrelevant, Extraneous Details - 6



Read this paragraph. The MAIN IDEA is underlined. Find the detail sentence that does NOT support the MAIN IDEA. Which detail doesn't belong? Cross it out!

- 1.) If you want to preserve memories in a special way, try creating a scrapbook. Most people have boxes or folders full of photographs, newspaper clippings, and other important memorabilia they want to keep. Some people save all kinds of things - from antiques to knick-knacks. The problem is, it is so easy to lose those movie ticket stubs, pictures, cards, and letters. A scrapbook provides an attractive, organized home for all of these meaningful, sentimental personal treasures. First you'll need to purchase a large scrapbook with pages that can be added over time. Once you've got the book, begin arranging your memorabilia in chronological order. Open the scrapbook and begin to arrange your treasures in an artistic fashion. Don't be afraid to move things around. When you like the arrangement, carefully lift the edges of each piece and glue the edges. Use a variety of pens, markers, and stamp pads to label and date each entry. Be sure to either look online for scrapbook supplies or in your yellow pages for scrapbooking stores near you. They will carry everything you need to create a masterpiece.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

- 2.) Nowadays many people enjoy knitting! In the past, it seemed knitting was something only your grandma enjoyed! But today, teens, both male and female, get into this creative hobby. Many teenage boys who take up knitting are also snowboarders who want to create their own funky, colorful, unique scarves and hats. Snowboarding can be fun, but dangerous. Fashionable women's scarves of shaggy wool (called eyelash yarn) are available in a rainbow of colors and can be knitted up quickly on large needles - many young women make one to go with every outfit. This hobby is so popular that cafes from coast to coast now sponsor knitting clubs and evenings for knitting, music, and socializing.

What is this paragraph all about?

Main Idea

BONUS: Is this from a straight information piece, a "how-to" or a compare/contrast piece?

Name _____

Dogs

Introduction:

People say dogs are man's best friend. There are many breeds of dogs and they all can be trained to do amazing things! They help us in many ways.

Main Idea #1:

How many different breeds or kinds of dogs can you name?

Main Idea #2:

Everyone loves seeing a dog do a trick.

Main Idea #3:

Dogs can be trained to help people.

Conclusion:

If you could have a dog, what kind would you want? Would you teach it tricks and train it to fetch your slippers? You'd quickly find out why dogs are man's (and woman's) best friend!

Name _____

Detail Sentences:

These doggie helpers are called “guide dogs”.

Some breeds are small and are called the “toy” breeds.

Other breeds are very big.

Other dogs can roll over.

Great Danes, German shepherds, and Boxers are big breeds.

A dog I know can walk on his hind legs!

Some breeds have short hair, some have long fur.

Watch dogs scare off robbers and keep the house safe.

Can you name the breed that is white with black spots?

Other dogs make a funny bark that sounds like singing!

Special dogs are used to help people who cannot see.

These spotted dogs are called “dalmations”.

Of course, some dogs are a mix of more than one breed!

People teach their dogs to sit up and beg.

Name _____

Toy poodles, Chihuahuas, and Yorkies are toy breeds.

Have you ever seen a dog “give paw”?

Some kinds of dogs have curly fur.

Some dogs can catch a ball in the air.

Well-trained dogs can fetch your newspaper.

Some dogs are watch dogs.

Of course, most dogs help us by being loyal, loving friends.

You can also name a breed by the color.

Name _____

The Blue Whale

Introduction:

Despite being smarter than your family dog and larger than a schoolbus, the incredible blue whale is an endangered species. We owe it to ourselves to learn all we can about these beautiful, rare creatures.

Main Idea #1:

There isn't another creature on earth that matches the blue whale in size and beauty.

Main Idea #2:

Blue whales are intelligent creatures that communicate with one another.

Main Idea #3:

Unfortunately, the blue whale has become an endangered species.

Conclusion:

Hopefully, as people learn more about the blue whale they will work harder to save the species. We must fight to defend these beautiful, intelligent giants of the sea!

Name _____

Detail Sentences:

They “talk” to one another with peculiar sounds called “clinks”.

“These incredible creatures of the deep can measure up to 100 feet in length, dwarfing even the once mighty dinosaur,” exclaims Naturalist Jody Kline.

Due to centuries of whaling, whale populations have been drastically reduced.

Clinks are produced in the nasal sacs and work as a kind of underwater sonar.

I’ll never forget the time I went on a whale watch and laid eyes on a blue whale, jumping out of the water, spraying the entire boat with water, giving us a glimpse of its magnificent body!

Can you imagine a creature that tips the scales at over 100 tons? The blue whale does just that!

Dr. Harold Green says, “Sound and hearing are to whales what vision and smell are to land mammals. Echolocation, or clinking, enables whales to communicate.”

For years, whales have been hunted for their blubber, oil, meat, and many by-products.

As a matter of fact, the whale has a brain larger than a human’s, leading scientists to believe that they are quite smart.

Its handsome torpedo-shaped body helps it glide effortlessly through the sea.

The blue whale’s impressive tail also serves as a rudder.

Name _____

Whales also hunt together in groups called pods, indicating that they cooperate and communicate with one another.

Their smooth, hairless blue-gray skin glistens as they approach the surface of the water.

In captivity, they have been trained to perform many complicated tricks and tasks.

As long as more whales are hunted than are born, whale populations will continue to decrease.

Another sign of their intelligence is the fact that whales are excellent caregivers to their young.

Fortunately, the International Whaling Commission has banned the hunting of blue whales, and this should help the species to increase in numbers.

People also hunt whales for their whalebone which is carved into scrimshaw.

Not only that, but their massive flippers are a wonder to behold!

And, in addition to all this, water pollution has further threatened whale populations.

And what about the whale's blowhole, spouting water like a magnificent, living fountain! It is amazing!

In 1846, over 70,000 Americans worked in the whaling industry and over 11 million gallons of whale oil were taken!

Name _____

Halloween

Introduction:

Do you enjoy getting scared half to death? Does a dark, chilly autumn evening complete with bats, cats, and ghouls appeal to you? Are you a chocolaholic? Does the idea of donning a disguise intrigue you? Well, if you answered yes to any of the above, Halloween is the holiday for you! Halloween is definitely the most exciting holiday of the year!

Main Idea #1:

Do you know that each year Americans spend millions of dollars on Halloween decorations?

Main Idea #2:

Halloween is all about costumes!

Main Idea #3:

The best part of Halloween is the candy you get trick-or-treating!

Conclusion:

So mark your calendars, put together your costume, carve your pumpkin, and stock up on candy! Halloween, the most exciting holiday of them all, will be here before you know it!

Name _____

Detail Sentences:

Nowadays it is not unusual to see strings of orange pumpkin lights strung in bushes or along railings.

Some people go to the mall and buy a ready-made Halloween costume.

Of course, a scarecrow stuffed with newspaper or cornstalks is a welcome addition to your Halloween decor.

However, Dan Farley, president of the American Chocolate Sellers Association says, "We sell more chocolate at Halloween than at any other time of year!"

Some kids will resort to a trick if they don't get a peanut butter cup!

Real Halloween fanatics might even transform their yards into a graveyard scene complete with tombstones, floodlights, and a variety of ghouls.

Others prefer to make their own costumes.

The ever-popular pumpkin is perhaps the favorite American Halloween decoration. Finally, bunches of cornstalks can be placed outside and left right through Thanksgiving!

If you're feeling a little wild, you can even dress as your favorite jungle animal!

And don't forget candy corn, which you can only get at Halloween!

As a matter of fact, 9 out of 10 kids questioned report that candy is what they like best about Halloween!

Name _____

Of course, make-up, wigs, fangs, and masks all help to bring every kind of Halloween costume to life!

Carved pumpkins called jack-o-lanterns allow you to put your own creative twist on your Halloween decorations--mean or cheerful, frightening or just plain silly, jack-o-lanterns look terrific outside or inside the house.

T.V. and cartoon characters often inspire costumes.

There is certainly never a shortage of witches or skeletons on Halloween.

Others love Snickers!

Why not draw a spooky face on an old white sheet and hang it in front of your house? Voila! You've got an instant ghost!

Pirates, gypsies, and vampires seem to be favorites every year.

Licorice fans look for Good and Plenty, and nut and raisin lovers cross their fingers for a Chunky.

Many people deck their halls in polyester cobwebs, available in stores everywhere!

Athletic types often dress as their favorite sports figure.

Many people love to get creative with paper and boxes, creating costumes like the human playing card or the robotic box.

I guess it's clear that chocolate bars are everyone's favorite Halloween treat!

Name _____

Some folks go all out with plastic ghosts or witches that are rigged with lightbulbs inside to create an eerie glow on your front lawn!

Pixie Sticks, Sweet Tarts, and Tictacs are also fun to get.

Optional irrelevant details that you may choose to add to the mix:

Halloween falls on the last day of October.

To stay safe on Halloween, be sure to carry a flashlight.

Mischief night is fun, but it can be dangerous.

There are many spooky stories which are read every Halloween.

I hate it when it rains on Halloween.

In school we always have a Halloween party.

My little brother doesn't like Halloween because it's too scary.

Some kids ring doorbells on mischief night.

Grandma usually visits on Halloween.

Name _____

Abraham Lincoln

Introduction:

Raised in near poverty with few advantages, homely by all accounts, yet one of the most popular men in American history--who am I talking about? Abraham Lincoln, that's who! Abe Lincoln was a fascinating human being and political leader.

Main Idea #1:

Abe Lincoln's early life was difficult.

Main Idea #2:

Abraham Lincoln did not grow into a handsome man.

Main Idea #3:

As an adult, he was a hard worker and a courageous leader.

Conclusion:

It is a shame that on April 14, 1865, Lincoln's life was cut short by an assassin's bullet. Still, his memory lives on, with stories of his early hardships and later triumphs told to each generation. Every time we see his face on a shiny copper penny we are reminded of his belief that we are all created equal.

Name _____

Detail Sentences:

His deeply lined face and sad eyes gave him a look which, while definitely not handsome, certainly caught people's attention.

His mother, Nancy Hanks, died when he was only nine years old.

Historian Helen Dean said, "Although naturally bright and intelligent, Abraham Lincoln had very little formal schooling."

In 1861, he was elected president.

In between jobs he studied law and gained a reputation for being fair and honest.

He was born into a poor pioneer family in the state of Kentucky on February 12, 1809.

He gained a lot of experience doing many odd jobs, from postmaster to shopkeeper, surveying to rail splitting.

In 1846, he was elected to Congress.

History books tell us that he was very tall and extremely thin.

Though only a boy, he became an expert at splitting wood.

He had a prominent nose, and for a time he wore a beard.

This job experience helped him gain the respect of common working people.

His dark wavy hair often appeared unruly.

Name _____

He had to work hard, tending to the farm and helping his father.

His long arms and legs made people call him “gangly” and “awkward”.

He eventually took a brave stand against slavery and led the Union to a difficult victory in the Civil War.

Thick bushy eyebrows, often raised as if in deep thought, set off his intelligent penetrating eyes.

He served in the Illinois state legislature from 1834 to 1841.

Optional irrelevant details that you may choose to add to the mix:

Many towns and cities have been named after Abe Lincoln.

We get his birthday off from school.

Have you visited the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.?

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts was built in 1969 in New York City.

His wife, Mary Todd, was the daughter of a rich banker.

People say that before he met his wife he had a romance with Ann Rutledge who died young.

The city of Lincoln is the capital of Nebraska.

America was not the only country to have a civil war.
