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The smell of hamburgers on the grill made Abbie's stomach growl. "The first burgers of the summer" are what her father had called them. Abbie knew he was right; it was the first time they'd pulled out the grill since the weather had warmed up. She knew her father was happy to have a special three-day weekend, too, which would explain why he was smiling and whistling while he cooked their dinner. Abbie wasn't sure what was so special about a longer weekend since she and her brother Jake didn't have to go back to school. Abbie knew the Memorial Day weekend meant a lot of things to a lot of people, but for her, it meant the start of summer break.

Abbie was about to go help her father with the hamburgers when her mother called for her. Abbie opened the screen door on the back porch so she could slide inside. Her mother was busy getting everything ready to make homemade ice cream. Abbie's mouth watered as she thought about the delicious treat. They only had it twice a year. Her mother would make a batch on Memorial Day and then again on Labor Day. Abbie wished she would make it more, but then she knew it wouldn't be as special.

"What's up, Mom?" Abbie asked as she sat down on a nearby chair.

"Your Aunt Lindy called. She wants to know if you can go with her to the cemetery for a few minutes now instead of later today."

Abbie nodded her head. They had all planned to go with her aunt later today, but she didn't mind going now. Abbie watched as her mother sent her aunt a quick text confirming that Abbie would go with her while she finished preparing the meal. Abbie gave her mom a hug and then went outside to the flower garden. She picked a bouquet of flowers for her aunt to place in a vase at the gravesite. Then she waited for her aunt to arrive. She knew Memorial Day was important to Lindy. Her aunt's husband had died while he was deployed to another country. For her aunt, Abbie knew this day was about remembering. Abbie was too young to remember her uncle, but she had heard stories about his heroism and his love for his country. From her family, Abbie had learned that on Memorial Day, people everywhere should remember the sacrifices that had been made for their country.

There are many different holidays celebrated each year in America, but none are quite as special as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. Originally, the holiday honored those who died serving in the military. Today, people continue this tradition; however, many use the day as a time to remember all of those special to them who have passed away.

Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day. The origins of the holiday began in the years after the Civil War. People wanted a way to honor those who had died while fighting. On the first Decoration Day, nearly 5,000 people helped decorate the graves of the soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. They honored both the Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Eventually, Decoration Day would become known as Memorial Day. This day would later become a federal holiday recognized by the entire country.

Americans celebrate Memorial Day in different ways. For some, the holiday is seen as the start of the summer season. Others attend special ceremonies or parades in which veterans are recognized for their service to the country. Still, others visit cemeteries and continue with the

traditions that Decoration Day once promoted. Some Americans spend each Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery. The president of the United States gives a speech there each year. It is at Arlington that the president will place a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor all those who have served. The tomb holds the remains of several unidentified soldiers from multiple wars. Even when it is no longer Memorial Day, a soldier remains as a guard at the tomb.

In recent years, one more addition has been made to Memorial Day. At 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, each person is asked to take a moment and be still and silent. He or she is to think about and remember all those who have died so that America and its citizens can be free.

**UNIT 3
QUESTIONS****Name****Date**

The following pages have questions based on the texts from Unit 3. You may look at the stories to help answer any questions. Use the back of the page if you need extra space for writing your answers.

1 Why are Abbie and her family having a cookout?

- a It is Labor Day weekend.
- b It is Abbie's birthday.
- c It is Memorial Day weekend.
- d It is a homecoming party for Abbie's aunt.

2 Explain why Memorial Day has a special meaning for Abbie's family.

3 Which statement from the text is an opinion?

- a There are many different holidays celebrated each year in America, but none are quite as special as Memorial Day.
- b Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day.
- c Americans celebrate Memorial Day in different ways.
- d At 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day, each person is asked to take a moment and be still and silent.

4 Explain why the answer you chose for #3 is an opinion and not a fact.

5 Which statement best explains why Memorial Day was once known as Decoration Day?

- a People would clean up and decorate the cemeteries where the soldiers were buried.
- b People bought decorations for their summer cookouts.
- c Young girls placed decorations in their hair to honor the deceased soldiers.
- d No one knows why Memorial Day was once called Decoration Day.

6 Explain why the text is titled "Remembering."

7 Compare and contrast Memorial Day to one other holiday you know. List one way they are alike, and list one way they are different.

Holiday: _____

- a.** They are alike because _____

- b.** They are different because _____

8 Explain why the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is an important symbol.

9 What does the word *origins* mean as it is used in the following sentence?

The origins of the holiday began in the years after the Civil War.

- a** ending
- b** beginning
- c** middle
- d** after

10 What is significant about Memorial Day weekend to Abbie?

- a** It is the start of summer vacation.
- b** It is the start of a new school year.
- c** It is a three-day weekend.
- d** It is her favorite holiday.



Time to Write!

Part 1

Directions: Choose one holiday from the list of holidays below or think of one on your own. Circle your choice or write it on the line provided. With the help of your teacher, use books or the Internet to research facts about the holiday. On the lines below, write five facts you learn from your research.

Christmas

Kwanzaa

Thanksgiving

Hanukkah

Labor Day

Valentine's Day

Independence Day

Native-American Day

Veterans Day

Other: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Part 2

Directions: Imagine the holiday you researched is about to be taken off the calendar and no longer celebrated! Write a letter to the president, explaining why the holiday is important and should remain an important day for everyone to celebrate.

Dear President _____,

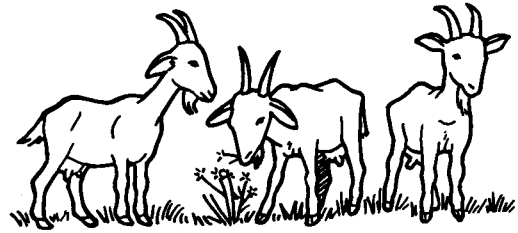
Sincerely,

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Spring Migration

The sun had almost risen when Ainura finished milking the last of the family goats. She looked across the valley at the purple shadows of the distant mountains. Of all the spring campsites her family visited each year, this one had always been her favorite. She felt a little sad whenever they left it. The family was going to move the sheep and goats to new pastures that day. They would soon be busy packing gear and loading it onto the horses. During the spring and summer, Ainura's and the other nomadic families who lived in western Mongolia were always on the move, leading the herds from one field to another in search of fresh grass.



Ainura poured the creamy milk into leather saddlebags. The saddlebags would be put on the backs of the horses while the family traveled. The repeated bouncing motion of the trotting horses would turn the milk into butter. This work-saving idea was just one of the ways her family used their traveling lifestyle to their advantage.

After finishing with the milk, Ainura helped her mother take down the yurt. Yurts are tall, round tents with domed roofs. They are made out of the same kind of felt used to make hats. The felt is formed into large sheets that are tied onto a wooden frame to form the yurt walls and ceiling. Yurts don't have floors, because families build fires inside them to cook. A hole in the roof lets the smoke out. Their fire's ashes were still hot, so Ainura put the teakettle on to boil while they worked.

Ainura and her mother spent a few minutes carrying out the hanging saddlebags from inside the yurt. They didn't use dressers or trunks to store their things because those would be impossible to move. Instead, everything the family owned was stored in saddlebags, which could easily be carried from place to place. When they were in camp, they simply hung the bags on the walls inside the tent. Once they emptied the yurt, Ainura and her mother began untying the felt sheets and taking down the frame.

Ainura's family moved many times throughout the spring and summer, and each family member had many jobs to do on days when they changed camps. Her father and her younger brother, Batyr, were busy that morning rounding up the animals. She could hear Batyr making up songs as he worked. "My home is round my campfire, my country is the grass," he sang. It was a new song, but it expressed many of the old ideas and values of the nomads. Batyr knew this was Ainura's favorite valley, and he often made up songs about it to help her remember what it looked like when they traveled away.

"Ainura," her mother called to her, "can you finish packing the felt bundles? I need to start loading the horses." Ainura nodded and walked to where several large bags of wool were lying. She wet down small bundles of wool and wrapped them in blankets. This was one way they made felt. Normally, the family turned wet wool into felt by beating it for a long time. However, whenever they traveled, they dragged wet bundles of wool behind the horses with long ropes, which achieved the same result.

Her mother had lined up some horses, and Ainura started tying ropes to their packs for dragging the wool bundles. She looked up and saw her father and brother riding toward her with a few more horses. They were almost ready to start moving, but Ainura took a minute to walk to the remnants of the campfire and pour everyone a cup of tea. It would be another year before they returned here, and Ainura decided it was a good time for the family to stop for a moment and share her favorite view.

Spring Migration *(cont.)*

After reading the story, answer the questions. Circle the letter before each correct answer.

1. What does Ainura's brother mean when he says, "My home is round my campfire"?
 - a. He is glad that they have found a place to stay.
 - b. His job is to tend the fire to warm the family.
 - c. He is comfortable living in campsites.
 - d. He wants to build a home with a fireplace.
2. Which of these explains what the author means by "her family used their traveling lifestyle to their advantage"?
 - a. The family collects artifacts from all over Mongolia.
 - b. The family visits many attractions while traveling.
 - c. The family takes advantage of fellow nomadic travelers.
 - d. The family uses their nomadic lifestyle to make chores easier.
3. For this sentence, choose the word that shows that the animals graze in fields.
Ainura's family moves often so that their animals have _____ of fresh grass to eat.
 - a. pens
 - b. stables
 - c. arenas
 - d. pastures
4. Which of these statements about this nomadic family is true according to information in the story?
 - a. Drinking tea celebrates setting up a new camp.
 - b. The family stays in one place through the summer in order to plant crops.
 - c. The family's tents are made from animal hide.
 - d. The family uses horses to move their belongings from camp to camp.
5. Before Ainura takes down the frame of the yurt, she
 - a. hears her brother singing.
 - b. packs wool to be turned into felt.
 - c. loads up the horses with their belongings.
 - d. helps her mother untie the felt sheets covering the yurt.
6. What does it mean that the family was nomadic?
 - a. They raised goats.
 - b. They lived in the mountains.
 - c. They moved from place to place.
 - d. They liked to camp.

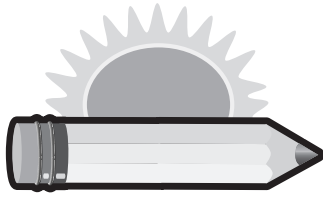


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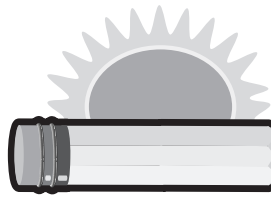


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Name _____

Date _____

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Since the beginning, immigrants have come to America looking for a better way of life. In the late 1800s they came in large numbers. There had never been so many immigrants at one time. It was faster and easier to cross the Atlantic Ocean than ever before. It took just five days to cross the ocean from England.

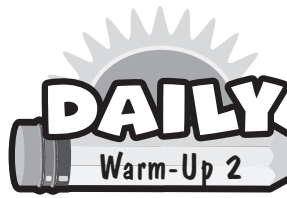
Those who came after 1886 were greeted with the sight of the Statue of Liberty. The Statue of Liberty is 15 stories high. In one hand she holds the torch. In the other hand she holds the tablet bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence. The people of France presented this statue as a gift to the United States. It was meant to celebrate the friendship between the two countries.

Some immigrants became farmers in the West, but most immigrants moved to cities such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Boston. Here they looked for work to support their families. Members of the same immigrant groups often lived together in the same neighborhoods. This made it easier to communicate with one another and share similar customs and traditions.

These immigrants were often poor. They did not speak English and they were unskilled workers. They would usually take any jobs they could get. They had to work hard with very low pay. Often the entire family, including the children, were required to work to make ends meet.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the main idea of paragraph three?
 - a. to inform the reader about the Statue of Liberty
 - b. to explain the struggles immigrants had getting into the United States
 - c. to explain the role that the government played in donating the statue
 - d. to explain where immigrants went for work once they arrived
2. Which country presented the United States with the Statue of Liberty?
 - a. Russia
 - b. France
 - c. Germany
 - d. Ellis Island
3. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
 - a. These immigrants were often poor.
 - b. Here they looked for work to support their families.
 - c. The Statue of Liberty is a beautiful reminder of the purpose of this country.
 - d. Those who came after 1886 were greeted with the sight of the Statue of Liberty.



Name _____ Date _____

THE VIRUS

Jenna could not figure out why her friend Sarah hadn't returned her email yet. Sarah was usually very fast about responding. Jenna checked her email every 10 seconds waiting for a new message to appear, but one never did.

Just then, Jenna got a message from her computer saying that a virus had been quarantined to a spot in the computer. Jenna was curious about the virus and click on the filter program in her computer. Sure enough, a virus was listed. Jenna soon realized that the virus had Sarah's name in the message.

"What is going on?" thought Jenna. "Does Sarah have something to do with this virus? Is something wrong with Sarah's computer?"

Jenna began searching her computer to find the location of the virus. She was uncertain how long this would take, so she decided to just call Sarah on the phone. She wanted to get to the bottom of this quickly before she had any viruses attack her computer.

Sarah's mother explained that Sarah had not come home from school yet. Jenna knew that was not true. She had walked home with Sarah. Jenna was starting to get scared. She went back to the computer and sent a message to the virus program on her computer. Imagine her surprise when Sarah responded back.

"Dear Jenna, A computer virus has taken over my computer and taken over me!" Jenna didn't know what to think. How could a virus do that? Jenna began to shake.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not a meaning of the word *quarantined* as used in this passage?
 - a. detained
 - b. isolated
 - c. organized
 - d. removed
2. Which sentence shows that Jenna takes the virus message from Sarah seriously?
 - a. Jenna began to shake.
 - b. Jenna knew that was not true.
 - c. She had walked home with Sarah.
 - d. none of the above
3. The best way to find the answer to the previous question is to . . .
 - a. try to remember.
 - b. reread the last paragraph and determine the main idea.
 - c. ask the author.
 - d. skim the passage searching for clues.