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Introduction

After it took doctors two weeks to remove more than 200 wooden splinters from Boyd's body, he became known as "Slivers."

* * * * *

"My aunt and uncle just bought some new hogs, and I'll ride on the back of one of them."

If a student read either one of these statements out of context, the student might have a difficult time knowing which statement was fiction and which one was nonfiction. In addition, the student would have no idea how the two statements could be tied together or used to support an argument or idea.

If, on the other hand, the student read these statements in context and understood how they fit into an entire passage, the student would be able to answer with confidence that, as strange as it may seem, one motorcycle racer did indeed need over 200 wooden splinters removed from his body because racing tracks were once constructed out of unsanded boards. The student would then be able to compare, contrast, or tie this fact to a fictitious passage where the derivation of the nickname "hogs" for motorcycles comes up when two students are discussing how they will get home from school. (Both passages deal with early motorcycles.)

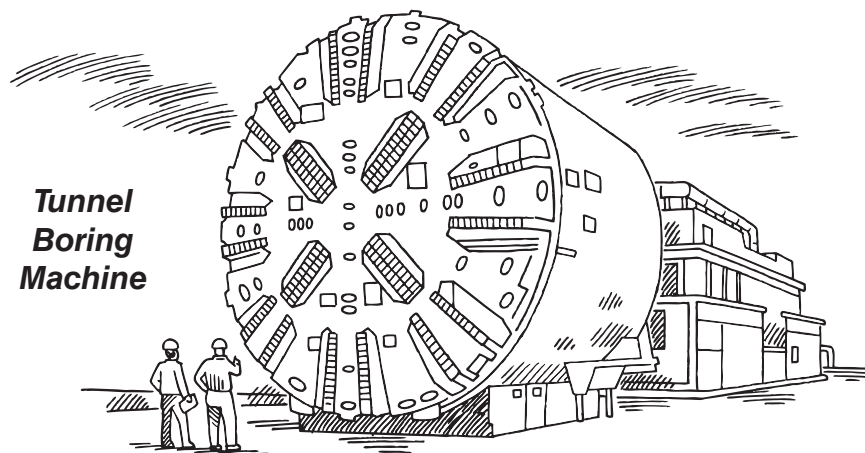
A Historic Handshake

When a Frenchman and an Englishman shook hands on December 1, 1990, it was a historic handshake. Many Frenchmen and Englishmen had shaken hands before, but never like this. This was because both men were technically in their own countries. France is on the continent of Europe. England is separated from France by the English Channel, an arm of the Atlantic Ocean. How could the men shake hands while standing in their own countries?

The two men were 147 feet (45 m) below the surface of the English Channel. They were helping to construct the Eurotunnel. The Eurotunnel, nicknamed the Chunnel, is the longest underwater tunnel in the world. It links England and France. Construction teams from each country worked on the project, with the combined number of engineers, technicians, and workers amounting to over 13,000 people. Each team started tunneling from its own country.

Thirty miles (56 km) of rock had to be cut out from under the sea. There were no existing machines that could perform this feat, so new devices called Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) were developed. In all, 11 TBMs were built. Each TBM was a massive snakelike piece of equipment with a head 50 feet (15 m) in diameter that rotated and had hundreds of cutting edges made of tungsten carbide. Tungsten carbide is one of the strongest materials known to humans.

The room for a mistake was small, for if either side had been more than 8 feet (2.5 m) out of line, the two countries would have tunneled past each other. It wasn't until the final inches of rock had been bored through that engineers were sure of their success.



Show What You Know (cont.)

6. Look at the map to the right. Use information from “A Historic Handshake” to name each labeled spot on the map. Write the name of the country or body of water on the lines below.



- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

7. Jot down a quick note or two below each journal date to remind yourself what the entry was about.

December 5, 1987

February 19, 1989

September 7, 1994

Write three or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. “A Historic Handshake”

9. “Chunnel Journal”

10. Think about a historic moment you would like to have been part of. Write one or two journal entries where you discuss what led up to the moment, some of the dangers involved, how you felt, and the moment. (Use a separate piece of paper.)