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(In order, the practice pages include a nonfiction story, a fiction story, and a set of five questions about the stories.)

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Nonfiction

Floating Homes

The Uros people live on islands that float in a lake. The lake is by Peru. Peru is a country in South America. Why do these islands float? The Uros people make them that way.

First, they cut down reeds. The reeds grow in the shallow waters of the lake. After the reeds are cut, they are laid in the sun to dry. Once they are dry, they are woven into mats. The mats are bound together. They are piled on top of each other. The mats form a floating island.

The Uros people use the reeds that grow in the lake for more than their islands. They use them to construct their homes, boats, and rafts. They also burn them, using them as fuel. The reeds' soft parts are eaten like a vegetable, and the reeds' flowers are boiled to make a healing tea.

What it is like to walk on the man-made islands? The ground feels soft and spongy. Sometimes the ground gives way! The reed mats rot away. What do the Uros people do when this happens? They pile on more mats. They keep adding layers of fresh dry reeds as the old reeds rot.

Fiction

Silly Stan

Stan lived in Wisconsin, where it was cold and snowy. One winter, he left cold Wisconsin and went to visit the Uros people. He visited their warm home on a floating island in a lake in South America. When Stan saw the reed houses on the island, he said, "These people are silly! Don't they know brick houses are better? Brick houses will not rot or fall down. I will make a brick house. I will show these silly people how to construct a proper house."

Stan went and got some bricks. The bricks cost a lot of money. Stan took the bricks to the island. It took many boat trips. Finally, when Stan had enough bricks, he began to build his house. It took a long time. When Stan was done, he called everyone over. He said, "This is the best house. This house will not rot. It will last a long time."

Just then, the brick house sank! It was too heavy for the floating island. It sank deep under the water. It left a hole in the island. Stan was very surprised. "Oh!" he said, "Now I understand! The best houses are not made of brick. They are made of reeds! I will go back home. I will go back to windy, snowy Wisconsin. I will show the people there how to make a light, reed house."

Practice 13 – Questions

Directions: Fill in the bubble next to each correct answer.

1. To make an island from reeds, the reeds are first cut. Next, they are

- (A) bound together. (C) laid in the sun to dry.
 (B) woven into mats. (D) piled on top of each other.
-

2. Most likely the Uros people use reeds to construct their islands because

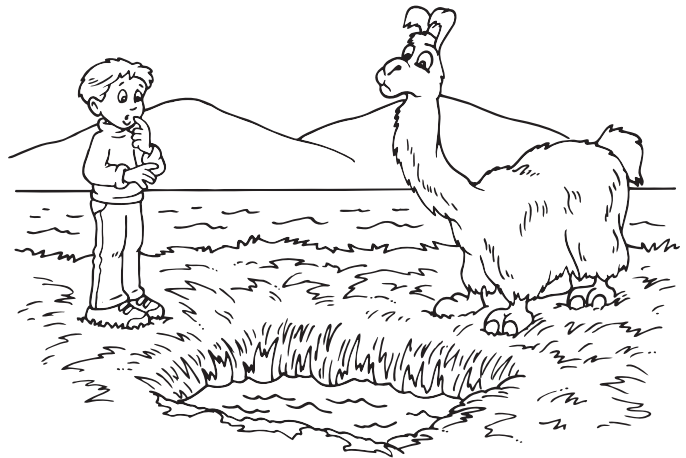
- (A) the reeds cost a lot. (C) the reeds grow in the lake.
 (B) the reeds are very heavy. (D) the reeds rot in the water.
-

3. What did Stan need to learn?

- (A) No proper houses are made of brick.
 (B) All proper houses are made of reeds.
 (C) All proper houses are constructed in the same way.
 (D) Not all proper houses are constructed in the same way.
-

**4. Look at the picture to the right.
Which story does it show?**

- (A) "Floating Homes"
 (B) "Silly Stan"



5. Do you think a house made of reeds would be a proper house for Wisconsin in the winter? Tell why or why not?

Nonfiction

Just Doing His Job

Ulysses S. Grant was the 18th president of the United States. He was president from 1869 to 1877.

Presidents work hard. They work many hours. Still, presidents need some time off. They need time to relax. When Grant was president, he did would drive himself around Washington. He would drive all around the city to help him relax.

Grant would drive himself in a gig. A gig is a very light carriage. It has just two wheels, which are side-by-side. It is pulled by just one horse. One day Grant was driving his gig, and he was speeding. He was driving too fast.

A policeman saw Grant speeding and stopped him. The policeman did not know that he had stopped the president. The policeman gave Grant a speeding ticket. The fine for speeding was 25 dollars. This was a lot of money at that time!

What did Grant do when he got the ticket? He did two things. First, he paid the fine. Second, he commended the policeman in writing. When someone is commended, one is praised. One is told they did a good thing.

Fiction

Running Red Lights

Mr. Swan said, “We have rules to keep us safe. For example, we have traffic rules. One rule is that one must stop at a red light. One must stop at a stop sign. This rule keeps us safe. It stops cars from crashing into each other. Police officers give tickets to people who do not obey the rules. The people who get tickets have to pay fines.”

Lori said, “My neighbor runs red lights all the time. When he comes to an intersection, he does not wait his turn. He races right through. He goes through the intersection without stopping.”

Mr. Swan said, “Lori, this is not good. Your neighbor should stop at red lights and stop signs. He should not race through intersections. He is going to cause accidents. Police officers are going to give him tickets. Your neighbor is going to have to pay fines.”

Lori said, “Police officers give tickets to people who get in the way of my neighbor! This is because my neighbor is a firefighter. He races to fires and accidents. He races through intersections so he can help people. He puts on a siren so people know he is coming.”

Practice 16 – Questions

Directions: Fill in the bubble next to each correct answer.

1. Grant commended the policeman because

- (A) the policeman drove a gig.
 - (B) the policeman praised the president.
 - (C) the policeman gave him a ticket for speeding.
 - (D) the policeman did not know he had stopped the president.
-

**2. Mr. Swan said, “Your neighbor should stop at red lights and stop signs.”
When Mr. Swan said this,**

- (A) he did not think about accidents.
 - (B) he did not know what Lori’s neighbor’s job was.
 - (C) he did not want Lori’s neighbor to pay a fine.
 - (D) he did not think Lori’s neighbor should obey the rules.
-

3. A firefighter would have to pay a speeding fine

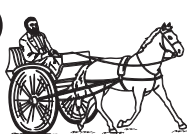
- (A) if he or she was speeding on M Street.
 - (B) if he or she raced through an intersection.
 - (C) if he or she was in a fire truck with its siren on.
 - (D) if he or she was speeding when he or she wasn’t working.
-

4. Look at these pictures. Which one is a gig?

(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



5. Think about the police officer who gave the president a ticket. Do you think that police officer would give a ticket to Lori’s neighbor? Explain your answer.
