

The Five W's

READING LEVEL GRADE 3

REM 487B

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A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM



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INTRODUCTION

The Five W's is a series of books designed to improve the reading comprehension of older students whose reading skills are below grade level. The series is also ideal for challenging the abilities of elementary students functioning at or above grade level. The high-interest articles in all five books are suitable for a wide range of ages and deal with an array of topics.

The factual articles are presented in an appealing “newspaper” format, complete with datelines and pictures. For each article, students are required to respond to comprehension questions based on the “Five W’s” — **who, what, when, where, and why**. In addition to building comprehension, the stories may serve as springboards for a history or geography lesson.

The stories range from reading level 3.0 to 3.9. The Flesch-Kincaid Readability scale was used to ensure that all stories are at the desired reading level.

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A NOTE ABOUT READABILITY SCORES

Readability scales are useful as long as one realizes their limitations. Results are approximate guidelines only, with a minimum margin of error of (+ or -) 1.5 grade levels. In other words, a story measured at a second grade readability level could easily be suitable for both first and third graders. Another limitation is that two different readability scales can be applied to the same sample, yet yield widely varied results. In spite of the inexact nature of readability scales, we at Remedia use them because they measure word and sentence length, both valid predictors of readability. They also help us provide vocabulary-controlled materials in order to meet the special education needs of many of our valued clients. At the same time, we realize that these scales are not designed to measure every other factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. We are also aware of the variance in standards and expectations set for each grade level. What is first grade material in one school may be second grade material in another. At Remedia we strive to take all these factors into consideration as we develop and revise materials. We leave the rest in your capable hands. Regarding readability, you—and your students—will be the final judge.



THE DAILY NEWS

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World's Tallest Building Opens Its Doors

(NEW YORK, May 1, 1931) — The world's tallest building opened today in New York City. It is called the Empire State Building. It is 1,454 feet tall.

At noon, two small children cut a ribbon in front of the main door. The ribbon was made of paper. After it was cut, people walked through the door for the first time.

Hundreds of people were there. All day long, they took part in a big party on a floor 86 stories high.

The Empire State Building holds as many people as there are in some cities. Each day, about 20,000 office workers will ride one of the 73 elevators. Another 10,000 to 20,000 people will visit the building. They might shop or get a haircut.

The Empire State Building is a skyscraper. It is so tall that it seems to scrape the sky. At the very top is a tall, pointed tower. People can go to the top and look at the view. They can see at least 50 miles away.



1. **Who** cut the ribbon? _____
2. **What** is the name of the building that opened? _____

3. **When** was the ribbon cut? _____
4. **Where** is the building located? _____
5. **Why** is the building called a skyscraper? _____



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Fire in the White House!

(WASHINGTON, D.C., December 24, 1929) —

The first White House burned to the ground in 1814. Last night, it looked like the White House might burn down again.

The White House is the home of the President of the United States. The President and his family live there while he is in office.

Last night, President Herbert Hoover and his wife were having a Christmas party. Everyone was having a good time. The children were eating cake. President Hoover sat and talked with them while they ate.



Suddenly, a guard came along and whispered in President Hoover's ear. They both left the room. Soon the children heard fire engines. The White House was on fire!

Many fire trucks stopped nearby. Firemen jumped to the ground with hoses. They climbed tall ladders and sprayed water on the flames.

Before long, the fire was out. Nobody at the party was in danger. All of them will remember that party for the rest of their lives.

1. **Who** lives in the White House? _____

2. **What** looked like it was going to burn down on December 24, 1929?

3. **When** did the White House burn to the ground? _____
4. **Where** did the firemen jump? _____
5. **Why** did the guard whisper in President Hoover's ear? _____



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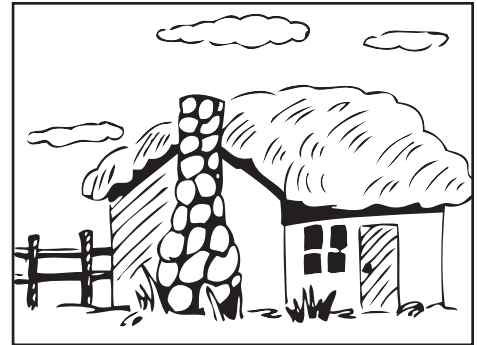
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Mrs. Hubbard's Cupboards Saved!

(ENGLAND, 1960) — A famous house about to be torn down was saved. The house is where a children's poem was written long ago.

The poem was about Mrs. Hubbard. One day, she went to her cupboard to get a bone for her dog, but there weren't any bones in the cupboard. In fact, there wasn't any food in the entire house!



Mrs. Hubbard was a real person, not just a person from a poem. She was a cook and a housecleaner who lived more than 100 years ago.

Mrs. Hubbard's house is in England. It is a small house called a cottage. Over the years, the cottage started to fall apart. The roof leaked, the floors squeaked, and some of the walls started to crumble.

When it looked like the cottage would be torn down, people who remembered the poem decided to save it. They came up with a plan to repair it.

Today, the cottage is a tourist site. Visitors pay money to go inside and look around. The money is used to keep the cottage in good shape.

1. **Who** was Mrs. Hubbard? _____
2. **What** is the money visitors pay to see the cottage used for? _____

3. **When** did Mrs. Hubbard live? _____
4. **Where** is Mrs. Hubbard's cottage located? _____
5. **Why** was the cottage going to be torn down? _____



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Young Boy Mailed Home!

(DETROIT, MICHIGAN, 1929) — A four-year-old boy was mailed home last month.

The boy went to visit his relatives. After a nice visit, it was time for him to go home. The boy was supposed to fly home on a plane, but his relatives decided to play a joke on his parents. They decided to send him home via airmail.

Instead of buying the boy a ticket, the boy's relatives sent him home like a letter. They hung a sign around his neck. The sign said that the boy was to be delivered to the post office. It also gave his parents' address. The relatives put a stamp on the sign so that it looked like a real letter.

Wearing his best clothes, the boy boarded the plane with his extra-large sign.

The plane landed safely, and the boy's parents were there to greet him. First, they took him to the post office, where his sign was stamped like a letter. This was proof that the boy had arrived. Then, the boy was allowed to go home with his parents. Everybody got a good laugh out of the joke.



1. **Who** did the boy visit? _____
2. **What** did the boy's sign say? _____

3. **When** was the boy allowed to go home with his parents? _____

4. **Where** did the boy have to go before he could go home? _____

5. **Why** did the boy's relatives send him home via airmail? _____



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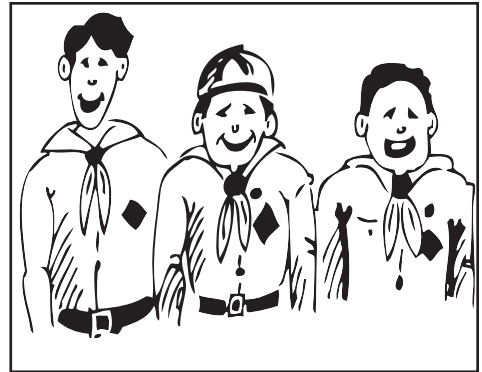
New Club Formed

(ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 1930) — The first meeting of a brand new club was held today. The club is called the Cub Scouts.

Cub Scouts are boys ages 7 to 10. A group of Cub Scouts is called a den. It meets once a week in a member's home, a school, or a community center. Each den belongs to a larger group called a pack. The pack meets every once in a while to do things together.

Each Cub Scout den is lead by one or two adults. These leaders are called Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters teach the Cub Scouts how to do things like camp and build objects. They help Cub Scouts learn about things by taking field trips. They want their Cub Scouts to grow into strong, responsible young men.

At each meeting, Cub Scouts make a promise. They say that they will be true to their country and try to help others. They also promise to follow the Cub Scout motto – "Do Your Best."



1. **Who** can be a Cub Scout? _____
2. **What** is the Cub Scout motto? _____
3. **When** do Cub Scout dens meet? _____
4. **Where** do Cub Scout dens meet? _____

5. **Why** do Scoutmasters help their Cub Scouts learn things? _____
