

The Five W's

READING LEVEL GRADE 4

REM 487C

EDITED BY: Marcella Acosta

LAYOUT BY: Christina Farris

DESIGN BY: Ron Wolf

COVER DESIGN BY: Don Merrifield

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM



©2008

Copyright by Remedia Publications, Inc.
All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

The purchase of this product entitles the individual teacher to reproduce copies for classroom use.
The reproduction of any part for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited.

To find Remedia products in a store near you, visit:
www.rempub.com/stores

REMEDIA PUBLICATIONS, INC.
15887 N. 76TH STREET • SUITE 120 • SCOTTSDALE, AZ • 85260



This product utilizes innovative strategies and proven methods to improve student learning. The product is based upon reliable research and effective practices that have been replicated in classrooms across the United States. Information regarding the research basis is provided on our website at www.rempub.com/research

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 4.0 to 4.9. The Flesch-Kincaid Readability scale was used to ensure that all stories are at the desired reading level.

CONTENTS

Divers Spend Two Weeks Underwater.....	1	Reading the Fine Print.....	15
Doctor's Secret Surprises England	2	First Oil Well Drilled	16
Doctor Continues Work	3	“Pigeon Express” Brings News.....	17
A New Year Begins	4	Brooklyn Bridge Opens Today	18
Disneyland Opens!	5	Railroad Time Starts Today	19
Jump for Joy...It's Leap Year!	6	Solar Flares Cause Trouble.....	20
Special Day for Kids Set Aside	7	Pests Move into Vermont.....	21
Cartoon with Sound Plays in Theaters	8	Company to Build New Town.....	22
Paid to Play	9	Free Land for All	23
Earth's Shadow Will Hide Moon Tonight.....	10	People Moved by Elevator.....	24
France Celebrates Freedom.....	11	Shoppers Love Woolworth's.....	25
Titanic Sinks	12	Japan Attacks U.S. Ships	26
First TV Debates to Take Place	13	First Dog Will Write Life Story.....	27
First Rocket Flies.....	14	Museum Features Video Games.....	28

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

©Remedia Publications

The Five W's - 4

Divers Spend Two Weeks Underwater

(ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS, July 20, 1970)

A team of five women surfaced today after spending two weeks underwater. They are part of a group that studies ocean plants and animals.

The women entered the water on July 6. They lived in two white tanks placed below the surface. Each day, they left the tanks for several hours to scuba dive. *Scuba* means "to swim underwater using air from a machine."

The team would swim as far as 1,500 feet away from the tanks. Each dive lasted about four hours. The women breathed air through a new kind of machine. It weighs 65 pounds. The nice thing about the machine is that it does not send air bubbles to the surface. This lets the divers swim close to fish without scaring them.

The team worked hard while it was underwater. It studied 35 kinds of fish and found 150 types of plants, many of which had never been seen before.

The team's leader was Dr. Sylvia Earle Mead, age 35. She has been a scuba diver since she was a teenager. Some people would be afraid to be underwater for so long, but not Sylvia. "It was the safest two weeks of my life," she said.



1. **Who** was the leader of the underwater team? _____

2. **What** did the team study and find underwater? _____

3. **When** did the women first go underwater? _____
4. **Where** did the team live underwater? _____
5. **Why** did the team spend two weeks underwater? _____



THE DAILY NEWS

©Remedia Publications

The Five W's - 4

Doctor's Secret Surprises England

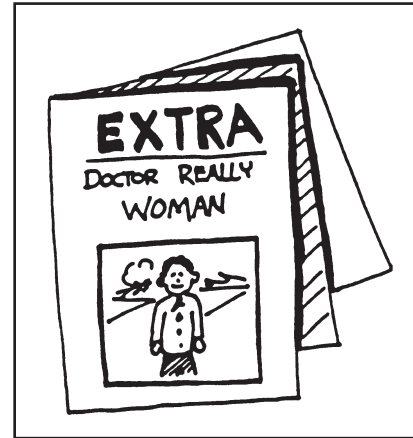
(ENGLAND, July 1865) – Famous army doctor James Barry died a few weeks ago. He has been known for his work for 50 years. Now Dr. Barry will be known for another reason as well. Shocking news has been learned since his death. Dr. Barry was really a woman!

No one guessed Dr. Barry's secret all these years. Women are not allowed to serve as doctors. It seems that Dr. Barry hid the truth so that she could practice medicine.

Dr. Barry finished her training in medicine at 15. Then she began working in the army. There, Dr. Barry treated soldiers and tried to improve health conditions. Dr. Barry was often honored for her work. In 1851, Dr. Barry was put in charge of all the army doctors in the country.

Dr. Barry treated the sick in many countries. Over the years, she went to countries like Europe, Asia, Canada, and India. No place was too far for her to travel.

No one is sure of Dr. Barry's real name or where she came from. Just like the medical mysteries Dr. Barry dealt with every day, so too is Dr. Barry a mystery.



1. **Who** died in July 1865? _____
2. **What** was this person's secret? _____
3. **When** was Dr. Barry put in charge of the country's army doctors? _____
4. **Where** did Dr. Barry travel to over the years? _____

5. **Why** did Dr. Barry keep the secret? _____



THE DAILY NEWS

©Remedia Publications

The Five W's - 4

Doctor Continues Work

(DENVER, COLORADO, 1951) – Some people are never too old to work. Dr. Florence Sabin is one of these people. At 80 years old, she is still working and helping people.

Dr. Sabin has spent most of her life studying the human body. She studies the part of the body that deals with disease and infection.

When Dr. Sabin was young, she knew she wanted to be a doctor. School for doctors is very expensive, so she worked as a teacher for three years to save up enough money to go. In 1896, Dr. Sabin became one of the first women to attend a new school for doctors called Johns Hopkins.

Over the years, Dr. Sabin has become known as one of the leading women scientists of her time. A few years ago, she found a new way to check for tuberculosis (TB). TB is an illness that affects the lungs and can lead to death. Dr. Sabin's test has cut the number of TB cases in half in Denver.

Right now, Dr. Sabin is the head of the Denver health department. She works to make the health system better in Denver. She wants people to know how to lead healthy lives and stay well.



1. **Who** is known as one of the leading scientists of her time? _____

2. **What** does Dr. Sabin study? _____

3. **When** did Dr. Sabin start at Johns Hopkins? _____
4. **Where** does Dr. Sabin work now? _____
5. **Why** did Dr. Sabin work as a teacher? _____



THE DAILY NEWS

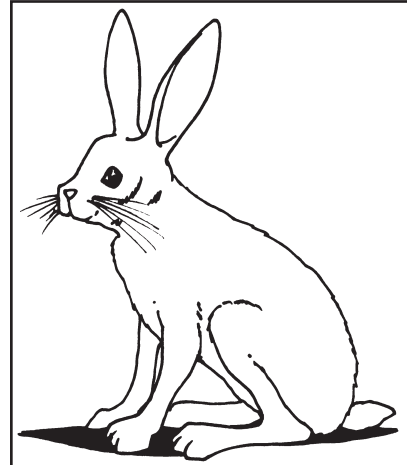
©Remedia Publications

The Five W's - 4

A New Year Begins

(January 1, 1990) – Today marks the start of a new year for most people. If you follow the Chinese calendar, though, you must wait a few more weeks for the New Year.

The Chinese calendar keeps time in a different way. It has 12 months, each with 29 or 30 days. It has years, which are named after 12 animals. The animals are: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. By the Chinese calendar, this year is the year 4,688. It is the year of the horse.



Each animal has its own meaning. People are said to be born with the traits of that animal. People born in the year of the rabbit are said to be popular and kind. People born in the year of the dragon are said to be fearless and outgoing.

The Chinese New Year does not fall on the same day each year. This is because the Chinese calendar uses the moon to mark time. The Chinese New Year falls on a day between January 21 and February 20. Many celebrations are held to mark this special day.

1. **Who** has to wait a few more weeks for the New Year? _____

2. **What** animals are the years in a Chinese calendar named after? _____

3. **When** are people who are popular and kind born? _____
4. **Where** does the Chinese New Year fall? _____
5. **Why** does the date of the Chinese New Year change? _____
