

The Five W's

READING LEVEL GRADE 5

REM 487D

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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 5.0 to 5.9. The Flesch-Kincaid Readability scale was used to ensure that all stories are at the desired reading level.

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|--|----|---|----|
| Septuplets Born in Iowa!..... | 1 | Tennis Queen is Only 20! | 15 |
| Library of Congress Has Books for Everyone | 2 | Favorite Drink Returns..... | 16 |
| World Remembers Famous Doctor | 3 | Train Links Countries for Fast Travel..... | 17 |
| President Lincoln Shot..... | 4 | Titanic Found! | 18 |
| Cochran Flies Faster Than Speed of Sound | 5 | U.S. Has Good Olympic Record | 19 |
| Palace for Shoppers Opens | 6 | Hawaii Becomes 50th State | 20 |
| Howe and Singer Become Partners | 7 | Hula Hoops Sent to South Pole..... | 21 |
| Ford Develops Assembly Line | 8 | Boston Wins First World Series..... | 22 |
| Free Mail Delivery to Start this Year | 9 | Wright Brothers Claim They Can Fly | 23 |
| Stock Market Crashes! | 10 | New York’s First Subway Opens | 24 |
| Human Voices Carried Across the Sea | 11 | Doctors Find Cause of Yellow Fever | 25 |
| Outer Space Activity | 12 | Space Pioneers Don’t Monkey Around..... | 26 |
| Young Chinese Artist has Show in U.S..... | 13 | New Way to Fill Cavities Found..... | 27 |
| Women in Charge in Texas | 14 | Artificial Hearts Still Can’t Replace Real Ones | 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

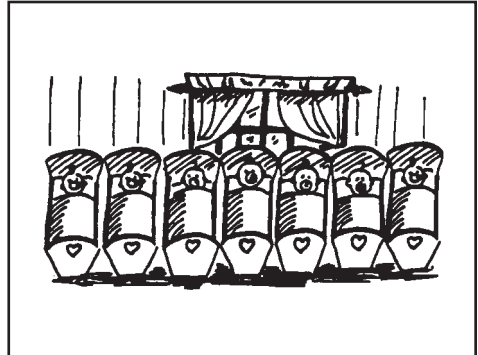
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Septuplets Born in Iowa!

(DES MOINES, IOWA, November 19, 1997)

Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey became famous parents today. Bobbi had seven babies! Kenneth was born at 12:48 p.m. By 12:56 p.m., Alexis, Natalie, Kelsey, Brandon, Nathaniel, and Joel had been born. Altogether, the babies weighed 20 pounds. This means that they weighed about 3 pounds each.

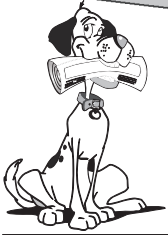


Doctors said that all of the babies are in fair condition. Since they are so small, they will need special care for many weeks. All of the babies are hooked up to machines that help them breathe. If they all survive, Bobbi McCaughey will be the first mother in known human history to have septuplets who lived.

Gifts and offers for support are already pouring in for the family. The gifts include money, a lifetime supply of diapers, baby food, and a new 15-seat van. There are even plans to build the family a new house in their small hometown of Carlisle, Iowa.

1. **Who** became parents of septuplets? _____
2. **What** are the names of the babies? _____

3. **When** were the babies born? _____
4. **Where** is the McCaughey's hometown? _____
5. **Why** will the babies need special care for many weeks? _____



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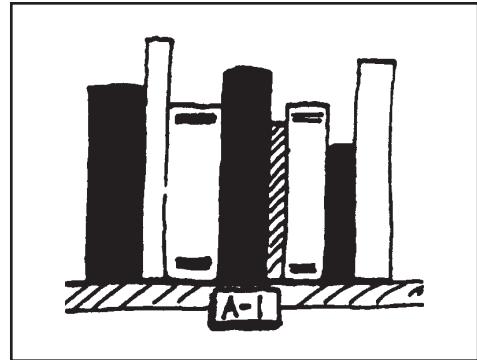
Library of Congress Has Books for Everyone

(WASHINGTON, D.C., 1964) — It was 150 years ago this year that America's biggest library, the Library of Congress, burned to the ground. Copies of all the written books of the time were kept in the Library of Congress. They were destroyed by fire in 1814 during a war with the British.

That fire didn't stop book lovers, though. The next year, they began to rebuild the library. To give it a boost, Thomas Jefferson gave 6,487 of his books.

The first libraries in the United States could be used by members only. The Library of Congress, though, was built for all people. From the start, it was America's national library. Today, the Library of Congress is one of the largest libraries in the world. There, people can find a copy of just about every book and magazine printed.

Libraries have been around since people first learned to write. One of the oldest libraries found dates back to about 5,000 years ago. The books were written on tablets made from clay. The people who took care of the books were called "men of the written tablets."



1. **Who** gave 6,487 books to the Library of Congress? _____
2. **What** can people find in the Library of Congress today? _____

3. **When** did the Library of Congress burn down? _____
4. **Where** is the Library of Congress located? _____
5. **Why** were the people who took care of the books in the oldest libraries called "men of the written tablets"? _____



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World Remembers Famous Doctor

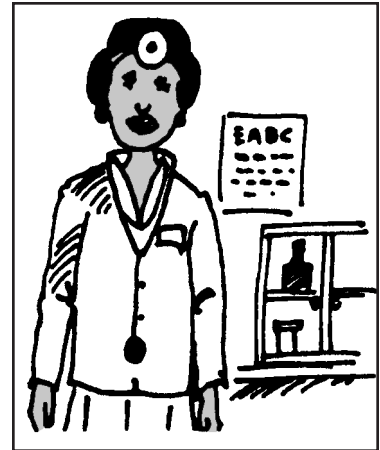
(NEW YORK CITY, January 13, 1977) — One of the world's great doctors died today. Dr. Myra Logan was a pioneer in medicine for 35 years. She was the first woman to ever operate on human hearts. She also studied new ways to treat people with cancer.

As a young woman, Dr. Logan won a scholarship. A scholarship is special money to pay for school. She used the money to go to medical school.

Dr. Logan's first job was in a hospital in Harlem, New York. Often working all night long, she operated on the worst kinds of wounds. Dr. Logan did not earn money from this job. It was supposed to be an honor to work there.

When Dr. Logan got her first job, not many women were doctors. Dr. Logan was also an African-American doctor, which was rare as well. These two things made her role as a doctor even more special.

Later in life, Dr. Logan was asked to be a part of the American College of Surgeons. This was a group of some of the world's best doctors. Dr. Logan was the first African-American woman chosen to be a member of this special group of doctors.



1. **Who** was a pioneer in medicine for 35 years? _____
2. **What** was Dr. Logan the first woman to do? _____

3. **When** did Dr. Logan die? _____
4. **Where** was Dr. Logan's first job? _____
5. **Why** didn't Dr. Logan earn money at the hospital in Harlem? _____



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President Lincoln Shot

(WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15, 1865)

Americans are in mourning today. President Abraham Lincoln died after being shot last night.

President Lincoln was watching a play at Ford's Theatre when he was killed. Police suspect that an actor named John Wilkes Booth may have been the shooter.

President Lincoln will always be thought of as the leader of the United States during the Civil War. He spent the last four years leading the Union states in their fight to abolish slavery. The President lived long enough to see the war end just a few weeks ago.

Lincoln was America's 16th President. Born in 1809 in Kentucky, he came from a poor family. When Lincoln was small, his mother died. Lincoln grew up doing farm chores. In his spare time, he read books.

Before he was the President of the United States, Lincoln had several jobs. He owned a store and worked for the post office. He learned to speak well and became a lawyer. Lincoln is survived by his wife, Mary, and two sons.



1. **Who** do police think shot President Lincoln? _____
2. **What** number president was Lincoln? _____
3. **When** was Lincoln born? _____
4. **Where** was Lincoln watching a play when he was shot? _____
5. **Why** will Lincoln always be thought of as "the leader of the United States during the Civil War"? _____



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Cochran Flies Faster Than Speed of Sound

(MAY 1953) — Jackie Cochran has become the first woman pilot to fly faster than the speed of sound. Cochran earned this honor by taking her plane to a height of 45,000 feet. Then she pointed the plane's nose toward the ground and sent the plane into a fast dive. As she approached the sound barrier, her plane began to shake and shudder.

A pilot named Chuck Yeager was the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound. He acted as Cochran's coach on the day she broke the sound barrier. He flew above her in a separate plane offering advice so that she was not in any danger.

Cochran, though, knew just what to do. She held onto the controls and watched the needle on her instrument panel. When it edged past the words *Mach One*, Cochran eased her plane out of its steep dive. She had broken the sound barrier! She returned to the ground safely, where a crowd waited to greet and congratulate her.



1. **Who** was the first pilot to fly faster than the speed of sound? _____
2. **What** did Jackie Cochran become the first woman to do? _____

3. **When** did Cochran pull her plane out of its steep dive? _____

4. **Where** did Yeager fly to coach Cochran? _____
5. **Why** did Yeager fly with Cochran? _____
