

Daily Comprehension

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WRITTEN BY: **Jack Kabakoff**
EDITED BY: **Marcella Acosta**
STORY ILLUSTRATIONS BY: **Danny Beck**

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INTRODUCTION

Daily Comprehension is a 12-book series with each volume covering a single month of the year. The format features an “on-this-day-in-history” approach. A short, factual story about a person, place, or event is presented for each day of the month and was chosen because of its particular significance on that certain date.

Each story is accompanied by an activity page, which tests the student’s comprehension of the article’s content. Activities include questions, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story requires the use of a dictionary, an almanac, an encyclopedia, or an atlas.

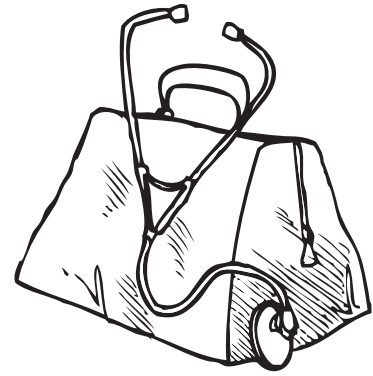
The books are designed for use in grades 5-12. Readability is on a 3rd-4th grade level.

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DR. CRAWFORD LONG

(1815-1878)



On November 1, 1815, Crawford Long was born in Danielsville, Georgia. He was a doctor who performed the first operation using ether to stop pain caused by surgery.

Dr. Long discovered that ether gas could put a patient to sleep during surgery. Before this, patients were given large amounts of alcohol or drugs to reduce the pain they felt during an operation. Until ether was used, operations had to be short because of the great pain suffered by the patient.

On March 30, 1842, Dr. Long performed the first operation on a man who was given ether. While he was in a sleep-like state, the doctor removed a tumor from the man's neck. The patient did not feel any pain at all during the surgery.

Dr. Long continued to use ether during surgery, but did not make his discovery known until 1848.

Meanwhile, Dr. William Morton, a dentist, was using nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, as a way to reduce pain when removing teeth. Dr. Morton first performed his surgery in 1846, four years after Dr. Long's surgery.

When Dr. Morton and others each claimed to be the first to use ether in an operation, Dr. Long challenged their claims.

After many years of debate, Dr. Long became known as the first person to use ether in surgery. Dr. Morton became the first person to perform an operation using ether in a public demonstration.

Dr. Morton went broke trying to prove he was the first to use ether in surgery, while Dr. Long continued as a successful surgeon.

Name_____

DR. CRAWFORD LONG

Write each word next to its definition.

surgery	patient	tumor	reduce	challenge	debate
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1. _____ to question the truth of a statement
2. _____ a person under the care of a doctor
3. _____ cutting open a body to repair damaged parts
4. _____ to make or become less in amount or size
5. _____ to discuss arguments for and against something
6. _____ a swelling or growth in the body that is not normal

Write the words or dates next to the statements describing them.

William Morton	1848	debate	Crawford Long	1846	1842
----------------	------	--------	---------------	------	------

1. _____ doctor who performed first surgery using ether
2. _____ year in which ether was first used in an operation
3. _____ name of dentist who first used nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, to reduce pain of teeth removal
4. _____ year in which gas was first used to remove teeth
5. _____ year Dr. Long first told about using ether for surgery
6. _____ what went on for many years to decide which doctor first used ether to reduce pain

Research: Look up the word *ether* in an encyclopedia. Why must people be very careful when using it?

DANIEL BOONE

(1734-1820)



On November 2, 1734, in a log cabin located near the present-day city of Reading, Pennsylvania, Daniel Boone was born. He became known as one of the most famous pioneers in American history.

It was Boone who explored the unknown lands of Kentucky, and he led many settlers into that state. It was his leadership and knowledge of the wilderness and of Indians that made him so important.

Boone was hired by Richard Henderson, who had bought land from the Indians. It was Boone's job to clear a road so settlers could reach those lands in Kentucky. This road became known as the Wilderness Road. It passed through the Cumberland Mountains. At the end of this road, Boone built a settlement he called Boonesborough. The fort he built was located near the present-day city of Lexington.

Boone was captured by Native Americans several times. One time while he was held prisoner, Boone heard that the Native Americans were planning to attack Boonesborough. He escaped and traveled for days in order to warn the settlement of the attack.

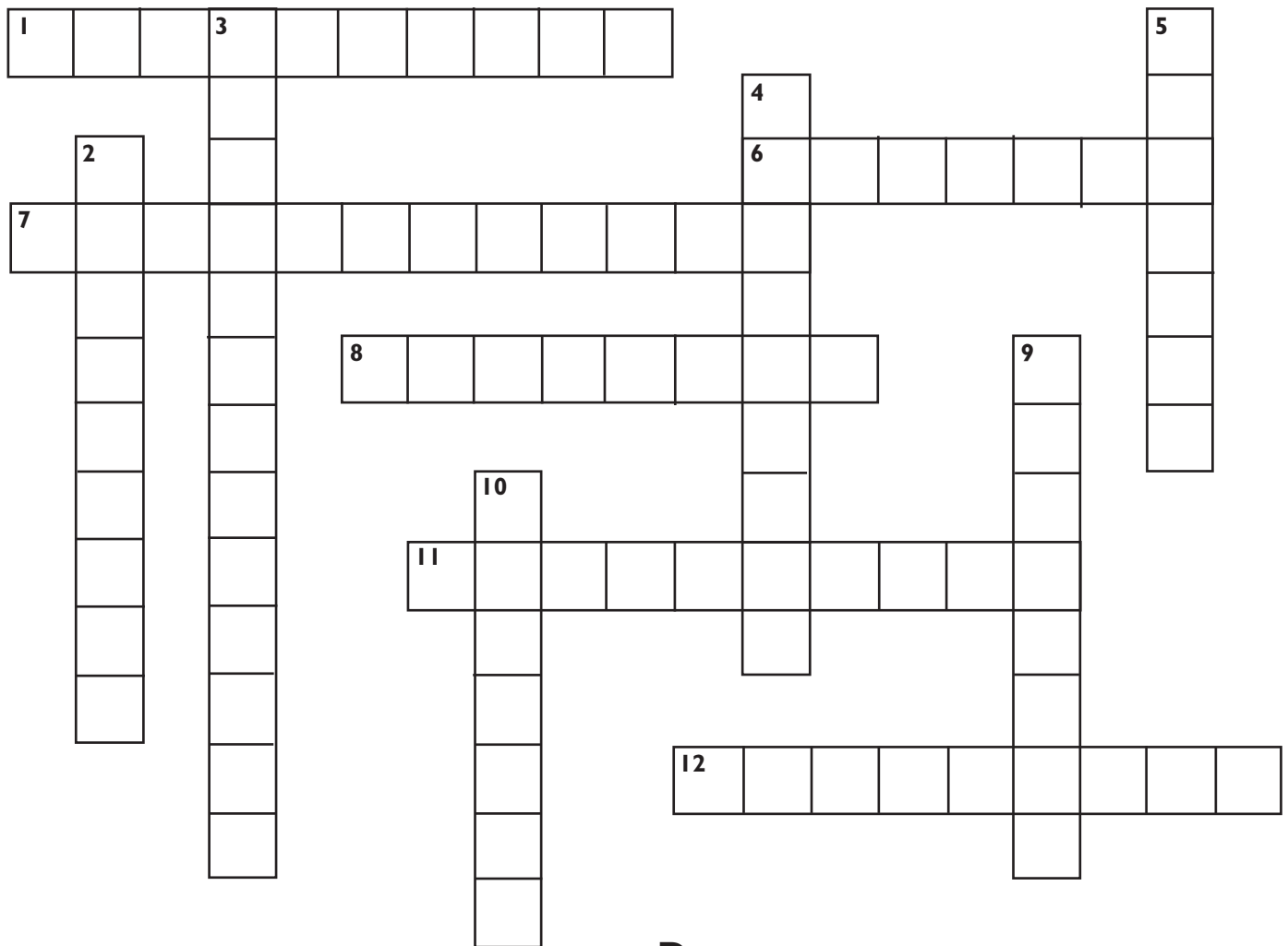
Twice, Daniel Boone lost land that he thought was his. In Kentucky, he tried to sell land to which he did not have a legal title. In Missouri, the United States government purchased land that the Spanish had given to him.

In 1814, the United States government, knowing that Boone was without land, gave back some of the land he had owned in Missouri.

Daniel Boone died in 1820, at the age of 86. He is buried with his wife, Rebecca, in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Name _____

DANIEL BOONE



Across:

1. The Wilderness Road passed through the _____ Mountains.
6. Boone's wife's was named _____.
7. Boone was born in the state of _____.
8. Boone explored the unknown lands of _____.
11. The _____ Road was built by Boone.
12. Boone was hired by a man named Richard _____ to explore Kentucky.

Down:

2. Boonesborough was near the present-day city of _____.
3. Boone built the settlement he called _____.
4. The city in which Daniel and Rebecca are buried is _____.
5. The U.S. government purchased land that the _____ had given to Boone.
9. Boone owned land in Kentucky and _____.
10. Boone was a famous _____.

Research: Find the word *pioneer* in a dictionary. Write its definition.