

Civil Disobedience

Peaceful Resistance

Civil disobedience is choosing not to follow a rule or law you think is unjust. It is a nonviolent way to protest. It is a peaceful method to express your discontent over injustice. Civil disobedience is an important method used throughout American history as a peaceful method to address problems. Abolitionists used it to protest slavery. Suffragists used it to demand the right for women to vote. Civil rights leaders used civil disobedience to demand justice for people of all races and genders. In fact, many people all over the world have used civil disobedience. It was used in the colonies of Africa and Asia before the colonies gained their independence.

The Civil Rights Movement

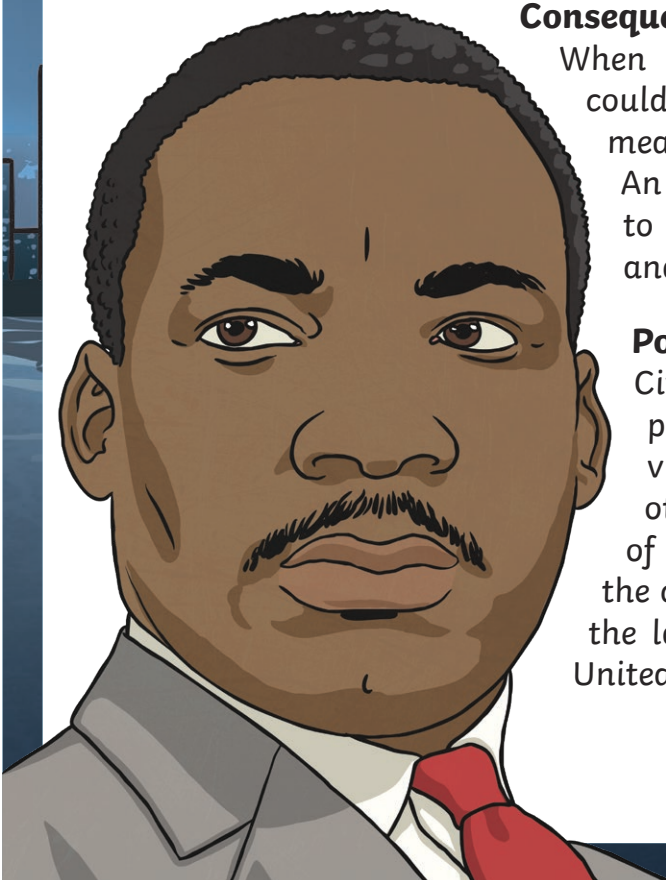
In the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used civil disobedience. His purpose was to further the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. He wanted people to be treated with justice, no matter their race, gender, or background. He organized protests like boycotts, sit-ins, and marches to bring attention to the unfair treatment of African Americans in the United States. He never used physical violence to get what he wanted. Even though the law said boycotts and sit-ins were illegal, protesters did them anyway to bring attention to their cause. Dr. King wrote a letter called "Letter from Birmingham Jail" after he was arrested for acting out of civil disobedience. This letter became very famous and still inspires many people today.

Consequences of Civil Disobedience

When people participate in civil disobedience, they could get arrested. Sometimes civil disobedience means breaking a law on purpose in a peaceful way. An example might be blocking a street or refusing to leave a property. The protesters remain peaceful and non-threatening no matter what happens.

Positive Changes

Civil disobedience has brought about many positive changes in the world. Through non-violent protests, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders brought to light the mistreatment of African Americans. In response to the actions of the civil rights leaders, government officials changed the laws to help bring equality to the people of the United States.



Questions

1. What is an example of civil disobedience?
 - boycott
 - fight
 - debate
 - stealing
2. Who used civil disobedience to bring about change during the Civil Rights Movement?
 - abolitionists
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - suffragists
3. What does non-violent mean?
 - illegal
 - legal
 - not hurting anyone
 - protesting
4. Someone can be arrested for engaging in civil disobedience because,
 - they are causing violence.
 - they are causing injustice.
 - they are breaking the law.
 - they are not being peaceful.
5. What is the main idea of the text?

6. What is one example from the text explaining how a law can be broken in a peaceful way?

Answers

1. What is an example of civil disobedience?

- boycott**
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4. Someone can be arrested for engaging in civil disobedience because,

- they are causing violence.
- they are causing injustice.
- they are breaking the law.**
- they are not being peaceful.

5. What is the main idea of the text?

The main idea of the text is that civil disobedience is a peaceful, nonviolent method used to protest an injustice.

6. What is one example from the text explaining how a law can be broken in a peaceful way?

One example from the text is a sit-in. Sit-ins were illegal, but the protestors remained peaceful in their disobedience.

Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead is the English name for the Mexican holiday called Día de los Muertos. It is a celebration honoring the dead. Surprisingly, it is not a somber or melancholy time, but a time of rejoicing and remembering. It is celebrated in Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, and other areas in Central and South America. It is also celebrated in areas of North America, such as California and Texas.

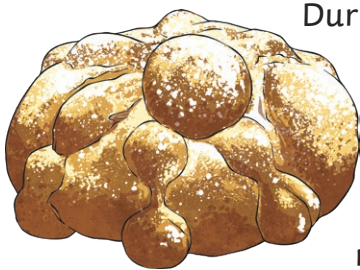


The celebration lasts for three days from October 31st until November 2nd. It is a fiesta of flowers, food, candles, parades, prayer, and fun. People dress up as skeletons and wear elaborate costumes and masks. The first day is the same day as Halloween. On this day at midnight, it is believed that the gates of heaven are opened. The second day, November 1st is when the spirits of deceased children (angelitos) visit. The third and final day, November 2nd is when the spirits of adults visit.

Ofrenda is the Spanish word for altar, which is an area created at graveyards with items to remember loved ones and where candles are lit to guide their spirits. Altars include pictures of the deceased person, items that they liked, food, candles, flowers, and gifts.



Candles (las velas) are lit during the afternoon at altars and grave sites and burn all evening. The light of the candles guides the way for souls. Sometimes, each candle lit represents a departed soul and certain colored candles have meanings: purple for pain, white for hope, and pink for celebration. The final thing added to the altars is incense, a perfumed, white smoke thought to attract souls of those who have gone.



During the celebrations, special bread, called Pan de Muertos (bread of the dead), is eaten. This bread represents the souls of those who have passed on. The bread is sometimes baked in the shape of skulls or in round shapes and decorated with bones. It is often decorated with brightly colored icing or seeds, which represent happiness in some areas of Mexico.

Day of the Dead

Skeletons are a constant emblem during Day of the Dead. Not only are skeletons seen in decorations but also in candy, chocolates, and toys. The toys and dolls are called 'calacas' and are used to introduce children to the idea of death so that they are not afraid of it. Often, the calacas are grinning because they are laughing at death. They are even shown as musicians or on horseback to show a joyful afterlife.



Questions

1. In what countries is the Day of the Dead celebrated? (Select all that apply.)
 - Germany
 - Mexico
 - United States
 - Ecuador
2. What special food is enjoyed on the Day of the Dead?
 - pasta
 - bread
 - cinnamon rolls
 - potatoes
3. Day of the Dead altars may include
 - a picture of a deceased loved one
 - a certificate of recognition
 - a piece of sheet music
 - a book
4. What is the Spanish word for candles?
 - angelitos
 - ofrenda
 - las velas
 - pan de muertos
5. What is the main idea of this passage? Support your answer with details from the text.

6. What is a symbol of the Day of the Dead and how is it used?

Answers

1. In what countries is the Day of the Dead celebrated? (Select all that apply.)

- Germany
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4. What is the Spanish word for candles?

- angelitos
- ofrenda
- las velas**
- pan de muertos

5. What is the main idea of this passage? Support your answer with details from the text.

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: The main idea of this text is the Day of the Dead is a holiday honoring the dead. Candles are lit for the dead to light the way for their souls. Alters are created to honor the dead with items that they liked, food, candles, flowers, and gifts.

6. What is a symbol of the Day of the Dead and how is it used?

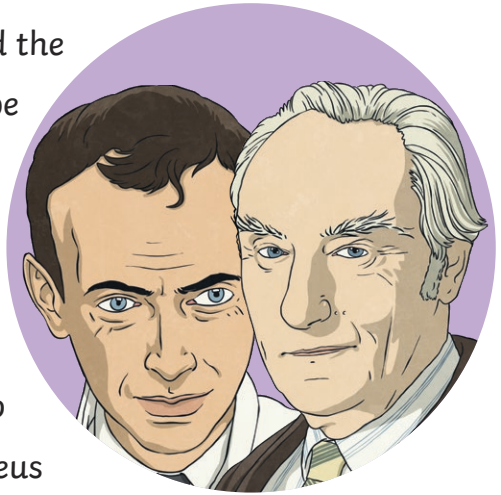
Answers will vary. A possible answer is: Skeletons are a symbol of the Day of the Dead. They are used as decorations and as shapes of candy and cakes.

DNA

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the most important molecule in living cells. It is a code for each individual organism. Your DNA is what tells your cells to make you unique but still similar to other humans.

DNA is a sequence of four bases that pair up with each other to make your genetic code. The bases are named adenine, thymine, guanine, and cytosine. The bases adenine and thymine always match up together. The bases guanine and cytosine always match up with each other. Scientists use the abbreviations A, T, G, and C for adenine, thymine, guanine, and cytosine.

DNA was first identified by Swiss biologist Friedrich Meischer in 1869. Scientists Watson, Crick, and Franklin discovered the structure of DNA in 1953. They realized it is in the shape of a double-helix. A double-helix is a twisted ladder shape. From their research of DNA, they realized each rung had a base pair on it. The order of the base pairs code for proteins in your cells. The DNA is what causes your cells, and you, to be unique. DNA is found in the nucleus of almost every cell in your body (with the exception of red blood cells). It is wrapped up in chromosomes.



DNA contains a lot of information, so it is a very large molecule. In fact, the DNA from just one of your cells would be about six feet long! The DNA from all of your cells combined would be two times the distance of our solar system! DNA is so efficient in storing information even the most powerful computer cannot match its ability. DNA's data storage capability is ten gigabytes of information per centimeter. To compare, 42 human cells can hold as much data as an iPad.

About **50 percent** of human DNA is the same as DNA found in bananas.



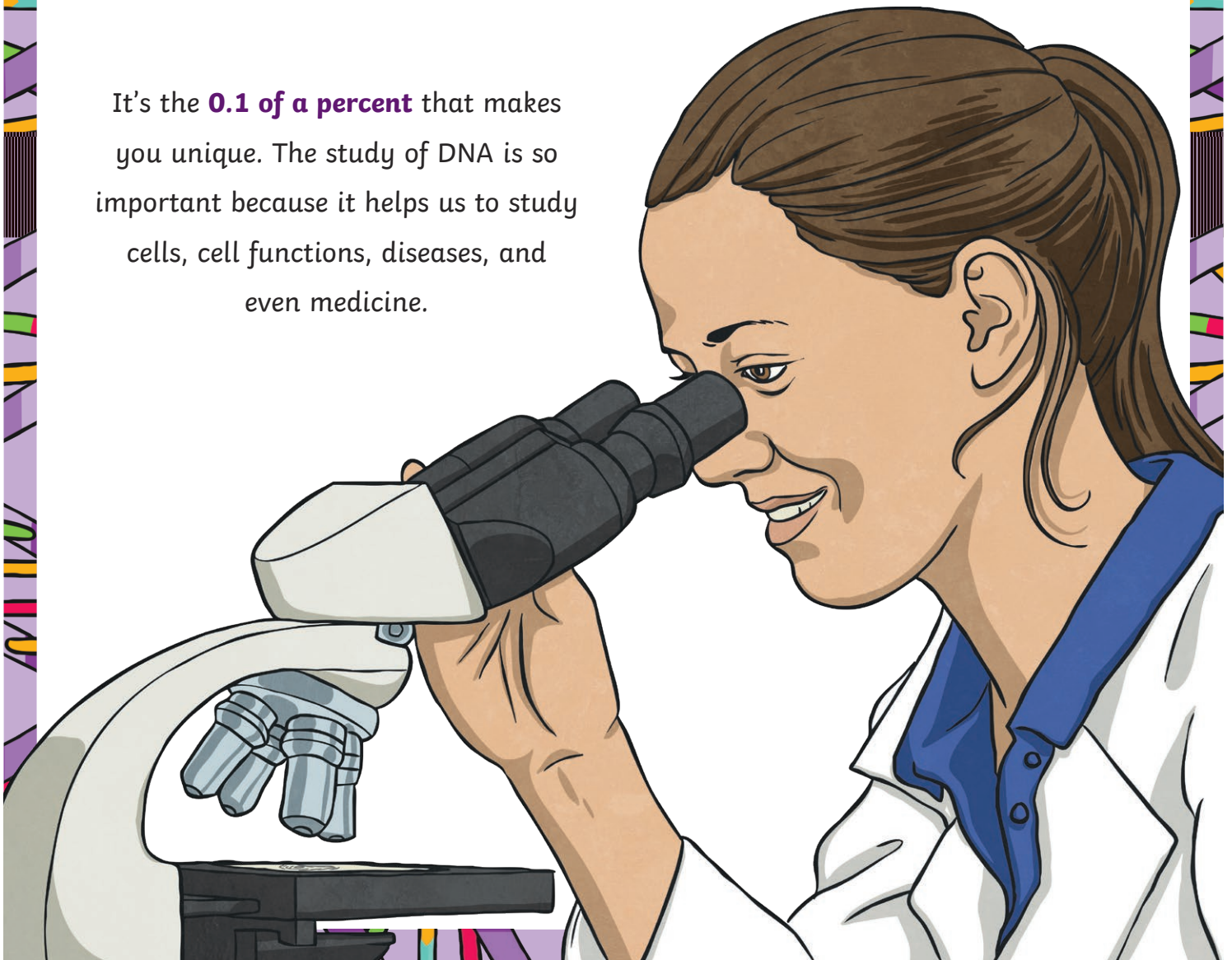
About **99.1 percent** of our DNA is the same as the chimpanzee.



About **99.9 percent** of the DNA of every person on the planet is exactly the same.



It's the **0.1 of a percent** that makes you unique. The study of DNA is so important because it helps us to study cells, cell functions, diseases, and even medicine.



Questions

1. What is the function of DNA?
 - a secret code for blood cells
 - make new cells
 - a code for each individual organism
 - destroy other cells
2. In what shape is a DNA molecule?
 - double-helix
 - figure-eight
 - pyramid
 - sphere
3. What organism has 99.1 percent of DNA in common with humans?
 - chimpanzees
 - ants
 - snakes
 - bananas
4. How much of your DNA makes you unique?
 - 99.9%
 - 50%
 - 99.1%
 - 0.1%

5. What four scientists helped us to learn about DNA?

6. Why is DNA such a large molecule?

Answers

1. What is the function of DNA?

- a secret code for blood cells
- make new cells
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- 99.9%
- 50%
- 99.1%
- 0.1%**

5. What four scientists helped us to learn about DNA?

The four scientists that helped us to learn about DNA were Watson, Crick, Franklin, and Meischer.

6. Why is DNA such a large molecule?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: DNA is such a large molecule because it contains the entire code for our whole body.

Katherine Johnson

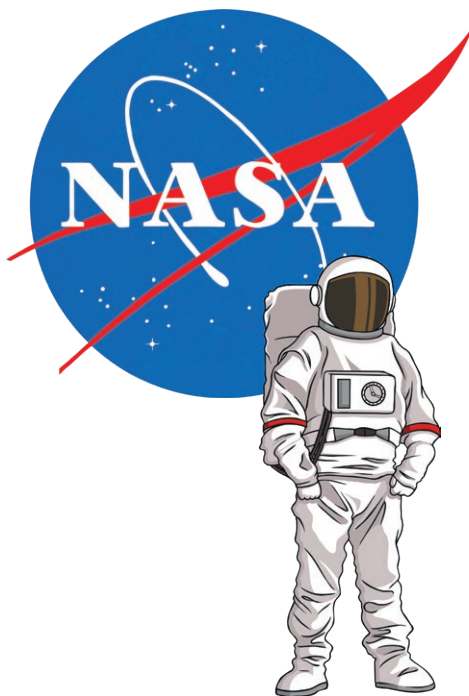
Katherine Johnson is a very important figure in history. She is special not only because she was a woman working in a traditionally male field, but she was also African American. When Katherine began working for NASA, African American people were treated as if they were not equal. She led the way in showing what women and African American people could achieve.

Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in West Virginia. Early in her life, Katherine's skill with numbers was clear. She began high school at ten, and at fourteen went to West Virginia State College. She studied mathematics and French. She graduated with high honors in 1937. She went on to teach at a school in Virginia.

In 1939, Katherine was one of only three African American students chosen to attend West Virginia University. In the early 1900s, it was uncommon for women to go to a university, especially if they were African American. Katherine took a break from her studies to raise her three daughters, then returned to teaching.



"Katherine Johnson at NASA in 1966" by [NASA @ Wikimedia commons] is licensed under [CC BY 3.0 US](#)



Katherine began working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the 1950s. She impressed her supervisor so much that within two weeks of starting the job, she was asked to work on a special project about space flight research. Her job was to study data from a test flight into space and to investigate a plane crash that had occurred due to turbulence.

In the 1950s, the United States and Russia began to compete in a space race. Katherine was asked to use her amazing math skills for different calculations and research. She plotted the path for America's first human spaceflight in 1961. This was a huge responsibility because if her calculations were wrong, the astronauts could have died.

Katherine Johnson

During her successful career with NASA, Katherine co-wrote 26 papers and calculated paths for space shuttles and emergency return directions. In 1986, after 35 years of working at NASA, Katherine Johnson retired.

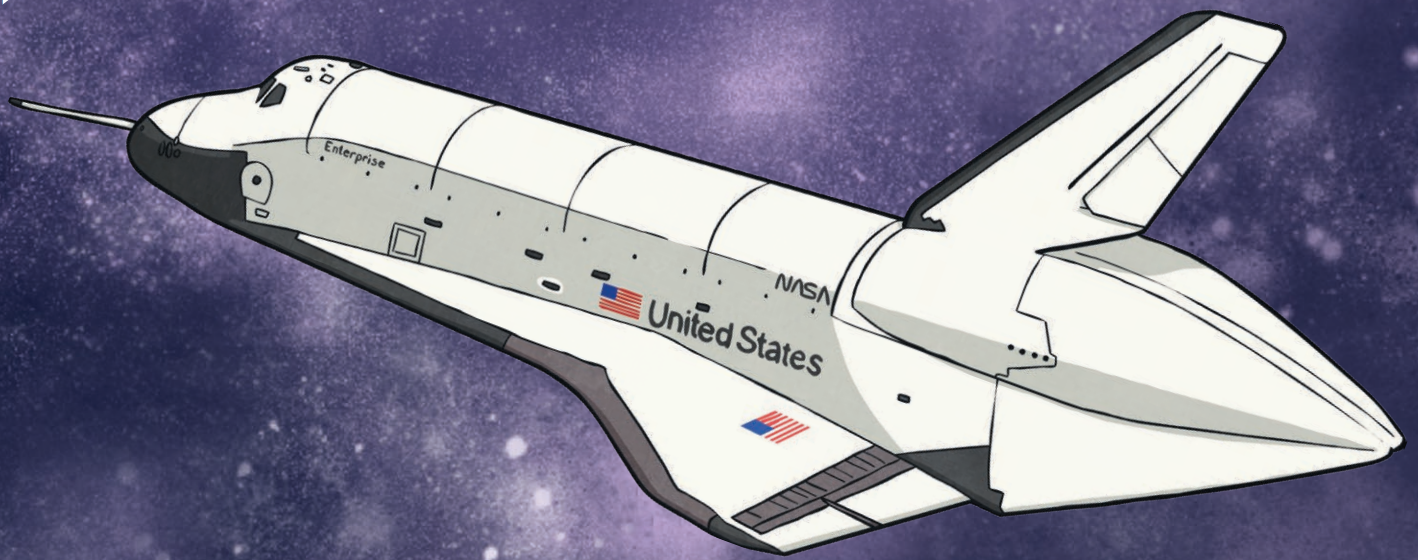
In 2015, Katherine Johnson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama. This medal is given to people who have helped America progress in the world.

In 2016, a building at NASA was named after her, and Katherine received a Silver Snoopy Award. This award is given to those who have made an outstanding contribution to flight safety and mission success.

Katherine Johnson died on February 24, 2020. She led the way for women and African Americans in the fields of space and mathematics.



"Katherine Johnson medal (cropped)"
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Questions

1. In what state was Katherine Johnson born?
 - Massachusetts
 - Maine
 - West Virginia
 - Florida
2. Which university did Katherine Johnson attend?
 - Stanford
 - West Virginia University
 - West Virginia Tech
 - Harvard
3. For which famous organization did Katherine work?
 - NASA
 - FBI
 - CIA
 - WHO

4. What was Katherine's major field of study?
 - science
 - engineering
 - math
 - literature

5. Why is Katherine Johnson an important example of the Civil Rights Movement?

6. Which of her accomplishments do you think made Katherine Johnson the proudest? Why?

Answers

1. In what state was Katherine Johnson born?
 - Massachusetts
 - Maine
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5. Why is Katherine Johnson an important example of the Civil Rights Movement?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: Katherine Johnson is an important example of the Civil Rights Movement because she was one of a few women and African Americans who worked for NASA during this time period.

6. Which of her accomplishments do you think made Katherine Johnson the proudest? Why?

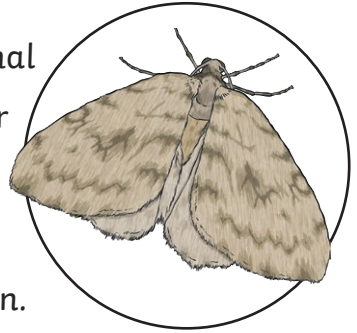
Answers will vary. Accept reasonable answers with an accomplishment stated and reasons to support their choice.

Sound and Animals

As humans, we are able to hear sounds that have frequencies between 20 Hz and 20,000 Hz. That is quite a range! Amazingly, there are animals that are able to hear even better than us!

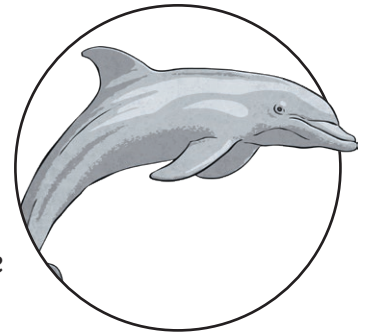
Bats and Moths

Scientists agree the animal (insects are a part of the animal kingdom) with the best hearing is the moth! A moth can hear frequencies even higher than bats. This is an evolutionary advantage because bats are moths' predators. Bats also have a large range of hearing perhaps to make up for their poor vision. They rely on their hearing to echolocate their prey.



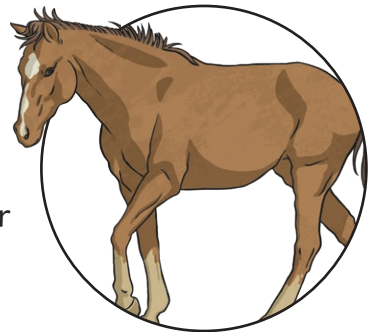
Dolphins

Dolphins, similar to bats, use echolocation to travel. They also use echolocation to locate prey and communicate with one another. They can hear sounds from 150 Hz to 150,000 Hz, and make sounds from 75 Hz to 150,000 Hz.



Horses

Horses hear a large range of frequencies, from 55 Hz to 33,000 Hz. Scientists believe this amazing sense of hearing enables horses to listen for predators. It also helps them listen for other dangers so they can warn their herd members and find safety.



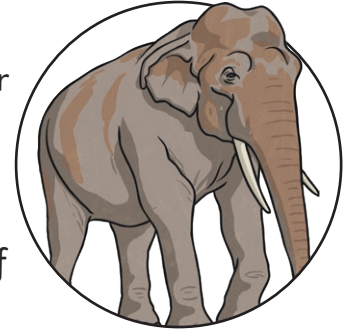
Owls

Owls can hear sound frequencies from 200 Hz to 12,000 Hz. Also, their ears are uniquely structured. One ear sits further back while one ear is lower on the head than the other. Scientists believe this helps owls hear their prey more effectively. Since owls hunt in the dark, their keen sense of hearing aids in their survival.



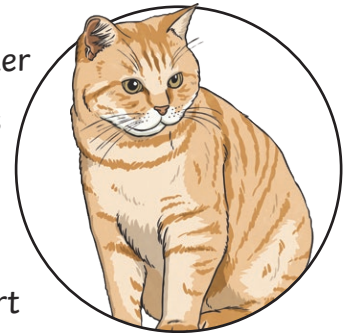
Elephants

Elephants can hear infrasound or sounds that have a lower frequency than human ears can detect. Their range of hearing is from 16 Hz to 12,000 Hz. Their amazing sense of hearing allows them to communicate with each other and be aware of any dangers in their environment.



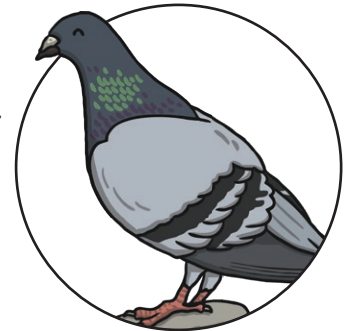
Dogs and Cats

Dogs and cats can hear ultrasound or sounds that have a higher frequency than human ears can detect. These ultrasounds aid cats in hunting. Interestingly, when humans are training their dogs, they often use dog training whistles which emit ultrasound. These whistles do not disturb humans but do alert their dogs.



Pigeons

Pigeons can hear infrasound which allows them to hear disturbances in their environment, including natural disasters. This sense has helped pigeons to be among the best navigators in the world.



Questions

1. What pair of predator and prey have incredible hearing capacity?
 - bats and moths
 - snakes and mice
 - dogs and cats
 - birds and grasshoppers
2. Which two animals are able to hear infrasound?
 - bats and moths
 - dogs and cats
 - elephants and pigeons
 - horses and dolphins
3. What unique adaptation do owls have to enable them to be efficient predators?
 - ability to hear ultrasound
 - ability to hear infrasound
 - non-symmetrical placement of ears
 - strong wings
4. Which animal (of those listed) can hear the highest frequencies?
 - dogs
 - dolphins
 - owls
 - horses

5. Why is it important for horses to be able to hear a large range of frequencies?

6. How does the ability to hear infrasound allow pigeons to be among the best navigators in the world?

Answers

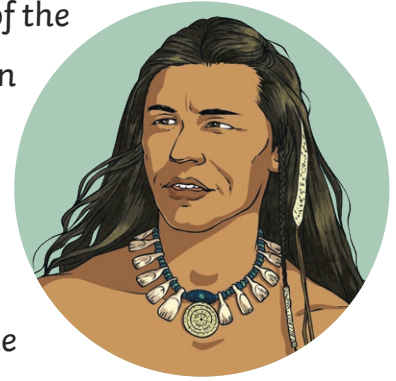
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 - dogs
 - dolphins**
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 - horses
5. Why is it important for horses to be able to hear a large range of frequencies?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: It is important for horses to hear a range of frequencies so they can alert their herd of danger.
6. How does the ability to hear infrasound allow pigeons to be among the best navigators in the world?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: The ability to hear infrasound allow pigeons to hear natural disasters and avoid them.

Squanto

Tisquantum, or Squanto, as he is better known, was a member of the Patuxet Native American tribe in what is now the northeastern United States. It is thought that he was born in 1580. He is best known for supporting and guiding the first English settlers who arrived in that area.



Not much is known about Squanto's early life, although some documents have recorded general information about his tribe.

The land he lived on, near what is now known as Cape Cod, was good for farming for extended seasons. Because of this, Squanto's people were able to produce enough harvest to remain settled. They did not have to live as nomads, like many other native tribes of the time. When settlers arrived in the "New World," they discovered land that was ready for farming although no people were living there. Many of Squanto's tribe had died after catching new diseases brought by explorers and traders and no longer occupied the land where the Patuxet once lived.

Squanto was abducted in 1605 by explorer and settler George Weymouth, who had come to scout the land for future settlements. Squanto found his way home and was kidnapped several more times over the course of his lifetime. During his time in captivity, Squanto learned to speak English. His English skills were what enabled him to support the colonists as they tried to settle in Plymouth. He taught the settlers how to catch fish, hunt, and grow crops. He also organized meetings between the settlers and leaders of the tribe he lived with. With Squanto's help as an interpreter, Chief Massasoit and the colonists were able to make a peace treaty. Many scholars believe that without Squanto's help, the settlers would not have been able to survive the cruel winters of New England. After the crops were harvested, Massasoit and many of his warriors shared in the "First Thanksgiving" with the English settlers. Squanto is considered a key figure in this event because he helped peaceful communication between the two groups.

Squanto

Squanto suddenly fell ill after working with the colonial leader, William Bradford. They were on an expedition to find new groups to trade with and land to explore. One night during the voyage, Squanto became very sick with a fever and his nose started bleeding. Within a few days, Squanto passed away. According to reports, at his death, Squanto asked Bradford to pray to his own God so that he would go to the Christian heaven.

Questions

1. Squanto's early life was _____.
 - well-documented.
 - lived in the southeastern United States.
 - lived in the northeastern United States.
 - peacefully lived among his tribespeople.
2. Squanto _____.
 - never learned to speak English.
 - helped translate between the settlers and Massasoit.
 - tried to protect his native lands from European settlers.
 - taught the settlers how to make clothes.
3. When the settlers arrived in the New World, they _____.
 - found the land occupied by Native Americans.
 - met Massasoit who introduced them to Squanto.
 - fell ill with diseases from the New World.
 - found the land deserted and ready to occupy.
4. Squanto was affected by the settlers in all of the following ways except:
 - He was kidnapped.
 - He was asked to leave the settlers' land.
 - He was impacted by the settlers' religion.
 - He was appreciated by the settlers.
5. Imagine you are Squanto. Write a persuasive piece trying to explain to Massasoit why he should try to live peacefully with the settlers.

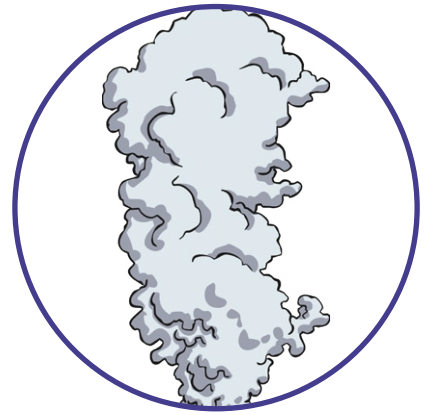
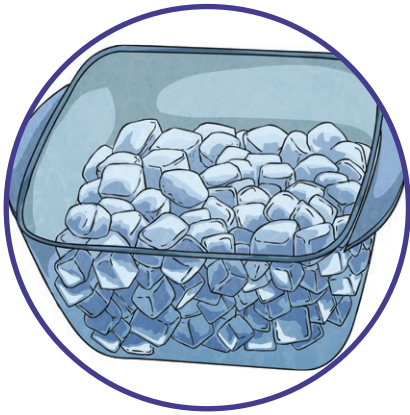
6. Write a statement to describe the main idea of paragraph 3. Use details from the text to support your answer.

Answers

1. Squanto's early life was **lived in the northeastern United States**.
 - well-documented.
 - lived in the southeastern United States.
 - lived in the northeastern United States.**
 - peacefully lived among his tribespeople.
2. Squanto **helped translate between the settlers and Massasoit**.
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Answers will vary.
6. Write a statement to describe the main idea of paragraph 3. Use details from the text to support your answer. **Answers will vary. Despite being kidnapped, Squanto learned English and used it to help the settlers when they came to Squanto's land.**

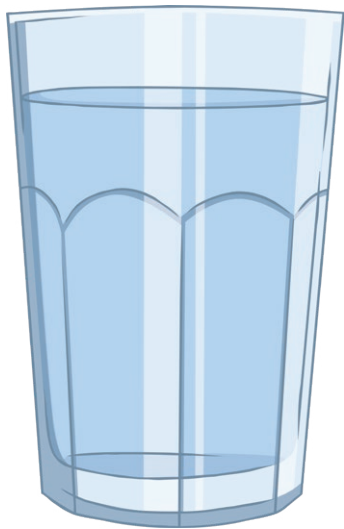
States of Matter

All matter is made up of atoms, but did you know there are three common states of matter? They are solid, liquid, and gas.



Atoms in a solid state of matter are closely packed together. In fact, they are so tightly packed that they really cannot move, only vibrate.

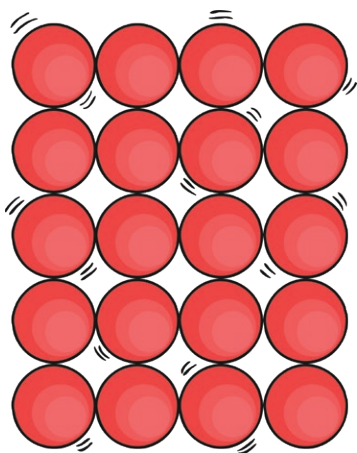
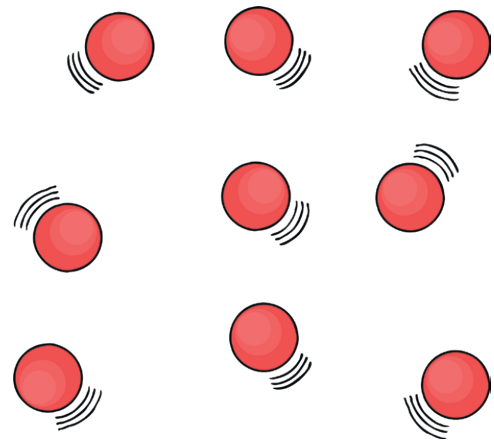
Solids have a definite shape and volume. This means the shape and volume do not change. Some examples of solids are a piece of wood, your family's computer, your favorite car, and an ice cube.



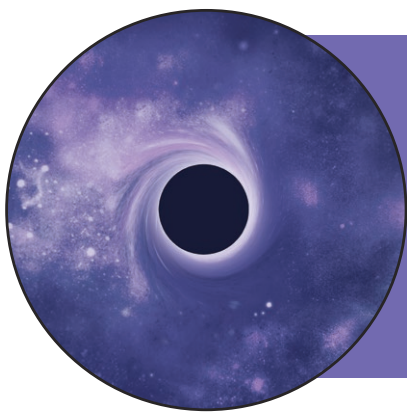
Atoms in a liquid are not as closely packed together as a solid. They are in an organized order but can move a little bit. Liquids have a definite volume but take the shape of the container they are in. For example, if you poured a cup of water into a cylinder or cube, the water will take the shape of the cylinder or cube. Regardless of the container, its volume (one cup) will remain the same. Some examples of liquids are water, oil, and juice.

States of Matter

Atoms in a gas move freely. They are not in an organized arrangement and have random motion. They have an indefinite volume and shape. This means their volume and shape change depending on where they are. For example, if you put steam into a big soup pot or into a box, the steam will spread out in each container to fill the volume and shape of the container. Some examples of gases are water vapor, oxygen, and nitrogen.



Did you know there is actually a fourth state of matter? It is called plasma. Plasma is the most common state of matter in the universe (but not very common on Earth). Atoms in plasma move very fast (have lots of kinetic energy), and their electrons group together so the atoms act as one instead of different parts. Plasma is present in stars, fluorescent lights, and even some televisions.



There is also a fifth state of matter called Bose-Einstein condensates (BEC). BEC matter joins all molecules together to create a "super-molecule." Though not very common, scientists believe BEC matter is found in black holes.

Questions

1. What is the most common state of matter in the universe?
 - solid
 - liquid
 - gas
 - plasma
2. Which state of matter is thought to be present in black holes?
 - liquid
 - Bose-Einstein condensates
 - plasma
 - gas
3. Which state of matter has an indefinite volume and shape?
 - gas
 - solid
 - liquid
 - plasma
4. What makes each state of matter different?
 - amount of atoms
 - movement (energy) of atoms
 - size of atoms
 - shape of atoms
5. What states of matter were present in your breakfast this morning? (List the item and its shape of matter)

6. Can the same molecules be changed from one state of matter to another? Provide at least one example.

Answers

1. What is the most common state of matter in the universe?
 - solid
 - liquid
 - gas
 - plasma**
2. Which state of matter is thought to be present in black holes?
 - liquid
 - Bose-Einstein condensates**
 - plasma
 - gas
3. Which state of matter has an indefinite volume and shape?
 - gas**
 - solid
 - liquid
 - plasma
4. What makes each state of matter different?
 - amount of atoms
 - movement (energy) of atoms**
 - size of atoms
 - shape of atoms
5. What states of matter were present in your breakfast this morning? (List the item and its shape of matter)

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: Liquid was present in my breakfast because I drank milk. Solid was present in my breakfast because I had a banana.
6. Can the same molecules be changed from one state of matter to another? Provide at least one example.

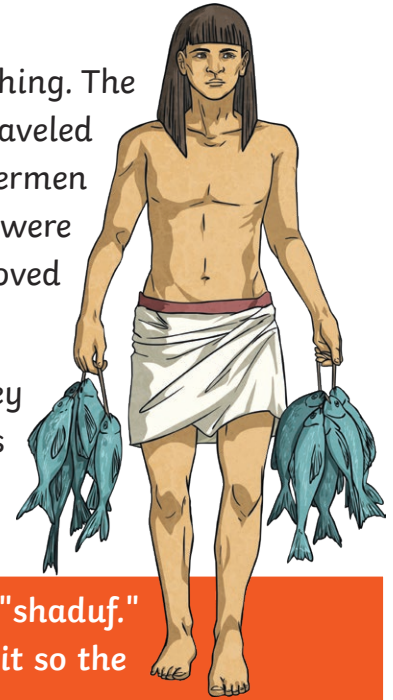
Answers will vary. A possible answer is: Yes, the same molecules can be changed from one state of matter to another, for example water turns from steam to liquid to ice.

Survival in Ancient Egypt

At 4,258 miles long, the Nile River is the longest river in the world. It starts in the mountains of Tanzania and flows through most of northeastern Africa. The Nile River was crucial to survival in ancient Egypt.

Egyptian people relied heavily on the river for drinking and bathing. The Nile was also an important transportation route. Traders traveled along the river. They transported items to other areas. Fishermen used the Nile to look for a healthy catch. The fish they caught were an important source of food for ancient Egyptians. Sailors moved materials, such as stones, for making pyramids.

Pharaohs enjoyed cruising up and down the river in luxury. They relaxed in custom-built vessels. Meanwhile, ordinary Egyptians created inventive ways of using the river as extensively as possible.



One important invention, still used widely today, is the "shaduf." This was designed to scoop water from the river and move it so the water could be sprinkled on land to help the crops grow.

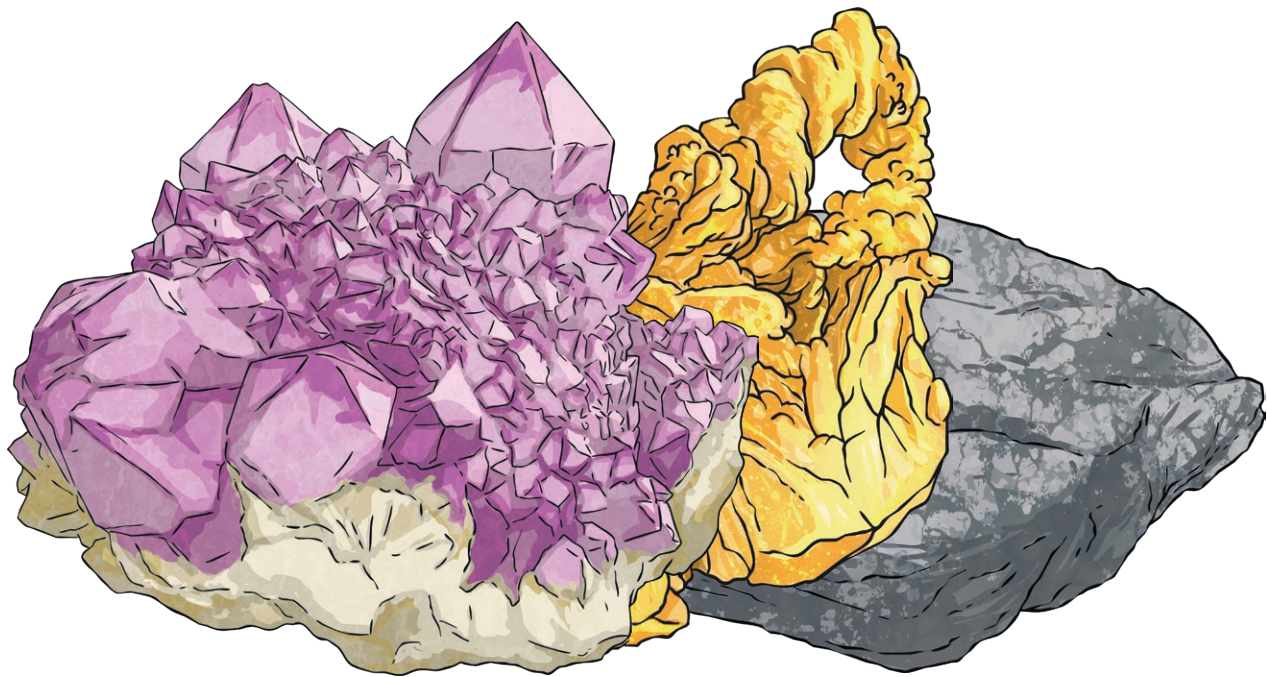


The ancient Egyptians also relied upon the Nile River for flooding. Flooding was essential for survival because it helped water crops. Flooding was predictable and wasn't considered a natural disaster. Not only did the flooding help water crops, but it also deposited fertile soil along the banks of the Nile. The fertile soil gave this land the name "black land." The soil was used during the non-flooding season to grow crops to feed the ancient Egyptians. A useful crop that grew along the river was papyrus reeds. They were dried and used to make a type of paper.

The flooding of the Nile also helped ancient Egyptians survive by providing shelter. When the Nile flooded, it left behind fertile soil, as well as mud. The ancient Egyptians used this mud to build mud-brick homes.



Away from the river, Egyptians relied on the "red land." This was the red desert where nothing grew. It protected the people of ancient Egypt by separating the country from neighboring countries and invading armies. The "red land" was rich in precious metals and gems. These included gold, copper, granite, limestone, amethyst, alabaster, and turquoise.



Questions

1. What crop did the ancient Egyptians use to make paper?
 - wheat
 - papyrus
 - oats
 - date palms
2. Where does the Nile River begin?
 - Southeastern Africa
 - Western Africa
 - Tanzania
 - Kenya
3. Which of the following was NOT a way the ancient Egyptians used the Nile River?
 - political boundaries
 - transportation route
 - flooding
 - food source
4. What was the shaduf used for?
 - fishing
 - watering farmland
 - boating
 - making paper
5. How did the ancient Egyptians rely upon the Nile River for survival?

6. Why did the Egyptians survival depend upon the red land?

Answers

1. What crop did the ancient Egyptians use to make paper?
 - wheat
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 - political boundaries**
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4. What was the shaduf used for?
 - fishing
 - watering farmland**
 - boating
 - making paper

5. How did the ancient Egyptians rely upon the Nile River for survival?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: The ancient Egyptians relied upon the Nile for survival because they used it for food (fishing), transportation, and a water source for drinking and bathing.

6. Why did the Egyptians survival depend upon the red land?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: Egyptians relied upon the red land for protection against invading enemies.

The Origins of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day of celebrating love and is enjoyed by people around the world on February 14th. But how did this day become a day of Cupid, hearts, greeting cards, and red roses, and who was Valentine?

Valentine's Day Origins

Ideas about who Valentine was and how Valentine's Day began differ. Many people believe Valentine's Day started from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, a celebration of love.

The first recorded use of the name Valentine's Day is from the 14th century. Geoffrey Chaucer, a renowned English writer, wrote a poem to celebrate the engagement of King Richard II to Anne of Bohemia. He wrote: "For this was on Valentine's Day / When every bird comes there to choose his mate." This idea of a day dedicated to love appealed to the medieval ideals of chivalry at this time.



Who Was Valentine?

Valentine may have been an early Christian saint. During his time, it was a crime to be Christian. The most popular legend says he was a priest. He was arrested and imprisoned by the Roman emperor, Claudius II, for hiding other Christians. The legend says that Claudius asked Valentine to convert from Christianity to Paganism. When he refused, Claudius had Valentine executed. Before his execution, it is believed Valentine sent a letter to the jail keeper's daughter signed, "Your Valentine," a greeting we still use today.

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Valentine's Day is known particularly for the giving of cards and gifts. In the 18th century, this practice became a business. In 1797, a publisher in England wrote a collection of poetry called "The Young Man's Valentine Writer." This volume contained verses for people who were unable to write their own romantic poetry.

While Valentine's cards were originally handmade, factories began to mass produce them in the mid-19th century. The cards were often very fancy, with elaborate lace and ribbon attached. In 1835, it is estimated that 60,000 Valentine's cards were mailed out in Britain!



The Origins of Valentine's Day

In 1847, a woman named Esther Howland made and sold the first Valentine's Day cards in the United States. She received a Valentine's card from Britain and wanted to recreate the style of cards for the U.S. She began producing the cards on an assembly line in Worcester, Massachusetts. The cards soon became popular across the country.

Now around 190 million Valentine's Day cards are sent in the United States each year! This includes cards for spouses, children, grandparents, and friends. Many children also give gifts to their classmates and teachers.



Questions

1. Valentine's Day may have started with this festival:

- Easter
- Lupercalia
- Advent
- Christmas

2. The person who may have started Valentine's Day.

- Saint Valentine
- Cupid
- Chaucer
- Claudius II

3. Approximately how many Valentine's cards are sent each year in the United States?

- 290 million
- 190 trillion
- 190 million
- 2 billion

4. In what century did factories began mass producing Valentine's Day cards?

- mid-twentieth century
- mid-nineteenth century
- eighteenth century
- fourteenth century

5. How did Valentine's Day cards become popular in the United States?

6. Compare and contrast ways you celebrate Valentine's Day and ways people celebrated in the mid-nineteenth century?

Answers

- Valentine's Day may have started with this festival:
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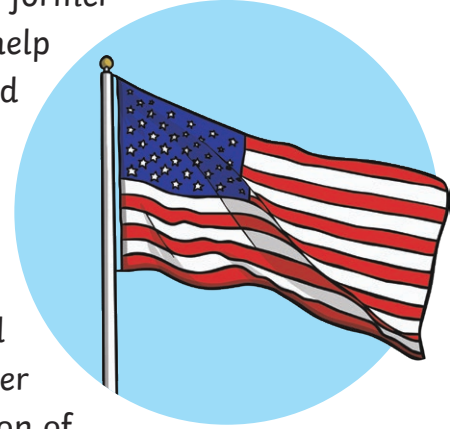
Valentine's Day became popular when Esther Howland made and sold the first Valentine's Day cards in the United States based upon those distributed in Britain.
- Compare and contrast ways you celebrate Valentine's Day and ways people celebrated in the mid-nineteenth century?

Answers may vary. A possible answer is: I make and send Valentine's Day cards just like in the mid-nineteenth century, but my class also has Valentine's Day parties.

True Stories of 9/11 Heroes

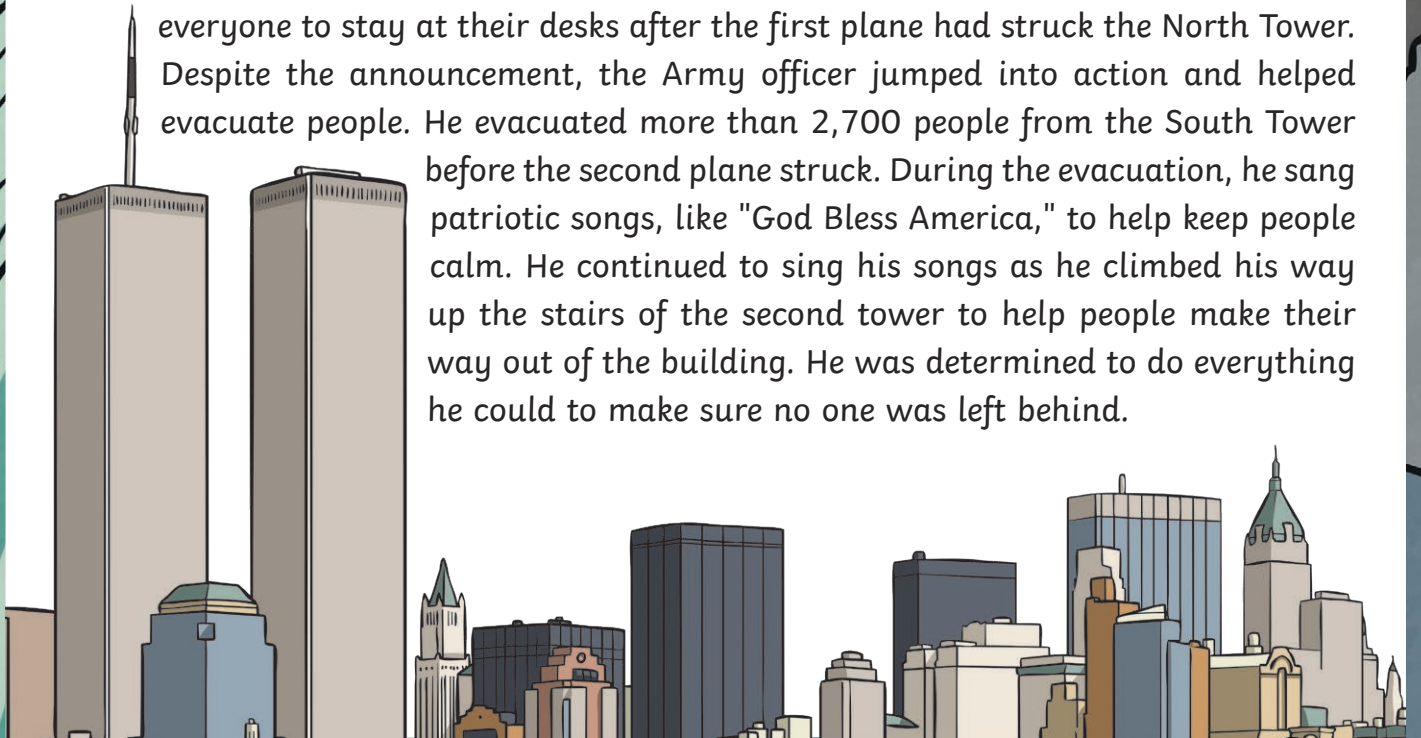
Two Former Marines Rush to Help

After hearing the World Trade Center was attacked, two former Marines rushed to put on their uniforms and offer help at the site. Before they arrived, both of the towers had collapsed. They risked their lives to search for any survivors who could be stuck under the rubble. With only a flashlight and shovels as tools, they set to work. They yelled out asking survivors to call back and let them know they were there. Two police officers had been trapped under the rubble when the second tower collapsed. The officers called out and caught the attention of the Marines. The Marines and other rescue workers spent almost 11 hours digging in the building rubble. They were able to rescue both police officers and reunite them with their families.



Army Officer Encourages Survivors with Songs

A highly respected Army officer, who worked for security in the South Tower, was shocked when an announcement came over the intercom. The announcement told everyone to stay at their desks after the first plane had struck the North Tower. Despite the announcement, the Army officer jumped into action and helped evacuate people. He evacuated more than 2,700 people from the South Tower before the second plane struck. During the evacuation, he sang patriotic songs, like "God Bless America," to help keep people calm. He continued to sing his songs as he climbed his way up the stairs of the second tower to help people make their way out of the building. He was determined to do everything he could to make sure no one was left behind.

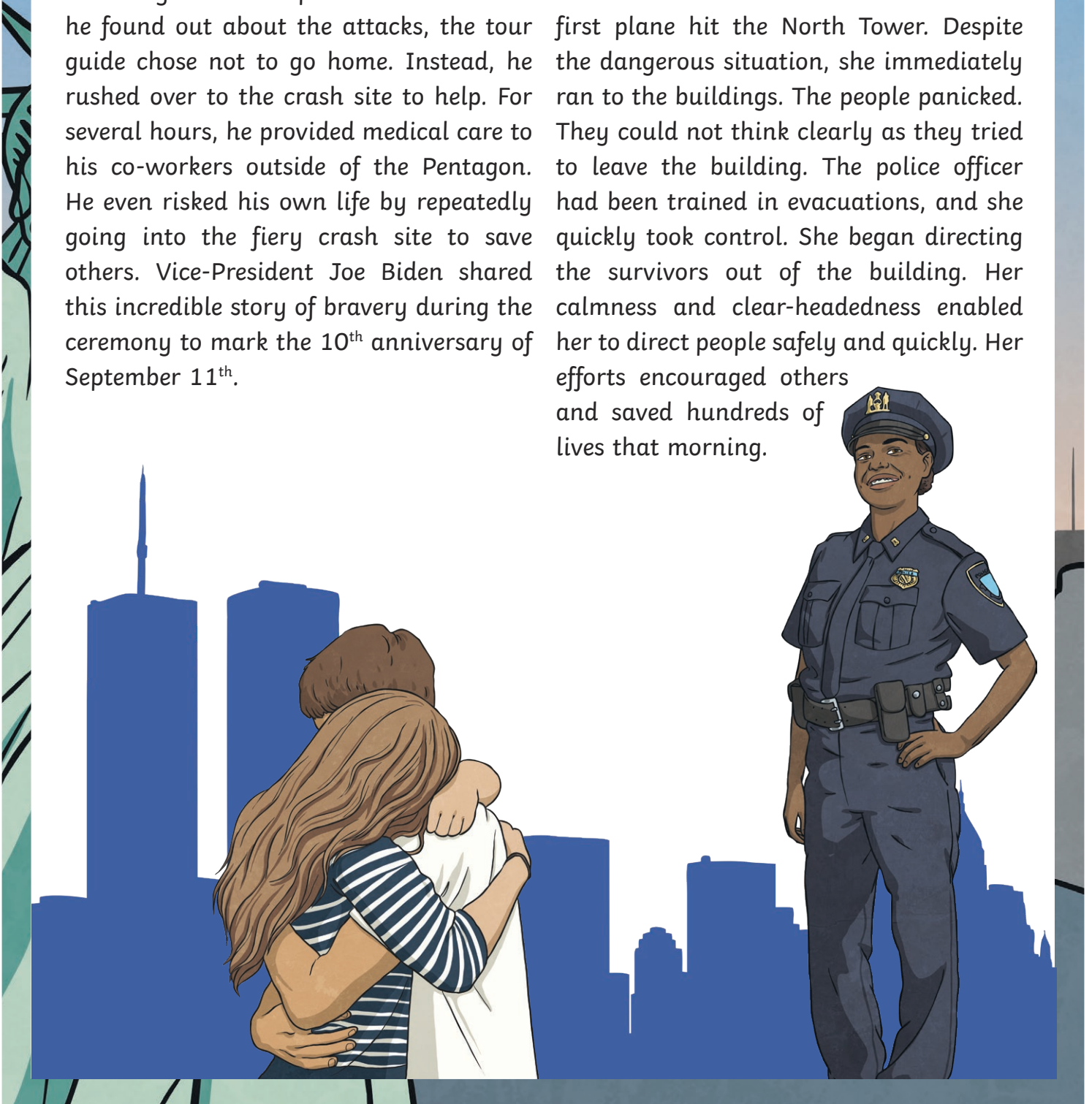


Pentagon Tour Guide Provides Medical Aid

A trained emergency medical technician (EMT) was working at the Pentagon as a tour guide on September 11th. When he found out about the attacks, the tour guide chose not to go home. Instead, he rushed over to the crash site to help. For several hours, he provided medical care to his co-workers outside of the Pentagon. He even risked his own life by repeatedly going into the fiery crash site to save others. Vice-President Joe Biden shared this incredible story of bravery during the ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of September 11th.

Police Officer Reports Attack and Saves Hundreds

A New York City police officer was the first person to report the attack on the World Trade Center. She witnessed the first plane hit the North Tower. Despite the dangerous situation, she immediately ran to the buildings. The people panicked. They could not think clearly as they tried to leave the building. The police officer had been trained in evacuations, and she quickly took control. She began directing the survivors out of the building. Her calmness and clear-headedness enabled her to direct people safely and quickly. Her efforts encouraged others and saved hundreds of lives that morning.



Questions

1. When two former Marines helped on 9/11, they only had which of the following to use as tools?
 - compasses and flashlights
 - flashlights and shovels
 - flashlights and hammers
 - shovels and cell phones
2. Whom did Vice-President Joe Biden honor at the 10th anniversary of 9/11?
 - a police officer
 - an EMT
 - a former Marine
 - an Army officer
3. How many people did the Army officer save in the South Tower?
 - 3,000
 - 5,400
 - 2,700
 - 1,800
4. What qualities helped the police officer evacuate hundreds of people from the North Tower?
 - patience and kindness
 - self-control and intelligence
 - creativity and persistence
 - calmness and clear-headedness

Questions

5. Which of the rescuers are you most like and why?

6. What other tools do you think the former Marines could have used while they were searching for survivors in the rubble? Why? (List at least two tools and a reason for each.)

Answers

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Answers

5. Which of the rescuers are you most like and why?

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: I am most like the Army officer because I like to cheer people up like he did by singing songs.

6. What other tools do you think the former Marines could have used while they were searching for survivors in the rubble? Why? (List at least two tools and a reason for each.)

Answers will vary. A possible answer is: A loudspeaker to make their voices heard by the survivors.