

It's Hot Here!

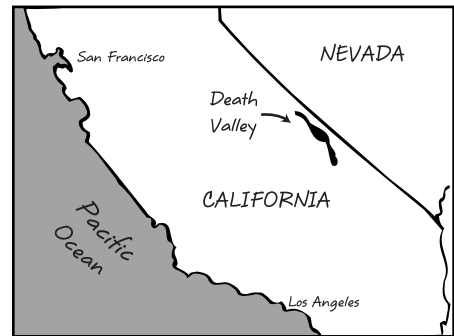
Name _____

Death Valley is in the state of California. Its name sounds gloomy, but it is a pretty place. It is one of our national parks. There are beautiful wild flowers. You can see colorful sand dunes. You can find snow-covered mountains. You can also find lots of sun! Death Valley is one of the hottest places in the United States.

Much of the land is below sea level. It is the lowest place in North America. The weather is harsh, but the desert life is beautiful. More than 900 kinds of plants live in Death Valley. These plants have adapted to the desert. There is very little rain here. When it does rain, the flowers burst with color.

There are some animals that live in Death Valley. Most of the animals only come out at night. During the day, it can get as high as 125 degrees. Night is much cooler.

How did the park get its name? It was named for the miners who came during the Gold Rush of 1849. Many miners didn't know it would be so hot. They didn't have enough water. They died of thirst. The many deaths led to the name, Death Valley.



Answer the questions.

1. This story is about _____.
2. This park is in the state of _____.
3. Much of the park is below _____.
4. There are more than _____ kinds of plants living in Death Valley.
5. During the day, the temperature can go up to _____ degrees.
6. What happened in 1849 to bring people to the valley? _____
7. Do you think Death Valley is a good name for this park? Why? _____

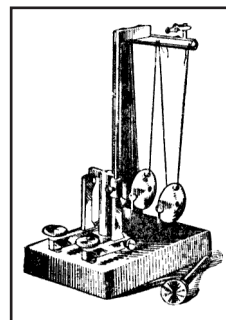
Tick-Tock

Name _____

Time is important to all of us. What would we do if we didn't know what time it was? One of the earliest ways to tell time was by the sun. People used sundials to mark the hours. It was only a few hundred years ago that we had a way to tell time well.

The first clock was made at the end of the 13th century. It used gears. The gears used weights on ropes. A bell rang each hour.

Now there are many kinds of clocks. The clock you see most often is the watch. We wouldn't have watches if it weren't for Peter Henlein. He was a locksmith. He developed the mainspring. A mainspring is a wire that is coiled. The wire is about two feet long before it is coiled. The mainspring goes in a winding watch. When you wind the watch, the coil gets tight. As time passes, the coil gets loose. Then you need to wind it again.



Today most watches run by batteries. They do not need to be wound. The watch works until the battery goes bad. Many clocks run on batteries too.

Answer the questions.

1. Before we had clocks, what was one way people used to tell time?
 - a. gears
 - b. bells
 - c. sundials
2. What made clocks work long ago?
 - a. batteries
 - b. weights
 - c. winding it
3. Who made the first mainspring for watches? _____
4. What is a mainspring? _____
5. The word *watch* can have several meanings. Which meaning was used in this story?
 - a. to look at for a period of time
 - b. to guard carefully
 - c. a small timepiece
6. How do most watches run today? _____

Sights and Sounds

Name _____

The window is open. A cool breeze is blowing. I hear cars and trucks on the street below. I hear the birds sing and look outside. A robin is building a nest. First she flies to the ground. She picks up a piece of string. Then she takes the string back to her nest.



Answer the questions.

1. What time of year is it?
 - a. fall
 - b. winter
 - c. spring
 - d. summer
2. What gives you a clue about the time of year? _____

3. Where am I?
 - a. in the country
 - b. in a boat on a lake
 - c. in a city
4. Which sentence gives a clue about where I am? _____

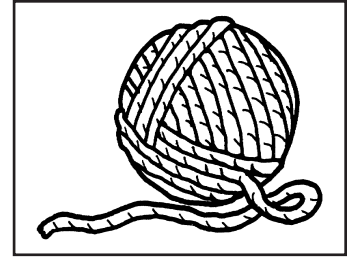
5. Why does the robin pick up the string?
 - a. She is saving the string.
 - b. She is using the string to build a nest.
 - c. She is going to eat the string.
6. What is the weather like?
 - a. rainy
 - b. cool
 - c. very hot

A Windy Day

Name _____

Emma and her brother sit at a table working on something. First they put the frame together and cover it with plastic. Next they attach the tail. Then they tie one end of a ball of string to the frame.

When they are done, they go outside. The wind is blowing. It will be a good day to try out their new toy.



Answer the questions.

1. What do you think Emma and her brother are working on?
 - a. a puzzle
 - b. a kite
 - c. a game
2. Why does the object need a frame?
 - a. It is a place to put the game pieces.
 - b. It gives the kite its shape.
 - c. It helps the puzzle stay together.
3. What is the string used for?
 - a. to fly the kite
 - b. to tie the puzzle pieces together
 - c. to hold the game box shut
4. Why do Emma and her brother take their project outside when they are done making it?
 - a. because they want to fly their kite
 - b. because they are too hot inside
 - c. because they are making too much noise inside
5. Why do Emma and her brother think it is a good day to try their new toy?
 - a. They don't have school.
 - b. The sun is shining.
 - c. The wind is blowing.

Time for Lunch

Name _____

Mitch and Mark were hungry. They had been playing ball in the backyard. They ran into the house and yelled, "What's for lunch?"

Mom said, "*Hold your horses!* Lunch will be ready soon. Please go wash your hands."

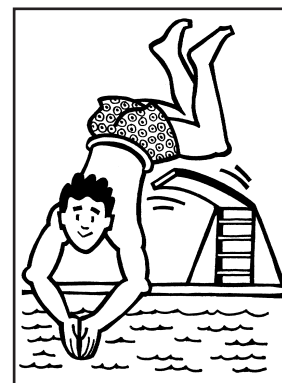
Before Mom knew it, the boys were back in the kitchen. "That was fast! Are your hands really clean?" asked Mom.

The boys showed Mom their hands. Mark said, "They're *as clean as a whistle.*" Mom smiled.

The boys took the sandwiches, chips, and drinks to the table. They began to *shoot the breeze*. They talked about the big game coming up soon. They talked about what they were going to do after lunch.

Then Mom said, "I *spread myself too thin* this morning. I had a lot to do and didn't get everything done. If you *give me a hand* for a little while after lunch, I'll take you swimming later."

The boys were happy to help because they loved going swimming.



Answer the questions.

1. Why did Mom tell the boys to *hold their horses*?
 - a. She wanted the boys to pick up the things they had been playing with.
 - b. She wanted the boys to wait and be patient.
 - c. She wanted the boys to be quiet and eat.
2. What did the boys mean when they said their hands were *as clean as a whistle*?
 - a. Their hands were washed and they didn't want to do it again.
 - b. They could whistle.
 - c. Their hands were very clean.
3. What do you do when you *shoot the breeze*?
 - a. You talk with someone about different things.
 - b. You go outside when it's breezy.
 - c. You have lunch.
4. How can you *spread yourself too thin*?
 - a. You finish one thing and then go on to something else.
 - b. You are getting too thin and you need to eat better.
 - c. You try to do too many things at one time.

Stand Up, Please

Name _____

If you have to stand up before your class to give a report, does your stomach feel funny? Do you feel nervous inside? You might even feel scared. When you get that feeling, you might say you have *butterflies in your stomach*. At times, you may even say, "Gee, I am *as nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof*!" That is how Jake felt in class on Monday.

Jake had to give a speech in front of his class. He had a hard time deciding what to talk about. He had said to his dad, "Let me *pick your brain*. Do you have any ideas that I could use for a speech?"

Dad thought for a minute and gave Jake several suggestions. Jake listened, but he didn't like any of them. Then his stepmom came to the rescue. She suggested that he tell about his trip to the White House. Jake was *tickled pink*! It was a good idea.



Monday came. Jake was *on pins and needles*. He was nervous and worried. Then he heard his name called. It was his turn to give his speech. Jake knew he had to do well on his speech.

Jake began his speech. As he spoke, he looked at his friends. They were interested in what he had to say. "Hey, this speech isn't so bad," Jake thought. He had *made a mountain out of a molehill*. He felt good when he finished giving his speech.

Answer the questions.

1. How do you feel if you have *butterflies in your stomach*?
 - a. excited and happy
 - b. excited and rested
 - c. nervous and a little scared
2. If you are *as nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof*, how do you feel?
 - a. excited and glad
 - b. like you have butterflies in your stomach
 - c. surprised
3. What does it mean to *pick someone's brain*?
 - a. to be very careful not to get upset
 - b. to ask someone for ideas
 - c. to dress carefully for your speech

Stand Up, Please, continued

Name _____

4. If you are *tickled pink* about something, you feel _____.
 - a. pleased
 - b. itchy
 - c. anxious

5. A person *on pins and needles* is _____.
 - a. happy and warm
 - b. uncomfortable and tired
 - c. nervous and worried

6. How do you *make a mountain out of a molehill*?
 - a. You work on something to get it finished.
 - b. You make a small problem seem big.
 - c. You work out your problem alone.