

## Informational Text Task Card #17

### Thank You, Mr. Ford

Henry Ford was a car maker who was born in 1863. The leader of the automobile industry, he grew up on a farm in Dearborn, Michigan. Ford showed an interest in machines at a very young age and started a business in the early 1900s to construct and sell cars for a profit.

The first car that his company made was called a Model T. It was the first car that many people could afford and was very sturdy and reliable.

Ford decided to use an assembly line made up of workers and machines so he could make many cars in a short amount of time.

Ford's automobiles made it possible for people to live in one area and work in another. This helped develop cities and suburbs, forever changing the face of America.

### Show What You Know

1. What did Henry Ford do that made it easier to make cars quickly?
2. Using evidence from the text, what can you infer about Henry Ford?
3. What lasting impact did Henry Ford leave on America?
4. Explain why Henry was a leader in the automobile industry.

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## Informational Text Task Card #18

### A Simple Machine

Simple machines are tools meant to make work easier. They have few or no moving parts. One kind of simple machine that many people use on a daily basis is a lever.

A lever is a bar that turns on a fixed point, which doesn't move. This fixed point is called a fulcrum. Levers work in different ways, depending on where the fulcrum is located and where you apply force.

A broom and a rake are examples of simple machines that people use to move other objects without applying a lot of effort. A shovel is also a lever that changes the direction and strength of a force. A human arm is even considered a lever! The more force you use, the larger the object you can move with a lever.

### Show What You Know

1. According to the passage, what is a fulcrum?
2. In addition to a human arm, what other body parts could be considered levers?
3. Using clues from the text, explain why a lever is a "simple" machine.
4. What purpose do levers like brooms and rakes serve?

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## Informational Text Task Card #19

### Food Chain Focus

Luckily for humans, we are at the end of a food chain!

A food chain always begins with a plant, which is a type of producer. Producers are able to make their own food from the sun's energy. Next, a consumer comes along and takes the producer's energy by consuming or eating it and stores that energy until it gets eaten by another consumer. The consumer that gets eaten is called prey and the consumer that does the eating is called a predator.

Larger animals usually eat smaller animals in a food chain. Food chains are important because they maintain a balance in nature and help each species survive.

### Show What You Know

1. Why are humans lucky they are at the end of the food chain?
2. What are the two different types of consumers?
3. Use evidence from the text to support the idea that a cat hunts and eats mice.
4. Explain why plants are considered producers.

## Informational Text Task Card #20

### Iroquois Information

Native Americans lived in the Americas long before anyone else. When early European explorers arrived in upstate New York and Quebec, Canada, they found that a tribe of Native Americans, called Iroquois, already lived there. The men of this native tribe were skilled hunters and the women knew how to farm well. The tribe's main crop was corn. The Iroquois also established order in their community. Rules were set which protected other people's rights within the group. Some rules even protected religious ceremonies.

The Iroquois often had conflicts with explorers that came to settle in America from Spain, England, and France.

### Show What You Know

1. What were some characteristics of the Iroquois tribe?
2. According to the text, why were rules important to the Iroquois?
3. What inferences can you make about why the Iroquois would have conflict with new explorers in America?
4. What is the author's purpose for writing this text?

## Informational Text Task Card #21

### Reptile or Amphibian?

Reptiles and amphibians have many similarities and differences!

First, they are the same because they both have backbones and are cold blooded. This means that their internal body temperature can heat up or cool down on its own. They both use defense techniques to harm their predators and physically defend themselves.

The two types of animals are different because amphibians lead two lives. First, amphibians begin life in the water and eventually move onto land. Reptiles begin their life on the land and almost always remain on land. While they both hatch from eggs, amphibian eggs are laid in the water and reptiles' eggs are laid on dry land. Amphibians go through a metamorphosis, growing their parts as they turn into an adult while reptiles are born looking like miniature adults.

### Show What You Know

1. Which sentence from the text best describes the main idea of the article?
2. What proof does the author provide for the statement, "amphibians lead two lives?"
3. Write a concluding sentence that would fit with the rest of the article.
4. In what ways are reptiles and amphibians the same?

## Informational Text Task Card #22

### The Cycle of Recycling

Recycling helps the environment. Recycling means that garbage gets reused again and again in order to make different products. Like its name implies, recycling is a cycle that never ends.

If you want to recycle, gather empty, clean cans and bottles, newspapers, and cardboard boxes and place them into special bags or bins designated just for recycling. These items will then get moved to recycling factories where they are processed and turned into something new. Plastics, which are made from oil and other natural resources, can be ground up and made into other plastic items like benches or new milk containers.

It is important to reduce and reuse waste in order to eliminate extra garbage on Earth.

### Show What You Know

1. Explain why the author titled the article "The Cycle of Recycling."
2. Write a brief, one or two sentence summary of the article.
3. What happens after materials are moved to recycling factories?
4. What evidence does the author give to support the importance of recycling?

## Informational Text Task Card #23

### A Swimmer's Trouble

Whether you prefer a quiet afternoon swimming in your neighbor's pool, a rowdy game of water polo, or swimming competitive laps, you may have felt the effects of chlorine at one point in your life.

Chlorine is a common chemical used in pools to disinfect the water and keep it sanitary and clean. The yellowish-green gas can be absorbed through skin while swimming.

Young children and competitive swimmers are most likely to feel the effects of chlorine. Children absorb the chemical more easily, and competitive swimmers absorb it more quickly because of their increased levels of activity. Chlorine can occasionally cause skin or eye irritation. If swallowed, it can even lead to a sore throat or coughing. In extreme cases, it is believed that too much exposure to chlorine can even cause asthma.

Be sure to take a break and shower off after a swim in the pool to avoid side effects of too much chlorine!

### Show What You Know

1. What problem does the use of chlorine in pools solve?
2. Why are competitive swimmers more likely to feel the effects of chlorine?
3. How can a swimmer avoid the effects of chlorine?
4. If you were a magazine editor in charge of selecting a picture to accompany this article, what type of picture would you choose, and what would the caption read?

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## Informational Text Task Card #24

### An American Activist

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a well-known face of the civil rights movement. He rallied for equal rights for African Americans and other disadvantaged citizens.

Although Dr. King organized protests, they were always meant to be peaceful and nonviolent. One of the peaceful marches he organized was The March on Washington, where he rallied thousands of people together to bring awareness of the injustices faced by African Americans. At the end of the march, he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. His nonviolence led to his winning the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 35, and he donated all of the prize money (over \$50,000) to the civil rights movement. Sadly, not everyone agreed with his protests, and he was assassinated in 1969.

### Show What You Know

1. What inferences can you make about the type of person Dr. King was?
2. What was unique about King's protests?
3. Using evidence from the text, what can you infer about different people's reactions to Dr. King's death?
4. Explain the purpose of Dr. King's protests and marches, according to the text.

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## Informational Text Task Card #25

### A Life-Saving Lab

Children around the world live with life threatening allergies to common foods such as peanuts. Those children can't be exposed to the allergens, or they could have a severe allergic reaction. Problems arise because children can be exposed to these substances anywhere, without even knowing they are near an allergen!

Angel Service Dogs is a company that trains allergy service dogs, called Allergy Alert dogs. The dogs are trained to detect and sniff out specific allergens and their scents, and notify their owners when they smell a certain food. They can accompany their owners to school, work, the store, and more!

Labradoodles and Golden Retrievers are popular dogs that are bred and trained for this special work. Many Allergy Alert dogs become a part of the family, even saving their owner's lives!

### Show What You Know

1. Why would Allergy Alert dogs become a part of a family?
2. What problem do Allergy Alert dogs solve for people?
3. What can you infer about labradoodles and golden retrievers?
4. Use context clues to infer the meaning of the word "allergen."

## Informational Text Task Card #26

### Trouble Catching ZZZs?

Do you think you get enough sleep every night? The average child needs 10-11 hours of sleep each night, but many children don't get nearly that much!

Some don't get enough sleep because they go to bed too late, and others have a hard time falling asleep.

You can solve sleep troubles by creating a nightly sleep routine and going to bed around the same time each day. Consider finding something you ONLY do at night, like listening to classical music or drinking a warm glass of milk. Eventually, your body will learn to associate the task with sleep! Avoid drinks or candy with sugar and caffeine before bedtime.

When all else fails, try counting the invisible sheep on your ceiling!

### Show What You Know

1. What reasons does the text give for some children not getting enough sleep at night?
2. Why is it a good idea to find a bedtime tradition that you only do at night?
3. Is the title a good fit for the article? Why or why not?
4. What type of person would you recommend this information to and why?

## Informational Text Task Card #27

### Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

Bugs: they're everywhere! There are over 200 million bugs for EVERY one human alive on earth.

Bugs have been on the planet for nearly 300 million years. Scientists believe that throughout history, there have been nearly 30 million different species of bugs on the earth.

The smallest bug, a Fairyfly, is only .0059 inches long! That's about 1/10 the width of a penny! The biggest bugs living today are nearly 5 inches long, but there is a prehistoric bug, an Ancient Griffenfly, that had a wingspan over 2 feet long.

Some bugs live under ground, some live in plants, some live in water, and there are even bugs that live in the atmosphere.

Bugs make up nearly 80% of the total biomass on earth. Bugs are everywhere and have survived for over 300 million years! Consider that before you stomp one dead or whip out the bug spray.

### Show What You Know

1. What proof does the author provide that supports that the Fairyfly is the smallest bug?
2. Is the Griffenfly still alive? Provide evidence to support your inference.
3. Where are some places that you may find bugs living?
4. Find evidence to support the statement that "bugs are everywhere!"

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## Informational Text Task Card #28

### A Lesson in Communication

Do you take for granted your ability to communicate with others? It wasn't so long ago that communication was limited to the spoken word or pictures drawn on cave walls.

30,000 years ago, people began painting on the walls of caves and etchings in rocks. Later, these writings were replaced by hieroglyphics, a form of symbolic writing used by ancient Egyptians. The Egyptians used pictures to represent animals, people, ideas, and more. They were the first people to begin developing an alphabet, with different symbols representing different sounds in their language.

The Greeks were the first to begin creating the alphabet with vowels, and the Romans are credited with designing the symbols most use for the alphabet today.

The evolution of writing took thousands of years, but now humans are able to effectively communicate, thanks to the hard work of people who lived long ago.

### Show What You Know

1. Why were written methods of communication important?
2. How did ancient people communicate without the written words or the alphabet?
3. Explain the importance of the Egyptians and their contributions to the alphabet we use in current day.
4. What text features might be useful to accompany this article in an encyclopedia? Explain.

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## Informational Text Task Card #29

### A Place to Lay Your Head

Hotels are one of the oldest businesses in the world. For thousands of years, people have traveled to foreign lands for various reasons. All of these travelers had one thing in common; they needed a place to stay while away from home.

Hotels accommodate people traveling for business, vacation, reunions, weddings, funerals, or conferences. There are even some people that live in hotels while their house is being built.

The first hotels were often a bedroom in a house, a loft in a barn, or a room in a tavern or inn. Today, there are many different types of hotels that offer everything from a simple room with a bed and bathroom to a luxurious experience fit for a king.

There are hotels themed around music, art, Disney, and even a hotel under water. Hotels not only offer travelers a place to stay, but often an experience that they wouldn't be able to have at home.

### Show What You Know

1. What did early foreign travelers all have in common?
2. Why might someone need to live in a hotel?
3. How have hotels changed over time?
4. Explain what the author means when he writes that hotels offer an experience that travelers wouldn't be able to have at home.

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## Informational Text Task Card #30

### Wonderings about Weather

Weather is a marvel yet to be mastered by your local weather man. Sometimes the forecast is sunny and it rains, sometimes the forecast calls for snow and the sun shines.

There are many things that can affect the weather and there are even scientists devoted to studying long term weather patterns and their effects on the earth. For decades, people have recorded high and low temperatures each day. Those high and low records vary greatly in different parts of the world.

Weather is often influenced by other weather, making it difficult to pinpoint an exact weather forecast. Today, we watch the news to hear about the weather forecast. However, long ago people used many different methods to determine the weather. Some cultures even performed ceremonies in an effort to change the weather.

Whether it's hot or cold, rainy or dry, windy or muggy, it's all weather.

### Show What You Know

1. What proof does the author provide to support the first sentence of the article?
2. Why are scientists devoted to studying long term weather patterns?
3. Rewrite the last sentence of the paragraph to sum up the main idea.
4. How have scientists tried to improve the art of predicting weather?

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## Informational Text Task Card #31

### A Caring Companion

Dogs are known as man's best friend. There are many shapes, sizes, and breeds of dogs. They are one of the only animals that have been domesticated to live in people's houses throughout the world.

There is evidence of domesticated dogs living with people over 14,000 years ago. These dogs were probably used for protection and hunting, but nonetheless were part of the family.

Different breeds of dogs are particularly useful for specific tasks. For example, Huskies are used as work dogs and Golden Retrievers are great with kids.

Modern dogs are primarily household pets, but many people still use dogs for work. There are police dogs, cancer sniffing dogs, service dogs, and even sensory therapy dogs. Dogs really are man's best friend!

### Show What You Know

1. Use context clues to infer the meaning of the word "domesticated."
2. What purpose did the first family dogs serve?
3. According to the text, would a Husky be a better dog for a farmer or a family? Explain.
4. Why are there many different breeds of dogs?

## Informational Text Task Card #32

### Roughing It Outdoors

Camping is a favorite past time for families, adventurers, and explorers. Camping is often referred to as "roughing it," or going without all the conveniences of the modern home.

While camping you have to be resourceful to accomplish the daily tasks that are often taken for granted. There is no drinkable water, no electricity, no bathrooms, and certainly no television.

Good campers are prepared for any circumstance that they may encounter. It's essential for campers to be prepared for animals, weather, food, shelter, navigation, and first aid. Often campers prepare a list before their trip to ensure that they haven't left anything behind.

Camping is a great way to learn about nature and the resources available in your surroundings.

### Show What You Know

1. What are some of the conveniences of the modern home that are missing on a camping trip?
2. List characteristics that a good camper needs to have.
3. What inferences can you make about some problems that may arise while camping?
4. Why might a camping trip be a good learning opportunity for children and adults?