

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 in this book range from reading level 2.0 to 3.0. The Flesch-Kincaid Readability scale was used to ensure that all stories are at the desired reading level (RL).

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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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The Five W's - 2

Famous Storybook Person Remembered

(ENGLAND, April 20, 1996) — Christopher Robin Milne died today. He was 75. He will always be remembered as Christopher Robin, the young boy in *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

Many people do not know that Christopher Robin was based on a real person. That real person was Christopher Robin Milne. He was the son of Alan Alexander (A.A.) Milne. Milne wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh*. It came out for people to read in 1926.



Winnie-the-Pooh is about a boy named Christopher Robin and his friends. His friends are animals. There was a bear named Winnie the Pooh. There was an owl called Owl. There was also a young pig called Piglet. The animals and places in the book were all based on real things and places. Most of the animals were stuffed toys that Christopher owned. The places in the story were all near Milne's home in England. Children still love to read *Winnie-the-Pooh*. They love how A.A. Milne made things come to life with his words.

When Christopher grew up, he wrote some books, too. One of them was about his life. He told what it was like to have his father write about him for the world to read.

1. **Who** was Christopher Robin based on? _____

2. **What** was the name of the author of *Winnie-the-Pooh*? _____

3. **When** did *Winnie-the-Pooh* come out for people to read? _____
4. **Where** were all the places in the story? _____
5. **Why** do children still love reading *Winnie-the-Pooh*? _____



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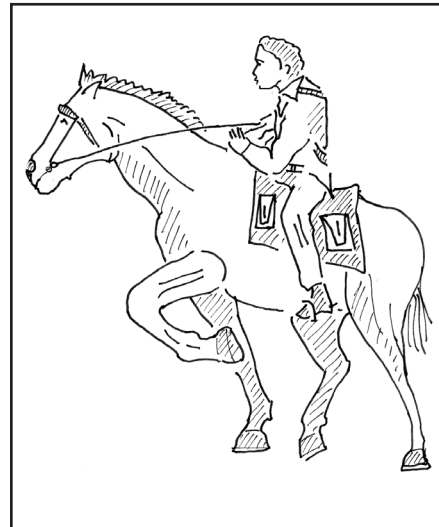
Pony Express Makes Final Run

(JOPLIN, MISSOURI, October 26, 1861)

From now on, mail will be sent in a new, faster way. It will be sent by telegraph. The telegraph uses wires to send messages. Messages will move a lot faster this way. Now there will be no need for the Pony Express.

The Pony Express started in April 1860. Before it came around, mail was sent by stagecoach. The Pony Express delivered mail 12 to 14 days faster than the coach. The telegraph will send the mail even faster than the Pony Express.

The last Pony Express rider leaves town today. His horse will carry sacks full of mail. He will ride for about 10 miles. Then he will stop at a swing station. There, he will get a fresh horse. He will have a hot meal. In all, he will make five stops like this. At the end of the day, he will have traveled 75 miles.



1. **Who** left Joplin on October 26, 1861? _____

2. **What** did the Pony Express rider do on his stop? _____
3. **When** did the Pony Express start? _____
4. **Where** did the last Pony Express rider leave from? _____
5. **Why** did the Pony Express end? _____



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School Children to Say Pledge

(UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, October 12, 1892)

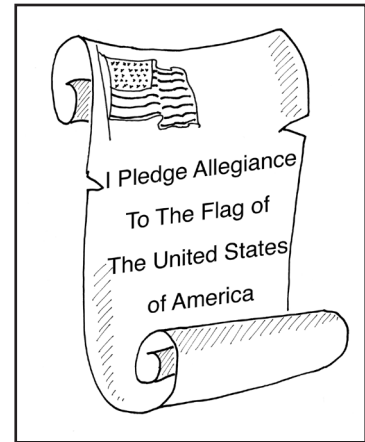
This is a special day for the United States. Christopher Columbus first saw America 400 years ago today. Many things will happen to remember this.

One thing is that students will say something new at their schools. It is a poem. It pledges loyalty to the U.S. It is called the "Pledge of Allegiance."

The pledge was written by Francis Bellamy. He wrote it so that people could feel proud of the U.S. On September 8, 1892, he put it in a well-known magazine.

President Harrison read the pledge. He liked it. He asked that it be said in schools each day. Today is the first day for this. U.S. flags will be put in each classroom. Students will face the flag. They will put their hands over their hearts. They will pledge to be true to the U.S.

Other things will happen today, too. There will be parades. Speeches will be held. All of this is to remember Columbus and his men.



1. **Who** said that students should say the "Pledge of Allegiance" every day?

2. **What** will children do for the first time today? _____

3. **When** did Christopher Columbus first see America? _____

4. **Where** did Francis Bellamy put the "Pledge of Allegiance"? _____

5. **Why** did Francis write the pledge? _____



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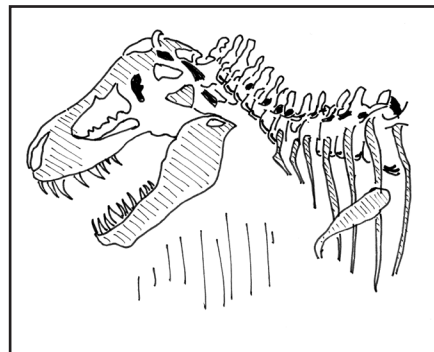
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Young Boy Finds Old Bones!

(PAINTED DESERT, ARIZONA, May 1989)

A young boy may have found the bones of a new kind of dinosaur. If so, the dinosaur might be named after him.

Erik Thybony and his dad were in a desert in Arizona. It is called the Painted Desert. They were taking a walk. Erik looked down while they were walking. He saw something that looked like teeth. He found things that looked like small bones. He was very excited.



Erik and his dad had a scientist look at the bones. The scientist said that they might be from a dinosaur. He took samples with him to a lab. He was right – they were dinosaur bones.

No one knows what kind of dinosaur this was. They do know that it was small. It lived in the wild with many other dinosaurs. The teeth and bones may have been on the ground for thousands or millions of years.

Someday, Erik's name might be in science books all over the world. He won't get to keep the bones and teeth, though. They will be put in a safe place in a museum.

1. **Who** did Erik and his dad take the bones to? _____
2. **What** kind of animal did the bones come from? _____
3. **When** did Erik find the bones? _____
4. **Where** did Erik find the bones and teeth? _____
5. **Why** won't Erik get to keep the bones and teeth? _____



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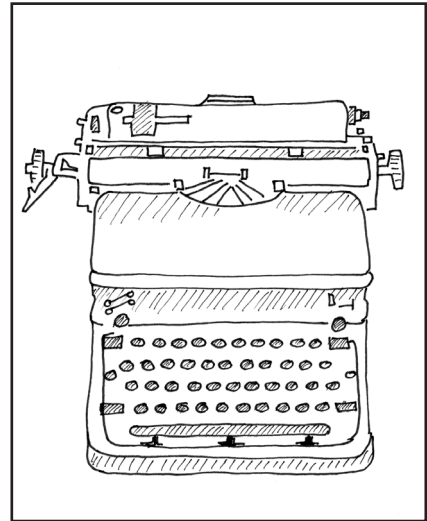
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Writing Machine Invented

(MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, 1874) — A new machine has come out. It makes writing things easier. The machine is called a typewriter.

Before the typewriter came along, we wrote everything by hand. We used pen and ink. Now, the typewriter writes for us. It has letters and numbers on keys. All writers have to do is press the keys. The keys have ink on them. As each key is pressed, it touches a piece of paper. Letters and numbers appear in order as writers press the keys. This makes writing things faster. It makes it easier. The typewriter will save a lot of time and work.



A man named Christopher Sholes made the first typewriter in 1867. He worked on it for six more years. He wanted to make it better. At first, he put all the keys in the order of the alphabet. This didn't work. The keys kept hitting each other. Then Sholes mixed up the letters. He did this until he found a way to make the keys stop hitting each other. Now the letters are out of order. The machine, though, works just fine!

1. **Who** made a typewriter in 1867? _____
2. **What** did writers have to do before the typewriter? _____
3. **When** did the typewriter come out? _____
4. **Where** do the keys touch as they are pressed? _____
5. **Why** did Sholes mix the letters up so much? _____