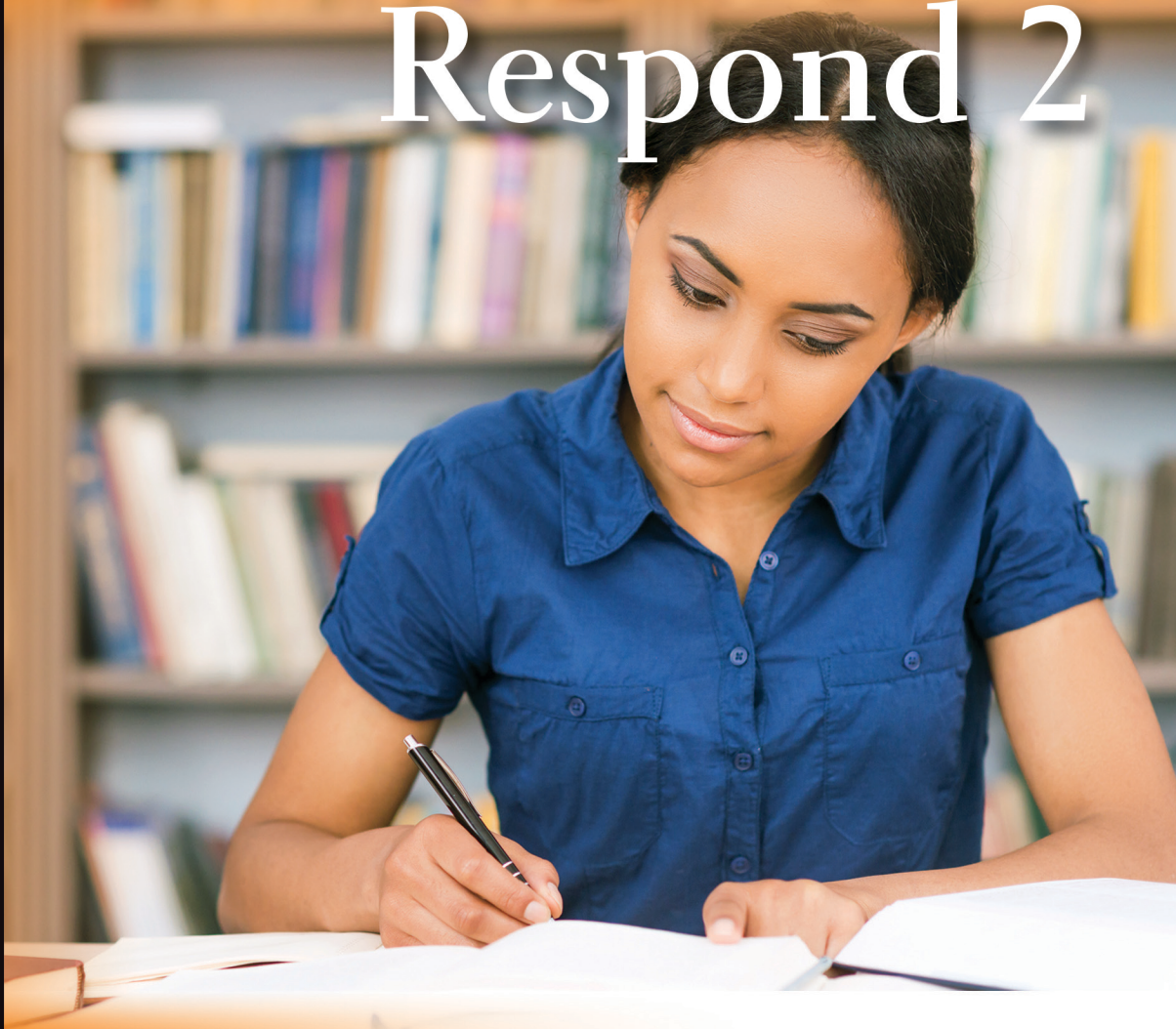


Read, Reflect, Respond 2



Topics Include:

Make Connections, Activate Prior Knowledge,
Ask Questions, Make Inferences, Identify the Main Idea,
Recall Details, Draw Conclusions, Synthesize

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Read: *Just how loud is too loud?*

Turn Down the Volume!

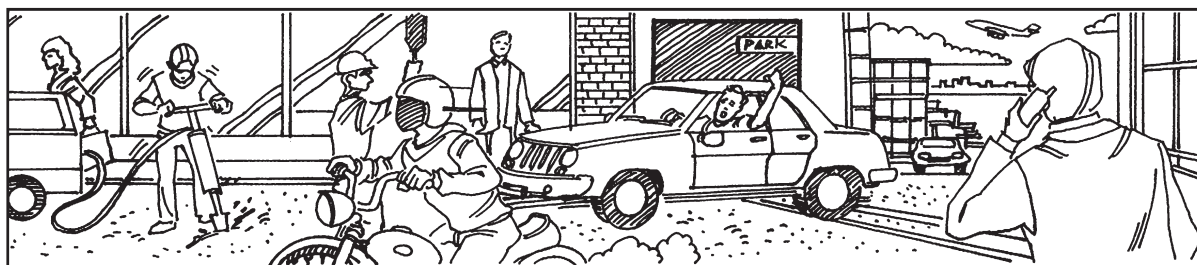
Do you prefer your music nice and LOUD? Many young people like nothing better than to cruise around town with their car's speakers blaring. But maybe you should think again before you crank up the volume!

Just like air and water pollution, noise pollution can be dangerous to your health. Why? Loud noise puts stress on the nerves in your ears. And the longer you listen to loud noise, the more likely it is that your health will be damaged permanently.

The intensity of sound is measured in decibels (dB). The sound of a person breathing, for example, is about 5 dB. But if someone shouts in your ear, the sound may reach 100 dB. Sound levels above 120 dB cause physical pain. At 140 dB, sound will break your eardrums. And at over 185 dB, sound can actually kill you!

City dwellers are surrounded by loud sounds all the time. Noise from a jet flying overhead measures 123 dB. A motorcycle speeding up to pass your car may hit 104 dB. Even a car horn reaches about 120 dB.

Noise pollution affects more than your hearing. At levels above 70 dB, your blood pressure and pulse rate increase. In the long run, these conditions can lead to serious health problems.



Reflect: *Think about the damaging effects of noise.*

1. Do you and your parents agree on how loud music should be played? If not, why not?

2. Name two or three loud noises you might hear on a typical day.

3. Do you think machines that make very loud noises should be prohibited by law? Explain your answer.

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Build your vocabulary.

1. The *i*_____ of something is its force or strength.
2. Touch the inside of your wrist to measure your *p*_____ rate.
3. A harmful contamination of a natural resource is called *p*_____.

Draw conclusions.

4. The letters dB are (a nickname / an abbreviation) for *decibels*.
5. Working in a noisy factory might eventually (give you a headache / make you deaf).
6. The noise level at a rock concert is (higher / lower) than the hum of a car engine.

Recall details.

7. Loud sounds stress the _____ in your ears.
8. At noise levels above _____ dB, your body shows distress.
9. Short exposures to loud noises are _____ damaging than longer exposures.
10. The reading mentions three kinds of pollution: _____, _____, and _____.

Make comparisons.

11. The sound of a speeding motorcycle is about how much louder than a shout in your ear?
 - a. 4 dB
 - b. 40 dB
 - c. 10 dB
12. Which sound is more likely to cause you physical pain?
 - a. church bells ringing
 - b. a jet flying overhead
 - c. people laughing

State the main idea.

13. Write an original sentence summarizing the main idea of the reading.

Look it up in a reference source.

14. The English word *noise* came to us from a Latin word. What is the meaning of that Latin word?

15. What's the dB level of a ringing telephone? _____

Read: *Learn about a cultural icon of the 1950s.*

From the Pool to the Jungle

Your grandma and grandpa probably remember Johnny Weissmuller from old black-and-white movies they watched as kids. He played Tarzan in a popular series of “Tarzan of the Apes” movies.

But Johnny was famous even before he went to Hollywood. In 1922, he made history by becoming the first person to swim 100 meters in less than a minute! In 1924, Johnny competed in his first Olympics, winning three medals in one day! He won gold medals in the 100-meter freestyle and the 4x200-meter freestyle relay race. Along with the rest of the team, he won a bronze medal for water polo. Two days later, he won another gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle event.

Johnny won the 100-meter freestyle race once again at the 1928 Olympics. He also anchored the gold-medal-winning 200-meter relay team. That gave him a total of five gold medals.

Johnny was training for the 1932 Olympics when he got his start in motion pictures. He auditioned for, and easily won, the role of Tarzan. As it turned out, he was only the first of four Olympic medalists to play Tarzan in the movies.

In 1950, a group called the Sportswriters of America voted him the best swimmer of the half-century. He received 132 votes—30 more than all the other athletes combined!



Reflect: *Think about the activities that made Johnny Weissmuller famous.*

1. Have you ever watched the Olympic Games on TV? _____
What sport or event do you most enjoy watching?

2. Have you ever seen a Tarzan movie?
What did you think of it?

3. Do you think today's Olympians swim faster or slower than Johnny Weissmuller? Explain your thinking.

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recall details.

1. In 1924, Johnny Weissmuller competed in these four Olympic events:
 • _____
 • _____
 • _____
 • _____
2. What does an Olympic athlete win for coming in third?

3. What medals did Weissmuller win at the 1928 Olympics?

Draw conclusions.

4. About how many years ago did Weissmuller swim at the Olympic Games?
 a. 80 b. 65 c. 58
5. Why weren't Weissmuller's Tarzan movies filmed in color?

Build your vocabulary.

6. The words *movies*, *films*, and *m*_____ *p*_____ are synonyms.
7. To *a*_____ is to try out for a part in a show.
8. The *a*_____ of a relay team is the one who swims last.

Draw conclusions.

9. The Olympic Games are held every ____ years.
 a. ten b. four c. eight
10. The U.S. unit of measurement closest to the *meter* is the ____.
 a. yard b. foot c. mile
11. During the first half of the 20th century, Johnny Weissmuller was one of America's most ____ athletes.
 a. fit b. handsome c. popular

Match synonyms.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 12. ____ remember | a. sum |
| 13. ____ watched | b. practice |
| 14. ____ training | c. recollect |
| 15. ____ total | d. observed |

Look it up in a reference source.

16. Where were the summer Olympic Games held in 2004?

17. How many Tarzan movies did Johnny Weissmuller make?

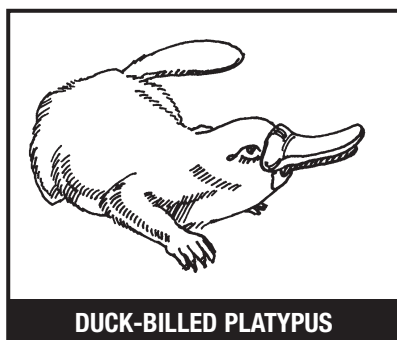
18. Who played Tarzan's wife, Jane, in the first six movies?

Read: *Have you ever heard of these unique creatures?*

Australia's "Holdovers"

Some of the most unusual animals in the world live in Australia. They're called "holdovers." Why? Because they're the same today as they were millions of years ago. Today, one of these old forms of mammals is known as *monotremes*.

The platypus and the echidna, or spiny anteater, are the only two kinds of monotremes left in the world today. Like all other mammals, both of them have mammary glands to nurse their young. But unlike other mammals, these two lay eggs.



DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS

A good swimmer and diver, the platypus has a broad bill and webbed feet. It resembles a duck. But its bill is soft and leathery, not hard like a duck's. The platypus uses it to dig worms and shellfish out of river bottoms. When it is fully grown, the platypus is about two feet long. It has thick brown fur and a paddle-shaped tail, like a beaver.

An echidna looks like a porcupine. It has a tubelike

snout and a long tongue it uses to eat insects. An echidna can burrow its way out of practically anything! Thanks to its strong front feet and sharp claws, it's very difficult to constrain. Even in a zoo an echidna must be kept in a cage with a concrete floor. If there's one crack in the concrete, the echidna will dig its way out!



SPINY ANTEATER (ECHIDNA)

Reflect: *Think about mammals and the differences among them.*

- Human beings are also members of the class of animals called *mammals*. Name two other mammals you know.

- _____
- _____

- What can the platypus and echidna do that no other mammals can do?

- What are two important differences between humans and the animals in the reading?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recognize the main idea.

1. What's the most significant difference between the "holdovers" and animals in all other classes?

Match synonyms.

tunnel	extraordinary	restrict	dense
--------	---------------	----------	-------

2. a. unusual / _____
 b. thick / _____
 c. constrain / _____
 d. burrow / _____

Recall details.

3. By what other name is the echidna known?

4. What two things does a platypus like to eat?

- _____
- _____

5. What two body parts help an echidna get food?

- _____
- _____

Identify characteristics:

6. Write **P** for *platypus* or **E** for *echidna*.

- a. _____ looks like a duck
 b. _____ has a tubelike snout
 c. _____ looks like a porcupine
 d. _____ swims and dives
 e. _____ has strong front feet

Make an inference.

7. Which of the animals in the reading would you rather hold in your lap? Explain.

8. What substance do *mammary* glands produce?

Look it up in a reference source.

9. List the four main characteristics of mammals.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Read: Have you ever heard of these “South of the border” cowboys?

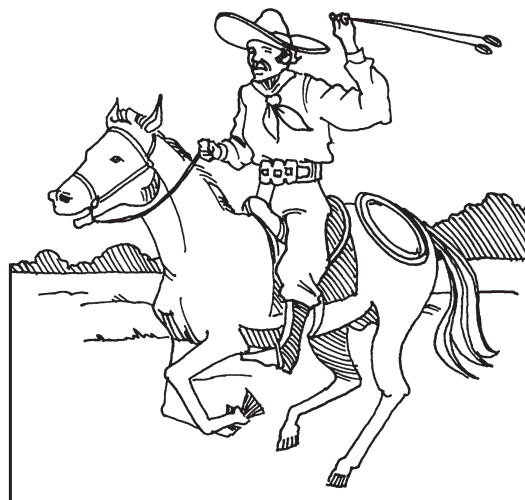
Cowboys of the Pampas

The early cowboys of Latin America were called *gauchos*. Living as nomads, they rode the plains, or *pampas*, of Argentina and Uruguay. In the early days, the gauchos made their living by catching wild cattle and selling their hides on the Brazilian frontier. But gauchos also hunted and tamed wild horses. Sometimes they took work for a while on an *estancia*, or cattle ranch.

The gauchos wore baggy pants called *bombachas*, short boots, and wide, black hats called *sombreros*. Colorful, blanket-like *ponchos* served as coats on cold nights. Like the North American cowboy, the gaucho wore a handkerchief around his neck. He could pull the handkerchief up to protect his nose from the dust of a cattle stampede. He could also use the handkerchief to filter water from a stream. A wide belt, often trimmed in silver, completed the traditional gaucho costume.

Gauchos were fine fighters. A gaucho cavalry—an army on horseback—helped Argentina win independence from Spain in 1816. Seldom carrying guns, they were proud of their skills with a knife and a *bola*. This was a long, rawhide strap with two or three iron balls tied to its split ends. A flying bola would wrap around a horse’s legs and fling it to the ground.

New refrigerator ships developed the meat industry and made cattle raising a big business. This ended the gaucho’s way of life. But the gaucho is not forgotten. At festivals, South American cowboys still honor him. They wear his colorful clothing and sing his ballads of the pampas.



Reflect: What would it have been like to be a gaucho?

1. In your opinion, what would be the *best* thing about being a gaucho?

What would be the *worst* thing?

2. Would physical fitness be an important “job qualification” for a gaucho? Why or why not?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recall details.

1. The gauchos lived in the ____ century.
a. 21st b. 11th c. 19th
2. How did the gauchos profit from the wild cattle they caught?
a. They shipped them overseas.
b. They created dairy herds.
c. They sold the cattle hides.
3. A gaucho's ____ was a long rawhide strap.
a. bola b. poncho c. pampas
4. From whom did Argentina win its independence?
a. Uruguay
b. Spain
c. France
5. The invention of ____ ended the gauchos' way of life.
a. semitrailer trucks
b. modern stockyards
c. refrigerator ships

Build your vocabulary.

6. People who continually move from place to place are called *n*____.
7. A *f*_____ is the part of a settled country next to a wilderness.

8. A *s*_____ is a sudden rush of many animals.

Draw a conclusion.

9. Why would a gaucho want to "filter water from a stream"?

Match synonyms.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 10. ____ worked | a. customary |
| 11. ____ fling | b. labored |
| 12. ____ festival | c. hurl |
| 13. ____ ballads | d. celebration |
| 14. ____ traditional | e. songs |

Say it in Spanish. (Write the Spanish word that matches each description.)

15. _____: wide-brimmed hat
16. _____: blanket-coat
17. _____: plains
18. _____: ranch
19. _____: baggy pants

Look it up in a reference source.

20. Name the capitals of Argentina and Uruguay.

Argentina:

Uruguay:

Read: *Learn about an ancient natural disaster.*

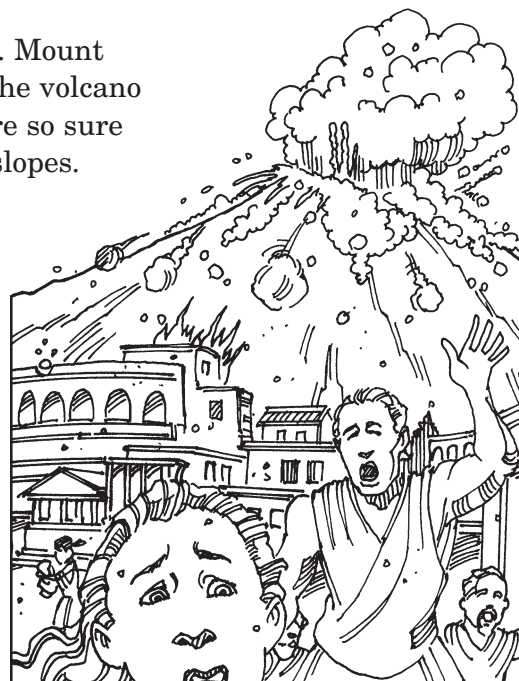
The Big Blow

It happened right around 7:00 A.M. on August 24, 79 CE. Mount Vesuvius, just seven miles from Naples, Italy, erupted. The volcano had been quiet for hundreds of years. In fact, people were so sure it was dead, they'd planted crops and grapevines on its slopes.

Then suddenly, great explosions of ash and rock blew out of the volcano. A huge cloud formed from the blasted rocks, ash, and sulfur gas. As the cloud spread, it showered ashy rocks for miles and miles. For forty hours, the volcano continued to explode. A steady rain of ash continued hours longer. By the time the downpour was finally over, nearly 20 feet of volcanic ash and stone had been piled on the city of Pompeii.

Twenty thousand people lived in Pompeii, a busy seaport just one mile from Mount Vesuvius. Shops were opening for the day's business when the residents first heard the rumblings. The bright morning turned darker and darker as the dense cloud hid the sun. Citizens stumbled toward the shore, hoping to escape by sailing away. But only a few made it to the boats. At least two thousand people were killed that day. No one has ever lived in Pompeii again.

An eyewitness account of Pompeii's disaster was written by the Roman author, Pliny the Younger. His uncle, Pliny the Elder, was killed during the eruption.



Reflect: *Think about how you would react to a natural disaster.*

1. Which type of disaster might be easier to escape—a flood or an erupting volcano? Explain your reasoning.

2. What special belongings would you try to save if you knew a natural disaster was about to occur?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Number events in order.

1. Number the events to show the order in which they happened.
 - _____ An eyewitness wrote about the eruption.
 - _____ Residents of Pompeii heard a rumbling sound.
 - _____ Grapevines were planted on the slopes of Vesuvius.
 - _____ Pompeii was buried under 20 feet of volcanic ash.
 - _____ A steady rain of ash and rocks fell on Pompeii.

Recall details.

2. What materials made up the cloud that formed over Pompeii?

3. How long did the eruption last?

4. Approximately how many people were killed?

5. How did the people try to escape?

6. What Roman author saw the eruption with his own eyes?

Match synonyms.

erupted	account	residents	dead	shore
---------	---------	-----------	------	-------

7. a. report / _____
 b. inhabitants / _____
 c. extinct / _____
 d. beach / _____
 e. exploded / _____

Look it up in a reference source.

8. Nearly 75 percent of the world's active volcanoes lie along the "Ring of Fire." What territory is covered by the Ring of Fire?

9. Name two other ancient cities that were buried along with Pompeii that day.
 - _____
 - _____

Read: *How were new products advertised in past centuries?*

Come to the Fair!

In 1851, six million people came to the first world's fair. From all over the world, fairgoers flocked to London. All were eager to see what their own country—and 39 other countries—had to show one another. Visitors were amazed at some of the new inventions on display. In honor of the fair, a man named Sax had invented a new musical instrument—the saxophone. And the United States proudly exhibited a new kind of gun—the Colt revolver.

Noting the success of the London fair, other countries followed England's lead in later years. The telephone and the typewriter were introduced at the 1876 fair in Philadelphia. The steam engine was also unveiled. In fact, it provided power for all the fair's machinery! All three

inventions showed the scientific progress the United States had made in its first 100 years.



In 1893, Chicago hosted a huge fair. In honor of that six-month event, a man named Ferris built an astonishing new contraption. Many potential riders were afraid of risking their lives at first. But the Ferris wheel proved to be very popular in spite of their fears.

The 1904 fair in St. Louis celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. As at other fairs, technical and cultural advances were highlighted. Sidelights included the introduction of iced tea and the ice cream cone.

Reflect: *Think about fairs, carnivals, or amusement parks you've visited.*

1. Circle four adjectives that describe a big fair.

sedate bustling enticing solemn crowded diverse repetitive horrendous

2. Think about fairgoers of 100 years ago. How might they react to today's high-tech products?

3. What rides do you most enjoy at a fair? What foods?

Respond: Circle a letter or word, fill in the blanks, or write out the answer.

Recall details.

1. How many countries exhibited goods at the first World's Fair?
a. 60 b. 45 c. 40
2. What invention was introduced at the London fair?
a. steam engine
b. Colt revolver
c. horse cart

Draw conclusions.

3. In what year did the United States declare its independence?

4. In what state was the 1904 World's Fair held?

5. What two foods became popular at the St. Louis fair?

- _____
- _____

Match antonyms.

mourned reluctant failure humbly

6. a. proudly / _____
b. eager / _____
c. celebrated / _____
d. success / _____

Build your vocabulary. (Unscramble the words.)

7. A NOPARTONCIT _____
is a strange-looking device or machine that is hard to understand.

8. A LURATLUC _____
advance is an improvement in the ideas, skills, art, or tools of a certain people at a certain time.

9. An RASYREVNAIN _____
is the date on which something happened in an earlier year.

10. CHANTLICE _____
advances are improvements in useful or industrial arts or skills.

11. To NULIVE _____
something is to reveal or display it for the first time.

12. A DIGITHELS _____
is an activity or object that is less important than the main attraction.

Look it up in a reference source.

13. What towering structure was built to symbolize the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, Washington?

14. What international sporting event was held in St. Louis at the same time as the fair?

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND

COMPREHENSION USING INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Read, Reflect, Respond 1

Read, Reflect, Respond 2