

Week 3: Suffix -able: Can be done

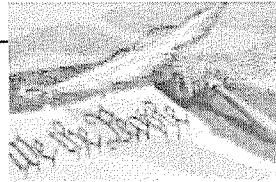
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Constant: Something that stays the same and doesn't change.2. Africa: A big continent where many countries and animals live.3. Killed: When someone or something causes another to die.4. Melody: A tune or a series of musical notes that sound nice together.5. Bottom: The lowest part of something.6. Florida: A state in the United States known for its warm weather and beaches.7. Secret: Something you keep to yourself and don't tell others.8. Tumble: To fall down or roll over suddenly.9. Afterwards: Something that happens next or later.10. Cathedral: A very big and important church. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Desirable: Something people want or like a lot.12. Excitable: Someone who gets very excited easily.13. Breakable: Something that can be broken.14. Notable: Something or someone important or worth noticing.15. Tolerable: Something that is okay or not too bad.16. Questionable: Something that might not be true or is doubtful.17. Hundredth: One part out of one hundred equal parts.18. Thousandth: One part out of one thousand equal parts.19. Tenth: One part out of ten equal parts.20. Millionth: One part out of one million equal parts. |
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An Independent Nation

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Before the United States was a country, it was a group of English colonies. Until 1763, England didn't really bother the American colonists. The people handled their business the way they wanted. However, England had a lot of war debts to pay. Some of the money was owed because England had defended the colonies in the French and Indian War. Citizens who were living in England wanted taxes to be lowered. The king decided to take more control over the colonies to get the money to pay off the debts. He started a new tax for the colonies. After being left to make their own decisions for so long, some of the colonists did not want to give up control. They did not want to pay high taxes. They did not want to follow rules that didn't make sense to them. Colonists were not given a chance to participate in government decisions in England.

The colonists were divided. Loyalists wanted the colonies to stay part of England. Patriots wanted America to be **established** as an independent nation.

The Patriots decided that it was time to send a letter to the king. They wanted to make an official declaration, or statement, of **independence**. Thomas Jefferson wrote the group's ideas into a letter to King George III. Jefferson explained why the colonists believed they no longer had to listen to his authority. By signing the Declaration of Independence, the men were risking their lives if the colonies lost the war. They signed it anyway.

Fighting in the American Revolutionary War had already begun when Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. After the war was over, there was still work to do. The job of uniting 13 separate colonies into one nation had to be done. It was a difficult process with lots of compromises. In 1781 the **Constitution** was written to describe the rights and responsibilities of the new government and its people.

1) What country did the American colonies belong to before the American Revolutionary War?

2) Why did King George III decided to take more control over the colonies than he had before?

3) Did all the colonists think that it was time to be independent from England? Explain.

4) Do you think you would have been willing to risk death by signing the declaration of independence? Why, or why not?

5) What are some rights and responsibilities you think citizens should have?

Three Levels of Government

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What are the three levels of government?

2) How does the average person have a voice in government? _____

3) Which level of government has the ability to print money? _____

4) Which level of government has a governor?

5) Which level of government is closest to the community? _____

There are three different levels of government: local, **state** and **federal**. Each level of government has its own elected officials who have specific jobs to do. Adult American citizens have a voice in all three levels of government. Their voice is their vote.

Local government is the level that is closest to the community. People in the neighborhood elect a mayor and city council members. Town meetings allow the people to bring their concerns to their elected leaders. The mayor and city council members pass **laws**. The laws affect the city and the people who live there.

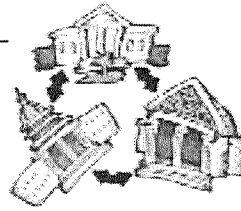
State government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for all the people within one state. The people of the state elect a governor and representatives who handle business for the state. Special state departments handle issues for the state. They protect the health and safety of state citizens.

The federal government is in charge of writing and enforcing laws for the people in the United States. The people of the United States elect a president, senators, and representatives. These officials handle business that affects the whole country. The federal level of government is able to do some things the other levels cannot. It can print money. It can negotiate with other countries. It can declare war on another country.

Each level of government has specific officials and duties. The people entrust their power to their leaders. It is their responsibility to protect the interests and safety of the people.

Branches of Government

Cross-Curricular Focus: History/Social Sciences



There are three different levels of government in the United States: federal, state and local. Officials in each level are elected by the people to serve and protect the people within the **jurisdiction**, or area of authority. The federal government handles relations between the United States and other countries, including war, peace treaties and trade. It is also in charge of printing money and running the military. State governments are responsible for public education, health and safety. Local governments provide services, such as parks, police and fire protection, to members of the community.

The federal government is the national level of government. It is divided into three separate **branches**: the **legislative** branch, the **judicial** branch, and the **executive** branch. The three branches work together to make sure the power is balanced, and no individual branch becomes too powerful. This is known as a system of checks and balances.

Congress is the legislative branch. It is responsible for making laws. Congress is made up of two separate chambers: the Senate, and the House of Representatives. Each state is represented in each chamber. A state elects two senators to the Senate. Each state's representation in the House of Representatives is based on the state's population.

The judicial branch is responsible for interpreting laws and for hearing court cases. These court cases decide if a law has been broken or if a law is unjust. The Supreme Court is our nation's highest court and has power over all lower courts when deciding matters concerning in the U.S. Constitution.

The executive branch is responsible for executing, or carrying out, laws. The president of the United States is in charge of this branch and is assisted by his cabinet of advisors. The president signs bills into law and can also veto proposed laws. In addition, the president is commander in chief of the U.S. armed forces.

The three branches of the federal government work together to ensure that the rights of citizens are not lost. The ultimate power in the U.S. government belongs to the people. Citizens entrust their power to government officials by voting to elect them.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What does a system of checks and balances protect against?

2) Which of the branches of the federal government is divided into two separate chambers? What are the chambers?

3) What is the difference between representation in the House and representation in the Senate?

4) What is the judicial branch responsible for?

5) The president of the U.S. is in charge of which branch of government? _____



History Standard: Understands the economic boom and social transformation of post-World War II United States

Benchmark: Understands the impact of postwar scientific research on contemporary society

Visiting the Moon

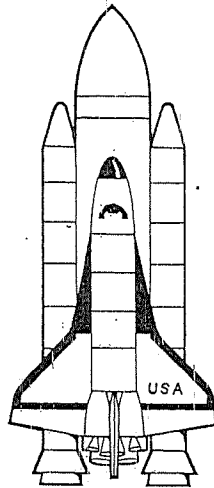
During his term in office, President Kennedy gave full funding to NASA, the space agency. He did this because he wanted to see Americans land on the moon. In July 1969 three men fulfilled Kennedy's dream during the Apollo 11 mission. Thousands of people had worked for years in order to send them to the moon. There had been 10 prior Apollo missions. One had failed, but the others were successful. Finally it was time to try a moon landing.

Their spacecraft took off from NASA in Houston, Texas. A Saturn 5 rocket carried the astronauts and their spacecraft into orbit. They blasted through space at speeds as fast as 25,000 miles per hour (40,234 kph). Even at that incredible speed, it took four days to reach the moon. The men had a special craft designed only for landing on the moon. This lunar module was called the *Eagle*.

After the *Eagle* landed, Neil Armstrong stepped out onto the moon. People all over the world watched on their television sets as he said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Buzz Aldrin followed Armstrong onto the moon's surface, but Michael Collins stayed circling the moon in the main spacecraft. He had to make sure that nothing happened to the spacecraft that would take them home.

The astronauts moved around on the moon, gathering rocks and taking photographs. They did many experiments on the moon. Before they left, they planted an American flag in the ground in the place where they landed. Next to it they put a plaque that read, "We came in peace for all mankind." The flag and the plaque are still there.

Some people think that moon travel may become common. They want to build hotels on the moon and have people go on lunar vacations! If that happens, people will visit the site of the first moon landing. They will stand where Neil Armstrong made history.



Visiting the Moon

Comprehension Questions

- Where did the astronauts put a U.S. flag?
 - on the lunar buggy
 - on the moon
 - on the Saturn 5 rocket
 - on their spacecraft
- On a historical time line, what happened first?
 - Astronauts went in the space shuttle.
 - Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.
 - The Apollo 13 had an emergency.
 - President Kennedy gave full funding to NASA.
- Neil Armstrong stepping onto the moon is most like
 - Isaac Newton naming the laws of motion.
 - Christopher Columbus discovering North America.
 - Road Amundsen reaching the South Pole before anyone else.
 - Gutenberg inventing the printing press.
- The word *lunar* means
 - "of the moon."
 - "of the sun."
 - "of an astronaut."
 - "of an eagle."
- What did Armstrong mean by, "...one giant leap for mankind"?
 - that it was a really big step down from the spacecraft
 - that it was a moment of major progress for a human to step onto the moon
 - that only men should go to the moon
 - that he could do big leaps on the moon because of its low gravity
- Picture standing on the surface of the moon. The most colorful thing you see is
 - the rocks.
 - the plants.
 - the sunset.
 - the American flag.
- Would you like to vacation on the moon? Explain.

Mysterious Sunspots

In 1610, a man named Galileo invented the telescope so he could see the stars. But one day he looked through his telescope at the sun and saw something that surprised him. The sun was not a smooth yellow ball. Instead, Galileo saw large black spots on the sun. He never could explain what they were, although he watched them often. And sunspots are almost as much a mystery now as in Galileo's time.

Astronomers, people who study stars and planets, think that sunspots are huge storms on the sun. But the storms are not made up of clouds and rain. They are whirlwinds of hot gases and electrical particles. They shoot up from the sun for thousands of miles, then sink back again. As the gases shoot out from the sun, they cool off and do not glow, so they look black against the bright sun.

Even though they are millions of miles away, sunspots affect the earth. The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, which are waves of light that flicker across the night sky, are brighter when there are many sunspots. The Aurora can always be seen around the North Pole, but during sunspot activity, even people in the United States can see the Aurora. Sunspots can change the weather, too, by increasing the amount of ozone in the air. The thicker ozone blanket keeps out the sunlight, so the weather becomes cooler. Finally, because sunspots are electrical, they can interfere with radio signals, causing static and crackling that makes a radio hard to hear.

Astronomers are very curious about sunspots. And maybe one day they will solve the mystery of why sunspots happen.

Think About It

Would you like to study the stars and planets? Why or why not?



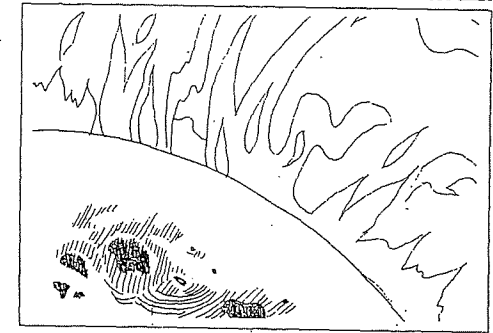
Name _____

Mysterious Sunspots

Main Idea

This story tells about

- _____ the Aurora Borealis.
- _____ ozones.
- _____ sunspots.



Sequencing

Number the events below in the order that they happened.

- _____ Galileo invented the telescope.
- _____ Astronomers studied the sunspots.
- _____ They decided that sunspots were huge storms on the sun.
- _____ Galileo saw large black spots on the sun.

Reading for Details

Use the clues to answer these questions.

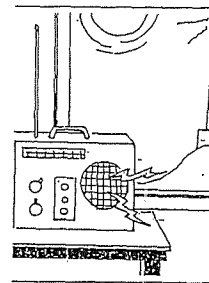
What are sunspots? (paragraph 2) _____

Where are sunspots located? (paragraph 2) _____

Why do sunspots look black to us? (paragraph 2) _____

What changes are caused by sunspots? (paragraph 3) _____

Who studies sunspots? (paragraph 2) _____



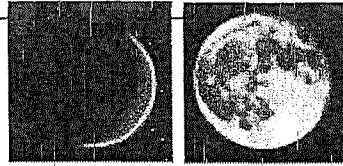
Reading for Understanding

4. Circle Yes or No.

Sunspots affect the earth.	Yes	No
The Aurora Borealis is dreary when there are many sunspots.	Yes	No
The ozone layer becomes thinner when there are many sunspots.	Yes	No
Sunspots interfere with radio signals and make it hard to hear.	Yes	No

Phases of the Moon

Cross-Curricular Focus: Earth Science



Have you noticed that sometimes the moon looks like a tiny sliver of light in the night sky? Other times it is a big, brilliant circle. The moon has many different looks during the month. Each look is called a **lunar** phase. Lunar means "of the moon." The moon has phases because it orbits Earth. The Earth revolves around the sun. The moon revolves separately around Earth. The moon itself does not actually change size. It appears to change size because different parts of it are in the shadow.

In the new moon phase, none of the part of the moon that is facing Earth is lit by the sun. It appears as only a dark outline. During the waxing crescent phase, the moon looks small. Only a tiny sliver of the moon's side that is facing Earth is lit by the sun. The next phase is the first quarter phase. In it, half of the moon's nearest side is lit by the sun. We see it as about one-fourth of a full moon. During the waxing gibbous phase, more of the moon is lit. Even so, it is not quite a full moon yet. In the full moon phase, all of the side of the moon that is facing Earth is lit by the sun. It appears as a large, bright circle. During the waning gibbous phase, some of the part that was lit as a full moon begins to fall into the shadows. In the last quarter phase, a different side of the moon is lit. Again, the moon appears as one-fourth full. During the waning crescent phase, the moon slips further into shadows. It is a thin crescent shape once more. After this phase, the entire lunar **cycle** begins again with a new moon.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is meant by a "phase" of the moon?

2) Why does the moon appear to be different sizes?

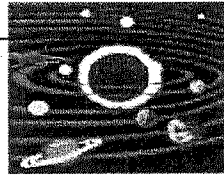
3) What are the two phases during which the moon appears almost full, but not quite?

4) What are the two phases during which the moon appears as only a tiny sliver?

5) What is your favorite phase of the moon? Why?

The Inner Planets

Cross-Curricular Focus: Earth Science



Earth is just one of the planets in our solar system. Planets are large bodies that rotate around the sun. They reflect its light and warmth. The planets that are located closest to the sun are made out of rocky material. They are relatively small and heavy. In contrast, the planets that are farther away from the sun are much larger. They are formed of light gases. All planets follow a certain path around the sun. They are held a specific distance from the sun by the sun's strong gravitational force.

The inner planets, or those closest to the sun, are Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. Even though these planets are all small and rocky, they have more differences than they have things in common.

Because Mercury is the closest to the sun, the side that faces the sun gets as hot as 427° Celsius. At the same time, the side that faces away from the sun is a freezing -173° Celsius. Mercury also has a slower rate of rotation than Earth. Days and nights on Mercury are much longer than ours. The extreme temperatures alone make it a very unlikely place for life. With an atmosphere too thin for human breathing, it's obvious that people won't be living on Mercury any time soon.

The next planet from the sun is Venus. Below clouds of sulfuric gas lies its 96% carbon dioxide atmosphere. That might be nice for a plant, since a plant "breathes" carbon dioxide, but not for a person. If you managed to survive the atmosphere, the surface of the planet is hot enough to melt solid metal. In addition, the pressure of the air would be strong enough to crush you.

You are probably most familiar with Earth because it is your home planet. It has the perfect conditions for life. Earth's atmosphere and oceans help control the trickiest part of making a planet life-friendly: temperature. Earth is the only planet known to have liquid water.

Mars is the fourth farthest from the sun. Mars has been studied and photographed more than any other planet besides Earth. Some people think it may be possible for life to exist there. Although scientists have not been able to find actual water on Mars, there seems to be evidence of water erosion on its surface. Its canyons and mountains are very similar to those found on Earth. The main difference is that there is no plant life. Some scientists believe that Mars may have been very much like Earth until something happened that made the water supply evaporate.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What keeps planets rotating a specific distance from the sun? _____

2) Earth is the only know planet to have what important feature? _____

3) Why is the atmosphere of Venus more friendly to plants than humans? _____

4) Why is there such a the huge difference in temperature between the two sides of the planet Mercury? _____

5) Do you think that people will ever be able to colonize other planets in the future? Why or why not? _____