

Name: _____

Date: _____

Book 6, Lesson 1 Test

Find a *SYNONYM* for each underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

1. She bewailed the loss of her friend.
 - a applauded
 - b regretted
 - c embraced
 - d denied

2. The Chief Justice dressed with a touch of flamboyance.
 - a showiness
 - b tastefulness
 - c dignity
 - d brightness

3. Two years of a foreign language seemed a/an insuperable requirement for admission to college.
 - a unreasonable
 - b silly
 - c unattainable
 - d minor

4. The meteorologist predicted intermittent rain throughout the weekend.
 - a periodic
 - b constant
 - c unusual
 - d driving

5. “Early to bed, early to rise” was a maxim Connie lived by.
 - a saying
 - b cliché
 - c principle
 - d advice

Book 6, Midterm Test 1 (Lessons 1–10)

Read the passage. Choose the BEST answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY

How did Maximilien Robespierre, a country lawyer devoted to protecting the oppressed and impoverished, come to embody the horror of the darkest days of the French Revolution? As a young lawyer in his hometown of Arras, he sought to “pursue with vengeful words those who, without pity for humanity, enjoy the suffering of others.” While serving as a judge in 1782, he was incapacitated with despair at having to pronounce a death sentence. He found the responsibility of ending a person’s life so traumatic that he resigned his position as a judge and returned to his law practice.

He was known to his contemporaries as “the Incorruptible.” While he was known to be moral and honest, he was certainly not humble. He published pamphlets about his successes in the courtroom to enhance his reputation and disseminate news of his triumphs.

In 1789, the king called a meeting of the Estates-General to hear the people’s complaints. Robespierre was sent to represent his province at the meeting. A Paris mob soon stormed the Bastille, a prison where people were jailed for their political beliefs. The Revolution was underway.

Robespierre wanted a new government, and spent the next few years making speeches calling for the king’s execution. His speeches were long and confusing, but he was a persuasive orator nonetheless. King Louis XVI was beheaded in early 1793. Later that year, Robespierre won an appointment to the Committee of Public Safety. It was his first official position. The period from that appointment until Robespierre’s death was known as the Reign of Terror.

Until his appointment on the Committee, Robespierre dealt with his opposition peacefully. With the power that came with his new position, he found that the guillotine was a fast, permanent solution to the problem of his detractors. He came to regard any challenge to his authority as an affront to France, which he served with such magnanimity. He perceived personal attacks on him as attacks on France. The ego he showed years earlier now demanded the executions of his enemies.

Book 6, Midterm Test 2 (Lessons 1–10)

Read the passage. Choose the BEST answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

THE LAST OF THE SEVEN WONDERS

Of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, only Egypt's Great Pyramid at Giza still stands. It is the tomb of the pharaoh Khufu, and it was an antiquity even in antiquity. Its earliest history comes from a Greek traveler named Herodotus who visited Egypt nearly 2,500 years ago, when the pyramid was already 2,000 years old. With its facets covered in polished white limestone it shone like a diamond rising from the desert. Light bounced off its surface like a mirror, and it could be seen from hundreds of miles away, even at night. Although the reflective surface was stolen ages ago, the monument is still an impressive sight.

The pyramid is made up of 2,300,000 blocks of stone, each weighing about 2 1/2 tons. The sides are more than 750 feet long and all are within a few inches of the same length. The four sides face the four points of a compass—north, south, east, and west—perfectly. It is 45 centuries old, and it remained the tallest structure on Earth for the first 43. Scholars have spent generations speculating about how the huge stone blocks of the pyramid were put into place so precisely, with the rudimentary tools they had. Levers, ramps, sleds, and even space aliens have been considered as possible methods for moving the stone. The theory that the blocks were pushed or pulled up spiral ramps made slick with mud is accepted as the most practicable of the theories considered. Another puzzle to scientists is the question of how the pyramid was built so evenly, with evenly sloped and centered triangular sides. Some suggest that they measured the distance from a plumb line, while others believe the same ramp used to move the stones provided a level gauge of the pyramid's progress.

Despite the widely held belief that ancient enslaved people built the massive structure, experts believe that free Egyptians were more likely the workforce for the project. Every year when the river Nile flooded their farmland, farmers would come to Giza to work until the water receded. Some think they did it for the glory of Egypt and to venerate their king, but others think they may not have participated entirely of their own free will. They were most likely remunerated generously with food rather than with wages.

Book 6, Final Test 2 (Lessons 1–20)

Read the passage. Choose the *BEST* answer for each sentence or question about an underlined word. Circle the letter of your answer.

THE PRINCE OF PEANUTS

In the early 1800s, cotton was the main cash crop in the southern United States. The textile industry had strong demand for the plant, which thrived in the rich soil and warm climate. Over time, constant planting of the same crop depreciated the nutrients in the soil. Weaker soil led to weaker crops, which led to weaker profits. By the turn of the century, southern farmers faced economic disaster. Finding the solution to a problem often requires just thinking about the problem differently. Luckily for those farmers, an agricultural scientist at the time made it his crusade to find out how to sell what would grow, rather than how to grow what would sell.

George Washington Carver was born a slave in Missouri during the Civil War. He showed a precocious talent for gardening and as a boy he was known as the “plant doctor” to friends and neighbors. He was eager to learn, but there were no local schools for black students. His drive for erudition led him to Kansas, where he graduated from high school, and then to Iowa, where he went to college to study painting and piano. His talent with plants caught the attention of Iowa State College Department of Horticulture, where he soon was the first African American student. He graduated in 1894 and became the first African American member of Iowa State’s faculty that year. He gained national attention studying plant blights, and he was invited to join the faculty at Alabama’s Tuskegee Institute when he finished his master’s degree in 1896.

He knew that the antecedent cause of the poor soil was constant planting of cotton, which demanded nitrogen from the soil. He knew that the land needed to take a break from cotton and to grow crops that restored nitrogen, like peanuts and soybeans. He also knew that there was no demand for peanuts and soybeans. His sagacious solution was to create demand. He spent the rest of his career developing a multitude of products from the array of crops best suited to the area. He created hundreds of products from local crops, including adhesives, cheese, ink, paper, and shaving cream. It is a fallacy that Dr. Carver invented peanut butter, although he did come up with more than 300 uses for the peanut.