

Book 7, Lesson 1 Test

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

1. Ella took care to sand the wood until no asperity remained.
 - a color
 - b smoothness
 - c roughness
 - d harshness
2. The military features a/an hierarchy with a clearly defined chain of command.
 - a dictatorship
 - b organization
 - c reward program
 - d ranking system
3. Donna collected travel brochures that imbued her with curiosity about distant places and people.
 - a filled
 - b attacked
 - c teased
 - d distracted
4. Alec wanted all the hikers on his expedition to know the rudiments of first aid.
 - a rules
 - b history
 - c basics
 - d details
5. The thief undermined the investigation with a flood of irrelevant tips to the hotline.
 - a publicized
 - b harmed
 - c aided
 - d distracted

Book 7, 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.

SCIENCE FICTION OR SCIENCE FUTURE?

At the turn of the 20th century, Jules Verne was one of the most widely read novelists in the world. Born in France in 1828, he was a visionary writer whose fiction described so many modern inventions and occurrences years before they became reality that the annals of history record him as the father of science fiction.

His father was a prosperous lawyer and wanted Jules to follow in his footsteps. Jules went to Paris to study law, but he really only wanted to write. His father stopped his allowance when he learned that his son was writing more than studying. Jules spent more and more time in libraries, where it was warm, but also where he could be surrounded by books. He spent his days studying the journals of modern science.

In 1862 he met the publisher Pierre Jules Hetzel, who the next year published Jules' *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. It was a bestseller and it made its author very rich. He made an agreement with his publisher to write two books per year for the rest of his life for the salary of \$4,000 annually. He more than held up his end of the bargain, and over the next forty years his repertoire grew to include such classics as *From the Earth to the Moon*, *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. With careful research into scientific advances of his day, he predicted submarines, automobiles, airships, space travel, and supersonic flight. He crafted adventures around these then-fanciful inventions, and developed characters to operate them in stories that never feel illusory.

The genius of Jules Verne was his penchant for basing fantasy in fact, so that it seemed absolutely plausible. He engendered wonder and imbued ambitions in future scientists, inventors, explorers, and builders. Under his tutelage, the future creators of the modern world learned by being entertained. He received accolades from the highest offices. Verne's works were crowned by the French Academy, which appreciated both their narrative charm and their scientific and educational value. He had the distinction of being the last man to be decorated with the Legion of Honor under the Empire of Napoleon III. Pope Leo XIII

Book 7, 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.

SPIDERS: SPIN CONTROL

There are some 40,000 species of spiders—the eight-legged arthropods of the order Araneae, class Arachnida. They are named for the Greek myth of the maiden Arachne who challenged the goddess Athena to a spinning contest. The goddess turned her into a spider for her arrogance, dooming her to an eternity spinning. Spiders are not insects, and they are only distantly related to the six-legged creatures. Their closer relatives include scorpions, mites, and even king crabs. Their fossilized remains have been found dating from the Devonian period, 400 million years ago. Most live about a year, but the tarantula can live up to 30 years.

Fear of spiders is as common a phobia as fear of heights, public speaking, and flying. The spider is a maligned creature, but most of its bad reputation is undeserved. They serve the extremely useful function of nature's insect control. They consume up to half of all the remains of dead insects. Without them we would be overrun by bugs, which would be busily consuming our plant foods.

Aside from their skill as pest controllers, spiders deserve our admiration for their hardiness and industriousness. They live in every climate on the planet, from temperate zones to the most onerous conditions: from polar ice to the hottest jungle, and even underwater. The Eurasian water spider carries bubbles of air down to its home under the water's surface.

The spider is also one of only a few animals endowed with the remarkable ability to make silk, and the only one to do it for so many purposes. It secretes the strong, elastic substance through fingerlike spinning organs called spinnerets. The most obvious use for the silk is for weaving its gossamer web. Some silk is sticky, used for catching prey, and some is not, used for making egg sacs. The silk is also used to create a sort of bungee cord that protects them from falls, and to create the illusion of largeness as protection from predators, as they sit in the middle of their webs. Orb weavers, the spiders that build the typical circular web, are assiduous spinners. They build their web every day, then tear it down and consume it to recycle it. They are ready to prepare another one in about an hour, and they spin the new one in about an hour.

Book 7, Final Test 1 (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.

NATURE'S FURY

In the summer of A.D. 79, a cataclysmic eruption of the volcano Mt. Vesuvius, probably the deadliest eruption ever, destroyed the 500-year-old city of Pompeii, in southern Italy. It was a resort town where wealthy Romans were able to relax and enjoy the beautiful landscape near the Amalfi coast. It is now a snapshot, frozen in time, of life at the height of the Roman Empire.

History had forgotten Pompeii altogether until it was rediscovered in 1748. The excavation began immediately and continues to this day. About 200 skeletons of those who died that day have been discovered, interred where they fell, their forms preserved in ash. The agonized faces of those unfortunate people have been recovered by making plaster casts of the hollows left in the hardened ash after their bodies decomposed; in this way, the dead can tell their story to posterity. As the perfectly preserved city, its artifacts, and the forms of its inhabitants were unearthed, the story of life in the ancient Italian resort town materialized. It was a grandiose city with luxurious homes that featured gardens, running water for private baths, and decorative mosaics and painted stucco. A proliferation of amenities has also been uncovered, including sidewalks, waterworks, a thriving woolen industry, bakeries, restaurants, and entertainment in the form of sports and theater.

The town was still rebuilding from a violent earthquake 17 years earlier when it was destroyed as Vesuvius sprang to life. The volcano had given acoustic foreshadowings for days, but the veterans of life in the shadow of the volcano were unworried. There had been time to escape, but the residents were not cognizant of the danger so they did not heed the warnings. They never dreamed the volcano could erupt with such enormity. In less than two days, the town was buried more than 20 feet deep in rock and ash. Pompeii was not the only victim of Vesuvius's power. The villas at Stabiae and the nearby town of Herculaneum were also wiped out.

An eyewitness account of the catastrophe was provided by Pliny the Younger, who was visiting his uncle, Pliny the Elder, at the time. He watched the horror from across the Bay of Naples and wrote of it in letters to a friend. Those letters