

Book 9, Lesson 1 Test

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

1. Greg worked hard all year, hoping to be the graduate chosen to give the valedictory.
 - a welcome
 - b awards
 - c diplomas
 - d farewell
2. Susan insisted that she prefers linen napkins because they are more bibulous than paper napkins, not because she is a snob.
 - a classy
 - b absorbent
 - c permanent
 - d delicate
3. The children's writer searched for years for an illustrator to delineate her characters the way she imagined them.
 - a describe
 - b draw
 - c understand
 - d animate
4. Marla doubted the psychic possessed true prescience, but she enjoyed having her fortune told nonetheless.
 - a understanding
 - b compassion
 - c answers
 - d foresight

Book 9, 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.

WESTWARD, HO!

One day in his first term in office, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, doubled the size of the nation with the stroke of a pen. Until then, the United States consisted of the land from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. Concerned with expanding the new country's commercial trade outlets, the president was trying to buy the port of New Orleans from France. Preparing for war with England and unable to guard his interests in North America, the French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte surprised American negotiators by suddenly offering to include all of the land west of the Mississippi in exchange for \$15 million, or about three cents an acre, in a deal known as the Louisiana Purchase. Those against westward expansion were skeptical that one nation could govern an entire continent. Jefferson's political opponents decried the purchase not only as an egregious use of executive power, but also as a waste of money.

However, Jefferson's interest in expanding the United State's trade opportunities had secretly actuated the exploration of the land beyond the Mississippi even before the Louisiana Purchase. He requested authorization for an expedition from Congress in January 1803 and received it the next month. The Louisiana Purchase treaty was signed two months later, on April 30, 1803.

Jefferson's mandate to Meriweather Lewis, whom he chose to lead the exploration, was to find the most direct route from the Missouri River across the continent to the Pacific Ocean for the purposes of commerce. Thomas Jefferson believed the discovery of such a "Northwest Passage" would allow easy trade with the Orient and would break open the wealth of North America. The mission, called the "Corps of Discovery," was launched in May 1804 and was headed by Lewis and his friend William Clark. Their herculean task was to delineate the regions' flora, fauna, geography, and inhabitants. This proposal culminated Jefferson's long-standing but quiet plans to explore the leviathan wilderness beyond the Mississippi. Although the president was a scientist and a scholar, he was also a politician who believed expanding the new country's commercial prospects was key to securing its future.

Book 9, 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.

DELIGHTED BY DOLPHINS

A 1960s television show called “Flipper” first introduced many land-locked Americans to a fun-loving, friendly marine mammal, the dolphin. The dolphin is its own best ambassador, as people become more charmed and concerned about them the more they learn. The bottle-nosed dolphin, a cetacean, is found in the brackish waters of the world’s oceans, as well as some freshwater estuaries of some large rivers in Asia and South America. Dolphins are often confused with porpoises, but are distinguishable by their more slender bodies and beaklike snouts. They should also not be mistaken for a food fish, also called “dolphin” or “mahi mahi.”

As mammals, dolphins are air breathing and viviparous. A dorsal “blow hole” allows the animal to exhale air and vapor from its lungs, as well as to hold its breath for up to ten minutes while diving. The bottle-nosed dolphin mates in spring and summer. Gestation lasts up to 12 months, after which the young are nursed for more than a year. They are carnivores and feed on herring, sardines, and other fish. In the wild, they can live 30 years or more. They are dark gray or brown on top with pale bellies, grow to up to 12 feet in length, and are capable of swimming in bursts at speeds of up to 22 miles per hour.

Bottle-nosed dolphins are playful and intelligent and have won over millions of fans at marineland and aquariums where they perform with great élan to the delight of the crowds. Following cues from an acolyte, they give performances replete with acrobatic leaps through hoops, demonstrations of flipper-eye coordination, audience interaction, and displays of camaraderie acting as surfboards for their trainer friends.

In addition to their showmanship, their apparent ability to communicate with sounds such as whistles and clicks makes them fascinating to scientists and animal-lovers alike. Scientists believe that the ratio of an animal’s brain weight to spinal cord weight is a rough indication of its intelligence. A fish’s brain weighs less than its spinal cord; a cat’s is about five times as heavy; a human’s is about 50 times as heavy; and a bottle-nose dolphin’s is about 40 times as heavy. Extensive studies of their cognitive abilities as well as their emotional acumen keep

Book 9, 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.

MODERN BRIDES WITH ANCIENT TIES

Socially and legally recognized unions binding the lives and fates of men and women in marriage date back to ancient Egypt, Rome, and Israel. In seventh-century England, the fathers of Anglo-Saxon brides summoned the townspeople in a public convocation called a “bewedding,” where the groom and his family offered guarantees to the bride’s parents that she would be looked after. The modern Western ceremony has its origins in the Council of Trent’s 1563 decree that weddings should take place before a priest and witnesses. The state became formally involved in recognizing marriage with Lord Hardwicke’s Marriage Act in England in 1753. Despite the relatively recent formalization of the technical aspects of getting married, many modern traditions are much older.

Since early Roman times, the cake has been a central part of the wedding celebration. A thin loaf was broken over the bride’s head at the close of the nuptial ceremony to symbolize fertility. The guests eagerly retrieved the crumbs as good luck charms. This tradition evolved and spread to England during the Middle Ages; wedding guests brought small confections and stacked them together, and it became traditional for the couple to kiss over a small cluster of cakes. Later, a clever baker decided to amass these small cakes and cover them with frosting. Thus, the tiered wedding cake was born.

Another food-related tradition is throwing rice at the newlyweds. In Western cultures, rice symbolizes Cupid’s arrows striking the bride and groom, causing them to fall into everlasting love. In the East, throwing rice means, “May you always have a full pantry.” In some countries, dried fruit or wheat replaced rice as the symbol of a fecund union.

Many of the objects associated with weddings were first worn or carried as talismans to protect the couple against doom. Ancient Greek and Roman brides wore veils as one stratagem to thwart evil spirits that might wish them harm. Later, in arranged marriages, veils were worn to prevent the groom from seeing the bride before she was his wife. In addition to representing a woman’s marital status and her husband’s wealth, the wedding ring was also worn for protection. Made first of vines, then iron, then gold, the ring has been worn on the third