

## 16 All About Chocolate

Do you like chocolate? Most people do. Some like it in bars. Others just like big squares of it. A box of it can be a great gift. Buy one for a friend. Give it as a surprise. See how happy that person gets.

Where does chocolate come from? It is made from cacao seeds. (The cacao is a small tree. It grows in the tropics.) Skins are removed from the seeds. The seeds are roasted. Then they are ground up. The taste at first is bitter. So sweeteners are added.

Say you just got a box of chocolate. Which piece do you pick first? A man has studied people's choices. He says they tell something about the person. Did you choose a round piece? You are a person who likes to party. Did you select an oval shape? You are a person who strives. You like to make things. You push your limits. Picking a square shape shows something else. This person is honest and truthful. You can depend on him or her.

What kind of chocolate do you pick? Maybe you like milk chocolate. This shows you have warm feelings about the past. Dark chocolate means something else. A person who chooses it looks toward the future. What about white chocolate? Would you choose it? If so, you may find it hard to make up your mind. Some people like chocolate with nuts. These are people who like to help others.

Do you believe these ideas? Can candy tell all these things? It doesn't really matter. There is one sure thing about eaters of chocolate. They eat it because they like it.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	<u>15</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<u>5</u>
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<u>5</u>

- The chocolate you choose can tell you something about yourself.
- Chocolate comes from the cacao plant.
- Almost everyone likes chocolate.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**    2    This passage is mostly about
- ☐ a. the history of chocolate.
  - ☐ b. why people like chocolate.
  - ☐ c. why people choose certain shapes and types of chocolate.
  - ☐ d. why chocolate will remain a popular treat in the future.

- Supporting Details**    3    A liking of milk chocolate may show that a person
- ☐ a. looks forward to the future.
  - ☐ b. thinks fondly of the past.
  - ☐ c. enjoys parties and fun.
  - ☐ d. has trouble making decisions.

- Conclusion**    4    The last paragraph suggests that the writer
- ☐ a. believes all the information about chocolate.
  - ☐ b. does not believe the information about chocolate.
  - ☐ c. does not think it matters whether you believe the information or not.
  - ☐ d. is trying to trick you into believing false information.

- Clarifying Devices**    5    In the second paragraph, the author puts information in parentheses to
- ☐ a. tell more about the cacao tree.
  - ☐ b. explain how chocolate is made.
  - ☐ c. tell more about how cacao seeds are treated.
  - ☐ d. give a short history of chocolate.

- Vocabulary in Context**    6    In this passage strives means
- ☐ a. searches for better things.
  - ☐ b. makes friends easily.
  - ☐ c. loves the natural world.
  - ☐ d. refuses to try at all.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

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## 17 The Hard-Working Insect

Suppose a population count were made. Which insect would win out? You might think the fly or the mosquito. Neither is right. The answer is the ant. Ants live in many places. (They are not at the North and South poles, though.) And they don't live alone. They live in colonies. Some colonies are as small as ten ants. Others have as many ants as there are people in New York City.

Ants may look alike. But they work differently. For instance, Harvester Ants gather seeds. They store them in their nests. If the seeds get damp, they spread them out in the sun to dry. These seeds are food for the long winter.

Honey Ants collect honeydew. Honeydew is a thin syrup. It drops from the stomachs of certain small insects. The ants store this honey in their nests. They use live ants as storage tanks. These ants just keep swallowing honey until they are as round as peas. When worker ants are hungry, they feed from the mouths of these honey-pots.

Then there are the Army Ants of Africa. They are hunters. They're fierce. They march in a column like soldiers. Nothing stops them. They even cross streams. They make a living bridge. Some ants cling to each other. The rest of the column marches over this bridge. They eat everything in their way. They eat insects, toads, and snakes. Anything!

Ants are well organized. But they cannot think. They follow a trail made by the front ants. If the trail goes in a circle, the whole column keeps going around. They circle till they all fall dead.

So what's the lesson? Work hard like an ant. But don't think like one!

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5

- |  |                          |       |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| a. Ants have different jobs, but all are well organized and work hard. | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| b. The ant is a better worker than other insects.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| c. Ants live in colonies of different sizes.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**    2    This passage deals mainly with the  
☐ a. ants in Africa.  
☐ b. things ants do.  
☐ c. eating habits of ants.  
☐ d. hardest working insect.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Supporting Details**    3    Honey ants are unusual because they  
☐ a. march like soldiers.  
☐ b. store honey in live ants.  
☐ c. gather seeds.  
☐ d. store seeds in their nests.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Conclusion**    4    To cross water, army ants  
☐ a. walk around in circles.  
☐ b. hold on to pieces of wood.  
☐ c. get into fierce battles.  
☐ d. climb over the backs of other ants.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Clarifying Devices**    5    To compare one ant's work habits to another, the author uses  
☐ a. arguments.  
☐ b. emotional appeals.  
☐ c. examples.  
☐ d. stories.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Vocabulary in Context**    6    The best definition for cling is  
☐ a. hold on.  
☐ b. cover.  
☐ c. talk.  
☐ d. bring food.    \_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

Total  
Score    \_\_\_\_\_

## 18 Birds' Eggs

Birds' eggs come in a wide range of colors and markings. For example, the flicker's egg is pure white. In contrast, some ducks have solid black eggs. The eggs of the same species are almost always the same.

When held in the hand, the egg of a ground-nesting plover is easy to recognize. You feel that you could see it in any place. But not so fast. Put the plover's nested eggs in a field. Then try to find the eggs and nest. It's not so easy. Once a man was told to look along a straight plowed furrow. He was told that there were six nests with the eggs of plovers. He glued his eyes to the furrow and walked. When he reached the end of the furrow, he found one nest with eggs. He found this one because he stepped on it. It made him sad to have destroyed such a precious creation. But he did not step on the other five nests. He did not even see them. This story shows that birds know the art of blending.

Blending helps the species to survive. But it is not the only way to survival. Some eggs you can spot a mile away. Hearing this, most people will think that the blending theory does not work 100 percent. But wait! Something else happens. Bold-colored eggs have a foul taste. One cracked egg is enough. One small sip is too much. The snake will quickly glide away. The mongoose, too, will turn and trot off, spitting all the way. They learned the hard way. They will remember that bold color. The foul taste will be stored in their brain. They won't touch those bright eggs again. The rest of the eggs will hatch. The species will survive.

Main Idea

1

Answer

Score

Mark the *main idea*

☒ M

15

Mark the statement that is *too broad*

☐ B

5

Mark the statement that is *too narrow*

☐ N

5

a. Birds' eggs are very different, but all are protected by nature.

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b. Eggs are nature's creation.

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c. Birds' eggs are colored and patterned in each species.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**    2    The best title for this passage is  
☐ a. A Variety of Eggs.  
☐ b. Nature's Course.  
☐ c. Natural Protection for Eggs.  
☐ d. A Wonder of an Egg.
- Supporting Details**    3    The eggs of the plover  
☐ a. stand out for their bright colors.  
☐ b. fill farmer's fields.  
☐ c. blend into their surroundings.  
☐ d. make farmers sad.
- Conclusion**    4    We can conclude from the passage that  
☐ a. the designs on some eggs help to conceal them.  
☐ b. very few eggs have a specific pattern.  
☐ c. farmers notice eggs with patterns.  
☐ d. each design is unique with each egg.
- Clarifying Devices**    5    The author develops the main idea by means of  
☐ a. examples and proof.  
☐ b. comparison and contrast.  
☐ c. one long story.  
☐ d. carefully chosen adjectives and adverbs.
- Vocabulary in Context**    6    As used in this passage, theory seems to mean  
☐ a. personal opinions.  
☐ b. unproved idea.  
☐ c. stated fact.  
☐ d. pattern.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here    **Total Score**  
and on the graph on page 211.

## 19 A Stack of Pancakes

You are on a trip. You stop for breakfast. You order a stack of pancakes and perhaps coffee. The pancakes and coffee are placed before you. Now, the question. What two other items naturally come with the meal? If you said, "Maple syrup and butter," you are right. You pick up the small bottle of syrup. There's print on it. It tells where the syrup came from. It might be one of three places: Quebec, New York, or Vermont. Quebec is the leader in maple syrup. It produces about 1½ million gallons a year. New York and Vermont produce far less.

The syrup comes from maple trees. It comes from black, silver, and red maples. The largest amounts come from the sugar-maple tree. The process starts in early spring. A hole is bored into the tree trunk. It's about three inches deep. The hole must be deep enough to tap the sapwood. Next a spout is inserted. It is the runway for the dripping sap. The right size is important. It must be watertight. Pails are then hung on the spout. Sometimes strong plastic bags are hung instead. The pails or bags are covered. This keeps out the rain, leaves, and bark.

Each day, sap is collected. It is poured into tanks. These tanks are on sleds if there is snow. Otherwise tanks are on wheeled carts. The sap then goes to the saphouse. Here it is boiled. Most of the water is boiled away as steam. But not all the water. Some water is left. If all were steamed away, what would you have? The answer is hard sugar. The object, of course, is to have syrup. So you leave just the right amount of water.

The right balance gives you a tasty syrup. Not too thick. Not too thin. But just right.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5

- Making syrup is an involved process that begins with maple trees.
- Most syrup comes from sugar-maple trees.
- Maple syrup comes from various places.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**    2    The passage is mostly about  
☐ a. pancakes.  
☐ b. maple syrup.  
☐ c. breakfast.  
☐ d. maple trees.
- Supporting Details**    3    According to the passage, one step in making syrup is to  
☐ a. begin in early summer.  
☐ b. collect water in pails.  
☐ c. collect sap at the top of the tree.  
☐ d. boil the sap.
- Conclusion**    4    One can conclude from the last paragraph  
☐ a. the right amount of water and sap make a good syrup.  
☐ b. syrup is best on pancakes at breakfast.  
☐ c. adding water to hard sugar makes the best syrup.  
☐ d. the author has made syrup before.
- Clarifying Devices**    5    The author begins the passage by  
☐ a. listing steps in a process.  
☐ b. using a personal experience.  
☐ c. encouraging us to imagine.  
☐ d. describing a trip to Vermont.
- Vocabulary in Context**    6    Inserted means  
☐ a. removed.  
☐ b. dug into.  
☐ c. put in.  
☐ d. purchased.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 211.

Total  
Score

## 20 Androcles and the Lion

This happened in the first century A.D. Androcles was a slave to a cruel master. The master's ship stopped for water on the west coast of Africa. Androcles escaped. He crawled into a small cave. He hid there. Suddenly the cave entrance darkened. It was a large lion. The lion did not rush. Instead, it limped slowly. The lion's head was low. Its eyes were dull. Its fur looked matted. Exhausted, the lion stretched out beside Androcles. Androcles saw the swollen paw. The chewed end of a huge thorn stuck out. The lion must have been in pain for many days.

Androcles knew the African thorn was barbed. The barb was like that of a fish-hook. If it was pulled, flesh would tear too. The pain would be great. Androcles leaned over the lion. He stroked its mane. The lion licked Androcles' hand. It seemed to understand. There would be pain.

Androcles sat down. He put his feet against the lion's body for leverage. He grasped the thorn tightly with both hands. Then he jerked quickly and powerfully. The barb was clutched in his hands. Yes, some flesh hung off the barb. He quickly looked. A stream of bad blood and yellow infection spurted out of the paw. The infection had gone up the lion's leg.

Androcles gently squeezed the leg to drain it. The lion lay as if dead. Androcles seized a broken coconut shell. He filled the shell in a stream. He carried the water back to the lion. The lion lifted its head. It first licked Androcles' hand. Then it lapped all the water.

Androcles ran for a refill. He never came back. As he bent for more water, hands suddenly gripped him. The ship's crew tied him up. They dragged him away. He was a slave again.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5

- Androcles' tenderness and bravery saved a hurt lion.
- People who are kind and resourceful can cure sick lions.
- Androcles removed a thorn from the lion's paw.

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Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter

- 2 This passage is about
- ☐ a. Androcles' life as a slave.
  - ☐ b. how to save a lion.
  - ☐ c. how Androcles hid from his slave master.
  - ☐ d. Androcles' kind act.

Supporting  
Details

- 3 One way Androcles helped the lion was by
- ☐ a. getting the infection out of its leg.
  - ☐ b. feeding it fish from a stream.
  - ☐ c. wrapping its paw in a bandage.
  - ☐ d. washing its leg with water.

Conclusion

- 4 We may conclude that
- ☐ a. Androcles was the first slave to escape a slave ship.
  - ☐ b. Androcles was sold because his master did not want him to escape again.
  - ☐ c. if Androcles had not helped the lion he may have escaped.
  - ☐ d. if the lion had healed it would have stayed with Androcles.

Clarifying  
Devices

- 5 This passage can be best described as a
- ☐ a. descriptive essay.
  - ☐ b. story.
  - ☐ c. piece of nonfiction.
  - ☐ d. joke.

Vocabulary  
in Context

- 6 The word leverage is closest in meaning to
- ☐ a. balance.
  - ☐ b. action.
  - ☐ c. support.
  - ☐ d. power.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here  
and on the graph on page 211.

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