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Read this social studies article about an important discovery. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Iceman – A Bridge to the Past

On 19 September 1991, two German hikers were climbing in the Alps of Austria when they discovered a frozen body poking through the glacial snow. What they thought was the victim of a hiking accident was actually one of the most important archaeological finds of the century – the well-preserved, mummified body of a 5300-year-old man.

The iceman's major organs and skin were remarkably preserved, as well as his leather shoes, grass cape and hat, metal axe, unfinished bow, finished and unfinished arrows, flint knife, bark quiver and samples of various grains, berries and mushrooms. The iceman soon became known as Ötzi, named after the Ötztal Valley where he was found. This valley is located near the border of Austria and Italy.

Scientists had many questions about Ötzi. Where had he come from? What was he doing on the mountain? During the years since Ötzi's discovery, archaeological teams have been able to use the discovery to shine a light on a period of historical darkness. The most informative tool that helped piece together the puzzle of Ötzi's life was the copper axe found beside him. The artefact assisted in determining what time period Ötzi came from. The metal used for the axe blade was from the Copper Age, which lasted from 4000 to 2200 B.C.E.

Scientists also learned about Ötzi's life by studying everything from his fingernails and hair, to moss and pollen grains found on his clothing. Ötzi was probably part of a small farming community that had begun growing wheat. An analysis of the pollen and moss

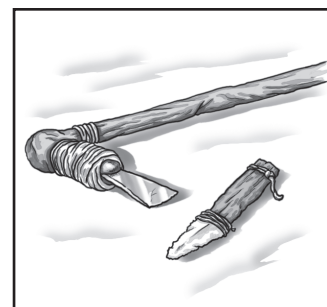
trapped in his clothes revealed that he was from the southern valleys. From these clues, scientists determined that Ötzi was of Italian ancestry.

Scientists have come to the conclusion that Ötzi was a man going about his everyday business, equipped with all he needed for daily life. Everything about him confirms that he was a mountain man. He had lightweight items; warm, waterproof clothing; and even a repair kit he carried in his belt. His skeleton tells the same story. His bones were misshapen from regular, tough climbing. He had frostbite in his toes and signs of arthritis in his worn joints. Despite all this, Ötzi was a healthy man who was probably about 45 years old when he died.

There are still many unanswered questions about Ötzi. These questions might remain unanswered due to the mummy's fragile state. He cannot be taken

out of his protective environment for long, because his remains will dry out. Research has been

suspended until other methods of preservation are discovered. One thing scientists are certain about, however, is that the discovery of Ötzi built a bridge to the past that joined our world with his.



<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>1. What is the main topic of this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the important discoveries of the twentieth century (B) how scientists apply different research techniques to archaeological artefacts (C) how much can be learned about the past by studying an archaeological find (D) how an ancient civilisation lived over five thousand years ago 	<p>Recognising Cause and Effect</p> <p>4. The axe found with Ötzi was an important artefact because it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) helped determine when Ötzi lived. (B) proved conclusively that metal existed over five thousand years ago. (C) revealed Ötzi's occupation. (D) helped scientists determine where Ötzi lived. 				
<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>2. Which of these was the most useful in determining the region in which Ötzi lived?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) a metal axe blade (B) grains and berries (C) leather shoes (D) pollen and moss 	<p>Comparing and Contrasting</p> <p>5. The discovery of the iceman can best be compared to the discovery of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) black holes in space. (B) vaccinations for disease. (C) dinosaur fossils in Victoria. (D) the law of gravity. 				
<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>3. The chart shows some of the information in the article.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;">Two hikers discover a frozen body in the Alps of Austria.</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;">Researchers begin studying Ötzi's body and artefacts found nearby.</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 25%;">Scientists decide Ötzi's body is too fragile for further research.</td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>What belongs in the empty box?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Scientists ponder many questions about Ötzi and life during his time. (B) Scientists are able to make several determinations about Ötzi. (C) Scientists assign the name Ötzi to the iceman. (D) Research on Ötzi is suspended until protective methods of preservation are found. 	Two hikers discover a frozen body in the Alps of Austria.	Researchers begin studying Ötzi's body and artefacts found nearby.		Scientists decide Ötzi's body is too fragile for further research.	<p>Making Predictions</p> <p>6. Predict what will most likely occur if research of Ötzi resumes in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) Scientists will learn that the Copper Age was really longer than first believed. (B) Scientists will gain additional knowledge about life during the Copper Age. (C) Scientists will uncover more advanced theories about evolution. (D) Scientists will learn more about the formation of the Alps.
Two hikers discover a frozen body in the Alps of Austria.	Researchers begin studying Ötzi's body and artefacts found nearby.		Scientists decide Ötzi's body is too fragile for further research.		

Benchmark 4

Read this textbook passage about two famous people from the last century. Then answer questions about the passage. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

Doyle and Houdini

Introduction

The friendship between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the famous writer, and Harry Houdini, the superstar magician, is not something most people know about. These two unlikely friends fell out in a way that was just as unlikely and which gives a very interesting insight into both their characters and the time they lived in.

Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Scotland in 1859. He was a doctor but found he was more interested in writing. At first he struggled to find a publisher for his work.

This began to change in 1887. His first significant piece, "A Study in Scarlet", appeared. This story introduced a doctor named Watson, who had just returned from a warzone, and his strange yet brilliant friend and flatmate – a certain Sherlock Holmes, consulting detective. This story was well reviewed but not very successful. A sequel followed in 1890, which was also not amazingly successful at first. It was when the *Strand Magazine* started publishing Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes short stories, in 1891, that Holmes and Doyle himself suddenly became household names.

Sherlock Holmes is a detective who consults with the police on cases they find it impossible to explain. He is famous for his intense logical reasoning and his use of science to solve difficult crimes. Holmes comes up against crimes that baffle the police. He is able to solve them with his amazing ability to use rational thinking. In everything, Holmes is dedicated and logical.

Unfortunately, Conan Doyle was not quite as logical as his famous creation. After the death of his first wife in 1906 and his son Kingsley in World War One, Doyle became devoted to spiritualism. This is a belief system that takes it for granted that people who die enter a "spirit world" and can communicate with the living from it. It was popular until the 1920s. People believed they could talk to the ghosts of their loved ones. They paid a lot to attend a séance (*say-on-z*). These were meetings where groups of people would try and contact the spirit world using their psychic powers.

Today we think of this as a strange fad where some clever showmen (and women) made a lot of money out of conning grieving people with simple tricks. But for Conan Doyle, who was utterly convinced, spiritualism was the way of the future and a chance to help all of mankind.

Harry Houdini

Erik Weisz was born in Budapest but moved to the USA when he was four. He became famous for his sensational escape acts, delighting audiences the world over. He first became known as "Handcuff Harry". He would challenge local police forces to keep him locked up. Houdini could get out of any pair of handcuffs made. He later added chains, ropes dangling from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water and being sealed in a drum to his act. Houdini could seemingly escape from anything, no matter how dangerous. Audiences all over the world

thrilled to his death-defying escapes and wonderful displays of magic and showmanship.

On his tour of Australia he famously freed himself from a straitjacket after a plunge into the Yarra River in Melbourne. He also made three flights in 1910 at Diggers Rest, Victoria, that were some of the first aeroplane flights made in Australia.

In addition to his fame as an escape artist, Houdini was also a pioneering and inventive magician. His feats of illusion involved making a full-grown elephant vanish. He was, during his lifetime, the most famous and respected magician and escape artist in the world. Today he is still so famous and well remembered that his name means something to millions of people who never got a chance to see his act.

In the 1920s Houdini turned his energies and fame to debunking self-proclaimed psychics and mediums. This is a pursuit that has since been followed by generations of magicians. Houdini's skills in stage magic and illusion allowed him to expose frauds that had fooled scientists. Houdini accomplished feats that many would see as amazing, but he did it all through skill and trickery, and he was always open about this. He resented the idea of spiritualists using the same kind of tricks to actually pretend they had supernatural powers and con grieving people. Houdini was the most brilliant magician the world had ever seen, but he never actually claimed to be magic. He devoted a huge part of his life to exposing frauds.

The Friendship

Houdini and Conan Doyle had been friends for years. But the two men had a falling out over their conflicting attitudes toward spiritualism. Conan Doyle, the firm believer, was appalled at Houdini's efforts to prove spiritualism a fraud. He believed that it was Houdini exposing the mediums that was the lie, and not their psychic powers. They would have long arguments in which Conan Doyle tried to convince Houdini that spiritualism was real and not faked, and Houdini tried to explain to Doyle just how the tricks they were using could be achieved. Neither man succeeded in changing the other's mind. This argument ended their friendship.

Doyle became convinced that Houdini himself was actually a powerful spiritualist medium. Doyle thought he possessed incredible psychic and supernatural powers that he used in his own act. Doyle believed that Houdini was using these powers to subdue those of the other mediums he was exposing as frauds. In his view, Houdini was both a hypocrite and a liar, because he lied about the existence of powers that he was using for his own ends! This disagreement led to the two men becoming bitter public opponents. For his part, Conan Doyle considered Harry Houdini to be a dangerous enemy at odds with everything he believed, just as all fellow spiritualists were his allies.

These two former friends would never reconcile. Harry Houdini died in 1926. Conan Doyle himself died in 1930, still believing that humankind was on the cusp of a great new age of happiness brought about by spiritualist practices.

Read this article about an Australian institution. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 1 to 12.

It's Your ABC

2012 marks the eightieth anniversary of Australia's national public broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. It's commonly just called the ABC or, sometimes, "Auntie". The ABC provides television, radio, online and mobile services throughout Australia. It even broadcasts overseas through the Australia Network and Radio Australia. 74% of all Australians use some form of ABC service every week. The ABC itself estimates that around 8.4 billion hours of ABC content are consumed by Australians each year! Additionally, surveys frequently reveal that the ABC is the news source most trusted by Australians.

The ABC was formed in 1932 when the government took over the Australian Broadcasting Company. This was a group of interests that made radio programs for broadcast around the country on transmitters owned by the government. The ABC was modelled on the British Broadcasting Corporation, or BBC, one of the most trusted and respected sources of news and entertainment in the world.

At first the ABC was made up of 12 stations broadcasting music, sport and information for about 11 hours each day. By 1939 there were 26 stations broadcasting around 16 hours a day. Before 1936, news bulletins were either based on those from the newspapers or even just read straight from them. The news director tried to change this, with the eventual objective of an independent ABC news service. This idea soon bore fruit. By 1939, the ABC was breaking news before the papers. The death of the Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and the declaration of World War Two by Prime Minister Robert Menzies were first announced on ABC Radio.

ABC Television was launched in 1956. The first TV news bulletin was read by James Dibble. In 1961 the ABC launched a current affairs program analysing the news of the week. It was called *Four Corners*. The ABC started experimenting with children's television in 1958. In 1966 a show called *Kindergarten Playtime* was replaced by a new one called *Play School*. Both *Four Corners* and *Play School* are still on air today.

In 1975 the ABC launched its first 24-hour rock music station. ABC radio programs were usually aimed at older listeners. The presentation style was formal and polite. But this new station was aimed at young people. The presenters were younger and chosen because they were entertainers. The new AM rock station was called Double J. It later transferred to FM and became Triple J.

The ABC launched its website in 1995. Today ABC Online has expanded many times, and is now a huge unwavering media presence in its own right rather than just a source of information about ABC radio and television. In 2008, the ABC launched iView, which allowed people to catch up on most ABC programs when they wanted.

Since 2005, the ABC has converted to digital television and radio broadcasting. The single ABC television channel has been joined by ABC2, ABC3 and Australia's first free-to-air, 24-hour television news channel: ABC News 24.

In a world where Australian voices are often drowned out by American ones in our TV and films, the ABC does a very important job. Because of the ABC, and the programs it creates, Australians can see stories created for them by Australians. The ABC is a vital part of our national identity and should be protected and respected by all of us.

<p>Finding Main Idea</p> <p>1. What is the main idea of paragraph 1?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) 26% of Australians don't use the ABC. (B) The ABC is sometimes called "Auntie". (C) The ABC broadcasts radio programs. (D) The ABC is a trusted source of news and entertainment across many different media that is used by most Australians. 	<p>Recognising Cause and Effect</p> <p>4. The main reason the ABC was able to start breaking news was that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) it started producing its news independently rather than basing it on the newspapers. (B) it was modelled on the BBC. (C) the newspapers became better. (D) more started to happen in Australia now that the ABC was there to cover it.
<p>Recalling Facts and Details</p> <p>2. The ABC was created after the government took over something called</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) the Australian Broadcasting Calendar. (B) the Australian Broadcasting Commission. (C) the Australian Broadcasting Company. (D) the Australian Board of Creation. 	<p>Comparing and Contrasting</p> <p>5. An objective is most like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) a scheme. (B) an intention. (C) an example. (D) an inspiration.
<p>Understanding Sequence</p> <p>3. The first thing the ABC did was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) launch its online presence. (B) broadcast news, entertainment and information on radio stations around Australia. (C) start broadcasting news that had yet to make the newspapers. (D) launch ABC Television. 	<p>Making Predictions</p> <p>6. What would most likely have happened if the ABC had not moved into online and digital broadcasting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) ABC News 24 would not be able to broadcast every day. (B) The ABC would have discovered new ways to broadcast. (C) Triple J would have stayed Double J. (D) The ABC would not be as popular and widely-used as it is today.