

# Understanding Nonfiction

## Reading Comprehension

### Instructions:

Read each passage—then answer the questions! Remember to circle or underline any supporting sentences when asked to do so.

### Helpful Hint:

To find the answers, read each passage carefully and then read the questions. If necessary, read each passage again!



**Understanding Nonfiction**

**Benjamin Franklin**

Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706. He is a key figure in U.S. history for many reasons. He helped write important documents like the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, which is why he is called one of the founding fathers of the United States. Although he never served as president, his face appears on the \$100 bill.

Franklin is also known for his work in the printing industry. He bought a newspaper called the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1729, and in 1733, he started printing Poor Richard's Almanack. Back then, an almanac featured things like weather reports and recipes. Franklin included many clever sayings in his almanac that we still use today. For example, "A penny saved is a penny earned" comes from Poor Richard's Almanack.

Franklin was also an inventor and a scientist. He invented the Franklin stove, which helped to warm houses. Franklin also experimented with electricity as well. In one, he tied a key to the string of a kite during a thunderstorm. This dangerous experiment proved that lightning is electricity. As a result, Franklin's metal poles are still used to protect buildings from lightning.

**1. When was Franklin a U.S. president?**

A) 1789  
B) 1796  
C) He was never a U.S. president.

**2. Underline the sentence that supports your answer.**

**3. Each paragraph gives a different \_\_\_\_\_.**

A) description of Franklin's inventions  
B) reason why Franklin was important  
C) fact about Franklin's writings

**4. What is the main idea of this passage?**

A) Franklin's face is on the \$100 bill.  
B) We still use Franklin's clever sayings.  
C) Franklin was a key figure in U.S. history.

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# Understanding Nonfiction



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Franklin was also an inventor and a scientist. He invented the Franklin stove, which helped to warm houses. Franklin did many experiments with electricity as well. In one, he tied a key to the string of a kite and flew the kite during a thunderstorm. This dangerous experiment helped prove that lightning is electricity. As a result, Franklin invented lightning rods. These metal poles are still used to protect buildings from lightning.

**1. When was Franklin a U.S. president?**

- A) 1789
- B) 1796
- C) He was never a U.S. president.

**Underline the sentence that supports your answer.**

**2. What did Franklin invent as a result of his experiments with lightning?**

- A) lightning rods
- B) electric kites
- C) electric stoves

**Circle the area where you found the answer.**

**3. Each paragraph gives a different \_\_\_\_\_.**

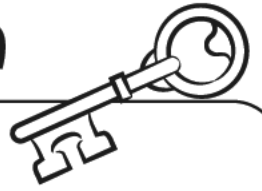
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# Understanding Nonfiction



Benjamin Franklin

**5. What do you think was the most important thing Benjamin Franklin did? Why?**

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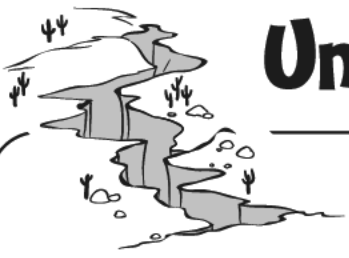
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# Understanding Nonfiction



## The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is in the northwest part of Arizona. It is a huge gorge that was carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. A gorge is a deep, narrow passage with rocky sides. The Grand Canyon is over 275 miles long, and in some places, it is a mile deep! The layers of exposed rock reveal eons of Earth's history.

In 1919, the area around the Grand Canyon became a national park. It is one of the oldest national parks in the United States. There are many places along the Grand Canyon's rim where people can look out at the canyon and take in its beauty.

Park visitors can get a close look at the inside of the canyon, too. People can hike or ride mules on trails that go all the way down to the river at the bottom. Visitors can also enjoy riding through the Grand Canyon in rafts or boats. Rapids on the Colorado River make the ride very exciting!

**1. How was the Grand Canyon created?**

- A) It was carved by the Colorado River.
- B) It was the result of an earthquake.
- C) People dug it to get water for farming.

**Underline the sentence that supports your answer.**

**2. The Grand Canyon is over \_\_\_\_\_ miles long.**

- A) one million
- B) 1,919
- C) 275

**Circle the sentence where you found the answer.**

**3. The final paragraph tells how \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A) the area became a national park
- B) visitors can travel inside the canyon
- C) the Grand Canyon was formed

**4. When did the Grand Canyon become a national park?**

- A) 1919
- B) 1989
- C) millions of years ago



# Understanding Nonfiction



## The Grand Canyon

**5. What are some reasons the author gives for tourists to visit the Grand Canyon?**

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# Answer Key

## Benjamin Franklin

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Circle the area where you found the answer.

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4. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A) Franklin's face is on the \$100 bill.
- B) We still use Franklin's clever sayings.
- ☒ C) Franklin was a key figure in U.S. history.

## Benjamin Franklin

5. What do you think was the most important thing Benjamin Franklin did? Why?

Possible answer: The most  
important thing Franklin did was  
help write the U.S. Constitution,  
because our country was  
founded on it.

# Answer Key

## The Grand Canyon

- The Grand Canyon is in the northwest part of Arizona. It is a huge gorge that was carved by the Colorado River over millions of years. A gorge is a deep, narrow passage with rocky sides. The Grand Canyon is over 275 miles long, and in some places, it is a mile deep! The layers of exposed rock reveal eons of Earth's history.
- In 1919, the area around the Grand Canyon became a national park. It is one of the oldest national parks in the United States. There are many places along the Grand Canyon's rim where people can look out at the canyon and take in its beauty.
- Park visitors can get a close look at the inside of the canyon, too. People can hike or ride mules on trails that go all the way down to the river at the bottom. Visitors can also enjoy riding through the Grand Canyon in rafts or boats. Rapids on the Colorado River make the ride very exciting!

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- ☒ A) 1919  
☐ B) 1989  
☐ C) millions of years ago

## The Grand Canyon

5. What are some reasons the author gives for tourists to visit the Grand Canyon?

Possible answer: Tourists visit  
the Grand Canyon to see its  
beauty, ride mules, and ride  
through the canyon in rafts  
or boats.