Many people like to glide along the sidewalk on roller skates. They owe a vote of thanks to Joseph Merlin of Belgium. He invented a kind of roller skate back in 1760. His skates provided a pretty bumpy ride, however.

1. What is the best title for this story?
   - A. “Inventors”
   - B. “Famous Inventions”
   - C. “Belgium”
   - D. “Early Roller Skates”

2. In this story, the word provided means
   - A. scraped.
   - B. invented.
   - C. gave
   - D. took

A. Boston Post Road is the oldest road in the United States. It is more than 300 years old! Colonists made the road in the 1670s, more than 100 years before American Revolution. They needed a way to carry mail and messages between two growing cities—Boston and New York. The road followed old Native American trails.

1. What is the best title for this story?
   - A. “Building Roads”
   - B. “U.S. Mail”
   - C. “Two Colonial Cities”
   - D. “America’s First Road”

2. You can guess that
   - A. Boston Post Road is still around.
   - B. Boston is a small city.
   - C. Boston Post Road is short.
   - D. New York is older than Boston.

3. You would probably find this story in a book about
   - A. fairy tales.
   - B. current events.
   - C. how to build roads.
   - D. American history.
B. In 1271, Marco Polo left Italy and set out for China. He was just 17 years old! Polo’s trip took three and a half years. In China, he discovered a black stone that burned and gave heat. It was coal. Polo also learned about paper-making and the compass. When he got home, he wrote a book about his journey.

I. Marco Polo traveled to
○ A. Greece.
○ B. the United States.
○ C. China.
○ D. Africa.

C. When you’re hungry, or even just thinking about food, you often hear your stomach growl. Sometimes, your stomach also growls when you’re nervous or excited. What you are actually hearing is your stomach muscles pushing air around inside your stomach.

Your stomach also makes noises right after you eat. That’s because your stomach muscles move around to mix the food you’re eaten with special juices. When they do this, they also move around the air that you swallowed with your food. This causes your stomach to growl, though not as loudly as when your stomach is empty.

I. This story is mainly about
○ A. how you digest food.
○ B. muscles of the human body.
○ C. why your stomach growls.
○ D. why people get hungry.

2. In this story, the word journey means
○ A. trip.
○ B. findings.
○ C. sailboat.
○ D. country.

3. Which of these is an opinion about Marco Polo?
○ A. He lived in the 1200s.
○ B. He traveled to China
○ C. He was the greatest explorer of all time.
○ D. He wrote a book.

2. You can guess that your stomach growls the loudest when you
○ A. are eating.
○ B. are at school.
○ C. yell loudly.
○ D. need food.

3. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
○ A. Stomach noises are gross.
○ B. Your stomach growls when its muscles push air around in your stomach.
○ C. Your stomach can growl when it’s full.
○ D. Sometimes your stomach growls when you’re nervous.

4. Your stomach growls because
○ A. you have eaten too much.
○ B. there is air in your stomach.
○ C. you feel sick to your stomach.
○ D. you are tired.
More than 40 fish produce electricity. The most dangerous is the electric eel, a long slimy fish that lives in South America. This snakelike fish gives off electric signals to “see” in the dark water where it lives. These signals bounce off underwater objects and help the eel find fish and frogs to eat.

Once the electric eel locates its prey, it fills the water with an electric shock. The organs that produce electricity are in the eel’s tail. The shock stuns or kills any small animals in the area around the eel. The electric charge is so strong it could also stun a person or knock over a full-grown horse!

Popcorn is one of the oldest American snack foods. By the time European explorers arrived here in the 1400s, Native Americans were already growing about 700 types of corn. They used popcorn for both food and decoration. Some tribes used it in their headdresses and necklaces.

These early popcorn lovers couldn’t plug in the electric popper or zap the popcorn in the microwave. Instead, they popped the kernels in clay pots over an open fire. Some kinds of popcorn were even popped right on the cob.

English colonists got a taste of popcorn at the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. A Native American named Quadequina brought a deerskin bag filled with popcorn to the dinner. It was a hit!

I. What is the best title for this story?
   ○ A. “The History of Popcorn”
   ○ B. “Native Americans”
   ○ C. “The First Thanksgiving”
   ○ D. “Snack Foods”

2. Which happened first?
   ○ A. Colonists ate popcorn.
   ○ B. Electric-poppers were invented.
   ○ C. Movie theaters served popcorn.
   ○ D. Native Americans grew corn.

3. Popcorn has been used for
   ○ A. sewing.
   ○ B. making paint.
   ○ C. heating homes.
   ○ D. making jewelry.

4. This story would probably go on to talk about
   ○ A. how microwaves work.
   ○ B. the popularity of popcorn today.
   ○ C. Native American customs.
   ○ D. snacks of the world.
VOCABULARY

Synonyms
Read the underlined word in each phrase.
Mark the word below it that has the same
(or close to the same) meaning.

Sample:
damage the building
○ A. hurt ○ C. anger
○ B. deck ○ D. command

1. argue about it
○ A. laugh ○ C. fight
○ B. pickle ○ D. whisper

2. gradually cook
○ A. boil ○ C. hot
○ B. slowly ○ D. quickly

3. a rose’s scent
○ A. red ○ C. stem
○ B. smell ○ D. color

4. annoy her
○ A. help ○ C. bother
○ B. necklace ○ D. talk

5. wicked character
○ A. sweet ○ C. helpful
○ B. boy ○ D. mean

6. unkind words
○ A. friendly ○ C. happy
○ B. mean ○ D. shy

7. wee child
○ A. small ○ C. happy
○ B. large ○ D. shy

Antonyms
Read the underlined word in each phrase.
Mark the word below it that means
the opposite or nearly the opposite.

Sample:
silent evening
○ A. quiet ○ C. noisy
○ B. patient ○ B. perfect

1. worthless watch
○ A. leather ○ C. valuable
○ B. ticking ○ D. cart

2. afternoon stroll
○ A. walk ○ C. pond
○ B. sun ○ D. run

3. antique chest
○ A. brown ○ C. case
○ B. old ○ D. new

4. cheap shoes
○ A. blue ○ C. expensive
○ B. strings ○ D. free

5. exit the building
○ A. enter ○ C. roof
○ B. door ○ D. leave

6. vast ocean
○ A. large ○ C. deep
○ B. tiny ○ D. shallow

7. valuable earrings
○ A. worthless ○ C. diamond
○ B. expensive ○ D. pendant
TEST I
Sample: 1.D  2.C

Passage A
1.D  2.A  3.D

Passage B

Passage C

Passage D
1.A  2.B  3.D

Passage E

Vocabulary
Synonyms
Sample: A

Antonyms
Sample: C