



Teacher Created Resources®

# Paired Reading Passages

Grade 3



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# What Leaks Out

Imagine you are riding your bike. You ride over a nail. Your tire goes flat. The nail has punctured the rubber tube inside the tire. The air in the tube has leaked out of the hole. The hole will have to be patched. The patched tube will have to be refilled with air.

Imagine you are riding your bike in 1840. You ride over a nail. The nail punctures the tire. Your tire goes flat, but air does not leak out! Your tire is not filled with air! It is filled with water. In 1840, tires were not made from rubber. They were made from leather garden hoses. Leather is a material made from animal skins.

Imagine you are riding your bike in 1843. Imagine your tire is punctured. This time, nothing leaks out! This is because your tire is a leather tube. The tube is wrapped in a strip of canvas. Canvas is a strong, heavy cloth. The tube is not filled with air or water. It is filled with grass or horsehair.

Imagine you are riding your bike in 1845. This time, if you run over a nail, air will leak out! This is because air-filled bike tubes were invented in 1845.



# Why the Tires Had Screws



Kareem was looking at his Uncle Joe's bike. "Uncle Joe," said Kareem, "There is something very wrong with your bike. The tires are very fat and thick. They are bumpy, too. Even more strange, they have screws in them!"

Uncle Joe laughed. He said, "That's because this is a mountain bike. Mountain bike tires are thicker and wider than regular street bike tires. They have deeper and bumpier treads than regular street bike tires. The deeper and bumpier treads give me more traction. My wheels slip less when I have more traction."

"Yes," said Kareem. "But that doesn't explain why your tires have screws in them!"

Uncle Joe said, "My mountain bike tires were altered. They were changed for a reason. They were altered so I would get even more traction."

"Why would you need even more traction?" asked Kareem.

"For racing down steep ski slopes," answered Uncle Joe. "When the screws puncture the snow, I get more traction. Sometimes I go 70 miles per hour (112 kph)! At that speed, I need all the traction I can get."

"Uncle Joe," said Kareem, "I think you should take me next time you go biking down a ski slope!"

# Show What You Know

Answer the questions on “What Leaks Out” and “Why the Tires Had Screws.”  
You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

**1. When something is punctured**

- Ⓐ it is patched.
- Ⓑ it is air-filled.
- Ⓒ nothing leaks out.
- Ⓓ a hole is made in it.

**2. When something is altered**

- Ⓐ it is changed.
- Ⓑ it is more stable.
- Ⓒ it has more traction.
- Ⓓ it races down a ski slope.

**3. Both stories are about**

- Ⓐ bike tires.
- Ⓑ racing tires.
- Ⓒ leaking tires.
- Ⓓ mountain bike tires.

**4. A tire made from a leather garden hose most likely**

- Ⓐ is a tire for a mountain bike.
- Ⓑ does not have a lot of traction.
- Ⓒ is best for going down a ski slope.
- Ⓓ does not leak if it is filled with water.

**5. A mountain bike is more stable than a regular street bike because**

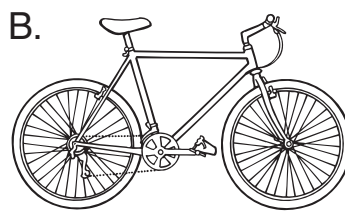
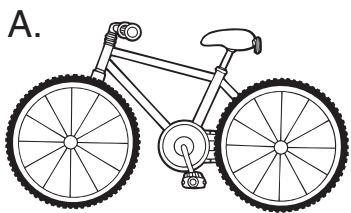
- Ⓐ its tires are thin.
- Ⓑ its tires are fatter.
- Ⓒ its tires are filled with air.
- Ⓓ its tires are filled with grass.

# Show What You Know (cont.)

## 6. Fill in the chart.

<i>Year tires made</i>	<i>Filled with</i>
1840	

## 7. Write what bike each tire is most likely used for: *regular street, regular mountain, snow mountain*



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "What Leaks Out" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. "Why the Tires Had Screws" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you think Uncle Joe's tires are less likely to go flat than tires made in the 1800s? Tell why or why not.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

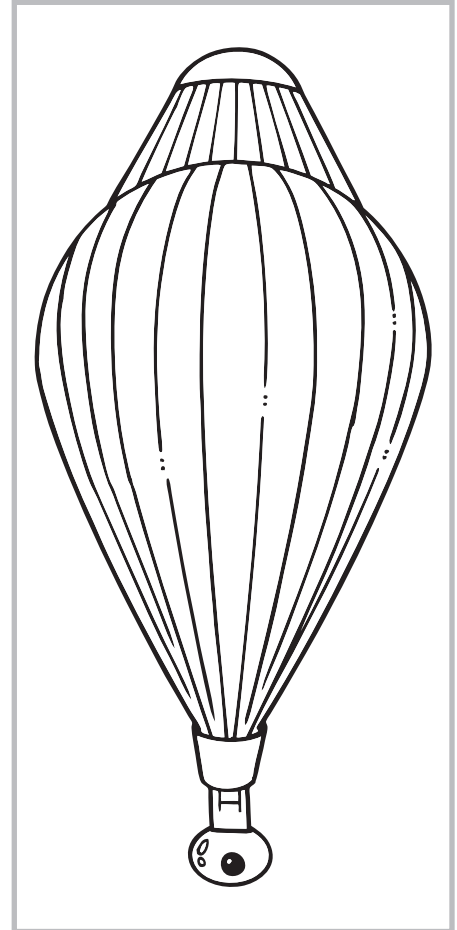
# Around the World in a Balloon

No one had ever done it. Many people had tried. Everyone had failed. Bertrand Piccard had tried before. He had tried two times. What had he tried to do and failed? He had tried to sail around the world in a hot air balloon without stopping.

Now, Piccard was trying for a third time. He was scared. He threw up because he was so scared. Still, Piccard would not quit. On March 1, 1999, Piccard and his partner lifted off. Their balloon was 18 stories high. Piccard and his partner rode below the big balloon in a tiny capsule. The capsule was sealed, or closed.

The balloon went so high that ice formed on it. Over 300 pounds (135 kg) of ice formed on the balloon! Piccard and his partner had to quickly go lower. They had to get the heavy ice off, fast. Piccard climbed out of the capsule's hatch, or door. Using a fire ax, he knocked off the ice.

Piccard and his partner flew without stopping. After 19 days, 21 hours, and 55 minutes, they landed. They had not failed. They had gone around the world!



# Aesop's Fable of the Thirsty Crow



Aesop was a storyteller. He lived a long time ago in Greece. All of Aesop's stories had a moral. A moral is a lesson. One of Aesop's stories was about a crow. The story goes like this:

A crow was very thirsty. The crow was so thirsty that it felt half dead. "I need water," the crow said. "I need water soon or I will die of thirst." Just then the crow came upon a pitcher. There was a little bit of water in the pitcher. The crow put his beak into the pitcher's mouth, but he could not drink the water. He could not reach it. The water level was too low.

The crow tried to reach the water again and again. He could not. The water level was too low. Then the crow thought of something. The crow found a tiny pebble. He picked up the pebble. He dropped it into the pitcher. Over and over the crow picked up tiny pebbles. Over and over he dropped the pebbles into the pitcher. Slowly, slowly, the level of the water rose. Finally, the water level was high enough for the crow to drink!

What is the moral of this fable? The moral is "little by little does the trick."

# Show What You Know

Answer the questions on “Around the World in a Balloon” and “Aesop’s Fable of the Thirsty Crow.” You may look back at what you have read if you need to.

**1. How many stories high was Piccard’s balloon?**

- (A) 18
- (B) 21
- (C) 55
- (D) 300

**2. Why couldn’t the crow drink the water in the pitcher when it first tried?**

- (A) The water level was too low.
- (B) The water level was too high.
- (C) There were too many pebbles in the pitcher.
- (D) The crow could not put his beak into the pitcher’s mouth.

**3. Both stories are about**

- (A) filling a tiny capsule.
- (B) going around the world.
- (C) being scared when one is thirsty.
- (D) trying over when the first time doesn’t work.

**4. Piccard was like the thirsty crow because**

- (A) he was scared.
- (B) he sailed slowly.
- (C) he did not give up.
- (D) he filled a balloon.

**5. The crow could fill the pitcher with pebbles because**

- (A) the pitcher was sealed.
- (B) the crow used a fire ax.
- (C) the capsule was below the pitcher.
- (D) the crow could pick up the pebbles in its beak.



# Show What You Know (cont.)

6. List in order what happens in the story. Use the numbers 1 to 5. Put 1 by what happened first. Put 5 by what happened last.

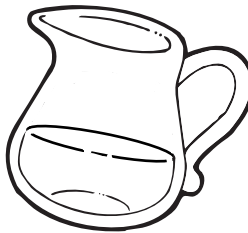
- \_\_\_\_\_ Piccard knocked off ice.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Piccard threw up.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Piccard failed two times.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Piccard sailed around the world.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Piccard's balloon sailed very high.

7. Circle the two pitchers that have the same amount of water.

A.



B.



C.



Write two or more sentences that tell what each story is about.

8. "Around the World in a Balloon" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. "Aesop's Fable of the Thirsty Crow" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. It took Piccard three tries to sail around the world. Think of something you learned to do. It might be riding a bike, tying your shoe, swimming, reading, or skating. You pick! Then, tell how you learned. Did it take three times? Was it "little by little" or all at once?

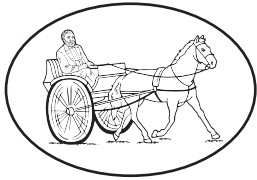
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# Answer Key (cont.)

6.



two wheels; one horse

7. Mr. Swan, Lori, Mr. Swan, Lori

## Unit 10

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. Boy climbed stone wall; Binti Jua picked up boy; Binti Jua put down limp boy.
7. fact—largest apes, eat plants, have nose print

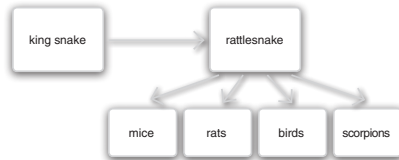
## Unit 11

1. D
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. C
6. 1: water his horses; 2: bathe; 4: walk back home
7. Dear Ulla,; Your friend, Tamara

## Unit 12

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A

6.



7. 9 segments

## Unit 13

1. D
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. 1840: water; 1843: grass or horsehair; 1845: air
7. regular mountain, regular street, snow mountain

## Unit 14

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. oldest tree: pine, over 4,725 years, California; longest snake: python, up to 33 feet (10 m), Asia
7. top row: Alejandro, Dana, Alejandro, Dana; middle row: mouse, dog, spider, dinosaur; bottom row: horse, bus, airplane, rocket ship

## Unit 15

1. A
2. A
3. D

4. C

5. D

6. 4,2,1,5,3

7. B. and C.

## Unit 16

1. C
2. D
3. D
4. C
5. A
6. sea lions: have ears, front flippers to push, rear flippers to steer; seals: no ears, front flippers to steer, rear flippers to push
7. what: to see a lion in the wild roar; where: cave on Oregon coast; when: Kate's birthday; why: to see wild sea lions; how: in an elevator

## Unit 17

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. trim the lawn; eat the flowers
7. 1: Carol's mom; 2: lady walking dog; 3: boy at park; 5: Suzu's father

## Unit 18

1. D
2. D
3. A