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This book features high-interest, "on this date in history" stories for the months of **September**, **October**, and **November**. There is an historical nonfiction short story for each day of each month. The stories were written at an approximate reading level of grades 3-4. In some cases, proper names of people, places, and events, as well as other necessary descriptive vocabulary, may drive the reading level up a bit. The interest level is aimed at students in grades 5 and up who may not be reading at grade level.

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September 1

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS (1875-1950)

On September 1, 1875, Edgar Rice Burroughs was born in Chicago. He is best remembered as the author who wrote stories about Tarzan, the King of the Jungle. Tarzan is a famous fictional character.

In his first book, called *Tarzan of the Apes*, Burroughs tells the story of a baby boy lost in Africa. The baby is given the name Tarzan and is raised by a family of apes. Tarzan lives with the wild animals and learns how to communicate with them. While still living in the jungles of Africa, Tarzan marries Jane, and they have a son named Boy.

Burroughs wrote the first Tarzan story in 1912. Later, he wrote 25 more stories about Tarzan. The Tarzan stories were so popular that they have been written in over 30 languages.

They have been made into movies, radio and television programs, and even comic strips. Millions of people like the story of the King of the Jungle.

Edgar Rice Burroughs died in 1950, 38 years after writing his first Tarzan adventure story.

Name _____

Edgar Rice Burroughs

SEPTEMBER 1

Facts

1. When and where was Edgar Rice Burroughs born?

   _____

2. What was the name of Tarzan's wife?

   _____

3. Where was Tarzan living when he married his wife?

   _____

Locating the Answer

4. Tarzan is the story of a boy lost in _____ and raised by a family of _____.

Cause and Effect

5. What has happened because the Tarzan stories were so popular?
   - ⓐ Tarzan became a real person.
   - ⓑ Edgar was able to retire early.
   - ⓒ There were movies, television programs, and comic strips about Tarzan.

Sequence

6. What happened to Edgar Rice Burroughs 38 years after writing his first Tarzan story?

   _____

Fact or Opinion

7. Which of the following statements is a fact?
   - ⓐ Tarzan was so popular that it was written in over 30 languages.
   - ⓑ Tarzan is a real person who lives in Africa with his family.

Inference

8. Which of these statements is probably true?
   - ⓐ Tarzan was a friend of Edgar Rice Burroughs.
   - ⓑ Edgar liked to write about Tarzan.
   - ⓒ Tarzan wanted to leave Africa.

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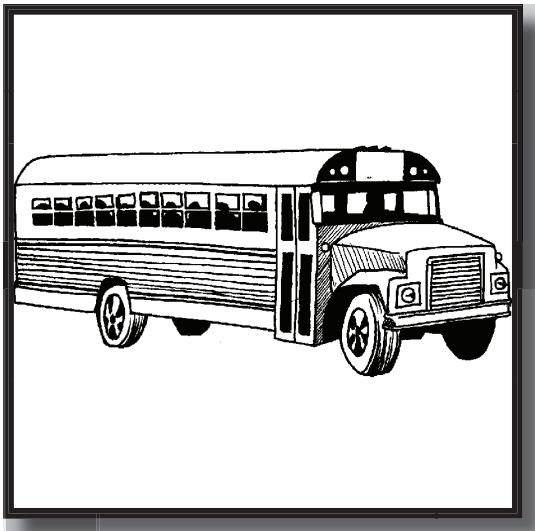

December 1

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks began the Civil Rights Movement. She refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

In many parts of the South, black people and white people had to sit in separate parts of the bus. The front was for white people and the back was for black people. The law in Alabama stated that when the front was filled, a black person in one of the middle rows had to give up his or her seat if a white person wished to sit down.

Rosa Parks was tired as she returned home from work. When the driver ordered her to the rear of the bus so that a white person could sit down, she refused. Because of her refusal, she was arrested.

In protest, the black leaders of Montgomery called a meeting to decide what should be done. Mrs. Parks was not the first black person to be arrested for not giving up her seat, but they decided that she would be the last.

At the meeting, it was agreed that a one-day boycott of all city buses would begin on that Monday morning. By Monday evening, the buses had not carried a single black passenger all day. The black leaders decided to continue the boycott. Black people walked, rode bicycles, and joined carpools.

Meanwhile, Rosa Parks went to court, where she was found guilty. The black leaders took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. A year later, the court ruled in favor of Rosa Parks. The highest court in the land said that the Alabama law on bus segregation was unconstitutional. Finally, in December 1956, the bus company agreed to integrate seating on the buses and hire black drivers.

Rosa Parks died on October 24, 2005. For her action, Rosa Parks will be remembered as the "Mother of the Modern Civil Rights Movement" for years to come.

Name _____

Montgomery Bus Boycott

DECEMBER 1

Facts

1. When did the Civil Rights Movement begin? Who began it?

_____

2. Who decided to put the boycott into action?

_____

3. What is Rosa Parks called?

_____

Locating the Answer

4. Write the sentence that tells what the highest court in the land ruled about the Alabama law.

_____

_____

_____

Vocabulary

5. What does the word **unconstitutional** mean?
   - ⓐ "according to the Constitution"
   - ⓑ "not written by the Constitution"
   - ⓒ "not according to the Constitution"

Sequence

6. What happened right after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus?

_____

Cause and Effect

7. What happened if the front of the bus was full and a white person wanted a seat?
   - ⓐ The white person had to stand.
   - ⓑ A black person had to give up his or her seat.
   - ⓒ The white person had to get on another bus.

Inference

8. Which of these statements is probably true?
   - ⓐ The law was unconstitutional because it was not written correctly.
   - ⓑ The law was unconstitutional because it was not approved by the correct person.
   - ⓒ The law was unconstitutional because it denied people of their rights.

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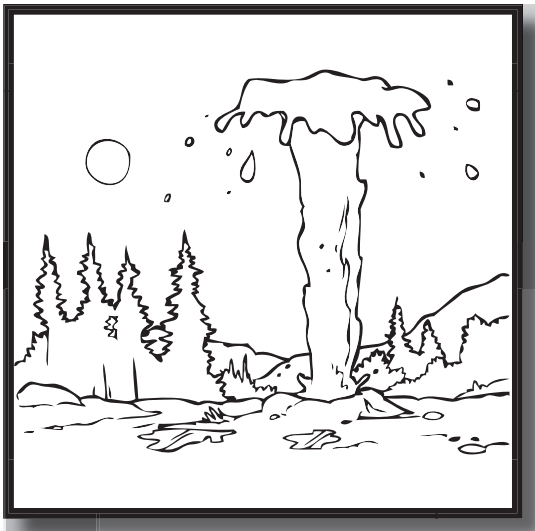

March 1

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

National parks are large areas of scenic land owned by the United States government. The land is protected. This means that it cannot be used for anything except as a park which visitors can enjoy.

There are 53 national parks in the United States. On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone was established as the first U.S. National Park. It is the largest of all the parks. It is mainly in northwestern Wyoming and slightly overlaps into Montana and Idaho. It is about 62 miles long and 54 miles wide.

There are more geysers in Yellowstone than in all the rest of the world. Old Faithful is a famous geyser in the park. It got its name because it regularly shoots up hot water and steam about every 67 minutes.

There are pools of bubbling mud at Yellowstone. They are caused by steam below the ground surface. The steam pushes up on the mud, causing it to boil or bubble. Minerals in the mud make the pools different shades of orange, brown, and yellow.

A large, deep canyon contains a waterfall that is 300 feet high. There are fossil forests with petrified tree trunks. Mountains, rivers, and lakes cover parts of the park.

Yellowstone is a great wild animal refuge. Protected herds of elk, moose, deer, antelope, and buffalo live there. Bears are there, as well as many kinds of birds.

Millions of people visit Yellowstone National Park every year to hike, camp, and enjoy the unusual sights. Because it is a national park, it will always remain a natural scenic wonderland.

Name _____

Yellowstone National Park

MARCH 1

Main Idea

1. This story mainly tells
   - ⓐ about Old Faithful.
   - ⓑ about the names of different national parks.
   - ⓒ about the landmarks and wildlife in Yellowstone.

Facts

2. What three states is Yellowstone found in?

   _____

3. What makes the mud different colors?

   _____

4. Name the famous geyser in Yellowstone.

   _____

Locating the Answer

5. Write the sentence that tells what national parks are.

   _____

   _____

Vocabulary

6. What does the word **refuge** mean?
   - ⓐ "a place that is warm"
   - ⓑ "a place that gives life"
   - ⓒ "a place that gives shelter"

Cause and Effect

7. What causes pools of bubbling mud to form?
   - ⓐ Rain that mixes with hot dirt.
   - ⓑ Steam under the ground that pushes up on mud.
   - ⓒ Water from Old Faithful that mixes with dirt.

Conclusion

8. From this story, you can tell that
   - ⓐ Yellowstone National Park is a place full of life.
   - ⓑ Yellowstone National Park will close soon.
   - ⓒ Yellowstone National Park is a hard place to find.

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