

1. The oldest known living tree is a bristlecone pine found in California. People have named the tree Methuseleh because it is so old. By counting its rings, they have determined that this tree is 4,600 years old.

2. Alex Rivera was a star first baseman on his high-school team. One winter evening he made a fantastic catch. But this catch had nothing to do with baseball. A mother dropped two small children from the upper window of her burning house. Alex caught them safely in his arms. He helped rescue the mother, too.

3. Try the following experiment: Hold your hand close to a mirror, and you'll see two reflections. One will be very clear, but the other one will be faint, like a shadow. A mirror reflects when light bounces off your hand and goes through the glass to the back of the mirror. Then the light bounces toward your eyes. But sometimes the light gets caught and bounces between the front and back of the mirror before it bounces outward. That's what makes the shadow reflection.

4. Most people think that the first houses built by settlers in America were log cabins. But the Pilgrims lived in wigwams made of poles, clay, and bark. The first log cabins in America were built by Swedish pioneers who settled in Delaware 18 years after the Pilgrims arrived.

5. Giraffes are the tallest animals. They stand about 17 feet high, but almost 7 feet of that is neck! The giraffe's legs are extremely long, too. The animals can easily step over a fence that is 6 feet high.

SCORE

Name: _____

Block: _____

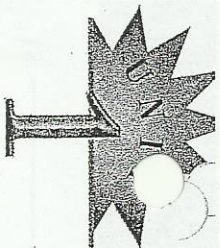
1. The story mainly tells
- A. about the oldest known living tree
 - B. how to tell a tree's age
 - C. how old redwood trees are
 - D. where the bristlecone pine is located

2. The story mainly tells
- A. what base Alex Rivera played
 - B. where Rivera played ball
 - C. whose house burned
 - D. how Rivera made a fantastic catch

3. The story mainly tells
- A. why you can see two reflections in a mirror
 - B. why it's unlucky to break a mirror
 - C. how to see shadows
 - D. how light bounces off objects

4. The story mainly tells
- A. how the Pilgrims lived
 - B. how Swedish pioneers lived underground
 - C. about the early types of houses built by settlers
 - D. how to build a log cabin

5. The story mainly tells
- A. how to run 35 miles an hour
 - B. what giraffes like to eat
 - C. how tall giraffes are
 - D. why animals hunt giraffes



A Meal of Eel?

The eel is a fish. But it has no scales, and it is able to breathe in or out of the water. It looks like a snake. The American eel can live in both salt water and fresh water. American eels begin life as eggs in the sea near Puerto Rico. When they hatch from eggs, the babies look like thin, see-through leaves. For about a year, they drift on ocean currents and eat plankton. Plankton is the tiny animal and plant life in water.

Eventually, currents carry the eels thousand of miles north to the United States. There the young eels swim to bodies of fresh water, such as lakes and rivers, and feed on the fish and animals at the bottom. The eels are strong, and some of them can even climb up waterfalls and dams.

As the eels grow older, their bodies become longer and turn yellow. It takes about ten years for these yellow eels to become full-grown. When they become adults, they change color again! They turn black and silver, and then they are called silver eels. Females grow three to four feet long, while males reach about one and one-half feet in length.

Finally it's time to make eggs, so they all swim to reach the ocean. Sometimes they may slither across land through wet grass. Then the silver eels make the long trip back to the Sargasso Sea near Puerto Rico. There, the cycle starts over.

Some people eat eels. In Europe and Asia, eels are considered to be a special dish. In America, some restaurants serve grilled eel. Have you had some? If not, now you know another use for barbecue sauce!

SCORE



- Put these events in the order that they happened. What happened first? Write the number **1** on the line by that sentence. Then write the number **2** by the sentence that tells what happened next. Write the number **3** by the sentence that tells what happened last.
____ Yellow eels mature to be silver eels.
____ Silver eels swim back to the Sargasso Sea.
____ Currents carry baby eels to the United States.
- When do eels eat plankton?
A. before they've hatched
B. while they drift in the ocean
C. after they eat fish
- When do the eels swim in fresh water?
A. before they look like leaves
B. after they reach the United States
C. after they lay eggs
- When do the yellow eels turn black and silver?
A. after they make eggs
B. when they become adults
C. before they are see-through
- When do eels return to the Sargasso Sea?
A. when they swim up dams
B. when they are ready to breathe air
C. when it's time to make eggs