

Name _____

5 Step Strategy:

- ① Box the title & write a ques.
 ② # the paragraphs
 ③ Circle key words in questions
 ④ Slash the trash
 ⑤ Justify answers

Author's Purpose

Directions: Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen.

Making Paint

Artists have a variety of paint choices today. Did you know that many materials in current use were also known to paintmakers in ancient times?

The substance that gives paint its color is called *pigment*. It is usually made from clay, lead, chalk, or other natural minerals that are ground into fine powder. In ancient times, people mixed vegetable and earth pigments with water or animal fat. In Colonial America, people used things like coffee, milk, and butter for pigment! Recently the paint industry has developed new chemical pigments.

To hold the color on the picture, pigments must be mixed with a sticky substance, or *binder*. A variety of materials are used, from oils to tree resins, beeswax, and even egg yolks. Recently, acrylic binders made from petroleum have also become popular. Drying time, gloss, and texture are all affected by the binder.

During the Italian Renaissance of the 1500s, painters began inventing new binders and new formulas for mixing pigments and binders. They kept their formulas secret so that other painters could not steal their ideas and profit from them. Most of the time, the new process died with the painter who invented it. Scientific analysis may yet reveal what made Italian paintings from the Renaissance so beautiful, but for now it is a mystery.

Para. _____

1. The topic of this article is—
 A. paintmakers of ancient times.
 B. how paint is made.
 C. finely-ground pigments.
 D. minerals and other powders.

2. The main purpose of the article is—

F. to inform.
 G. to entertain.
 H. to persuade.
 J. to express.

Para. _____

3. The article's main idea is that—

A. natural materials make the best paints.
 B. Colonial paintmakers used food substances to make pigments.
 C. paints are made from different pigments and binders.
 D. an artist's style depends upon pigments.

Para. _____

4. Why does the author include the mention of paintmakers of ancient times?

F. to impress readers with his knowledge of history
 G. to show that some of their materials are still in use today
 H. to show how primitive their materials were
 J. to suggest that their materials were better than recent ones

Para. _____

5. The author included the last paragraph to—

A. make the article more entertaining.
 B. inform the reader about an interesting period in the history of paintmaking.
 C. persuade the reader that the Italian painters of the Renaissance were the best painters.
 D. express the beauty of Renaissance paintings.

Para. _____



Notes for Home: Your child read an article and identified the author's purpose. **Home Activity:** Together, name some favorite books, TV shows, and movies. Identify the author's purpose or purposes for writing each kind of text.

Name _____

Fact and Opinion/ Author's Viewpoint

Directions: Read the passage. Then read each question about the passage. Choose the best answer to each question. Mark the letter for the answer you have chosen.

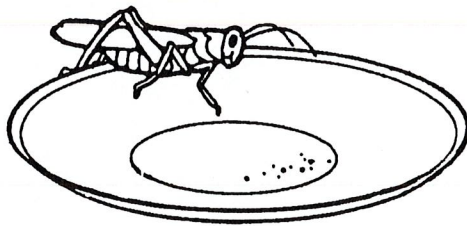
Insects as Food

You probably think that you would never eat an insect, even if you were starving. Insects are ugly and disgusting, right?

But chances are you do eat them, or at least you use products that come from insects. Beeswax, for example, is used in lip balms. Honeycomb is sold in most American supermarkets.

Around the world, insects have long been an important food source. Insects were once a major food for Australian aborigines. In some countries, grasshoppers and large palm weevil grubs are still eaten. In South Africa, some people snack on roasted termites as if they were popcorn. In the Sinai Desert, some people eat the dry, scaly parts of certain bugs. In Mexico, a popular cake is made with the eggs of a water insect. In the United States, chocolate-covered ants are a delicacy sold in many food stores.

As someone who has eaten dishes made from insects, let me tell you that they are delicious. They are very nutritious, too, because insects are an excellent source of protein. It is simply prejudice that keeps most people from enjoying these delicacies. As with any new food, you have to give it a chance. You might be surprised at just how tasty insects can be!



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Notes for Home: Your child read an article and identified statements of fact and opinion, as well as the author's viewpoint. **Home Activity:** Read a newspaper editorial with your child. Have him or her identify the facts, opinions, and author's viewpoint.

1. In the first paragraph, the author assumes that most people—
A. like insects.
B. hate insects.
C. have eaten insects.
D. think insects are useful. Para. _____
2. In the second and third paragraphs, the author supports his or her viewpoint by—
F. quoting an expert.
G. providing a variety of opinions.
H. repeating the main idea.
J. giving facts. Para. _____
3. Which of the following is a statement of opinion?
A. Insects have long been an important food source.
B. Australian aborigines ate bugs.
C. Insects are delicious.
D. Beeswax is used in lip balms. Para. _____
4. Which statement best sums up the author's viewpoint?
F. Insects are unfairly rejected as a food source.
G. Insects are better than most foods.
H. Insects have no place in a modern diet.
J. Insects are the food of the future. Para. _____
5. This article is best described as—
A. balanced.
B. unbalanced.
C. emotional.
D. inaccurate. Para. _____