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This passage is about an innovator and the richest man in the world. Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.



Bill Gates

How would it feel to create a corporation? Not just any corporation. But, a corporation that created the most commonly used software? Bill Gates knows. Gates created Microsoft with his friend Paul Allen. Together they created one of the world's largest software companies. This software was new. It was *innovative* software. That is what made it successful.

Why did Gates create Microsoft? He saw the usefulness of computers. Early computers were so big they were placed in large rooms. In the 1970s, personal computers were being created. These are smaller computers that sit on a desk. Gates wanted computers to be in every home and every business. He believed that computers would improve lives. He also believed that computers would improve businesses.

How did Bill Gates get started? He attended Harvard University. While at Harvard, Gates learned that a company was creating a microcomputer. A microcomputer is the same as a personal computer. Gates developed a version of BASIC. It was a programming language for the first microcomputer. Then Gates and his friend Paul Allen started to work on their future corporation Microsoft. They knew each other from childhood. Gates left Harvard before graduation. He wanted to devote his time to Microsoft.

Goals were part of Gates's planning. He believed that his software had to make computers easier to use. He also wanted computers to be more enjoyable. He wanted his software to be cost effective. These were his goals. He achieved his goals. His ideas were successful. In 2007, Microsoft earned \$51.12 billion. It also employed more than 78,000 people. His employees were from more than 105 countries.

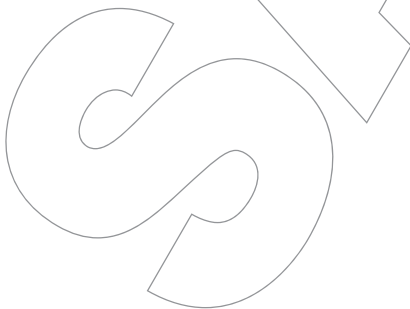
Gates has achieved a lot in the world of technology and business. For example, he founded Corbis. This company is a digital archive of visual information. That includes art and photography.

He is also a member of the board of directors for Berkshire Hathaway Inc. This corporation invests in companies. The companies are engaged in diverse business activities.

The term *author* also describes Gates. Believe it or not, he has also written books. Not long after founding Microsoft, he wrote about computer software. In 1995, he wrote *The Road Ahead*. This book was number one on the *New York Times* best-seller list for seven weeks. In 1999, he wrote *Business @ the Speed of Thought*. This book was about computers helping businesses. It was listed on four different best-seller lists. Gates donated the proceeds from his book to organizations. These organizations supported education.

Gates found other ways to help people learn. He created a foundation with his wife, Melinda. The foundation is called The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. They donate money to support education. He also donates money to improve learning opportunities and to support public libraries. He has also given money to community projects.

Gates is an amazing person because of all of his accomplishments. He has influenced the world of technology. He has also impacted the world of business and education.





Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the passage that you just read. Read each question and then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you're not sure, go back and look at the passage again.

1. Which is not true about Bill Gates?

- (A) He founded Corbis.
- (B) He is an author.
- (C) He graduated from Harvard University.
- (D) He is the co-founder of Microsoft.

Critical Reasoning

2. Which of the following words does not describe Bill Gates?

- (A) charitable
- (B) ingenious
- (C) prosperous
- (D) unimaginative

Critical Reasoning

3. Which of the following did Bill Gates write?

- (A) *Microsoft: The Software of Tomorrow*
- (B) *The Road Ahead*
- (C) *The Road to Success*
- (D) *Tomorrow's Hardware*

Factual

4. Which of the following is most likely?

- (A) Gates did not impact the world of technology.
- (B) Software by Microsoft is not original.
- (C) Gates will return to Harvard to finish his degree.
- (D) Computer users have used Gates's software.

Critical Reasoning

5. The word *innovative* means

- (A) new and original
- (B) old and simple
- (C) uncomplicated
- (D) complicated

Critical Reasoning

6. What is the main idea of paragraph 7?

- (A) Gates is a successful author.
- (B) Gates wrote *The Road Ahead*.
- (C) Gates's books were on best-seller lists.
- (D) Gates's books helped businesses.

Inference

7. What is a corporation?

- (A) a computer
- (B) a program
- (C) a software program
- (D) a business

Critical Reasoning

8. Which of these events happened last?

- (A) Gates was a student at Harvard University.
- (B) Gates developed a version of BASIC.
- (C) Gates met Paul Allen.
- (D) Gates wrote *Business @ the Speed of Thought*.

Inference



Summing Up



Good writing usually revolves around one or more **main ideas**. These main ideas are supported by facts and details. The **supporting facts** often answer the questions, *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why*. On the next page, fill in the supporting facts.



What?	Who?	Why?	Where?	When?
Created the world's most successful software for home and office computers.	Bill Gates			



Write About It

Magazine articles often focus on telling about the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why*. This helps the reader to get the key points quickly. Later, the writer may put in additional details.

Pretend you write for a popular magazine. Your editor just asked you to interview Bill Gates and write a column about the information that you gathered. Use the passage on pages 59 and 60 and the graphic organizer on page 64 to help you.

Bill Gates is _____

Handwriting practice lines with a large, faint watermark reading "SAMPLE" diagonally across the page.