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	Lesson 1	Jesse Owens: Olympic Champion	3
	Lesson 2	The Remarkable Camel	6
		Review	9
	Lesson 3	An American Hero	10
	Lesson 4	Twists, Turns, and Drops	13
		Review	16
	Lesson 5	The Nation's Attic	17
	Lesson 6	Fossils: Clues to the Past	20
		Review	23
	Lesson 7	The Mound Builders	24
	Lesson 8	A Desert Giant	27
		Review	30
	Lesson 9	Important Inventions	31
	Lesson 10	The Story of Chocolate	34
		Review	37
		Midway Review	38
	Lesson 11	Carved in Stone	40
	Lesson 12	At the Edge of the Solar System	43
		Review	46
	Lesson 13	Going West	47
	Lesson 14	The Bird Heroes	50
		Review	53
	Lesson 15	Laura Ingalls Wilder	54
	Lesson 16	Hurricane: Killer Storm	57
		Review	60
	Lesson 17	Party Animals	61
	Lesson 18	Tsunamis	64
		Review	67
	Lesson 19	Rights for Women	68
	Lesson 20	The Water Cycle	71
		Review	74
		Posttest	75
		Glossary	77



Important Inventions

Study each word and its meaning.

folly (noun) an expensive task with foolish results

follies

Solar cars used to be just an inventor's *folly*.

ideal (adjective) thought of as being the best possible

Fall is an *ideal* time to plant a tree.

issue (noun) something that people disagree about

issues

The candidates discussed the *issue* of raising taxes.

monotonous (adjective) without variety

Driving on the long, flat road was *monotonous*.

practical (adjective) having a useful purpose

The microwave oven was a *practical* invention.

production (noun) the process of making something with raw materials

productions

The mill's *production* of lumber increased after the tornado.

reaper (noun) a machine that cuts and gathers a crop

reapers

The farmer used a *reaper* to harvest the corn.

separate (verb) to divide into parts or sections

separates, separated, separating

Mom *separated* the laundry by colors.

Read each sentence below. Complete it with a word from the box.

reaper
practical

monotonous
folly

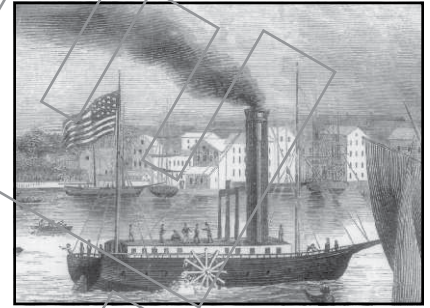
ideal
separate

production
issue

- 1 At dinner we discussed the curfew _____.
- 2 We took the most _____ route to escape the hurricane.
- 3 By the sixth book, I began to find the series _____.
- 4 The factory specialized in the _____ of footwear.
- 5 I had to _____ the paperwork by date.
- 6 Uncle Sal bought a new _____ for his farm.
- 7 Some people believe that flying hot air balloons is a _____.
- 8 The horse had an _____ build for racing.

Read this story. Then go back and circle the words in the passage that you have been studying and write them on the lines below.

In 1800, the United States was mostly small farms and wilderness. By the middle of the 1800s, the country was a major producer of grain, cotton, and other goods. Much of the success resulted from three inventions. Eli Whitney invented a machine called the cotton gin. It changed cotton production and history. Cyrus McCormick invented a machine called the reaper. It made the Midwest the “breadbasket of the world.” Robert Fulton invented a successful steamboat. It changed travel on rivers.



In 1792, Eli Whitney heard a Georgia farmer complain about how long it took and how hard it was to separate the seeds from the cotton fibers. Ten days later, Whitney invented the cotton gin. It could clean 50 times as much cotton as a person working by hand. Strangely, this made the issue of slavery more important. Without the cotton gin, slavery might have died out. With it, cotton growers decided they needed more slaves to pick cotton.

In 1809, grain was cut or “reaped” by workers swinging tools with sharp blades. A worker could cut about two acres of grain in a day. It was monotonous work. Cyrus Hall McCormick invented a horse-drawn reaper that could easily cut 10 acres of grain in a day. It was an instant success. It helped farmers make more money. In 1847, McCormick opened a factory in Chicago to make reapers. Its good location in the middle of the country, not far from the Mississippi and other rivers, made it the ideal place for a farm equipment business.

Robert Fulton showed a great talent for inventing while he was young, just like Whitney and McCormick. Many of Fulton’s ideas involved boats. He made better canal boats and other inventions to improve shipping on canals. But Fulton is best remembered for the *Clermont*. In 1807, it became the first practical and successful steamboat. Some people thought it would never work. They called it “Fulton’s Folly.” Soon, however, it was going regularly up and down the Hudson River. As the stories of these three industrious men show, their machines helped our country grow.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Bonus Word

industrious [in•DUS•tree•əs] (adjective)
working hard as a steady habit

Find the Word

Write the word that each group of words tells about.

industrious	issue	reaper	practical	folly
separate	ideal	production	monotonous	

- 1 to divide into parts
- 2 without variety
- 3 working hard as a steady habit
- 4 something that people disagree about
- 5 an expensive undertaking with foolish results
- 6 a machine that cuts and gathers a crop
- 7 having a useful purpose
- 8 the process of making something with raw materials
- 9 thought of as being the best possible

Word Work

Sometimes a suffix can be added to the end of a word to change its part of speech. The suffix *ly* can mean “like” or “in that way.” It changes an adjective to an adverb.

ideal + ly = ideally (in an ideal way)
adj. adv.

Add the suffix *ly* to each word below. Then write a sentence with the new word.

- 1 instant
- 2 practical
- 3 separate
- 4 incorrect



The Story of Chocolate

Study each word and its meaning.

blend (verb) to combine completely

blends, blended, blending

The artist *blended* colors to get the right shade of blue.

cluster (noun) a group; things grouped or growing close together

clusters

Mrs. Lett cut a large *cluster* of grapes from the vine.

enhance (verb) to make greater; heighten

enhances, enhanced, enhancing

The frame *enhances* the beauty of the portrait.

flavor (verb) to give or add a special taste to

flavors, flavored, flavoring

I like to *flavor* my milkshakes with fresh fruit.

ingredient (noun) one of the many things that make up a mixture

ingredients

Here is a list of *ingredients* I need to make the cookies.

intense (adjective) very strong

The *intense* heat from the campfire warmed us.

sprout (verb) to send out new growth

sprouts, sprouted, sprouting

After a long, hard winter, the trees have begun to *sprout*.

tropical (adjective) typical of warm regions near the equator

Mom enjoyed eating *tropical* fruit on vacation.

Read each sentence below. Complete it with a word from the box.

enhance
ingredients

sprouting
clusters

flavor
blended

tropical
intense

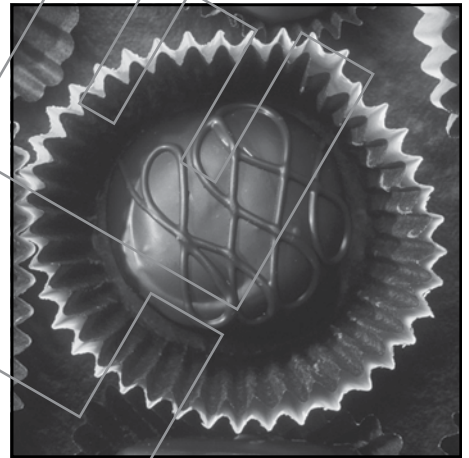
- 1 In the spring, _____ of bright flowers bloom in the park.
- 2 The pictures _____ the quality of the book.
- 3 I suffered from an _____ headache after the concert.
- 4 What are the _____ for your favorite cake?
- 5 The cook will use salt and other spices to _____ the soup.
- 6 There was a _____ breeze blowing on the island.
- 7 I _____ the eggs with the sugar and flour to make the batter.
- 8 The seeds that I planted in the window box are _____.

Read this story. Then go back and circle the words in the passage that you have been studying and write them on the lines below.

Everyone seems to love the wonderful taste of chocolate. The first people in Europe to eat it thought that it was a gift from another world. In a way, chocolate did come from another world—the New World discovered by ancient explorers.

Chocolate comes from the cacao (kuh•KAY•oh) tree. It grows in the tropical river valleys of South America. Here, a cacao tree can grow to be 20 to 40 feet tall. It has enormous leaves, too. They are green on top and brownish red underneath. Clusters of little flowers sprout right out from the tree's bark. As time goes by, each cluster of flowers changes into a pod about one foot long. There are always pods and flowers on the tree at the same time.

If you open a cacao pod, you will find a mushy pink filling. In it are rows of cacao beans. They are baked and ground to make cacao powder. But the powder tastes very bitter. So other ingredients are blended with the cacao powder. This is done to enhance the taste. Vanilla is mixed in to soften the bitter taste. Then sugar is added to make the powder sweet. Finally, the chocolate powder is ready to use. Since it is very intense, only a little powder is needed. The consumption of chocolate has increased over the years. People use it to flavor candy, ice cream, cakes, and even milk.



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Bonus Word

consumption [kən•SUMP•shən] (noun)
the process of eating or drinking up

Find the Word

Write the word that each group of words tells about.

flavor sprout	consumption cluster	blend ingredient	intense tropical	enhance
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- the process of eating or drinking up
- make greater; heighten
- to send out new growth
- to give or add a special taste to
- things grouped or growing close together
- to combine completely
- very strong
- typical of warm regions near the equator
- one of many things that make up a mixture

Word Work



A suffix is added to the end of a word and changes its part of speech. The suffix **y** changes a noun to an adjective.

mush + y = mushy (soft, like mush)

dirt + y = dirty (full of dirt)

Add the suffix **y** to the words below. Write the new word on the line and in the phrase.

- sand + y = _____ a _____ beach
- luck + y = _____ a _____ charm
- salt + y = _____ a _____ snack
- cloud + y = _____ a _____ sky



REVIEW

Read the meanings. Then find and circle each word in the puzzle.
Look across and down.

I N T E N S E W I P T F K I L
F B P R A C T I C A L I S I S
O L R I O U C L U S T E R D P
L C O N S U M P T I O N S E I
L I D G N E U M C S U I E A N
Y K U R I E N G R S E F P L D
O P C E A N L M O U N O A T U
S U T D D H E B L E N D R E S
P M I I R A H W K N F S A E T
R O O E T N R E A I M T T U R
O V N N D C E P R E A P E R I
U L O T M E A F L A V O R L O
T R O P I C A L M O B U M E U
P Q C X I M O N O T O N O U S

Across

- very strong
- having a useful purpose
- things grouped together
- the process of eating or drinking up
- to combine completely
- a machine that cuts and gathers a crop
- to give a special taste to
- typical warm regions near the equator
- without variety

Down

- an expensive task with foolish results
- to send out new growth
- the process of making something
- one thing of many added to a mixture
- to make greater
- something that people disagree about
- to divide into parts
- thought of as being the best possible
- working hard as a steady habit