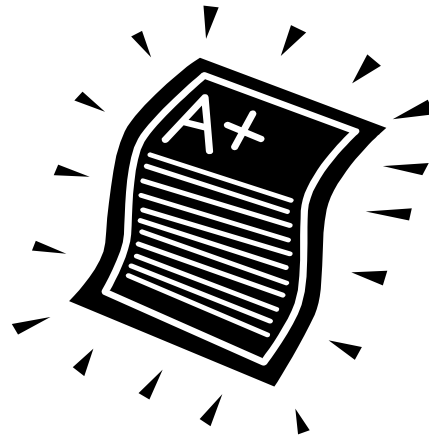


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*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Pre Test

Read the following selection about New York. Then answer questions 1 through 14.

New York: The Empire State

First settled by the Dutch in the 1600's, New York State was one of the thirteen **original** colonies. One of the first settlements in New York was located on the Hudson River, close to what is now New York City, which is also known today by the nickname, the "Big Apple." The reference to New York City as the "Big Apple" resulted from the cultivation of an actual type of apple, the Empire, which was created in New York and named after the state. Even today, New York produces over half of the Empire apples grown in this country.

In fact, even though most people think first of the sophistication of New York City when they contemplate New York State, the state actually ranks among the top five in the U.S. for the production of quite a few crops and agricultural products. For example, New York grows corn, soybeans, carrots, peas, and other vegetables, in addition to hay and wheat and oats. Over one-quarter of the state is agriculture land, and a number of dairy farms in New York produce milk and cheese. In addition, bee farms generate enough honey to make New York a major honey-producing state.

Of course, New York State has its share of shops, theaters, and restaurants, too, and not all of them are found strictly in New York City. On the other hand, New York City is certainly home to most of the best-known ones, and it is also home to several celebrated professional sports teams, such as baseball's Yankees and Mets, basketball's Knicks, hockey's Rangers, and football's Jets.

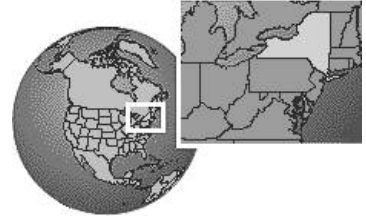
Among the numerous tourist attractions in New York City are the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the South Street Seaport, Times Square, and Central Park. Tourists can view the city from walking tours, taxi cab rides, bus tours, horse and carriage rides, and the Circle Line Tour boat trip. Broadway plays, concerts, and art and history museums compete with sporting events, illustrious restaurants, and internationally renowned fashion shows for the attention of the city's millions of visitors.

New York State is also recognized for its many picturesque waterfront scenes and waterways. For example, you are most likely aware that New York City is actually a seaport on the Atlantic Ocean. Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, two of the five Great Lakes, are located in the northern section of the state. These lakes are joined together by the Niagara River, which produces Niagara Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. In addition, the St. Lawrence River flows south from Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to the Atlantic Ocean. New York State has another widely-known river that runs south to New York City and the ocean. This is the Hudson, which has inspired many poets and painters, and it flows down from the Adirondack Mountains in the northern part of the state.

A lot of people pronounce New York City a "wonderful place to visit," but declare that they "wouldn't want to live there." This is because they love it for the many things to do and places to see there, but they hate it for the traffic, the crowds, and the cold winters. If you have not been to New York, maybe you will have the chance to go there one day. Then you can make up your own mind about the Empire State!

New York: The Empire State (10.7)

1. What is this passage primarily about?
 - A. worldwide tourist attractions
 - B. the waterways of New York State
 - C. the many characteristics of New York State
 - D. none of the above
2. Which of the following is NOT a New York City tourist attraction?
 - A. Times Square
 - B. South Street Seaport
 - C. Niagara Falls
 - D. none of the above
3. In New York's chain of waterways, the St. Lawrence River flows south to:
 - A. Circle Line Tour
 - B. the Atlantic Ocean
 - C. Niagara Falls
 - D. none of the above
4. What is the main difference between New York City and the New York countryside?
 - A. One has shopping and plays, and the other has crops.
 - B. One has tourist attractions, and the other has automobile factories.
 - C. One has the Yankees, and the other has great restaurants.
 - D. none of the above
5. For what reason does the St. Lawrence River flow south?
 - A. It starts in the south.
 - B. It starts in Central Park.
 - C. It starts in Kansas.
 - D. none of the above
6. From the passage, what can you infer about most people's attitudes toward New York City?
 - A. They love it, and they hate it.
 - B. No one wants to go there.
 - C. Everyone is trying to move there.
 - D. none of the above
7. From information in this passage, you could conclude that:
 - A. New York State is boring.
 - B. New York State is mainly for farming.
 - C. New York State has something to interest almost everyone.
 - D. none of the above



8. The passage reads, “New York State was one of the thirteen **original** colonies.” What does **original** mean in the above sentence?
- A. most famous
 - B. primary
 - C. spurious
 - D. none of the above
9. The author’s purpose for writing the third paragraph was to:
- A. inform the reader about cows
 - B. explain where bees live
 - C. describe the various kinds of New York agricultural businesses
 - D. none of the above
10. The most appropriate summary of this passage is:
- A. New York has cold winters.
 - B. New York has lots of waterways.
 - C. You should make up your own mind about New York.
 - D. none of the above
11. The main idea of the sixth paragraph is to:
- A. prove that all of New York is a swamp
 - B. describe New York’s many waterways
 - C. explain about the Circle Line Tour boat trip
 - D. none of the above
12. Many people say New York City is a “wonderful place to visit.” Contrast that with what they say about living there.
- A. They want to live there in the winter.
 - B. They want to live there in the summer.
 - C. They don’t want to live there.
 - D. none of the above
13. Which book would help you to learn more about the state of New York?
- A. the World Almanac
 - B. Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations
 - C. Roget’s Thesaurus
 - D. none of the above
14. Where would be the best place to look for a map of New York City?
- A. a tourist guide book to New York
 - B. a copy of *Newsweek* magazine
 - C. in a critique of an opera being staged in New York City
 - D. none of the above



Read the following selection. Then answer questions 15 through 31.

New Kid in Town

Monday morning Miranda Sloan found herself jammed into the large, noisy lobby of Hansboro High School along with hundreds of other students. Catching sight of three crowded hallways exiting the cavernous lobby, she shook her head and sighed unhappily. Here she was, possessing not a single earthly idea concerning which hallway she should enter to begin searching for her homeroom, she thought to herself angrily. If only she had bothered to utilize a little extra amount of time to investigate the school's buildings and grounds on Friday instead of being in such a huge hurry to leave after she'd met with her guidance counselor and registered for her fall classes!

After what seemed to her like hours, the bell clanged noisily above the jabbering crowd, and hundreds of students commenced shuffling slowly toward the rear of the immense lobby, transporting Miranda with them. Finding it futile to resist, she let herself be carried along until, eventually, she was **deposited** at the entrance to the middle hallway, where she managed to pause and looked around herself in a state of extreme confusion. Where could room fourteen possibly be? While she contemplated her unhappy predicament, someone suddenly shoved her in the back, and a masculine voice yelled into her ear, "Comin' through, *Big Girl!* Move it, move it, move it!"

Miranda swiveled quickly around to protest angrily, and as she did, she caught sight of the number fourteen affixed to a door off to her right. Relief washed over her in a welcome wave as she made her way gratefully toward the open doorway. Immediately, however, she caught a glimpse of the short, skinny guy who had shoved so rudely past her in the hallway barely a moment earlier. "You almost knocked me down," she said furiously, turning sharply in his direction.

He looked up at her, laughed, and shrugged indifferently. "You look big enough to take care of yourself to me," he said and began to chuckle.

"Excuse me?" Miranda retorted, only seconds from telling him exactly what she thought about him *and* Hansboro High School, but before she could impart those thoughts to him, he bolted through the door and into the classroom, waving and calling out loudly to everyone inside. The little doofus! Like it was *her* fault she was five foot eight inches tall, and *his* stupid growth hormones hadn't kicked in yet! She discovered a desk in a back corner and slid gratefully into it, wishing fervently that she were anywhere else at all in the entire world and wondering miserably how she would ever make it through this terrible day.

"Good morning, everyone, and welcome to my class. My name is Mr. Antonio, and I'll be your homeroom teacher this year, at least, for those of you who manage to stay around that long," the tall man at the front of the room said cheerfully. He grinned as the class responded with laughter. "Welcome to tenth grade. We have a lot of first-day business to cover, but before we begin, I want our new arrival, Miranda Sloan, to come up front." An icy hand clutched Miranda's heart as everyone in the class turned around to look at her, evidently the one and only unfamiliar person in the room.

"Come on, Miranda, you have my personal guarantee that very few of us bite," Mr. Antonio said with a chuckle, "and for those of us who might, I have rabies vaccination certificates on file in my desk." Again, the classroom echoed with laughter.

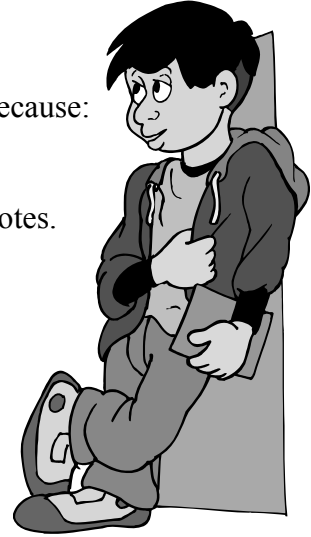
A moment later, Miranda found herself standing at the front of the room, knees shaking, while Mr. Antonio gave a humorous little speech welcoming her to Hansboro High, and everyone stared at her like she was some sort of space alien.

Finally, Mr. Antonio's speech was over, and she was **slinking** back to her desk when the little twerp said in a very loud voice, "So, how's the weather up there, *Big Girl!*?" The other students laughed heartily, so Miranda made herself laugh, too, as though she was not in the least concerned. All the while, she was secretly contemplating the myriad ways in which she would most definitely make everyone laugh at *him*, beginning with the very first opportunity that presented itself!

15. This story is mostly about:
- A. how to win friends and influence people
 - B. a first day at a new school
 - C. how the weather is different for taller people
 - D. none of the above
16. Which detail explains that Miranda is a new student at Hansboro High?
- A. Mr. Antonio called her a "new arrival."
 - B. She looks like a space alien.
 - C. She saw a guidance counselor on Friday.
 - D. none of the above
17. What happened right after the bell rang?
- A. A boy shoved Miranda aside.
 - B. Mr. Antonio asked her to come to the front of the room.
 - C. Miranda was carried along with the crowd.
 - D. none of the above
18. How is Miranda's first day different from a regular day?
- A. She has no homework.
 - B. She doesn't know the location of her homeroom.
 - C. She will be leaving early.
 - D. none of the above
19. What caused Miranda to become angry with the boy in the hall?
- A. He's a lot shorter than Miranda.
 - B. He tried to copy her homework.
 - C. He told her to go to the front of the room.
 - D. none of the above



20. From his actions, what can you infer about the personality of the boy in the passage?
- A. He doesn't like attention.
 - B. He is not shy.
 - C. He should be in jail.
 - D. none of the above
21. Miranda decided she would make everyone laugh at the short boy because:
- A. She didn't like the way he spoke to Mr. Antonio.
 - B. He embarrassed her in front of everyone.
 - C. He is running for class clown and needs the attention to get votes.
 - D. none of the above
22. The passage reads, "She was **deposited** at the entrance . . ."
- What does **deposited** mean the way it is used in the passage?
- A. It refers to putting money in the bank.
 - B. It refers to being shoved along.
 - C. It refers to being left somewhere.
 - D. none of the above
23. Why does the author **not** have Miranda look around the school on Friday?
- A. to make her confusion on Monday more believable
 - B. to give her more to write about in her journal
 - C. to make an icy hand clutch her heart
 - D. none of the above
24. Which is the best summary of this passage?
- A. A second day at school does not always go smoothly.
 - B. It isn't easy to be popular in high school.
 - C. One should always know the location of her homeroom.
 - D. none of the above
25. What inference can you draw about Mr. Antonio?
- A. He gives too much homework.
 - B. He is popular with his students.
 - C. He is a new teacher.
 - D. none of the above



26. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
- A. Most schools are overcrowded.
 - B. Some students carry too many books with them in the halls.
 - C. Miranda is not very happy.
 - D. none of the above
27. Why did Mr. Antonio ask Miranda to come up front?
- A. to introduce her to everyone
 - B. so he could help the class make fun of her
 - C. to give her a detention slip for being late to class
 - D. none of the above
28. What was the author’s purpose for writing the first sentence?
- A. to show what a crowd looks like
 - B. to let the reader know that Miranda is afraid of crowds
 - C. to give the reader a picture of Miranda’s surroundings
 - D. none of the above
29. The passage reads that Miranda was “**slinking** back to her desk. . . .”
What does **slinking** mean the way it is used here?
- A. trying not to attract attention
 - B. running as fast as possible
 - C. crawling on your stomach on the floor
 - D. none of the above
30. From Miranda’s reaction to being teased, you can tell that:
- A. She enjoys being the center of attention.
 - B. She is having an enjoyable day.
 - C. She plans to run for a student government position.
 - D. none of the above
31. Where should Miranda look to learn more about her new school?
- A. in a glossary
 - B. in a recent school yearbook
 - C. in the table of contents of a novel about high schools
 - D. none of the above

Read the following selection about Edward James Olmos. Then answer questions 32 through 44.

Edward James Olmos

Movie actor Edward James Olmos, a Mexican-American, was born in Los Angeles and lived in a very poor neighborhood. When he was young, he knew that he did not want to stay there, so he decided to get an education in order to better his life and help others. To achieve the lofty goals he had set for himself, he worked hard to stay away from gangs and avoid taking drugs.

Then, as he got a little older, Olmos realized that he was a talented baseball player, which gave him something to concentrate on, as well as somewhere to go and play away from the temptations of his crime-ridden neighborhood. Later, after deciding he no longer wanted to play baseball, he started his own band and worked his way through college, paying his tuition by playing and singing in nightclubs.

In spite of having played baseball in front of lots of people and having played and sung with his band in crowded nightclubs, Olmos was terribly **introverted**, so when he registered for his college classes, he chose to take a drama course to assist himself in overcoming his shyness. Can you guess what he found out? Amazingly, Olmos discovered that he actually *liked* speaking in front of people, and he truly *enjoyed* acting in plays! It was at this point that he began to consider acting and finally decided that he, indeed, would train for a career on the stage, in movies, and on television.

As it happens with most actors, Olmos did not achieve fame immediately. He first married and started a family and then began trying out for what are known in show business as “bit parts” in movies and on TV. He managed to get a few, but he constantly had to work other jobs in order to support his family. He worked very hard to make money for his family and to learn his acting craft. After a while, he finally got a break with a starring role in a stage play.

The stage play was called “Zoot Suit.” (The title refers to a type of suit worn at the time by young, Mexican men.) He played the role of El Pachuco. For his excellent acting in this play, Olmos won a critics’ award in Los Angeles. He then went on to star in the play on Broadway in New York, and he later starred in the movie version, as well.

Olmos made other movies, but he finally became a well-known actor when he was chosen for a recurring role in the acclaimed TV series, “Miami Vice.” He won both an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his outstanding work on that TV show, and he went on to star in other TV productions, movies, and plays and to win even more awards.

As respected as he is for his craft, Olmos is certainly more than an actor; he is also an activist who works to help those less fortunate than himself. For example, he visits prisons to encourage inmates to change their ways in order to pursue a fresh start when they have completed their sentences. He travels to detention centers and speaks to young people about returning to school when they are released. He talks to high school students about the importance of staying in school and graduating in order to secure their futures.

Olmos seriously considers that it is everyone’s responsibility to become an activist in his or her community. He firmly believes that people should volunteer their time and effort to help others and to encourage those whose luck appears to have run out.

Edward James Olmos (10.5)

Although he always strives to set a good example for the Mexican community in this country, he works for all people who are in need. Edward James Olmos was a determined young man who set his goals high quite early in his life, and he has most certainly achieved them!

32. Why does the author write that Olmos has achieved his goals?
 - A. Olmos has retired a happy man.
 - B. Olmos avoided gangs, went to college, raised a family, and won an Oscar.
 - C. Olmos always wanted to have a good life and to help others.
 - D. none of the above

33. Which detail reveals how Olmos found out he wanted to be an actor?
 - A. He took a drama class in college.
 - B. He won a critics' award in Los Angeles.
 - C. He won a Golden Globe award.
 - D. none of the above

34. What happened right after Olmos starred in the "Zoot Suit" movie?
 - A. He played the same part on Broadway.
 - B. He got married and became a father.
 - C. He became an activist.
 - D. none of the above

35. According to Olmos, what is the difference between staying in school and dropping out?
 - A. One helps you become an actor; the other helps you become a baseball player.
 - B. One can help you in life; the other can hurt you.
 - C. One will win you an Emmy; the other will not.
 - D. none of the above

36. What made Olmos eager to play baseball?
 - A. He wanted to be a member of a gang.
 - B. He thought it would be a good way to get into movies.
 - C. He wanted to go and play away from his neighborhood.
 - D. none of the above

37. What can you infer about the personality of Edward James Olmos?
 - A. He doesn't care about anyone but himself.
 - B. He is a caring, responsible person.
 - C. He dislikes prisoners and poor people.
 - D. none of the above

38. From this passage, what conclusion can you draw about becoming an actor?
- A. It's not really that tough to get started.
 - B. If you have money, you can get parts.
 - C. You have to live in Hollywood to make it big in acting.
 - D. none of the above
39. The passage reads, “. . . Olmos was terribly **introverted** . . .”
What does **introverted** mean?
- A. talented
 - B. shy
 - C. gregarious
 - D. none of the above
40. The author wrote the second paragraph to:
- A. explain how Olmos accidentally found out something about himself
 - B. explain that Olmos was, and still is, a shy person
 - C. explain how important singing was to Olmos
 - D. none of the above
41. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. Edward Olmos believes that Mexican-Americans should stick together.
 - B. Edward Olmos believes in working your way through college.
 - C. Edward Olmos believes in education, hard work, and helping others.
 - D. none of the above
42. What happened to Olmos' career after he was in “Miami Vice”?
- A. He got other starring roles.
 - B. He began visiting prisons.
 - C. He starred in a play called “Zoot Suit.”
 - D. none of the above
43. The best summary of the third paragraph is:
- A. Edward Olmos did not enjoy acting.
 - B. Edward Olmos did not like working.
 - C. Edward Olmos neglected his family responsibilities.
 - D. none of the above
44. Where might one find a copy of a play?
- A. in the “A” book of an encyclopedia
 - B. in a calendar of events
 - C. in a literary anthology
 - D. none of the above

