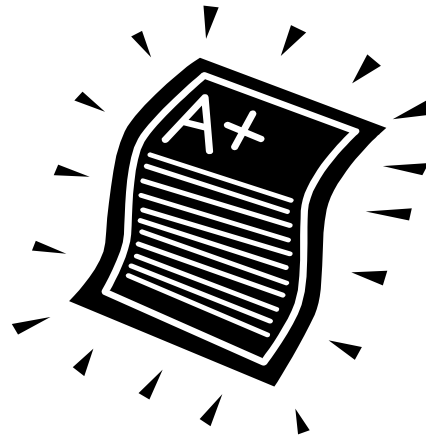


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*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Pre Test

Read the following selection about New York. Then answer questions 1 through 15.

New York: The Empire State

New York State was one of the thirteen **original** colonies. It was first settled by the Dutch in the 1600's. In fact, one of the first settlements was on the Hudson River, close to what is now New York City, also known today as the "Big Apple."

Speaking of the "Big Apple," did you know that the Empire apple was created in New York and named after the state? New York produces over half of the Empire apples grown in this country.

In fact, even though most people think of New York City when they think about New York, the state ranks in the top five in the U.S. for quite a few crops and agricultural products. For example, New York grows corn, soybeans, carrots, peas, and other vegetables. The state also produces hay, wheat, and oats. Over one-quarter of the state is agriculture land. Dairy farms there produce milk and cheese. Bee farms produce enough honey to make New York a major honey-producing state.

Of course, New York has its share of shops, theaters, and restaurants, too. They're not all in New York City, but New York City is certainly home to the best-known ones. It is home to professional sports teams, such as baseball's Yankees and Mets, basketball's Knicks, hockey's Rangers, and football's Jets.

There are a lot of tourist attractions in New York City, too. The Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the South Street Seaport, Times Square, and Central Park name only a few of the attractions. Tourists can see 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, great restaurants, and fashion shows for the attention of the city's millions of visitors.

New York State is also known for its many beautiful waterfront scenes and waterways. For example, New York City is a seaport on the Atlantic Ocean. In the northern part of the state, you will find Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, two of the five Great Lakes. They are joined by the Niagara River, which produces Niagara Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. From Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, the St. Lawrence River flows south to the Atlantic Ocean. New York State has another famous river that runs south to New York City and the ocean. This is the Hudson, which flows from the Adirondack Mountains in the northern part of the state.

A lot of people say that New York City is a "wonderful place to visit," but they "wouldn't want to live there." They love it for the things to do and places to see, 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 visit one day. Then you can make up your own mind about the Empire State!

New York: The Empire State

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 is NOT a New York City tourist attraction?
 - A. Times Square
 - B. South Street Seaport
 - C. Niagara Falls
 - D. none of the above

3. 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. What causes the St. Lawrence River to 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. What can you infer about 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



Statue of Liberty

New York: The Empire State

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. smallest
 - D. none of the above



Empire State Building

9. The third paragraph was written to:
- A. tell about cows
 - B. tell where bees live
 - C. tell about New York’s agriculture
 - D. none of the above
10. The best 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. tell 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. New York is famous for its plays. Where might you 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
14. 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
15. What 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 16 through 32.

New Kid in Town

Monday morning, Miranda Sloan found herself jammed into the large, noisy lobby of Hansboro Middle School with hundreds of other students. Catching sight of three hallways leading away from the lobby, she shook her head and sighed unhappily. Which one should she take to her homeroom? She should’ve looked around on Friday instead of being in such a big hurry to leave after she saw her guidance counselor. “At least this is an abbreviated day,” Miranda whispered under her breath.

The bell rang, and the crowd began shuffling toward the back of the lobby, carrying Miranda along with it. She was **deposited** at the entrance to the middle hallway, where she paused and looked around herself in confusion. Where was room fourteen? Then she lurched forward as someone shoved her hard in the back, and a guy yelled in her ear, “Comin’ through! Move it, move it, move it!”

Miranda turned to protest angrily, and as she did, she saw the number fourteen over a door off to her right. Relief washed over her as she made her way to the open doorway. At that instant she caught sight of the short, skinny guy who had shoved rudely past her in the hall. “You almost knocked me down,” she said sharply.

He looked up at her and shrugged indifferently. “You look big enough to take care of yourself to me,” he said.

“Excuse me?” Miranda retorted. She opened her mouth to tell him exactly what she thought about him *and* Hansboro Middle School, but he was already inside the room,

waving and calling out to everyone. 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 found a desk in a back corner and slid quickly into it, wishing fervently that she were anywhere else in the world and wondering miserably how she would ever make it through the day.

“Good morning. I'm Mr. Antonio,” the tall man at the front of the room said cheerfully. “Welcome to seventh 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, the one and only unfamiliar face in the room.

“Come on, Miranda. We won't bite,” Mr. Antonio said with a chuckle. A moment later, she was standing at the front of the room, knees shaking, while he gave a silly, little speech welcoming her to Hansboro Middle School, and everyone stared like she was some sort of space alien. Then, the 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, so Miranda made herself laugh, too, as though she didn't care. She was secretly thinking that she would most definitely figure out a way to make everyone laugh at *him* the very first chance she could get!

16. 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
17. Which detail tells you that Miranda is a new student at Hansboro Middle School?
- 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
18. 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
19. How is Miranda's first day different from a regular day?
- A. She has no homework.
 - B. She knows where her homeroom is located.
 - C. She will be leaving early.
 - D. none of the above



20. 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
21. Based on 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 detention.
 - D. none of the above
22. 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
23. 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
24. 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
25. 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. You should always know where your homeroom is located.
 - D. none of the above



26. What inference can you draw about Mr. Antonio?
- A. that he gives too much homework
 - B. that he is popular with his students
 - C. that he is a new teacher
 - D. none of the above
27. 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
28. 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
29. 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
30. The passage indicates 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 her stomach on the floor
 - D. none of the above
31. 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
32. 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 33 through 44.

Edward James Olmos

Movie actor Edward James Olmos is Mexican-American. He 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 his goals, he stayed away from gangs and drugs. Then, as he got a little older, he found out he was a good baseball player. This gave him something to concentrate on and a place to go and play away from his neighborhood. Later, he started his own band and worked his way through college singing in nightclubs.

In spite of playing baseball and singing in front of people, Olmos was shy. When he got to college, he took a drama class to overcome his shyness. Guess what he found out? He discovered that he actually *liked* talking in front of people, and he *enjoyed* acting in plays! It was then that he decided to become an actor.

As with most actors, Olmos did not become famous right away. He married and started a family and began trying to get what are known as “bit parts” in movies and on TV. He managed to get a few, but he 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.

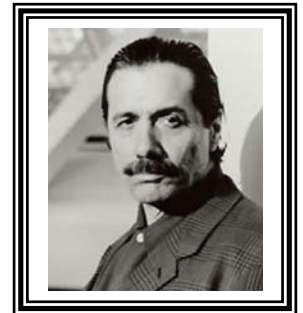
He made other movies, but he finally became a well-known actor when he was chosen for a **recurring** role in the acclaimed TV series, “Miami Vice.” He won both an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his outstanding work in that series. He went on to star in other TV productions, movies, and plays and to win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

But Olmos is certainly more than an actor; he is also an activist who works to help those who are less fortunate than he is. For example, he visits prisons to encourage inmates to change their ways and get a fresh start when they are set free. He goes to detention centers to speak 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.

Olmos 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. Although he 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 set his goals high very early in his life, and he has certainly achieved them!

Edward James Olmos

33. Why does the author state 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
34. Which detail shows 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
35. What happened right after Olmos starred in the movie "Zoot Suit?"
- A. He played the same part in a play.
 - B. He starred in "Miami Vice" on TV.
 - C. He became an activist.
 - D. none of the above
36. According to Olmos, what is the difference between staying in school and dropping out?
- A. One helps you become an actor, and the other helps you become a baseball player.
 - B. One can help you in life, and the other can hurt you.
 - C. One will win you awards, and the other will not.
 - D. none of the above
37. What made Olmos decide 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
38. 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.
 - D. none of the above



39. 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 buy parts.
 - C. You have to live in Hollywood to make it big in acting.
 - D. none of the above
40. The passage reads, “. . . he was chosen for a **recurring** role. . .”
What does **recurring** mean?
- A. someone who plays sports
 - B. something that is repeated
 - C. something that is very well done
 - D. none of the above
41. 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
42. 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
43. 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
44. 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