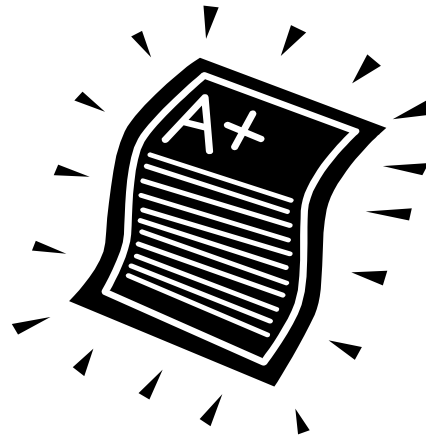


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Date: _____
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*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Pre Test

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 12.

Facts About North Dakota

The town of Rugby in the state of North Dakota is the exact **geographical** center of the North American continent. To the north, the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan border the state. Minnesota is to the east, Montana is to the west, and South Dakota is to (where else?) the south. Native American tribes lived in North Dakota before the white settlers arrived there.

There were a lot of buffalo herds on the plains of North Dakota. When the railroads came to the state in the 1800's, many settlers came from the east, pushing out and replacing the area's Native Americans, who were sent to reservations. Most of the settlers were Germans and Scandinavians. Their offspring still live in the state today. With their arrival, the buffalo herds were destroyed. The settlers began to build homes, and they plowed, farmed, and raised cattle on the land.

North Dakota produces sunflowers, soybeans, sugar beets, flax, barley, spring wheat, and rye. It produces more of some crops than any other state in the country. Most of the soil is very rich, thanks to the Red River. This river runs north and south between North Dakota and Minnesota. Most North Dakotans live in the famed Red River Valley. The Red River often floods its banks, which enriches the land for crop growing. Today, most of North Dakota's land is given over to crops and cattle. The state's main industries are connected to food processing and farm equipment.

There is one part of North Dakota, however, where farming isn't practiced and cattle do not graze. That is the Badlands, found in the southwestern part of the state. The land there consists of soft rock that the wind has carved for centuries into fascinating shapes. Little, if anything, grows in the Badlands, and the area has been made famous by many books and films about the Old West in America in which the so-called "bad guys" ride into the Badlands in their attempts to elude posses.

North Dakota's capital is Bismarck, but the state actually has very few cities. Two of its best-known cities are Fargo and Grand Forks. North and South Dakota were both admitted to the Union in 1889. North Dakota has a rare form of legislative government, known as a bicameral legislature. This means that the state elects two House Representatives and one Senator from each district. North Dakota's legislature meets for 80 days during even-numbered years.

The population of North Dakota was approximately the same in the early 1900's as it is now. Not a lot else has changed in the state since that time, either. It takes a special breed of people to live in a state with far-flung cities and towns, not to mention record-setting cold weather, but the people who live there love their state and are proud to be called North Dakotans.

1. Another good title for this passage would be:
 - A. The Rivers of North Dakota
 - B. Industrial Products of North Dakota
 - C. The Many Characteristics of North Dakota
 - D. none of the above





2. Which is a product of North Dakota?
 - A. spring wheat
 - B. sugar beets
 - C. soybeans
 - D. all of the above

3. According to the passage, who occupied North Dakota first?
 - A. the French
 - B. Native Americans
 - C. the British
 - D. none of the above

4. What is the main difference between North Dakota's farmland and the Badlands?
 - A. It snows in the Badlands.
 - B. Tourists are attracted to the Badlands.
 - C. Crops do not grow in the Badlands.
 - D. none of the above

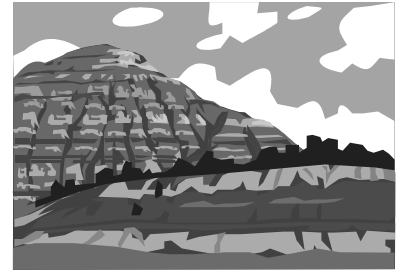
5. What caused the number of settlers to increase greatly in North Dakota?
 - A. the railroads
 - B. soldiers returning from World War II
 - C. the failure of agriculture in the state
 - D. none of the above

6. What can you infer about North Dakota's growth since the early 1900's?
 - A. The population has greatly increased.
 - B. The population has been reduced.
 - C. The population has stayed about the same.
 - D. none of the above

7. From information in paragraph three, you could conclude that:
 - A. much of North Dakota is a swamp
 - B. North Dakota depends on river flooding to enrich its soil
 - C. shipping products on the waterways is important to the economy
 - D. none of the above

Facts About North Dakota

8. From its use in the passage, what do you think **geographical** means?
- A. a class in school
 - B. a physical location
 - C. a hilly countryside
 - D. none of the above
9. Why did the author mention the Red River Valley?
- A. to remind readers of an old cowboy song
 - B. to refer to North Dakota's greatest tourist attraction
 - C. to show its importance to the state
 - D. none of the above
10. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. North Dakota is an industrial state.
 - B. North Dakota is well-known for tourism.
 - C. North Dakota is failing economically.
 - D. none of the above
11. The main idea of the fifth paragraph is:
- A. that North Dakota has an unusual form of state government
 - B. that North Dakota's governor is too controlling
 - C. that North Dakota was admitted to the Union in 1889
 - D. none of the above
12. According to the passage, how are North and South Dakota alike?
- A. They are both farming states.
 - B. They were both admitted to the Union in 1889.
 - C. They both attract tourists.
 - D. none of the above



The Badlands

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 13 through 28.

Tyler Hill

You know Tyler Hill, even if you don't "know" Tyler Hill. What I am **insinuating** is that everybody knows Tyler Hill, or they know somebody *like* him. He's the high school football team's quarterback and the baseball team's star pitcher; not to mention that he hits more home runs than anybody else, all the teachers think he's perfect, and he's in the Honor Society. Plus, his dad is a rich corporate attorney, so Tyler's naturally going to college to be an attorney, too. I didn't even get to the part about how he's 6'4" tall or the fact that all the girls are in love with him.

Anyway, I've known Tyler since first grade, even though we haven't exactly been best friends or anything, but we did play on some Pee-Wee and Pop Warner teams together, and we were both on the Jayvee football team when we first got to high school. Plus, of course, we've been in lots of classes together, and we even dated the same girl once. Her name was Brittany Thomas, and she was really good-looking and nice, too.

I dated her first, then we broke up, and Tyler asked her out. Tyler and Brittany **initiated** a relationship, but her family moved away after she and Tyler had only a couple of dates, so at least I didn't have to see them hanging around school together and stuff. I tried to hate Tyler when he asked Brittany to a dance, but I couldn't because it wasn't like he moved in on her while she and I were still an item or anything. I mean, he did wait until after it was over between us.

Did I mention that Tyler is a really nice guy? No kidding, he is. That's something you don't see a lot, either. I mean, the really top jocks are not always the nicest guys around. They might win actual popularity contests, like for Homecoming King or something like that, but that's just votes. In reality, they usually aren't exactly the best-liked guys in school. You know what I mean?

Anyway, the reason I got to thinking about Tyler Hill today is I heard something interesting about him this morning. A bunch of us were standing around talking about college and who was going where and all, and someone said he heard that Tyler Hill's going to the same college I am. I was astonished! I mean, I get decent grades and all, but I am not exactly in Tyler's league when it comes to intelligence, and I'll bet I don't hit the books as hard as he does, either. Plus, like I said, his dad's super-rich and could afford any college, and I know for certain that Tyler has his choice of a bunch of football and baseball scholarships.

So all day long I'm wondering why a guy like that is going to a small school with a sports program that barely rates a mention on ESPN. I mean, if he wants to play football or baseball, why isn't he going to UCLA? If he really wants to be a big-time attorney, why isn't he going to Harvard or Yale? The college I'm going to has a good reputation for preparing students for law school, but I want to practice environmental law, and I thought for certain that he wanted to practice corporate law, like his dad.

Then, last period, which is AP English, I heard one of his close friends say that Tyler Hill doesn't want to play football or baseball in college and that he doesn't want to practice corporate law when he gets out. I heard that he wants to practice some kind of humanitarian law and help what they call emerging nations around the world to better themselves. He wants to stamp out hunger and stuff like that, which I guess is why he's

Tyler Hill

going to my college because people interested in doing that stuff for a career go there to prepare themselves.

So, it looks like I haven't seen the last of Tyler Hill by a long shot, which I guess might not be such a bad thing. I mean, I'll bet if a humanitarian attorney and an environmental attorney got together, they could do a lot of good out there in the world where help is desperately needed. What do you think?

13. This story is mostly about:
- A. how to win friends and influence people
 - B. one young man's observation of a classmate
 - C. how to get into law school
 - D. none of the above
14. Which detail explains the narrator's opinion of most athletes?
- A. He says most of them are all-star players.
 - B. He says they are all potential dropouts.
 - C. He says there are not many who are civilized.
 - D. none of the above
15. What happened right after the narrator and Brittany broke up?
- A. Brittany went to law school.
 - B. Brittany moved away.
 - C. Brittany began seeing Tyler.
 - D. none of the above
16. How are Tyler and the narrator different?
- A. One will go to a fancy college, and the other won't.
 - B. One plays basketball, and the other doesn't.
 - C. One is tall, and the other is short.
 - D. none of the above
17. What caused the narrator to be surprised in AP English?
- A. He heard that Brittany and Tyler broke up.
 - B. He had to take an unexpected exam.
 - C. He heard something about Tyler and college.
 - D. none of the above



18. What can you infer from the passage about the personality of the narrator?
- A. He thinks about people other than himself.
 - B. He is a loner.
 - C. He doesn't like rich people.
 - D. none of the above
19. The narrator is thinking that he might partner with Tyler in the future because:
- A. they could become famous corporate attorneys
 - B. they could start a professional baseball team
 - C. they could do some good for people who need help
 - D. none of the above
20. The passage reads, “. . . Tyler and Brittany **initiated** a relationship . . .”
What does **initiated** mean the way it is used in the passage?
- A. finished
 - B. started
 - C. considered
 - D. none of the above
21. Why did the author write the last paragraph?
- A. to give the reader some insight into how the two boys think
 - B. to show the reader that both boys are on the AP track
 - C. to show how important it is to be a sports star
 - D. none of the above
22. Which is the best summary of this passage?
- A. All jocks are not created equal.
 - B. People are not always what they seem to be.
 - C. School is easy when you are on the AP track.
 - D. none of the above
23. What can you infer about Harvard and Yale law schools from the passage?
- A. Their graduates often become successful in a big way.
 - B. They are tough to get into.
 - C. They have a lot of student-athletes.
 - D. none of the above

24. Which detail belongs in a summary of this passage?
- A. Teachers only like Honor Society students.
 - B. It's good to know people before you make up your mind about them.
 - C. Playing on Pee-Wee and Pop Warner teams prepares you for pro-ball.
 - D. none of the above
25. Why did the narrator drop out of sports?
- A. because he was injured in a game
 - B. because he was more interested in calculus and humanities
 - C. because he was bored with running track
 - D. none of the above
26. What was the author's purpose for writing the first paragraph?
- A. to show the reader that the narrator is jealous of Tyler Hill
 - B. to let the reader know that Tyler Hill is a snob
 - C. to give the reader an overall picture of Tyler Hill
 - D. none of the above
27. The narrator writes, "What I am **insinuating** . . ."
- What does **insinuating** mean the way it is used here?
- A. complaining
 - B. suggesting
 - C. thinking
 - D. none of the above
28. From the narrator's reaction to what he heard about Tyler, you can tell that:
- A. He is annoyed that Tyler will over-shadow him in college.
 - B. He believes Tyler's friends are making up stuff about Tyler.
 - C. He is pleased they might have the chance to work together one day.
 - D. none of the above



Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 41.

The Hindenburg Disaster

In May of 1937, the airship Hindenburg departed from Germany, bound for the Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station in New Jersey. On board were 97 passengers and crew members. The ship was built in 1935, and it flew for the first time in March 1936. It set an airship speed record for an Atlantic double-crossing. The record was five days, 19 hours, and 51 minutes. The Hindenburg and her sister-ship were the two largest aircrafts ever built.

The body of the Hindenburg was skinned in cotton and painted silver. The Hindenburg body was supposed to be filled with helium, but the United States had put a military **ban** on helium, so the Germans used hydrogen, which catches fire much more easily. The engineers knew hydrogen gas was unsafe, so they took a lot of safety measures to keep the hydrogen from causing fires. They also treated the airship's coating to prevent electric sparks from starting fires on the outside of the ship.

With an all-aluminum structure, the Hindenburg was built from a new design. It was 804 feet long and had a diameter of 135 feet. It was powered by four 1,100 horsepower engines and had a top speed of 83-mph. In Europe, the Hindenburg carried 72 passengers and 61 crew members. Crossing the Atlantic, it carried 50 passengers and 61 crew members. Today, airship passengers travel in gondolas. These hang below the main body of the ship, but the Hindenburg carried passengers inside the frame/body.

The Hindenburg was more-or-less a flying resort. It had sleeping berths and a grand lounge with a piano player. The food and service were both first-class. Round-trip tickets for the flight cost \$810. (Today, that same ticket would cost \$10,000!) The airship was known for her speed and perfect flying record, but she was running 12 hours behind due to bad weather when she neared the New Jersey landing field.

The landing crew was waiting to catch the nose and tail ropes as it approached the towers. The crew would then tie her to the towers so the passengers could unload. The Hindenburg was on a good approach, coming straight in on the towers. Bands were playing, crowds were gathered, and members of the media were at the landing site. (There was no TV in 1937. "Media" meant movie film crews and radio and newspaper reporters.) Many media members were present in response to the large amount of publicity about the first trans-Atlantic airship flight of the year.

The ship was approximately 200 feet overhead when it burst into flames. No one on board survived. To this day, no one knows what caused the disaster. Questions and controversy still surround the accident. The Hindenburg crossing was the first of eighteen planned for 1937, but public faith in airships was completely undone by the spectacular film footage of the scene. As a result, the Hindenburg disaster marked the end of the giant, passenger-carrying rigid airships.

29. What is this passage primarily about?
- A. It's about travel on aircrafts.
 - B. It's about the Hindenburg disaster.
 - C. It's about an aircraft named Germany.
 - D. none of the above

The Hindenburg Disaster

30. Which detail best shows the attitude of the engineers toward safety?
- A. They treated the airship's coating to prevent electric sparks.
 - B. They knew hydrogen gas was risky.
 - C. They skinned the Hindenburg in cotton.
 - D. none of the above
31. What happened right before the Hindenburg landed that made it burst into flames?
- A. It was struck by lightning due to bad weather.
 - B. The ground crew accidentally pulled too soon on the nose and tail ropes.
 - C. Film crews got in the way of the landing.
 - D. none of the above
32. Why did the author compare the Hindenburg to a flying resort?
- A. There were so many people on board the aircraft.
 - B. There was excellent service and food, as well as a lounge and entertainment.
 - C. The tickets cost so much money for the time period.
 - D. none of the above
33. What caused the Germans to use hydrogen instead of helium?
- A. There was a military ban on helium.
 - B. German engineers recommended it.
 - C. All aircrafts used hydrogen.
 - D. none of the above
34. What can you infer about the popularity of airship travel before the Hindenburg disaster?
- A. Airship travel was only popular in New Jersey.
 - B. Airship travel was only popular with members of the media.
 - C. Airship travel was quite popular among those who could afford it.
 - D. none of the above
35. You can tell from the passage that:
- A. the United States and Germany would soon be at war
 - B. airships could carry more people on trans-Atlantic flights than on local flights
 - C. airships used smaller crews on local flights
 - D. none of the above

The Hindenburg Disaster

36. From its use in the passage, what does it mean to **ban** something?
- A. disallow
 - B. forbid
 - C. prohibit
 - D. all of the above
37. The author wrote the first paragraph to:
- A. tell about the Lakehurst Naval Air Station
 - B. explain how important the Hindenburg's speed record was at the time
 - C. give the reader some background on the Hindenburg
 - D. none of the above
38. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. The Hindenburg made airships popular.
 - B. The Hindenburg helped the Germans spy on the United States.
 - C. The Hindenburg proved that hydrogen was safe for airships.
 - D. none of the above
39. What happened right before the second of the eighteen planned airship crossings in 1937?
- A. The Hindenburg's sister-ship set an airship speed record.
 - B. The Hindenburg burned in New Jersey.
 - C. The cost of round-trip airship tickets went up.
 - D. none of the above
40. The best summary of the third paragraph is:
- A. This is how an airship was built and powered.
 - B. This is how fast an 1,100 horsepower engine can push an airship.
 - C. This is where passengers travel on an airship.
 - D. none of the above
41. Where would be the BEST place to find a summary of airship disasters?
- A. in the "A" book of an encyclopedia
 - B. in an atlas
 - C. in a world history textbook
 - D. none of the above

42. A dictionary can also be called:
- A. an index
 - B. a glossary
 - C. a thesaurus
 - D. none of the above

43. An encyclopedia does **not** give you:
- A. geographical facts
 - B. historical facts
 - C. up-to-the-minute information
 - D. none of the above



44. What is another word for **footnote**?
- A. annotation
 - B. footer
 - C. definition
 - D. none of the above

Facts About North Dakota – 8.6
Tyler Hill – 8.5
The Hindenburg Disaster – 8.4