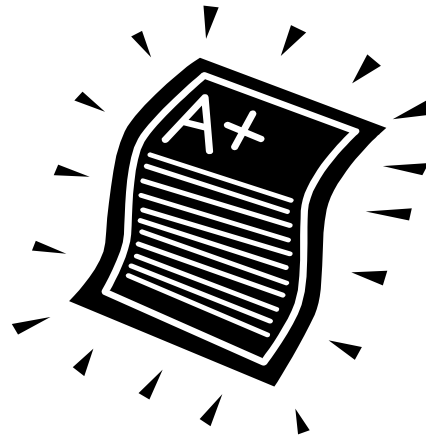


Name: _____
Date: _____
School: _____
District: _____



*Increasing Achievement for Schools,
Teachers, & Students*

Post Test

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 1 through 14.

Confessions of a Teenage Driver

What kind of driver are you? I think I'm a good one, although, according to the National Highway Safety Institute, I'm not, just because I'm sixteen. They maintain that kids my age die three times more often in car wrecks than drivers of all other ages. They say that we accumulate higher crash rates and more deaths for the number of us driving than other drivers. That's really hard for me to believe, even though I suppose they can't lie about it.

Obtaining a drivers license was all I ever really aspired to do since the first instant I comprehended what a car actually is. I was unable to sleep a single second the entire night before I suffered through the learner's permit exam, and before I went to try for my *real* license, I didn't sleep for an entire week! My parents swore they didn't sleep either, but it was for an entirely different reason. According to them, they were too emotionally tortured by the mental image of me driving all alone.

I told them to cease their excessive worrying, and I guaranteed that I would be careful and that I wouldn't act stupid behind the wheel and have to relinquish my license as a consequence. That appeared to give them scant comfort, but parents are determined to worry about everything, no matter what. I foolishly hoped I'd heard the end of it, until my dad showed me a couple of newspaper articles.

One of them was about in-car video cameras, like the ones they use on school buses, which apparently will video everything that happens in the car. If the driver is stupid enough to speed, run a stop sign or a red light, or race with somebody, the camera catches every single move. Once you come home, your parents can play the video and peruse your entire trip, after which you are no doubt grounded for life. Cute, huh?

You know about GPS (global positioning system) trackers that follow everything from enemy positions on the battlefield to airplanes at 40,000 feet, right? Apparently, some parents are currently utilizing them to track their teens through the kids' cell phones. Using that method, they are totally aware of where you are driving all of the time. No more dropping by places you were told not to go!

But wait, it only gets more horrifying! If your parents are willing to fritter away \$2,500, they can purchase a so-called "black box" that sends speed and braking information from your car to their home computer. Can you envision being greeted at the front door by an exasperated parent holding *that* little download? At the cheap end of the spying spectrum, there's the *Tell-My-Mom.com* bumper sticker. Naturally, the sticker doesn't *do* anything, but it does allow other drivers to report your tag number to a website your parents can **peruse** to ascertain whether you've been a naughty boy or girl behind the wheel. The outcome of that scenario promises no fun at all.

Confessions of a Teenage Driver

I don't know about you, but I'm not exactly ecstatic to learn of these innovations. Next thing we know, they'll be putting nanny cams in our backpacks. Naturally, I've seen the stats that say drivers ages 16 to 24 have more accidents and get more tickets than any other group of drivers. But, thus far, I've avoided contributing to those statistics.

I questioned my dad at length about whether he was actually planning to place me under some kind of extensive surveillance, now that he's aware of some of the methods he can use to accomplish such a lofty objective. At first, he stared straight at me and said absolutely nothing. When he finally spoke, he asked, "How do you know I'm not already doing it?" Then, he began laughing hysterically, got up, and walked out of the room! Like I said, I'm a pretty good driver, and I try to be safe. Now, I guess I'll make a very serious attempt to become an even better driver because what if he really *is* following every move I make?

1. What does the narrator think of the safety devices mentioned in the passage?
 - A. He is looking forward to trying them out.
 - B. He does not want one in his car.
 - C. He thinks his parents should have one in their car.
 - D. He doesn't care because he knows he is a good driver.

2. Which detail supports your answer to the first question?
 - A. The narrator did not sleep the night before he took his learner's permit test.
 - B. The narrator wants a *Tell-My-Mom.com* bumper sticker.
 - C. The narrator worries that his dad has some kind of surveillance in his car.
 - D. The narrator has yet to get a speeding ticket.

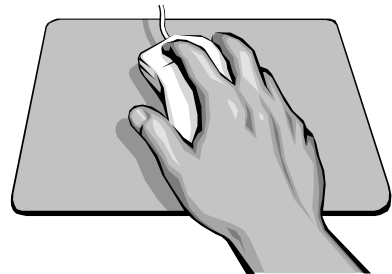
3. Right after he describes the in-car camera, the narrator talks next about:
 - A. NHTSA accident statistics for teenage drivers
 - B. a tattle-tale website
 - C. a GPS device
 - D. a newspaper article

4. How are a GPS device and a "black box" alike?
 - A. Both can run video games.
 - B. Parents can use both to track teens.
 - C. Both can be used to reconstruct accidents.
 - D. Both are inexpensive ways to track teens.



Confessions of a Teenage Driver

5. Why should parents worry about teenage drivers?
- A. Teenage drivers have too many friends in the car with them.
 - B. Parents worry about everything.
 - C. NHTSA driving statistics
 - D. none of the above
6. What can you infer about the narrator's confidence in his own driving?
- A. He is scared to drive on crowded highways.
 - B. He is eager to have a camera in his car to show that he is a good driver.
 - C. He has no interest in obtaining a license and driving a car.
 - D. none of the above
7. From information in this passage, you could conclude that:
- A. in today's society, it is much more arduous to be a spy
 - B. all teenagers are terrible drivers
 - C. eighteen-year-olds are better drivers than sixteen-year-olds
 - D. none of the above
8. The passage reads, "... a web site your parents can **peruse** ..."
- What does **peruse** mean in the above sentence?
- A. ignore
 - B. find easily
 - C. examine
 - D. none of the above
9. The first paragraph was written to:
- A. get the reader's attention
 - B. use humor to distract the reader
 - C. describe the narrator's feelings about statistics
 - D. none of the above



Confessions of a Teenage Driver

10. The best summary of this passage is:
- A. Teenagers should not be allowed to drive until they are 21.
 - B. Parents should not care if their teenagers drive safely.
 - C. Sixteen-year-old drivers should be more careful.
 - D. none of the above
11. The main idea of the last paragraph is to:
- A. show that the narrator is afraid of his father
 - B. show that the narrator's father has his son's attention
 - C. show that the narrator can use big words like "surveillance"
 - D. show the many different ways parents can track teens
12. Where might you find a list of recent automobile accident statistics?
- A. in the "A" book of an encyclopedia
 - B. in an atlas
 - C. in a GPS instructional book
 - D. none of the above
13. How does the narrator learn about in-car video cameras?
- A. His mother tells him about them.
 - B. He reads a newspaper article about them.
 - C. He reads about them online.
 - D. none of the above
14. What did the narrator's father do immediately after he (the father) began laughing hysterically?
- A. He got up.
 - B. He left the room.
 - C. He put a device in his son's car.
 - D. none of the above

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 15 through 28.

Piranha

Piranha are meat-eating fish living in South American rivers. Piranha fish grow to a length of six to ten inches, and they are well known for their ultra-sharp teeth, aggressive behavior, and greedy hunger for meat. There are other kinds of piranha in other rivers around the world, but the flesh-eating type live in just two places. These are the rivers of the Amazon Forest and the rivers in Paraguay. Both places are in South America. The name piranha (pronounced peer-ahn-ah) comes from several different languages.

Red-bellied piranha, found in the Amazon River, are known as ruthless, greedy hunters. Their reputation for viciousness is known far and wide, thanks to terrifying scenes in lots of books, films, and television programs. Although piranha hunt in schools, scientists have discovered that these fish do not form relationships like other predators who hunt in schools or packs. Unlike wolves and lions, piranha do not live and hunt with the same fish over time. They form and re-form schools with other piranha.

Scientists have also learned that piranha may form schools in order to feel safe. When placed together into tanks, piranha appeared stressed when they were with a small number of fish, but when the schools in which they swam were large, their breathing rate dropped. Scientists believe this means that the piranha felt safer in large numbers. That may be why they always attack in large schools. In these schools, their attacks make the water around them appear to boil, and then the water turns red with blood. When a school of piranha attacks, their fierceness strips all the flesh off their victim in minutes. Sometimes, like sharks in a similar feeding frenzy, they even take bites out of each other!

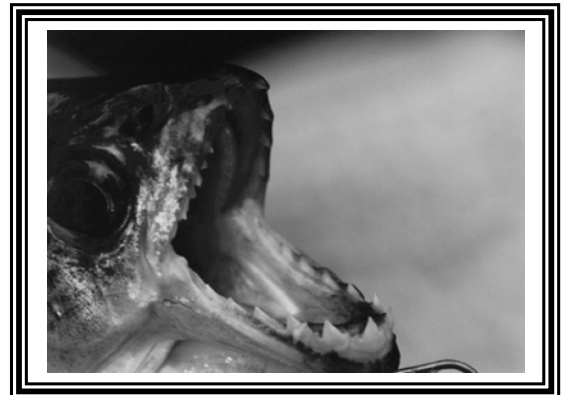
The piranha young, which hatch out of nearly microscopic eggs, are as vicious and dangerous as their parents. They eat tiny shrimp and other crustaceans, as well as seeds, fruits, and **aquatic** plants. When they reach a length of about 1.5 inches, they start to eat the fins and flesh of other fish that swim too near to them. As they mature and grow, they join schools of twenty or so other piranha where they practice and learn to use a number of hunting strategies. The goal of all young piranha is to kill and eat their prey, but most of the time they start eating their victims before they kill them.

By the time piranha become adults, they have learned to eat almost anything, from other fish to sick and weakened animals. Their victims also include people foolish or unlucky enough to get in their way. Piranha swimming in a school have the strength to attach themselves to the noses and mouths of any animal, including cattle, that puts its head down to drink from a river where these fish swim. When piranha pull a cow into the water, it can take only minutes for the animal to be devoured by the school.

Although piranha are often made out to be villains, the truth is they are simply carrying out their job in the food chain. As is the case with most predators, piranha perform a useful function in the ongoing system of checks-and-balances that ensure only the strongest survive in nature.

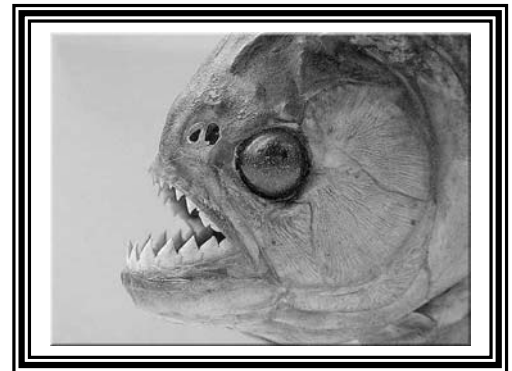
Piranha

15. What is the first paragraph primarily about?
- A. where the Amazon River is located
 - B. where meat-eating piranha live
 - C. where the name “piranha” came from
 - D. none of the above
16. Which detail best tells you about the fierceness of the piranha?
- A. They are more aggressive in large schools.
 - B. They strip the flesh from the bones of their victims in minutes.
 - C. They attack weak and dying animals.
 - D. They can eat both humans and cattle.
17. What do young piranha start out eating?
- A. their parents
 - B. seeds and fruits
 - C. the flesh of other fish
 - D. their siblings
18. How are sharks like piranha?
- A. They bite each other in a feeding frenzy.
 - B. They live in the Amazon River.
 - C. They are very large fish.
 - D. none of the above
19. What causes stress among piranha?
- A. swimming near sharks
 - B. swimming in large schools
 - C. swimming in small schools
 - D. not enough protein in their diets



Piranha

20. What can you tell about South America from this passage?
- A. Some of its rivers can be dangerous places in which to swim.
 - B. South America is home to many tribes of people.
 - C. South America is a country of many contrasts.
 - D. South America is a dangerous place in which to live.
21. What can you conclude about scientific studies from this passage?
- A. Scientific studies are always right.
 - B. Scientific studies are always wrong.
 - C. A lot of money is underwritten for scientific studies.
 - D. none of the above
22. Based on its use in this passage, what is the meaning of the word **aquatic**?
- A. living in the water
 - B. plant life
 - C. salt loving
 - D. all of the above
23. Which is most important to the author of this passage?
- A. entertaining the reader
 - B. scaring the reader
 - C. educating the reader
 - D. both A and C
24. What is the BEST summary of this passage?
- A. A trip to the Amazon can be educational.
 - B. There are many types of fish in the world.
 - C. Predators are decorous.
 - D. none of the above



Piranha

25. Where would you look for a map of Paraguay?
- A. in an index
 - B. in an atlas
 - C. in a thesaurus
 - D. in an American History textbook
26. How are young piranha like adult piranha?
- A. They enjoy scaring their victims.
 - B. They swim far out in the ocean.
 - C. They often eat parts of their victims before they kill them.
 - D. They are very large in size.
27. What happens to piranha when they feel calm?
- A. They attack less often.
 - B. Their heart rate drops.
 - C. Their breathing rate drops.
 - D. They are less aggressive.
28. What can you infer about predators from this passage?
- A. They should all be killed.
 - B. They are necessary to the food chain.
 - C. They belong in zoos.
 - D. They become innoxious.

Read the following selection. Then answer questions 29 through 44.

Costa Rica

On Christopher Columbus' last trip to the New World, he went to Central America and landed in the area that would come to be known as Costa Rica. He was the first person from Europe to go there, and most Costa Ricans nowadays are descendants of Europeans. This means they are not related to the natives who lived in the area when the Spanish explorers arrived. In fact, the native population is now less than one percent of the country's total population.

The Spanish ruled the country for more than 300 years. At first, they hoped to find gold and silver there, so they called the country Costa Rica. In English, this means "rich coast." After they found out there were no riches, the Spanish turned to farming, and the native Costa Ricans became farmers, too. Today, Costa Rica exports coffee and bananas, but the country also attracts a lot of tourists. They come to admire its natural beauty. Costa Rica is widely known across the world for its **ecotourism**.

Costa Rica has lots of plant, animal, and insect species from both North and South America. The country offers a rare chance for tourists to observe such sights as smoking volcanoes and magnificent beaches. Most popular of all are the so-called "cloud forests." These are forests in which the trees are all but covered in mist most of the time. The sunlight almost never reaches the forest floor, so it is usually dark and damp. This makes it the perfect place for insects, spiders, and small frogs.

Costa Rica also contains over 400 species of birds. There are more species of butterflies in Costa Rica than can be found in all of Africa, and one **entomologist** recorded finding more than 950 species of beetles on a single tree. In addition, there are pumas, jaguars, and ocelots. An interesting animal found in Costa Rica is also the world's slowest animal; this is the sloth. Because they cannot walk, sloths hang upside-down in trees.

When they do come down from trees, sloths use their claws to pull themselves along the ground. They move at an average speed of 6 to 8 feet per minute, making them easy prey for jaguars and other predators. They are somewhat quicker in the trees, but they are still slow. Their best protection is their brownish-colored coat. During the rainy season, sloths grow green algae on their coat, which helps them to blend into the leaves.

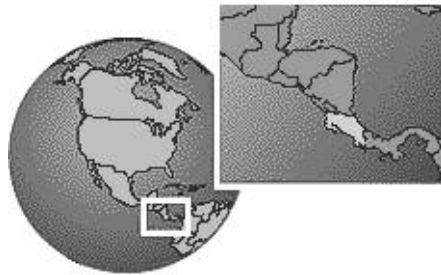
The human citizens of Costa Rica come from many different places. For instance, about three percent of the population is from Jamaica. Ten percent are refugees from Nicaragua, South America. The Jamaicans are an English-speaking minority. In Costa Rica, the primary language is Spanish. The main religion of Costa Rica is Catholicism. The country has one of the lowest birthrates and highest standards of health and literacy in Central and South America.

Costa Rica

With its presidential elections in 1890, Costa Rica became the first country in Central America to hold truly democratic elections. The country has four major public universities, and the University of Costa Rica is considered to be the most important university in Central America. Costa Rica values education, and this attitude is reflected in the fact that all its citizens must attend elementary school, and all education from elementary through high school is free.

29. What would be another good title for this passage?
- A. Costa Rica is a Land of Riches
 - B. Costa Rica is a Typical European Country
 - C. Costa Rica is an Interesting Place to Visit
 - D. Home of the Sloth

30. Who rules Costa Rica today?
- A. the Spanish
 - B. the natives
 - C. the Jamaicans
 - D. none of the above



31. What happened after the Spanish found no gold or silver in Costa Rica?
- A. They mined for precious gems.
 - B. They became farmers.
 - C. They became fishermen.
 - D. They became tourism entrepreneurs.
32. Compared to other countries in Central and South America, Costa Rica has what?
- A. a higher birthrate
 - B. a higher level of democracy
 - C. a higher standard of health and literacy
 - D. all of the above
33. What causes the sloth to hang in trees?
- A. It is hiding from jaguars.
 - B. It cannot walk.
 - C. It is afraid of tourists.
 - D. It eats the leaves on the tree.

Costa Rica

34. What can you infer about the importance of education in Costa Rica?
- A. It is highly esteemed.
 - B. The government is against it.
 - C. It is difficult to get an education there.
 - D. none of the above
35. What can you conclude about a vacation in Costa Rica?
- A. There would be a lot for you to see.
 - B. The jaguars might attack you.
 - C. You would have to speak Mexican.
 - D. all of the above
36. From its use in this passage, what is the meaning of **ecotourism**?
- A. visiting theme park attractions
 - B. visiting nature attractions
 - C. visiting large cities
 - D. visiting foreign countries
37. The purpose of the first paragraph is to:
- A. explain who first landed in Costa Rica
 - B. explain from whom Costa Ricans are descended
 - C. explain where Columbus went on his last voyage
 - D. explain where Columbus went on his first voyage
38. The BEST summary of the third paragraph is:
- A. Costa Rica has too many bugs.
 - B. Costa Rica's cloud forests house many insects.
 - C. Costa Rica has too many active volcanoes.
 - D. Scientists value Costa Rica.
39. Where would be the BEST place to find information on cloud forests?
- A. in an index
 - B. on the Internet
 - C. in a Farmer's Almanac
 - D. in a chemistry textbook

Costa Rica

40. What conclusion can you draw about the native population of Costa Rica?
- A. They are mostly professionals.
 - B. They outnumber the descendants of Columbus.
 - C. They are very few in number.
 - D. They speak fluent English.
41. Based on the passage, what do you think an **entomologist** does for a living?
- A. They study plant life.
 - B. They study insects.
 - C. They study rain forests.
 - D. They study foreign cultures.
42. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
- A. to encourage people to visit Costa Rica
 - B. to applaud the Costa Rican natives
 - C. to educate people about Costa Rica
 - D. to describe animals only living in Costa Rica
43. What is the BEST summary of this passage?
- A. Costa Rica lags behind other countries in the region.
 - B. Costa Rica is a democratic, forward-thinking nation in many ways.
 - C. Costa Rica does not need to upgrade its educational standards.
 - D. Most Costa Ricans are college graduates.
44. Where would be the best place to look for a picture of a sloth?
- A. a map of South America
 - B. in a book entitled The Great Marsupials of South America
 - C. an essay on the cruelty to animals in Central America
 - D. none of the above

Confessions of a Teenage Driver – 8.5

Piranha – 9.0

Costa Rica – 8.8