AlloSchool

English : Common Core Classes

Unit 8 (Science & Technology) - Reading

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Summary

I- Great Scientists

1-1/ Reading 1

1-2/ Reading 2

II- Inventions

2-1/ Reading 1

2-2/ Reading 2

III- New Technologies

3-1/ Reading 1

3-2/ Reading 2

I- Great Scientists

1-1/ Reading 1

Text

Steve : Uh... You are studying for the test, aren't you?
Chris : No, I'm not. I'm just reading about some great scientists.
Steve : Oh. That sounds interesting.
Chris : Do you know Marie Curie?
Steve : The physicist? Yes, I know her. She was French, wasn't she?
Chris : No, she wasn't. Her husband was.
Steve : Eh... Where was she from?
Chris : She was from Poland.
Steve : But she married and lived in France, didn't she?
Chris : Yes, she did. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize.
Steve : I know. She won the physics Nobel Prize in 1903.
Chris : Yes. And eight years later, she won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
Steve : She was a great scientist, wasn't she?
Chris : Yes, thanks to her, cancer can be cured today.



Comprehension

- Write "True" or "False" :

Marie Curie was French : _____

Her husband was French : _____

She won the Nobel Prize in 1911 : _____

1-2/ Reading 2

Text



Louis Pasteur was born on December 27, 1822 in Dole, France. He married to Marie Laurent and had five children; four girls and a boy. Three of his daughters died of typhoid fever. He graduated in 1842 from Besancon College Royal de la France with honours in physics, mathematics, Latin, and a first prize for drawing. He also attended Ecole Normale to study physics and chemistry. In 1849, he became a chemistry professor in Strasbourg.

In 1881, Pasteur began to study rabies, a deadly disease spread by the bite of animals. He spent long hours in his laboratory seeking a vaccine to prevent rabies. One day in1885, a dog infected with rabies bit a small boy named Joseph Meister. The boy's parents begged Pasteur to save their son. Pasteur hesitated to use his new vaccine on a human, but he finally accepted. After a few weeks of treatment, the vaccine worked. The boy did not get rabies.

The Pasteur Institute was opened in his honour in 1888, and Louis Pasteur served as director of the institute until his death on September 28, 1895.

Adapted from Word Book. Encyclopedia 1998

Comprehension

- Fill out Pasteur's bio sketch :

Personal information			Education and Career	
Name			Schools attended	
Date of birth			1842	
Place of birth			1849	
Wife's name			1881	
Children			1885	
Date of death			1888	

II- Inventions

2-1/ Reading 1

Text

Peter : What did you do today?
John : I surfed the internet. I looked for scientific inventions.
Peter : That sounds good. What did you learn?
John : I learned that many of the inventions we see today were simply accidents?
Peter : What do you mean?
John : I mean... many scientists were working when they accidentally discovered something.
Peter : Really? Do you have an example?
John : Yes. A doctor was working on a new headache medicine when he discovered Coca Cola!
Peter : I didn't know that!
John : Here is another one: The microwave oven.
Peter : Who invented it?
John : Percy Spencer. He was working with radar when the microwave energy melted the chocolate bar in his pocket.
Peter : That's interesting! Anything else?.
John : Yes. Do you know Constantin Fahlberg?
Peter : No. Who is he?
John : He was a chemist.
Peter : What did he discover?
John : He was working in his lab when a substance spilled onto his hand. He tasted it and found it to taste sweet!
Peter : So?
John : So saccharin, the first artificial sweetener was born. This was in 1879.



Comprehension

- Write "True" or "False" :

There are four inventions in the dialogue : _____

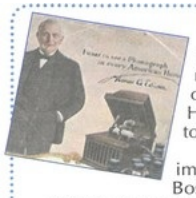
Percy Spencer wanted to invent the microwave oven : _____

The doctor had a headache when he discovered Coca Cola : _____

Constantin Fahlberg discovered saccharin by chance : _____

2-2/ Reading 2

Text



Thomas Edison, the American inventor, was born in Milan, Ohio, on February 11, 1847. He was the seventh and youngest child of Samuel and Nancy Elliott Edison. Edison received very limited school education. He attended school for only three months but his mother, a former teacher, guided his learning. When he was 12 years old, he began selling newspapers, candy, and sandwiches on trains between Port Huron and Detroit. Later, he hired others to work for him selling goods on the trains to spend his spare time experimenting with electrical and mechanical apparatus.

While he was working as a telegraph operator in Port Huron, he made his first important invention, a new telegraphic instrument. Later, while he was working in Boston, he invented a vote recorder.

Edison earned $40,000, and with this money he established his own laboratory in 1876. In 1877, Edison announced his invention of a phonograph. Two years later he exhibited publicly the electric light bulb, his most important invention.

Edison was suffering from several illnesses when he died in bed, at his home on Oct. 18, 1931.

Adapted From Word Book Encyclopedia 1998

Comprehension

1. Who helped Thomas Edison with his studies?

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2. Why did he hire others to sell goods on the trains?

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3. In which year did he invent the electric light bulb?

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4. How old was he when he died?

III- New Technologies

3-1/ Reading 1

Text

Melissa : You know what? I visited your website yesterday.
Jane : Oh, Really? How did you like it?
Melissa : It looked very nice. Who made it for you?
Jane : I did. I made it myself.
Melissa : I can't believe that! It looked so professional.
Jane : You know? It's very easy to make a website.
Melissa : Can you help me make one?
Jane : I don't think you need me. You can do it yourself; you just have to follow some instructions.
Melissa : Oh, Ok. You have the instructions, don't you?
Jane : No, I don't. Everything is on the net. I'll send you an e-mail with more information.



Comprehension

1. What did Melissa do yesterday?

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2. How did she find Jane's website?

---

3. Who helped Jane create her website?

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4. Does Melissa know how to make a website?

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5. What can she do to make one?

3-2/ Reading 2

Text



BILL GATES

William Henry Gates (Bill Gates), cofounder, chairman, and chief executive officer of Microsoft, was born in Seattle in 1955. In 1970, he created his first software company with his classmate Paul Allen. In 1975, **they** began to design programs for personal computers and in the same year, they co-founded Microsoft, the world's largest developer and publisher of software programs for personal computers.

In 1980, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) chose Microsoft to develop the operating system for ***its*** first personal computer, the PC. An operating system is a special type of program that contains instructions for the operation of the computer. Gates devised the Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS) for IBM. Millions of copies of MS-DOS were sold for use in IBM and IBM-compatible PC's.

Under Bill Gates' supervision, Microsoft continued to develop and expand. In 1985, the company started **its** PC programs called Windows. These innovative programs make it possible for the users to perform multiple tasks through "windows" on the computer screen and to issue commands by pointing at symbols on the screen instead of typing instructions.

Comprehension

1. How old was Bill Gates when he created his own company?

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2. Match the dates with the appropriate events.

1. 1955	a. Bill Gates and Paul Allen created Microsoft.
2. 1970	b. Bill Gates' year of birth.
3. 1975	c. Bill Gates created Windows.
4. 1980	d. Microsoft started working for IBM.
5. 1985	e. Bill Gates and Paul Allen created their first company.

3. What do these acronyms stand for?

MS-DOS : _____

IBM : _____

PC : _____

4. The words below are underlined in the text. What do they refer to?

Paragraph 1: they : _____

Paragraph 2: its : _____

Paragraph 3: its : _____

5. Write "True" or "False" :

Microsoft is a company that designs computers : _____

IBM created MS-DOS : _____

Before the invention of windows, computer users had to type instructions : _____