

A Brief History of the World

by Richard Lederer

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: Abraham Lincoln, Achilles, adopt, Beethoven, caricature, cultivate, genuine, inhabitant, Julius Caesar, King Arthur, Louis Pasteur, Middle Ages, Miguel de Cervantes, Napoleon Bonaparte, precedent, Renaissance, Socrates, telepathy, The French Revolution, Thomas Jefferson



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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	C
3	C
4	A
5	C
6	B
7	A
8	B
9	C
10	B
11	C
12	C
13	C
14	C
15	A
16	A
17	A
18	A
19	B
20	C

Vocabulary Preview
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is considered one of the most important speeches in American history.
 - A. U.S. president who wrote the Declaration of Independence (1743–1826)
 - B. Civil War U.S. president
 - C. U.S. president who led the country through World War II and created the New Deal (1882–1945)
2. Paris killed **Achilles** by shooting a poisoned arrow into his heal.
 - A. mythical Greek sorcerer who defeated Zeus
 - B. mythical Greek demigod with two heads
 - C. mythical Greek hero of the Iliad
3. The company plans to **adopt** new safety guidelines next month.
 - A. ignore
 - B. publish
 - C. take on
4. **Beethoven** continued to compose masterpieces after he lost his hearing.
 - A. German classical composer
 - B. Italian Renaissance painter
 - C. British romantic poet
5. The movie portrayed the villain as a **caricature**, lacking depth and complexity.
 - A. complex human being
 - B. silly clown
 - C. exaggerated representation
6. Creativity can be **cultivated**.
 - A. useful
 - B. developed or grown
 - C. risky or dangerous
7. She has a **genuine** interest in each of her students.
 - A. sincere (real)
 - B. fake
 - C. generous (giving)
8. The **inhabitants** of the village were very friendly.
 - A. tourists
 - B. residents
 - C. visitors
9. In the play by Shakespeare, Julius Caesar is warned to "beware the Ides of March" before he is betrayed by his friends.
 - A. Greek philosopher
 - B. Egyptian pharaoh
 - C. Roman dictator
10. Many stories tell of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table.
 - A. mythical Greek hero
 - B. legendary British king
 - C. Viking warrior chief
11. Europe saw large population declines in the Late Middle Ages due to Bubonic Plague and Mongol invasion.
 - A. industrial era
 - B. Stone Age period
 - C. medieval era

12. Miguel de Cervantes wrote *Don Quixote*, one of the most influential novels ever.
- A. Russian author of *War and Peace*
 - B. French writer of *Les Misérables*
 - C. Spanish author of *Don Quixote*
13. Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Russia in 1812 ended in catastrophic defeat.
- A. Spanish New World explorer
 - B. Russian czar of the 1800s
 - C. French emperor and general
14. Pasteur is considered to be one of the main founders of microbiology.
- A. law of gravity discoverer
 - B. theory of relativity author
 - C. germ theory pioneer
15. Legal precedent set by the Supreme Court should be followed by all lower courts.
- A. a decision made at a prior time
 - B. a law passed by the legislature
 - C. an exception to a general rule
16. The Renaissance, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and the Scientific Revolution were some of the major signposts on Western civilization's road to modernity.
- A. the period of European history known for a revival of intellectual and artistic achievement (14th through mid-17th centuries)
 - B. a period of European history in which major efforts to reform the Catholic Church led to major protestant denominations (16th century)
 - C. 18th century period that further advanced the use of reason in Western civilization
17. Socrates's method of inquiry, the Socratic method, is still used by philosophers and educators today as a way to help people think critically about their beliefs.
- A. ancient Greek philosopher who did much to influence Western thinking (470–399 BC)
 - B. ancient Roman philosopher who did much to influence Western thinking (399–470)
 - C. ancient Babylonian philosopher who did much to influence Western thinking (599–670)
18. Though popular in fiction, telepathy does not exist in the real world.
- A. communication from one mind to another without using the known senses
 - B. improperly bold or disrespectful -- especially toward someone who is older or considered to be of higher status
 - C. unsophisticated (meant disapprovingly to refer to old-fashioned or narrow-minded attitudes and ideas)
19. The French Revolution toppled the king and reshaped Europe.
- A. 1066 Norman invasion
 - B. 1789 French uprising
 - C. 1939 German invasion
20. Tourists visit Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, every year.
- A. Founding Father, 1st US president
 - B. Civil War president, freed slaves
 - C. Founding Father, 3rd US president

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 I have pasted together the following "history" of the world from certifiably **genuine** student bloopers collected by teachers through the U.S., from eighth grade through college.
 - A. real
 - B. city
 - C. lazy
- 2 The **inhabitants** of ancient Egypt were called mummies.
 - A. things accepted as true (without proof)
 - B. people (who live in a particular place)
 - C. things designed to stop something else
- 3 The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere, so certain areas of the dessert are **cultivated** by irritation.
 - A. a non-doctor who assisted a women in childbirth
 - B. developed, grown, or prepared for growing crops
 - C. not found guilty or forced into a bad situation
- 4 The Bible is full of interesting **caricatures**.
 - A. (noun) things that are lighter and draw attention -- such as areas of a painting OR (verb) making some things lighter -- such as areas of a painting
 - B. recommends or requires what should be done OR (of a medical doctor) gives medical instructions -- such as writing that a patient should take antibiotics
 - C. a representation that exaggerates or highlights certain aspects -- especially of a person for comic effect; or creating a drawing with such exaggeration
- 5 Achilles appears in the Iliad, by Homer.
 - A. French general and emperor who ruled (through conquest) most of continental Europe for a brief time
 - B. Arab prophet who founded Islam and who, according to Islam, was the last messenger of Allah (570-632)
 - C. mythical Greek hero of the Iliad; central character and foremost Greek warrior at the siege of Troy
- 6 Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice.
 - A. ancient Greek philosopher who did much to influence Western thinking (470-399 BC)
 - B. French painter who represents the bridge from impressionism to cubism (1839-1906)
 - C. of Judaism (the oldest of the three major monotheistic religions) or it's culture
- 7 Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul.
 - A. scientist-monk whose pea plant experiments founded modern genetics
 - B. U.S. poet considered by many to be the greatest of the 20th century
 - C. the most famous of Ancient Rome's generals and leaders (100-44 BC)
- 8 Then came the **middle Ages**.
 - A. 1831 slave uprising in Virginia led by Nat Turner that killed about 60 whites and led to brutal reprisals and harsher slave laws
 - B. aka Black Death -- a plague which is estimated to have killed one to two thirds of Europe's population between 1347 and 1350
 - C. the period of European history beginning with the fall of the Roman Empire and ending with the Modern Era (roughly 500-1500 AD)
- 9 King Alfred conquered the Domes, **King Arthur** lived in the Age of Shivery, King Harold mustarded his troops before the Battle of Hastings, Joan of Arc was canonized by Bernard Shaw.
 - A. Greek mythology: the greedy king with the power to turn everything he touched into gold
 - B. mythical king of Britain who rules at Camelot and leads the Knights of the Round Table
 - C. King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760 to 1820 who lost the American Revolution
- 10 Writing at the same time as Shakespear was Miguel Cervantes.
 - A. obtaining a document granting permission to do something
 - B. the lowest layer of the atmosphere where weather happens
 - C. Spanish author best known for writing *Don Quixote*

- 11 *During the Renaissance America began.*
A. a period of European history known for a revival of intellectual and artistic achievement (14th through mid-17th centuries)
B. a period of European history in which major efforts to reform the Catholic Church led to major protestant denominations (16th century)
C. 18th century period that further advanced the use of reason in Western civilization
- 12 *Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were two signers of the Declaration of Independence.*
A. religion: an important figure and his son in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
B. U.S. president who passed major civil rights laws and escalated the Vietnam War
C. 3rd President of the US and primary writer of the Declaration of Independence
- 13 *The Constitution was adopted to secure domestic hostility.*
A. not accepted as true
B. began fighting again
C. took on as one's own
- 14 *Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent.*
A. U.S. president who wrote the Declaration of Independence (1743–1826)
B. U.S. president who led during the Civil War and ended slavery before being assassinated (1809–1865)
C. U.S. president who led the country through World War II and created the New Deal (1882–1945)
- 15 *Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent.*
A. an example from a prior time -- typically used to justify similar occurrences at a later time (especially a judicial decision)
B. related to a mental illness most commonly associated with undeveloped social abilities, language, and other communication skills
C. related to accepting someone's membership through a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
- 16 *Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf.*
A. Ludwig van Beethoven -- German composer considered to be one of the masters of the classical style (1770–1827)
B. Mao Zedong -- Chinese communist leader who won the civil war and ruled Communist China for 27 years (1893–1976)
C. a form of autism associated with communication difficulties (without language delay) and very focused interests
- 17 *The Marseillaise was the theme song of the French Revolution.*
A. Russian revolution against czarist rule which led to a provisional government
B. violent revolution that replaced the French Monarchy with a republic (1789–1799)
C. protest where colonists dumped British tea into Boston Harbor to oppose taxes
- 18 *Napoleon wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't bear children.*
A. Arab prophet who founded Islam and who, according to Islam, was the last messenger of Allah (570–632)
B. relating to the oldest of the three major monotheistic religions -- whose believers are known as Jews
C. French general and emperor who conquered most of continental Europe for a brief time early in the 19th century
- 19 *Samuel Morse invented a code of telepathy.*
A. communication from one mind to another without using the known senses (often used in fiction but not scientifically supported as real)
B. lymph node -- one of many bean-sized organs that filter bacteria and other toxins from circulating white-blood-cell filled lymph fluid
C. when what happens is very different than what might be expected; or when things are together that seem like they don't belong together
- 20 *Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabies.*
A. U.S. writer whose novels and short stories are a mixture of realism, satire and science fiction (1922–2007)
B. arguably the most famous U.S. baseball player who held the home run hitting record for 39 years (1895–1948)
C. French scientist who proved germs cause disease and created pasteurization and early vaccines (1822–1895)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	A	genuine	High-utility academic word
2	B	inhabitant	Used 2 times in this essay.
3	B	cultivate	High-utility academic word
4	C	caricature	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
5	C	Achilles (<i>in Greek mythology</i>)	Used 2 times in this essay.
6	A	Socrates	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
7	C	Julius Caesar	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
8	C	Middle Ages	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
9	B	King Arthur	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
10	C	Miguel de Cervantes	
11	A	Renaissance (<i>as in: The Renaissance</i>)	Used 3 times in this essay.
12	C	Thomas Jefferson	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
13	C	adopt	High-utility academic word
14	B	Abraham Lincoln	Used 2 times in this essay.
15	A	precedent (<i>as in: sets a precedent</i>)	High-utility academic word
16	A	Beethoven (<i>as in: Ludwig van Beethoven</i>)	Used 2 times in this essay.
17	B	The French Revolution	Used about once per 10 books in our high school library
18	C	Napoleon Bonaparte	Used 2 times in this essay.
19	A	telepathy	Used about 2 times per 10 books in our high school library.
20	C	Louis Pasteur	