

The Devil in the White City

by Erik Larson

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 from the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Answer Key — Preview	2	teacher use / self-check only
Vocabulary Preview	3	

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: adjacent, alias, approach (2), assets (2), caustic (2), critique, dynamic, dynamics, function (2), liberal arts, novel, pavilion, persistent, theorize, yield (2)



More Vocabulary Printables

verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

The Devil in the White City

by Erik Larson

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

Vocabulary Preview

The Devil in the White City

by Erik Larson

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

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

- The kitchen has an island that is **adjacent** to the family room.
 - opposite
 - near
 - matching
- For security, Winston Churchill usually traveled using the **alias**, Colonel Warden.
 - alternative name
 - bodyguard
 - advice of
- I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - gets nearer
 - is remembered
 - continues
- We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - avoid
 - think about
 - assign
- She's kind, beautiful and athletic, but her quick mind is her rarest **asset**.
 - characteristic
 - weakness
 - positive trait
- The company is worth much more than its reported **net assets**.
 - stock market valuation
 - cash value of things owned
 - money in the bank
- Be careful. The chemical is **caustic**.
 - dangerously cold
 - very sticky
 - corrosive or damaging
- I always enjoy her remarks, though they can be a bit **caustic**.
 - sarcastic or harsh
 - hard to understand
 - depressing or sad
- Her **critique** of the editorial prompted a spirited discussion about economic policy.
 - approval and recommendation
 - reading aloud
 - analysis and judgment
- She is a **dynamic** candidate.
 - careful and quiet
 - polite and reserved
 - energetic and enthusiastic
- She is a specialist in **fluid dynamics**.
 - the interaction of all the forces influencing a system
 - limitations; or things that limit action or motion
 - things that are explosive or highly flammable
- Scientist do not know all the **functions** that the nutrient performs.
 - mathematical calculations
 - natural activities
 - transitions in form

13. She attends a lot of school functions.
- A. events
 - B. classes
 - C. workshops
14. I plan to get a liberal arts degree and then apply to law school.
- A. general knowledge
 - B. public policy
 - C. fine arts
15. It is a novel idea and just might work.
- A. original
 - B. important
 - C. valuable
16. We ate lunch under the open-sided pavilion near the lake.
- A. freestanding shelter
 - B. tall stone monument
 - C. narrow garden path
17. The persistent rain finally stopped after flooding streets for a full week.
- A. quickly ending
 - B. continuing steadily
 - C. suddenly starting
18. Galileo theorized the motion of the stars.
- A. detached from something that was habitual -- especially infants who stopped drinking mother's milk
 - B. turned in the opposite position -- such as upside down, inside out, or (of two things) in switched position
 - C. developed a belief about
19. The experiment yielded data that raised a new set of questions.
- A. produced
 - B. destroyed
 - C. slowed down
20. After the scandal, she yielded to public pressure and resigned her position.
- A. added
 - B. gave in
 - C. produced

Vocabulary in Context

The Devil in the White City

by Erik Larson

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

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

- 1 A middle-aged man in knife-edge whites took his message up three decks to the Marconi room **adjacent** to the officer's promenade.
A. sloped
B. nearby
C. hidden
- 2 It was this big talk, not the **persistent** southwesterly breeze, that had prompted New York editor Charles Anderson Dana to nickname Chicago "the Windy City."
A. tendency to be direct in a disagreeable, insensitive manner
B. continuing -- especially despite difficulties or opposition
C. the degree or quality of being exactly vertical or straight
- 3 He issued instructions that anticipated by many years Louis Sullivan's famous admonition that form must follow **function**.
A. someone who expresses disapproval
B. purpose
C. the act of recognizing difference
- 4 She stayed at the **function** for all of one hour, then bolted.
A. social event
B. a positively charged ion
C. a negatively charged ion
- 5 He wrote opera **critiques** for the Chicago Tribune.
A. learns, discovers, or decides in advance
B. keeps away (chooses not to do something)
C. an examination and judgment of something
- 6 Although Chicago was rapidly achieving recognition as an industrial and mercantile dynamo, its leading men felt keenly the slander from New York that their city had few cultural **assets**.
A. acts of stopping a battle or fight
B. a central open spaces in buildings
C. things of value
- 7 The guardians of Minnie Williams had dispatched an attorney, William Capp, to look for Minnie and to protect the **assets** of her estate.
A. things that hold other things together, or wrap or cover or tie something
B. things of financial value
C. atoms with an electrical charge caused by the loss or gain of an electron
- 8 Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building, after the storm of June 13, 1892.
A. studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills
B. focusing on studies intended to provide the specific skills and knowledge of various trades and businesses
C. focusing on training artists in music, dance, art, etc.
- 9 Bertillon believed that each man's measurements were unique and thus could be used to penetrate the **aliases** that criminals deployed in moving from city to city.
A. an alternative name
B. sizes or dimensions
C. outward appearances
- 10 Everyone was thinking in terms of towers, but Burnham, for one, did not think a tower was the best **approach**.
A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
B. way of doing something
C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 11 He liked being near enough to hear the **approach** of death in the rising panic of his vic tims.
A. coming
B. create dramatic change
C. mirror back (an image)

- 12 Something **novel**, original, daring and unique must be designed and built if American engineers are to retain their prestige and standing.
- A. new and original
 - B. important and valuable
 - C. traditional (having withstood the test of time)
- 13 To explain the print's permanence, detectives **theorized** that Holmes, known to have an avid interest in chemistry, had first poured a sheen of acid onto the floor to hasten by chemical reaction the consumption of oxygen in the vault.
- A. disappointed from losing false belief that something is better than it is; or the removal of such a belief
 - B. treated something in an educated, intellectual way -- often excluding emotional or practical considerations
 - C. to form a theory (a belief about how something works or came about -- often without having absolute proof)
- 14 Her Harry was so handsome and **dynamic**, she knew that once married they would share a wonderful life full of travel and fine possessions.
- A. able to be translated
 - B. exactness or accuracy
 - C. energetic
- 15 Parroted from thesis to thesis, this view first gained prominence through a curiously personal **dynamic** that made it difficult and—as is often the case in the cramped and stuffy rooms of academic debate—even dangerous to resist.
- A. force
 - B. an electronic component that acts like a one-way valve
 - C. any substance that tends to increase the flow of urine
- 16 The monstrous guns of Krupp were in place in their **pavilion** on the lake south of the Court of Honor.
- A. a large structure separate from a main structure or temporary
 - B. make something more attractive or interesting by adding to it
 - C. a small group of people who plot in secret and exercise power
- 17 I presume anyone running a race has moments of half despair, along toward the end; but they must never be **yielded** to.
- A. with rises and falls in pitch
 - B. gave in, gave way, or gave up
 - C. embarrassed or self-conscious
- 18 The Black City to the north lay steeped in smoke and garbage, but here in the White City of the fair visitors found clean public bathrooms, pure water, an ambulance service, electric streetlights, and a sewage-processing system that **yielded** acres of manure for farmers.
- A. gave or produced
 - B. was attractive or desirable
 - C. not wanting to do something
- 19 Some days the halls were suffused with a **caustic** scent, as of a cleanser applied too liberally, other days with a silvery medicinal odor, as if a dentist were at work somewhere in the building easing a customer into a deep sleep.
- A. easily set on fire
 - B. untied or released
 - C. harsh
- 20 The next day the newspaper singled out Chauncey Depew, president of the New York Central, for a particularly **caustic** appraisal.
- A. critical or harsh
 - B. not mirroring back (an image)
 - C. in the way mentioned or shown

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

The Devil in the White City

by Erik Larson

#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	B	adjacent	High-utility academic word; used 11 times in this book.
2	B	persistent	High-utility academic word; used 10 times in this book.
3	B	function (<i>as in: Its main function is to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 3 meanings in this book.
4	A	function (<i>as in: I'm attending a function tonight</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
5	C	critique	High-utility academic word; used 3 times in this book.
6	C	assets (<i>as in: it's one of her best assets</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
7	B	assets (<i>as in: the company's assets & liabilities</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	liberal arts	Used 32 times in this book.
9	A	alias	Used 11 times in this book.
10	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 9 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
12	A	novel (<i>as in: a novel situation</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
13	C	theorize	Used 6 times in this book.
14	C	dynamic (<i>as in: a dynamic personality</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
15	A	dynamics (<i>as in: the system dynamic</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	A	pavilion	Used 13 times in this book.
17	B	yield (<i>as in: yield to pressure</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
18	A	yield (<i>as in: will yield valuable data</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
19	C	caustic (<i>as in: a caustic chemical</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
20	A	caustic (<i>as in: a caustic person</i>)	Used 3 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.