



LISTENING



Grades 5 - 8
Practice Packet 4



Listening Practice Packet 4



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LISTENING CONTEST – PRACTICE SCRIPT

Legacy of the Kentucky Derby

Established in 1875, the Kentucky Derby is the longest-running sports event in the history of the United States. It is also considered the shortest sports event, only lasting roughly two minutes. While it may be the shortest, the excitement and adrenaline are not lacking. The founders, racers, and horses in the history of the Derby are important components of American history, and the legacy of the event continues to amaze spectators to this day.

Meriwether Lewis Clark, or "Lutie" for short, was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He was famously named after his grandfather, William Clark (known for the Lewis and Clark expedition). He became interested in horse racing while traveling to Europe, and while he was in England, he attended the Epsom Derby, which had been ongoing for roughly a hundred years at the time of his attendance. In Paris, France, Clark discovered the French Jockey Club made up of a group of racing enthusiasts. Can you guess what he decided to do next?

1:00

After attending and collecting information about horse racing, he returned to the U.S. He was inspired to bring something similar to the states, and his uncles, Henry and John Churchill, provided him with a piece of property in Louisville to build a racetrack. The racetrack would later be named Churchill Downs after Clark's uncles. In 1875, the very first Kentucky Derby was sponsored by the Louisville Jockey Club. With roughly 10,000 spectators watching, a Thoroughbred horse named Aristides won the first mile-and-a-half Kentucky Derby. The length of the race would later be lowered to a mile and a quarter because it was believed that the distance was too long for young horses who were first running at the beginning of the year.

In 1902, the Kentucky Derby came under new management. Martin "Matt" Winn from Louisville had attended the very first Derby when he was 14 years old and continued to attend for the remainder of the century. In order to save the Derby from financial

LISTENING CONTEST – TEST

Leadership and Barbarity of Attila the Hun

1. Attila was born in a province of the Roman Empire which is now part of present-day ____ .
 - A. Greece
 - B. Hungary
 - C. Italy
 - D. Romania
2. Attila was a stout man with ____ .
 - A. a flat nose
 - B. a thin beard
 - C. deep-set eyes
 - D. all of the above
3. What is the name of Attila's brother?
 - A. Bleda
 - B. Ruga
 - C. Octar
 - D. Honoria
4. Attila ruled over what empire?
5. The Huns regularly ate ____ .
 - A. potatoes
 - B. beets
 - C. raw meat
 - D. fungi
6. The Huns wore ____ helmets.
 - A. metal
 - B. fur-lined
 - C. full-face
 - D. cone-shaped
7. Attila and his brother assumed power after ____ .
 - A. their uncles died
 - B. their father was murdered
 - C. a fire burned their lands
 - D. the Roman Empire provided them with horses
8. Eastern Roman Emperor Theodosius II paid the Huns 350 pounds of gold per year to ____ .
 - A. protect them from invaders
 - B. settle an old debt
 - C. build a palace
 - D. stay away from the empire
9. According to historians, how did Attila's brother die?
10. The sister of Western Emperor Valentinian III sent her ____ to Attila in hopes to be rescued.
 - A. hair
 - B. horse
 - C. shoe
 - D. ring
11. Attila demanded ____ as his wife's dowry.
 - A. the Danube River
 - B. half of the Western Roman Empire
 - C. gold and silver
 - D. 1,000 horses
12. Priscus was a(n) ____ .
 - A. writer
 - B. god
 - C. emperor
 - D. cook
13. Priscus describes Attila as a(n) ____ .
 - A. true savage
 - B. man with a strong sense of justice and honor
 - C. invincible god with ultimate power
 - D. weak warrior hiding behind a large army

LISTENING CONTEST – PRACTICE SCRIPT

American Inventors

The United States is known for its rich environment full of opportunities for research and innovation, inspiring people to follow their dreams and discover new methods to improve our lives. As many of us already know, most inventors had to overcome hardships and conflict to find success. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Do not fear mistakes. You will know failure. Continue to reach out." With that in mind, let's take a deeper look at some of the iconic inventors, their triumphs and failures, and the lasting impression they've made on American history.

1:00

One of the most iconic American innovators to this day is none other than Benjamin Franklin. Known as one of the Founding Fathers for his contribution to American independence, Franklin was instrumental to our understanding of electricity. Born in 1706, he spent much of his time working as a writer and publisher, and it wasn't until the 1740s that he decided to investigate electrical sensations. He believed that there were similarities between electricity and lightning and wanted to prove that they were in fact the same thing. In order to prove his theory, he needed to find a way to get closer to the sky. He decided to fly a kite, and at the end of the string, he attached a key.

But what came of this experiment? Franklin believed he could prevent lightning from starting fires, which inspired him to invent the lightning rod. A lightning rod is a piece of metal that is attached to the top of a building. Instead of hitting the house, the electrical current from the lightning travels into the ground. While he believed that science was important, he was more involved in public service. He oversaw the post office and mail in the northern colonies and eventually helped draft the Declaration of Independence.

Much like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison also had an interest in electricity. He promised that he could invent a safe and inexpensive electric light to replace the

LISTENING CONTEST – ANSWER SHEET

Let's Taco'bout Tacos

Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
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