


## Has anyone ever gone to the North Pole alone?

- 1 The first person to reach the North Pole was Robert E. Peary. Peary made the trip by sled in 1909. But he didn't go alone. An African American named Matthew Henson and four Inuit guides went with him.
- 2 In 1978, Naomi Uemura of Japan went to the North Pole, too. But Uemura went alone. He had only his sled dogs for company.
- 3 Uemura's trip was exciting. It was also dangerous. Soon after Uemura started, he was attacked by a huge polar bear. The bear tore apart Uemura's tent and ate all the dog food. Finally, the explorer was able to shoot and kill it. Uemura and the dogs ate fresh bear meat for the next few days.
- 4 The trip was lonely. Snow stretched as far as the eye could see. There was no one to talk to. It was also very cold, about 50° below zero. Uemura kept a diary. He planned to write a book about the trip when he got back.
- 5 At last the long trip ended. After 500 miles and many days, Naomi Uemura reached the North Pole. He became the first and only person to do it alone.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The first person to reach the North Pole was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A Naomi Uemura  
B Robert E. Peary  
C Matthew Henson  
D Christopher Columbus
2. Which word in paragraph 4 means “a book you write in every day”?  
A trip  
B zero  
C snow  
D diary
3. Which paragraph tells how Naomi Uemura fought a bear?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
4. Naomi Uemura’s dogs ate fresh bear meat instead of dog food because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A they liked that food better than dog food  
B Uemura killed many bears along the trip  
C a polar bear ate their dog food and was killed  
D Uemura ate their dog food and then shot a bear
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A sled dogs can’t run in cold weather  
B a polar bear provides lots of meat  
C Naomi Uemura lived in an igloo  
D a polar bear only eats meat

 6. Would you want to take a trip to the North Pole the same way that Naomi Uemura did? Why or why not?

## Why is the baobab tree special?

- 1 The baobab (BOW•bab) tree looks as if it is growing upside down. Its trunk is bare. Near its top, crooked branches spread out like roots. An old story says that angry gods turned the tree upside down. But it is hard to guess why anyone would be angry at this useful tree.
- 2 Baobab trees grow in Africa on the edges of the desert. Some grow as tall as a six-story building. They can live as long as 1,000 years. A fruit called monkey bread hangs from the branches of the baobabs. It is about a foot long. Monkey bread is good to eat. It can also be made into a drink. Baobab leaves are used for medicine. The bark can be made into paper, cloth, or rope.
- 3 All these uses should be enough for any tree. But the baobab has another secret. In a dry land, the baobab can pull in and hold 1,000 gallons of water. It stores the water in its branches. Thirsty people tap the branches to drink. No wonder the baobab is also called the bottle tree. Whatever its name, the baobab is a real friend to people.

**Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.**

1. The article does not tell about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the baobab tree.  

<b>A</b> bark	<b>C</b> seeds
<b>B</b> fruit	<b>D</b> leaves
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means "sides, or borders"?  

<b>A</b> years	<b>C</b> leaves
<b>B</b> edges	<b>D</b> branches
3. The baobab is called the bottle tree because \_\_\_\_\_.  

<b>A</b> it stores water in its branches
<b>B</b> it leaks water from its trunk
<b>C</b> its branches are crooked
<b>D</b> it is shaped like a bottle
4. The article does not say, but you can decide that the baobab tree \_\_\_\_\_.  

<b>A</b> looks like any other tree	<b>C</b> cannot live in harsh conditions
<b>B</b> is most useful in the desert	<b>D</b> is most useful in the mountains
5. *Tap* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.  

<b>A</b> to select
<b>B</b> to strike lightly
<b>C</b> to walk with light steps
<b>D</b> to cause to flow by piercing


**6.** Many folktales tell why something happened or how something came to be. Write a short tale that tells how the baobab came to look the way it does.

## What is Space Camp?

- 1 Have you ever wanted to be an astronaut? You can find out what it's like right now. Just go to the United States Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. There you can explore the fun and hard work of space travel.
- 2 Each summer, girls and boys ages 9 to 11 from across the United States and around the world go to Space Camp. They spend six days learning and doing the jobs of real astronauts in space. Each day begins at 6 A.M. During the day, campers see films and hear scientists talk about space. They also watch rockets being built and they examine real spacecraft.
- 3 Space Campers wear suits just like the astronauts'—only smaller. They eat astronaut food. And they learn how to walk and move around in space. The camp day ends at 9:30 P.M. By that time, campers are ready for sleep.
- 4 At the end of six days, Space Campers take a pretend space shuttle flight. They use machines like those in the shuttle. They face the same problems and feel the same way as real astronauts. When Space Camp ends, boys and girls are proud to have learned and done so much. They are one step closer to reaching the stars!

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. The article does not tell about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A floating in space  
B the food campers eat  
C what campers do each day  
D the season Space Camp is open
2. Which word in paragraph 2 means “look at carefully, or check”?  
A doing  
B hear  
C spend  
D examine
3. Which paragraph tells what happens at the end of Space Camp?  
A 1  
B 2  
C 3  
D 4
4. The article does not say, but you can decide that campers \_\_\_\_\_.  
A don't like astronaut food  
B put in a long day at Space Camp  
C spend all their time in a spacecraft  
D help astronauts solve problems on the shuttle
5. *Face* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 4.  
A deal with  
B outer surface  
C meet in competition  
D front part of the head


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6. Would you like to be an astronaut and travel and work in space? Why or why not?

## What is the mystery of the monarch?

- 1 Monarchs (MAHN•arks) are beautiful butterflies. Their wings are orange and black with white spots on them. In the summer, monarchs live in many places. But somehow they know that they must leave when the weather gets cold. Winter's frost will kill them. So each fall, monarchs fly south. Then each spring, they fly north again, laying eggs along the way.
- 2 The butterflies go back to the same place every fall. Some travel for weeks to get there. Many fly more than a thousand miles. They travel in large groups. Sometimes they look like a gold ribbon stretching across the sky. Monarchs live less than a year. So there are no old ones to lead the way to warmer places. People don't understand how the young monarchs know where to go. This is the mystery of the monarch.
- 3 One place these butterflies go is in California. It is known as "Butterfly Town, U.S.A." The monarchs even return to the same trees there year after year. People in the town love the insects. They have a parade to welcome them each fall. And city laws protect the monarchs. Everyone wants them to keep coming back.

Circle the right answer for questions 1–5. Write your answer to question 6 on a blank piece of paper.

1. "Butterfly Town, U.S.A.," is in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A Hawaii  
B Florida  
C California  
D New York
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means "go back"?  
A welcome  
B protect  
C return  
D love
3. Young monarchs must know where to go when they travel because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A the older butterflies live less than a year  
B they fly ahead of the older butterflies  
C the older butterflies travel separately  
D they carry the older butterflies
4. What do monarchs do in the summer before they fly south in the fall?  
A They fly north.  
B They travel alone.  
C They all go to California.  
D They live in many places.
5. The article does not say, but you can decide that monarchs \_\_\_\_\_.  
A travel alone  
B fly across oceans  
C move only in the fall  
D lay eggs in many different places

 6. How do you think city laws can protect the monarch butterflies?