

What is a neighborhood island?

- 1 There are hundreds of islands on Earth. But only 200 of these are really important islands. One of the smallest important islands is called Manhattan.
- 2 Manhattan Island is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide and $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. It is known for its many beautiful tall buildings. But they are not the most interesting things on this island. The neighborhoods on Manhattan Island are really special.
- 3 Many immigrants (IM•ih•grents) live there. Immigrants are people who move to the United States from other countries. They bring many skills and experiences with them to their new home.
- 4 Think of a neighborhood on Manhattan Island. In this neighborhood, there are people from Puerto Rico running a bakery. Next door, Koreans have a vegetable stand. On the same block, East Indians sell candy and newspapers. Cubans run a restaurant. And across the street, Russians open a clothing store.
- 5 Each group of immigrants is different. They have their own languages, foods, and ways of doing things. Together the immigrants are like squares in a quilt. Manhattan has many of these interesting neighborhoods. It really is a neighborhood island.

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 how big Manhattan is
B a neighborhood on Manhattan Island
C what immigrants might do for a living
D how many tall buildings are on Manhattan Island

2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “talents to do jobs”?
A countries
B immigrants
C skills
D experiences

3. Which paragraph tells how many islands there are on Earth?
A 1
B 2
C 3
D 4

4. In Manhattan, people can get food from almost any country in the world mostly because _____.
A many immigrants have settled there
B people there speak many languages
C the island has many tall buildings
D the island is so small

5. The article does not say, but you can decide that Manhattan _____.
A is difficult to get to
B is quiet on most days
C doesn't allow immigrants to open businesses
D has more interesting neighborhoods than most islands

 6. Imagine you were telling a visitor from another country about your neighborhood. Write a description of it. Tell about the people, buildings, shops, and parks. Then tell about why you like living there.

What are the northern lights?

- 1 Pretend that you are in Alaska. It is a clear, dark night. You see a greenish glow overhead. Ribbons of green and red light drift across the sky. Then the lights ripple like curtains blowing in the wind. What are you seeing? You are seeing the northern lights.
- 2 The northern lights are most often seen near the North and South Poles. To understand why, you need to know about the Earth's magnetic field. You have probably seen a magnet attract metal objects. Earth itself is like a magnet. Its magnetic field is strongest near the North and South Poles. It attracts bits of electrically charged matter called particles. The particles are too small to see.
- 3 These particles come from the sun. The sun is a ball of burning gases. These gases explode and throw particles toward Earth. The Earth's magnetic field draws the particles toward the North and South Poles. Here the particles hit gases high in the Earth's atmosphere. These collisions release light. And people call this light the northern lights.
- 4 Someday maybe you will see the northern lights. Enjoy the show! And think about the amazing process that creates it.

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

1. The Earth's magnetic field attracts _____.
A particles from the sun
B balls of burning gas
C ribbons of light
D gases in the air

2. Which word in paragraph 1 means "move in a slow, smooth way"?
A glow
B drift
C across
D blowing

3. This article tells mostly about _____ the northern lights.
A where people can see
B the best time to see
C why people like
D what causes

4. After particles from the sun hit gases in the Earth's atmosphere, _____.
A light is released
B the gases explode
C the Earth gets hotter
D metal becomes magnetic

5. *Draws* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 3.
A makes a line
B removes liquid from
C allows air to pass through
D pulls in a certain direction



6. Think about a time you played with a magnet. Tell what you noticed about the way the magnet worked.

Canine Detectives to the Rescue

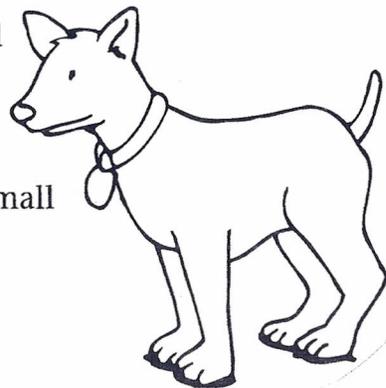
They are known as man's best friend. They have helped solve crimes since the 1800s. They have sniffed out drugs, explosives, and illegal goods. They helped during the 1985 Mexico City earthquake. Most recently they were at Ground Zero in New York City, the sight of a terrorist attack. Their only pay is a pat on the head and a game of fetch at the end of the day. Who are they? They are search-and-rescue dogs.

Unlike humans, dogs have an excellent sense of smell. They can smell a person's individual and invisible scent. Another advantage they have over humans is that they can search in very small places. But training a dog for search and rescue takes time and money. Only dogs with a very good nature are chosen. The dogs also need agility and stamina.

Rescue dogs are sometimes called "sniffer" dogs. They are trained by handlers to do special kinds of sniffing. Some follow a trail; others seek a human scent in a certain location. Some dogs are even trained to track underwater.

All search-and-rescue dogs have one thing in common. They see their work as a challenging game. But it is serious business for their handlers. They make sure their dogs are always fairly rewarded. Often, if the search ends without success, the handlers will supply someone for the dog to find. It is important to give positive reinforcement so the dog remains enthusiastic about the game.

During the Mexico City earthquake, search-and-rescue dogs found at least eight people alive. In one case, the dogs sniffed out a collapsed parking tower and found a grandfather and his grandson in a small car. Search-and-rescue dogs are true heroes.



1. From reading the article you can tell that the word *canine* means _____.
 - A. nine teeth
 - B. rescuer
 - C. dog
 - D. sniff
2. In paragraph two, another way to say *agility* might be _____.
 - A. ability to move quickly and easily
 - B. a superior sense of smell
 - C. a very good nature
 - D. ability to track underwater
3. Four qualities of a good search-and-rescue dog are _____.
 - A. knowledge about explosives, great eyesight, good looks, and money
 - B. a great sense of smell, a good nature, agility, and stamina
 - C. a handler, good looks, game-playing skills, and energy
4. What two qualities do dogs have that are different from humans?
 - A. agility and stamina
 - B. time and money
 - C. a superior sense of smell and the ability to search small spaces
5. What is the main idea of this article?
 - A. Dogs make great detectives.
 - B. Search-and-rescue dogs don't perform a valuable service.
 - C. Canines smell really well.
 - D. Dogs like to play games.

Survivor! Niagara Falls

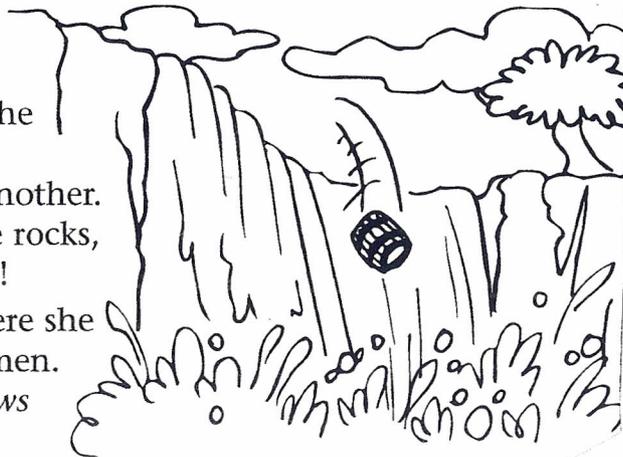
Newsman: This is Hart Bravely of *Eyewitness News*. It is October 24, 1901. We are here in Canada at the bottom of the 180-foot Horseshoe Falls. We will soon be talking with the first woman and first person ever to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. They are pulling the barrel over to the shore with hooks now. Ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. Annie Edson Taylor is out of the pickle barrel. She looks dazed and a little bruised and battered. Her dress is wet, and her hair is a mess. Let's see if we can have a word ... Mrs. Taylor, happy birthday! That was quite an exciting seventeen-minute trip.

Annie: Call me Annie. Not bad for a 43-year-old Bay City, Michigan, schoolteacher, huh! I prayed every second I was in the barrel except for a few seconds after the fall when I went unconscious. No one should ever do that again!

Newsman: Annie, our records have you down as being 63, but at any age that was quite a feat. What can you remember about your trip?

Annie: First, I remember being strapped into Captain Johnson's specially designed harness inside the barrel. I think it saved my life. The barrel was made in Michigan and is padded and airtight. Next, they put on the lid and used a bike pump to force in more air. Finally, they towed the barrel and me into the main current of the river and cut us loose. I could feel a rush as the barrel was slammed first one way, then another. I thought it hit some rocks, and then—here I am!

Newsman: Yes, here she is, ladies and gentlemen. This is *Eyewitness News* signing off.



1. What was the last step to get Annie ready to go over the falls?
 - A. put on the lid
 - B. cut the barrel loose
 - C. strap her in the special harness
2. Number the steps Annie took to get ready in the right order.
 - using a bike pump to force in more air
 - being strapped into the special harness
 - putting on the lid
3. The date of October 24 was special because _____.
 - A. there were a lot of people at Niagara Falls
 - B. Annie remembered her trip
 - C. it was Annie's birthday
4. From this news report you can tell _____.
 - A. no one will attempt this stunt again
 - B. someone went over Niagara Falls and lived to tell about it
 - C. Annie will try to repeat her trip in the future

Come visit the Colorado River's Grand Canyon—one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. The scenic beauty of the tall cliffs and the sky must be seen to be believed. No photograph can capture such fantastic views.

Take time from the hustle and bustle of city life to visit the park's one million acres of land. Travel the canyon's 277 miles from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. Stand on the South Rim and gaze across nearly ten miles to the North Rim.

If you like to hike, this is the perfect trip. To hike to the bottom—and not back up the canyon—requires at least one full day. Mule trips are also available, but even mules take two days to go all the way to the river and back.

Do you love to river run? Although the Colorado River is 1,450 miles long, you can take a shorter river trip through the park. On an oar-powered raft, your trip would last a peaceful two to three weeks.

Nothing in Grand Canyon National Park is done quickly, so plan well. River and mule trips are often reserved six months to a year ahead. You will be out of luck if you wait until you reach the park.

There is no best way to see the Grand Canyon. So take your pick and become part of the experience now!

1. Which of these statements is a fact?
 - A. No photograph can capture such fantastic views.
 - B. If you like to hike, this is the perfect trip for you.
 - C. River and mule trips are often booked six months to a year ahead.
 - D. There is no best way to see the Grand Canyon.
2. Which of these is an opinion about the Grand Canyon?
 - A. The scenic beauty of the tall cliffs and sky must be seen to be believed.
 - B. Travel the canyon's 277 miles from Lake Powell to Lake Mead.
 - C. Stand on the South Rim and gaze across nearly ten miles to the North Rim.
 - D. Although the Colorado River is 1,450 miles long, you can take a shorter river trip through the park.
3. Which of the following best states this website's main idea?
 - A. Come visit the beautiful Grand Canyon, where there are many fun things to do.
 - B. Nothing in Grand Canyon National Park is done quickly, so plan well.
 - C. Take time from the hustle and bustle of city life to visit the park's one million acres of land.
 - D. There is no best way to see the Grand Canyon.