

## Practice with Informational Text

**Look** Informational text teaches you about something. It is real, not made-up. There are many kinds of informational passages. Some may tell you about science or history. Others may tell you about people or animals. The following informational article is about merry-go-rounds.

### Round We Go

Word  
Count

- 1 Have you ever ridden a merry-go-round? Merry-go-rounds are fun! First you climb onto a beautiful horse. Then the music starts. The merry-go-round goes around. The horse goes up and down. Some lucky riders get a prize. To get it, they must grab a shiny brass ring.

48 words

### History

- 2 Another name for merry-go-round is *carousel*. This word comes from a Spanish word, *carosella*. It means “little wars.” The Spanish held contests on horseback. They tried to get bottles of perfume. In France they also had games on horseback. Knights would get dressed up. Their horses were decorated. The knights would try to get gold rings. They would practice playing on wooden horses.
- 3 Because of the games, people made wooden horses. The horses were first shaped or carved by someone. Then people would paint them. They were works of art. People would ride them for fun.

64 words

34 words

Word  
Count

## Notes

34 words

4 Carousels always went around. Long ago, live animals would pull the carousel around. Sometimes people would even pull the carousel around with a rope. Later, steam engines were used. Today, different machines move them.

55 words

5 Wooden horses are still the most common carousel animals in the United States. But other countries use other animals. They use dogs, cats, rabbits, and even deer. Today people ride carousels at carnivals and in parks. Some carousels are famous. Binghamton, New York has six carousels. It is the “Carousel Capitol of the World.”

### The Best Time for Carousels

56 words

6 One hundred years ago, there were lots of carousels. People loved them. The best ones were built then. Many still remain. The oldest one that still remains was built in 1907. It was built in Germany. But it was later sold to Japan. It became a ride in a Japanese theme park.



**1** How is the passage mostly written?

- (A) as a problem and solution
- (B) comparing and contrasting
- (C) by cause and effect
- (D) in time order

**Skill** *Sequence, Cause and Effect, Compare and Contrast, Problem/Solution*

**2** Read this sentence from the passage.

Their horses were decorated.

What does the word decorated most likely mean?

- (A) made pretty
- (B) protected
- (C) very fast
- (D) trained

**Skill** *Context Clues*



*Hint*—Read the sentence before this one, about how the knights got ready.

**3** What is “Round We Go” mostly about?

- (A) Merry-go-rounds are hard to make.
- (B) Merry-go-rounds have a long history and are still popular.
- (C) The Spanish had many different kinds of merry-go-rounds.
- (D) There is a very old carousel in Japan.

**Skill** *Main Idea*

**4** Why did live animals pull merry-go-rounds long ago?

- (A) They looked like the wooden horses.
- (B) There were no machines to pull them.
- (C) People did not want to use steam.
- (D) The wooden horses were very old.

**Skill** *Inference*



*Hint*—Think about why people used to ride horses instead of driving cars.

**5** People first made wooden horses because

- (A) they did not have any live horses
- (B) they did not know how to shape rabbits
- (C) people used them for work
- (D) games were played with horses

**Skill** *Cause and Effect*

- 6** Which question does the section “The Best Time for Carousels” answer?
- (A) How were carousels made?
  - (B) When were the best carousels made?
  - (C) What does the word *carosella* mean?
  - (D) What is another name for merry-go-round?

**Skill** *Supporting Details*



*Hint*—Read the section one more time. Scan, or search, for details from the choices.

- 7** How are carousel animals in other countries different from the carousel animals we usually see in the United States?
- (A) They may be rabbits or dogs.
  - (B) They are more colorful.
  - (C) They are made of metal.
  - (D) They are much bigger.

**Skill** *Compare and Contrast*

- 8** Read the following sentence from the passage.

To get it, they must grab a shiny brass ring.

Which word is an antonym for shiny?

- (A) new
- (B) bright
- (C) thin
- (D) dull

**Skill** *Words That Mean the Opposite*



*Hint*—Do not be fooled by choices that mean the same as shiny. Choose the word that means the *opposite*.

- 9** What will probably happen in the future?
- (A) Merry-go-rounds will remain in parks.
  - (B) The animals on a carousel will all be cats.
  - (C) There will be no more music on carousels.
  - (D) No one will ride merry-go-rounds anymore.

**Skill** *Prediction*

- 10** In your own words, summarize the passage. In your summary, use details and examples from the passage that support your answer. Write your answer on the lines below. Use the sentence below to begin your summary.

*Many years ago the Spanish and French had contests on horses.*

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**Skill** *Summarizing*

- 11** Explain how information in the passage shows why carousels are so popular. In your answer, use information from the passage that supports your explanation. Write your answer on the lines below.

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**Skill** *Inference and Conclusion*



*Hint*—Look for reasons in the first paragraph.