

Third Grade
MSTEP Homework Packet # 15

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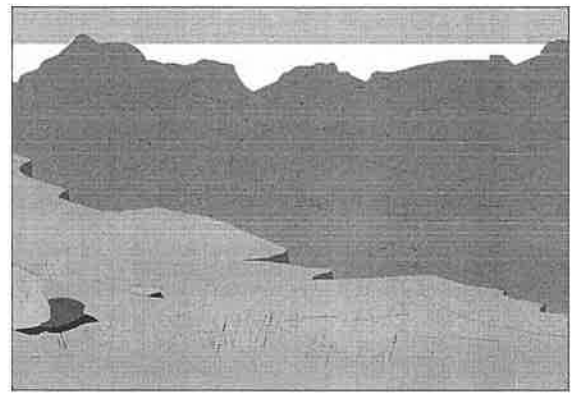
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Read the article "The Running Farmers" before answering Numbers 7 through 12.

The Running Farmers

Copper Canyon is located in Mexico. It is a large group of canyons, or deep valleys, that got its name from the copper-colored plants that grow on its walls. Copper Canyon is bigger and deeper than the Grand Canyon.

A group of Indians called the Raramuri live there today. Hundreds of years ago, different people moved into the area near Copper Canyon. The Raramuri wanted to be alone, so they moved to more hidden places. They moved deep into the canyons where many of them still live. Some live there part of the year and move to the top of the canyon for the rest of the year. They go back and forth to farm certain crops. Near the top of the canyon, they grow apples and peaches. In the canyons, they grow oranges and corn, which are their main foods.



It is hard to grow crops in Copper Canyon because the soil is not very good. For this reason, farms are far apart. The Indians have to find land where crops will grow. Homes are also far apart, so the Indians must travel a long way to work and to visit.

Raramuri means "foot runners." They seem to run nonstop! They run between their farms and their homes, and they run when they are herding their goats. They run when they are hunting, and they run when they carry supplies. They also play a game where teams kick a ball as they run. These races can last for days.

Some of the Raramuri Indians have entered running races in other parts of the world. All of the other runners wear professional running shoes. Sometimes the Raramuri wear running shoes, but other times they wear simple sandals. The bottoms of those sandals are made out of old tires, and still, the Raramuri can win the race!

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Tarahumara, also known as Raramuri, is a language of Mexico. There are more than 60,000 Tarahumara speakers in Mexico. Look at the chart to learn some Tarahumara words.

English Word	Tarahumara Word
One	Biré
Two	'Osá
Three	Bikiyá
Four	Nawó
Five	Marí
Man	Rihóy
Woman	'Upí
Sun	Rayénari
Moon	Micá

Now answer Numbers 7 through 12. Base your answers on the article "The Running Farmers."

- 7 Why did the Raramuri move deeper into Copper Canyon?
- (A) They did not know where else to live.
 - (B) They did not want other people around.
 - (C) They saw how beautiful the canyon was.
 - (D) They knew it would be easy to grow crops there.
- 8 Why is it difficult for the Raramuri to grow crops?
- (F) The soil is quite poor.
 - (G) The canyon is so deep.
 - (H) The Raramuri move often.
 - (I) The Raramuri live far apart.

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- 9 Read this sentence from the article.

They seem to run nonstop!

What does the word *nonstop* mean in the sentence above?

- (A) stop again
 - (B) unable to stop
 - (C) before stopping
 - (D) without stopping
- 10 What is the MAIN reason the author wrote this article?
- (F) to give information about the Raramuri Indians
 - (G) to tell a story about a Raramuri Indian who won a race
 - (H) to describe the difficulty of farming near Copper Canyon
 - (I) to show that Copper Canyon is bigger than the Grand Canyon
- 11 According to the chart, what is the Tarahumara word for *moon*?
- (A) Bikiyá
 - (B) Marí
 - (C) Micá
 - (D) Rayénari
- 12 According to the chart, what does the Tarahumara word *Upí* mean?
- (F) five
 - (G) four
 - (H) man
 - (I) woman

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Read the story "Rainbow Trout's Colors" before answering Numbers 25 through 30.

Rainbow Trout's Colors

by Robert James Challenger
illustrated by Susan Kwas

Grandfather and his grandson were working outside, bringing in the winter firewood. The day was dull and rainy, and as they worked the cold water ran down their necks.

The grandson said, "I wish it would never rain. I like the clear sky and the warm sun better."

Grandfather looked at him and said, "Let's take a rest and I'll tell you a story about the rain."

They found a dry spot under Cedar Tree to sit, and Grandfather began.



Down in the lake, Trout once felt the same way you do. He liked summer's sun because food became more plentiful. This is when the water in the lake gets warm and the insects hatch.

One rainy day, Trout saw Eagle flying overhead and called out to him, "Eagle, can you fly up into the sky and drag the rain clouds away to the other side of the mountain?"

Eagle asked, "So you think it would be good for the rain to go away so you could have sun all the time?"

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Reading and
Analyzing Text

“Oh, yes,” said Trout. “It would be warm and bright and there would be lots of food for me.”

Eagle thought, “It looks like I need to teach Trout a lesson.”

Eagle flew up into the sky and dragged the grey rain clouds to the next valley, letting the bright sun shine down on Trout’s lake.

Trout was very happy. Every day was bright, warm, and cheerful, and there was lots to eat. But after a while things started to change. Trout noticed that the water in the lake was not as deep as it used to be. The lake was getting smaller, leaving nothing but dry mud in its place. Trout also noticed that the insects, who needed the water to feed and hatch their eggs, had left. As the water got lower there was less to eat and Trout was finally trapped in a little pond with no food and barely enough room to turn around.

Trout looked up and saw Eagle watching him from a treetop. Trout called out, “Eagle, I was wrong. There can be too much sunshine. Now I know that rain is an important part of our world. Without it, the lake and everything I need to live will go away.”

Eagle flew over the mountain and dragged the clouds back. Just before they covered over the sun, a bright rainbow came down from the rain clouds and shone on Trout. The colors splashed onto his scales and changed him into Rainbow Trout.

Grandfather looked up into the sky and said to his grandson, “I accept the cloudy weather, just like Rainbow Trout now does, because I know that without rain there would never be rainbows. Remember, everything has a purpose, even though we may not always understand what it is.”



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**Reading and
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Now answer Numbers 25 through 30. Base your answers on the story "Rainbow Trout's Colors."

25 Where does Grandfather tell his story?

- (A) in a boat
- (B) near a lake
- (C) under a tree
- (D) on a mountain

26 Read this sentence from the story.

Remember, everything has a purpose, even though we may not always understand what it is.

What does the word *purpose* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) idea
- (G) matter
- (H) object
- (I) reason

27 How are Trout and Eagle DIFFERENT?

- (A) Trout noticed all the things around him, but Eagle did not.
- (B) Eagle did not have the power to stop the rain, but Trout did.
- (C) Trout did not at first understand what is good about the rain, but Eagle did.
- (D) Eagle was not bothered whether it rained or not, but Trout knew he needed rain.

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- 28 What happens to Trout when there is no more rain?
- F Trout's lake becomes dry, and there is no food.
 - G Trout enjoys the sunny days and never complains.
 - H Trout's life gets easier because there is so much food.
 - I Trout decides to thank Eagle for taking the clouds away.
- 29 Which word BEST describes Grandfather?
- A careful
 - B hard-working
 - C joyful
 - D wise
- 30 What lesson does Eagle teach Trout?
- F The clouds can be taken to another place.
 - G The sunshine brings food and warm water.
 - H Both sunshine and rain are necessary to live.
 - I It is best when everything is warm and bright.

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Read the article "Wonderful Bones" before answering Numbers 19 through 24.

Wonderful Bones

Do you know how many bones are located in your body? When you were a baby, you had about 330 bones. Now you have just over 200 bones. The number decreases because some bones join together as you grow. Your wonderful bones work together to protect you and support your body.

Many Uses

Many bones protect your body. For example, the bone that makes up your head is called the skull. The skull surrounds your brain and protects it from harm. The ribs that cover your chest protect your heart and lungs.

Other bones are used to support the body. The many bones in your feet allow you to walk and stand on your tiptoes. Finger bones move together so that you can throw a ball or tie a bow. Your hands and feet have more than half of the bones in your body! When you think of all that you do with your hands and feet, it's a good thing they have so many bones.

Biggest Bone

The longest and strongest bone in your body is in your leg. It is called the femur. It goes from your hip to your knee. It is a very important bone because it carries all of your weight and helps you move from place to place.

Smallest Bone

Would you believe the smallest bone in your body is in your ear? It is about the size of a grain of rice and is called the stirrup. It is called that because it is shaped like a tiny loop and looks like a stirrup on a saddle. When sound waves come into your ear, the stirrup shakes back and forth, allowing the sound waves to reach your brain. When the waves reach your brain, you hear the sound.

"Funny" Bone

Hah! The funny bone isn't really a bone at all. It is actually a nerve. When you hit the nerve that is near your elbow, it really hurts or tingles. What's so funny about that? The funny bone probably got its name from

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the bone that is above your elbow. That bone is called the humerus, which sounds like the word *humorous*, meaning “funny.”

The bones that make up our bodies are big, small, and in-between sized. They help us grow, protect us, and allow us to move. When you think about it, our bones really are wonderful.

Now answer Numbers 19 through 24. Base your answers on the article "Wonderful Bones."

- 19 What is the article MAINLY about?
- (A) how the funny bone got its name
 - (B) why we have fewer bones as adults
 - (C) how different bones help our bodies
 - (D) why the longest bone helps us move
- 20 Which section explains how the bones in your feet help you?
- (F) Many Uses
 - (G) Biggest Bone
 - (H) Smallest Bone
 - (I) Funny Bone
- 21 In what way are the skull and ribs ALIKE?
- (A) They both support the body.
 - (B) They are both found in the chest.
 - (C) They both allow the body to move.
 - (D) They both protect other body parts.

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- 22 Read this sentence from the article.

They help us grow, protect us, and allow us to move.

What does the word *protect* mean in the sentence above?

- (F) allow
 - (G) guard
 - (H) stand up for
 - (I) watch over
- 23 Which sentence from the article reveals the author's OPINION, or point of view, about bones?
- (A) "Finger bones move together so that you can throw a ball or tie a bow."
 - (B) "The longest and strongest bone in your body is in your leg."
 - (C) "Would you believe the smallest bone in your body is in your ear?"
 - (D) "When you think about it, our bones really are wonderful."
- 24 According to the author, why are bones so wonderful?
- (F) Some make us laugh.
 - (G) They send sound waves.
 - (H) Some look like other things.
 - (I) They protect and support us.