

Reading Selection

Reading Selection Comprehension Checklist

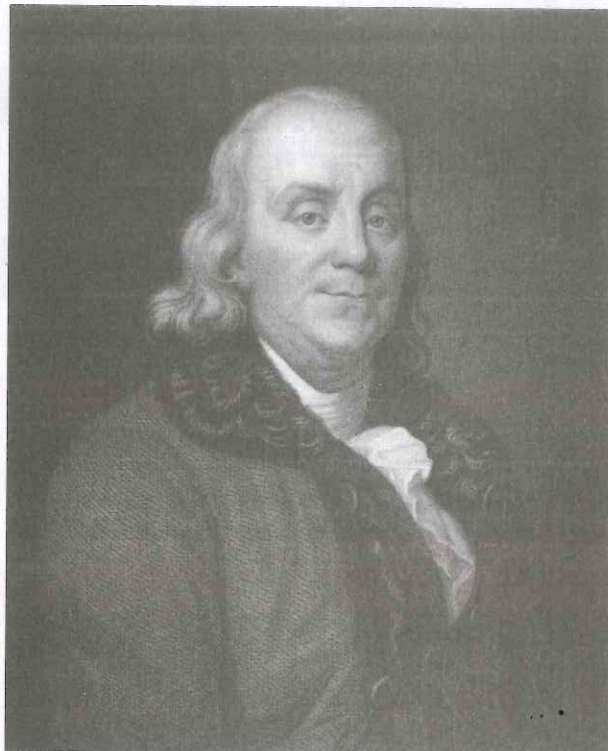
Whether or not you agree with the ideas presented in the reading selection below, make sure to:

- briefly scan the entire selection.
- look at the questions for the selection before reading it.
- carefully read the selection.
- understand the purpose or reason the selection was written.
- understand the main idea and the details that support it.

Complete the Multiple-choice that follow this reading selection.

3 The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

by Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)



There was a salt-marsh that bounded part of the mill-pond, on the edge of which, at high water, we used to stand to fish for minnows. By much trampling, we had made it a mere quagmire. My proposal was to build a wharf there fit for us to stand upon, and I showed my comrades a large heap of stones, which were intended for a new house near the marsh, and which would very well suit our purpose. Accordingly, in the evening, when the workmen were gone, I assembled a number of my play-fellows, and working with them diligently like so many emmets¹, sometimes two or three to a stone, we brought them all away and built our little wharf.

The next morning the workmen were surprised at missing the stones, which were found in our wharf. Inquiry was made after the removers; we were discovered and complained of; several of us were corrected by our fathers; and though I pleaded the usefulness of the work, mine convinced me that nothing was useful which was not honest.

* * * * *

When about 16 years of age I happened to meet with a book, written by one Tryon, recommending a vegetable diet. I determined to go into it. My brother, being yet unmarried, did not keep house, but boarded himself and his apprentices in another family. My refusing to eat flesh occasioned an inconveniency, and I was frequently chid² for my singularity. I made myself acquainted with Tryon's manner of preparing some of his dishes, such as boiling potatoes or rice, making hasty pudding³, and a few others, and then proposed to my brother, that if he would give me, weekly, half the money he paid for my board, I would board myself. He instantly agreed to it, and I presently found that I could save half what he paid me. This was an additional fund for buying books. But I had another advantage in it. My brother and the rest going from the printing-house to their meals, I remained there alone, and, dispatching presently my light repast, which often was no more than a bisket⁴ or a slice of bread, a handful of raisins or a tart from the pastry-cook's, and a glass of water, had the rest of the time till their return for study, in which I made the greater progress, from that greater clearness of head and quicker apprehension which usually attend temperance in eating and drinking.

¹old word for "ants"

²scolded

³oatmeal porridge

⁴biscuit

Multiple-choice

Multiple-choice Instructions

On the actual test, these questions will be on a sheet of paper separate from your test booklet and will be marked by a computer. Make sure to completely fill in the circle of the answer you choose.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT use an "X", check mark, half circle fill, nor a partial circle fill.

- A B C D Correct form
 X ✓ ◐ ◑ Incorrect form

Choose the best or most correct answer. To indicate your answer fill in the circle completely.

5.17 The best meaning for the word "quagmire" is

- A swamp.
- B lake.
- C fish.
- D stone.

A B C D

5.18 Franklin wanted to build a wharf because

- A the fish didn't come close to shore.
- B only minnows came close to shore.
- C he wanted to take a leadership role.
- D he didn't want to stand in mud.

A B C D

5.19 Franklin's father learned this lesson from his father:

- A Thieves always get caught.
- B All work is useful.
- C Workmen always complain.
- D Dishonesty is not useful.

A B C D

5.20 A good adjective to describe Benjamin Franklin's personality in the first excerpt is

- A dishonest.
- B disorganized.
- C untidy.
- D determined.

A B C D

5.21 The best meaning of the word "board" in the second excerpt is

- A meals.
- B lumber.
- C lack of interest.
- D accommodation.

A B C D

5.22 Franklin's brother was apparently responsible for

- A another family.
- B feeding his apprentices.
- C scolding him.
- D paying Franklin's board.

A B C D

5.23 Franklin's vegetarian diet had two great advantages:

- A low fat and low carbohydrate.
- B independence and learning.
- C increased saving and learning.
- D independence and saving.

A B C D

5.24 In the second excerpt, a synonym for "moderation" is

- A temperance.
- B apprehension.
- C singularity.
- D repast.

A B C D