

READ THE PASSAGE

Think about the evidence the author presents to support the passage's main points.

Digging into Custer's Last Stand

For over a century, people have imagined the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, as the brave "last stand" of General George Custer and his 7th Cavalry soldiers. Greatly outnumbered by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors, Custer and all 210 of his men died.

The belief in Custer's bravery started because of how the battlefield looked when it was discovered. A cluster of bodies, including the body of Custer, were found along with dead horses on a hill. People wanted to believe that the soldiers put up a good fight. Some Native American accounts also described the soldiers' bravery. Over time, a story developed of the soldiers on the hill fighting heroically to the end.

Then, in 1983, a prairie fire swept through the battlefield in Montana. The blaze burned off grass and shrubs, making it easier to dig for bullets and gun cartridges from the battle. Archaeologists examined old evidence in a new way. They used modern methods of investigation to better figure out what really happened. These new methods gave new clues about what happened to Custer and his men.

Using the bullets they found, experts were able to trace the shots fired by both sides. This allowed them to reconstruct the movements of different groups on the battlefield. Based on the numbers of certain bullets and where they were found, a different account of the battle emerged. Instead of a long, brave battle, Custer's men may have panicked, become disorganized, and lost the battle in a short amount of time.

THINK ABOUT IT

How does the author organize the evidence about different theories of what happened at Little Bighorn?

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- Information in the passage _____.
 - disproves the new theory of Custer's last stand
 - raises doubts about the old theory of Custer's last stand
 - questions whether Custer won the battle
 - proves what happened to the horses
- What first caused experts to reexamine what happened at Little Bighorn?
 - new Native American accounts of the battle
 - the discovery of the original battlefield
 - new technology for studying bullets
 - a prairie fire on the battlefield
- According to the passage, the newer theory about Custer's last stand started _____.
 - just after the battle in 1876
 - in the 1980s
 - with the discovery of the soldiers' bodies
 - with the belief that soldiers are always heroic
- How does the author say investigators support the idea that there is a different theory for what happened at the Battle of the Little Bighorn?
 - Investigators described eyewitness accounts.
 - Investigators explained the methods of their investigation.
 - The investigators proved why the soldiers died quickly.
 - The investigators reconstructed movements on the battlefield.

READ THE PASSAGE

Look for important events in the life of Sarah Edmonds.

Soldier in Disguise

In April 1863, a Civil War soldier known as Franklin Thompson deserted from the Union Army. Thompson was sick with malaria but was afraid to go to an army hospital. What was Thompson so afraid of? His real name was Sarah Edmonds—and “he” was one of hundreds of women who pretended to be men so that they could fight in the Civil War.

Edmonds was born in Canada in 1841 and came to the United States in 1858. She disguised herself as Franklin Thompson and worked as a book salesman. In May 1861, one month after the Civil War began, she enlisted in the Second Michigan Infantry.

For two years, Edmonds served in the army as Private Thompson. The Second Michigan Infantry fought in some important and violent battles, including First Bull Run in July 1861, Antietam in September 1862, and Fredericksburg in December 1862. Edmonds kept her gender a secret by sleeping in her own tent and sneaking off to bathe privately.

Upon leaving the army, Edmonds resumed her real identity. She eventually revealed her service as Thompson in order to get a pension as a Civil War soldier. In 1886, the War Department recognized her as a female soldier who had served faithfully as a private during the war. She received the \$12-a-month pension and was cleared of the desertion charge. When she died in 1898, Edmonds was buried with military honors.

STRATEGY SKILL

How does adding dates to the passage help organize it?

SKILL PRACTICE

Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What caused Franklin Thompson to desert from the Union Army?
 - (A) fear of fighting in the war
 - (B) fear of illnesses such as malaria
 - (C) fear of being discovered as a woman soldier
 - (D) fear of being shot or killed in a bloody battle
- Because Edmonds revealed the truth about her service in the Civil War, she _____.
 - (A) was buried with military honors
 - (B) was forced to return to Canada
 - (C) could resume her identity as a woman
 - (D) could finally forget about the war
- The War Department’s recognition of Edmonds proves that _____.
 - (A) the army was embarrassed by Sarah
 - (B) Sarah gained the rank of officer
 - (C) Sarah never learned to be a good soldier
 - (D) the army respected Sarah’s war service
- Which of these events happened first in Sarah Edmonds’s life?
 - (A) She got malaria.
 - (B) She deserted from the Union Army.
 - (C) She sold books for a living.
 - (D) She applied for a pension as a Civil War soldier.

Homonyms

Teaching

Words that are spelled and pronounced the same but have different meanings are called **homonyms**. Homonyms are listed in the dictionary in separate numbered entries. Each entry may have multiple meanings. The dictionary entry for two homonyms of *stoop*, for example, is shown below:

stoop¹ 1. to bend forward from the waist, 2. to sag, 3. a forward bending of a person's head and back

stoop² a small porch or staircase that leads to the entrance of a house

María's grandfather walked with a **stoop**.

He liked to sit on the **stoop** and watch the sun set.

A. Identifying Homonyms

Circle the homonyms in each pair of sentences. Then write a brief definition of each word. Use a dictionary if needed.

1. Mara played third base on the team.

He was a nasty, base person.

6. He'd like to keep people in a box.

He'd box with you if you disagreed.

2. I never knew anyone so mean.

Do you know what I mean?

7. His cat would lap its milk.

But it wouldn't sit in his lap.

3. He spoke in the imperative mood.

That put me in a bad mood.

8. Ann's dog was afraid to bark.

It just chewed on tree bark.

4. He would tell a huge lie.

Then he'd lie there and smile.

9. I wouldn't pick him as a friend.

I'd rather dig a hole with a pick.

5. She would pat you on the back.

She thought he had it all down pat.

10. I will try to forget him.

She left a last will and testament.

Homonyms

More Practice

B. Homonyms in Action

For each item, choose the homonym from the list that makes sense in both sentences and write it in the blanks. Use a dictionary if needed.

1. bank / drove / port / bluff

It's dangerous to play along the river _____.

Put your money in the _____ first.

2. knot / pore / stand / order

Lea had to _____ over the application.

The effort clogged a(n) _____ on her chin.

3. polish / slap / smash / pitch

Wind up before you _____ the ball.

_____ is often used to waterproof roofs.

4. stem / skin / pit / dump

Don't throw the cherry _____ on the floor.

Please put it in the garbage _____.

5. story / novel / educational / odd

Here's a(n) _____ idea for you.

Why not read a(n) _____ just for fun?

6. hand / deck / spade / suit

In many card games the last step is to lay down your _____.

Hold your _____ up or I'll be able to see your cards.

7. heel / pile / loaf / slice

All I've done is _____ around all day.

I'm hungry enough to eat a _____ of bread.

8. sink / story / turn / list

The ship began to _____ to one side.

The captain made a _____ of all the damage.

9. boat / net / game / hold

We had caught six fish in our _____ by 9:00 A.M.

Our _____ catch for the day was 11 tuna.

10. jam / bread / slip / roll

Tim had to _____ on the brakes to avoid an accident.

The peanut butter and _____ ended up on the floor of the car.

C. Vocabulary Challenge

Read the definitions given and identify the homonym. Then use each in one sentence. Use a dictionary if needed.

EXAMPLE to hit something lightly / a faucet homonyms: tap

Tap on the wall when you see the water come out the tap.

1. the day, month, and year / a sweet fruit with a hard seed homonym: _____

sentence: _____

2. student / part of the eye homonym: _____

sentence: _____

3. an identifying label / a child's running game homonym: _____

sentence: _____

Homophones and Easily Confused Words

Teaching

Many sets of English words sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. These sets of words are called homophones, from the Greek words *homos*, meaning "same," and *phonos*, meaning "sound."

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
heard	hurđ	(past tense verb) received a sound through the ears
herđ	hurđ	(noun) a group of animals that stay together, such as elephants

Homophones can lead to spelling mistakes. You may mean, "I heard the new song," but if you write "I herđ the new song," you have made a spelling error. Here are other examples of homophones.

- | | |
|--|--|
| be (to exist), bee (an insect that makes honey) | passed (went by), past (previous times) |
| flour (an ingredient in bread), flower (blossom) | by (next to), buy (purchase), bye (short form of <i>goodbye</i>) |
| here (in this place), hear (to detect a sound) | there (in that place), they're (they are), their (belonging to them) |
| one (1), won (was victorious) | |
| our (belonging to us), hour (60 minutes) | |

A. Identifying Homophones

Circle the homophones in each sentence. Then write a brief definition of each word. Use a dictionary if needed.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Do you know why there is no sunshine?
_____ | 6. I have felt tired and weak all week long.
_____ |
| 2. Oh, no—I must pay you the money I owe!
_____ | 7. Ted offered Barbara some peaches, and she ate eight of them.
_____ |
| 3. Adam sent his mother flowers that had a strong scent.
_____ | 8. If you will wait just a moment, you can get on the scale and find out your weight.
_____ |
| 4. Would you like to eat just one pear, or would you prefer a pair of them?
_____ | 9. Shane made a jump of six feet and was awarded a medal for his amazing feat.
_____ |
| 5. Whether you print or write a word, always make sure the spelling is right.
_____ | 10. If you're not careful, you will hurt your leg.
_____ |



Homophones and Easily Confused Words

More Practice

B. Homophones in Action

steal / steel plane / plain gnu / new nose / knows reel / real
rows / rose tail / tale shoo / shoe stair / stare there / they're

Answer each riddle using a pair of homophones from the list above. You may have to switch the order of the words. Use a dictionary if needed.

1. How do you get rid of footwear? _____
2. What do you say when those people get where they're going? _____
3. What do you call a story about the part of a dog that wags? _____
4. What is a name for genuine fishing equipment? _____
5. What are columns of red flowers? _____
6. How do you rob someone's strong metal? _____
7. What do you call an aircraft that has no decoration? _____
8. What do you say when you recognize a smell? _____
9. How do you describe a long look at a series of steps? _____
10. What do you call a baby antelope? _____

C. Vocabulary Challenge

The following paragraph includes five misspelled homophones. Read the passage and circle the incorrect words. Then write the correct words on the lines. Use a dictionary if needed.

It was my birthday, and I was expecting a lot of presence. Several of my friends past by my house, but no one came in. "There not mad at me, are they?" I wondered. "I'm already for a big party, and no one wants to come. Treating me like this shouldn't be aloud!"
