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Family Hike

- (1) When I woke up this morning, I had no plans for the day, which is unusual for me. Most days, I have soccer practice, a game, or a performance. Even if I don't have somewhere to be, I need to study or finish a project. Today, however, was different. The whole day stretched out in front of me, full of promise and void of pressure. It took me a moment to adjust to the idea that I had nothing I HAD to do, but when I did, it was an amazing feeling. Relaxing a bit, I rolled over and went back to sleep.
- (2) When I awoke for the second time, my stomach was growling. I threw the covers off my bed, stretched, and made my way downstairs. My mom was in the kitchen. She made cinnamon rolls and bacon this morning. That is one of my favorite breakfasts! I grabbed a roll and a few slices of bacon and paired it with a cold glass of milk. As we sat at the table with my brother, sister, and dad, we talked about our plans for the day. Surprisingly, everyone was free. That almost never happens! After throwing out a couple of ideas, like going to the movies or to the zoo, we decided that we would go on a family hike. It was a beautiful day, and exploring somewhere new sounded interesting.
- (3) It took us a while to get everything and everyone together and ready to go. My dad packed a cooler with drinks, snacks, and sandwiches so we could have a picnic after the hike. My mom packed sunscreen, bug spray, and extra clothes in case we got cold or wet.
- (4) As we set out in our family van, I felt excited and curious. I don't spend a lot of unstructured time outdoors because I am usually running from one activity to another. If I am outside, it is during soccer practice or recess at school. I rarely have time just to play outside. I wasn't sure what this adventure was going to be like.
- (5) When we parked near the trailhead, I saw other families like ours preparing for hikes. They all looked happy and excited. We unloaded the van, applied our sunscreen and bug spray, and we were on our way.

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Family Hike (continued)

Date:

- (6) The hike started out a little bumpy. It was muddier than I expected, and my little brother immediately asked to be carried. If he was already asking to be carried, how long was he really going to hike before he started crying? Fortunately, my dad brought a backpack carrier. Dad scooped up Charlie, put him in the backpack, hoisted him up on his back, and we were on our way again.
- (7) Charlie clapped and cheered as we walked down the trail. I looked up at him to see what made him so happy. He was looking up, so I looked up, too. What I saw was so beautiful that I gasped. The towering trees covered us like a canopy. Sunlight filtered through the branches and created a soft haze. It was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen. Up ahead the trail curved, and as we walked around the curve, I could hear rushing water. The trail went alongside a large waterfall with a wide pool of water beneath it. Families were playing in the water, and kids were sitting on the rocks around the pool skipping stones. Dogs were wading through the water with their families. Laughter echoed off the rocks. Dad took Charlie out of the backpack, and we made our way down to the pool.
- (8) Over the next few hours, we splashed through the water, skipped rocks, and ate



2 of 4 | **Amplify** Reading

Name:			
Date:			



Family Hike (continued)

our picnic near the falls. My mom asked if I was having fun. I took a moment to think before I answered her. I felt at peace and rested, despite having hiked most of the day. I realized I was content. I told her all of this with a sense of wonder in my voice. She smiled at me and hugged me close. We sat there, me leaning into her, and her arms around me, for a long time.

Family Hike: Questions

1. Refer to the passage, "Family Hike." Choose the detail from paragraph 8 that best supports the inference that the narrator was surprised at the effect of the hike. *Underline one sentence from the excerpt below.*

Over the next few hours, we splashed through the water, skipped rocks, and ate our picnic near the falls. My mom asked if I was having fun. I took a moment to think before I answered her. I felt at peace and rested, despite having hiked most of the day. I realized I was content. I told her all of this with a sense of wonder in my voice. She smiled at me and hugged me close. We sat there, me leaning into her, and her arms around me, for a long time.

- 2. Refer to the passage, "Family Hike." In paragraph 6 the narrator asks, "If he was already asking to be carried, how long was he really going to hike before he started crying?" What does this sentence show about the narrator's point of view about Charlie? *Choose the best answer.*
 - a. The narrator thinks Charlie is fun to play with.
 - b. The narrator wants to carry Charlie.
 - c. The narrator wants to upset Charlie.
 - d. The narrator thinks Charlie can be a burden.

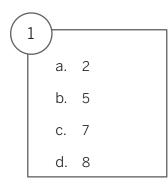
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Family Hike: Questions (continued)

- 3. Refer to the passage, "Family Hike." *Circle the best answer from each box to complete the phrase.*
 - The image shows the scenery described in paragraph __(1)___.



- 4. Refer to the passage, "Family Hike." How does the image add to the tone of the story? *Choose the best answer.*
 - a. It is fierce.
 - b. It is peaceful.
 - c. It is restless.
 - d. It is exciting.

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Flag Day

by the Library of Congress

- (1) The first official U.S. flag was flown on June 14, 1777. On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson announced that June 14 would be a national Flag Day. On Flag Day, many Americans display the red, white, and blue in front of homes and businesses. The day honors the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official U.S. flag.
- (2) Do you know the flag's history? According to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington hired Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, to create a flag for the new nation. Washington wanted a new flag as the colonies prepared to declare independence.
- (3) On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white. That the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far. Stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.
- (4) Do you say the Pledge of Allegiance at your school with your hand over your heart? Do you sing "The Star Spangled Banner," the nation's anthem, before a baseball game? Many Americans sing, pledge, and pay respect to "Old Glory." They honor the flag because it is a symbol of the country's freedom. Saluting the flag is a way to celebrate and honor the country.

1 of 6 | **Amplify** Reading

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The United States Flag

by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- (1) The U.S. flag is one of the oldest national standards in the world. General George Washington first raised the Continental Army flag in 1776. The first flag was a red-and-white striped flag with the British Union Jack where today's flag now has stars.
- (2) Several flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777. This design was used until Congress created an official design on June 14, 1777—now known as Flag Day. The act stated, "That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white. That the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Washington explained it this way: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes. This shows that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall [represent freedom.]"

The First Flag

- (3) No records confirm who designed the first Stars and Stripes. Many historians believe Francis Hopkinson, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, probably changed the Continental flag into the design we now have.
- (4) The State Navy Board of Pennsylvania, on May 29, 1777, commissioned Betsy Ross to sew flags for Navy ships. Legend credits Ross with having sewn the first flag to match the design Congress ordered. However, she changed the stars from six points to five to speed her work.
- (5) The flag was first carried in battle at Brandywine, Pennsylvania, in September 1777. It first flew over foreign land in early 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands, when Americans captured a British fort.

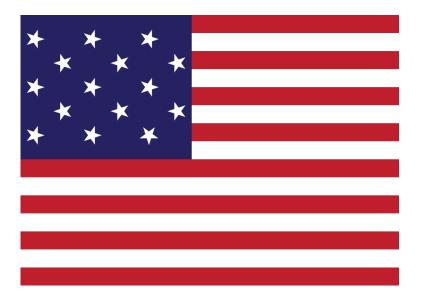
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The United States Flag

Date: _

(6) After Vermont and
Kentucky became
states in the 1790s,
Congress called for
adding two more
stars and two more
stripes to the group
that represented
the original 13 colonies. This was the
Star-Spangled Banner of which Francis
Scott Key wrote in 1814.



Law Sets Final Form

- (7) As other states entered the Union, it became clear that stripes could not be added forever. In 1818 Congress brought back the 13-stripe flag for the original 13 colonies and added stars for new states.
- (8) The law stated that stripes should be horizontal, alternately red and white, and the union, or canton, should display 20 stars for the states then in the union. But it did not specify what shades of red or blue nor how the stars should be placed. This led to many different flag designs. During the Civil War, gold stars were more common than white and the stars sometimes appeared in a circle.
- (9) The first time the Stars and Stripes flew in a Flag Day celebration was in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1861. It was the first summer of the Civil War. In the late 1800s, schools held Flag Day programs. These programs supported the Americanization of immigrant children. Flag Day events caught on with individual

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The United States Flag (continued)

communities. As a patriotic custom, the Stars and Stripes still flies in front of schools whenever classes are in session.

(10) In 1916, the president called for a nationwide observance of Flag Day. But it was not until 1949 that Congress voted for Flag Day to become a permanent holiday. When the 49th and 50th stars were added in 1959 and 1960, the design standards became even more precise. The design calls for seven red and six white stripes, with the red stripes at the top and bottom. The union of navy blue fills the upper left quarter from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars have one point up and are in nine horizontal rows. The odd-numbered rows have six stars. The even-numbered rows have five stars, centered diagonally between the stars in the longer rows.

Flag Day and The United States Flag: Questions

Refer to the passages, "Flag Day" and "The United States Flag." Which description of the relationship between George Washington and the United States flag is included in both passages? *Choose the best answer.*

- **a.** Washington wanted the flag to represent that the colonies were fighting for freedom and independence from Great Britain.
- **b.** Washington helped design the flag, choosing stripes to represent the colonies and stars to represent the states.
- **c.** Washington spoke about the importance of the flag at the Continental Congress.
- **d.** Washington chose Betsy Ross to create the first flag ever flown in the United States.

Name:		
Date: .		



Flag Day and The United States Flag: Questions (continued)

2. Refer to the passages, "Flag Day" and "The United States Flag." Read each statement about the passages' authors' points of view about the first flags of the United States. Does each statement describe the point of view from the author of "Flag Day" or the author of "The United States Flag," or do both passages' authors share the same point of view? Check the box next to each statement for "Flag Day" if the point of view is from "Flag Day," "The United States Flag" if the point of view is from "The United States Flag," and Both if the point of view is from both passages.

	Flag Day	The United States Flag	Both
John Adams stated that the flag "shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white."			
The first official flag design was introduced on June 14, 1777.			
Betsy Ross created a flag for the United States in 1776.			
The first flag showed the British Union Jack symbol.			

5 of 6 | Amplify Reading Activity 5.1

Name:		
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Flag Day and The United States Flag: Questions (continued)

3.	details from the	sages, "Flag Day" and "The United States Flag." Which two passages show that historians cannot prove the entire history
	of the United Sta	ates flag? <i>Check two answers.</i>
	"Th	ere have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far."
		Flag Day, many Americans display the red, white, and blue in t of homes and businesses."
	ii hire	cording to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington d Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, to create a flag for new nation."
	"Se	veral flag designs with 13 stripes were used in 1776 and 1777."
	"No	records confirm who designed the first Stars and Stripes."

- **4.** Refer to the passage, "The United States Flag" and the image of the flag. Based on details from the text, which version of the U.S. flag does the image most likely show? *Choose the best answer.*
 - a. the first flag raised by General George Washington in 1776
 - **b.** the official design created on June 14, 1777
 - **c.** the flag created after Vermont and Kentucky became states in the 1790s
 - **d.** the design created after the 49th and 50th stars were added in 1960

6 of 6 | Amplify Reading