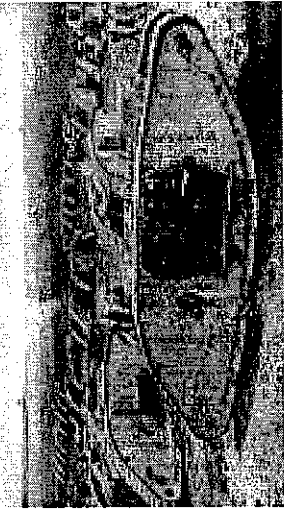




Name _____

Thanks for the Tanks

By Jane Runyon



There were no tanks used in war before World War I. After all, motorized vehicles had not been invented that long ago. Up until 1916, if an army wanted to protect one of its vehicles, they would take pieces of reinforced steel and place them on the vehicle to keep bullets from penetrating them. In other words, they tried to make a bullet proof car. This plan worked, up to a point. The armored cars could only travel on cleared roads. If any fighting was taking place off the road, the cars could not reach the action. All this changed on September 15, 1916. It was at this time that the British introduced tanks to battle.

The British waited until 1916 to place the tank into battle for several reasons. First and foremost was the fact that they wanted to make sure the idea of an armored, off road vehicle would even work. They didn't want to spend all the money it would take to produce such a vehicle if it wasn't going to work. By 1916, the pressure was on them to come up with some idea that would make winning battles easier. They were not having much luck at Sommes. They needed something to motivate their troops to press forward. On September 16, the first tank was sent into battle. Its treaded tracks took it across country and straight into enemy territory. The German bullets bounced off the sides of the tank. Infantry soldiers followed the tank. They were able to capture a German trench without much trouble. Soon afterward, a German artillery shell found its mark. The shell put the tank out of commission. Six tanks in all were sent out on that first mission. Three of the tanks got bogged down in the mud. Another of the tanks had a mechanical breakdown. Only two of the tanks were able to support the infantry drive forward. Many considered success of the tanks as only partial. They had managed to scare the Germans a great deal.

The pros and cons of tank use were assessed after this battle. Drivers complained that the slits in the front they used to see from were too small. It was hard to see where they were going. They complained that they were very large targets for the enemy to shoot at. They also worried that the exhaust from the tank was extremely hot and could possibly set the fuel tank on fire. Finally, they felt that the treads were not able to get through the mud very easily. The mud got stuck in the treads and made the tank hard to maneuver. These were all problems that could be dealt with and improved.

The French did not place tanks into battle until April of 1917. They had worse results than the British. The French tanks were not able to cross the trenches used by the Germans. The inside of the tank became so hot that the drivers could not safely operate them. Worst of all, the Germans had an armor piercing bullet that went right through the sides of the tank.

By November of 1917, most of the problems with the tanks had been solved. At the battle of Cambrai, the British used 400 tanks to break through the German lines. Battle went well for the British until the tanks ran out of gas and could not continue. A week later, the Germans were able to take back all of the territory the British had gained in their attack. There was still a lot of improvement that needed to be made in the tank, but its use in World War I was a very good beginning.

Did you ever wonder how the tank got its name? To keep the Germans from knowing what the British were planning, pieces of the vehicles were manufactured and then shipped to battle in crates labeled "tanks." They thought that if there were any spies who saw the crates, they would think the boxes carried tanks for fuel or water. The name stuck.

Thanks for the Tanks

Questions

1. Tanks were used from the very beginning of World War I.
A. True
B. False



Name _____

_____ 2. Which country was the first to use the tank in World War I?

- A. United States
- B. France
- C. Germany
- D. Great Britain

3. Why was a tank better for battle than an armored car?

4. What were some of the complaints the drivers had about the first tanks?

_____ 5. The British believed their first use of tanks was a complete success.

- A. False
- B. True

_____ 6. Who followed the tanks into battle?

- A. Artillerymen
- B. Cavalry
- C. Tank drivers
- D. Infantrymen

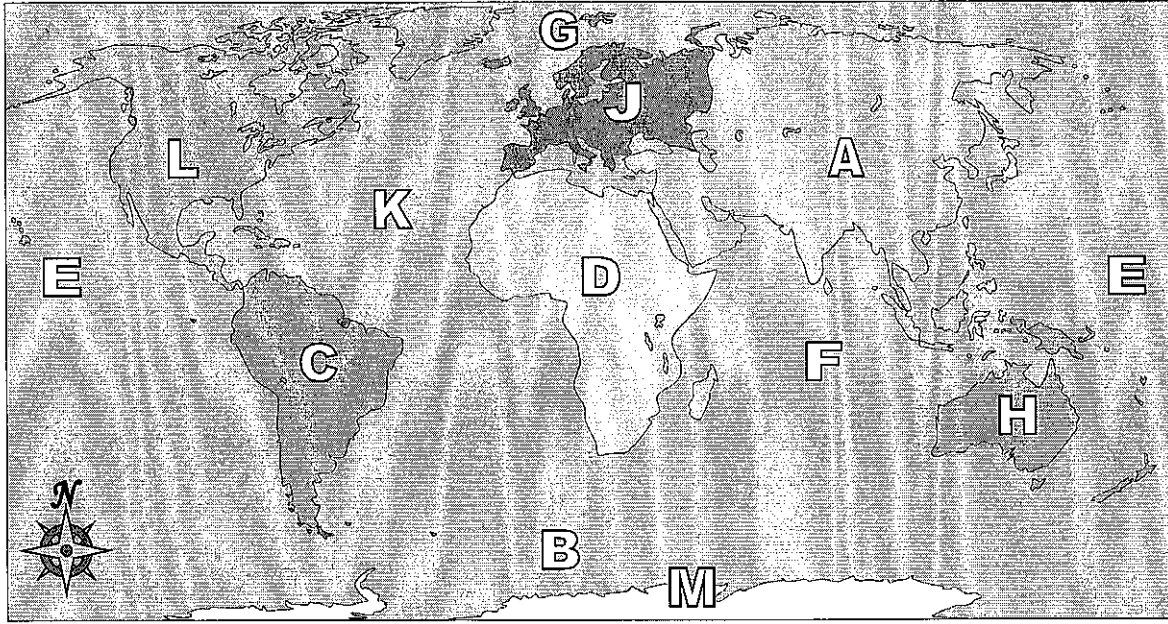
_____ 7. Why did the British wait so long to put the tank into battle?

- A. They wanted to make sure it worked.
- B. The car hadn't been invented.
- C. No one wanted to drive it.
- D. The guns weren't large enough.

8. How did the tank get its name?



Using the map below, determine which letter represents each continent or ocean.

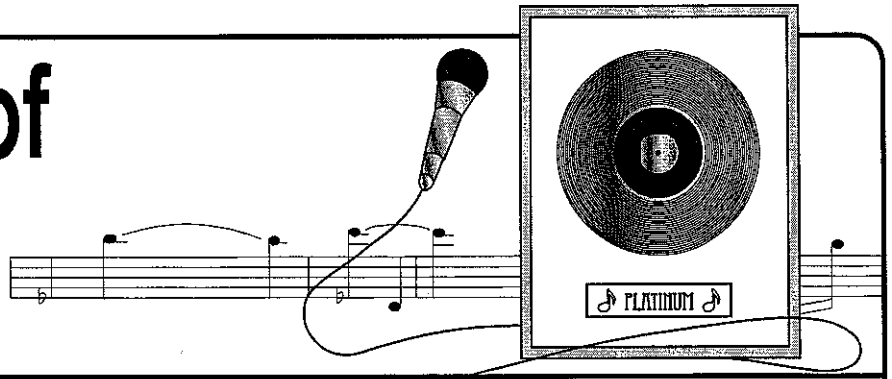


Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____

- 1) North America _____
- 2) South America _____
- 3) Europe _____
- 4) Asia _____
- 5) Africa _____
- 6) Australia _____
- 7) Antarctica _____
- 8) Pacific Ocean _____
- 9) Atlantic Ocean _____
- 10) Indian Ocean _____
- 11) Arctic Ocean _____
- 12) Southern Ocean _____
- 13) Which of these continents is closest to Africa?
 A. Antarctica C. Europe
 B. North America D. Australia
- 14) Which continent is not touching any other continents?
 A. Asia C. Africa
 B. Antarctica D. North America
- 15) Which continent is touching the eastern border of Europe?
 A. North America C. Africa
 B. Australia D. Asia
- 16) Which ocean touches Africa's western border?
 A. Arctic Ocean C. Indian Ocean
 B. Pacific Ocean D. Atlantic Ocean
- 17) Which ocean touches Africa's eastern border?
 A. Atlantic Ocean C. Pacific Ocean
 B. Indian Ocean D. Arctic Ocean

The History of Hip Hop



Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

It is said that hip hop music was born at a birthday party in the Bronx, NY. This popular genre of music started out as party music in the 1970s. It was played by local DJs in the city neighborhoods.

DJs put different pieces of music together. They did this to make new sounds. Then, rapping was added. Rapping is a way of talking over the music with words that rhyme. DJs arranged the beats so that rappers could find a rhythm. Then, the rappers would speak in time with the beat. Rappers often wrote lyrics, or the words of a song, about their own lives.

At first, hip hop served as a response to disco. Disco was a dance music craze in the 1970s. Disco was all about wealth and status. Hip hop emphasized reality and community. Hip hop music and culture became helpful to musicians and listeners. It was a way for them to deal with the difficult things about city life.

Hip hop quickly became an artistic outlet for African Americans. It was a new way to tell stories. From there, hip hop evolved from just a type of music to an entire lifestyle.

Hip hop is an art form that continues to evolve and impact communities today. New artists and new sounds are brought into the genre. The new styles continue to become popular. Hip hop is a genre that is heard and enjoyed all over the world.

1. How are hip hop and disco related? _____

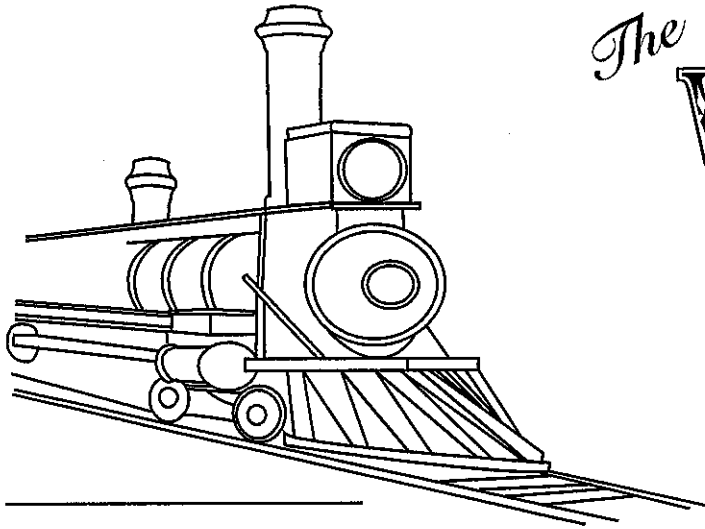
2. Why do you think hip hop is an important music genre for African Americans? _____

3. What are two things that make hip hop unique? _____

4. What is one notable fact about how hip hop music was created? _____

5. In your own words, write a definition for *rapping*. _____





The WILD WEST

*People and Events That Shaped
the American West*

From Omaha to Oakland: The Transcontinental Railroad

The Transcontinental Railroad was the first mass-transit project to connect the Eastern United States with the new West. As settlers began exploring the West, talk of starting a national rail service began, but politicians couldn't agree on a route, and were having trouble finding an easy way for the train to pass through the mountains of California. It was engineer Theodore Judah who finally found a safe passage through the Sierra Nevada. After that, the Gold Rush heated up and the idea of building an east to west railroad became a major goal. In 1862, President Lincoln approved funding for the building of a transcontinental railroad. Workers began building at both ends of the track and met in Promontory Point, Utah. The project was finished on May 10th, 1869, and workers celebrated by joining the two sets of track with a golden spike.

Though it made the settlement of the West much easier and more attractive, it did so at the expense of many people. The building of the railroads forced many Native Americans to move or change their way of life, and several of the laborers were Chinese and Irish immigrants who were paid unfairly low wages for their hard work. The topic remains the source of heated debate to this day.

Fun Fact:

Modern highway Interstate 80 follows most of the transcontinental railroad's original route.

If you were in charge of deciding the transcontinental railroad's route, what would it look like? Where would the major stops be? Draw the tracks on the map and list your reasons for choosing the route on the lines below.

