



# Matthew Henson & Robert Peary

## • Reading Comprehension •

### Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.  
Stop and think as you read.

Henson and Peary are 133 miles (214 km) from the Pole. Henson sets a hard pace. They walk 18 to 20 hours a day.

**Stop and think:** What is the furthest distance you have ever walked?  
Describe your experience.

They are cold, tired, and hungry. They keep going. They will not quit.

**Stop and think:** Why do you think Henson and Peary will not quit?

On April 6, 1909, Henson and Peary reach the Pole. Their dream comes true.

**Stop and think:** Imagine you are one of the Inuit with Henson and Peary. How do you feel? What are you thinking?

Good readers are active readers.  
Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.



## Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Main idea	Details
Henson has a hard life as a young boy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Henson's family is poor.</li> <li>✓ Henson's mother dies when he is young.</li> <li>Henson goes to school for six years.</li> </ul>
1. Henson and Peary prepare for the trip to the Pole.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)___ They build base camps.</li> <li>(b)___ They fail to reach the North Pole two times.</li> <li>(c)___ They store food and supplies at the camps.</li> </ul>
2. The trip to the North Pole is dangerous.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)___ Peary gets frostbite.</li> <li>(b)___ It is possible to die in icy water.</li> <li>(c)___ The Eskimos travel with Henson and Peary.</li> </ul>

## Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Peary loses nine toes to frostbite.	<p><i>It is very, very cold.</i></p> <p><i>Peary suffers a lot to reach his goal.</i></p> <p><i>Peary is not prepared for the trip.</i></p>
1. As a young man, Henson moves from place to place. He works odd jobs.	
2. The ice ridge can form overnight.	

## Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

1. Roosevelt was a great president. \_\_\_\_  
Peary names his ship after Roosevelt. \_\_\_\_
2. The Eskimos have lived in the Arctic for thousands of years. \_\_\_\_  
The Eskimos have a strange way of life. \_\_\_\_
3. Peary would not have reached the Pole without Henson. \_\_\_\_  
Peary and Henson reach the Pole on April 6, 1909. \_\_\_\_

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are personal beliefs.

## Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
What is Peary's goal?	<i>Robert Peary's Dream</i>	<i>to go to the Arctic</i>
1. How do Henson and Peary meet?		
2. What does Henson learn from the Eskimos?		
3. When does the team reach the Pole?		

## Activity **6** Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.  
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding  
the ideas on a page.

Good readers connect the ideas  
to their lives.

Idea



Your Life

Why do some people always have to be first? They have to be first in line. They have to be first to own an item. Some people will even risk their lives to be first.

What risks do people take in life?  
Do you know any risk-takers?  
What risks do they take?  
Why do you think that  
they take these risks?

Do you think you are a risk-taker?  
Why or why not?

Is there anything you would  
risk your life for?  
What is it?  
Why would you risk your life  
for it?



# • Writing •

## Activity **1** Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs about risk-takers.  
Use your ideas from page 41.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

### Paragraph 1

People take different kinds of risks. For example,  
some people \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Other people \_\_\_\_\_ .  
I \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Paragraph 2

\_\_\_\_\_ is a risk-taker. He/She  
\_\_\_\_\_  
I think he/she takes this risk because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Read each paragraph out loud.  
Which paragraph do you like better?  
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

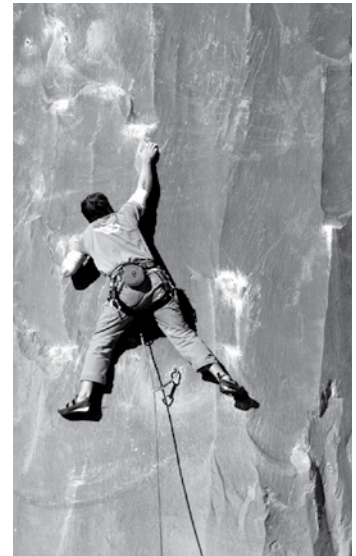
Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

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Good writers know that writing is a process.  
Good writers think of ideas before they write.  
Good writers check their writing.



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**Activity 2** Organize Ideas 

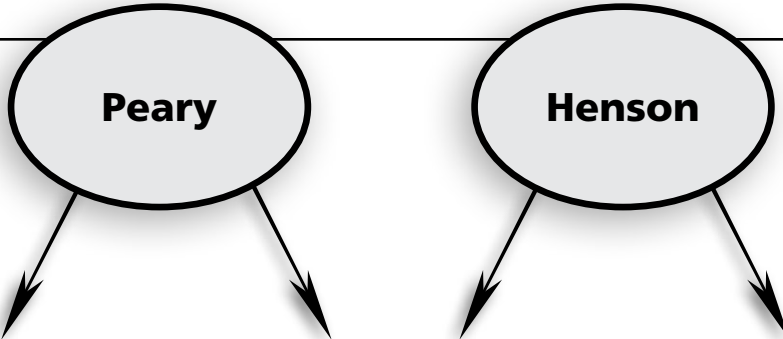
Read the details for the idea map.  
 Are the details about Peary, Henson, or both?  
 Copy the details into the correct box.  
 The first one is an example.

Good writers know that writing is a process.  
 Good writers organize their ideas before they write.  
 One way to organize ideas is to use comparison and contrast.

**Idea Map**

**Details**

quits school ✓ lives in the U.S. is a risk-taker goes to college	moves from place to place loves adventure joins the Navy loves to explore	works odd jobs lives to reach his goal lives in the moment
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**Different**

**Same**

**Different**  
*quits school*

Choose details from the idea map to complete the paragraphs.

**Paragraph 1**

Peary and Henson are the same in many ways. They both live in the U.S. They are \_\_\_\_\_ . They both love \_\_\_\_\_ . They also love \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Paragraph 2**

Peary and Henson are also different. Peary goes \_\_\_\_\_ . Then he \_\_\_\_\_ . He lives \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Paragraph 3**

Henson does not go to college. He \_\_\_\_\_ . He moves \_\_\_\_\_ . He \_\_\_\_\_ . Unlike Peary, he \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Activity 3** Use Capital Letters and Punctuation 

Read the paragraph.  
Add capital letters and end punctuation.

six teams of men start the trip to the north pole they travel over ice they travel across icy water henson and peary reach the north pole on april 6, 1909

**In this activity...**

- use capital letters**  
at the beginning of a sentence, with names of people and places, and with dates.
- use punctuation**  
at the end of a sentence.

# • Word Attack Skills •

## Activity

# 1

### Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

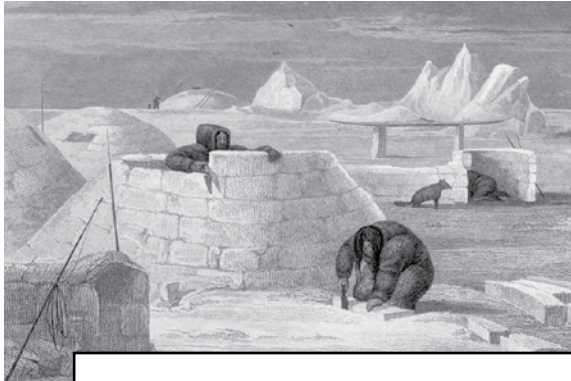
Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.  
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words  
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.  
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



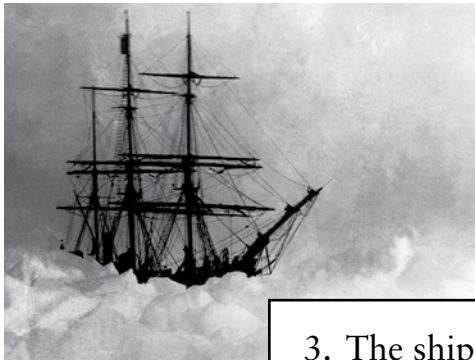
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1. These Eskimos use \_\_\_\_\_  
of snow to build an \_\_\_\_\_.



© Royal Geographical Society/Bridgeman Art Library

2. A pair of \_\_\_\_\_  
help Peary walk in  
the snow.



© Corbis

3. The ship is \_\_\_\_\_ in  
the ice.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

4. Peary goes to \_\_\_\_\_. He gets his degree in 1877.

5. Henson quits school. He wants to sail \_\_\_\_\_ the world.

6. Eskimo dogs have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. They can pull people on a sledge.

## Activity

# 2

## Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Write the word under the correct pattern.

<i>fail</i> ✓	<i>fear</i>	<i>future</i>	<i>trail</i>
<i>nature</i>	<i>mail</i>	<i>sail</i>	<i>clear</i>
<i>year</i>	<i>hear</i>	<i>capture</i>	<i>adventure</i>

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

**ail**

**ture**

**ear**

*fail*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

**ail ture ear**

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

### Find the Common Patterns



1. Peary and Henson fail two times.
2. They sail again.
3. Peary and Henson love adventure.
4. Peary always thinks about his future goal.
5. Henson goes to school for six years.
6. He loves to hear stories about the sea.

# Activity 3 Divide and Conquer



Read these words.

Look for common endings.

Write the base word on the line.

dreams      dream

fewer      few

Many words have a base word with a common ending.

Good readers look for base words and common endings

This is another way to decode words.

1. loves      \_\_\_\_\_

2. building      \_\_\_\_\_

3. crosses      \_\_\_\_\_

4. working      \_\_\_\_\_

5. learns      \_\_\_\_\_

6. quickly      \_\_\_\_\_

7. mistakes      \_\_\_\_\_

8. loses      \_\_\_\_\_

9. called      \_\_\_\_\_

10. going      \_\_\_\_\_

11. reached      \_\_\_\_\_

12. toes      \_\_\_\_\_

Read each sentence out loud.

Circle the words with common endings.

13. Henson loves to explore.

14. Henson and Peary have the same dreams.

15. Peary has a ship called the Roosevelt.

16. Henson learns how to drive a sledge.

17. Peary loses nine toes.

18. They learn from their mistakes.

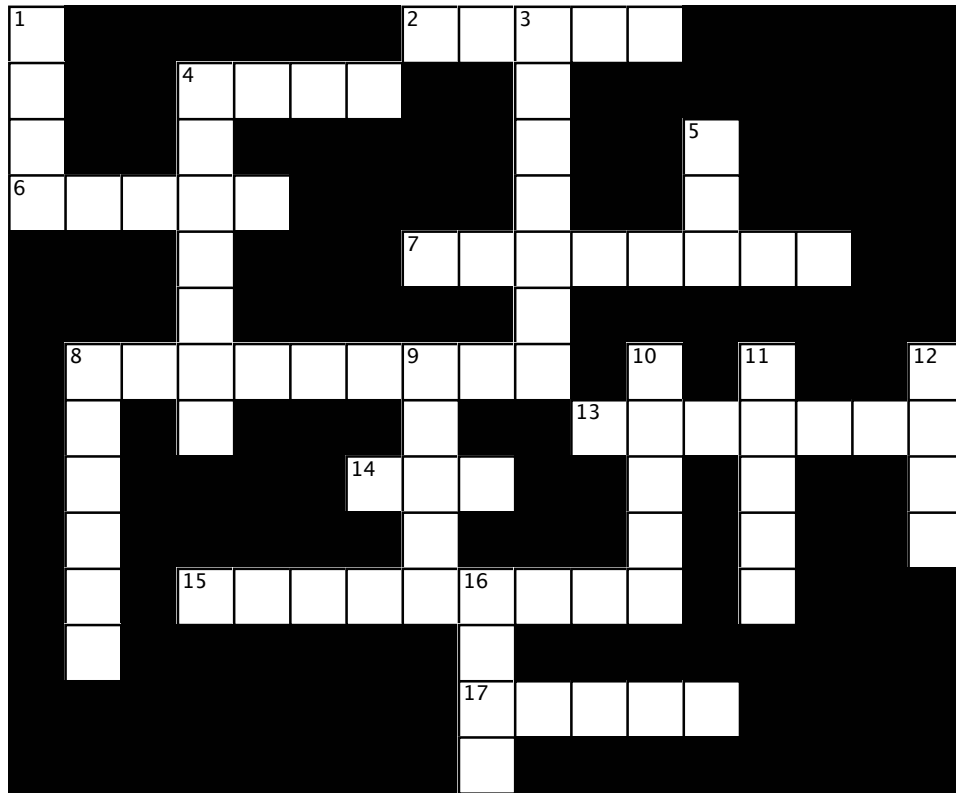
19. An ice ridge can form quickly.

20. The team crosses cold water. They keep going.

21. They reached the Pole by working as a team.

# • Crossword •

## Matthew Henson and Robert Peary



### Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Matthew Henson and Robert Peary's biography.

#### ACROSS

2. we do this at night when we are asleep
4. this white stuff falls in winter
6. bad weather (rhymes with form)
7. 100 x 10
8. exciting, dangerous time
13. this is in cigarettes
14. water becomes this when we put it in the freezer
15. opposite of the same
17. we see these in the sky at night; they sparkle

#### DOWN

1. we have five of these on each foot
3. look around to discover new things
4. stay alive
5. ocean
8. the North Pole is here
9. opposite of aunt
10. opposite of the best
11. not late
12. ships stop here to load and unload
16. take a chance

## Matthew Henson and Robert Peary



- Main Idea and Details:** (1) a, c (2) a, b
- Invisible Messages\*:** (1) Henson lives life as it comes. Henson does not plan for the future. Henson is not afraid to try new things. (2) The ice ridge forms quickly. The ice moves a lot. An ice ridge can block the team in at any time.
- Fact and Opinion:** (1) O/F (2) F/O (3) O/F
- Table of Contents:** (1) Henson and Peary / Peary hires Henson to help him on a job (2) The Eskimos / how to speak their language; the Eskimo way of life; how to survive; how to build and drive a sledge (3) Success at Last / April 6, 1909
- Organize Ideas: Different:** goes to college / joins the Navy / lives to reach his goal **Same:** lives in the U.S. / is a risk-taker / loves adventure / loves to explore **Different:** quits school / moves from place to place / works odd jobs / lives in the moment **Paragraph 1:** risk-takers / adventure / to explore **Paragraph 2:** to college / joins the navy / to reach his goal **Paragraph 3:** quits school / from place to place / works odd jobs / lives in the moment
- Use Capital Letters and Punctuation: Paragraph:** Six teams of men start the trip to the North Pole. They travel over ice. They travel across icy water. Henson and Peary reach the North Pole on April 6, 1909.
- Predict the Word\*:** (1) blocks; pieces / igloo (2) snowshoes (3) locked; stuck; trapped (4) college; university; school (5) around (6) strength; power; energy
- Find Common Patterns:** (1) fail (2) sail (3) adventure (4) future (5) years (6) hear
- Divide and Conquer:** (1) love (2) build (3) cross (4) work (5) learn (6) quick (7) mistake (8) lose (9) call (10) go (11) reach (12) toe (13) loves (14) dreams (15) called (16) learns (17) loses / toes (18) mistakes (19) quickly (20) crosses / going (21) reached / working

\*Accept any answer that makes sense.

