Read the selection below.

**Postcards from Egypt**

Lionel’s grandparents were traveling to Egypt for a three-week vacation. Before this, Lionel’s grandfather had never even left the state of Tennessee. Then last year he had had a small stroke, and now he was living differently.

He explained it to Lionel by saying, “There are things in this world I want to see. There is no better time than the present to start seeing them.”

So before they had left, his grandparents said they would send Lionel postcards. The first postcard said, “Today we are at the Great Pyramid of Khufu. It is the largest pyramid ever built and has been designated as one of the Seven Wonders of the World!”

Lionel received postcards from his grandparents every few days. Each one contained interesting facts about the places they were visiting, and Lionel found himself wanting to know more. He went to the library and checked out several books about Egypt.

Lionel was still reading books about Egypt when his grandparents returned from their trip. Lionel enjoyed talking with them about the things they had seen and the information he was learning.

A few weeks later, Lionel’s teacher assigned a report on a foreign country. Lionel wrote his report on Egypt.

Fill out the Flow Charts to list the causes, or reasons why things happen, and their effects, or results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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Introduce Comprehension
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Grade 6, Unit 4: Treasures of the Ancient World
Pyramids

The Egyptians tried several tomb prototypes before perfecting the pyramid. In the Old Kingdom, the Egyptians used rectangular structures with two sloping sides called mastabas to house their dead. Later, they built the step-pyramid. This version quickly became the true, straight-sided pyramid.

True Egyptian pyramids have a square base with triangular sides that directly face north, south, east, and west. These sides slope upward at a 50° angle and meet at the peak of the pyramid.

Since the Egyptians did not have sophisticated machinery, it took many years, a lot of building materials, and countless hours of labor to complete just one pyramid. Each pyramid had a small opening in the northern wall where people could enter. A passageway led to various chambers, including the main burial chamber deep beneath the surface. Because the tops of pyramids were extremely heavy, stone gables were built over the chambers to redirect the weight.

Although similar structures can be found around the world, the true straight-sided pyramid can only be found in Egypt. Because the Egyptian pyramid represents such pure geometry, modern architects often admire it.

Complete a Flow Chart with examples of causes and effects from the selection. Then answer the questions.

1. List any words that help signal a cause-and-effect relationship in the above selection.

2. How did Egyptian pyramids balance the weight of the structure?
The words below are formed from Greek roots or affixes. Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Then use the context in which the word is used and what you know about the word parts to determine the meaning.

synthesis recycle biography cyclist tricycle synchronize sympathy biodiversity

1. The __________ rode for 100 miles and broke a world record. __________

2. Costa Rica is a country with a lot of __________, in that there are many different kinds of animals there. __________

3. We had to __________ our watches so they all told the same time. __________

4. The toddler rode a __________, which was safer because it had three wheels. __________

5. I had __________ for the girl who lost her brand-new kitten. __________

6. It’s better for the environment if you __________ paper instead of throwing it in the trash. __________

7. I read a __________ about the poet Emily Dickinson. __________

8. We made a __________ of our ideas by combining them into one summary. __________
Plurals

Basic  Read the paragraph. Write the Basic Words that best complete the sentences.

The (1) were falling off the trees as we drove toward the farm. “Are there (2) in the woods?” Jimmy asked. “No,” my mother said, “there’s nothing dangerous in the woods.”

When we arrived, Grandpa gave us a tour. He explained how the (3) of the different crops he grew changed every year. When he showed us the barn, Jimmy and I screamed to see if we could hear (4) of our voices. “Boys! Behave (5) around the animals!” Grandpa said, pointing to a pair of (6). “They’re too young for all that noise.” Then he took Jimmy and me up to the hayloft. He said we could play there if we were careful. We walked along the edge pretending we were (7) chasing a group of dangerous bandits along high (8).

That night we had roast beef with (9) that came from Grandma’s garden, and a salad topped with (10) picked right off the vine. It was delicious!

1. ___________________________ 6. ___________________________
2. ___________________________ 7. ___________________________
3. ___________________________ 8. ___________________________
4. ___________________________ 9. ___________________________
5. ___________________________ 10. ___________________________

Challenge  Your class just attended an outdoor concert at the beach. Write a journal entry about your experience. Use three of the Challenge Words. Write on a separate sheet of paper.


Challenge Words:
- vetoes
- mosquitoes
- avocados
- wharves
- sopranos
Spelling Word Sort

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add -s</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add -es</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change f to v and add -es</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenge Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

1. echoes
2. halves
3. solos
4. leaves
5. heroes
6. cliffs
7. scarves
8. potatoes
9. pianos
10. volcanoes
11. sheriffs
12. calves
13. tomatoes
14. cellos
15. wolves
16. ratios
17. stereos
18. yourselves
19. studios
20. bookshelves

Challenge vetoes mosquitoes avocados wharves sopranos
Proofreading for Spelling

Find the misspelled words and circle them. Write them correctly on the lines below.

It’s hard to imagine now, but in the late 1800s archaeologists were treated like movie stars are today. Digging in the sands of Egypt, the cliffs of Asia, or beneath tropical volcanos, these popular heros traveled in comfort. Their tents were lined with bookshelves. Famous scientists did not make their travels alone — soloes were not their style. They often took along their “better halves” and a small army of assistants. Full studioes of artists and writers recorded their activities. At home, they were almost royalty. Dinner parties where women wore formal dresses and flowing scarfs were common. There were no stereoes at the time, so parties featured live musicians with pianoes, celloes, violins, and other instruments. Can you picture yourselves being treated so grandly if you were archaeologists today?

1. ________________ 7. ________________
2. ________________ 8. ________________
3. ________________ 9. ________________
4. ________________ 10. ________________
5. ________________ 11. ________________
6. ________________ 12. ________________

Spelling Words

1. echoes
2. halves
3. solos
4. leaves
5. heroes
6. cliffs
7. scarves
8. potatoes
9. pianos
10. volcanoes
11. sheriffs
12. calves
13. tomatoes
14. cellos
15. wolves
16. ratios
17. stereos
18. yourselves
19. studios
20. bookshelves
A **preposition** links nouns, pronouns, and phrases to other words in a sentence. The word or phrase a preposition introduces is its **object**. Some prepositions are *on, about, beneath, beside, during,* and *across.*

**preposition**

We had fun **during** the game.

**Activity** Circle the preposition in the sentence.

1. The princess reigned **during** the eighteenth dynasty.
2. She was successful **in** warfare.
3. The princess ruled **over** many people.
4. She reigned **for** 22 years.
5. Before her reign, there were only male rulers.
6. She brought wealth and trade **into** her country.
7. Many great building projects were initiated **by** her.
8. She is a good model **for** modern female leaders.

**Thinking Question**

Which word links a noun, pronoun, or phrase to the other words in the sentence?
Prepositional Phrases

A **prepositional phrase** is made up of a preposition, its object, and any related adjectives or adverbs.

**example:**
The book is on the table.

**Thinking Question**
Does this phrase include a preposition, its object, and any related adjectives or adverbs?

Activity Underline the prepositional phrase or phrases in each sentence. Circle the object of the preposition. Write the preposition on the line provided.

1. Royal women played an important role within Egyptian religion. ___________
2. Upon her death, she was mummified. __________
3. She was famous throughout the land. __________
4. I read a book on the topic. __________
5. I found sources in the bibliography. __________
6. From the introduction, students learned she was a great ruler. __________
7. Neither of these books is historically accurate. __________
8. Scholars debate about the date of her death. __________
If a **prepositional phrase** begins a sentence and is made up of four or more words, it must be followed by a comma. If a prepositional phrase is part of the main clause, no comma is needed.

**prepositional phrase with comma**
Before his oral report, Josh was nervous.

**prepositional phrase without comma**
The paper in his hands was shaking.

**Activity** Place a comma after the prepositional phrase in the sentence when needed. Write *no comma* on the line if none is needed.

1. Do you want to go there after school? ______________
2. Before my last class I started feeling sick. ______________
3. At the end of the year we had a party. ______________
4. We gathered around the storyteller. ______________
5. From the teacher's edits we learned punctuation. ______________
6. That was the best book of the year. ______________
7. Under the desk and chair we looked for the pencil. ______________
8. I try not to read in the dark. ______________

**Thinking Question** Does this prepositional phrase begin the sentence? Is it made up of four words or more?
Subject-Verb Agreement

Mattie has a book about the pharaohs.
We were searching the shelves in the nonfiction section of the library.
Lucy and Eric chose books about mummies.
Either my sister or Eric is taking the photographs.
There are beautiful photographs of the pyramids in Eric’s book.
Neither my friends nor I have found any books about King Tut.

1–5. Underline the correct verb in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. My classmates and I (is, are) studying ancient Egypt.
2. One of the ancient Egyptian obelisks still (stand, stands) today.
3. Their design and construction (remain, remains) a marvel to historians.
4. Either Karen or Pedro (has, have) registered for the course.
5. Neither the students nor the teacher (know, knows) the answer.

6–10. This note has five errors in subject-verb agreement. Use proofreading marks to correct the note.

To: My party advisor

I am celebrating my thirtieth birthday. My husband, the prince, and I has high expectations. People from all over the kingdom is coming for the party. There are a lot to do before then. First, either you or your assistants has the job of decorating the palace. The prince and I wants our palace to look exceptionally beautiful.
Sentence Fluency

Two sentences can be combined by using a **prepositional phrase**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>separate sentences</th>
<th>combined sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I checked out three books today. They were about ancient Egypt.</td>
<td>I checked out three books about ancient Egypt today.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read each of the sentence pairs and combine them into one sentence. Write the new sentence on the line.

1. We approached the mummy. We approached it with care.

2. The lecturer was talking about Egypt. She was talking in a loud voice.

3. The archaeologists studied the mummy. The archaeologists were in the Valley of the Kings.

4. They tested how old it was. They used special tools.

5. The mummy was brown. It was on the examination table.

6. We saw the pyramids. We went in the morning.

7. We boarded the plane. We boarded with other tourists.

8. I studied the diagrams in the book. They were of the pyramids.
Focus Trait: Organization

Introductions

An introduction lets the reader know what your topic is and why it is important. It gives readers a glimpse of what they will be reading about in your essay. A well-written introduction will have the reader wanting to read more.

The following sentences of an introductory paragraph are out of order. On the lines below, write out the paragraph so the sentences follow logical order.

One of the areas in which she succeeded was warfare.

In addition to establishing peace, she also gained much wealth for Egypt.

Hatshepsut was different from other female rulers of Egypt.

With that prosperity, she was able to initiate many building projects, which are examples of some of the greatest architecture in Egyptian history.

Even though she triumphed in war, Hatshepsut brought about a peaceful era.

Unlike her predecessors, she reigned for a very long time and enjoyed great success.