

SKILL: Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion

Chicago Changes

5th Grade Nonfiction

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Long ago, Chicago was just a small town. Families settled here, and everyone knew everyone else. That friendliness meant it was a good place for families to live. Residents worked hard to get what they needed, and even children worked, too. People had to work every single day. At that time, there were no schools. They had to get wood to make their houses, and they had to get wood to heat them in winter, as well.

Then, more people moved to Chicago with their families. They wanted to have a school, so they built one themselves. All the children in the city went to school in that one place. The teacher instructed them on reading and writing, and the students learned math, too. Then, after school they would go home and help out their families. But that school was the most important place in town because it helped people to learn.

People constructed more and more homes. They built streets out of wood, and they rode the streets on horseback. Some people had wagons and horses would pull them. At night it was difficult to see, so the wagons had lanterns. A lantern is a type of light that uses a candle or oil to illuminate. Sometimes the lanterns would fall off the wagons. Then they might set the street on fire, since the street was made of wood. So people carried buckets of water in their wagons just in case. That was a very, very dangerous way to travel, even more dangerous than when people drive and talk on cell phones today.

When more people moved to Chicago they opened businesses. They opened a blacksmith shop, where a worker would fix wagon wheels made of metal. The blacksmith would make horseshoes, too. There was a carpenter shop, also, and workers there would build furniture for homes.

After many years, there were more people here and several changes. The streets were paved and lined with streetlights. People could shop for clothes, and they could buy furniture that was already made. It was a much better place than it used to be.

Chicago was in a perfect place for traveling. People built railroad tracks, which allowed trains to come to the city. It was both on a river and on a lake. Chicago was becoming a large city. Every day, more people came to live here, it was a wonderful time. Businesses opened and people started a newspaper. It was a changing place. Today everyone knows Chicago—they know it's the great city on the Great Lake.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question

1. Which word in this sentence tells you it is an opinion? So it was a good place to live.

- a. friendliness
- b. good
- c. place
- d. families

2. Which statement in paragraph 2 is an opinion?

- a. So then people built a school.
- b. People moved to Chicago.
- c. Students learned math.
- d. It was the most important place.

3. Which of these statements is a fact?

- a. Chicago was in a perfect place for traveling.
- b. It was both on a river and on a lake.
- c. It was a wonderful time.
- d. It's a great city on the Great Lake.

4. Which phrase in this sentence tells you it is an opinion: That was a very dangerous way to travel, even more dangerous than driving and talking on the phone.

- a. very, very dangerous
- b. to travel
- c. driving and talking
- d. on a cell phone

5. Choose a sentence that tells a fact in this passage.

How do you know it tells a fact?

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	d	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. Students should identify a statement of fact and explain that it tells something real.

SKILL: Contrast and Evaluate Fact and Opinion**Ethiopia****5th Grade Nonfiction**

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Ethiopia is a country in Africa. It has a longer name. That name is officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It is a country inside the continent. Other countries are all around it. It is a wonderful place. It has a great history. Its people are very proud of their history.

Ethiopia has many people. There are about 78 million people here. There is only one other country in Africa that has more people.

The country has different parts. There are three different climates. One part is cold. That is the high part. One part is hot. That is the low part. Another part is warm. That is a part that is in between low and high land. There are wonderful mountains. They are beautiful.

Every part of Ethiopia is special. Every place is beautiful. The people who live there make it a special place. They work hard to make it a good place to live.

Some people think Ethiopia is the first place people lived long ago. It has a long history. It is one of Africa's oldest countries. At first, there were different parts of this place. Different people led each part. Then it became one country. More than 150 years ago, one person united the country. He was the emperor.

Other African countries became colonies. That means they were taken over by other countries. Ethiopia did not have that problem. More than 100 years ago, the army of Ethiopia fought for freedom. They won that fight.

Ethiopia has important resources. It has gold. It has good land for farming. Many people farm. Many raise animals. They sell the food they raise.

Many people raise very beautiful flowers. They grow them. They sell them. The flowers are important. People in other countries buy them. Some of the roses people buy in the United States may have come all the way from Ethiopia!

Long ago when people first settled in Ethiopia it looked very different. There were not many people. People lived by hunting and getting food that grew there. Today, some people live in small places. Others live in big cities. They all know they live in a very special country.

If you visit Ethiopia, you will be glad you came. You will meet wonderful people. You will see many different places. Each place is very special. You will be in a country that has a very important history. You will be in a country with a great future.

Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

6. Which of these sentences is an opinion?

- a. Ethiopia is a country in Africa.
- b. It is a country inside the continent.
- c. It has a great history.
- d. It has a longer name.

7. Which of these sentences is a fact?

- a. The country has different parts.
- b. Many people raise very beautiful flowers
- c. They live in a special country.
- d. The country has a really great future.

8. Which of these words makes this sentence an opinion? "They know they live in a very special African country."

- a. know
- b. country
- c. African
- d. special

9. Why does the writer say "If you visit Ethiopia, you will be glad you came."?

- a. to show her feeling
- b. to tell you information
- c. because it is true
- d. because it is about you

10. Write your own answer to this question.

Write a sentence from the passage that is an opinion.

How do you know it is an opinion?

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Answers: You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.

Item	6	7	8	9
Answer	c	a	d	a

Question 10 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

10. Students should identify an opinion and explain that it is not a fact, not real.