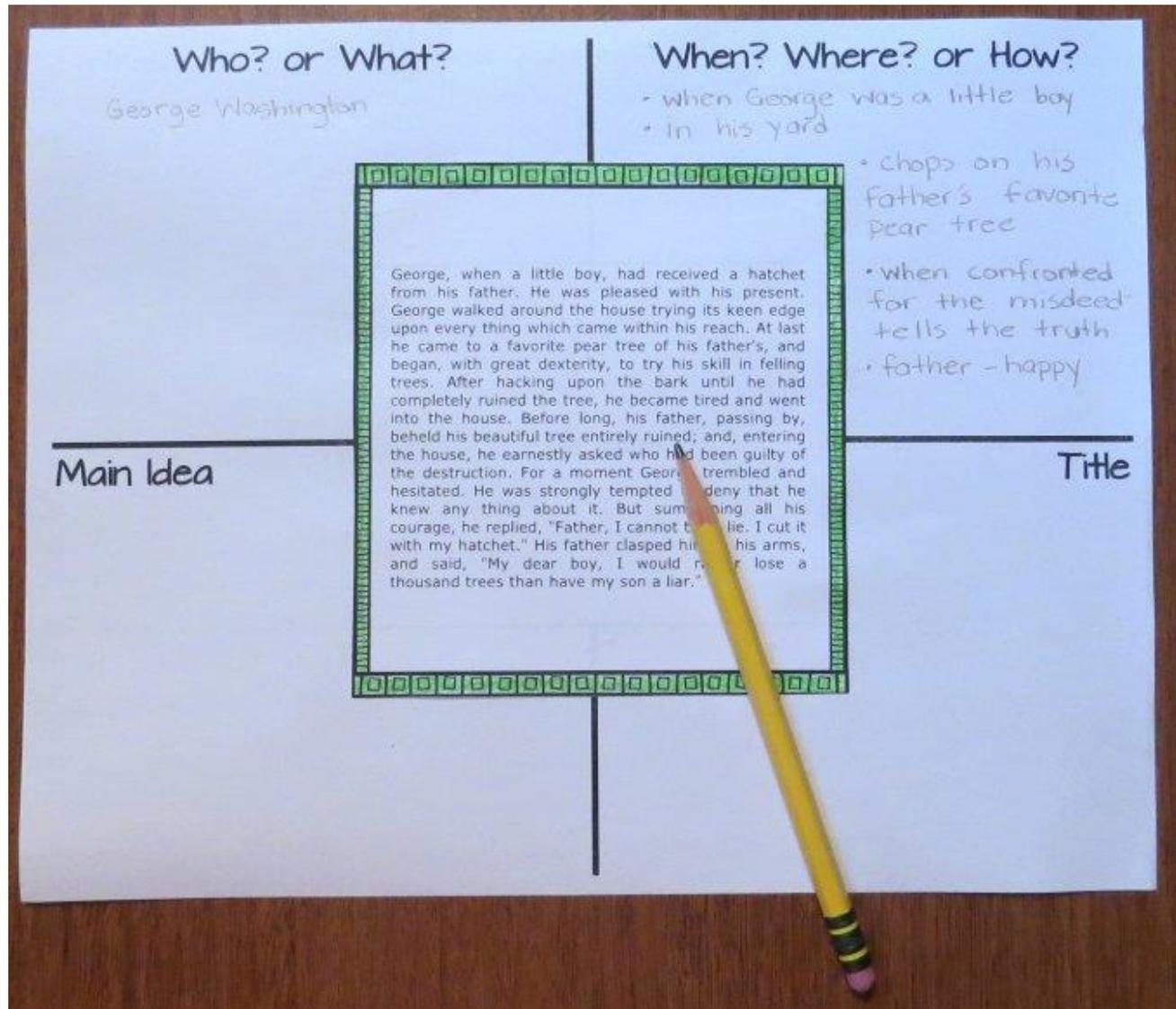


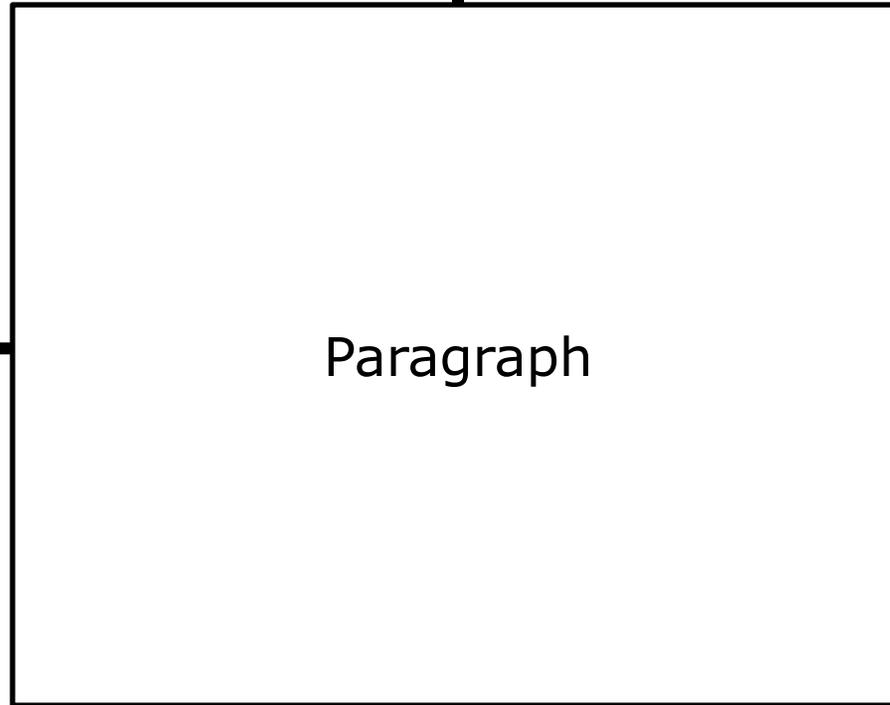
Instructions:

Twenty paragraphs are provided in this handout. Print them. Cut the paragraphs apart and give one to each student. Have students take a piece of construction paper and draw a horizontal line across the middle of the page. Students then draw a vertical line down the center. This divides the page into four equal sections. Next glue the paragraph in the center of the page. Label the four sections as shown. The handout includes a printable of this if you prefer.



Who? or What?

When? Where? or How?



Paragraph

Main Idea

Title

George, when a little boy, had received a hatchet from his father. He was pleased with his present. George walked around the house trying its keen edge upon every thing which came within his reach. At last he came to a favorite pear tree of his father's, and began, with great dexterity, to try his skill in felling trees. After hacking upon the bark until he had completely ruined the tree, he became tired and went into the house. Before long, his father, passing by, beheld his beautiful tree entirely ruined; and, entering the house, he earnestly asked who had been guilty of the destruction. For a moment George trembled and hesitated. He was strongly tempted to deny that he knew any thing about it. But summoning all his courage, he replied, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I cut it with my hatchet." His father clasped him to his arms, and said, "My dear boy, I would rather lose a thousand trees than have my son a liar."

Both the British and the Colonists used invisible ink to write secret messages. The messages were written with anything acidic: lime or lemon juice, milk, or vinegar. The acid would cause the paper to break down. When heat was applied to the secret message, the weakened fibers caused from putting acid on the paper would turn brown faster than the rest of the page causing the message to be visible.

When it was dark, Washington had all his camp fires lighted. He put men to digging where the British could hear them. He made Cornwallis think that he was throwing up banks of earth and getting ready to fight in the morning. But Washington did not stay in Trenton. He did not wish to be caught like a fox in a trap. He could not get across the river, but he knew a road that went round the place where Cornwallis and his army were. He took that road and got behind the British army. When morning came, Cornwallis went to catch his fox. But the fox was not there. He looked for the Americans. He found their camp, but the army was gone. Soon Cornwallis heard guns firing back toward Princeton. Then he knew that Washington had gone there. Washington had marched all night. When he got to Princeton, he met the British coming out to go to Trenton. They were going to help Cornwallis to catch Washington. But Washington had come to Princeton to catch them. He had a hard fight with the British at Princeton. But at last he beat them. When Cornwallis knew that the Americans had gone to Princeton, he hurried there to help his men, but it was too late. Washington had beaten the British and had gone on into the hills where he was safe. The fox had got out of the trap.

To give federal employees a three day weekend, Veterans Day was changed from November 11 to the fourth Monday in October from 1971 to 1978. The change was moved back to November 11 to honor this significant date in American history. This was the day the armistice, which ended World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany was signed in 1918.

The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest military award in the United States. It is given to men and women who show actions that are above and beyond the call of duty in combat. It was first awarded on March 25, 1863. Approximately 3,450 people have received this award.

Worms have not always lived in America. Many scientists believe that worms living in America were killed during the Ice Age. This was approximately 10,000 to 50,000 years ago. During the 1600's and 1700's, Europeans brought worms to North America as they were forming the colonies. This was quite by accident. Colonists wanted to bring plants from their native countries to the New World. The worms were living in the dirt that surrounded the plants. Just think, if worms had not been brought to the New World, American soil would be very poor.

The Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia from May 25 to September 17, 1787. At this time, Philadelphia was the largest city in North America. The population was 40,000 people. The city had 7,000 street lamps, 33 churches, 10 newspapers, and a university. Delegates met in the Pennsylvania State House. George Washington was appointed the Commander of the Continental Army at this site. The Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia in 1776. The Articles of Confederation was adopted in 1781 here as well.

Volcanoes can be active, dormant, or extinct. Active means the volcano has had an eruption in the last few thousand years. Dormant means the volcano has the potential to erupt although it hasn't erupted recently. Extinct means the volcano is not likely to erupt again.

Composite or strata volcanoes contain a lot of gas mixed in with the lava. Because of the built-up gas, the eruptions are violent. The volcano spews out gases, ash, and hot lava. The lava doesn't travel far, so it piles up creating a volcano that is built of many layers of ash and solidified lava.

Three is the universal signal number for distress. When you discover you are lost, stay where you are. Yell "Help!" or blow a whistle 3 times to signal you are lost. Wait several seconds. Then turn 90 degrees and try again. Keep doing this. If someone yells back, let him come to you. Sometimes echoes may cause you to lose your orientation. Even if someone sounds far away, keep yelling. They may sound this way because they are turned away from you.

At the moment you realize you are lost you should **S.T.O.P. (Sit, Think, Observe, and Plan)**. The first ten minutes of being lost is when most search fatalities make their deadly mistake. Stay calm. Use your head, not your feet. Staying calm is important to surviving. Use this acronym to remember:

S -Sit down.

T -Think.

O -Observe your surroundings.

P -Prepare for survival by gathering materials.

The sun is slowly becoming brighter. In about a billion years from now, the Sun will grow so hot that life on Earth will be destroyed. Liquid water will dry up. In another 7 billion years, the Sun will reach the giant phase and will expand to engulf Earth.

Benjamin Franklin was 81 years old when the Constitution was signed. His mind was active, yet he was in poor health. Four prisoners from the Walnut Street Jail had to carry him to the Convention Hall in a sedan chair. When leaving the Pennsylvania State House after the final meeting on September 17, 1787 he was asked about the new government. Franklin replied, "A republic, madam, If you can keep it." Franklin died on April 17, 1790.

Raoul Wallenberg was the First Secretary to the Swedish Embassy in Budapest in July 1944. He is credited with rescuing more Jewish people during the Holocaust than any other person or nation. Wallenberg rescued around 100,000 people. He did this by issuing "protective passports." Wallenberg also rented over 30 buildings to house Jewish refugees. In front of these buildings, he flew the Swedish flag. He also put up fake signs reading "The Swedish Research Institute."

Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist. He had originally hired Jewish slave laborers for his ammunition factory in Poland. When he witnessed innocent people packed onto trains heading for concentration camps, he began smuggling children out of the ghettos. He spent millions bribing and paying off the Nazis. Schindler allowed Jewish women and children along with disabled and unskilled workers to work in his factory. He even moved the workers several times to keep them out of harm's way. Schindler died penniless because he spent his wealth helping the Jews.

Going to the movies was a favorite pastime during the Great Depression. Approximately 60 to 80 million Americans went to the movies weekly. Hit movies included:

- Tom Sawyer (1930)
- Frankenstein (1931)
- King Kong (1933)
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)
- The Wizard of Oz (1939)
- Gone with the Wind (1939)
- Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)

Louisa Alcott was a wild little girl. When she was very little, she would run away from home. One day she wandered so far away from her home, she could not find the way back again. It was growing dark. The little girl's feet were tired. She sat down on a doorstep. A big dog was lying on the step. He wagged his tail. That was his way of saying, "I am glad to see you." Little Louisa grew sleepy. She laid her head on the curly head of the big dog. Then she fell asleep. Louisa's father and mother could not find her. They sent out the town crier to look for her. The town crier went along the street. As he went, he rang his bell. Every now and then he would tell that a little girl was lost. At last the man with the bell came to the place where Louisa was asleep. He rang his bell. She awoke to hear him call out in a loud voice,— "Lost, lost! a little girl six years old. She wore a pink frock, a white hat, and new green shoes." When the crier had said that, he heard a small voice coming out of the darkness. It said, "Why, dat's me."

When Daniel Webster was a young lawyer, he was going home one night. There was snow on the ground. It was late, and there was nobody to be seen. Soon he saw a poor woman. She was ahead of him. He wondered what had brought her out on so cold a night. Sometimes she stopped and looked around. Then she would stand and listen. Then she would go on again. Webster kept out of her sight but watched her. After looking around, she turned down the street in which Webster lived. She stopped in front of Webster's house. She looked around and listened. Webster had put down some loose boards to walk on. They reached from the gate to the door of his house. After standing still a minute, the woman took one of the boards and went off quickly. Webster followed her but kept out of her sight. She went to a distant part of the town. She went into a poor little house. Webster went home without saying anything to the woman. He knew that she had stolen the board for firewood. The next day the poor woman got a present. It was a nice load of wood. Can you guess who sent it to her?

The first good steamboat was built in New York by Robert Fulton. Her name was "Clermont." When the people saw her, they laughed. They said that such a boat would never go. For thousands of years boatmen had made their boats go by using sails and oars. People had never seen any such boat as this. It seemed foolish to believe that a boat could be pushed along by steam.

On December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty dressed as Mohawk Indians and tossed 342 chests of tea into the Boston Harbor as a protest against the Tea Act. On March 7, 1774, a second protest occurred. This time only 16 chests were sent into the sea. These protests cost Britain the modern day equivalent of \$3 million.