Main Idea

- The story talks mostly/mainly about…
- What is the main idea of this news story?
- The author's primary point is…
- The central point of this passage is…
- What could be a different title for this article?
- The best alternate headline for this article would be…
- What is the second paragraph mainly about?

Fact and Opinion

- Which of these is an opinion?
- Which of these is a statement of fact?

Drawing Conclusions

Inference

- The reader can tell from the story that…
- According to the article, the reader can infer that…

Not in the News Story

- The news story does not say…
- The article says all of the following except…
- Which question is not answered by the article?
- Which of these statements is contrary to the ideas presented in this article?
- This article is placed in a category of news called "Science Scene." In which other category would this article fit best?

Reference Sources

- Suppose that Paul wants to find out about _____. He would find most of his information _____.
- This article would be most useful as a source for a student research project on _____.

Summarization

- Which best retells the news story?
- Which best summarizes the second paragraph of the article?
- Which of these is most important to include in a summary of this article?
- Which is the best summary of the news story?
- Which of these should not be included in a summary of this article?

Prediction

- The reader can predict that…
- Which is most likely to happen next?

Author's Purpose

- Why did the author write this article?
- What does the author mean when she writes ____?
- Which sentence best supports the author's primary purpose?
- This sentence helps the reader to know…
- The author most likely wrote this article in order to…
- Why did the author include these sentences in the article?
- The author's purpose for writing this passage was to…
- The author's purpose for writing this article was probably to…
- In the second paragraph, the author presents information about ____ in order to…
- The author's purpose for including this quote was to…

Word or Phrase Meaning

Synonym

- Which word means almost the same as…?
- Which word must mean…?
- Which is the closest synonym…?

Antonym

- Which means the oppositeof…?
- Who is _____ is not _____.
- Which two words from the article are the closest antonyms?

Sequencing

- Which took place second?
- Which happened before…?
- Which of these had not yet happened when this article was written?
- Which most likely happened first?
- Which must have happened last?

Cause and Effect

- Think about the news article. What caused...
- Which statement shows one benefit of…?
- What is one reason why…?
- What is the cause and effect relationship that takes place in the article?
- According to the article, why did…?
- In light of the main ideas of this article, what caused ____ to make such a public statement?

Inferences

- The reader can tell from the news story that…
- According to the article, the reader can infer that…

Supporting Evidence

- What specific facts are mentioned to support the statement?
- Which sentence from the text best shows that ____?
- How does the textual evidence support your conclusion?
- Which evidence is most relevant?
- Which statement best supports the idea that…?
- Which sentence best tells…?

Compare and Contrast

- How are ____ and ____ the same?
- In what way does the article contrast ____ with ____?
- Which of the following best describes how ____ and ____ differ?
- Based on information in the article, which best describes the difference between ____ and ____?
- In what way are ____ and ____ similar?
- ____ and ____ are similar in all of these ways except…
- Which of the following best describes one similarity between ____ and ____?
- How are ____ and ___ different?
- Which sentence best describes a similarity between…?

■ Question Strategies

Think about the type of question you are answering and then use the best strategy.

Question Type

• Main Idea • Summarization • Drawing Conclusion • Author's Purpose	• Sequencing • Compare and Contrast • Cause and Effect • Supporting Evidence • Inferences • Prediction	• Word or Phrase Meaning • Fact and Opinion • Reference Sources

Question Strategy

Understand and Interpret — *Answer the question based on the story's main idea and evidence you found.*
1. Read the question and answer options carefully.
2. In your own words state the main idea of the story/paragraph.
3. Find evidence in the news story or paragraph that supports your main idea statement.
4. Distinguish big ideas from specific details.
5. Consider what the author hopes you and other readers will think or do after reading the story or paragraph.

Find the answer — *Refer back to the article and find the answer to the question.*
1. Read the question and answer options carefully.
2. Use process of elimination.
3. Refer to article to find where the idea in the question is either stated or can be inferred from the story text.
4. Supporting Evidence
5. Inferences
6. Prediction

Think of what you already know— *Your existing knowledge will help answer these questions.*
1. Word or Phrase Meaning
2. Refer back to the article and check the word definition and how the word is used in the story.
3. In the question, plug each answer choice into the sentence and read to see if it makes sense.
4. Use process of elimination.
5. Fact and Opinion
6. Ask: Can the statement be proved? If yes, then it is a fact.
7. Look for signal words for opinion: should, must be, too large, would have, more fun, most interesting.
8. Reference Sources
9. Think about how you use different reference sources (e.g., dictionary, encyclopedia, web sites).
10. Think about topic categories (e.g., health, business, sports).

Do these steps first: These three steps will make it easier to answer almost all questions.
1. Read the news story title and first paragraph.
2. Summarize the first paragraph.
3. In your own words, state what you think the article is about.