

**Read the articles below then answer the questions.**

**There are sentences that have been removed from the article. Choose the correct letter below that contains the sentence that best fits in the paragraph. Take note that there is an extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

### **What is Life Like at the North Pole?**

Most people think of a few things right away when they hear the word "North Pole." Depending on your age, profession, or interests, you might think of bone-chilling cold weather, the home of Santa Claus, large fuel reserves, or a few other things. The North Pole is a lot more complicated than you might think. There is oil, ice, and Christmas legends, but the North Pole is probably not what you think it is. The South Pole is on top of a huge landmass (Antarctica) and is about 7,500 feet above sea level. The North Pole, on the other hand, is a thin sheet of Arctic ice that is only about one foot above sea level. **1**..... The North Pole is ice surrounded by land, while the South Pole is land covered with ice. This is the most important difference between the two poles. Every year, as the seasons change, the sheet of ice at the North Pole grows and shrinks. **2**.....

There are no plants at the true geographic North Pole. For trees to grow, they need soil. Since the North Pole is made up of random pieces of ice that are close together, there is no way for it to grow. Then there are months of darkness, roughly between October and February, when plants can't live without light to do photosynthesis, which they need to do to stay alive. **3**..... Arctic foxes, polar bears, and reindeer live in nearby Arctic regions, but they rarely move to the true North Pole because the weather there is hard to predict. Since the ice is always moving and even shrinks in the summer, it is not a good place for animals that move around. Even so, polar bears, arctic foxes, and walrus are sometimes seen at the true North Pole, even though it is a harsh place. Even the Inuit people who live in the nearby Arctic regions of Greenland, Russia, Canada, etc., do not live at the true North Pole. Because the ice moves all the time and gets much smaller in the summer, it's almost impossible to build a permanent home here. **4**.....

Another problem with building a town at the real North Pole is that there is no potable water there. **5**..... Early people who went to the Arctic had a hard time staying hydrated here. The water in the Arctic, which is close by, is too salty to be used every day. In the worst cases, people ate snow to stay alive. Eating snow is also not a good idea because it makes you more likely to get hypothermia, a condition in which the body loses heat quickly and quickly drops to dangerous or even fatal levels.

When compared to the South Pole, the true North Pole doesn't get as many visitors because of all the bad things that happen there. From October to February, you won't see much sun. The best way to get to the North Pole is in an April helicopter. In June or July, on an ice-breaker ship, is another good time to go to the North Pole. **6**..... With engineering improvements, the chance of getting stuck in the ice has gone down a lot, but it is still a risk for anyone who wants to go to the North Pole. Even though the true geographic North Pole is a very hostile place, there are some places close to the North Pole that are easier to visit.

If you work in the oil business, the Arctic is a very interesting opportunity. Since at least 30% of the world's oil reserves are in the Arctic, there has been a lot of new exploration and interest in the area over the past 10 years. This worries people who work to protect the environment, so if you go to the North Pole or the area around it, don't be surprised to see tankers, ships that look for oil, or activists in

canoes. Lastly, if you are brave enough to swim in the cold water under the North Pole, you might be able to see one last thing that is worth talking about. In 2007, Russia put a flag on the seabed near the North Pole. They did this so they could have more rights to oil and drilling. **7**..... If you ever get the chance, you should go to the Arctic. It's a mysterious and interesting place, but make sure you go to the right North Pole—it seems there are a few to choose from!

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A.** However, as global warming gets worse, each summer the sheet of ice gets smaller and smaller.
- B.** Even explorers who only stay at the North Pole for a short time must make sure they have enough water.
- C.** Because of this, the North Pole is much warmer than the South Pole because it gets heat from the Arctic Ocean all around it and under it.
- D.** Even though these acts are mostly symbolic, environmental activists have also planted their own flags.
- E.** So, it's not a good idea to build permanent buildings or start a community there.
- F.** At that time of year, the Arctic ice is thin enough that a special ship can cut through it.
- G.** It is said that the North Pole is where Santa Claus and his reindeers live.
- H.** Plants and trees don't want to live at the North Pole, but animals don't want to live there either.

### **History of Candle Making**

Since more than 5,000 years ago, candles have been used as a source of light and to celebrate events; nevertheless, nothing is known about their beginnings. Ancient Egyptians created rushlights or torches by soaking the pithy core of reeds in melted animal fat, which is commonly considered to be the oldest use of candles. **8**.....

Ancient Romans are largely attributed with inventing the wicked candle by repeatedly dipping rolled papyrus in melted tallow or beeswax before 3,000 B.C. Egyptians were utilising wicked candles by this period. The resulting candles were used to illuminate their dwellings, aid nighttime journeys, and perform religious rituals. Historians have discovered evidence that numerous other ancient civilizations developed wicked candles using waxes derived from plants and insects. According to legend, ancient Chinese candles were formed in paper tubes using rolled rice paper for the wick and wax from an indigenous bug mixed with seeds. **9**.....

Candles made from animal fat were the predominant source of energy for the majority of early Western cultures (tallow). In the Middle Ages, when beeswax candles were introduced to Europe, a significant improvement occurred. **10**..... It also emitted a lovely, sweet aroma as opposed to the offensive, bitter scent of tallow. Few folks, other than the wealthy, could afford to burn beeswax candles in their homes since they were so expensive. By the 13th century, candle making had become

a guild skill in England and France. Tallow candles were the most prevalent household candle in Europe, and candle making was a guild craft in England and France.

When they discovered that boiling the greyish-green berries of bayberry bushes created a sweet-smelling, clean-burning wax, colonial ladies provided the earliest contribution to candle making in the United States. However, obtaining wax from bayberries was an arduous process. **11**..... The expansion of the whaling business in the late 18th century brought about the first significant change in candle making since the Middle Ages, when spermaceti, a wax made by crystallising specimens from whale oil, became widely available. Similar to beeswax, spermaceti wax did not emit an offensive odour when it was burned, but it produced a far brighter light. **12**.....

The nineteenth century witnessed the majority of the significant advancements that have influenced contemporary candle making. Michel Eugene Chevreul discovered in the 1820s how to obtain stearic acid from animal fatty acids. This resulted in the creation of stearin wax, which was tough, long-lasting, and burned cleanly. Stearin candles continue to be popular in Europe. In 1834, inventor Joseph Morgan contributed to the development of the contemporary candle business by creating a machine that enabled the continuous manufacturing of moulded candles utilising a cylinder with a moveable piston to discharge the candles as they solidified. **13**.....

The popularity of candles remained constant until the mid-1980s, when interest in candles as ornamental items, mood-setters, and gifts increased significantly. Suddenly, candles were accessible in a vast number of sizes, shapes, and hues, and public interest in scented candles began to rise. Since their first use, candles have undergone several changes. Despite the fact that they are no longer a primary source of illumination, their popularity and application continue to rise. **14**.....

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A. Today, candles are used to signify a celebration, spark romance, calm the senses, commemorate a ceremony, and adorn house decors, emitting a warm and beautiful glow for all to appreciate.
- B. Candles are not used in modern times anymore.
- C. Consequently, the popularity of bayberry candles declined rapidly.
- D. However, the rushlights lacked the wick of a traditional candle.
- E. In contrast to tallow derived from animals, beeswax burned without producing a smoky flame.
- F. Additionally spermaceti wax was tougher than tallow or beeswax, so it did not soften or bend in the summer heat.
- G. In Japan, candle wax was collected from tree nuts, whilst in India, cinnamon tree fruit was boiled to produce candle wax.
- H. With the advent of mechanical production, candles became an inexpensive item for the general populace.

### Why Do Dogs Hate Cats?

Chalk and cheese, cats and dogs, fish and bicycles...certain things are notoriously incompatible! In fact, people have used the expression "fight like cats and dogs" for at least 500 years! However, why

do dogs dislike cats so much? **15**..... Let's investigate whether or not this infamous animal rivalry is true and why it may have begun.

**16**..... In truth, if introduced properly, many dogs and cats may coexist peacefully and even become the best of fuzzy friends. However, most cats and dogs get along like... well, cats and dogs. Why do dogs dislike cats? Let's examine the various hypotheses that attempt to explain this furious feud. The wild ancestors of our pet would have had to compete for food and territory thousands of years ago. Obviously, this will pit them against one another! How they survived in the wild may also be a factor in why dogs dislike cats. A cat can live independently and maintain itself, whereas a wild dog is dependent on its pack. **17**.....

There is a reason why dogs are considered to be man's best friend. *Homo sapiens* and canids have coexisted for tens of thousands of years. **18**..... Additionally, dogs are often more sociable and trainable. They now rely on humans for survival and recognise other species as members of their "pack." And if a cat and a dog meet, it will likely be far simpler to keep the dog in "stay" than the cat! In contrast, cats are slightly more feral. Not only have they been domesticated for a shorter period of time than dogs, but we have also not bred them as selectively. There are many kinds of domestic cats, but they are all roughly the same size and appearance, and humans have not bred them to specialise in certain tasks.

Dogs may dislike cats because they speak a different language, and it's difficult to make friends if you can't communicate! **19**..... For instance, everyone knows that a dog's wagging tail is (often) an indication of contentment. However, in cats, a wagging tail indicates anxiety. The identical piece of body language conveys two EXTREMELY distinct feelings. You cannot expect your dog to comprehend a cat's manner of communication if it has not been raised with cats. Just as you wouldn't expect to know German without having grown up there or studied it. Dogs and cats may not get along since they don't know how to communicate with one another and send and receive contradictory signals!

The manner in which cats and dogs interact will also rely on their respective personalities. Some dogs are quite calm and friendly, and they get along well with cats. **20**..... While some cats are bold and welcoming and approach calm dogs without hesitation, others are more reticent and avoid Fido at all costs. The compatibility of your canine and feline entirely depends on their respective personalities and sociability! It will also depend on how they were exposed to one another and their level of socialisation.

Then why do dogs dislike cats? It turns out that instinct, competition, past experiences, and personality all play a role. There's something about cats that drives dogs crazy, and there's something about dogs that makes cats nervous. However, this does not necessarily imply that all dogs and cats dislike one another. **21**..... Some of our furry companions are inherently more laid-back and eager to make friends with humans, canines, and felines alike.

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A. Dogs hate the smell of cats and the way cats purr irritates dogs so much.
- B. In contrast, cats have only coexisted with humans for approximately 5000 to 10000 years and are only considered "half" domesticated.
- C. Is it only an innate instinct, or are there additional elements at play in this furious conflict?
- D. Others are programmed to hunt and would immediately pursue a cat if they spotted one.
- E. To begin with, it is not a given that dogs despise cats and vice versa.
- F. Numerous dogs and cats can get along well and even coexist peacefully if introduced properly.
- G. Therefore, if a dog was ever hunting alone, it would have little chance against a cat, as cats are adept solo hunters.
- H. Evidently, meows and barks are dissimilar, but it turns out that their body language is also distinct.

### **The Challenges Facing a Firstborn Child**

Parents are ecstatic when they are expecting their first child. **22**..... The baby's nursery (the former office) is decorated with a duck and rabbit print wallpaper and a developmentally appropriate black and white mobile above the crib. As soon as he is born, every cry, grin, and bowel movement receives close scrutiny. As he matures, his parents and the rest of the family become increasingly concerned with his development, especially if he is the first grandchild. New parents adore their infant and wish for his happiness beyond all else. They frequently harbour a secret or not-so-secret desire for him to succeed in all aspects of his life. He should feel good about himself, have many friends, and attend Harvard, of course.

As the only focus of their parents' attention, firstborns enjoy many benefits. The affectionate care and abundant attention provided by parents to their firstborn enables the youngster to develop self-confidence and achieve great success in life. **23**..... However, the parent's tremendous desire for him to succeed might generate complications for a firstborn. Inexperienced and uncertain about how to help their child thrive, parents frequently force their firstborn to read by age three, overschedule him in after-school programmes, and drill him constantly in maths once he enters kindergarten. And if he arrives home from school with a score of 97 on his spelling test, his parents will frequently enquire, "What happened to the other three points?"

In addition to establishing extremely strict regulations for his behaviour, parents can also micromanage his every action. When he is seated at the dinner table, he may receive many corrections, such as "Sit up straight" or "That is not the correct way to hold a fork." **24**..... Other than the enormous pressure to perform, the firstborn must also contend with the birth of a younger sibling. He was formerly the family's prince, but is now obliged to share his parents' love and attention. Clearly, he has been dethroned, and he may be furious with his parents for bringing in this intruder. **25**..... "Do they cherish the infant more than I do? " he wonders.

Additionally, parents tend to rely more on the oldest child. **26**..... A youngster may perceive that his younger sister receives preferential treatment because his parents love him more. Another challenge for the oldest child is that the younger child is constantly in his way. If he spends an hour meticulously arranging his train set on the floor, his younger brother crawls over and destroys everything. Whenever he wants to be alone with his friends and the younger sibling wants to play, he is frequently forced to chase after him to reclaim his most valued belongings.

There are numerous advantages to having a younger sibling for the oldest child. **27**..... he acquires key social skills from this partnership, including the ability to share and take turns. he also has the opportunity to gain nurturing and leadership abilities. he may be the one to instruct his younger sibling on how to perform a handstand or console him when he scrapes his knee after falling down. However, the oldest sibling might become highly domineering of his younger sibling as he strives to maintain his place as family leader. **28**..... All of these birth order experiences have a profound impact on the emotions, behaviour, and development of the firstborn. Firstborns require support and confirmation that he is equally cherished from his parents.

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A.** As he progresses through life, he may internalise these demands, experience constant anxiety, and become a perfectionist.
- B.** Firstborns love rebelling just as much as middle children do.
- C.** The child has a playmate at home, in the park, and on holiday, as well as a lifelong companion.
- D.** They invest and purchase the most technologically advanced car seat, cot, and high chair for their infant.
- E.** For instance, many of our presidents and corporate executives are firstborns.
- F.** He feels upset if he has to load the dishwasher while his younger sibling rushes off to play as he ages.
- G.** He may be concerned that they brought this new child into the scene because he was inadequate.
- H.** For example, he might tend to insist on being first in all of their activities, sitting close to his mother on the couch, and attempting to dominate every conversation at the dinner table.

### Reading Takes You Everywhere

When we read books, the tales inside them transfer us from our current reality to the one depicted in the pages. To be transported by a book, the reader must have an emotional reaction, visualise the tale, and ultimately get involved in it. As a reader, I consider myself fortunate to have encountered several

novels that have caused me to lose awareness of my surroundings and immerse me in the unfolding tale of the book. When I consider being transported by a book, I recall a recent event. **29**..... It was a dreary morning, and the sun was a light yellow colour that melted into the silver sky. In a cabin colder than December, I sat between rows of occupied chairs wearing my winter attire. As the train jolted into motion, I pulled a book from my overloaded purse and began reading the first chapter.

**30**..... The train began to slow down as we neared a station; on a yellow slab of cement, the word "Panbari" was inscribed. Some of the previously occupied chairs in front of me are now unoccupied. Two of the solitary passengers seated in front of me engaged in a chat about the weather in Dimapur, which was likely their destination. As the train gathered speed, the winter sun was now splattered across the sky and gleaming over the thatched-roof cottages we were rapidly leaving behind. Perfectly described by Mary Balogh: "Have you ever desired to go back in time? I certainly have.

**31**..... The sensation of being so engrossed in a narrative that it seems as if you are really there, such as wandering through a nighttime rose garden with a duke or sipping tea in a lady's elegant drawing room. And if you're the daring sort (like me), you could find yourself riding a cable car in San Francisco or navigating the canals of Venice in a gondola. Regardless of the story, these new experiences are simply waiting to be explored; inviting, luring, and imploring you to halt, sit down, and spend some time between the pages of a wonderful book."

The first time I was transported to another planet by a book was when I was just seven years old. My cousins and I had a month-long holiday ahead of us over the summer. The days stretched before us like the lengthy shadows cast by persons standing in the early light. We could do anything we pleased to pass the time, including strolling about the neighbourhood, playing seven stones, and occasionally making up fictitious games. **32**..... We used to anxiously anticipate Grandma's tales of Tejimola, the girl who was mistreated by her wicked stepmother, and Sompaboti, the daughter who sat in a rice field to guard it from birds. We would lay in our beds and envision the lives of these individuals until the words faded out, at which point we, the grandkids, would take an hour-long nap.

In bookstores, parks, airports, and even their own homes, I often see individuals who are oblivious to their actual surroundings while reading. **33**..... I didn't want to seem invasive, but I couldn't help seeing how the man's brow puckered as he read and a definite scowl sometimes appeared on his forehead. A few minutes later, the individual at the coffee counter announced order number 8, which contained a coffee and sandwich. When no one appeared at the counter, the waitress repeated the statement many times. **34**..... 'At that time, all I could think was that it must be an extraordinary book! I saw that the book's cover depicted what seemed to be a spider spinning a web, but the distance between us prohibited me from learning the title.

**35**..... I vividly recall the first time I read a short tale by my all-time favourite author, Alice Munro. It was a stunning narrative about two young girls in boarding school, and the way she depicted their personalities and feelings not only filled me with a sense of desire and discovery, but also evoked fragmented recollections from my own youth. The narrative enabled me to explore and experience a long-forgotten era. Good books possess a magical, transportable character. How else can you explain a person's ability to be physically present at a location but mentally immersed in the pages of a book? I think that our passion for reading stems from our adoration of amazing stories – tales that enchant, change, and leave us absolutely enchanted.

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A. The one consistency throughout those summers were the afternoons when our grandmother would tell us Assamese folktales from a brilliant blue book named Burhi Aai'r Xadhu Kotha.
- B. I had taken a train to Furkating, a tiny town in Assam, on a cold morning.
- C. I believe this is why historical romance is so popular.
- D. The guy holding the book abruptly sprang from his seat and said, "That's me!"
- E. Occasionally, in addition to transporting us to the places they depict, books can bring us deeper into our own lives.
- F. Soon, I became immersed in the narrative, and before I realised it, half an hour had gone.
- G. Recently, while waiting for a buddy at a café, I spotted a guy reading a book while leaning over a wooden table at the other end of the room.
- H. I remember well the first time I read a short story by my favourite author of all time, Alice Munro.

### **Reasons to Adopt a Pet**

Are you considering adding a pet to your family? Consider adopting a dog, cat, or other companion animal from an animal shelter or rescue for the following reasons.

**36**..... Each year, millions of pets enter shelters and rescues in the United States; many are surrendered by loving families who are unable to obtain pet-friendly housing or veterinary care, while others are victims of abuse. Despite the fact that the number of animals euthanized has decreased dramatically over the years thanks to the efforts of shelter and rescue experts and the increasing number of people who choose adoption, hundreds of thousands are still in need of a home each year. Dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, companion birds, and even horses can be found in numerous local shelters, in addition to adult cats and newborn kittens.

Adoption can help you find a wonderful family member. **37**..... The majority of animals in shelters are there due to a significant lack of affordable, pet-friendly housing and access to veterinary care; problems that will require long-term and systemic solutions. While we aim to keep pets with their families, bear in mind that many animals at shelters have previously lived in loving homes and may come to you house-trained and/or ready to live with other pets.

Adopting a pet costs less. Many shelters and rescues give extensive medical care prior to adoption, including spay or neuter, first immunizations, parasite control, and microchipping; however, adoption fees do not often cover these costs. With so much medical treatment performed beforehand, you and your veterinarian may focus on long-term preventative care. **38**.....

Adopting a pet helps combat puppy mills. If you purchase a dog from a pet shop, an online vendor, or a flea market, the dog will almost definitely come from a puppy mill. **39**..... As a



result of being housed in appallingly deplorable conditions and receiving inadequate medical treatment, animals from puppy mills are frequently extremely ill and behaviorally disturbed. The mothers of these puppies are bred repeatedly for years in cages, without human connection and with little hope of ever joining a family. And once they are no longer profitable, breeding dogs are discarded by being slaughtered, abandoned, or auctioned off. These puppy mills continue to operate through fraudulent means; their clients are unwary people who purchase in pet stores, on the Internet, or in classified advertisements. **40**..... Adopting a pet guarantees that you are not giving them any money.

Pets are beneficial to human health too. Not only can animals provide unconditional affection, but they have also been demonstrated to provide psychological, emotional, and physical benefits to their owners. **41**..... And when you adopt, you can take pride in assisting a helpless animal!

Lastly, adopting a pet means you are contributing to a more humane society. When pets are adopted faster than they arrive at a local shelter, local organisations can concentrate on the underlying reasons of pet intake. When they have fewer animals in the building (or in foster care), they can expand programmes to reconnect lost pets with their owners or speak with elected authorities to establish pet-friendly housing in your town. **42**.....

**Choose the letter of the correct sentence that best fits the missing lines in each paragraph.**

- A.** In addition, free or low-cost adoption events are growing in popularity and are a terrific chance to discuss with a shelter or rescue whether a pet would be a good fit for your family.
- B.** Puppy mills will continue to exist until individuals cease their support.
- C.** First, through adoption you can assist an animal in need.
- D.** Only by working together can we create a more humane society for both humans and animals.
- E.** Puppy mills are dog breeding facilities that prioritise profit over animal welfare.
- F.** Pet ownership may bring a sense of purpose and satisfaction while reducing feelings of loneliness.
- G.** Animal shelters and rescue organisations are overflowing with joyful, healthy animals simply waiting to be adopted by a family.
- H.** Adopting a pet is costly and impractical.