

Nellie Bly, Reporter (1867–1922)

When Elizabeth Cochrane was eighteen, she sent a letter to the editor of the Pittsburgh Dispatch. In her letter, she wrote that women could do anything men could do—and do it better! As a result, the newspaper offered her a job as a reporter. She wrote under the pseudonym Nellie Bly and was the only female reporter for the paper.

After a few years at the Dispatch, she applied for a job at the New York World in an unusual way. She disguised herself as a patient to investigate a hospital for the insane. When she submitted her story, not only was she hired by the World as a full-time reporter, it also helped reform mental hospitals.

By 1890, Nellie Bly was well known in many countries. She had traveled around the world for her newspaper in 72 days, a record for that time. While she traveled, she sent home stories about her adventures. When she returned, she went on a lecture tour. People wanted to see her and hear about her travels. Nellie’s lectures helped make world travel more popular.

When Nellie became a syndicated reporter, her stories appeared in papers all over the country. To gather ideas, Nellie traveled across the country to places where news was happening. Nellie investigated the working conditions of railroad workers on strike in Chicago and wrote stories about their problems.

While in Chicago, Nellie met and married a millionaire. They took another trip around the world. A few years later, her husband died of a heart attack. Nellie tried to run his business, but she was inexperienced and lost a lot of money. Although she was nearly 50 years old by then, she had to return to work. This time she became a reporter for the New York Evening Journal.

Nellie worked for the Journal until her death in 1922. In a story about her life, the newspaper described her as “the best reporter in America.”



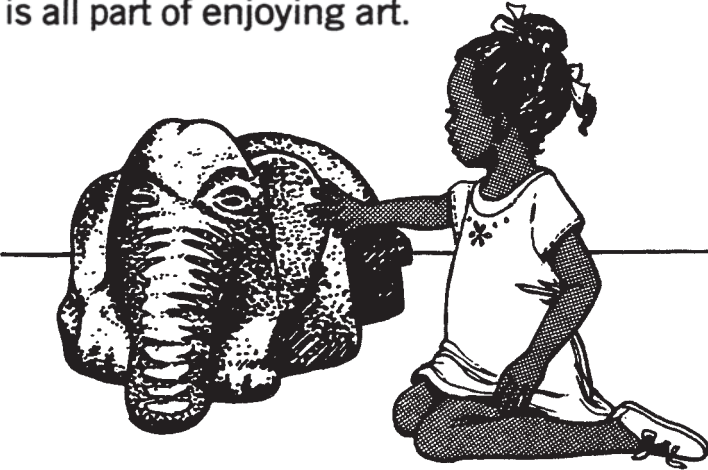
1. This article is:
A. biography B. realistic fiction C. myth
2. What does “pseudonym” mean in this article? _____
3. Describe the world record Nellie set. _____

4. How did Nellie get her job for the New York World?

Please Touch the Animals

When Shay Rieger was a little girl, she visited her first museum. Shay was impressed with the beautiful marble statues. They looked so real that Shay wanted to touch them. But that wasn't allowed. Museum guards stood all around the statues making sure that children didn't get too close. When Shay grew up, she studied at the Art Student's League in New York and became a sculptor.

Many of Shay's clay and stone animals are on display in art galleries throughout New York. She was careful to put her statues on low stands so that children *could* reach them and touch them. This is all part of enjoying art.



But the sculptures that children enjoy most are the animals that Shay made for a city garden in Harlem. She made these statues out of bronze. Before starting her work, Shay visited the zoo and made quick sketches of the animals. Back in her studio, she made the animals out of clay. But in order to make them bronze, Shay needed special help. She took her clay molds to a foundry. The foundry made rubber molds of Shay's statues and poured liquid bronze into them. When the bronze hardened, the statues were ready for their new home.

The bronze camel, elephant, and hippopotamus were set in a permanent cement base. Children love to sit, climb, and play on the animals.

Instead of "Don't touch!" as the museum guards warn, Shay Rieger may invite you to see her statues and say "Please touch!"

Main Idea

1. Shay Rieger creates
 - a. art galleries.
 - b. playgrounds for children.
 - c. art for children.

Significant Details

2. Shay's animals in the Harlem park are made of
 - a. clay.
 - b. bronze.
 - c. cement.

Context Clues

3. Shay Rieger is a *sculptor*.
 - a. person who works in a foundry
 - b. person who sketches animals
 - c. person who makes statues

Inference

4. Do you think Shay likes children? Why or why not? _____

Drawing Conclusions

5. How would Shay teach children about sculpture?
 - a. She would let them touch and feel the materials.
 - b. She would show them pictures of her work.
 - c. She would take them to an art museum.

Following Through

6. Get some clay. Create your own statues. Decide on a theme for your sculptures. Make a clay zoo, a clay city, or a farm. Be creative!

Statue of Liberty

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a young French sculptor, was sad as he sailed on his first trip to America. Bartholdi was on an important mission. The people of France wanted to give a gift to America. They wanted to show their friendship and admiration towards the new country. The gift was to be a beautiful statue. Bartholdi had made many statues in France. But he could not think of a good idea for this one.

As the ship pulled into the harbor of New York, Auguste went on deck to have his first look at America. At the entrance to the harbor stood tiny Bedloe's Island. Suddenly his sadness vanished! "That is where I want my statue!" he cried. "It will be a statue of a tall lady, like my mother. She will hold a torch in her hand to welcome people. I will call her "Liberty Enlightening the World!"

Today the Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor just as Bartholdi imagined it over one hundred years ago. It took more than ten years for Bartholdi to complete the statue and, looking at it, one can see why.



The "Lady" weighs 225 tons. The torch is 305 feet above the base of the pedestal. Her hand is 16 feet long and her arm is 42 feet long. One finger alone is eight feet long, much taller than most men and women. Her skin is made of more than 300 copper sheets. Thirteen strong lamps light her torch.

Through the years this torch has continued to burn brightly. It is a welcome symbol of liberty and freedom in America.

Main Idea

1. Why did France give America the Statue of Liberty?
 - a. to welcome the people of France
 - b. to show France's admiration and friendship towards America
 - c. because Bartholdi wanted to make a big statue

Significant Details

2. The Statue of Liberty stands
 - a. in the harbor of France.
 - b. in downtown New York.
 - c. in the harbor of New York.

Context Clues

3. It is a welcome *symbol* of liberty and freedom.
 - a. a sign that stands for something
 - b. a statue of a woman
 - c. a French word

Inference

4. Is there enough room for people to walk inside the Statue of Liberty? Explain your answer. _____

Drawing Conclusions

5. Why did France admire America?
 - a. because America had a beautiful harbor
 - b. because America had given a gift to France
 - c. because America's people lived in freedom

Following Through

6. Look up Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. Find out what important part he had in building the Statue of Liberty. Find out what famous monument Eiffel built.

The Mystery of Roanoke Island

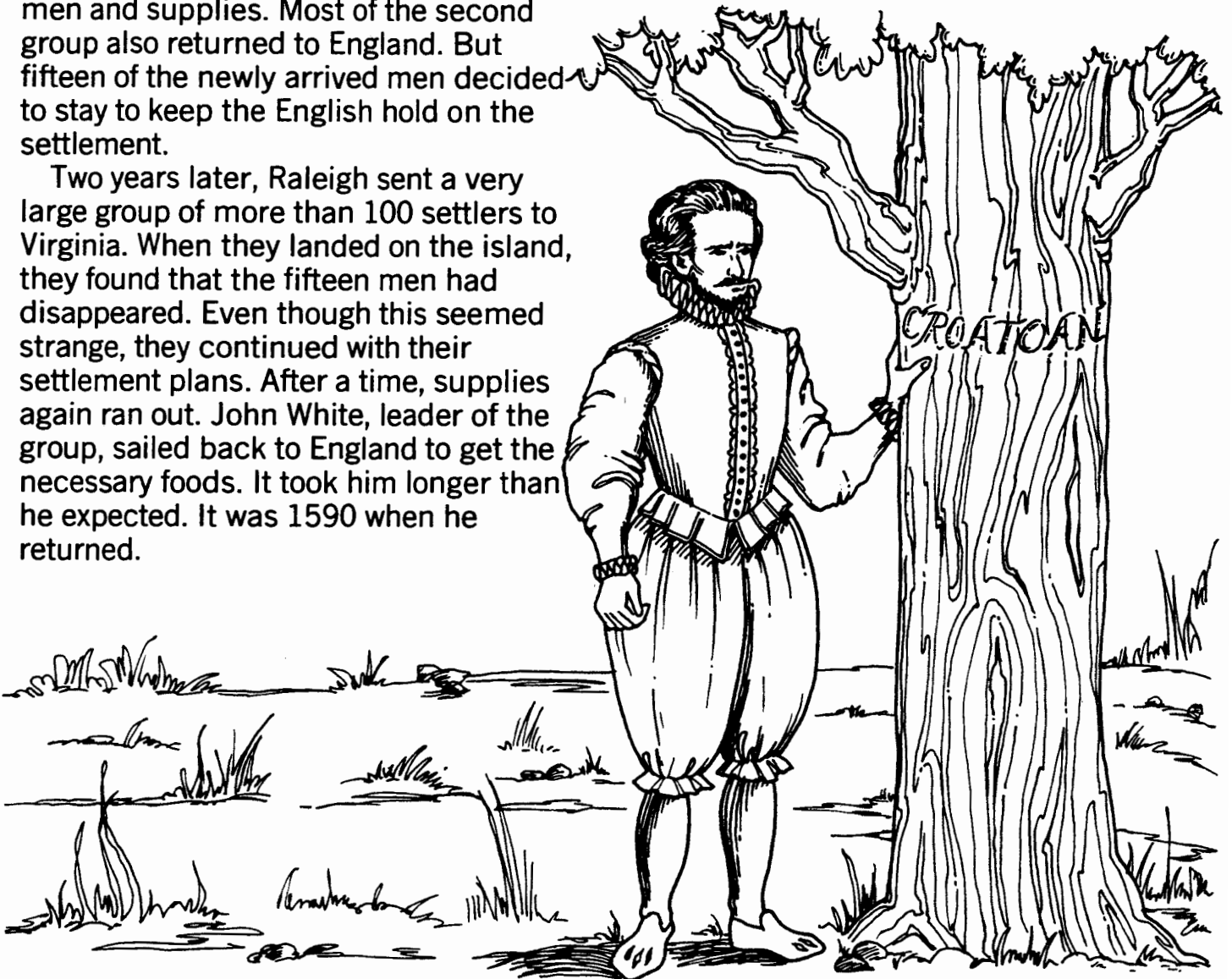
Sir Walter Raleigh was a favorite in the court of Queen Elizabeth I of England. In 1585, to please his queen, he gathered a group of Englishmen to form a settlement in the New World, America. Raleigh had named the region where he was sending the people Virginia, in honor of the "Virgin Queen." The settlers landed on an island just off the shore of the large region of Virginia.

For a while, Roanoke Island was a busy place. These first settlers stayed almost a year. Then food ran out and trouble began with nearby natives, so they sailed back to England. Within a few days, however, another ship arrived with more men and supplies. Most of the second group also returned to England. But fifteen of the newly arrived men decided to stay to keep the English hold on the settlement.

Two years later, Raleigh sent a very large group of more than 100 settlers to Virginia. When they landed on the island, they found that the fifteen men had disappeared. Even though this seemed strange, they continued with their settlement plans. After a time, supplies again ran out. John White, leader of the group, sailed back to England to get the necessary foods. It took him longer than he expected. It was 1590 when he returned.

When he landed, there was nothing left on the island. Over 100 people had disappeared without a trace. White could find no graves to show that illness or war had killed the settlers. How did they leave the island? Where did they go? No one has ever been able to solve this mystery.

There are two clues. The first was the word "Croatoan" which John White found carved on a tree. The second clue was found more recently. The National Park Survey located the outlines of a large fort that stood on the island. Perhaps someday we will learn the answer to the mystery of the Lost Colony.





Main Idea

1. The most interesting "happening" in this story was
 - a. the arrival of an English ship on Roanoke Island.
 - b. the disappearance of more than 100 people.
 - c. Sir Walter Raleigh became a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I.

Significant Details

2. Raleigh named the new region in America
 - a. Virginia
 - b. Roanoke
 - c. Elizabeth

Context Clues

3. The whole settlement *disappeared*.
 - a. returned to England
 - b. sailed to the mainland
 - c. was gone without leaving a sign or trace behind

Inference

4. Supplies in the New World were
 - a. grown by the natives.
 - b. not plentiful enough to take care of the settlement.
 - c. mostly corn and vegetables.

Drawing Conclusions

5. The sea trip to England from America took
 - a. several days.
 - b. over 10 years.
 - c. many months.

Following Through

6. Find out about John White's grandchild, the first English child born on American soil. Was it a boy or girl? What was the grandchild's name? _____
