

Sandra Day O'Connor

Sandra Day O'Connor grew up on her family's ranch in Arizona. Her earliest memories were of riding horses and rounding up cattle in the dust storms. Ranching was hard work, but Sandra was able to balance both her chores and her schoolwork. When she was eight, Sandra learned to drive a truck so that she could go out and help mend fences. She often carried a twenty-two to shoot coyotes that went after the cattle. Sandra did so well in school that by the time she was sixteen, she had graduated from high school. At Stanford University, Sandra's abilities as a law student were recognized by her professors.

After graduating magna cum laude from Stanford, she went on to take a law degree graduating third in a class of 102. Nevertheless, Sandra had trouble getting a job after graduation. Few law firms were hiring women at that time. One Los Angeles law firm did offer O'Connor a job as a legal secretary! Instead she worked for a year as county deputy attorney in San Mateo, California. Then, accompanying her soldier husband to West Germany, she became a civilian lawyer for the Quartermaster Corp. Later, back in the Phoenix area, Mrs. O'Connor had her own law firm while she raised her three sons and did community service work. In 1965, she became assistant attorney general for Arizona and four years later was appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy in the state senate. The next year O'Connor campaigned for and won the same senate seat.

Because of her hard work and intelligence, Sandra won the respect of other senators and politicians. Later, she became a judge for the state of Arizona. Her judgments were fair but tough. Her excellent work as a judge came to the attention of President Ronald Reagan, and on September 25, 1981, he appointed Sandra Day O'Connor to serve on the United States Supreme Court. She is the first woman justice ever to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.



Main Idea

1. What did Sandra Day O'Connor become?

2. Why was her appointment significant?

Significant Details

3. Sandra studied to be a
 - a. lawyer.
 - b. rancher.
 - c. president.
4. To become a Supreme Court justice you must
 - a. win an election.
 - b. be a state senator.
 - c. be appointed by the President.

Context Clues

5. Sandra did both her *chores* and her schoolwork.
 - a. paintings
 - b. jobs
 - c. hobbies
6. Sandra was *appointed* by President Reagan.
 - a. named to a job
 - b. elected by votes
 - c. forgotten



Research the judicial career of Sandra Day O'Connor. Find one important case or ruling in which she was involved, and write a brief summary.

America's Detective

When Allan Pinkerton was a young boy, he never dreamed he would become one of America's most respected detectives. In fact, Allan, who was born in Scotland in 1819, had not thought about a career at all. Then his father, a sergeant with the Glasgow police force, was injured while on duty. The father could no longer work, so the Pinkerton boys had to support the family. Allan took a job as a barrelmaker.

When Allan grew up and married, he and his wife moved to America. They settled in a town outside of Chicago, and Allan opened a barrel-making shop. While he was out collecting material for his barrels, Allan began his detective career. He stumbled across evidence of counterfeiting and soon rounded up a gang of counterfeiters which had been secretly working in the Chicago area. Allan became a local hero, and the Chicago police offered him a job as a special investigator.

Pinkerton became very skilled at tracking criminals. He used disguises, reasoning, psychology, and even tricks to catch criminals all over the country. Outlaws feared him the most. They had heard about the way he captured the Reno brothers, a Wild West gang of about 100 men. They also knew he had broken up the Molly Maguires, a group that tried to destroy the coal-mining industry.

By this time, Allan had set up the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, with branch offices in many cities. All across the country, his specially trained agents were tracking down criminals and other lawbreakers. Today, Pinkerton's Agency is one of the largest investigative and security agencies in the world. Over 13,000 employees work in 48 cities in the United States and Canada. And Allan Pinkerton, who died in 1884, is still called America's first great detective.



Main Idea

1. The Pinkerton Agency developed as a result of Allan Pinkerton's
 - a. counterfeiting.
 - b. investigating.
 - c. studying.

Significant Details

2. Pinkerton became a detective
 - a. by accident.
 - b. after years of study.
 - c. after he fell down.
3. The Pinkerton Agency operates in
 - a. Scotland.
 - b. Europe.
 - c. North America.

Inference

4. Allan Pinkerton may have inherited some of his crime-solving skills from
 - a. the Chicago police.
 - b. his father.
 - c. his strict Scottish upbringing.

Drawing Conclusions

5. Pinkerton died a wealthy man. Why would you assume this is true?
 - a. Counterfeiters gave him a great deal of money to keep their secret.
 - b. He sold his barrel-making business for a huge profit.
 - c. The Pinkerton Agency has been large and successful for a long time.

Faster Than a Speeding Bullet

Gone are the days when heavy locomotives lumbered along the railroad tracks, puffing out billows of steam. The new era of technology in transportation has developed some of the fastest trains to come along the tracks.

Many countries are developing trains that will increase speed and decrease travel time. These trains would make transportation easier and less expensive. Some countries have already put their trains to work.

The world's fastest electric train is France's high-speed train, the TGV. It runs between Paris and Lyon at an average speed of more than 170 miles (270 kilometers) per hour.

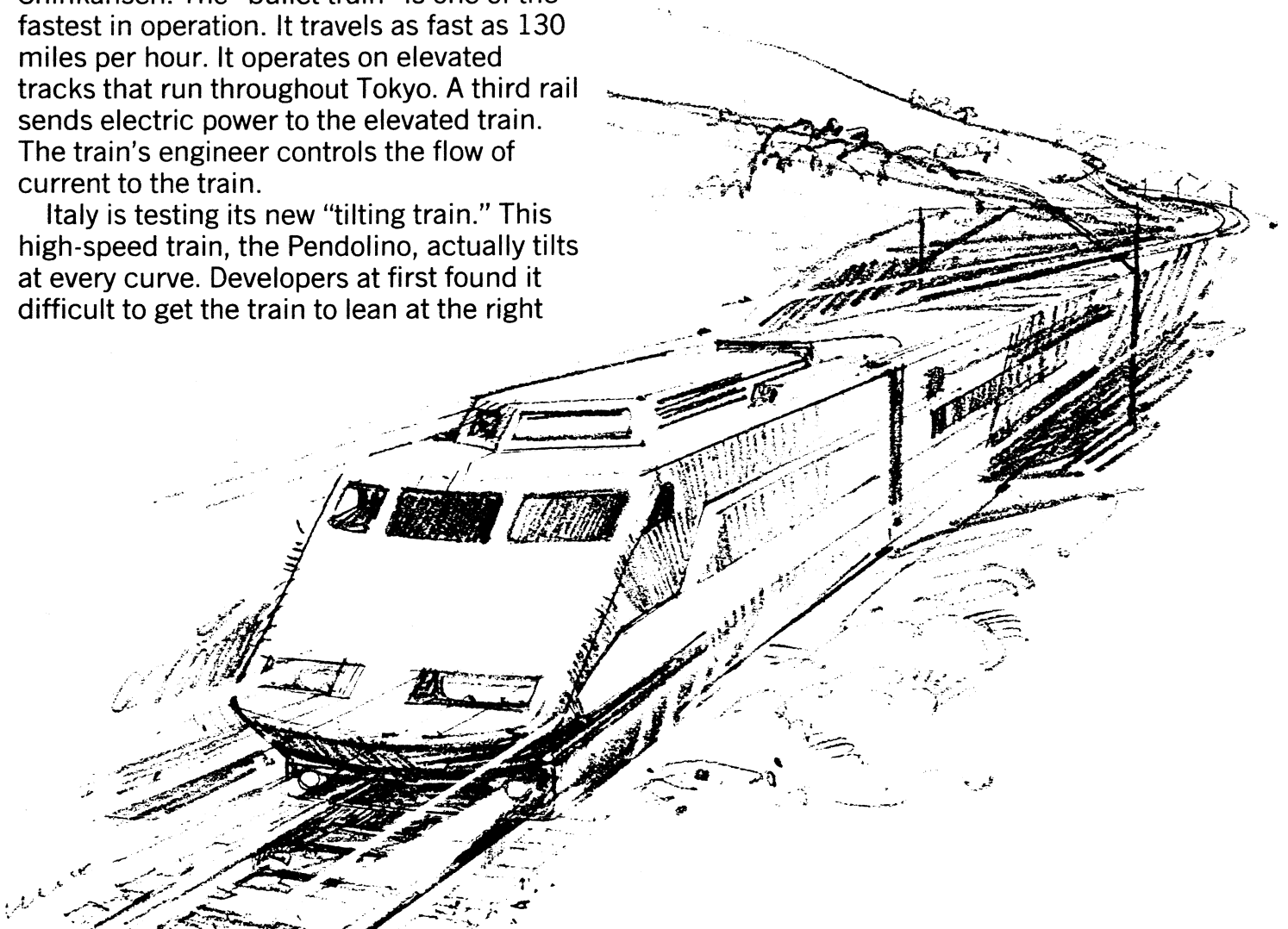
Japanese travelers are speeding to work on a streamlined "bullet train," the Shinkansen. The "bullet train" is one of the fastest in operation. It travels as fast as 130 miles per hour. It operates on elevated tracks that run throughout Tokyo. A third rail sends electric power to the elevated train. The train's engineer controls the flow of current to the train.

Italy is testing its new "tilting train." This high-speed train, the Pendolino, actually tilts at every curve. Developers at first found it difficult to get the train to lean at the right

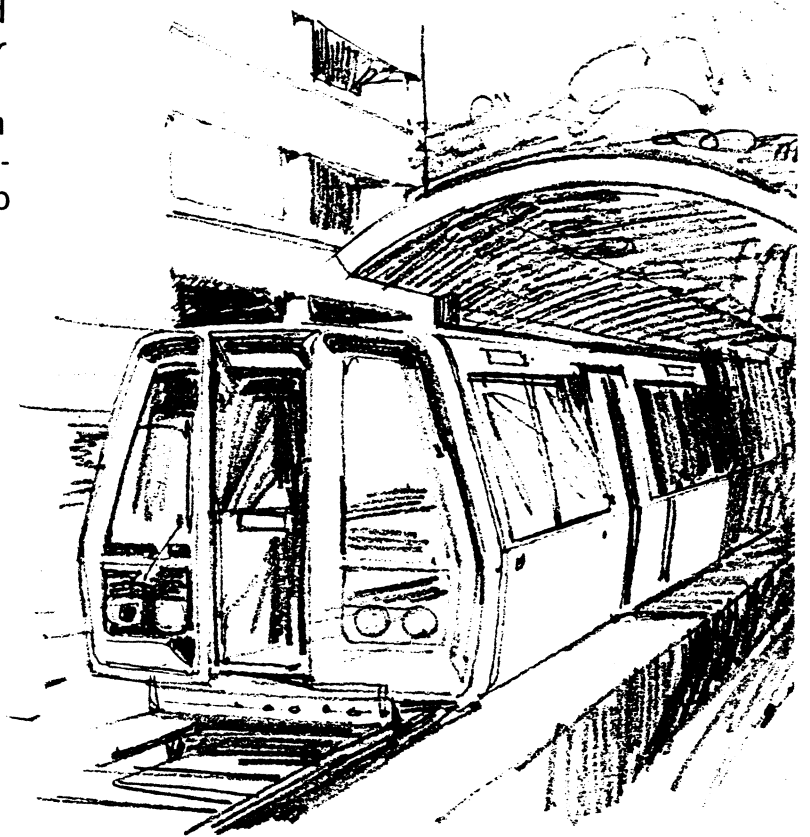
time. The use of gyroscopes solved that problem. By leaning in on a curve, the train gains speed. With this additional speed, a five-hour trip is cut back to four hours.

Germany is trying out the latest development in transportation, magnetic levitation technology. Maglev, as it is called, creates a magnetic field between magnets in the train and the steel in the tracks. A negative force between the magnets and the steel pushes the train up just a fraction of an inch off the track. This allows the "flying train" to fly along the tracks without friction or vibration. The train now carries 260 passengers. Designers believe it will reach speeds up to 250 miles per hour. These trains will be lighter than traditional ones and less expensive to build.

continued . . .



All of these trains are quieter than the old locomotives. They do not produce smoke or exhaust. The older locomotives ran only on diesel fuel. These new trains are able to run without gasoline and oil. With all these high-speed developments, it will be interesting to see what next comes down the track.



Main Idea

1. There have been many new developments in the field of
 - a. gyroscopes.
 - b. transportation.
 - c. economy.

Significant Details

2. Italy's train
 - a. operates on elevated tracks.
 - b. uses negative magnetic forces.
 - c. leans as it passes curves.
3. Which train is less expensive to build?
 - a. the "bullet train"
 - b. the "tilting train"
 - c. the "flying train"
4. The TGV train runs in
 - a. France.
 - b. Italy.
 - c. Germany.

Context Clues

5. *Elevated* tracks run
 - a. above the ground.
 - b. below the ground.
 - c. through tunnels.

Inference

6. Airlines may not be pleased with the latest developments because
 - a. the technology does not include developments in jets.
 - b. airlines don't care about trains.
 - c. people may find it better to travel by train.

Drawing Conclusions

7. Germany's "flying train"
 - a. is built with a jet engine.
 - b. travels above the ground.
 - c. can go faster than a jet.
8. Which is true of these new trains?
 - a. They cut down noise and air pollution and conserve gas and oil.
 - b. They are all underground.
 - c. They are all operating in Europe.

Following Through

9. Find out how the TGV, the high-speed train that runs between Paris and Lyon in France, gets its power.