FAMOUS AMERICANS
INFERENCES
task cards

Famous Americans: Inference

n South Carolina, in 1739, Eliza Lucas was
ft in charge of her father's three
antations. While he was gone, she
eveloped a new crop called indigo. Indigo
 a plant that can be used to dye cloth blue

hat can you infer about Eliza Lucas?

Famous Americans: Inference

Helen Keller was born in 1880 and she was a happy
healthy baby. When Helen was about one and a ha
years old, she had a high fever that made her blind
and deaf. Keller needed to learn to communicate to
those around her but she was often frustrated. Sh
sometimes threw tantrums, and would kick and hit
other people in anger.

do you think Keller was so

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Famous Americans: Inference

President Theodore Roosevelt and his family
had more than forty pets when they were
living at the White House. His favorites
included Eli Yale (a macaw parrot), Jake (a
terrier), Algonquin (a pony), and Manchu (a
Pekinese dog).

Make an inference. How do you think the
Roosevelts felt about animals?

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Famous Americans: Inference

President Benjamin Harrison ordered the American flag to be flown at the White House and at all government buildings. He also urged public buildings and schools to do the same.

What do you infer? How did Harrison feel about the American flag?

1

Famous Americans: Inference

Barbara McClintock was an American scientist who was famous for her work in genetics (learning how traits are passed down). Many people don't know however, that she played tennis every day, sometimes ran or went swimming and learned to do aerobic dancing when she was in her eighties. She even shoveled snow off of her driveway at an old age.

What do you infer about Barbara McClintock's physical health?

2

Famous Americans: Inference

Grace Murray Hopper was one of the pioneers of computer science. When Hopper was shown the first computer in the world, it was 50 feet long, 8 feet high and weighed 9,445 pounds. Her boss told her to complete an important assignment by "next Thursday". Hopper was not only nervous, but was "thoroughly scared".

Make an inference. Why do you think that Hopper was so scared?

3

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4

Famous Americans: Inference

Edwin Hubble is best known as an astronomer. Actually, the Hubble Space telescope was named after him. When Hubble was a teenager, he set the state record for the high jump, was an excellent basketball player, and was such a good boxer that fight promoters wanted him to turn professional.

What can you infer about Hubble's athletic ability?

9

Famous Americans: Inference

Susan B. Anthony was famous for helping get the law changed so that women would have the right to vote. When she was eleven, her father ran a cotton mill. Anthony worked at the mill for two weeks and spent all of her earnings on three blue teacups for her mother.

Make an inference. Why did Anthony buy something for her mother instead of for herself?

10

Famous Americans: Inference

Helen Keller was born in 1880 and she was a happy, healthy baby. When Helen was about one and a half years old, she had a high fever that made her blind and deaf. Keller needed to learn to communicate to those around her but she was often frustrated. She sometimes threw tantrums, and would kick and hit other people in anger.

Make an inference. Why do you think Keller was so frustrated?

11

Famous Americans: Inference

George Washington Carver was a scientist and a professor. He knew science so well that he could identify almost anything that someone would bring him. One day, some boys tried to trick him by building an insect from parts of many insects. Carver looked at their creation and called it a "Humbug"!

Make an inference. What does Carver's response to the boys tell you about him?

12

Famous Americans: Inference

Andy Warhol was a famous artist. In 1961, Warhol invented "Pop Art", when he decided to use common commercial items in his art. He took images of these items and copied them over and over. For example, in one of his paintings, he had two hundred Campbell's soup cans repeated over and over

Campbell's soup cans are a commercial item. Make an inference. What do you think "commercial", in this passage, means?

13

Famous Americans: Inference

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became the president in 1933, Eleanor Roosevelt became First Lady. At first, America was in the middle of the Great Depression, when people lost their homes and jobs. During this time, Eleanor traveled thousands of miles across the country to see how people were doing. She was determined to help other people have better lives.

Make an inference. Why did Eleanor Roosevelt travel so far to check on people?

14

Famous Americans: Inference

Harriet Tubman was a former slave who guided many slaves from the south to freedom in the north, using the Underground Railroad. She also helped others during the Civil War. She served as a spy for the north and helped wounded soldiers. Once, she worked with soldiers to rescue over 750 slaves.

Make an inference. Why do you think it was so important for Tubman to free other slaves?

15

Famous Americans: Inference

Levi Strauss is well known for making jeans. When he started out though, he came to California from New York, after hearing about the California Gold Rush. He thought it would be an excellent opportunity for a new business. When he arrived in California, he didn't mine for gold, but opened a dry goods store and made his fortune in business.

Make an inference. Why do you think Strauss decided not to mine for gold but to open his business instead?

16

Famous Americans Inferences
RECORD SHEET

Name: _____

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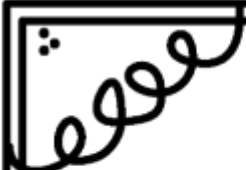27._____

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Famous Americans Inferences
KEY: ANSWERS MAY VARY

1. Harrison loved the American flag.

2. McClintock was very healthy/energetic for her age.

3. The computer task was overwhelming/new to her.

4. The Roosevelts loved animals.

5. Taft was overweight.

6. Eliza Lucas was bright/inventive/responsible/hard working.

7. Perhaps some people were afraid that slaves would become too powerful through knowledge.

8. Newsboys wanted to honor their fellow newsboy.

9. Hubble was a strong athlete.

10. She was unselfish/She wanted to show her mom how much she loved her.

11. It might have been hard to communicate/No one understood what she needed.

12. It showed that Carver was bright and had a sense of humor.

13. Commercial here means something you can buy.

14. She wanted to go as many places as possible, so she could help as many people as possible.

15. Tubman wanted to free slaves because she knew what it was like to be a slave.

16. Strauss thought there was less risk/He could earn more money.

17. They were poor.

18. It was surprising because she used to have polio.

19. She hoped it would help improve their lives or help them get a job.

20. They didn't think it could be worked out.

21. His brother might not have let him.

22. She wanted to be well educated (colonial girls didn't/couldn't go to college).

23. He seemed happy for them/He approved of the marriage.

24. Animal sounds might be useful to attract game in order to catch them.

25. He trusted her/He felt he had no other choice/He was desperate to get the message there.

26. Edison was always curious/He even experimented as a child.

27. He rode a bike because he didn't have his license yet.

28. She thought the recipes would be more uniform/turn out better, if the ingredients were measured carefully.

29. He was disappointed/discouraged/angry.

30. Her book was very succesful.

31. Maybe she didn't like the red dress/was tired of wearing it/didn't want to wear matching colored dresses.

32. It was named Skunky perhaps because of its smell/coloring.