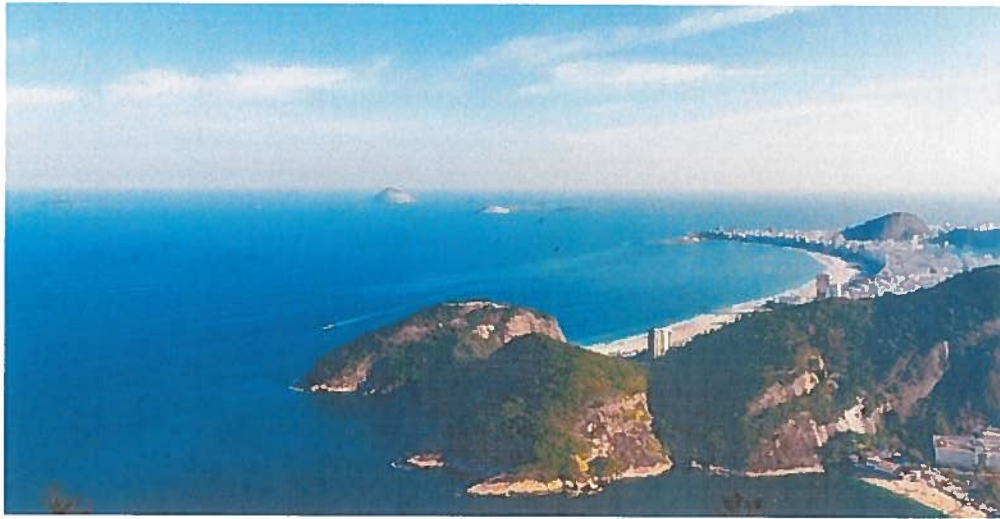


Harbor of Rio de Janeiro



Harbor of Rio de Janeiro

On January 1, 1502, an explorer from Portugal named Goncalo Coelho and his crew sailed into a huge bay by what is now Brazil. A bay is a body of water that is partly surrounded by land. The explorers thought they had found the mouth of a large river. So they named the place "Rio de Janeiro," or "River of January." The bay they found is known today as the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro.

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest natural bay, containing more water than any other bay in the world! Because of its size, the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is considered one of the world's seven natural wonders.

The bay is surrounded by mountains made from granite. The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. One of these mountains was named after a sugar loaf, because it looks like a type of bread made on an island near Portugal. Another one was named Corcovado, or "The Hunchback," because of its mound-like shape. Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor.

The beauty of the harbor attracts people to this day. Tourists from all over the world come to see the gorgeous harbor and the city of Rio de Janeiro. People have even built cable cars and trains to accommodate tourists and show them around the area.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the largest natural bay in the world. According to the text, what is a bay?

- A. a body of water that is completely surrounded by land
- B. an area of land that is surrounded by water
- C. a body of water that is partly surrounded by land
- D. an area of land that is partly surrounded by water

2. What does the text describe?

- A. Goncalo Coelho's trip to Brazil
- B. how bays form
- C. the difference between rivers and bays
- D. the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro

3. Read these sentences from the text.

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest natural bay, containing more water than any other bay in the world!

[. . .]

The bay is surrounded by mountains made from granite. The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. . . . Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor.

What conclusion does this information support?

- A. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very cold place.
- B. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very impressive place.
- C. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro doesn't have a lot of plant and animal life.
- D. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is a very poor place.

4. Based on the text, what can be concluded about the world's seven natural wonders?

- A. The world's seven natural wonders are natural places that have a lot of rocks.
- B. The world's seven natural wonders are places with a lot of buried treasure.
- C. The world's seven natural wonders are strange places people have built.
- D. The world's seven natural wonders are very impressive natural places.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is the world's largest bay and a beautiful place with water and mountains.
- B. Concalo Coelho was a Portuguese explorer who sailed to Brazil in the 1500s.
- C. The mountains of the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro are huge and have odd shapes.
- D. Tourists from all over the world go to see the gorgeous harbor and the city of Rio de Janeiro.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"The bay is surrounded by mountains made from granite. The mountains are huge and steep, with odd shapes. One of these mountains was named after a sugar loaf, because it looks like a type of bread made on an island near Portugal. Another one was named Corcovado, or 'The Hunchback,' because of its mound-like shape. Together, the water and mountains create a beautiful harbor."

Why does the author discuss the mountain named after a sugar loaf and the mountain called "The Hunchback"?

- A. to contrast the way the mountains by the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro were described earlier in the text
- B. to give the reader examples of mountains with odd shapes by the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro
- C. to give the reader examples of different mountains around the world
- D. to show that people sometimes give funny names to mountains

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

The Harbor of Rio de Janeiro is considered one of the world's seven natural wonders _____ it is very large.

- A. however
- B. on the other hand
- C. although
- D. because

8. Describe the mountains that surround the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

9. Why do people from all over the world visit the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro?

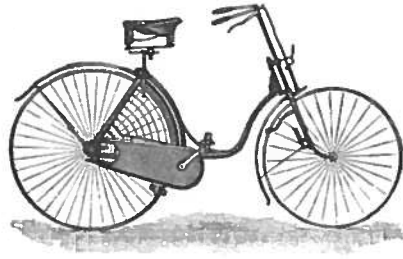
Support your answer with evidence from the text.

10. Imagine you wanted to convince a friend to join you on a trip to the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro. Explain the argument you might make to your friend to persuade him or her to join you.

Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Fixing My Sister's Bike

Kyria Abrahams



I love to fix things. I'm only eight years old, but I can figure lots of stuff out by myself. I want to be a scientist when I grow up.

Last week, the red, shiny reflector came off my sister's bicycle seat. My sister Ariel said she wanted to take it to the bicycle repair shop to be fixed.

"No way!" I stopped her. "I know how to fix things, so I'll fix this too!"

"Well, it had better work!" Ariel said. She looked like she didn't believe me.

I got some rope from the closet, and I tied the reflector right back onto the bike. It dangled a little bit, but it still worked just fine.

"It looks messy," Ariel said.

When my dad came home, I showed him how I had fixed the bike.

"Do you think that's the best solution?" he asked me.

I looked over at the reflector. On second glance, it didn't look that secure after all. There were some pieces of rope hanging off.

I shrugged.

"Yes! It's fine!" I said.

I thought it was the best solution. I had come up with it, after all, so it had to be the best.

"Okay," he said. "Let's see how long it stays attached to the bike."

My dad said he was proud of me for taking initiative. That means I see something that needs to be fixed and do it without being told!

"I think I have a new lesson for you, though," Dad said. "I want to show you how to conduct an experiment."

I had come up with a solution to a problem, and now the second step was to test it under different conditions.

I asked my sister when she was planning to go for a bike ride. She said at 2:00 p.m.

I grabbed a pen and a piece of paper and made two columns on the paper. One column said GOOD, and one column said BAD. At 2:00, I went outside to watch her ride.

First, she rode down the sidewalk and the reflector stayed on. I made a checkmark in the GOOD column.

Next, she went over a bump and the reflector stayed on. I made another checkmark. Good again!

Then, she rode underneath a tree. *Uh oh!* I knew what was coming next.

One of the branches from the tree swept across the back of her bike, and the next thing I knew the whole reflector was untied and on the ground!

Ariel cried out, "My reflector!"

I made another checkmark, this time in the column that said BAD.

"Back to the drawing board!" I said.

"Grrr!" said Ariel.

Later that night, my dad and I sat down with my paper to look at the checkmarks.

"Under what conditions did the reflector stay on the bike?" he asked me.

I looked. "Well, it stayed on when the bike was riding normally, but it fell off when it was hit by that tree branch."

"What you have on that sheet of paper is called *scientific data*," Dad said. "What do you think you can learn from this?"

"I don't think the rope worked very well," I said.

"I don't think so, either," he said. "But you did have to test it first to be sure."

"Well, I tested it and now I know."

"What will hold the reflector on a little bit better?"

"Let's use glue!" I said.

We went downstairs, where the family keeps all our tools. Dad pulled the bike up onto the bench and took out the Super Glue.

I'm not allowed to use strong glue by myself. So we did this part together.

We let the glue dry overnight, and the next day I conducted my experiment all over again.

"You're not going to break my reflector again, are you?" my sister asked. She looked a little mad and suspicious.

"Well, I don't think so," I told her. "But that's what this experiment is for. Do you trust me?"

"I guess so," Ariel said. "But mainly because Dad helped this time!" She stuck her tongue out at me.

I made her ride the bike exactly the same way she had the last time so that we could try to recreate the conditions. This is important in a scientific experiment.

She rode down the sidewalk. The reflector stayed on. So far, so good!

Then, I had her go over the bump again. The reflector stayed on. I made another checkmark. But now it was time for the final test.

"Okay, get ready!" I yelled. "It's time to ride under the tree!"

Just like last time, my sister rode under the tree. However, this time, the reflector stayed on the bike.

"Yay! It didn't fall off!" Ariel squealed happily.

I was pretty proud myself. I made a great big checkmark in the GOOD column, and then drew a smiley face just for fun.

I turned around to see that my dad had been watching the entire time.

"Excellent work, little scientist," he said. "You recreated the experiment and found the solution to your sister's bike problem."

"And I saved us a trip to the bike shop!" I said.

"You sure did," Ariel said. And then she gave me a great big hug.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What keeps falling off Ariel's bicycle?

- A the front wheel
- B the back wheel
- C the reflector
- D the seat

2. The narrator is the person who is telling the story. In this story, the narrator is Ariel's sibling. How does the narrator finally solve the problem of the reflector falling off Ariel's bike?

- A by taking Ariel's bike to a repair shop
- B by tying the reflector on with some rope from a closet
- C by asking their dad to fix the reflector by himself
- D by gluing the reflector on with help from their dad

3. Rope does not keep the reflector on the bike as well as glue does.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Ariel's father helps to glue the reflector onto the bike after the reflector falls off a second time.
- B After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides down the sidewalk.
- C After the reflector is tied onto the bike with rope, it stays on when Ariel rides over a bump.
- D The reflector falls off after being tied onto the bike, but it does not fall off after being glued on.

4. Why does Ariel give the narrator a hug at the end of the story?

- A Ariel is upset about how long it has taken to fix the bike.
- B Ariel is happy that the narrator has fixed the bike.
- C Ariel is excited to take her bike to a repair shop.
- D Ariel is confused because she does not understand how the narrator fixed the bike.

5. What is this story mainly about?

- A two siblings who do not get along until their dad makes them be nice to each other
- B a bike that is unsafe to ride because it is falling apart
- C a problem with a bike and what the narrator does to solve it
- D a girl whose bike breaks and what happens when she takes it to a repair shop

6. Read the following sentence: "Last week, the red, shiny **reflector** came off my sister's bicycle seat."

What does the word "**reflector**" mean?

- A a wheel that turns very slowly
- B something that shines when light hits it
- C a type of metal that is worth a lot of money
- D a safety pad that someone riding a bicycle wears

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The narrator tries fixing the reflector with glue _____ rope does not work.

- A after
- B although
- C before
- D so

8. What causes the reflector to fall off Ariel's bike after it has been tied on with rope?

9. What are the three bike riding conditions that the narrator has Ariel recreate after gluing the reflector on Ariel's bike?

10. Why is recreating these conditions important to the narrator's experiment?
