

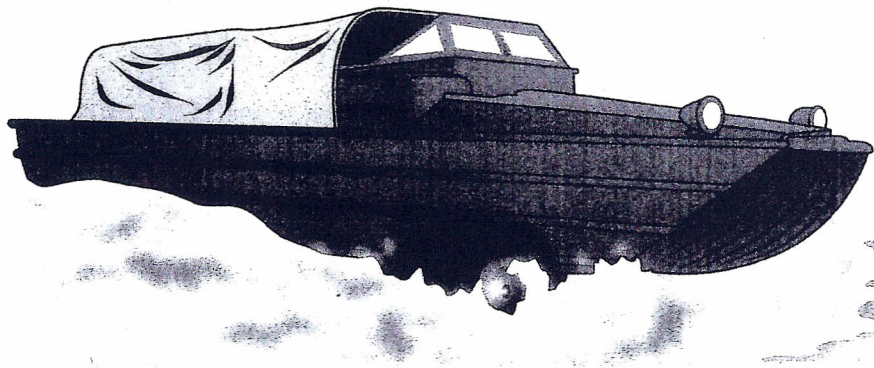
Ducks with Motors

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions in complete sentences.

Ducks can go from land to water. This is true for the bird. It is also true for the trucks and cars called *ducks*. You may have seen a duck in a spy movie. But, this water-to-land transportation is real.

The American, German, and British militaries used ducks during World War II. The first ducks were big, heavy trucks shaped like tanks. The huge trucks could take troops and supplies from a ship to the land. The trucks could drive onto land from the water. They were big and slow, but they helped keep soldiers safe.

After the war, some people in the United States bought ducks. They were used for tourist rides. In cities like Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, you can ride in a duck. The duck takes you to sights on land. Then, it drives into the water!



1. Where can a duck vehicle drive?
 - A. land and water
 - B. land
 - C. water
2. According to the passage, when were ducks used by the military?

3. Why were the ducks important to the military?

4. Today, ducks are used in cities like _____.
5. How are ducks used today?

Janek's Party

Read the paragraph and the invitation. Then, answer the questions.

Janek is a third grader in Ms. Valdez's class. When Janek was five years old, his family moved from Warsaw, Poland, to Austin, Texas. Janek likes the warm weather, and he loves to swim. He is having a pool party at the end of the school year. He and his mom made invitations for the party. Janek is sending this invitation to everyone in his class:

A Pool Party

Your friend Janek is having a party.
Please join us!

When: Saturday, May 29

What time: 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

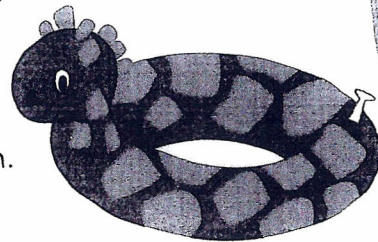
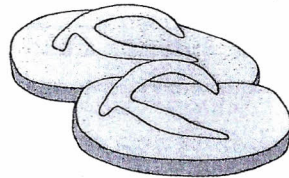
Where: Splash Time Kids' Pool and Picnic Grounds

Please bring a swimsuit, a towel, and sunscreen. We will play in the pool and then have a picnic. (If it rains, we will have an indoor party at Janek's house.)

Parents are welcome! Please respond by calling 555-7878. See you Saturday!

Directions:

1. Take Highway 1, heading south.
2. Exit at Lake Austin Boulevard.
3. Make a right at the first traffic light.
4. Drive two blocks and make a left onto Splash Time Drive.
5. Drive down the hill and park in the parking lot.



1. This selection is mostly about
 - A. where to take swimming lessons.
 - B. Ms. Valdez's third-grade class.
 - C. how Janek invites kids to a party.
2. Which of the following items should people bring to Janek's party?
 - A. sandwiches
 - B. towels
 - C. balloons
3. If it rains, the party will
 - A. be canceled.
 - B. be moved to a place indoors.
 - C. take place another day.
4. According to the directions, what should you do after exiting at Lake Austin Boulevard?
 - A. Take Highway 1, heading north.
 - B. Make a right at the first traffic light.
 - C. Make a left at the first traffic light.
5. The invitation asks people to
 - A. call to say if they are coming.
 - B. bring blankets for a picnic.
 - C. prepare songs to sing for Janek.

Marc Brown

Read the passage. Then, answer the questions.

Marc Brown is the best-selling author of the Arthur books. You may have read *Arthur's Birthday*, *D. W. Thinks Big*, or *Arthur and the True Francine*. These books and others tell about the life of an aardvark, his family, and his quirky animal friends.

Brown enjoys drawing and telling stories. His grandmother, Grandma Thora, told wonderful stories too. Brown got his love of storytelling from her. He especially liked to tell animal stories to his own sons, who are now adults. One day, he told a story about an aardvark named Arthur. That was how the Arthur stories started.

From the time he was six years old, Brown enjoyed drawing. Grandma Thora loved his drawings. She saved his drawings and told him to draw more. Now, Brown draws the pictures and writes all of the stories for the Arthur books.

The first Arthur book was published in 1976. That book was called *Arthur's Nose*. In that book, Arthur had a long nose like a real aardvark. In the more recent books, Arthur's nose has gotten smaller. Brown shrank Arthur's nose so that he could show more expressions on Arthur's face. Since that first book, Brown has written more than 75 books!

The ideas for the Arthur stories come from Brown's experiences as a child. He also gets ideas from his three children, Tolon, Tucker, and Eliza. In many of Brown's books, you can find the names of his sons, Tolon and Tucker. The next time you read an Arthur book, see if you can find their names!

1. What does Marc Brown love to do?

2. Where does Brown get some of the ideas for the Arthur stories?
 - A. from the zoo
 - B. from going on vacation
 - C. from his children
3. Where did Brown get his love of storytelling?

4. If you could ask Brown one question, what would you ask?

5. Imagine you are a writer and an artist like Marc Brown. Draw your own storybook character in the space below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write a story about your character.

