

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding and Using Text Evidence

Directions: Read "The History of Teeth" and "Where Are All the Dentists?" Then complete the activity below.

1. Imagine that you are writing a paragraph explaining how people have struggled with dental problems since ancient times.

A. Which of the following is the BEST topic sentence for your paragraph?

- Ⓐ In the 18th and 19th centuries, most people did not see a dentist.
- Ⓑ For most of human history, people have had to deal with dental problems.
- Ⓒ A woman in ancient Egypt died because of an infected tooth.

B. Which information from the article BEST supports the sentence you chose in part A?

- Ⓐ Today, some 300,000 hygienists, dentists, and orthodontists work in America. (p. 16)
- Ⓑ Cavities form when certain types of bacteria make acids that eat away at our teeth and form holes. (p. 15)
- Ⓒ Spartan warriors charged into battles with oozing abscesses in their gums. (p. 13)

C. Which of the following BEST explains why the text evidence you chose in part B is relevant?

- Ⓐ It describes how far dental care has come over the centuries.
- Ⓑ It explains the cause of a common dental problem.
- Ⓒ It provides an example of a group of people from long ago facing a dental problem.

2. Choose the piece of text evidence from “The History of Teeth” that BEST supports the statement below. Then complete the sentence to explain your choice.

Some dental treatments of the past were based on superstition rather than science.

- Ⓐ “But the only treatment available to Djed was to have holes drilled in her jaw to drain the goo.” (p. 13)
- Ⓑ “To scare away tooth-destroying demons, people might have kissed a donkey or walked around a barn three times while trying not to think about a fox.” (p. 14)
- Ⓒ “In ancient Egypt, people tried to close up gaps between teeth using gold bands or cords made from cat intestines, kind of like modern-day braces.” (p. 15)

I chose ____ because _____

3. A. Choose THREE pieces of text evidence from the article “The History of Teeth” that BEST support the statement below.

Before modern dentistry, dental treatments were often painful and dangerous.

- Ⓐ “Until the 20th century, most people had crooked and yellowed teeth.” (p. 14)
- Ⓑ “What’s more, barbers sometimes broke people’s jaws while pulling teeth.” (p. 16)
- Ⓒ “Then the tooth drawers would ride off into the sunset, leaving their ‘patients’ to deal with bleeding gums, fractured jaws, infections, and facial disfigurements.” (p. 16)
- Ⓓ “For centuries, people in many parts of the world thought cavities were caused by small, maggot-like creatures they called ‘toothworms.’” (p. 15)
- Ⓔ “Tough cowboys of the American West would weep openly as their diseased teeth were yanked out with pliers . . .” (pp. 13-14)

B. Select one piece of evidence from above and explain that does NOT support the statement and explain why not.

Evidence ____ does not support the statement because _____

4. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “Where Are All the Dentists?” in the form of a direct quotation.

- Ⓐ Many Americans don’t have access to dental care because they live in areas with very few dentists. Author Kristin Lewis writes, “People in these ‘dental deserts’ must travel long distances for an appointment, which is inconvenient and expensive” (17). This shows that many Americans don’t receive dental care because of how far away they live from a dentist.
- Ⓑ Many Americans don’t have access to dental care because they live in areas with very few dentists. Author Kristin Lewis writes, “People in these ‘dental deserts’ must travel long distances for an appointment, which is inconvenient and expensive” (17).
- Ⓒ Many Americans don’t have access to dental care because they live in areas with very few dentists. “People in these ‘dental deserts’ must travel long distances for an appointment, which is inconvenient and expensive.” This shows that many Americans don’t receive dental care because of how far away they live from a dentist.

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____

5. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “The History of Teeth” in the form of a paraphrase.

- Ⓐ The food we eat can cause cavities. “Scientists believe humans had few dental problems before people started farming grains like wheat and corn, about 10,000 years ago,” writes author Kristin Lewis. “That’s because grains break down into sugar, which causes cavities” (14). In other words, when sugar entered our diet, cavities followed.
- Ⓑ The food we eat can cause cavities. According to scientists, writes author Kristin Lewis, people had few dental problems before we began growing and eating grains like wheat and corn about 10,000 years ago. Grains, she explains, break down into sugar and sugar causes cavities (14). In other words, when sugar entered our diet, cavities followed.
- Ⓒ The food we eat can cause cavities. Scientists believe that cavities became a bigger problem after people began to grow grains like wheat and corn, which break down into sugar (14).

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____
