

Name: _____ Date: _____

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read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"The Pigeon Hero of World War I"

1. bioluminescent (bahy-oh-loo-muh-NES-uhnt) *adjective*; Something that is luminescent glows with light. TV screens, light bulbs, and stars are luminescent.

Some living things are *bioluminescent* (the prefix *bio* means "life"), meaning they can give off light. This ability to glow in the dark is caused by a special chemical reaction inside certain animals, plants, fungi, and bacteria. Fireflies are bioluminescent insects. Many jellyfish in the deep sea are bioluminescent.

2. battalion (buh-TAL-yuhn) *noun*; A battalion is one of the smaller units of the military, typically consisting of 100 to 1,000 people.

3. colossal (kuh-LAHS-uhl) *adjective*; Something that is colossal is extremely large. Blue whales are colossal animals. If you haven't checked your phone for three days, you might have a colossal number of texts waiting for you.

4. embattled (em-BAT-uhld) *adjective*; When used in a military context, *embattled* means "engaged in battle and completely surrounded by enemies" as in, "The embattled army finally surrendered." But *embattled* can describe anyone or anything surrounded by difficulties, conflict, or attacks.

5. emerge (ih-MURJ) *verb*; *Emerge* means "to come out or into view" or "to become known." Caterpillars emerge from cocoons as butterflies. You might emerge slowly from your hiding place during a game of hide-and-seek. New information might emerge that helps a detective finally crack a case.

6. innate (ih-NEYT) *adjective*; An innate behavior, ability, or quality is one that a person or an animal is born with—not something that is learned. Pulling your hand away from something hot is an innate behavior. Spiders have an innate ability to spin webs.

7. navigational (nav-ih-GEY-shuhn-uhl) *adjective*; To navigate is to find the way to get to a place when you are traveling. If your friend's mom asks you to navigate while she drives you home, she wants you to tell her what roads to take to get to your house.

Navigation is the act or process of navigating.

Navigational means "relating to navigation." Many cars now come with a GPS system built in as a navigational aid to drivers.

8. rampant (RAM-puhnt) *adjective*; *Rampant* means "wild and out of control." Imagine that a pair of goats get into your house and are running around like crazy, jumping on the furniture and knocking things over. Those goats are running rampant.

Rampant can also be used to describe something that is very common or spreading or growing quickly in a way that is difficult to control. A flu virus might be rampant in your school. Poison ivy might be rampant in your backyard. (*Rampant* is usually used to describe something unpleasant.)

9. telegraph (TEL-ih-graf) *noun or verb*; The telegraph was a system people used to send and receive messages over long distances starting in the 1830s. To send a message—called a telegram—you would write down what you wanted to say and give it to a telegraph operator. The operator would use a special machine to send your message in code—a series of short and long pulses—along wires to another telegraph machine. An operator at the other machine would translate the code back into words and have it delivered to the person the telegram was for.

As a verb, *telegraph* means "to send a message by telegraph," as in, "William's parents telegraphed him to return home at once."

Directions: In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"The Pigeon Hero of World War I"

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. rampant

- Ⓐ gentle Ⓑ out of hand

2. colossal

- Ⓐ enormous Ⓑ miniature

3. emerge

- Ⓐ fade Ⓑ appear

4. innate

- Ⓐ uncommon Ⓑ natural

Directions: For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

5. People would find the **telegraph** to be an efficient way to communicate today.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

6. When everything is going your way, you might say you are **embattled**.

- Ⓐ true Ⓑ false

Reason: _____

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

emerge navigational battalion bioluminescent
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7. The group of soldiers returned to their headquarters.

8. Some snails have the ability to light up. They illuminate their shells, flashing on and off as a way to distract predators.

9. The park's visitor center provides helpful tools for hikers such as compasses and maps.

