

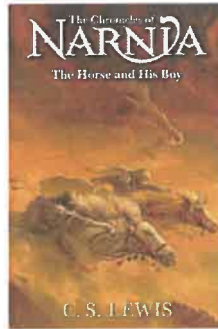


*For Students Entering Grade 5*  
*2026-2027*  
**Summer Reading Assignment**

**Welcome to 5th Grade! This summer, you will be required to read one chapter book, complete the following assignments, and complete one reading passage each week. Of course, you may read MORE than the required book this summer- the more you read, the more you know!! I am looking forward to seeing you in August. Mrs. Bruser**

**I. Required Book:**

*Horse and His Boy* by C. S. Lewis



**While you are reading this book, you will need to complete the following pages: (see attached)**

- 1. Reading Log**
- 2. Plot Diagram**
- 3. Character Analysis Worksheet**

**The Reading Log, Plot Diagram, and Character Analysis Worksheet are due on the second day of school. They will be included in your first-quarter literature grade.**

**\*\*\*We will be working with this book during the first semester. Please bring your copy on the second day of school.**

**II. Reading Passages:**

Read the five reading passages over the summer and answer the questions. Check off the passages as they are completed. The passage packet is due on the second day of school and will be graded as part of the literature course.





TITLE+AUTHOR



ACTINGS

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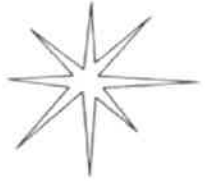
PLOT

*Diagram*

EXPOSITION



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



CLIMAX



ACTINGS

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RESOLUTION



# Character Analysis Worksheet

First, analyze the character you are assigned and write your findings here. Take notes as you read on the following characters:

**boys-Shasta and girls-Aravis.**

The questions above each box are intended as guidelines. Use evidence from the text to support your answers. We will use these for a project when school starts. **USE COMPLETE SENTENCES**

Character Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Actions

Character actions reveal their personalities. What does the character do? How does the character behave?

## Speech

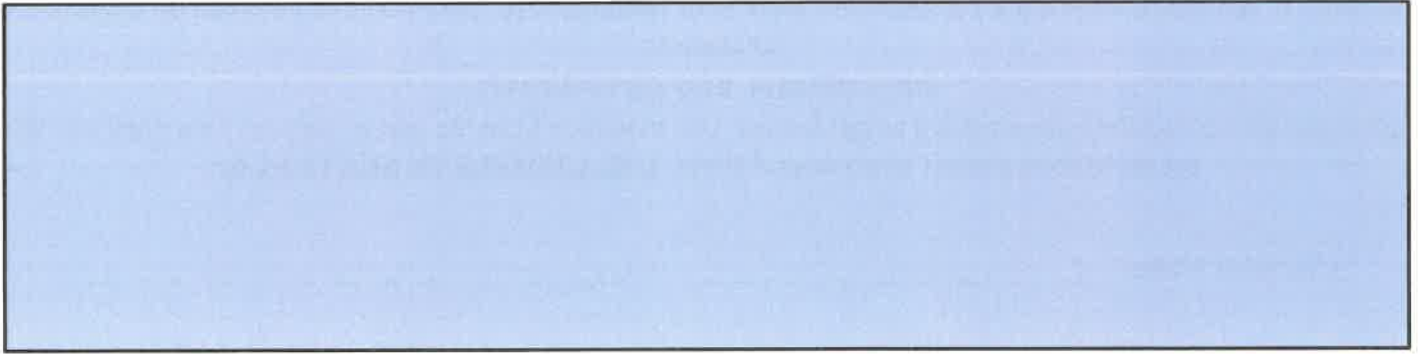
What does the character say? How does the character speak? Include a direct quote.

## Personality

List at least three personality traits this character possesses. (This is the only box you do not need to use complete sentences.)

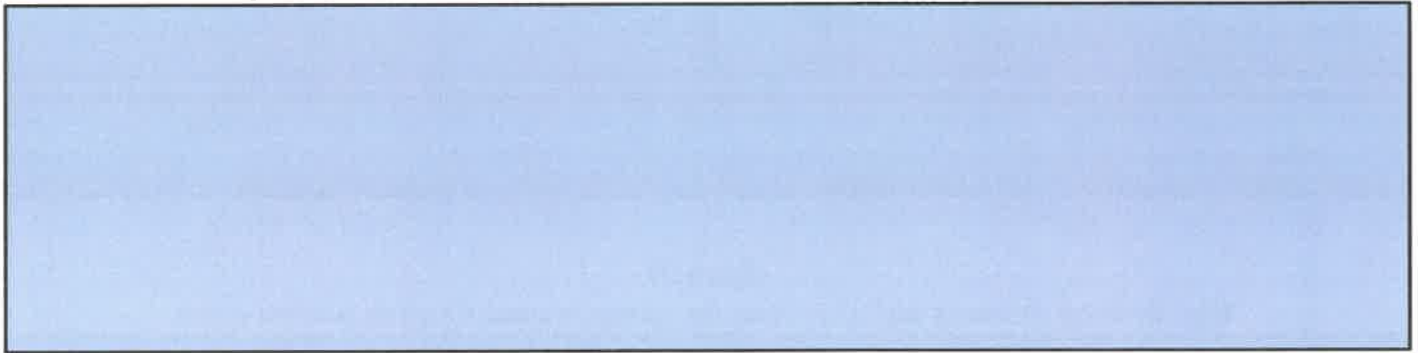
### **Appearance**

What does the character look like? How old are they? How does the character dress?



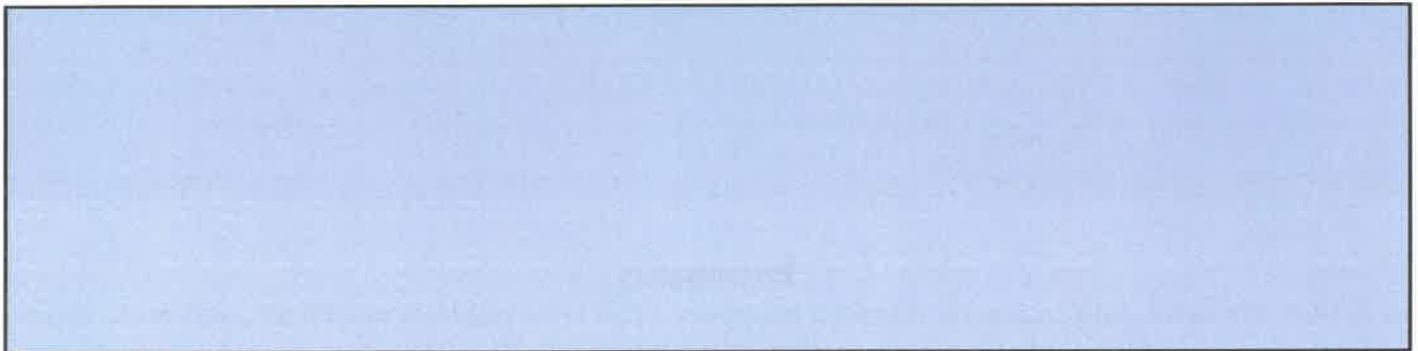
### **Effect on Others**

What do others say or think about this character? How do other characters feel in reaction to this character?



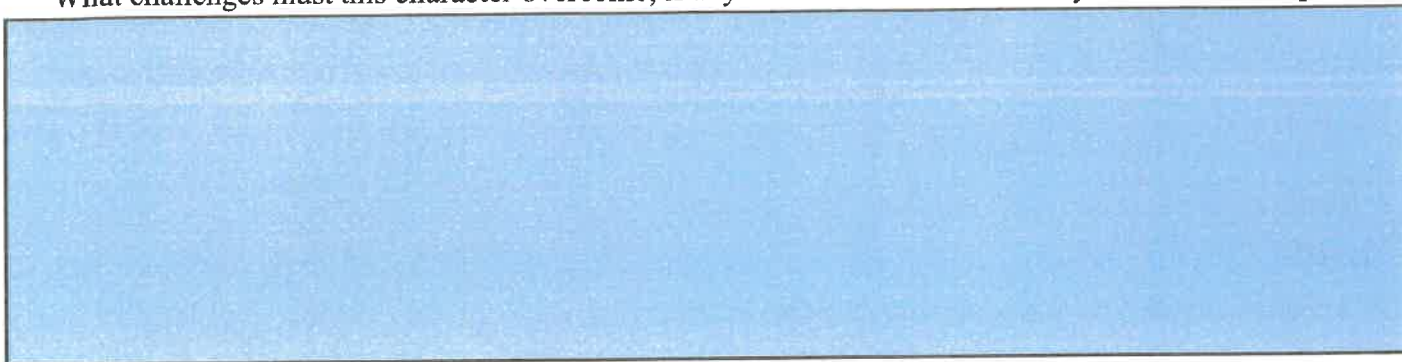
### **Conflicts**

Describe at least one internal/external conflict this character faces. Who is this character's enemy or adversary?



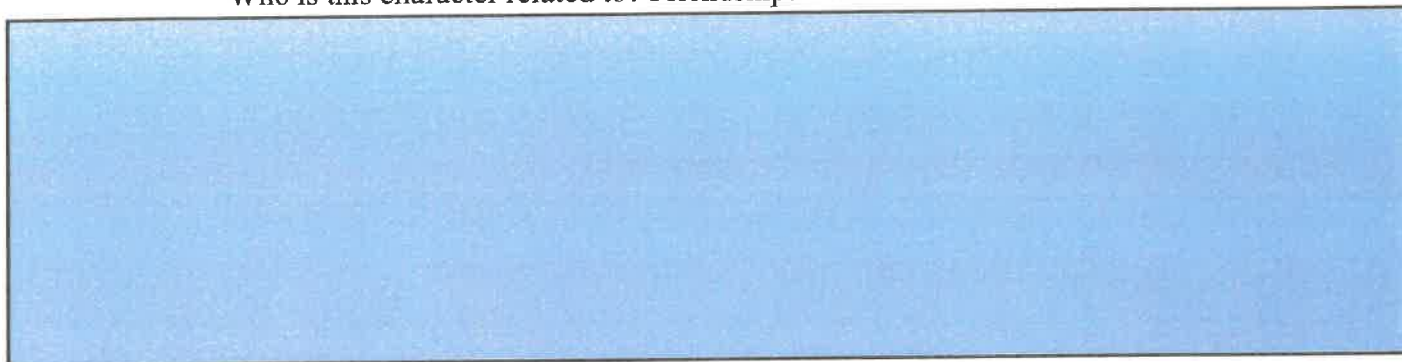
## **Challenges**

What challenges must this character overcome, if any? Has he/she overcome any obstacles in the past?



## **Relationships**

Who is this character related to? Friendships? Who can this character trust?



## **Reading Passage Check List-**

**Complete and check off as you go:**

1. Summer Facts- Week of June 8, 2026- \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Summer Solstice- Week of June 22, 2026- \_\_\_\_\_
3. Julius July- Week of July 13, 2026- \_\_\_\_\_
4. The Dog Days of Summer- Week of July 20, 2026- \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ice Cream Day- Week of July 27, 2026- \_\_\_\_\_

# SUMMER FACTS

Who wouldn't want to find out some of the most interesting facts about summer? Below are some of them.

According to meteorologists, summer extends for the whole months of June, July, and August in the northern hemisphere and the whole months of December, January, and February in the southern hemisphere.



The weeks between July 3rd and August 11th are called the "dog days". In Ancient Greece, people blamed Sirius (the Dog Star) in the Canis Major constellation for the high temperatures, the drought and general discomfort and sickness that occurred in summer.

The first day of summer is between June 20th and June 22nd every year. The first day of summer is called the summer solstice, and the day varies due to the Earth's rotation.

Hollywood is pretty busy during the summer as well as it hopes to earn a significant portion of the annual ticket sales through summer blockbuster months. Do you recognize any of these movie titles - Star Wars, Jurassic Park, E.T.? They're some of the most famous summer blockbusters of all times.

A universal summer treat is the watermelon, which is actually a vegetable. Watermelon is part of the cucumber, pumpkin, and squash family and consists of 92% water.

## Number facts:

- In the United States, over 650 million long-distance summer trips are made.
- Some of the most popular summer activities during the summer months include: shopping (54%), visiting historical sites (42%), national parks (21%), and going to lakes (17%).
- On average, each American consumes 15 pounds of watermelon annually.
- Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, Americans eat over 7 billion hot dogs.

## International

- In the summer heat, the iron in France's Eiffel Tower expands, actually making the tower grow more than 6 inches.
- In southern England, over 37,000 people gather at Stonehenge to celebrate the longest day of the year.

# AFTER READING — SUMMER FACTS

**Directions:** Answer these questions after reading the text carefully.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When are the "Dog Days"?

- a. between 3 July and 11 August
- b. the whole month of July
- c. the whole month of August
- d. Between 5 July and 21 August

2. When is the first day of summer in the northern hemisphere?

- a. between July 20th and July 22nd
- b. between June 20th and June 22nd between June 12th and June 20th between June 20th and August 22nd

3. What was the name of the Dog Star?

- a. Canis
- b. Major
- c. Sirius
- d. Solstice

4. What is the first day of summer called?

- a. Dog day
- b. Sirius
- c. Summer Solstice
- d. Memorial Day

5. Who blamed Sirius for the high temperatures and the draught?

- a. Ancient Greeks
- b. Romans
- c. People in the southern hemisphere
- d. Astrologists

6. Tick the statements that are true about Hollywood during summer.

- a. Hollywood takes a break during summer since most people spend more time outdoors.

b. Hollywood hopes to earn a significant portion of annual ticket sale through summer blockbusters.

c. During summer Hollywood spends more time shooting movies because the weather is better.

d. Star Wars, Jurassic Park and E.T are all shot during summer.

e. Star Wars, Jurassic Park and E.T are all summer blockbusters.

7. What vegetable is a very popular summer treat?

- a. the cucumber
- b. the watermelon
- c. the pumpkin
- d. apples

8. Circle the statements that are true.

a. In the USA there are over 650 million long-distance summer trips made.

b. Some of the most popular summer activities include hiking, camping and going to the cinema.

c. Americans eat over 7 billion hot dogs between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

d. During summer dog days, dogs are more thirsty and hungry.

e. In the summer heat the Eiffel Tower expands.

9. Why do so many people gather at Stonehenge once a year?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Can you list other interesting facts about summer?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

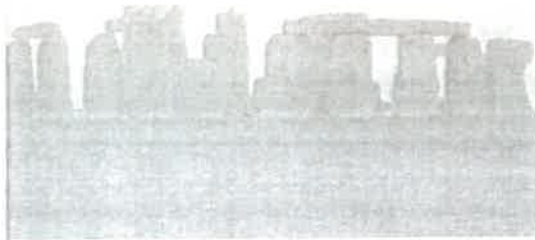
# THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

## What is the summer solstice?

The summer solstice is the longest day of the year when the Earth's North Pole is tilted closest to the Sun. There are two solstices each year. One in June and one in December. The time of the solstice is the same all over the planet, but the season depends on where on Earth you are (Northern or Southern Hemisphere).

The term solstice is made up of the Latin 'sol' meaning the sun, and 'sistere' which means make stand still.

In the Northern Hemisphere the June solstice is the first day of summer and the December solstice the first day of Winter. In the Southern Hemisphere, it's the other way round.



## Why are the days longer in summer?

There are more hours of daylight in summer because of how the Earth revolves around the Sun. In the Northern Hemisphere (the half of the world above the equator) the longest day is the 20th or 21st June. The opposite happens in the Southern Hemisphere, where the longest day is the shortest day in the Northern Hemisphere.

This is because the Earth is tilted. The half of the Earth tilted towards the sun is in summer and that part of the Earth tilted away from the Sun is in winter. You can see in the image below that each hemisphere of the Earth is tilted towards the Sun for one half of the year and away from the Sun for the other half of the year.

The equinox is the day of the year when the tilt of the Earth is 0 and there are equal hours of day and night. This happens twice a year, on the first day of Spring and the first day of Autumn. Equinox means equal.

## Celebrating at Stonehenge

Every year thousands of people gather at Stonehenge to greet the start of the longest day of the year. At each solstice, the rising sun reaches the middle of the stones, but if you happen to be passing by it really is an amazing sight to see regardless of the time of year

# AFTER READING — THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

**Directions:** Answer these questions after reading the text carefully.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the summer solstice?

- a. the shortest day of the year
- b. the longest day of the year
- c. the hottest day of the year
- d. the nicest day of the year

2. How many solstices are there and when?

- a. one - in summer
- b. two - in spring and autumn
- c. three - in June, December and March
- d. two - in June and December

3. Circle the true statements about the southern hemisphere?

- a. they celebrate the summer solstice in December
- b. the winter solstice is in December
- c. their summer ends at the end of February
- d. their first day of winter is in June
- e. their first day of summer is in January
- f. the shortest day is in June

4. Explain how come one day of the year is the longest, and its connection with Earth's position to the sun.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How long is one hemisphere tilted towards the sun?

- a. three months
- b. half a month
- c. for one day - the longest day of the year
- d. for half a year

6. What is the equinox?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How often does the equinox happen?

- a. twice a year
- b. once a year
- c. every month
- d. every summer
- e. every winter

8. Circle the true statements.

- a. The summer solstice occurs around July 21 in the Northern Hemisphere.
- b. The summer solstice in the northern hemisphere coincides with the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere.
- c. The way the Earth is tilted determines the seasons.
- d. The Southern Hemisphere is the one above the equator.
- e. The equinox happens when the tilt of the Earth is zero.
- f. The longest day in the southern hemisphere is in June.

9. When do people gather at Stonehenge?

- a. Every June 1st.
- b. Every spring
- c. during the equinox
- d. at the start of July
- e. at the start of the longest day of the year

10. Why do thousands of people gather at Stonehenge?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# JULIUS JULY



## Overview

July is the seventh month of the year, has 31 days, and is named after Julius Caesar. July was originally Quintilis, the fifth month of the year in the Roman calendar and consisted of 31 days. It was changed around 450 BCE when January became the first month of the year. Its name was changed during the Julian calendar reform in 45 BCE to honor Julius Caesar.

## Who was Caesar?

Caesar created the Julian calendar, which is the basis for the calendar we use today! Julius Caesar was a famous Roman leader. He won many battles for Rome and helped the Roman Empire grow. He wrote new laws and changed and improved how to rule provinces of the empire. The people of Rome thought he was great, but the leaders in the Senate (ruling council) did not agree. They were concerned that Julius Caesar ignored the law.

Julius Caesar saw that the Roman Republic was in trouble. Rome was overrun with crime and people were afraid to go out into the streets. People were out of work and taxes had gone up again. The Romans were angry with their government, but Caesar spoke to them. The Roman citizens believed and trusted him. They wanted him to fix the problems of Rome. They wanted him in charge and so Caesar gained power with the support of the people.

Caesar was becoming impatient with the Senate. He had his own army. Even though it was against the law for anyone to bring their private army into the city of Rome, he did just that. However, the Senate was afraid of his mighty army and ordered Caesar to retire. He refused to obey, and a war began between Caesar's armies and the supporters of the senate. Caesar was victorious and became the leader of Rome. On March 15, 44 BCE, Caesar was killed by members of the Senate, who believed no single person should have power over the whole empire.

## Other facts about July

- It is often the hottest month in the Northern Hemisphere.

- July and August are the only months named after people who really lived (Julius Caesar and Augustus respectively).

- January and July are the only 31-day months that are exactly six months apart.

# AFTER READING — JULIUS JULY

**Directions:** Answer these questions after reading the text carefully.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the original name of the month

July?

- a. Caesar
- b. Quintilis
- c. Julian
- d. Julius

2. When was the month's name changed?

- a. around 450 BCE
- b. in 45 BCE
- c. after 400 BCE
- d. in 45

3. Who created the Julian calendar?

- a. Caesar
- b. Julian
- c. Nero
- d. Augustus
- e. Juno

4. Circle the statements that are true about

Julius Caesar.

- a. He was a famous Roman leader.
- b. Caesar created the summer solstice.
- c. He died in 450 BCE.
- d. He wrote laws and changed the ruling of provinces.
- e. He was loved by the people and the Senate.
- f. Caesar helped the Roman empire grow.

5. Why was the Senate worried?

- a. that Julius Caesar was changing the laws two often
- b. that Caesar ignored the law
- c. that the laws Caesar wrote and improved were not appropriate
- d. that the laws did not apply to the poor

6. Why was the Roman Republic in trouble?  
(more than one answer is correct)

- a. it was run by Caesar
- b. it was overrun with crime
- c. people were afraid to go out into the streets
- d. the Senate took over
- e. people did not have where to work
- f. there were no more taxes to help the Republic grow

7. How did Caesar gain people's popularity?

- a. Caesar promised he would get rid of the Senate.
- b. He talked to them and told them he knew what to do.
- c. He looked trustworthy.
- d. Caesar had the biggest army and they were afraid.
- e. He had the Senate's approval.

8. What is your opinion of Caesar?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Circle the correct statements.

- a. People wanted Caesar to fix the problems of Rome.
- b. Caesar obeyed the Senate and its rules.
- c. The Romans were angry with Caesar.
- d. The Senate plotted and killed Caesar.
- e. The Roman citizens believed and trusted Caesar.
- f. The Senate believed that only one person should rule the empire.

10. What other facts do you know about the month of July??

\_\_\_\_\_

# THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



## Overview

It doesn't have to do with dogs lying around in the heat—the phrase comes from ancient Greek beliefs about a star. It actually had nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Instead, it turns out, the dog days refer to the dog star, Sirius, and its position in the heavens.

## History

To the Greeks and Romans, the "dog days" occurred around the day when Sirius star appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year.

Sirius is by far the brightest proper star in the night sky, which caused ancient astronomers to take note of it around the world. In Egypt, its return to the night sky became known as a precursor to the annual flooding of the Nile and was worshipped as the goddess Sopdet. In Greece, it became known as the precursor of the unpleasantly hot phase of the summer. Greek poets even recorded the belief that the return of the bright star was responsible for bringing heat and fever with it.

Sirius is 8.7 light-years away from Earth and has no effect whatsoever on the planet's weather or temperature. Although the star continues to return to the night sky in late summer, its position continues to gradually shift relative to the Sun and will rise in the middle of winter in about 10,000 years.

For the ancient Romans, the dog days of summer occurred from about July 24 to around August 24. Over time, though, the constellations have drifted. Today, the traditional timing of the dog days of summer is July 3 until August 11.

## Why are the "Dog Days" so hot?

The tilt of the Earth explains why these days tend to be the summer's hottest.

During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun's light to hit the Northern Hemisphere at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days during the summer. It also explains why the dog days of summer are from late January to early March in the Southern Hemisphere. The actual dates of the dog days of summer will vary by location, depending upon latitude and climate.

# AFTER READING — THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

**Directions:** Answer these questions after reading the text carefully.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why are they called "dog days"?
- a. because dogs are very lazy during the summer
  - b. because people eat many hot dogs during the summer
  - c. because we tend to lay around during the summer
  - d. because it refers to the dog star - Sirius, and its position in the sky

2. Why did ancient astronomers around the world take note of Sirius?

- a. Sirius was the brightest proper star in the night sky.
- b. Sirius was closer to Earth.
- c. Because Sirius shone brighter during the summer months.
- d. Because Sirius rose immediately after night fall.

3. When did Sirius star appear to rise just before the Sun?

- a. in mid March
- b. at the end of August
- c. in late July
- d. mid July
- e. in June

4. Where was the return of Sirius to the night sky known as a precursor to the annual flooding of the Nile?

- a. Greece
- b. Rome
- c. Egypt
- d. Britain

5. What did Greek poets record about the return of the bright star?

- a. It was bringing luck.
- b. It represented the goddess Sopdet.
- c. It was responsible for bringing heat and fever.
- d. It meant that monsoon season was approaching.

6. How far away is Sirius? \_\_\_\_\_

7. At what point will Sirius rise in about 10 000 years?

- a. at sunset
- b. in the middle of spring
- c. in the middle of winter
- d. it will not rise anymore

8. When were the "dog days" of summer for the ancient Romans?

9. Circle the true statements.

- a. The tilt of the Earth explains why some days are hotter than others.
- b. The actual dates of the dog days of summer will vary by location.
- c. The tilt of the Earth causes Sun's light to hit some parts of the Earth at a more direct angle.
- d. Now the traditional summer dog days are between June 3rd and August 1st.
- e. Greek poets praised Sirius and called it Sopdet.
- f. To the Greeks and Romans, the dog days occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise before the sun.

10. Explain how the Earth's tilt influences the dog days.

# ICE CREAM DAY

## Overview

Cool down with a scoop of refreshing ice cream on Ice Cream Day. Celebrated annually since 1984 on the third Sunday of July in the United States, the unofficial holiday celebrates everyone's favorite sweet treat.



The holiday was created by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. At the time, the holiday was supposed to be only celebrated once - on July 15, 1984. The ice cream industry, however, decided to continue the tradition every year since.

## Origin

Traditionally made by freezing a mixture of cream or milk, sugar, and some kind of flavoring, ice cream is often eaten after a meal as a dessert or as a mid-meal snack. As a treat, ice cream has a long and varied history, though very little is known about its origins. Some historians believed that the Chinese were responsible for inventing the earliest versions of this dessert, while others suggest that the Romans mixed snow with honey and fruits to create the first prototype of ice cream. Either way, the early types of ice cream were nothing like the ice cream we are familiar with today.

## Only for Royals

In the old days before refrigerators became common kitchen equipment, ice cream was a food reserved for the royals and the rich and it was only eaten during special occasions. The development of refrigeration technology quickly made ice cream a commonly enjoyed dessert around the world. Today, people can easily make ice cream at home with the help of portable ice cream makers.

## How to Celebrate?

Many ice cream parlors and stores have sales and specials on their products on this day. Visit one of them to celebrate this fun holiday.

Tired of the usual vanilla or strawberry ice cream? Get creative with your flavorings. What about adding mint to your strawberry ice cream? Or bacon bits to your caramel ice cream?

Don't like to have just plain ice cream? What about making some ice cream sandwiches or an ice cream cake instead?

# AFTER READING — ICE CREAM DAY

**Directions:** Answer these questions after reading the text carefully.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Ice Cream Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday since ?

- a. 1999
- b. 1984
- c. 1989
- d. 1988

2. Who created the Ice Cream Day celebration?

- a. Jimmy Carter
- b. Richard Nixon
- c. J.F. Kennedy
- d. Ronald Reagan

3. Who decided to make this celebration an annual one?

- a. the American people
- b. the Hallmark company
- c. the ice cream industry
- d. children

4. How can ice cream be consumed?

- a. as dinner
- b. after a meal
- c. before a meal
- d. as an appetizer
- e. as breakfast

5. How was ice cream traditionally made?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Who did historians think were the inventors of ice cream? (more than one answer is correct)

- a. Greeks
- b. Chinese
- c. Europeans
- d. Romans
- e. Africans

7. In the past, why was ice cream a food reserved only for royals?

- a. because it was too expensive
- b. because it was very rare
- c. because it had to be eaten during special occasions
- d. because there were no refrigerators

8. How do ice cream parlors celebrate this holiday?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Circle the correct statements.

- a. The Romans mixed snow with honey and fruits to create ice cream.
- b. The ice cream we taste today is very similar to the ice cream the Chinese made in the past.
- c. Historians know exactly who created the first ice cream.
- d. People today can very easily make their own ice cream with the help of portable ice cream makers.
- e. Reagan intended for the ice cream day to become an annual celebration.
- f. In the old days everybody could enjoy a nice ice cream during winter time.

10. How would you like to celebrate Ice Cream Day?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

