

6th grade

Day 1

Reading- Hitchhikers in the Bathroom

Language- Improving a Paragraph (Day 1)

Math- Reducing Ratios / Finding Ratios and Unit Rate

Science- Why are bones hard and muscles soft? Pages 9, 10, 11

Social Studies- Primary and Secondary Sources

Day 2

Reading- Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push

Math- Adding & Subtracting Decimals

Science- Why are bones hard and muscles soft? Pages 12, 13

Social Studies- Prehistoric Times: A Stone Age Family

Day 3

Reading- Technology is helping students with autism prepare for real life

Language- Using A and An

Math- Coordinate Grids

Science- What happens if you swallow gum? Pages 21, 22, 23

Social Studies- Egyptian Pharaohs and Their Achievements

Day 4

Reading- Baseball's Girl Umpire

Language- Using You're and Your

Math- Improper Fractions & Mixed Numbers / Equivalent Fractions, Decimals, & Percents

Science- What happens if you swallow gum? Pages 24, 25

Social Studies- Tools and Artifacts of the Stone Age

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Reading- Social media gives dancers freedom to connect directly with fans

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Math- Placing Decimals with Multiplication / Finding the Mistakes

Science- How do people give blood without running out of it? Pages 27, 28, 29

Social Studies- Primary and Secondary Sources

Day 2

Reading- Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push

Math- Adding & Subtracting Decimals

Science- Why are bones hard and muscles soft?
Pages 12, 13

Social Studies- Prehistoric Times: A Stone Age
Family

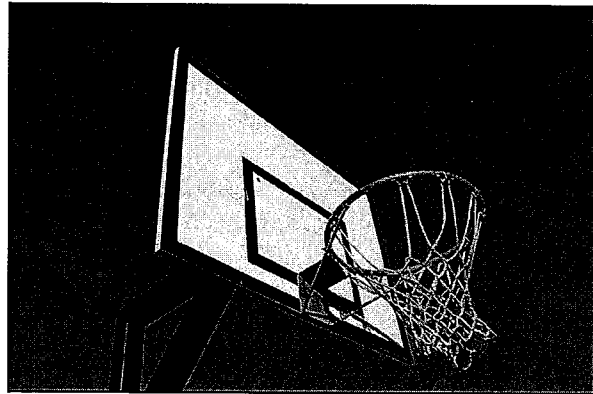
Name: _____ Class: _____

Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push

By Walter Dean Myers
2007

Walter Dean Myers (1937-2014) was an American writer of children's books and young adult literature. Myers wrote over one hundred books and received many awards, including five Coretta Scott King Awards. In this short story, a boy must find a new way to accomplish his dreams after his life changes. As you read, take notes on Chris' dad's attitude throughout the text.

- [1] You might have heard of my dad, Jim Blair. He's 6'5" and played a year of good basketball in the pros before tearing his knee up in his second year. The knee took forever to heal and was never quite the same again. Still, he played pro ball in Europe for five years before giving it up and becoming an executive with a high-tech company.



"Basketball" by Chilli Head is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Dad loved basketball and hoped that one day I would play the game. He taught me a lot, and I was pretty good until the accident. It was raining and we were on the highway, approaching the turnoff toward our house in Hartsdale, when a truck skidded across the road and hit our rear bumper. Our little car spun off the road, squealing as Dad tried to bring it under control. But he couldn't avoid the light pole. I remember seeing the broken windows, hearing Mom yelling, amazingly bright lights flashing crazily in front of me. Then everything was suddenly dark. The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital. There were surgeries and weeks in the hospital, but the important thing was that I wasn't going to be walking again.

I didn't like the idea, but Mom and I learned to live with it. Dad took it hard, real hard. He was never much of a talker, Mom said, but he talked even less since I was hurt.

"Sometimes I think he blames himself," Mom said. "Whenever he sees you in the wheelchair he wants to put it out of his mind."

- [5] I hadn't thought about that when Mr. Evans, an elder in our church, asked me if I wanted to join a wheelchair basketball team he was starting.

"We won't have the experience of the other teams in the league," he said. "But it'll be fun."

When I told Mom, she was all for it, but Dad just looked at me and mumbled something under his breath. He does that sometimes. Mom said that he's chewing up his words to see how they taste before he lets them out.

Our van is equipped with safety harnesses for my chair, and we used it on the drive to see a game between Madison and Rosedale. It was awesome to see guys my age zipping around in their chairs playing ball. I liked the chairs, too. They were specially built with rear stabilizing wheels and side wheels that slanted in. Very cool. I couldn't wait to start practicing. At the game, Mom sat next to me, but Dad went and sat next to the concession stand. I saw him reading a newspaper and only looking up at the game once in a while.

"Jim, have you actually seen wheelchair games before?" Mom asked on the way home.

- [10] Dad made a little motion with his head and said something that sounded like "Grumpa-grumpa" and then mentioned that he had to get up early in the morning. Mom looked at me, and her mouth tightened just a little.

That was okay with me because I didn't want him to talk about the game if he didn't like it. After washing and getting into my pj's I wheeled into my room, transferred to the bed, and tried to make sense of the day. I didn't know what to make of Dad's reaction, but I knew I wanted to play.

The next day at school, tall Sarah told me there was a message for me on the bulletin board. Sarah is cool but the nosiest person in school.

"What did it say?" I asked.

"How would I know?" she answered. "I don't read people's messages."

- [15] "Probably nothing important," I said, spinning my chair to head down the hall.

"Just something about you guys going to play Madison in a practice game and they haven't lost all season," Sarah said. "From Nicky G."

"Oh."

The school has a special bus for wheelchairs and the driver always takes the long way to my house, which is a little irritating when you've got a ton of homework that needs to get done, and I had a ton and a half. When I got home, Mom had the entire living room filled with purple lace and flower things she was putting together for a wedding and was lettering nameplates for them. I threw her a quick "Hey" and headed for my room.

"Chris, your coach called," Mom said.

- [20] "Mr. Evans?"

"Yes, he said your father had left a message for him," Mom answered. She had a big piece of the purple stuff around her neck as she leaned against the doorjamb. "Anything up?"

"I don't know," I said with a shrug. My heart sank. I went into my room and started on my homework, trying not to think of why Dad would call Mr. Evans.

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With all the wedding stuff in the living room and Mom looking so busy, I was hoping that we'd have pizza again. No such luck. Somewhere in the afternoon she had found time to bake a chicken. Dad didn't get home until nearly 7:30, so we ate late.

While we ate Mom was talking about how some woman was trying to convince all her bridesmaids to put a pink streak in their hair for her wedding. She asked us what we thought of that. Dad grunted under his breath and went back to his chicken. He didn't see the face that Mom made at him.

[25] "By the way" — Mom gave me a quick look — "Mr. Evans called. He said he had missed your call earlier."

"I spoke to him late this afternoon," Dad said.

"Are the computers down at school?" Mom asked.

"No, I was just telling him that I didn't think that the Madison team was all that good," Dad said. "I heard the kids saying they were great. They're okay, but they're not great. I'm going to talk to him again at practice tomorrow."

"Oh," Mom said. I could see the surprise in her face and felt it in my stomach.

[30] The next day zoomed by. It was like the bells to change classes were ringing every two minutes. I hadn't told any of the kids about my father coming to practice. I wasn't even sure he was going to show up. He had made promises before and then gotten called away to work. This time he had said he was coming to practice, which was at 2:30, in the middle of his day.

He was there. He sat in the stands and watched us go through our drills and a minigame. I was so nervous, I couldn't do anything right. I couldn't catch the ball at all, and the one shot I took was an air ball from just behind the foul line. We finished our regular practice, and Mr. Evans motioned for my father to come down to the court.

"Your dad's a giant!" Kwame whispered as Dad came onto the court.

"That's how big Chris is going to be," Nicky G said.

I couldn't imagine ever being as tall as my father.

[35] "I was watching the teams play the other day." Dad had both hands jammed into his pockets. "And I saw that neither of them were running baseline¹ plays and almost all the shots were aimed for the rims. Shots off the backboards are going to go in a lot more than rim shots if you're shooting from the floor."

Dad picked up a basketball and threw it casually against the backboard. It rolled around the rim and fell through. He did it again. And again. He didn't miss once.

"I happen to know that you played pro ball," Mr. Evans said, "and you're good. But I think shooting from a wheelchair is a bit harder."

1. the line marking each end of the court

"You have another chair?" Dad asked.

Mr. Evans pointed to his regular chair sitting by the watercooler. Dad took four long steps over to it, sat down, and wheeled himself back onto the floor. He put his hands up and looked at me. I realized I was holding a ball and tossed it to him. He tried to turn his chair back toward the basket, and it spun all the way around. For a moment he looked absolutely lost, as if he didn't know what had happened to him. He seemed a little embarrassed as he glanced toward me.

[40] "That happens sometimes," I said. "No problem."

He nodded, exhaled slowly, then turned and shot a long, lazy arc that hit the backboard and fell through.

"The backboard takes the energy out of the ball," he said. "So if it does hit the rim, it won't be so quick to bounce off. Madison made about 20 percent of its shots the other day. That doesn't win basketball games, no matter how good they look making them."

There are six baskets in our gym, and we spread out and practiced shooting against the backboards. At first I wasn't good at it. I was hitting the underside of the rim.

"That's because you're still thinking about the rim," Dad said when he came over to me. "Start thinking about a spot on the backboard. When you find your spot, really own it, you'll be knocking down your shots on a regular basis."

[45] Nicky G got it first, and then Kwame, and then Bobby. I was too nervous to even hit the backboard half the time, but Dad didn't get mad or anything. He didn't even mumble. He just said it would come to me after a while.

Baseline plays were even harder. Dad wanted us to get guys wheeling for position under and slightly behind the basket.

"There are four feet of space behind the backboard," Dad said. "If you can use those four feet, you have an advantage."

We tried wheeling plays along the baseline but just kept getting in each other's way.

"That's the point," Dad said. "When you learn to move without running into each other you're going to have a big advantage over a team that's trying to keep up with you."

[50] Okay, so most of the guys are pretty good wheeling their chairs up and down the court. But our baseline plays looked more like a collision derby.² Dad shook his head and Mr. Evans laughed.

We practiced all week. Dad came again and said we were improving.

"I thought you were terrible at first," he said, smiling. I didn't believe he actually smiled. "Now you're just pretty bad. But I think you can play with that Madison team."

2. a competition in which cars are driven into each other until only one is left running

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Madison had agreed to come to our school to play, and when they arrived they were wearing jackets with their school colors and CLIPPERS across the back.

We started the game and Madison got the tip-off.³ The guy I was holding blocked me off so their guard, once he got past Nicky G, had a clear path to the basket. The first score against us came with only 10 seconds off the clock.

[55] I looked up in the stands to see where Mom was. I found her and saw Dad sitting next to her. I waved and she waved back, and Dad just sat there with his arms folded.

Madison stopped us cold on the next play, and when Bobby and Lou bumped their chairs at the top of the key, there was a man open. A quick pass inside and Madison was up by four.

We settled down a little, but nothing worked that well. We made a lot of wild passes for turnovers,⁴ and once, when I was actually leading a fast break, I got called for traveling⁵ when the ball got ahead of me, and I touched the wheels twice before dribbling. The guys from Madison were having a good time, and we were feeling miserable. At halftime, we rolled into the locker room feeling dejected.⁶ When Dad showed up, I felt bad. He was used to winning, not losing.

“Our kids looked a little overmatched in the first half,” Mr. Evans said.

“I think they played okay,” Dad said. “just a little nervous. But look at the score. It’s 22 to 14. With all their shooting, Madison is just eight points ahead. We can catch up.”

[60] I looked at Dad to see if he was kidding. He wasn’t. He wasn’t kidding, and he had said “we.” I liked that.

We came out in the second half all fired up. We ran a few plays along the baseline, but it still seemed more like bumper cars than basketball with all the congestion. Madison took 23 shots in the second half and made eight of them plus three foul shots for a total score of 41 points. We took 17 shots and made 11 of them, all layups⁷ off the backboard, and two foul shots for a total of 38 points. We had lost the game, but everyone felt great about how we had played. We lined up our chairs, gave Madison high fives before they left, and waited until we got to the locker room to give ourselves high fives.

Afterward, the team voted, and the Hartsdale Posse all agreed that we wanted to play in the league. Dad had shown us that we could play, and even though we had lost we knew we would be ready for the next season.

Dad only comes to practice once in a while, but he comes to the games when they’re on the weekend. At practice he shows us fundamentals,⁸ stuff like how to line your wrist up for a shot, and how the ball should touch your hand when you’re ready to shoot. That made me feel good even if he would never talk about the games when he wasn’t in the gym. I didn’t want to push it too much because I liked him coming to practice. I didn’t want to push him, but Mom didn’t mind at all.

3. a jump ball in basketball, between one player from each side, that’s used to begin the game with the official tossing the ball in the air
4. when a player loses the ball to the other team
5. to go too far with the ball without dribbling it
6. **Dejected (adjective):** sad and depressed
7. a one-handed shot made from near the basket
8. a basic principle that serves as the groundwork of a system

"Jim, if you were in a wheelchair," she asked, "do you think you could play as well as Chris?"

[65] Dad was on his laptop and looked over the screen at Mom, then looked over at me. Then he looked back down at the screen and grumbled something. I figured he was saying that there was no way he could play as well as me in a chair, but I didn't ask him to repeat it.

"Sometimes a Dream Needs a Push" from Boys' Life by Walter Dean Myers. Copyright © 2007 by Walter Dean Myers. Used by permission of Publisher. All rights reserved.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following identifies the theme of the text? [RL.2]
 - A. Obstacles arise in life, but that doesn't mean a person should give up on what they want.
 - B. When a tragedy occurs, we should allow people to grieve in different ways.
 - C. Overcoming life's difficulties will always make a person stronger.
 - D. Children cannot succeed without the support of their family.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 - A. "There were surgeries and weeks in the hospital, but the important thing was that I wasn't going to be walking again." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "He was there. He sat in the stands and watched us go through our drills and a minigame. I was so nervous, I couldn't do anything right." (Paragraph 31)
 - C. "Okay, so most of the guys are pretty good wheeling their chairs up and down the court. But our baseline plays looked more like a collision derby." (Paragraph 50)
 - D. "Afterward, the team voted, and the Hartsdale Posse all agreed that we wanted to play in the league." (Paragraph 62)

3. What does Chris' mother mean when she tells Chris that his dad is "chewing up his words to see how they taste before he lets them out"? (Paragraph 7). [RL.4]
 - A. That Chris' dad wants to make sure he is clear.
 - B. That Chris' dad is trying not to be mean.
 - C. That Chris' dad is deciding what to say.
 - D. That Chris' dad doesn't like what he's about to say.

4. How does the scene where Jim uses a wheelchair contribute to the text (Paragraph 39)? [RL.5]
 - A. He is able to better understand Chris' experience in a wheelchair.
 - B. He realizes he isn't as good of a basketball player from the wheelchair.
 - C. He understands Chris' frustration playing basketball in a wheelchair.
 - D. He feels guilty for not working with Chris' basketball team sooner.



Solve each problem.

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11)
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12)
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Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



Solve each problem.

12.6

12.32

9.1

13.54

115.7

5.2

37.4

42.7

10.1

132.53

- 1) Jerry bought 6.95 lbs of cherry and lime jelly beans for his birthday party. If 1.75 lbs were cherry flavor, how many pounds were lime flavor?
- 2) Paige was measuring how much taller she got over two years. In the first year she grew 4.62 cm. In the second year she grew 7.7 cm. How much taller did she get altogether?
- 3) Vanessa downloaded two apps which were 17.73 kb total. If one app was 8.63 kb, how big was the other app?
- 4) Nancy was buying food for her birthday party. She bought a 52.93 oz bag of barbeque chips and a 79.6 oz bag of regular chips. How many ounces did she buy all together?
- 5) Tom was weighing the amount of candy he received for Halloween. If he received 8.30 kg and his brother received 1.8 kg, how much candy did they get all together?
- 6) John ate a snack with 80.79 total calories. If the chips he ate were 43.39 calories, how many calories were in the rest of his snack?
- 7) A computer programmer had two files with a total size of 93 gigabytes. If one of the files was 50.30 gigabytes, how big is the second file?
- 8) A weatherman was measuring the amount of rain two cities received over a week. City A received 3.74 inches while City B received 9.8 inches. How much rain did they get total?
- 9) During a science experiment, Mary found the mass of two rocks to be 41.4 grams and 74.3 grams. What is the total mass of these two rocks?
- 10) ~~Ned and Sarah were running a relay race. The race was 22.01 kilometers total. If Ned ran 9.41 kilometers how far did Sarah run?~~

Answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Solve each problem.

Answers

12.6	12.32	9.1	13.54	115.7
5.2	37.4	42.7	10.1	132.53

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Name _____

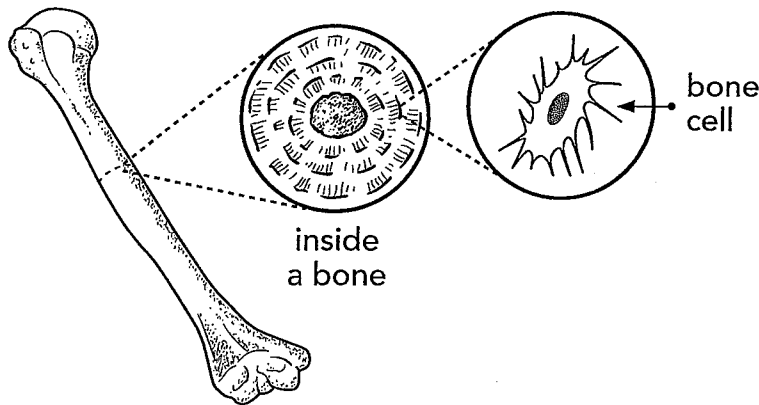
Day 4

Weekly Question

Why are bones hard and muscles soft?

Under a microscope, bone cells look very different from muscle cells. Bone cells are star-shaped and contain a nucleus and a thin ring of cytoplasm. Bone tissue is made up of layers of bone cells surrounded by calcium and other minerals. These minerals are what make our bones hard. Bones give our bodies shape and allow us to stand upright.

Hard bones and soft muscles work together to give us strength, form, and movement. Bones cannot move by themselves. They need muscles that contract and release to pull them into motion. But muscles can't contract and release without being attached to something hard and rigid, like bones. In order for our bodies to function, we need both bones and muscles.



A. Describe two ways that bone cells and muscle cells are alike and two ways they are different.

Alike: _____

Different: _____

B. Why do you think nutrition experts recommend that young people eat foods high in calcium?

Daily Science

Big Idea 1

WEEK 1

Name _____

**Day
5**

Weekly Question

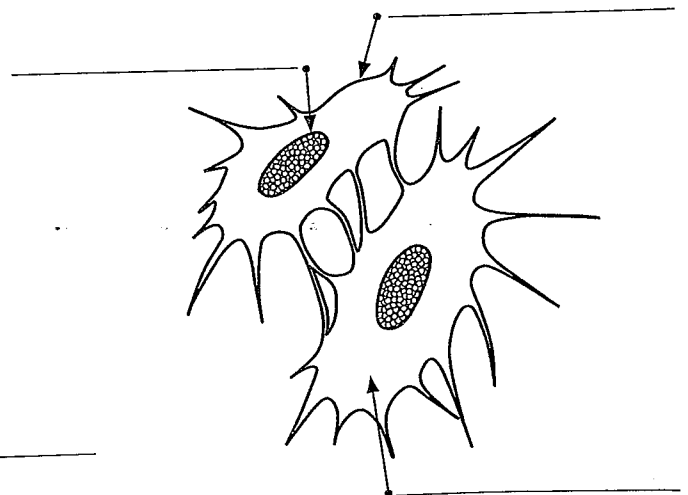
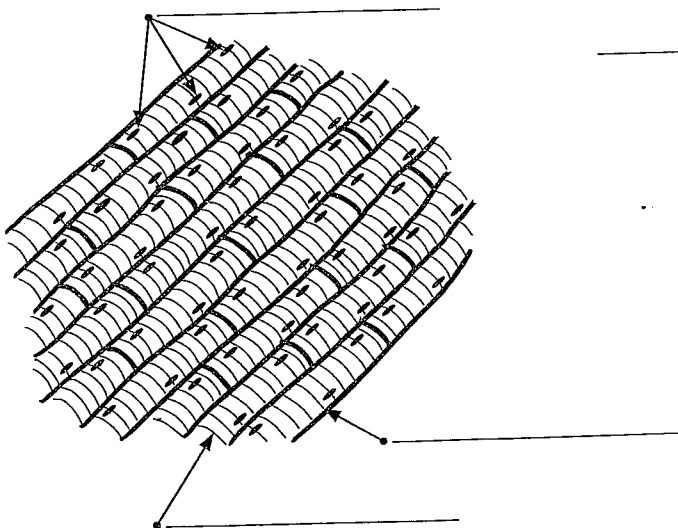
**Why are bones hard
and muscles soft?**

A. Use the words in the box to complete the paragraph.

membrane nucleus muscle tissue cell
cytoplasm tissue connective tissue

The smallest unit of life is a _____. It contains a _____ that directs all of the cell's activities. It also has a _____ that acts as a barrier between the cell and the outside world. Inside the cell, there is a jelly-like substance called _____. Cells that group together to carry out a specific function are called _____. _____ supports the body. _____ helps us move.

B. Label the *nucleus* (or *nuclei*), *cytoplasm*, and *cell membrane* of the muscle cells and bone cells.



Name _____

Day 5

Weekly Question

Why are bones hard and muscles soft?

Daily Science



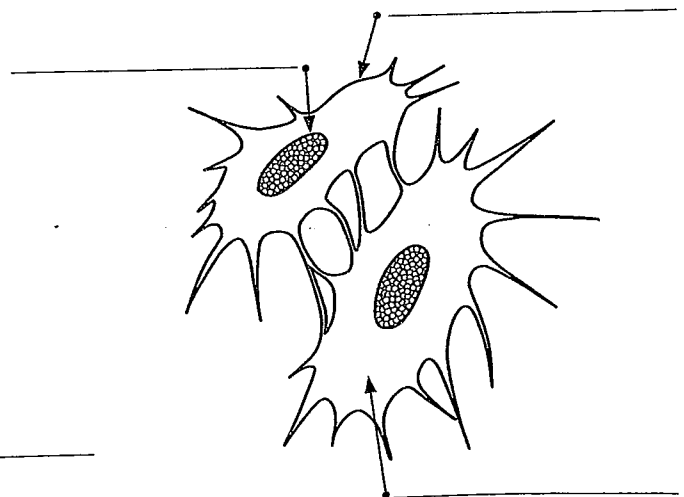
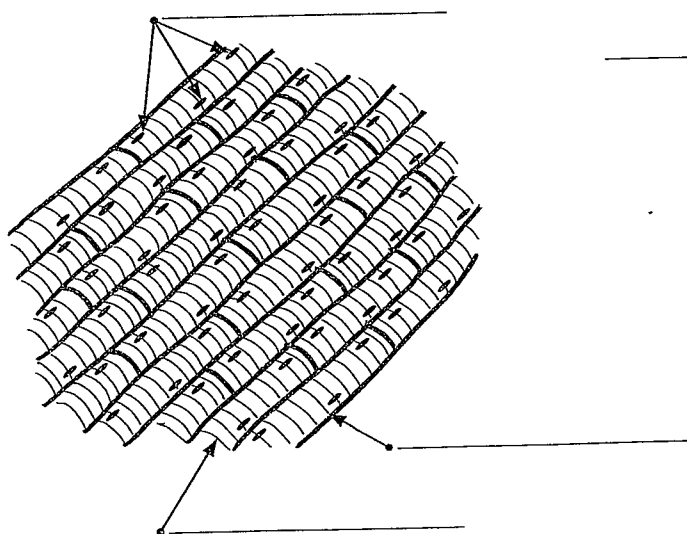
WEEK 1

A. Use the words in the box to complete the paragraph.

membrane nucleus muscle tissue cell
cytoplasm tissue connective tissue

The smallest unit of life is a _____. It contains a _____ that directs all of the cell's activities. It also has a _____ that acts as a barrier between the cell and the outside world. Inside the cell, there is a jelly-like substance called _____. Cells that group together to carry out a specific function are called _____. _____ supports the body. _____ helps us move.

B. Label the *nucleus* (or *nuclei*), *cytoplasm*, and *cell membrane* of the muscle cells and bone cells.





Prehistoric Times: A Stone Age Family

By USHistory.org, adapted by Newsela staff on 03.06.17

Word Count **592**

Level **560L**



An illustration of a Neanderthal family. From the public domain.

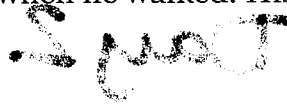
There was no written language 50,000 years ago. What did a family from the Stone Age look like? Did it look anything like the Flintstones?

Some scientists study the Stone Age. Old bones help them answer this question. Carbon dating helps them. They find out how much carbon is in the bones. Plants get carbon from the atmosphere, which helps them to grow. Humans eat the plants and get the carbon in their bodies and bones. When people die, their bodies stop taking in carbon and the carbon slowly leaves their bones over time. By measuring how much carbon is left in bones, scientists can tell how old they are. Cave paintings also help scientists find facts about Stone Age families.

Finding the Nutcracker Man

Our journey begins with *Homo habilis*. The Leakey family were English scientists living in Africa. They found the skeleton of the Nutcracker Man in 1959 in Tanzania. It had a giant skull. The bones were almost 2 million years old. Its face was wide and had big cheekbones. The teeth were four times bigger than our teeth. Nutcracker also had hands that began to look like ours.

Nutcracker was a hairy fellow that was bent over when he walked. His brain was large. But he was not smart.



Cave dwellers

Next on our journey are the Neanderthals. They lived from 30,000 to 100,000 years ago in Europe. Their brains were large, too. But they were not much smarter than Nutcracker.

Neanderthals did some things modern humans do. For example, they cared for their sick people. Scientists found the bones of a very sick man. He lived to be 40 years old. He should have died sooner. But people must have fed him and taken care of him.

Neanderthals also buried their dead. The dead were buried with tools, weapons and food. Maybe they believed that there was life after death. They may have thought there were gods, too.

They lived in caves and their clothing was made of animal skins. Fire warmed them and cooked their food. They may have even played music. An 80,000-year-old bone was found. It could be made to play the notes "do, re, mi, fa."

Neanderthals disappeared around 30,000 to 35,000 years ago.

"Man with wisdom"

Now we meet the Cro-Magnons. They were Homo sapiens, which means man with wisdom. We are Homo sapiens. Cro-Magnons lived mostly in France and Spain 15,000 years ago. They drew cave paintings. Some showed bulls raising their heads or buffalo-charging hunters. There were herds of reindeer escaping and fish swimming in rivers.

From these paintings, we know that hunting was important. People dressed in animal skins and antlers to sneak up on the animals. Groups of hunters worked together to capture many animals.

Cro-Magnon people looked a little like you and me. They lived on earth for thousands of years. But about 10,500 years ago these people disappeared.

A little more modern

People living in Africa began farming in the beginning of the Middle Stone Age. This was a new way of life.

The New Stone Age was about 10,000 years ago. People learned to make better tools and weapons, built villages, and raised animals for food and work. They were beginning to live like "modern" people.

Jarmo, in Iraq, was one of the oldest villages. It is in the Middle East. About 200 lived there 8,750 years ago. Catal Huyuk is in Turkey. It had 3,000 people living there 8,000 years ago.

Slowly but surely they changed into modern human beings.

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Smart

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Quiz

- 1 Read the paragraph below from the section "Cave dwellers."

Neanderthals did some things modern humans do. For example, they cared for their sick people. Scientists found the bones of a very sick man. He lived to be 40 years old. He should have died sooner. But people must have fed him and taken care of him.

Which question is answered in the paragraph?

- (A) How were Neanderthals like modern humans?
 - (B) Why did Neanderthal people get sick?
 - (C) How did Neanderthals learn to take care of sick people?
 - (D) Where did scientists find the bones of a Neanderthal man?
- 2 Select the paragraph from the section "A little more modern" that gives examples of different things that people did in the New Stone Age.

- 3 Read the second paragraph of the article.

Some scientists study the Stone Age. Old bones help them answer this question. Carbon dating helps them. They find out how much carbon is in the bones. Plants get carbon from the atmosphere, which helps them to grow. Humans eat the plants and get the carbon in their bodies and bones. When people die, their bodies stop taking in carbon and the carbon slowly leaves their bones over time. By measuring how much carbon is left in bones, scientists can tell how old they are. Cave paintings also help scientists find facts about Stone Age families.

Which of these sentences in the paragraph is the BEST definition of carbon dating?

- (A) Plants get carbon from the atmosphere, which helps them to grow.
 - (B) Humans eat the plants and get the carbon in their bodies and bones.
 - (C) When people die, their bodies stop taking in carbon and the carbon slowly leaves their bones over time.
 - (D) By measuring how much carbon is left in bones, scientists can tell how old they are.
- 4 Read the sentence from the section "Cave Dwellers."

Neanderthals disappeared around 30,000 to 35,000 years ago.

Which word could replace "disappeared" WITHOUT changing the meaning of the sentence?

- (A) changed
- (B) faded
- (C) vanished
- (D) scattered