BRILLA COLLEGE PREP
Middle School

Day 1

Mr. No and Miss Rose

by Amy Gerstin Coombs

1 Bobby came to live with us the same week we moved. He was a boy of five who never laughed. When I talked to him, he'd stare at me with dark eyes, absorbing every word but saying nothing. He seemed to feel even sadder and more lost than I felt.

2 At first Bobby and I spent our time sitting on the gray front steps and feeding bread to the pigeons. Eventually, though, I made new friends, too. While we hopscotched and jumped rope on the sidewalk, Bobby watched from the stoop.

3 In the house to our right lived an older woman I was told to call Miss Rose. I waved to her every morning as she caught the bus to her job, yet she never invited me into her home, and I never saw anyone visit her on weekends.

4 One morning I was sitting outside with Bobby when the front door opened and a large, black-and-white tomcat limped out. The cat managed to jump up onto the porch railing. Bobby gave a small gasp of excitement.

5 "You want to pet the cat?" I asked. He nodded his head yes. "Go slowly so you don't scare him," I said.

6 The cat sat there eying us as we approached, but as soon as Bobby lifted his hand, the animal leaped off the railing and scuttled behind a geranium pot. Just then the front door opened again, and out came Miss Rose.

7 "That there's Mr. No," she said. "Might take him awhile to cotton to you."

8 "Why do you call him Mr. No?" I asked.

9 "Used to tell him, 'No, no, don't do them naughty things' but he just turned a deaf ear! Stubborn old mule." She laughed.

10 "How old is he?"

11 "Bless me, how old . . .? Thirteen come this July, I believe."

12 Miss Rose laughed again, a loud, warm, ringing laugh like a song. "Well, we are old, we two! But he keeps me good company. Mr. No's like my own child."

13 "Yes, sirree, Mr. No thinks he's just like people—it's broiled fish or nothing for dinner every night!" She clapped her hands together. "Now how'd you like to pet him?" She scooped up Mr. No and held him out to Bobby and me.

14 We were friends with Mr. No after that, and Miss Rose began visiting Sunday afternoons. She seemed especially fond of Bobby, though she complained there was too much commotion in our house with all the kids running wild. Also, she complained about Mama playing the piano every night while we sang along.

15 "I like music," Miss Rose would say. "But your piano's smack-dab up against the wall to my bedroom, and I have to get my rest."

16 Pop figured Miss Rose was just used to quiet living and set in her ways. So he moved the heavy piano to another wall.

17 One Sunday during Miss Rose's usual visit, Mr. No came nosing around the back screen door. We called hello, and Bobby went outside to pet him. It was hot, and soon Bobby came in for some lemonade, leaving Mr. No meowing at the door.

18 But meowing wasn't enough for Mr. No. Rattling the screen, he jumped up and batted at the metal door handle with his paw.

19 Mama laughed and said if Mr. No wanted to come in that badly, so be it.

20 Bobby ran to open the screen door, and Mr. No slunk in. He sniffed the chairs and rugs, then examined the corners. Bobby sat on the floor and solemnly observed the cat's progress.

21 We turned our attention back to Miss Rose, who had been telling a story about her childhood in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

22 Suddenly I heard Bobby give one of his excited gasps. Mr. No had jumped onto Mama's piano. I looked at Mama quickly to see what she would do, but she sat there with an amused expression on her face.

23 Mr. No took one step onto the D key. *Plink!* Then another onto the A key. *Plink! Then plink plink plink plink*—he skittered across the keys.

24 Mama and Miss Rose burst out laughing.

25 "He's playing the piano!" Mama said.

26 We all laughed, but one laugh rose above everyone else's. It was Bobby's, high-pitched and jagged, as though rusty from lack of use.

27 He laughed and echoed Mama, "Mr. No's playing the piano!"

28 Miss Rose and Mama looked at Bobby, and then they looked at each other.

29 "I'll make you a deal," Mama said to Miss Rose. "You let me move my piano back to its rightful spot, and I'll let Mr. No come over and play the piano anytime he wants."

30 Miss Rose's eyes narrowed. "I need my peace and quiet," she said. "But I suppose a little less quiet is worth it to hear Bobby laugh."

31 Bobby ran over and kissed Miss Rose on the cheek.

7. After her first conversation with Bobby and the narrator, what does Miss Rose begin to do?

A play the piano again

B let Mr. No eat broiled fish

C visit their house on Sunday afternoons

D think about moving back to the Blue Ridge Mountains

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8. Why does Bobby probably not laugh at the beginning of the selection?

A He wants to have a cat.

B He is worried or unhappy.

C He is afraid of the pigeons.

D He misses the mountains.

9. What is one character trait that describes Bobby at the beginning of the selection? Use information from the selection to support your answer.

10. "She seemed especially fond of Bobby, though she complained there was too much **commotion** in our house with all the kids running wild."
Which word is an antonym for **commotion**?

A calm

B traffic

C yelling

D responsibility

11. How does Miss Rose feel about the piano in Bobby's house?

A She likes to hear the piano when she visits.

B She likes when the kids sing along to the piano.

C She complains that it keeps her from getting rest.

D She wants to make a deal with Mama about the piano.

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12. "Rattling the screen, he jumped up and **batted** at the metal door handle with his paw." What does **batted** mean?

A swung

B looked

C laughed

D screamed

Crack in the Liberty Bell

by Charlotte Foltz Jones

1 Before radio, TV, and daily newspapers, bells were an important part of a community. They warned of attacks by enemies; announced births and deaths; and called people to meetings, to worship, and to school.

2 In 1751 the Pennsylvania **Province** Assembly ordered a bell to be made and hung in the new State House. Unfortunately, the bell they received in September 1752 cracked the first time it was tested.

3 The bell was recast twice before it was hung in the State House **steeple** in 1753. It rang on important national occasions and to mark the birthdays and deaths of important people.

4 In 1835 the bell cracked again while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. It was muffled and rung several times after that, but in 1846 it was permanently silenced.

5 There is still debate about whether the bell's crack was caused by a casting error or improper handling during shipping. Whatever mistake was responsible, the resulting crack has made the Liberty Bell the most famous bell in the world. A cracked bell that can't be rung has become a symbol of America.

6 Today the bell stands in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. More than 1.8 million visitors see and touch it each year.

7

8 **Flabbergasting Facts**

9 The Liberty Bell weighs about 2,080 pounds.

10 It contains 70 percent copper, 25 percent tin, and small amounts of lead, zinc, arsenic, gold, and silver.

11 The name "Liberty Bell" came in 1839 from a Boston antislavery group called the Friends of Freedom. "Liberty" does not refer to America's religious or political liberty, but to African Americans' liberation from slavery.

12 Another mistake: On the bell the word "Pennsylvania" is spelled "Pensylvania." When the bell was recast, the spelling error was kept for **sentimental** reasons.

Word Bank

flabbergasting	astonishing or amazing
province	an area or region of a country
sentimental	to feel fond about something
steeple	a tower atop a building

1. Which of these statements is the main idea of the selection?

A The Liberty Bell was last rung in 1846.

B The Liberty Bell is an American symbol.

C The Liberty Bell was recast after it cracked in 1752.

D The Liberty Bell is one of the largest bells in America.

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2. How was the recast bell different from the original bell?

A The recast bell lasted longer than the original bell before it also cracked.

B The recast bell never rang in the State House but the original bell did.

C The original bell received more visitors than the recast bell.

D The original bell was used more often than the recast bell.

3. Describe why the selection is divided into two sections. Then, explain how the second section is different from the first, using an example from the selection.
Write your answer in the **Answer Document**. (2 points)

4. "The name 'Liberty Bell' came in 1839 from a Boston **antislavery** group called the Friends of Freedom."

What does the prefix **anti-** mean in the word **antislavery**?

A many

B again

C before

D against

Lesson 4

Compare and Round Decimals

Name: _____

Prerequisite: Compare Decimals

Study the example comparing decimals in a place-value chart. Then solve problems 1–5.

Example

Compare 0.6 and 0.59 using >, =, or <.

Write the decimals in a place-value chart.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
0	.	6	0
0	.	5	9

Remember that 6 tenths equals 60 hundredths.

Start at the leftmost place value and compare until you find digits that are different.

Ones: 0 = 0
Tenths: 6 > 5

The tenths are different. 6 > 5.

So, 0.6 > 0.59.

1 Compare 8.7 and 8.5 using >, =, or <.

_____

2 Use the place-value chart to compare the following decimals to 0.59. Find the decimals that are less than 0.59. Circle the letter of all that apply.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
0	**.**	**5**	**9**
0	.	0	7
0	.	4	
0	.	6	
0	.	5	5

A 0.07

B 0.4

C 0.6

D 0.55

Solve.

3 Write the decimals 1.24 and 1.3 in the chart.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths

Compare 1.24 and 1.3 using >, =, or <.

_____

4 Look at problem 3. In which places do you need to compare digits? In which place do you *not* need to compare digits? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5 Which change would make the statement below true? Circle the letter of the correct answer.

3.7 < 3.56

A Put a 0 in the hundredths place to change 3.7 to 3.70.

B Change the hundredths digit in 3.56 to 8.

C Change the tenths digit in 3.7 to 6.

D Change the tenths digit in 3.56 to 8.

Name: _____

Compare Decimals Written as Mixed Numbers

Study the example problem comparing decimals rewritten as mixed numbers. Then solve problems 1–6.

Example

Package A weighs 1.401 kilograms. Package B weighs 1.29 kilograms. Write an inequality statement comparing the weights of the packages.

Express the weights as mixed numbers with like denominators. Then compare.

$1.401 = 1\frac{401}{1{,}000}$ $\qquad$ $1.29 = 1\frac{29}{100} = 1\frac{290}{1{,}000}$

$1\frac{401}{1{,}000}$ is greater than $1\frac{290}{1{,}000}$.

So, $1.401 > 1.29$. The weight of Package A is greater than the weight of Package B.

1 Complete the steps to write an inequality statement comparing 2.087 and 2.15 using mixed numbers.

$2.087 = 2\frac{\square}{\square}$ $\qquad$ $2.15 = 2\frac{15}{\square} = 2\frac{\square}{1{,}000}$

$2\frac{\square}{\square}$ is _____ than $2\frac{\square}{\square}$.

2.087 _____ 2.15

2 Which statement and reasoning is true about the decimals 0.4 and 0.06? Circle the letter of all that apply.

A $0.4 > 0.06$ because $\frac{40}{100} > \frac{6}{100}$.

B $0.4 > 0.06$ because 4 tenths is greater than 6 hundredths.

C $0.4 < 0.06$ because $\frac{4}{10} < \frac{6}{10}$.

D $0.4 < 0.06$ because 6 hundredths is greater than 4 tenths.

Solve.

3 Write a number from the box to make each statement true.

0.007	0.070	0.072
0.068	0.608	

a. 0.07 = _____

b. 0.07 > _____

c. 0.07 < _____

4 Compare 5.269 and 5.038.

a. Write 5.269 and 5.038 as sums of fractions.

$$5.269 = 5 + \frac{\square}{10} + \frac{6}{\square} + \frac{\square}{1{,}000}$$

$$5.038 = 5 + \frac{3}{\square} + \frac{\square}{1{,}000}$$

b. Write 5.269 and 5.038 as mixed numbers.

$$5.269 = 5\frac{\square}{1{,}000}$$

$$5.038 = 5\frac{\square}{\square}$$

c. Compare 5.269 and 5.038 using >, =, or <.

_____

5 Look at problem 4. Why is 5.269 written as the sum of four numbers and 5.038 as the sum of only three numbers?

_____

_____

6 Daslyn has a piece of rope 2.085 meters long and another piece 2.63 meters long. Which piece can she cut to make a piece that is 2.5 meters long?

Show your work.

Solution: _____

Name: _____

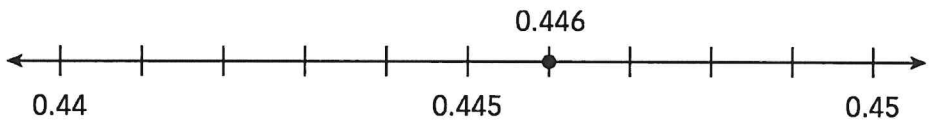
Round Decimals

Study the example problem showing how to round a decimal by plotting it on a number line. Then solve problems 1–5.

Example

Chiara runs 0.446 kilometer in one lap around the track. What is this distance rounded to the nearest hundredth?

Place 0.446 on a number line to see its relationship to nearby hundredths.

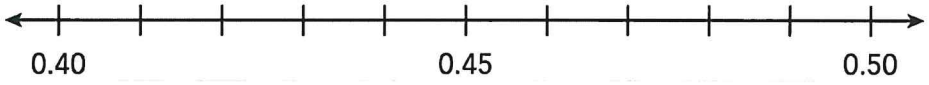


0.446 is between 0.44 and 0.45, and closer to 0.45.

The distance rounded to the nearest hundredth is 0.45 kilometer.

1 Round 0.446 kilometer to the nearest tenth by following these steps:

a. Complete the marking of the number line to show hundredths.



b. Label 0.446 on the number line.

c. Determine whether 0.446 is closer to 0.4 or 0.5. If the hundredths digit in 0.446 is 5 or greater, round up. If the hundredths digit in 0.446 is less than 5, round down. What is 0.446 kilometer rounded to the nearest tenth?

_____

Solve.

2 Aubra and Tony are rounding the number 1.65 to the nearest tenth. On a number line they see 1.65 is exactly halfway between 1.6 and 1.7. Aubra says to round to the greater value, 1.7. Tony says because it is in the middle, you can round to either value. Who is right? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3 Complete the table to compare 4.77 to nearby tenths.

To the nearest tenth, 4.77 rounds to _____.

Ones	.	Tenths	Hundredths
4	.	7	
4	.	7	7
4	.	8	

4 One gallon is equal to about 3.785 liters. What is this amount rounded to the nearest tenth?

Show your work.

Solution: _____

5 Look at problem 4. What is the greatest number of whole liters of water you could pour into a one-gallon container without it overflowing? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

Compare and Round Decimals

Solve the problems.

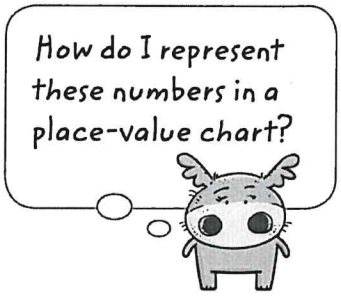
1 Which of the following decimals is greater than 0.66 but less than 0.68? Circle the letter for all that apply.

A 0.67

B 0.57

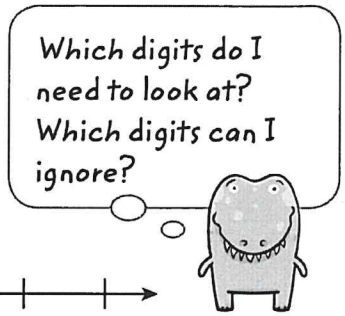
C 0.665

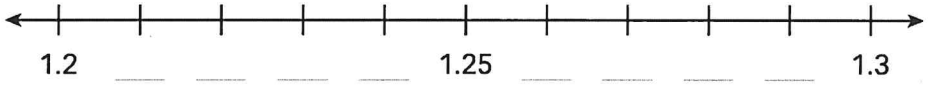
D 0.695



2 A carton holds 1.248 liters of fruit juice. What is this amount rounded to the nearest tenth? Use the number line below.

Show your work.





Solution: _____

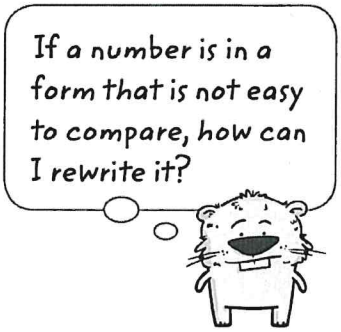
3 Which of the following comparison statements is *not* true? Circle the letter for all that apply.

A $6\frac{41}{100} > 6\frac{38}{100}$

B $6 + \frac{4}{10} + \frac{1}{100} > 6 + \frac{3}{10} + \frac{8}{100}$

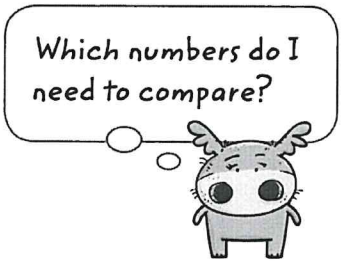
C $6 + 4 \times \frac{1}{10} + 1 \times \frac{1}{100} < 6 + 3 \times \frac{1}{10} + 8 \times \frac{1}{100}$

D $6.41 < 6.38$



Solve.

4 The lengths of four trails are listed below.



Oak Trail	10.653 kilometers
Maple Trail	10.592 kilometers
Pine Trail	10.732 kilometers
Spruce Trail	10.484 kilometers

Which trail is closest in length to 10.5 kilometers?

A Oak Trail

B Maple Trail

C Pine Trail

D Spruce Trail

Padma chose **B**. How did she get that answer?

_____

_____

_____

_____

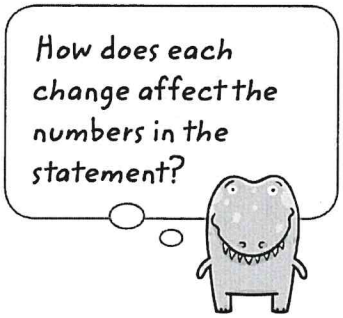
_____

_____

_____

_____

5 Which change would make the statement below true? Circle the letter of all that apply.



2.309 rounded to the nearest tenth is 2.4.

A Take out the 0 in the hundredths place to change 2.309 to 2.39.

B Change the 3 in the tenths place of 2.309 to 4.

C Change the 4 in the tenths place of 2.4 to 3.

D Change the 0 in the hundredths place of 2.309 to 4.

Imagine you are winning a Shine Award for one of our core virtues (courage, justice, wisdom, and self-control). Write the speech that Ms. Carley would give about you when presenting this award. What would she say about you? What evidence would she include to prove you deserve the award?

Lesson 5

Using Verb Tenses

L.5.1c: Use verb tenses to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions.

Introduction

Use the correct verb tense to tell readers when something happens.

- Use **simple tenses** to show that an action happens in the present, past, or future. The simple past tense is usually formed by adding the ending *-ed*.

Present	We listen to music on our MP3 players or cell phones.
Past	Years ago, people listened to music on record players.
Future	Someday, people will listen to music on other devices.

- **Irregular verbs** change in special ways to show past time.

Present	buy	sell	break	become	sing	go
Past	bought	sold	broke	became	sang	went

- **Progressive tenses** show continuing actions in the present, past, or future. To make the progressive tense, add a form of the helping verb *be* to a main verb that ends in *-ing*.

Present	A radio station is playing a song by a great singer.
Past	Earlier, the station was playing another song by her.
Future	Tomorrow, her band will be playing music in the park.

Guided Practice

Circle the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence.

HINT

In progressive tenses, the helping verb must agree with the subject.

- Use *am* and *was* with *I*.
- Use *is* and *was* with *he, she, it,* and singular nouns.
- Use *are* and *were* with *we, you, they,* and plural nouns.

1. Every day when I wake up, I _____ on my MP3 player.

   turn **will be turning** **turned**

2. Yesterday, I _____ a song when I dropped the MP3 player.

   am choosing **were choosing** **was choosing**

3. The music _____ and would not start again.

   is stopping **stopped** **will stop**

4. I said to my mother, "I _____ my MP3 player!"

   break **is breaking** **broke**

5. I _____ money for a long time to buy a new one.

   are saving **will be saving** **will be save**

Independent Practice

For numbers 1–5, replace the underlined verb with the word or words that make the sentence correct.

1 In the late 1990s and early 2000s, portable MP3 players <u>becoming</u> popular.

A will become

B will be becoming

C became

D was becoming

2 Soon after that, people <u>download</u> music from the Internet.

A were downloading

B is downloading

C will be downloading

D was downloading

3 Our neighbors still have an old record player, and they <u>listen</u> to a record on it right now.

A is listening

B will be listening

C listened

D are listening

4 Next month, my class <u>go</u> on a field trip to the Music History Museum.

A be going

B will be going

C was going

D went

5 I hope that we <u>see</u> some old musical instruments and recording devices there.

A am seeing

B will see

C is seeing

D were seeing

Monday: Science

Directions: *Set your timer for 45 seconds and complete the following Science Facts in 1 minute or less! Circle the last one completed in 45 seconds, then finish the rest. Use the word bank.*

1. The orbit of the Earth around the sun that takes one year to complete.

   _____

2. The term that refers to Earth spinning on its axis causing day and night.

   _____

3. The Earth's tilt and revolution cause what to occur

   _____

4. In which month does New York experience the longest daylight hours?

   _____

5. This object orbits the Earth roughly every 29 days.

   _____

6. In which month does New York experience the shortest daylight hours?

   _____

Word Bank

revolution	June	moon
erosion	rotation	glaciers
comets	December	seasons

Directions: Read each question carefully. Jot an idea before looking at your answer choices. Circle the best possible answer.

1. How does the length of daylight in New York State change from winter to summer?

   A It decreases.

   B It increases.

   C It remains the same.

2. Which Earth movement results in day and night?

   A erosion

   B deposition

   C revolution

   D rotation

3. About how long does it take for Earth to make three revolutions around the Sun?

   A three days

   B three years

   C three months

   D one year

4. The diagram below shows the Sun and the Earth. The letter X shows a location on Earth's surface.

Explain why it is daytime at **location X.**

_____

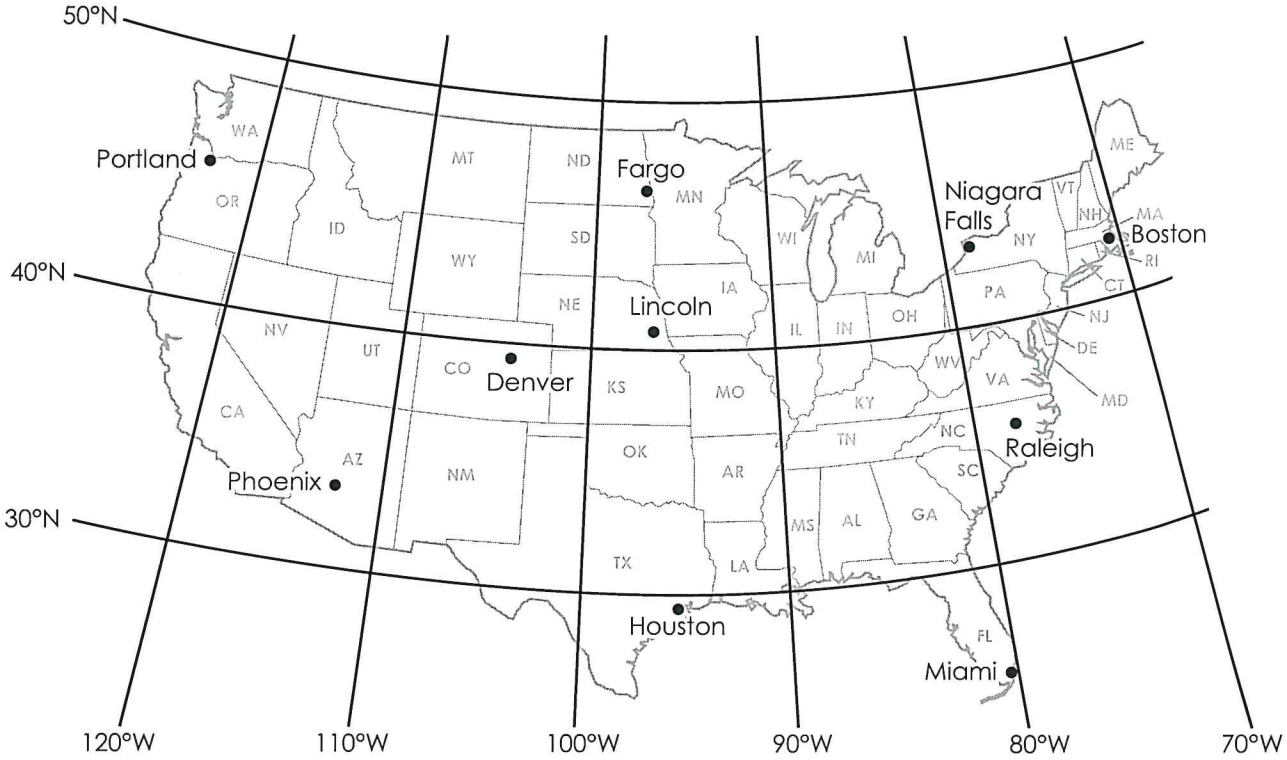
_____

_____

Humanities Day 1

Name: _____

Latitude and Longitude



Write the name of the city and state found at the given latitude and longitude coordinates.

1. 33°N latitude, 112°W longitude _____
2. 35°N latitude, 78°W longitude _____
3. 46°N latitude, 96°W longitude _____
4. 45°N latitude, 122°W longitude _____
5. 29°N latitude, 95°W longitude _____
6. 43°N latitude, 79°W longitude _____
7. 25°N latitude, 80°W longitude _____