

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 10

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Man Behind the Television

When you ask someone to name a famous inventor, you usually hear names like Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and Benjamin Franklin. Do you ever hear the name Philo Farnsworth? You probably don't, although he is one of the greatest inventors of all. Among his inventions is a very popular household item—the television.

Philo Farnsworth was born on August 19, 1906. He and his family lived in a small log cabin in Utah. At a very young age, Philo helped out on the family farm. His parents always found him trying to fix or build new things with odds and ends.

Philo's first attempt at becoming an inventor happened in a barn on the family farm. He built a machine to make electricity with a pile of buckets, wooden boards, and some small garden tools. Philo was on his way!

Philo loved to read his uncle's science magazines. One day he read an exciting article about the idea of television. Radios were in some homes, but television was only a dream. It was all he could think about. He wanted to invent a television.

Several years later, the answer came to Philo while he was plowing the fields. When he stopped at the end of the row, he noticed the perfectly straight lines that the plow had made. He thought the field was like a picture made of lines. He wondered if parts of a picture could be sent line by line to form a complete picture on a television. The lines would be changed into electricity to zoom through wires to a television.

Philo continued to work on his television idea as he completed high school and college. After finishing school, he got a job. He shared his idea with his two bosses. They gave him some money to do more testing. They believed in Philo.

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Reading

Finally, in 1927 Philo brought television to life. His ideas were successful! Immediately, large radio companies took notice of Philo and his ideas. They, too, wanted to make and sell televisions. Companies could make a lot of money with this new idea. A large radio company offered Philo money for his ideas. The company knew this was the only way they would be able to make and sell televisions. Philo agreed and decided to use the money to help him with more inventions.

Televisions were instantly popular. They made the radio company very successful. Philo watched as they grew into a strong company seen by many as “the inventor of television.” Philo continued to look for other possible inventions. He was successful, but he always felt that the television was his baby.

Philo Farnsworth died in 1971. Although his name is not as well-known as Bell’s, Edison’s, and Franklin’s, he is one of the greatest inventors of the twentieth century. Without his great dreams and hard work, large-screen televisions, cable news, and cartoons might still be dreams and imaginings of the future!

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Reading

- 1 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What is the author's perspective toward Philo Farnsworth?

- (A) He is a famous inventor.
- (B) He is an important inventor.
- (C) He is the inventor of cartoons.
- (D) He is the inventor of electricity.

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answer to part A?

- (A) A large radio company offered Philo money for his ideas.
- (B) Philo's first attempt at becoming an inventor happened in a barn on the family farm.
- (C) He built a machine to make electricity with a pile of buckets, wooden boards, and some small garden tools.
- (D) Although his name is not as well-known as Bell's, Edison's, or Franklin's, Philo is one of the greatest inventors of the twentieth century.

- 2 In this passage, how does the author organize the events in Philo's life?

- (A) in order of importance
- (B) in problem and solution order
- (C) in compare and contrast order
- (D) in the time order that they happened

- 3 Read the sentence from the passage.

He shared his idea during the meeting.

Which word is the best replacement for the word shared?

- (A) handed
- (B) divided
- (C) split
- (D) told

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Reading

4 Read the sentence from the passage.

He was successful, but he always felt that the television was his baby.

What does the phrase the television was his baby mean?

- (A) The television was very noisy.
- (B) The television was a lot of work.
- (C) He created the television and loved it.
- (D) He kept the television close and took care of it.

5 Label each event from the passage in the order in which it happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last event will be labeled 6.

- ___ A large radio company offered Philo money for his ideas.
- ___ Philo Farnsworth died in 1971.
- ___ Finally, in 1927 Philo brought television to life.
- ___ Philo's first attempt at becoming an inventor happened in a barn on the family farm.
- ___ Several years later, the answer came to Philo while he was plowing the fields.
- ___ Philo continued to work on his television idea as he completed high school and college.

6 Why did the author write this passage? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

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Writing

- 7 Read the sentence.

When the teacher asked John a question, him knew the answer.

Which sentence correctly fixes the error?

- (A) When the teacher asked John a question, it knew the answer.
- (B) When the teacher asked John a question, he knew the answer.
- (C) When the teacher asked John a question, her knew the answer.
- (D) When the teacher asked John a question, they knew the answer.

- 8 Read the sentences.

My mother went outside.

My mother watered the vegetable garden.

Which sentence **best** combines these two sentences?

- (A) My mother has a vegetable garden outside.
- (B) She went outside and she watered the vegetable garden.
- (C) When my mother went outside, she watered the vegetable garden.
- (D) When my mother went outside, my mother watered the vegetable garden.

- 9 Fiona is revising an essay she wrote about taking a trip. Read the paragraph. Then, underline **two** words that are spelled incorrectly.

One day, I want to travel around the woarld. I will serch the Internet to find what country I should visit first. However, I think it will be France because they always wear the most current fashions. To get ready, I will start taking French lessons this summer.

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Writing

- 10 Leo wrote a paragraph about caring for a pet hamster. Read his paragraph and complete the task that follows.

Hamsters are easy to care for. They need something to drink. So always check the bottle. They also need food. Check it each day. Finally, they like a place to sleep. Hamsters are good pets.

Revise Leo's paragraph. Include precise language about caring for a pet hamster.
