

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 4

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Centuries of Singing!

Do you remember playing “Pat-a-Cake” when you were very young?

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake
Baker’s man.
Bake me a cake
As fast as you can.
Roll it, and pat it
And mark it with a “B”
And put it in the oven
For Baby and me.

Parents have been repeating these lines for centuries while clapping, rolling, and patting their hands. And babies have been giggling over them just as long. “Pat-a-Cake” has been traced back to 1698 and a British writer and poet named Thomas D’Urfey.

People often try to find hidden meanings in rhymes and clapping games, including this one. However, most of these rhymes have been passed down through many generations. It’s difficult to be sure of their sources or original meanings. For example, some people think the “baker’s man” in this poem refers to the Great London Fire of 1666. Apparently, the fire began at a bakery. Yet there is no evidence to show a connection between the fire and the baker’s man in “Pat-a-Cake.”

Have you sung “Here We Go ’Round the Mulberry Bush”? This song also began in Great Britain and was first recorded about 1850. Here are two verses:

Here we go ’round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush.
Here we go ’round the mulberry bush
So early in the morning.

This is the way we wash our face,
wash our face, wash our face.
This is the way we wash our face
So early in the morning.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

The next verses sing about combing hair, brushing teeth, and so on. The last line once was “on a cold and frosty morning.” This line is important because some people think this song is about when England attempted to produce silk in the 18th century. Making silk involved silkworms that thrive on mulberry trees. (Mulberries actually grow on trees, not bushes.) Mulberry trees cannot survive England’s cold winters, so the project failed. The combination of mulberry bushes and cold mornings might be a reference to the silkworms—or maybe not. Often people attach meanings to songs that are simply words and phrases strung together. The lines and verses in one song might be taken from several sources.

When you were a little older, you might have learned the clapping game “Miss Mary Mack.” Below is one version of it. Read it aloud so you can hear the rhythm.

Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack
All dressed in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.
She asked her mother, mother, mother
For fifty cents, cents, cents
To see the elephants, elephants, elephants
Jump the fence, fence, fence.
They jumped so high, high, high
They reached the sky, sky, sky
And didn’t come back, back, back
Till the 4th of July, ly, ly!

Some think that “Miss Mary Mack” refers to the USS *Merrimack*. This United States warship took part in the Civil War in the 1860s. It was black and had silver rivets, or metal pins, holding its plates together. Would the rivets look like rows of silver buttons down the black ship? This song probably began in the United States because of the reference to July 4th.

When you were younger, did you ever sing “Ring Around the Rosy”? Read the words:

Ring around the rosy,
Pocket full of posies
Ashes, ashes,
All fall down!

This song was first published in the nursery rhyme book *Mother Goose* in 1881. It might contain references to the London Plague of 1665. However, some researchers trace this song back only to the 18th century, long after the plague. So maybe connecting “Ring Around the Rosy” to the plague is just someone’s imagination!

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Singing and clapping games are played worldwide, from Africa to Cambodia to Brazil to Great Britain. The verses that children sing are in their own languages, of course, so the rhythm and the rhyming are lost when they are translated into English.

For all children, the rhythm and repetition in singing and clapping games are fun. Who can learn a complicated routine first? Who can do it fastest? How many players can do a clapping routine in perfect unison? Who can make up a new verse?

In fact, most of these singing games are very old. Few new ones are emerging. Competition from television, video games, smartphones, and other methods of electronic communication may be contributing to the decline of these singing games. Yet you can still hear children recite them cheerfully on playgrounds around the world!

1 Read the words for “Miss Mary Mack” again. What part of the song has the **greatest** effect on the rhythm of the song?

- (A) the short words
- (B) the rhyming words
- (C) the repeated words
- (D) the descriptive words

2 Label each event from the text in the order in which it happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last event will be labeled 4.

___ The ship that “Miss Mary Mack” may have been written about was in use.

___ “Pat-a-Cake” was written.

___ “Ring Around the Rosy” was published.

___ The song “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush” was recorded.

3 Which of the following contributes to the pacing in “Pat-a-Cake”?

- (A) the funny words
- (B) the rhyming words
- (C) the instruction words
- (D) the descriptive words

Name _____ Date _____

4 Label each event from the text in the order in which it happened. The first event will be labeled 1, and the last event will be labeled 4.

- ___ the London Plague
- ___ England's silk production
- ___ the Great London Fire
- ___ the Civil War

5 Read the sentences from the text.

Competition from television, video games, smartphones, and other methods of electronic communication may be contributing to the decline of these singing games. Yet you can still hear children recite them cheerfully on playgrounds around the world!

What does the word cheerfully **most likely** mean?

- (A) supporting a sport team
- (B) with a full stomach
- (C) filled with joy
- (D) eager

6 The author included the lyrics of four clapping and singing games in the text. Explain how including these lyrics affected the pacing of the text.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Which sentence is correct?
- (A) My Uncle is in the FBI.
 - (B) My sister's teacher is ms. Santos.
 - (C) Do not forget to watch the Big Game on Sunday.
 - (D) Go north on State Street and then turn left on Big Walnut Road.
- 8 Which of the following sentences is correct?
- (A) For Science class, I wrote a report on north American mammals.
 - (B) Has your Family ever gone on a vacation to the Grand Canyon?
 - (C) Does that Football Team belong to the NCAA?
 - (D) The first capital of our state was Chillicothe.
- 9 Choose the sentence that is written correctly.
- (A) Last Tuesday, I gathered my courage and signed up for our School's tennis team.
 - (B) My mother moved to this country many years ago from Puerto Rico.
 - (C) My little brother Henry loves to go on Field Trips!
 - (D) My Cousin loves to visit us in North Carolina!
- 10 Read the paragraph. Underline the word that is spelled incorrectly.

Every morning, Julius did the same thing. After breakfast, he practiced playing his flute for an hour. He stood in front of the window to practice so he would have a view of the fruit trees outside. Sometimes, he would see the mail carrier following her daily route. This routine helped Julius prepare for another day.