Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the biography “Boss of the Plains: The Hat that Won the West.”

1. Read this sentence from the biography.
   
   It was 1859, and St. Joe’s streets were bustling and crammed with wagons, mules, pack dogs, and adventurers bound for the frontier.

   What does the word adventurer mean?
   A. an exciting trip
   B. a kind of wagon
   C. a story about an adventure
   D. a person who seeks adventure

2. Read this sentence from the biography.
   
   Pickings in the Colorado goldfields were slim, and after a year of digging, John had little money to show for it.

   What does the word goldfields mean?
   F. large holes in the ground
   G. flat areas where the dirt is yellow
   H. workshops where gold is processed
   I. areas of land where gold can be found

3. Why did John decide to go west?

   A. He wanted to sell hats there.
   B. He was sick with tuberculosis.
   C. His friends were going to Pikes Peak.
   D. His hat store had gone out of business.
Look at this chart of information from “Boss of the Plains.”

How John Makes Felt

1. Piles fur on blanket.  →  2. Puffs fur into an even layer.

3.  →  4. Dips in boiling water

Which phrase belongs in the empty box?

- F) Shaves off fur
- G) Sprays fur with water
- H) Spreads out a blanket
- I) Ties strip of hide on stick

What are some of the ways people used the Boss of the Plains? Use details and information from the biography to support your answer.
Use the information in the biography and the picture of the hatmakers’ workshop to answer this question. What are some of the tools that hatmakers used to make hats?

A. steam and rabbit skins  
B. derbies and homburgs  
C. wool and wooden stools  
D. scissors and wooden forms

How did John help the Pikes Peakers?

F. He made felt for a tent.  
G. He made hats for them.  
H. He carried their supplies.  
I. He lead them to Colorado.

Which sentence BEST tells what the biography is about?

A. John Stetson did not make much money mining gold, so he went back to New Jersey.  
B. John Stetson got tuberculosis, but he was cured when he went out west and became a gold miner.  
C. John Stetson traveled out west and later invented a useful new hat for cowboys and pioneers.  
D. John Stetson grew up making hats in New Jersey, but his dreams came true when he traveled out west.

How was the Boss of the Plains DIFFERENT from other hats?

F. It cost less.  
G. It was made of felt.  
H. It was easier to make.  
I. It had a very wide brim.
According to “Boss of the Plains,” everyone in the Old West wore hats as protection from the sun. What is MOST LIKELY the reason fewer people wear hats for sun protection today than they did back then? Use details and information from the biography to support your answer.

**READ**

**THINK**

**EXPLAIN**
Now answer Numbers 1 through 10. Base your answers on the biography “Boss of the Plains: The Hat that Won the West.”

1 Read this sentence from the biography.

   It was 1859, and St. Joe’s streets were bustling and crammed with wagons, mules, pack dogs, and adventurers bound for the frontier.

What does the word adventurer mean?

A an exciting trip
B a kind of wagon
C a story about an adventure
D a person who seeks adventure

(LA.4.1.6.7)

2 Read this sentence from the biography.

   Pickings in the Colorado goldfields were slim, and after a year of digging, John had little money to show for it.

What does the word goldfields mean?

F large holes in the ground
G flat areas where the dirt is yellow
H workshops where gold is processed
I areas of land where gold can be found

(LA.4.1.6.5)

3 Why did John decide to go west?

A He wanted to sell hats there.
B He was sick with tuberculosis.
C His friends were going to Pikes Peak.
D His hat store had gone out of business.

(LA.4.1.7.4)
Look at this chart of information from “Boss of the Plains.”

How John Makes Felt

1. Piles fur on blanket. 2. Puffs fur into an even layer. 4. Dips in boiling water

3. Which phrase belongs in the empty box?
   F. Shaves off fur
   G. Sprays fur with water
   H. Spreads out a blanket
   I. Ties strip of hide on stick

Sample 2-point response: People used the Boss of the Plains in many different ways. They wore the hat to protect them from sun and rain. They could also use it to fan a fire or to carry water or food.
Selection 3: Boss of the Plains: The Hat that Won the West

Name ________________________________

6 Use the information in the biography and the picture of the hatmakers’ workshop to answer this question. What are some of the tools that hatmakers used to make hats?

A steam and rabbit skins
B derbies and homburgs
C wool and wooden stools
D scissors and wooden forms

(LA.4.2.2.1)

7 How did John help the Pikes Peakers?

F He made felt for a tent.
G He made hats for them.
H He carried their supplies.
I He lead them to Colorado.

(LA.4.2.2.2)

8 Which sentence BEST tells what the biography is about?

A John Stetson did not make much money mining gold, so he went back to New Jersey.
B John Stetson got tuberculosis, but he was cured when he went out west and became a gold miner.
C John Stetson traveled out west and later invented a useful new hat for cowboys and pioneers.
D John Stetson grew up making hats in New Jersey, but his dreams came true when he traveled out west.

(LA.4.1.7.6)

9 How was the Boss of the Plains DIFFERENT from other hats?

F It cost less.
G It was made of felt.
H It was easier to make.
I It had a very wide brim.

(LA.4.1.7.5)
According to “Boss of the Plains,” everyone in the Old West wore hats as protection from the sun. What is MOST LIKELY the reason fewer people wear hats for sun protection today than they did back then? Use details and information from the biography to support your answer.

Sample 4-point response: There are several possible reasons why fewer people wear hats as protection from the sun today. One reason is because they don’t spend very much time outside. The settlers of the American West spent lots of time outside, so they needed more protection. Another reason is that today, people can wear sun block and sunglasses. Those did not exist back then, so people had to wear hats.