



Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

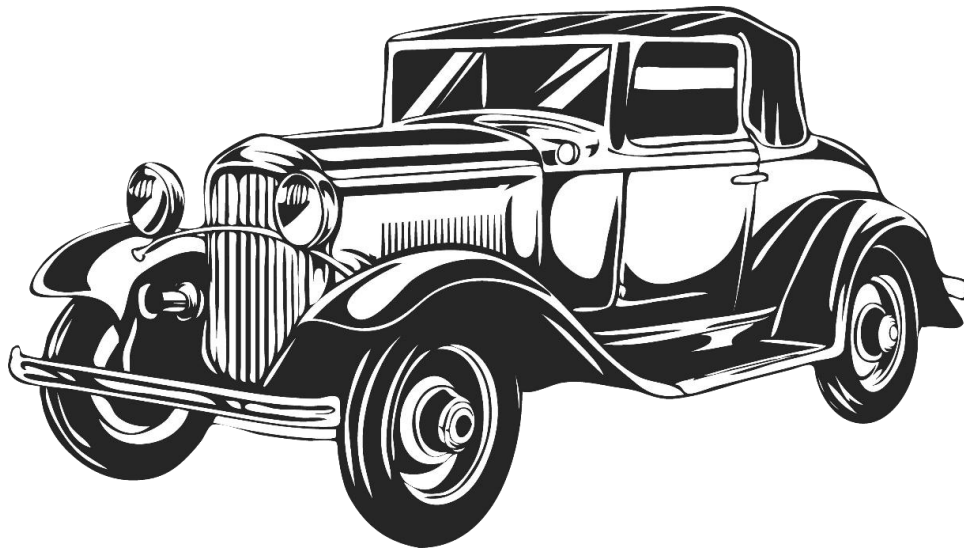
Henry Ford

Henry Ford is famous for making cars easier for most people to buy. He did this by producing the cars using an assembly line.

Henry Ford was born in 1863 in Michigan. He had 4 siblings, and his family owned a farm. He worked on the farm when he was young, but he soon discovered that he loved taking things apart to see how they worked, then putting them back together again. He worked on watches a lot, and ended up helping many people fix their watches. In 1879, when he was 16 years old, he moved to Detroit to start working with machines, though he did come home and work on the farm a little, too.

Ford got married to Clara Bryant in 1888, and worked on a sawmill. He eventually became an engineer. Ford worked for the Edison Illuminating Company and even got to meet Thomas Edison! Edison encouraged him to keep working on his plans for his horseless carriage, powered by a motor. Ford's gasoline-powered horseless carriage was called the Quadricycle.

He sold the Quadricycle and started his own company to continue his work making vehicles. He did not stay with the first company for very many years, but eventually started the Ford Motor Company. He spent many years developing cars, which were made only a few at a time.





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Ford was not the first person to create a car, but he was the one who began to make them **accessible** to a lot of people in the United States. His “Model T” car, released in 1908, was easy to drive and to repair, which made many people want one. He needed to make a lot of cars very quickly. His company, Ford Motor Company, hired skilled workers to work on an assembly line. The car would move through the line, and each worker had a job along the line. One worker might put on the steering wheel, while at a different spot on the line, another worker put on tires. Every Model T was painted black. The company could make many cars at a time this way, which made them cheaper to produce.

In addition to using the assembly line to produce cars, Ford was also known for paying his workers fair wages. Henry Ford died in 1947, but his company is still around and making cars today.





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Questions:

1. Create a timeline of events in Henry Ford's life.

2. What adjective would you use to describe Henry Ford? Why?

3. What does “*accessible*” mean in the 5th paragraph? How do you know?

4. Why do you think making cars on an assembly line is cheaper than having groups of 3 or 4 people putting together one whole car at a time?

5. If each paragraph had a heading, the heading for the 2nd paragraph could be “Ford's Early Life.” Create a heading for the 5th paragraph.



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Answers:

1. Create a timeline of events in Henry Ford's life.

- In 1863, Henry Ford was born.
- In 1879 he moved to Detroit to start working with machine.
- In 1888 Henry Ford married Clara Bryant.
- He worked at a sawmill and became an engineer.
- Ford moved onto work at the Edison Illuminating Company.
- Edison encourage Ford to keep working on his horseless carriage, powered by a motor.
- Ford sold the first version of his horseless carriage and started his own company.
- He eventually started the Ford Motor Company.
- In 1908 the Model T car was released for sale to the public.
- In 1947 Ford passed away.

2. What adjective would you use to describe Henry Ford? Why?

Answers will vary, but can include inventive, industrious, hard-working, entrepreneurial.

3. What does "accessible" mean in the 5th paragraph? How do you know?

Accessible means able to be easily obtained or used. Ford was the one who started making cars in a more affordable so more people could buy a car.

4. Why do you think making cars on an assembly line is cheaper than having groups of 3 or 4 people putting together one whole car at a time?

I think it's cheaper to make cars on an assembly line that in groups of people, because it's faster. Each worker concentrates on their small part, so they are better and faster at that particular part of the car.

5. If each paragraph had a heading, the heading for the 2nd paragraph could be "Ford's Early Life." Create a heading for the 5th paragraph.

Answers will vary, but appropriate answers could be: A car for the People or Ford Motor Company.