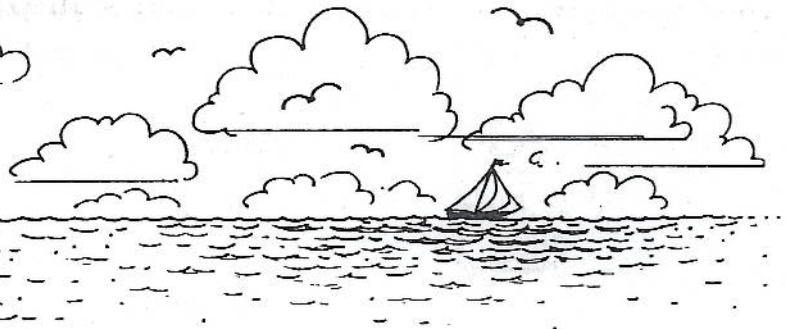




## Why Oceans Are Blue



Did you know that long ago when the earth was young, the four oceans of the earth were not blue, but crystal clear? The brilliantly colored underwater fish and plants could easily be seen from above. People marveled at the beautiful sight, however, all was not well. Life was too easy for the fishermen. The vibrant fish had few places to hide in the transparent seas. The population of fishermen increased while the helpless fish were quickly becoming endangered. As time passed, many of the oceans' beautiful inhabitants became extinct.

Each ocean decided to send a representative to the other elements to seek help with their problem. First, they went to the land. "Can you help us?" they pleaded. "Our waters are so clear that the fishermen have no competition. We must protect our fish."

"If I share my soil with you," offered the land, "the oceans will become brown and muddy. Then your fish and

plants will have difficulty seeing each other in the darkness. Is that what you want?"

"Oh, no," answered the oceans. "That would cause more problems." The mountains and the forests sadly could not help either.

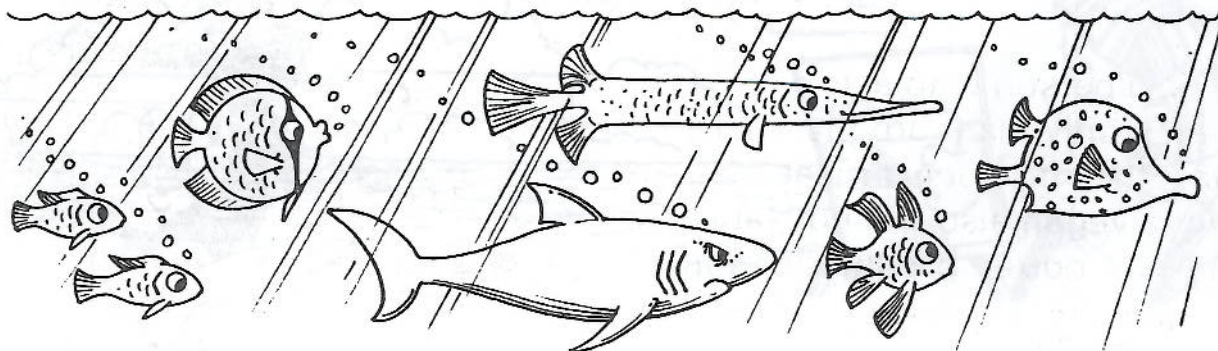
Finally, the oceans consulted the far-away sky. The brilliant sapphire blue sky was not only beautiful, but also very wise. She listened to the oceans and after some thought, she responded, "I have an idea, but I will ask for something in return. You can use a part of my sapphire color to turn your waters blue enough to keep your fish out of sight. In return, you must lend me some of the bright colors of your fish and plants."

The oceans quickly agreed. From that day to this, the blue of the earth's oceans has provided a home to many underwater creatures. And the still lovely sky is graced by colorful rainbows.



# Why Oceans Are Blue (Cont.)

Use the information in the story on page 8 to complete each sentence.



1. The main characters are \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Long ago their waters were \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Their problem was \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The oceans first attempted to solve the problem by \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Then they talked to the \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Finally, the oceans \_\_\_\_\_.

7. The problem was solved when \_\_\_\_\_.

8. In return, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Extension:** Write a make-believe story that explains how something came to be.  
Illustrate your story.



# A Knight in Training

England

March 15, 1405

Dear Father,

I miss you and the family, but I am happy to be living here and serving Sir Steven. Castle life is exciting and I am learning the skills and behavior expected of a knight.

Many things are required of pages like me. My duties include taking care of Sir Steven's horses and serving him as he needs me. I am also learning to fight with a sword and hunt with a falcon. I often play chess and other games that require great skill and strategy.

I can hardly wait seven years until I am fifteen. Then I can become a squire. A squire serves his master as a valet, and is trained to become a mounted soldier. He also rides in battle with his master. The most exciting thing squires do is test their skill in a contest, called jousting. In this, one squire tries to knock another squire off his horse with a long, blunt lance.

My friend, Squire Robert, helps Sir Steven put on his armor for contests and when they go to battle. Almost all parts of Sir Steven's body are covered with this metal suit. When he is covered in armor we cannot recognize him, however, his coat of arms, a beautiful picture of a unicorn, is on his shield, his horse's blanket and his cloak.

I remain your faithful son,

Arthur

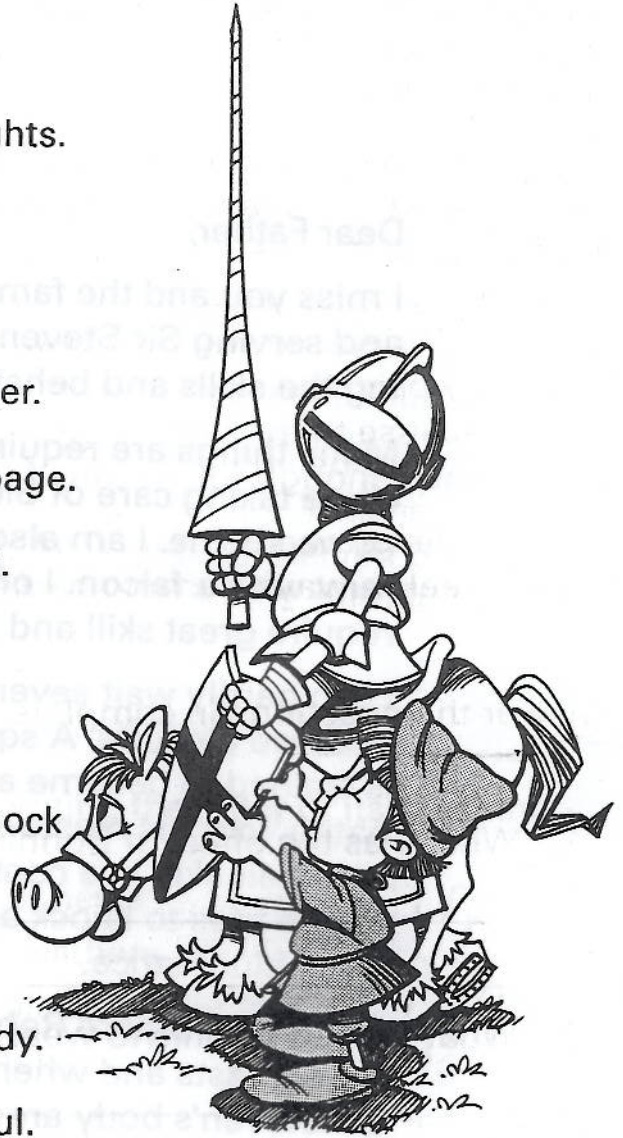




## A Knight in Training (Cont.)

Use the information in the letter on page 18 and write an **F** if the statement is a **fact**, something that can be proved. Write an **O** if it is an **opinion**, something someone believes.

- \_\_\_ 1. Pages are young boys who serve knights.
- \_\_\_ 2. Being a page is a hard job.
- \_\_\_ 3. Some knights hunt with falcons.
- \_\_\_ 4. A squire is a young man fifteen or older.
- \_\_\_ 5. Being a squire is better than being a page.
- \_\_\_ 6. A squire goes to battle with his knight.
- \_\_\_ 7. Jousting is cruel to horses.
- \_\_\_ 8. Jousting is the best kind of contest.
- \_\_\_ 9. In jousting, a knight uses a lance to knock another knight off his horse.
- \_\_\_ 10. All suits of armor are hot and ugly.
- \_\_\_ 11. A knight wore armor to protect his body.
- \_\_\_ 12. A knight's coat of arms is very beautiful.
- \_\_\_ 13. A coat of arms helps spectators recognize the knights in armor.



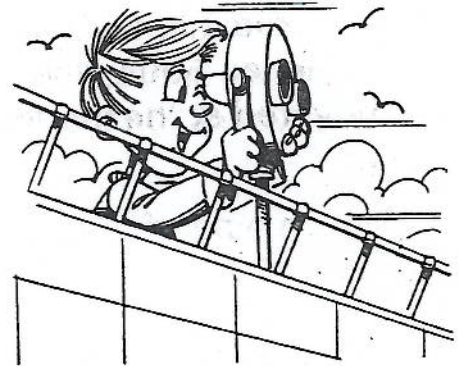
**Extension:** Design a coat of arms for yourself.



# The Sears Tower

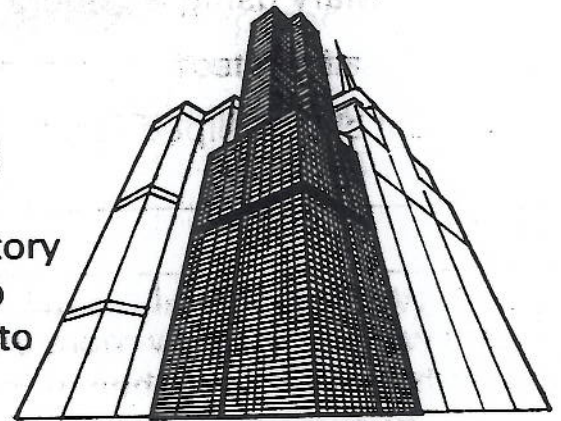
Read each paragraph. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

No visit to Chicago should be complete without a visit to the Skydeck of the Sears Tower. Around one-and-a-half million visitors each year come to Chicago, Illinois, to see the view from the Sears Tower Skydeck. On a clear day, parts of four states can be seen. At night, the view of the city below, ablaze in lights, is breath-taking.



1. What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are two details that support the main idea?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Sears Tower is the world's tallest building. It is taller than both the World Trade Center, and the Empire State Building in New York City. The 110-story building reaches 1,454 feet above the ground. Two antenna towers on top bring the building's height to 1,707 feet.

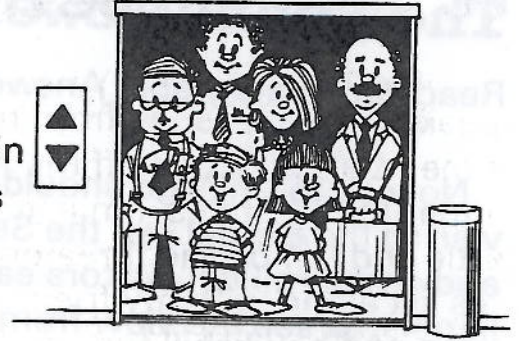


1. What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are two details that support the main idea?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Sears Tower (Cont.)

With 110 stories, the Sears Tower needs a good elevator service. There are more than 100 elevators in the building. Express elevators can carry passengers to the Skydeck, on the 103rd floor, in just over one minute.



1. What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are two details that support the main idea?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Many people work in the Sears Tower. The building mainly consists of offices, some of which make up the corporate headquarters for Sears, Roebuck and Company. It also houses a few retail stores. The building uses almost as much electricity as a town of 35,000 people.



1. What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are two details that support the main idea?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Extension:** Choose another skyscraper to compare to the Sears Tower. Present your findings in a chart or Venn diagram.



# Hippity-hop

Read the paragraph for information. Fill in the Venn diagram to compare and contrast hares and rabbits.

Hares and rabbits are related, but don't confuse them; they are distinctly different animals. Both long-eared hoppers give birth to live young and nurse them until they are independent. The baby rabbits, called kittens, are born with their eyes closed and have no fur. Baby hares, however, are called leverets and are born with hair and open eyes.

lined with fur, while a hare simply gives birth on the ground. In addition, hares never build burrows as rabbits do. Both animals will hunt and play from dusk until dawn and rest during the day.

A final difference lies in how they respond to danger. A hare will always leap rapidly from its enemies. A rabbit will first attempt to hide by remaining very still.

A mother rabbit builds a soft nest

