

# Table of Contents



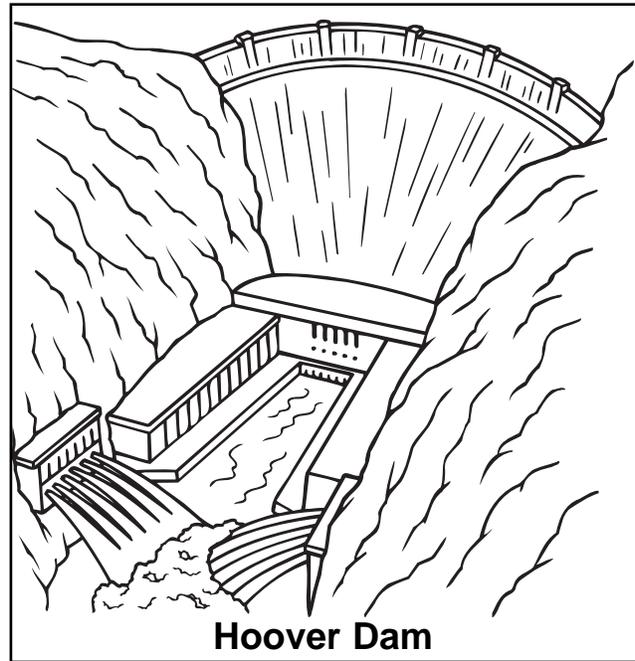
|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Introduction</b> . . . . .   | 3   |
| <b>Using This Book</b> . . . . .  | 4   |
| The Stories—New Words—The Writing Link—The Questions—The Test Link—The Thrill of Social Studies |     |
| <b>Meeting Standards</b> . . . . .  | 8   |
| <b>Social Studies Stories</b>   |     |
| The Most Dangerous Job . . . . .  | 9   |
| Fly Off the Handle . . . . .  | 12  |
| True Stories of Vaqueros—<br>the First Cowboys . . . . .  | 15  |
| And the Winner Is . . . . .   | 18  |
| Sister Fox and Brother Coyote . . . . .   | 21  |
| Trouble with English . . . . .  | 24  |
| The Petrified Giant . . . . .   | 27  |
| Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death! . . . . .   | 30  |
| History Riddles . . . . .   | 33  |
| If a State Sued a State . . . . .   | 36  |
| What Was Red, and Why? . . . . .  | 39  |
| Old Shoe, New Word . . . . .  | 42  |
| The Wreck of the <i>Sea Venture</i> . . . . .   | 45  |
| House Whys . . . . .  | 48  |
| An Amazing Guide . . . . .  | 51  |
| Around the World . . . . .  | 54  |
| Checks and Balances . . . . .   | 57  |
| How an Almanac Helped Lincoln . . . . .   | 60  |
| Mountain Man . . . . .  | 63  |
| Dogs to the Rescue! . . . . .   | 66  |
| Why They Could Be Bigger . . . . .  | 69  |
| Orphan Trains . . . . .   | 72  |
| How Hanging Up a Coat Made a Fortune . . . . .  | 75  |
| Puritan Rebel . . . . .   | 78  |
| Why a Nickel and Not Five Pennies? . . . . .  | 81  |
| The Escape . . . . .  | 84  |
| FEMA . . . . .  | 87  |
| Adventures in Africa . . . . .  | 90  |
| Gold Mountain! . . . . .  | 93  |
| An Amazing Ride . . . . .   | 96  |
| How a Small Man Did a Giant Thing . . . . .   | 99  |
| What Came First? . . . . .  | 102 |
| Citizen Test . . . . .  | 105 |
| Talking Leaves . . . . .  | 108 |
| About Presidents . . . . .  | 111 |
| Judged by the Outside . . . . .   | 114 |
| Benjamin Franklin and Hanging<br>Together . . . . .   | 117 |
| Harriet Tubman, Conductor on the<br>Underground Railroad . . . . .                              | 120 |
| Why Katrina? . . . . .  | 123 |
| Down the Mississippi . . . . .  | 126 |
| Helping Mother Pass the Test . . . . .  | 129 |
| The Peaceful Warrior . . . . .  | 132 |
| A Story About the Declaration of<br>Independence . . . . .                                      | 135 |
| Code Talkers . . . . .  | 138 |
| <b>Answer Sheets</b> . . . . .  | 141 |
| <b>Bibliography</b> . . . . .   | 142 |
| <b>Answer Key</b> . . . . .   | 144 |

# The Most Dangerous Job



The Hoover Dam is a big concrete dam. It helps control the Colorado River. It helps control flooding. It helps get water to homes. It helps get water to farmers' fields. It is used to make electrical power. Work began on the dam on March 11, 1931. It ended on February 29, 1936. It was a big job. It took a lot of men. On many days, over 5,000 men were on the job at one time!

The dam was built across a deep canyon. The canyon was hundreds of feet deep. Building the dam was dangerous work. The most dangerous job was that of the high scalers. High scalers had to be strong. They could not be afraid of heights. High scalers cleared loose rock. The rock was on the sides of the canyon walls. To get to the loose rock, the high scalers would dangle from ropes. They would dangle hundreds of feet above the canyon floor.



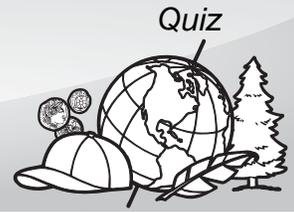
**Hoover Dam**

Why did the scalers have to remove loose rock? The canyon walls needed to be smooth. They needed to be smooth so the concrete sides of the dam could be anchored on them. In the morning, the scalers were lowered over the canyon rim. They would sit on small wooden planks. They would dangle against the canyon wall. For eight hours, they would grip a roaring jackhammer. They would use the jackhammer to chip away at loose rock.

One time an engineer was on the rim. He was looking at the cliff. He leaned over too far. He fell in. Two high scalers named Oliver Cowan and Arnold Parks heard the man falling. Quickly, they pushed off of the wall. They swung out into the canyon on their ropes.

Cowan grabbed for the engineer as the man was falling down through the air. Cowan got him by one leg! A second later, Parks grabbed the engineer's upper body. Cowan and Parks pinned the engineer against the high canyon wall. They held him there until a line could be rigged so he could be hauled to safety.

# The Most Dangerous Job



After reading the story, answer the questions.  
Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- This story is mainly about
  - dams and what they do
  - Oliver Cowan and Arnold Parks
  - an engineer and the canyon rim
  - high scalers and the Hoover Dam
- Why couldn't high scalers be afraid of heights?
  - They sat on small wooden planks.
  - They would chip away at loose rock.
  - They would grip roaring jackhammers for eight hours.
  - They dangled hundreds of feet above the canyon floor.
- When you control something, you have
  - a dangerous job
  - a line you can rig
  - the power to hold it back
  - something that can be anchored
- Think about how the word *safe* relates to *dangerous*. What words relate in the same way?

**safe : dangerous**

  - remove : add
  - canyon : rim
  - dangle : plank
  - grip : jackhammer
- What part of the engineer who fell did Cowan grab?
  - his arm
  - his leg
  - his hand
  - his upper body