

Pioneer Press Newspapers In Education 2017  
**THIRD GRADE READING**

NOTE TO TEACHERS/PARENTS: Learning standard addressed in each question is included after the answer.

*Read the following article about a fiberglass steer that was taken from St. Paul and found again. Then answer questions 1-12. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been revised in places to better suit the reading level.*

## **Cattle-napped steer will head home**

By John Brewer, Pioneer Press



*Blackie, an 8-foot-tall fiberglass angus steer that is a fixture in the Minnesota State Fair's daily parades, has been recovered and awaits retrieval by owner Norb Anderson from the Isanti County sheriff's office. (Associated Press file)*

<sup>1</sup>Norb Anderson's prized steer is coming home. The 8-foot-tall "Blackie," as Anderson calls the black fiberglass angus, was found near Cambridge over the weekend and is being picked up by the Isanti County sheriff's office. "They called me this morning," Anderson said Monday from his home in St. Paul's Como neighborhood. He was very happy to hear the news.

<sup>2</sup>Blackie, an annual entry into the Minnesota State Fair's daily parades, disappeared in early August while Anderson had it **hitched** to his truck near his home. He reported the theft to the news last week and received five or six tips on its whereabouts. He followed one lead down to Austin and drove for "250 miles and one fill-up" looking for it. He didn't find it, he said, but "I sure ran into a lot of nice people during the trip."

<sup>3</sup>Anderson's luck changed early Monday, when Isanti County Investigator Rob Bowker contacted him. An employee of Dairy Concepts, a cheese factory in tiny Delbo, MN called Bowker because a giant black steer had **appeared** in the company's parking lot over the weekend. Deputies headed north and picked up the steer, but clues to the identity of the cowpoke thieves were nowhere to be found. "With all the snow and slush, there were no good tracks left behind," Bowker said. "It was all iced over."

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<sup>4</sup>Anderson, 76, ran the miniature golf course at the State Fair for years. Until recently he owned a Sparta, Wis., company that manufactures fiberglass animals and mascots. In addition to Blackie, the company molded Colleen, a 13-foot-tall black-and-white cow also seen in State Fair parades. Anderson estimated the value of Blackie and the trailer at \$15,000. Bowker said the sheriff's office would hold onto Blackie at its headquarters in Cambridge until Anderson comes to pick him up. "He said he wants me to hug it, and I will," Anderson said. "I'll tell you, I'm like a kid with a new toy."

### Article Questions

#### **Cattle-napped steer will head home**

- 1. What material was used to make Blackie?**
  - A. wood
  - B. steel
  - C. ice
  - D. fiberglass
- 2. Why were there no tracks left by the cowpoke thieves?**
  - A. The cowpoke thieves erased them.
  - B. The snow covered them up.
  - C. The Deputies found the tracks.
  - D. The tracks were seen in the ice.
- 3. In this article, the word appeared means**
  - A. turned up
  - B. iced up
  - C. picked up
  - D. disappeared
- 4. What does Blackie stand on?**
  - A. a miniature golf course
  - B. a trailer
  - C. a cheese factory
  - D. a parking lot
- 5. During the summer, where can people see Blackie?**
  - A. Sparta, Wisconsin
  - B. in the Minnesota State Fair's daily parades
  - C. in Isanti County
  - D. in Cambridge

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6. **Where is Blackie's home?**
  - A. Delbo
  - B. Austin
  - C. Cambridge
  - D. St. Paul
  
7. **In this article, the word hitched means**
  - A. attached to
  - B. removed from
  - C. next to
  - D. separated from
  
8. **What happened to Blackie?**
  - A. Blackie won a prize.
  - B. Blackie want to find Colleen.
  - C. Blackie was stolen.
  - D. Blackie hitched a ride.
  
9. **How did Anderson know where to find Blackie?**
  - A. An investigator contacted him.
  - B. He received five or six tips.
  - C. The State Fair called him.
  - D. The co-owner of a company called him.
  
10. **Who found Blackie first?**
  - A. Deputies found him and the cowpoke thieves.
  - B. An employee of Dairy Concepts found Blackie.
  - C. An Isanti County Investigator found Blackie.
  - D. Anderson followed a lead and found Blackie in Austin.
  
11. **What other fiberglass animal is mentioned in this article?**
  - A. Blackie
  - B. Lucky
  - C. Delbo
  - D. Colleen
  
12. **What is the estimated value of Blackie and the trailer?**
  - A. \$8,000
  - B. \$13,000
  - C. \$15,000
  - D. \$250

## THIRD GRADE READING

*Read the following article that tells about two Boy Scout troops and all the boys earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Then answer the 10 questions. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been edited to meet the test specifications.*

### **Two Dakota County troops yield eight Eagle Scouts apiece this year**

*By Jessica Fleming*

<sup>1</sup>Just 5 percent of Boy Scouts reach the **rank** of Eagle Scout. An Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, serve six months in a leadership position, and plan and lead a community service project, among other things. It's not for everyone.

<sup>2</sup>But in the past year, two Dakota County troops each have promoted eight Scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout. "It's fairly **rare**," said Kent York, communications director for the Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America. "There are a lot of kids who put that as their goal and objective, but that many for one troop are a lot."

<sup>3</sup>Farmington's Troop 119 has 55 registered boys. Fifteen percent, or eight, of those boys achieved Eagle Scout rank in 2011. In 2010, just one boy did. Five of the eight boys performed their community service project at the same place, Trinity Care Center nursing home.

<sup>4</sup>"It seemed like, this summer, they were always at someone's Eagle Scout project," said Kurt Benedetto, assistant Scoutmaster for the troop. His son, Anthony, is one of the Eagle Scouts.

<sup>5</sup>In Apple Valley's Troop 205, eight boys achieved the rank of Eagle in the past 12 months. The boys, said Scoutmaster Paul Bergevin, were all about the same age, 13, when they went on their first "high adventure" trip to the Boundary Waters. The next year, many of them went on a 12-day backpacking trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

<sup>6</sup>"Those are once-in-a-lifetime adventures that get the boys excited and interested in the program," Bergevin said.

<sup>7</sup>For both troops, Scouting is about more than earning patches. "I've been in Scouts since first grade," Anthony Benedetto said. "I met my two best friends through Boy Scouts, and most of my friends are Boy Scouts. It's just a big family, pretty much."

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<sup>8</sup>Troop 119 Scoutmaster Chris Ulrich said the group is pretty loose about attendance requirements, realizing that boys have other activities and homework to balance. “We’d rather see a kid stay in Scouting,” Ulrich said. That attitude and the friendly atmosphere have motivated many of the Scouts in the troop, they said. The boys said earning the merit badges was hard but fun.

<sup>9</sup>Many said the most difficult thing about becoming an Eagle Scout was the paperwork. “There’s just so much paperwork,” said Joshua Storms, 17. “You have to have it down to the last detail.” Still, the boys said it was worth the effort to achieve Scouting’s highest rank.

<sup>10</sup>If you’re going to do anything, you might as well be the best at it that you can be,” 17-year-old Jeffrey Zakoski said.

### Article Questions

#### **Two Dakota County troops yield eight Eagle Scouts apiece this year**

**13. In this article, how many scouts became Eagle Scouts in 2011?**

- A. 2 boys
- B. 55 boys
- C. 16 boys
- D. 8 boys

**14. Why did the Scouts perform community service projects?**

- A. It is among the things that they must do to reach the rank of Eagle Scout.
- B. It is the only way to make friends.
- C. It is part of their homework.
- D. It is high adventure.

**15. In this article, the word rare means:**

- A. Very common
- B. Not common
- C. Interesting
- D. Exciting

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**16. According to the boys what was the most difficult part of becoming an Eagle Scout?**

- A. The trip to the Boundary Waters
- B. Attending all the meetings
- C. Getting all their homework done
- D. Doing the paperwork

**17. All of the following are requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout *except*:**

- A. Earn 21 merit badges
- B. Plan and lead a community service project
- C. Backpacking in New Mexico
- D. Serve six months in a leadership position

**18. In this article the word rank means:**

- A. Level
- B. Stinky
- C. Family
- D. Pack

**19. How many boys in Troop 119 achieved Eagle Scout in 2010?**

- A. 8
- B. 5
- C. 15
- D. 1

**20. What is the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn?**

- A. Scoutmaster
- B. Communications Director
- C. Eagle Scout
- D. Assistant Scoutmaster

**21. Why was an article written about the Dakota County Troops?**

- A. Many boys from two troops earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
- B. They were all working at the Trinity Care Center nursing home.
- C. The boys were all from the same family.
- D. The article does not tell about Dakota County Troops.

**22. What percent of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout?**

- A. 55 percent
- B. 15 percent
- C. 5 percent
- D. 205 percent

## THIRD GRADE READING

### ANSWERS

#### **Cattle-napped steer will head home**

1. D (literal)
2. B (inferential)
3. A (vocabulary/inferential)
4. B (literal)
5. B (inference)
6. D (literal)
7. A (vocabulary/inferential)
8. C (literal)
9. A (literal)
10. B (literal)
11. D (literal)
12. C (literal)

#### **Two Dakota County troops yield eight Eagle Scouts apiece this year**

13. C (inferential)
14. A (literal)
15. B (vocabulary)
16. D (literal)
17. C (literal)
18. A (vocabulary)
19. D (literal)
20. C (inferential)
21. A (inferential)
22. C (literal)