

Primary Sources: Henry Ford's "Fear of Change"

By Henry Ford, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.20.16
Word Count 470



U.S. automaker Henry Ford poses for a photographer in his new Ford Model T in front of his car plant in Detroit, Michigan, in 1900. He was 37 years old at the time. (Photo: AFP/AFP/Getty Images)

Editor's Note: Henry Ford founded the first big car company in the United States. It is known as the Ford Motor Company. In 1922, Ford wrote "Fear of Change." It explains why change is good and why some people fear it. He wrote it after World War I ended. Ford's words are below.

"Men Fear Change For Different Reasons"

A terrible world war ended just a few years ago. Americans should be happy, but many are not. They are afraid of what will come next. They are afraid of the future.

Well, what will the future bring?

One thing is certain. It will bring Change.

Of course, Change is nothing new. We are changing all the time and the world is changing around us. So why fear Change?

And yet there are people who do fear it.

Men fear Change for different reasons. Some are afraid of anything new just because it is not what they are used to. Their fear of Change is a sign of a weakness.

But there is another kind of fear of Change. It is a sign of selfishness, of caring only about yourself. Many in America today are feeling this second kind of fear.

"There Is No Good Reason To Fear Change"

World War I brought an end to the world as we knew it. In Europe, the old order of kings and rich nobles has fallen.

Once, the European nobility lived lazy, idle lives. They had no need to work. Now some of them have had to get jobs. Others are afraid the same thing will happen to them.

Here in the United States we have never had a king. Yet we do have our own nobility.

Our nobles are not the princes or dukes of Europe. They are the rich few who live off the work of others. It is they who now fear Change the most. And they are spreading their fear to others.

There is no good reason to fear Change. It can only hurt things that should be changed and made better.

"A Man Who Works Hard Need Never Fear Change"

Suppose our rich idlers are made to work. Would that be so terrible?

In the long run, no one will be hurt by the coming Change.

Even the idle and useless rich are not going to be hurt. They will be better off without their idleness. In time, they will be glad they were forced to get to work. They will be glad to become of some use to the world.

A man who works hard need never fear Change. He will always be needed in the world whatever happens.

The best way to escape fear of the future is to become a worker. This is particularly true for the rich idlers who are so fearful right now.

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the section "Men Fear Change For Different Reasons" shows how MOST Americans felt after the war ended?
 - (A) We are changing all the time and the world is changing around us.
 - (B) They are afraid of what will come next.
 - (C) A terrible world war ended just a few years ago.
 - (D) It is a sign of selfishness, of caring only about yourself.

- 2 Which sentence shows what the author thinks about rich Americans?
 - (A) In Europe, the old order of kings and rich nobles has fallen.
 - (B) Once, the European nobility lived lazy, idle lives.
 - (C) Here in the United States we have never had a king.
 - (D) They are the rich few who live off the work of others.

- 3 What is the main idea of the section "A Man Who Works Hard Need Never Fear Change?"
 - (A) There is no need to fear change if a man becomes a worker.
 - (B) Men who are rich and idle will be forced to work.
 - (C) Men who become workers will fear change most.
 - (D) Rich idlers are fearful right now.

- 4 What is the main idea of the article?
 - (A) The idle rich, who do not work hard, fear change the most.
 - (B) If the idle rich become workers, no men will fear change.
 - (C) World War I brought about change in America.
 - (D) The actions of the rich nobility of America can be compared to the European nobility.

Writing Prompt:

Write about a time in your life that forced you to endure a change. Did the change impact you in a positive or a negative way? Explain.

Name : _____

Date : _____

U.S. Customary Unit Conversion Chart

Measuring Length

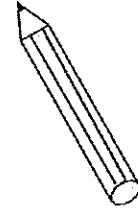
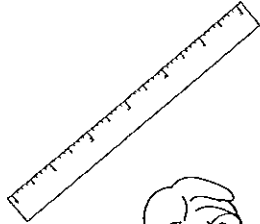
12 inches = 1 foot

36 inches = 1 yard

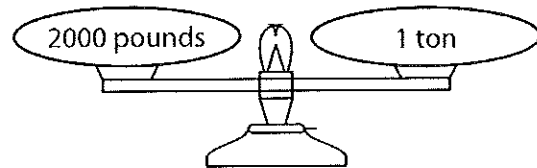
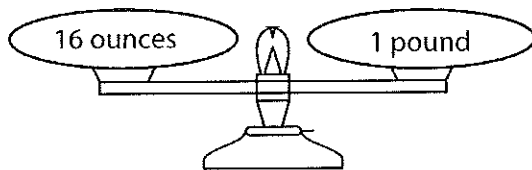
3 feet = 1 yard

5280 feet = 1 mile

1760 yards = 1 mile



Measuring Weight



Measuring Capacity

3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon

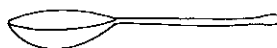
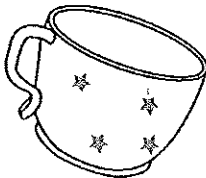
2 tablespoons = 1 fluid ounce

8 fluid ounces = 1 cup

2 cups = 1 pint

2 pints = 1 quart

4 quarts = 1 gallon



Name : _____

Score : _____

U.S. Customary Unit Conversion - Length

Convert between feet (ft) and yards (yd).

1) 54 ft = _____ yd	2) 21 yd = _____ ft
3) 34 yd = _____ ft	4) 156 ft = _____ yd
5) 75 ft = _____ yd	6) 28 yd = _____ ft

Convert between feet (ft) and miles (mi).

7) 73920 ft = _____ mi	8) 10 mi = _____ ft
9) 5 mi = _____ ft	10) 10560 ft = _____ mi
11) 19 mi = _____ ft	12) 84480 ft = _____ mi

Convert between yards (yd) and miles (mi).

13) 22880 yd = _____ mi	14) 7 mi = _____ yd
15) 15 mi = _____ yd	16) 33440 yd = _____ mi
17) 17600 yd = _____ mi	18) 14 mi = _____ yd

Student Name: _____ Score: _____

Decimals Subtraction Word Problems

Questions	Workspace
<p>Katherine bought cosmetic items which cost \$78.12 in total. She gave \$100 to the shop keeper. How much does she receive as change?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>Kelly scored 56.73 points and Karen scored 74.92 points on a University exam. How many points less did Kelly score than Karen?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>A mixture is obtained by mixing two products A and B respectively. Product A weighs 234.56 grams and the mixture weighs 988.76 grams. How much does Product B weigh?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>David's home is 12.53 miles away from the lake and 16.73 miles away from his school. How far is David's school from the lake?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	

Student Name: _____ Score: _____

Decimals Division Word Problems

Questions	Workspace
<p>Catherine split rope that was 49.4 inches into 4 equal parts. What is the length of each part?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>Serene paid \$35.01 to buy 9 hot dogs. How much did each hot dog cost?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>Diana sells 12 garlands for \$12.12. What is the cost of each garland?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	
<p>A shop keeper bought 26 apples from a fruit vendor for \$37.70. How much did each apple cost?</p> <p>Answer:</p>	

NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS

Solve each problem.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

1. $16 + 38 =$ _____

2. (Y) (N)

2.
$$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ \times 46 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

3. (Y) (N)

3. $7 \overline{)266}$

4. (Y) (N)

4. Round 59,501 to the nearest thousand.

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

5. $\$8.40 - \$3.65 =$ _____

7. (Y) (N)

6. $40 \div 5 + 20 =$ _____

8. (Y) (N)

7.
$$\begin{array}{r} 75 \\ - \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

9. (Y) (N)

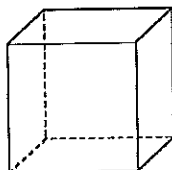
63

10. (Y) (N)

8. Write the time 6:19 in words.

11. (Y) (N)

9. How many edges does a cube have?



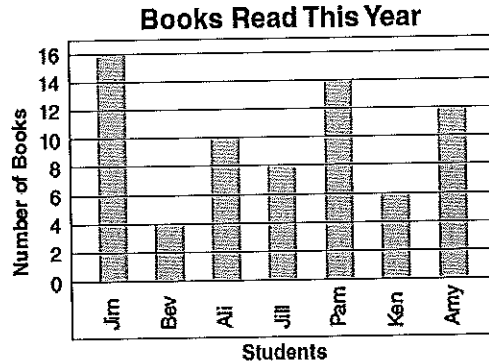
12. (Y) (N)

____ / 12

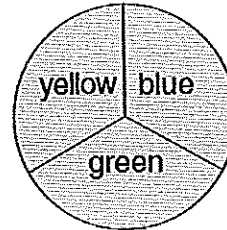
Total

10.

How many more books has Jim read than Amy?



11.



Using this spinner, what is the probability you will not land on blue?

12.

Tracy can jump rope 26 times in 1 minute. How many times can she jump rope in 90 seconds?

NAME: _____

DIRECTIONS

Solve each problem.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

1. $21 + 18 + 19 =$ _____

9. Is a pyramid a plane shape?

2. (Y) (N)

2. $40 \times 20 =$ _____

10. Find the mean of the rainfall during the four-month period.

3. (Y) (N)

3. Complete.

$81 \div 9 =$ _____

$810 \div 9 =$ _____

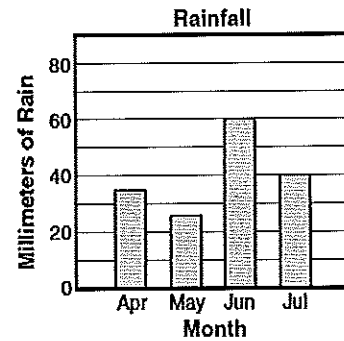
$8,100 \div 9 =$ _____

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

4. Is 78,507 less than 78,705?



7. (Y) (N)

8. (Y) (N)

5. $\frac{1}{3}$ of 12 is _____.

11. If the probability is $\frac{1}{4}$ that someone in a room wears glasses and there are 24 people in a room, how many of the people will probably not be wearing glasses?

9. (Y) (N)

6. $20 \times 4 - 30 =$ _____

10. (Y) (N)

11. (Y) (N)

7. $\square \div 5 = 10$

12. At a toy factory, three out of every 12 dolls are made with curly hair. What percent of the dolls are made with curly hair?

12. (Y) (N)

8. How many minutes are there from 1:16 A.M. to 1:57 A.M.?

____ / 12

Total