

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

Howdy, Big Tex

- 1 Ask anyone who has been to the Texas State Fair in Dallas, Texas, to tell you what it's like. You might hear stories of the exciting rides, tasty food, and interesting farm animals. One thing you will definitely hear about is Big Tex. He is the giant cowboy who greets people at the front gate. His huge arm waves at visitors as he welcomes them with a cheerful "Howdy!"



In 2016, Big Tex greeted visitors as they entered the Texas State Fair.

State Fair of Texas

Big Tex in the Beginning

- 2 Since 1952, children and grown-ups have enjoyed seeing Big Tex. In 1951, the state fair president bought Big Tex. He thought it would be nice to have a big cowboy as a symbol of Texas at the fair. So Big Tex was placed at the entrance.
- 3 The giant cowboy was made out of metal, paper, cardboard, and glue. He stood 52 feet tall. He wore colorful clothing, a huge cowboy hat, and a giant pair of cowboy boots. Thick wires attached to Big Tex's body kept him from falling over. His hand was positioned to look like he was waving to visitors. Big Tex stood tall and smiled.
- 4 By 1953, Big Tex could speak. Words that had been prerecorded played over speakers while the giant cowboy's mouth moved. As the words played, his mouth moved like a puppet—open, closed, open, closed.

- 5 In 1997, Big Tex got a new look. His body was rebuilt with stronger materials. And by 2000, his arm could move. Big Tex waved at visitors as they entered the state fair.

Big Tex Gets Bigger

- 6 Unfortunately, in 2012 there was an accident, and Big Tex was destroyed in a fire. Although people were disappointed, a man named R. Eddy Snell realized this was a chance to make a bigger and better Big Tex. Snell's company had built a large dragon and giant cowboy boots before. Yet he knew the big cowboy would not be an easy job.
- 7 Snell had big ideas for the new cowboy. The new Big Tex would be taller. He would stand firmly on the ground without wires attached to hold him up. The new Big Tex's face would move and look more like a real cowboy. He would also have fingers that move and point. Overall, the new Big Tex would be more lifelike.
- 8 Snell's company wanted the new Big Tex to surprise people at the fair, so the company worked secretly for ten months. The workers were not allowed to tell anyone what they were building. In fact, they used a secret code for Big Tex in emails and on the phone. They called him "fried chicken." Drawings of the designs were also labeled "fried chicken." This way, the workers could keep the big cowboy a secret until he was finished.
- 9 Snell's workers found a new way to make Big Tex's face. A soft, light material called Styrofoam was used. It could be carved easily into the shape of a face. Then, thin layers of other soft materials were placed on top. This way, the mouth could move almost like a person's mouth. The workers were careful to use materials that would not burn easily. It was important to avoid another fire.
- 10 At last, Big Tex was finished. His steel-frame body was taken to a clothing factory. There, hundreds of yards of fabric were used to make his clothes. Big Tex was dressed in a red, white, and blue shirt, denim jeans, colorful cowboy boots, and an even bigger cowboy hat.
- 11 It was time to take Big Tex to his place at the fairgrounds. A large crane and several workers set him in place. He stood behind white curtains, and on September 26, 2013, the curtains were dropped. At last, everyone could see the new Big Tex.
- 12 Now, every fall, Big Tex greets visitors to the state fair with a smile, a nod, and a wink. He points the way to fun attractions.

- 13 Snell is happy with the work his team did to build Big Tex. “I know we won’t please everybody,” Snell says, “but I think future generations will love this Tex.” Based on the public’s response, Big Tex is a big hit in Texas.

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26 Which word in paragraph 9 best helps the reader understand the meaning of carved?

- F** *light*
 - G** *shape*
 - H** *face*
 - J** *layers*
-

27 With which statement about the first Big Tex would the author most likely agree?

- A** He was too short.
 - B** He talked too much.
 - C** He was not very popular.
 - D** He did not seem real.
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28 What is the best summary of the selection?

- F** Big Tex came to the Texas State Fair in 1952. The fair president thought he would be a good symbol for the fair. In 1953 he could smile and speak, and by 2000 he could even wave at fair visitors.
- G** Big Tex is a very large cowboy that is not real but looks like he is. He can talk, wave, smile, and point the way for people at the fair. A man named Snell decided to build a new Big Tex for the fair.
- H** Anyone who goes to the Texas State Fair can describe Big Tex. Big Tex first became a symbol of the fair in 1952. He could smile, and his mouth could move so he could talk.
- J** A giant cowboy named Big Tex stands at the front of the Texas State Fair. He smiles, waves, and greets visitors. After the first Big Tex burned in a fire, a more lifelike Big Tex was built to take his place.

29 Which idea from the selection is supported by the photograph?

- A** Big Tex has a special area where he stands at the fair.
 - B** Big Tex can wink at visitors as he welcomes them.
 - C** Big Tex can move more now than in the past.
 - D** Big Tex has been around for more than 50 years.
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30 What is the most likely reason the author included paragraphs 7 through 9?

- F** To explain why Snell thought another Big Tex was needed
 - G** To describe the plan Snell and his workers followed to build a new Big Tex
 - H** To prove that Snell's new Big Tex is better than the first one
 - J** To compare Snell's drawings of Big Tex to the real Big Tex
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31 Which text feature in the selection best helps the reader understand where to find details about the first Big Tex?

- A** The title of the selection
- B** The caption for the photograph
- C** The section title "Big Tex in the Beginning"
- D** The section title "Big Tex Gets Bigger"

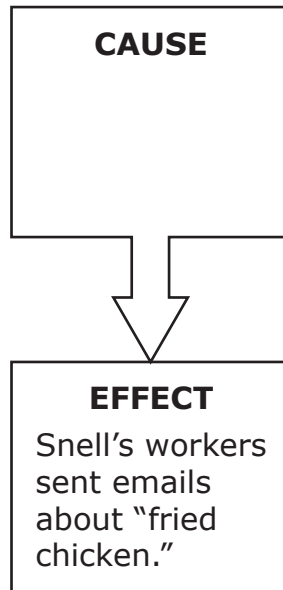
32 In paragraph 4, what does prerecorded mean?

- F** Recorded in part
 - G** Recorded next
 - H** Recorded without
 - J** Recorded before
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33 Which sentence best shows that the makers of the new Big Tex hoped to keep a problem from happening again?

- A** *Overall, the new Big Tex would be more lifelike.* (paragraph 7)
- B** *In fact, they used a secret code for Big Tex in emails and on the phone.* (paragraph 8)
- C** *The workers were careful to use materials that would not burn easily.* (paragraph 9)
- D** *His steel-frame body was taken to a clothing factory.* (paragraph 10)

34 Read the diagram.



Which sentence completes the diagram?

- F** Snell's workers got hungry from working so much.
- G** Snell's workers wanted to keep their work secret from others.
- H** Snell's workers wanted to surprise Snell.
- J** Snell's workers helped to plan new foods for the fair.