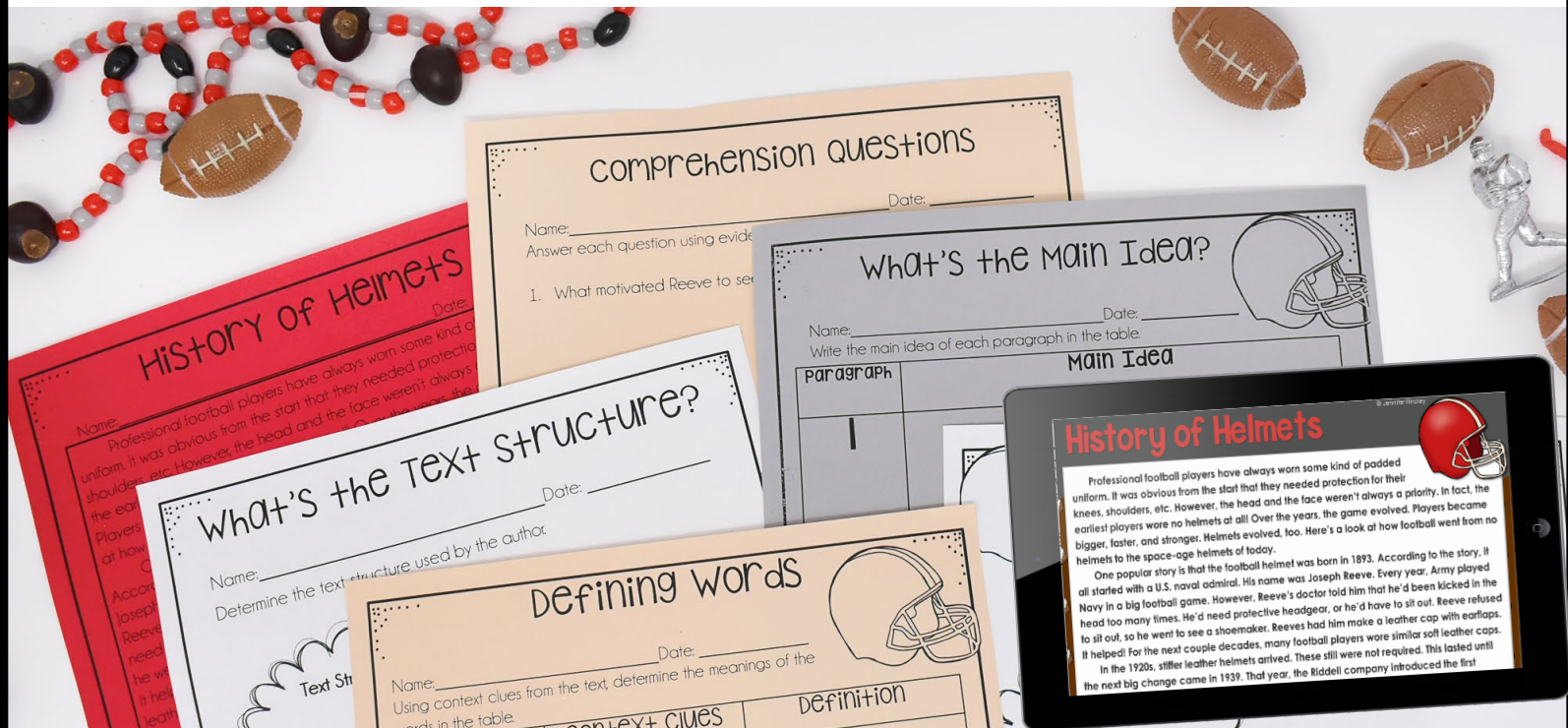


Digital Access on Pages 3-4

FOOTBALL Reading Comprehension 4TH & 5TH GRADE



DIGITAL + PRINTABLE

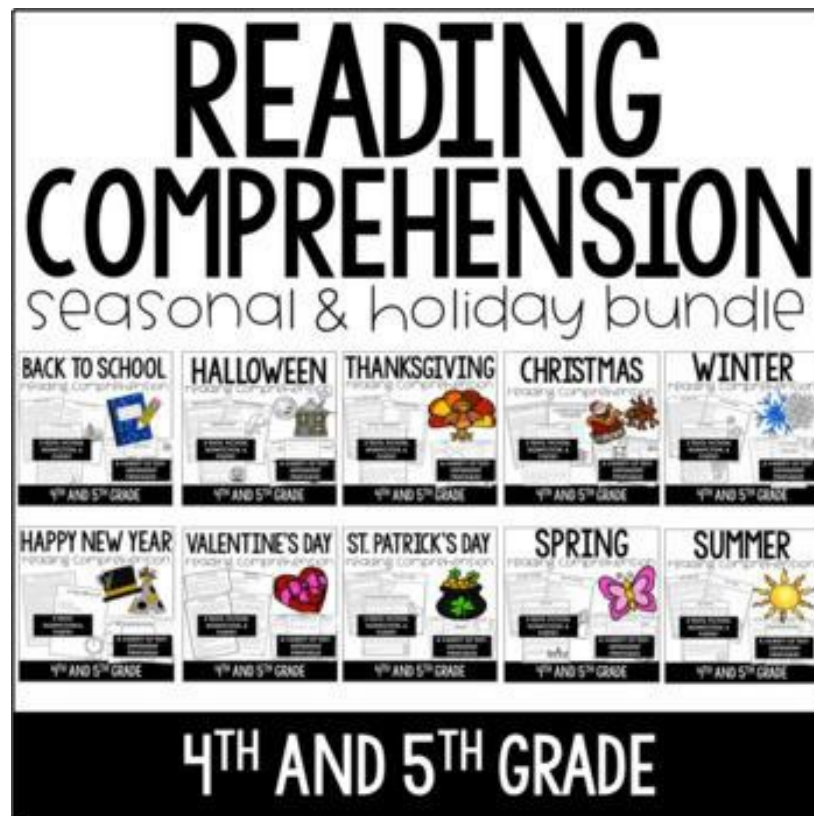
ABOUT this Freebie

This free resource includes one football themed reading passage about the history of football helmets. This is perfect to use the week of or before the big game!

In addition to the reading passage, there are comprehension questions and skill-specific printables. You can choose the printables you wish to use based on your students' needs and pacing guide or you can use them all. Using them all is the perfect way to get a lot of use out of a single passage.

If you like this style of reading activity, I have holiday and seasonal themed reading comprehension packs that are set up the same way. Each set has three passages (informational text, fiction text, and a poem) with a variety of printables to use with each text.

[Click here or on the image below to see the Holiday/Seasonal Themed Reading Comprehension Activities that are similar to this freebie!](#)



Important Google Slides Information

1. Make sure you're logged in under the Google Account that you want to use the file with, which is most likely your school account.

2. Click on the text on the next page to access the files. The webpage will ask you to **make a copy**. By default, Google Drive will save your copy in your main drive, not a folder.

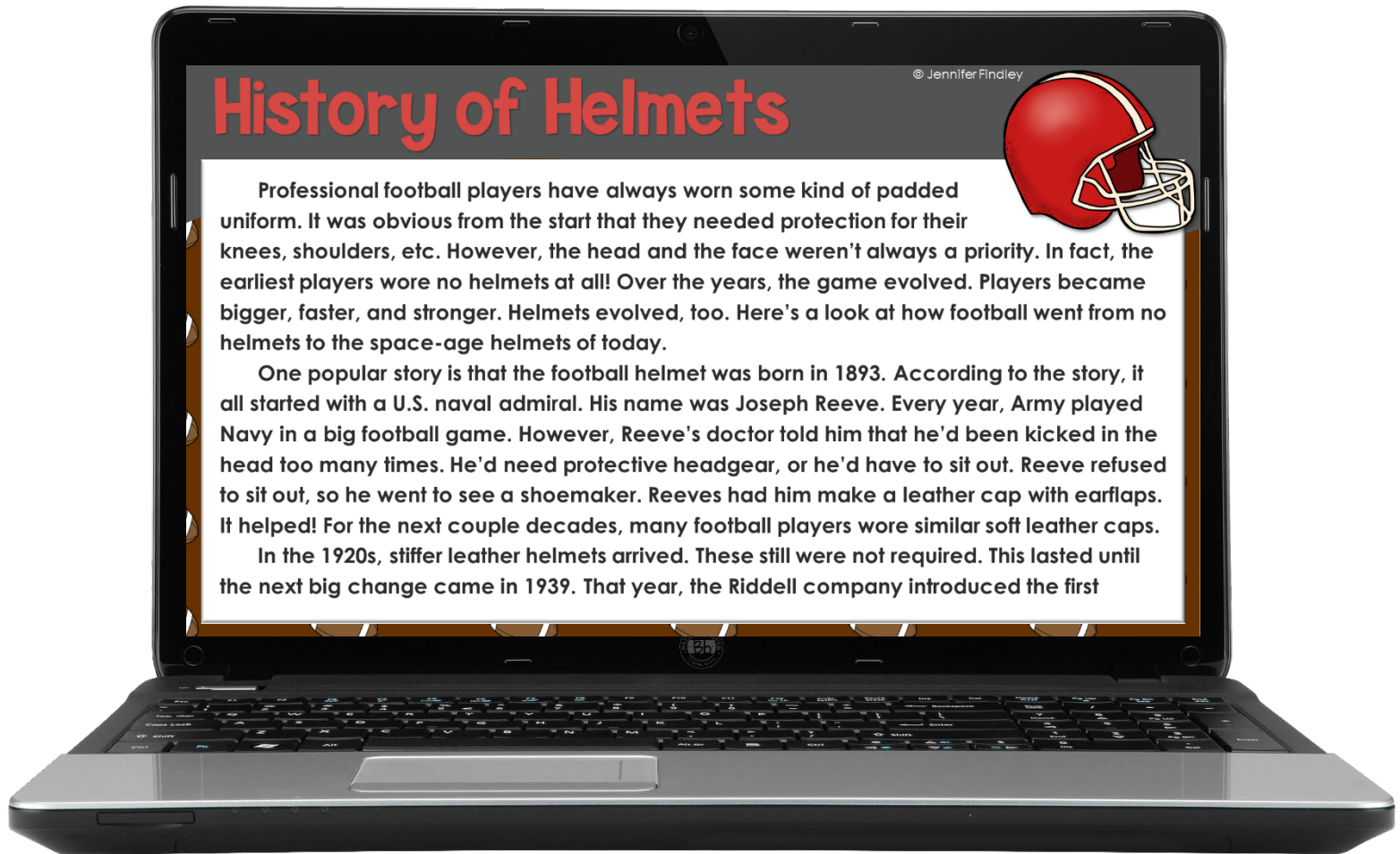
3. Each slide contains text boxes for students to type their answers into.

4. To assign specific slides from the Google Slides file, make a copy of your master. (You can do this by right-clicking on the file, or while the file is open, going to FILE > MAKE A COPY.)

5. Rename your new copy. Delete any pages you don't want to assign.

5. If you're using the file with Google Classroom, **make sure you make a copy for each student when assigning the file.** Otherwise, all of your students will be editing the same copy.

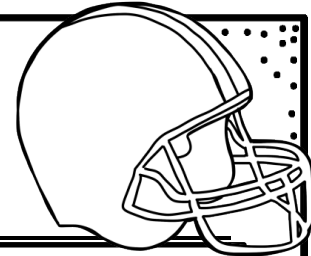
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History of Helmets



Name: _____

Date: _____

Professional football players have always worn some kind of padded uniform. It was obvious from the start that they needed protection for their knees, shoulders, etc. However, the head and the face weren't always a priority. In fact, the earliest players wore no helmets at all! Over the years, the game evolved. Players became bigger, faster, and stronger. Helmets evolved, too. Here's a look at how football went from no helmets to the space-age helmets of today.

One popular story is that the football helmet was born in 1893. According to the story, it all started with a U.S. naval admiral. His name was Joseph Reeve. Every year, Army played Navy in a big football game. However, Reeve's doctor told him that he'd been kicked in the head too many times. He'd need protective headgear, or he'd have to sit out. Reeve refused to sit out, so he went to see a shoemaker. Reeves had him make a leather cap with earflaps. It helped! For the next couple decades, many football players wore similar soft leather caps.

In the 1920s, stiffer leather helmets arrived. These still were not required. This lasted until the next big change came in 1939. That year, the Riddell company introduced the first plastic helmet. Unfortunately, plastic was hard to come by during World War II (1939-1945). As a result, plastic helmets took a little while to catch on. By the late 1940s, plastic helmets were here to stay. Even better, Riddell started adding padding inside of the helmets. In addition, the late 1940s is when teams started painting their helmets.

There was still a big safety issue to be addressed. Players' faces were still vulnerable. In 1955, a single bar was added to the padded helmet. It wasn't required at first. However, by the 1960s, all players had facemasks. Most were more complex than the single bar.

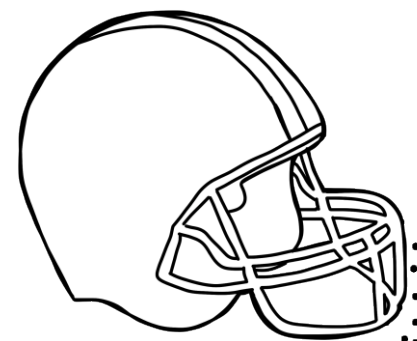
Meanwhile, the helmet's brain protection was becoming safer, too. Thick foam padding was added and then other materials. By the mid-1980s, the NFL's helmets were very complex multi-layered protective shells. In 2004, Riddell introduced a helmet that was specifically engineered to decrease concussions. As you can see, safety has come a long way where football helmets are concerned.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

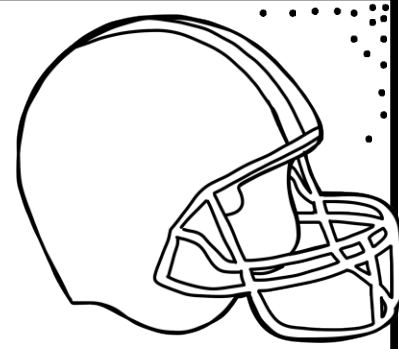
Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What motivated Reeve to seek out protective headgear?
2. Describe the first recorded "helmets".
3. Why did plastic helmets take time to become more widely used?
4. Why was a single bar added to the padded helmets in the 1950s?



Defining words

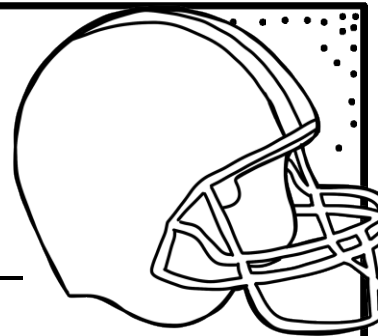


Name: _____ Date: _____

Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

word	context clues	definition
priority		
evolved		
gear		
addressed		
vulnerable		
complex		
engineered		
decrease		
concussions		

What's the Main Idea?



Name: _____ Date: _____

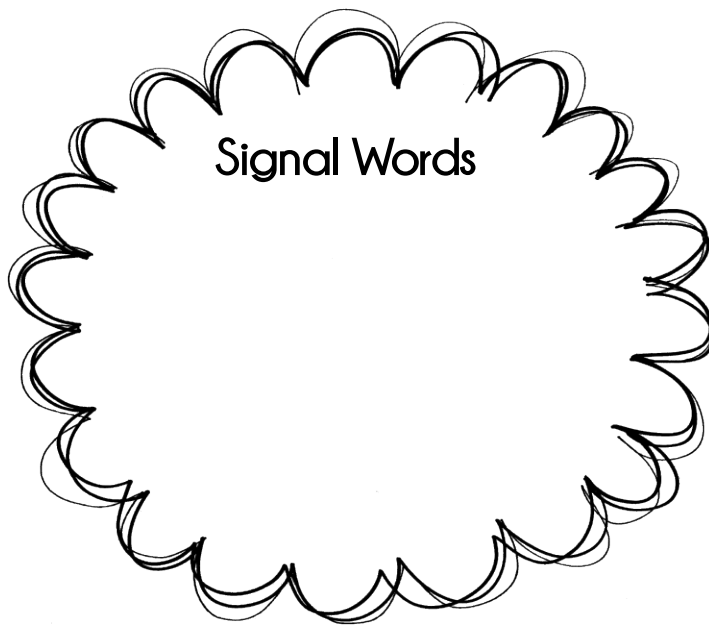
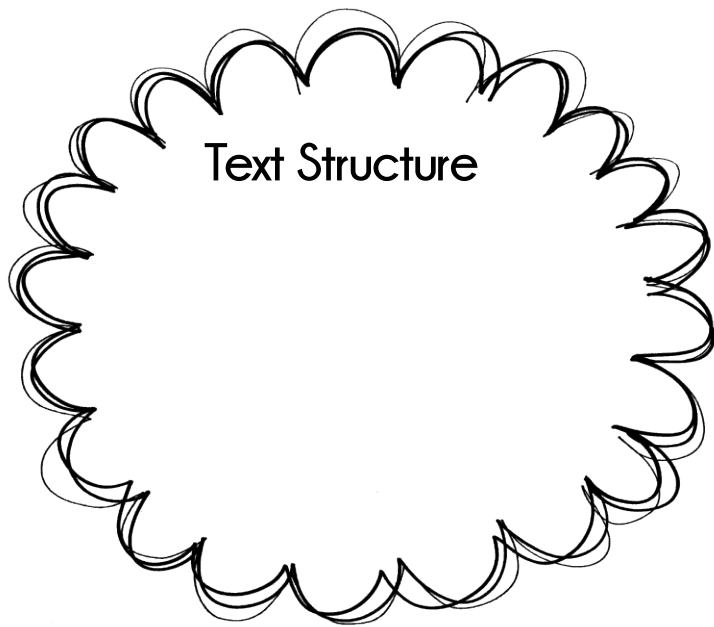
Write the main idea of each paragraph in the table.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

What's the Text Structure?

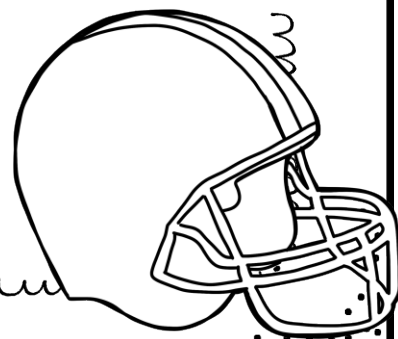
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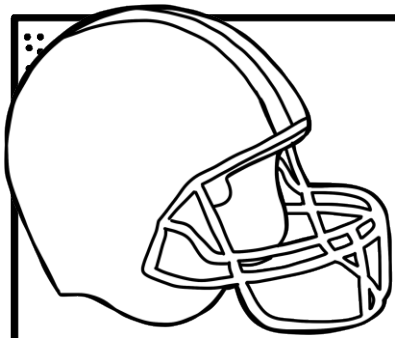
Determine the text structure used by the author.



Additional Evidence

(Written Explanation or Completed Graphic Organizer)

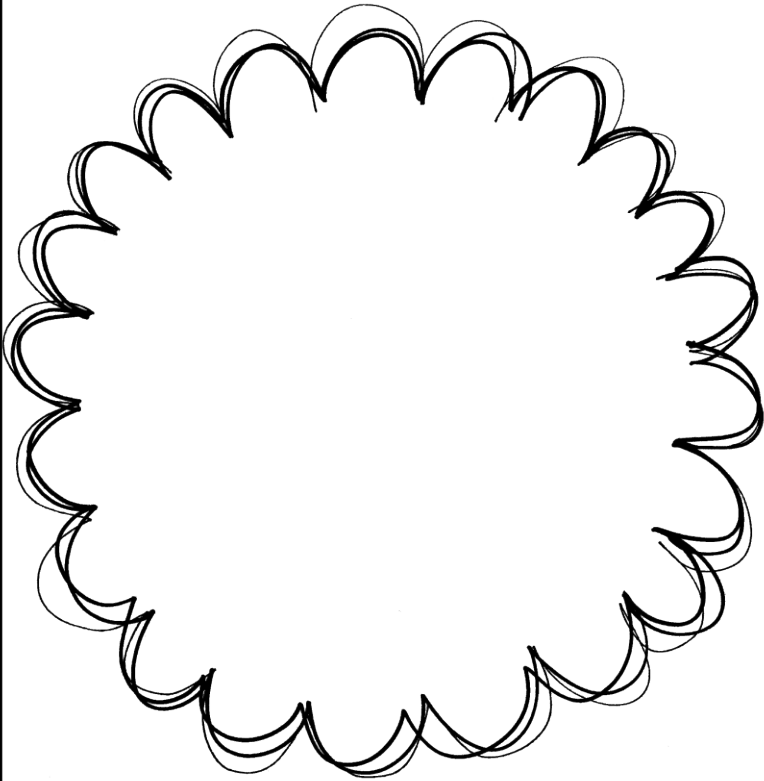


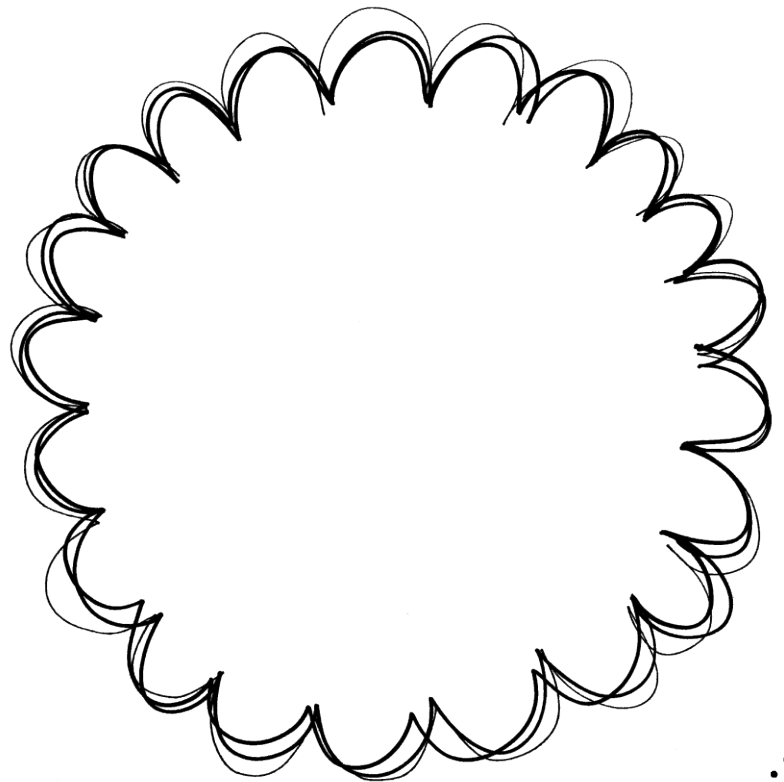


Picture This!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Create two visuals that would contribute to this text. Under the visual, explain how the visual matches the text. Also, explain which part of the text the visual best supports.





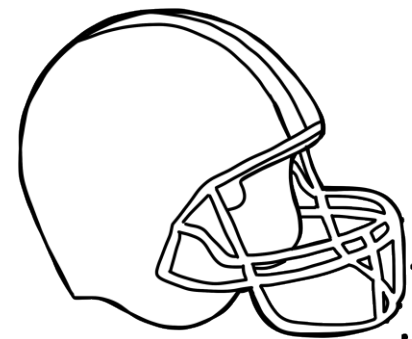
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Answer Key

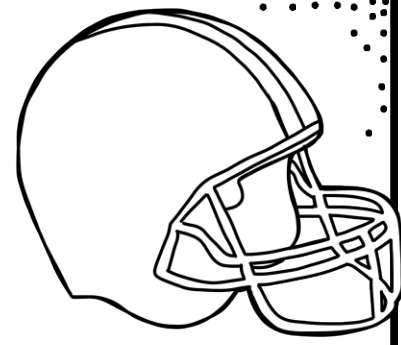
Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer each question using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What motivated Reeve to seek out protective headgear? *Reeve was motivated to seek out protective headgear because his doctor told him that he would have to wear it or sit out of the Army vs. Navy football game.*
2. Describe the first recorded “helmets”. *The first recorded helmets were soft leather caps with earflaps.*
3. Why did plastic helmets take time to become more widely used? *Plastic helmets took time to catch on because plastic was difficult to acquire during World War II, when this type of helmet was first introduced.*
4. Why was a single bar added to the padded helmets in the 1950s? *A single bar was added to the padded helmets to protect players' faces.*



Defining Words

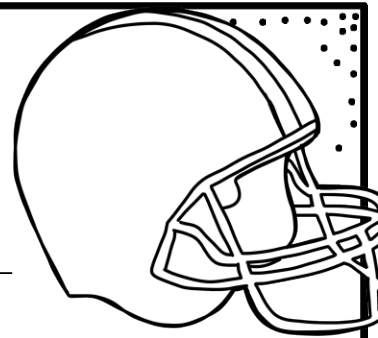


Name: Answer Key Date: _____

Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
priority	Clues will vary.	something that is important or urgent
evolved	Clues will vary.	changed, developed
gear	Clues will vary.	equipment
addressed	Clues will vary.	talked about, handled
vulnerable	Clues will vary.	at risk of injury
complex	Clues will vary.	multifaceted, complicated
engineered	Clues will vary.	developed, created
decrease	Clues will vary.	lower the amount of
concussions	Clues will vary.	head injuries

What's the Main Idea?



Name: _____ Date: _____

Write the main idea of each paragraph in the table.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	Helmet use while playing football and the helmets themselves have evolved over the time.
2	According to many, the first helmet was developed when a navy admiral was required to wear protective headgear during a football game.
3	Helmets continued to evolve to be even safer, going from stiffer leather to plastic helmets with padding.
4	Facemasks were introduced during the 1950s to protect players' faces.
5	Helmets continued to evolve in the 21 st century to include more protection and to decrease concussions.

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