One Powerful Woman

STANDARD OF THE WEEK:

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARD—Identifying individuals who have helped to strengthen democracy in the United States and throughout the world: Students will learn about Condoleezza Rice and her new position as Secretary of State.

BACKGROUND

Condoleezza’s Childhood: An only child, Rice was born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1954. Her mother, a teacher and pianist, gave her the name Condoleezza, after the musical direction con dolcezza, meaning “with sweetness or gentleness.” By age 3, Rice had begun lessons in piano, figure skating, ballet, and French. When she was 13, she moved with her family to Colorado, where her father became a vice chancellor of the University of Denver.

The College Years: Before she became interested in government, Rice dreamed of becoming a concert pianist. She entered the University of Denver as a music major when she was only 15 years old. Rice was halfway through her college career when she realized she would never be good enough to make it as a professional pianist, so she switched her major first to English literature, and then to government. She credits a course taught by Josef Korbel, a former Czech diplomat, for sparking her interest in international relations.

CRITICAL THINKING

Gathering Knowledge: Do you think “Rice on the Rise” is a good article to commemorate Women’s History Month? Why or why not?

RESOURCE

To read more about Condoleezza Rice and her new role as Secretary of State, go to www.state.gov/secretary/.

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and the study of the Soviet Union. Coincidentally, Korbel was the father of Madeleine Albright, the first female U.S. Secretary of State.

Past Jobs: Before becoming Secretary of State, Rice was President George W. Bush’s National Security Adviser. She was the first woman to hold this position. In 1989, during George H.W. Bush’s administration, Rice was the director of Soviet and East European affairs on the National Security Council. Rice left the council in 1991 and went to Stanford to teach. From 1993 to 1999, she served as provost of the university. Rice was the first woman and the first African-American named to that post.

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BACKGROUND

■ Dining on Dinosaurs: The smaller mammal discovered with a dinosaur in its stomach has been named Repenomamus robustus. The larger 30-pound mammal has been named Repenomamus giganticus. The dinosaur found in the stomach of the mammal was a psittacosaur (sih-tuh-kaw-sor). Psittacosaurus were two-legged dinosaurs that grew to more than eight feet in length. The psittacosaur found in the stomach of the mammal fossil was only about five inches long. It was a baby when it was eaten.

CRITICAL THINKING

■ Comprehending and Confirming:
After reading “Delicious Dinosaurs,” explain how scientists know that there were mammals that ate dinosaurs.

The First Phone Call

SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARD—
Understanding important events and accomplishments from periods in history:
Students will learn about the invention of the telephone.

BACKGROUND

■ Bell’s Background: Alexander Graham Bell was a Scottish-born inventor who is best known for his invention of the telephone. Bell was only 29 years old when he received the patent for his invention in 1876. In addition to being an inventor, Bell was also a teacher of the deaf. In 1872, he opened a school for teachers of the deaf. Bell’s work with the deaf brought him and Helen Keller together. They became lifelong friends. In testimony to the effectiveness of Bell’s work with the deaf and his generous spirit, Keller dedicated her autobiography to him. Bell once told his family he would rather be remembered as a teacher of the deaf than as the inventor of the telephone. But the telephone was of such great importance that Alexander Graham Bell’s name will always be associated with it.

CRITICAL THINKING

■ Inference: Imagine what life would be like if Alexander Graham Bell had never invented the telephone. How do you think the world would be different?
Do you think anything would be the same as it is today?

RESOURCE

■ For more information about Alexander Graham Bell, read Alexander Graham Bell: An Inventive Life by Elizabeth MacLeod (Kids Can Press, 1999).
Women Leading the Way

Women were taking on leadership roles in the U.S. even before they were given the right to vote in 1920! The time line below lists the first American women to be leaders in the government. Use the time line to answer the questions.

1. In what year was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate?
   A) 1916  B) 1932  C) 1933  D) 1997

2. Who was the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives?
   A) Condoleezza Rice  B) Victoria Clafin Woodhull  C) Hattie Wyatt Caraway  D) Jeannette Rankin

3. Which state was the first to have a female Governor?
   A) Kansas  B) Montana  C) Arkansas  D) Wyoming

4. After the first woman was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, how long did it take for a woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate?
   A) 1 year  B) 7 years  C) 16 years  D) 45 years

5. How many years after women won the right to vote did Madeleine Albright become the Secretary of State?
   A) 77 years  B) 81 years  C) 100 years  D) 13 years

1872: Victoria Clafin Woodhull became the first female presidential candidate in the United States.

1916: Jeannette Rankin, of Montana, was the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1925: Nellie Tayloe Ross became the Governor of Wyoming. She was the first female Governor of a state.

1932: Hattie Wyatt Caraway, of Arkansas, became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

1933: Frances Perkins was appointed Secretary of Labor by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, making her the first female member of a presidential Cabinet.

1997: Madeleine Albright became the first female Secretary of State, making her the most powerful woman in the U.S. government.

2001: Condoleezza Rice became the first woman to hold the position of National Security Advisor to the President.
Word Wise

A dictionary can help you find the spelling and meaning of a word. It will also tell you if the word is a noun, verb, or adjective, or some other part of speech. Use this sample dictionary entry to answer the questions below.

**consume** (kuhn-SOOM)

Verb
1. To eat or drink something.
   *We consumed too many cookies.*
2. To use something up.
   *School consumes most of my time.*
3. To destroy something.
   *The fire consumed the building.*

**verb:** consuming, consumed

**noun:** consumption

1. In the parentheses next to the word *consume* is the ___.
   - definition of the word
   - part of speech of the word
   - way to pronounce the word
   - none of the above

2. How many different meanings does the word *consume* have?
   - one
   - two
   - three
   - four

3. In the sentence below, which meaning of the word *consume* is used?
   Soccer consumes much of Matt’s free time.
   - meaning 1
   - meaning 2
   - meaning 3
   - both a and b

4. Which of the following words would you expect to find listed AFTER *consume* in the dictionary?
   - contact
   - cone
   - class
   - coat

5. Choose one meaning of the word *consume* and use it in a sentence.
   Write the sentence on the lines below.

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________