















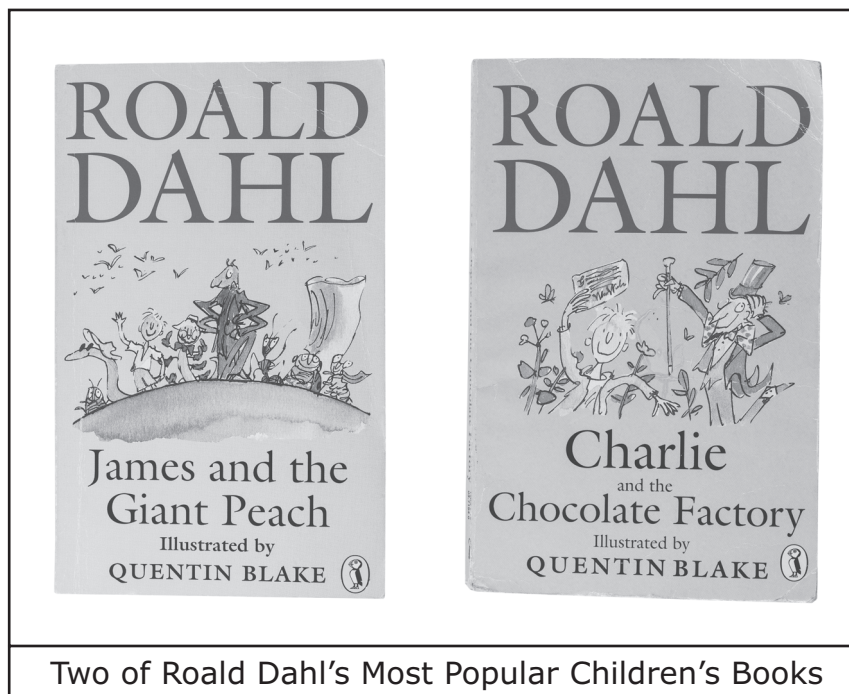




Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

## Roald Dahl

- 1 British author Roald Dahl wrote many books. Several have become classics. Kids still read *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, and *Matilda*. While Dahl may be best known as an author of famous children's books, he also had an interesting life unrelated to his writing.
- 2 Adventure wasn't something Dahl just wrote about in his books. He loved adventure and looked for it in his own life. Before he started writing, he traveled to other countries, flew fighter planes, and worked as a spy.
- 3 Dahl was born in 1916 in Wales, a country that is part of the United Kingdom. Dahl's parents named him after one of their heroes, Roald Amundsen. Amundsen enjoyed adventure, too. He led a trip to the South Pole a few years before Roald Dahl was born.



- 4 When Dahl was four years old, his father died. His mother thought of moving but decided to stay in Wales. She valued education and wanted Dahl to be a good student. She thought it would be best for him to attend a boarding school<sup>1</sup> in England.

<sup>1</sup>A boarding school is a school where students live during the school year while taking classes.

5 While attending boarding school, Dahl missed his mother and hated the endless rules. Although he did not like his new school, he did find a few things to enjoy. He realized he was great at sports, and he also developed a love of photography. After graduation Dahl decided to get a job instead of going to college. He worked at the Shell Oil Company and learned new skills. Then the company sent him to East Africa. Dahl soon learned that Africa had many new things to see. Finally, at the age of 18, he was having an adventure!

6 After World War II began, Dahl joined the Royal Air Force. He wanted to be a fighter pilot for Great Britain. There was a problem, though: Dahl was very tall—six-and-a-half feet tall. The windscreen on the fighter plane was lower than Dahl’s head. It was difficult for Dahl to breathe with the wind blowing in his face. He wore goggles to protect his eyes, but he still had to bend down to take deep breaths every few seconds. This did not stop him from doing what he wanted, though. Dahl tied a thin cotton scarf around his nose and mouth so that he could breathe. Flying came naturally to Dahl, so after several months of training with the Royal Air Force, he was ready to go to battle.

7 In 1940, Dahl received instructions to fly to a spot in the North African desert. He looked and looked for the landing strip but could not find it. With the plane running out of fuel, Dahl made a risky decision to land the plane in the desert sand. Although he was terribly hurt, he managed to crawl away. Dahl’s recovery took months. Among other things, the crash left him temporarily blind. However, his sight did return, and his body healed. After Dahl was once again fit for duty, he flew in many air battles.

8 Later the British government found a new way for Dahl to help his country. Dahl was asked to work as a spy. In his new role Dahl would gather information to help the British war effort.

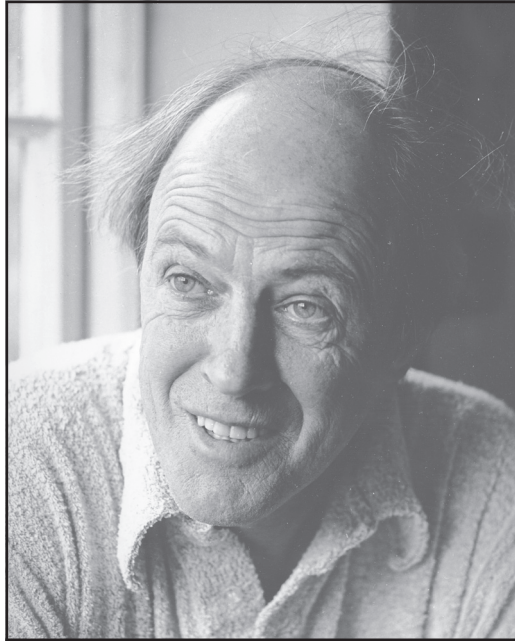
9 While working as a spy, Dahl began to write. Most of his writings were short stories for adults. He wrote spooky stories that often startled readers. The mystery stories were quite popular. He began to write children’s stories when he became a father. The first two novels, *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, began as bedtime stories he shared with his daughters. The books quickly became best sellers. Dahl was able to combine childhood



Roald Dahl  
in Uniform,  
1941

© Bettmann/CORBIS

mischief, suspense, and humor in a way that appealed to children. Although Dahl died in 1990, his books live on and are enjoyed by many children and adults today.



Roald Dahl, 1974

Roald Dahl, 1974 (photo)/Private Collection/Photo © Mark Gerson/  
The Bridgeman Art Library

**7** How was Dahl’s career at the oil company similar to his military career?

- A** Both careers gave Dahl experience as a spy.
  - B** Both careers put Dahl in dangerous situations.
  - C** Both careers required Dahl to have excellent writing skills.
  - D** Both careers presented Dahl with opportunities to learn new skills.
- 

**8** In paragraph 5, the word endless means —

- F** nearing the end
  - G** able to end
  - H** without end
  - J** after the end
- 

**9** The author included the information about Dahl becoming a father to explain —

- A** what types of stories Dahl most enjoyed writing
- B** how Dahl’s children helped him improve his stories
- C** when Dahl decided to become a writer
- D** why Dahl was inspired to write children’s literature

- 10** The photographs of two of Dahl's books after paragraph 3 are included most likely to —
- F** suggest that they were the first stories written by Dahl
  - G** encourage the reader to buy the books that Dahl wrote for his daughters
  - H** show which books Dahl wrote while he was a spy
  - J** show examples of Dahl's books that the reader may recognize
- 

- 11** The author organizes the selection by —
- A** listing Dahl's accomplishments as a writer
  - B** comparing Dahl's life as a fighter pilot to his life as a writer
  - C** describing Dahl's life from his childhood through his adulthood
  - D** explaining how Dahl's job at the Shell Oil Company led to new discoveries
- 

- 12** Which sentence from the selection best shows that Dahl was a daring person?
- F** *While Dahl may be best known as an author of famous children's books, he also had an interesting life unrelated to his writing.*
  - G** *Before he started writing, he traveled to other countries, flew fighter planes, and worked as a spy.*
  - H** *Dahl soon learned that Africa had many new things to see.*
  - J** *The mystery stories were quite popular.*

Read the next two selections. Then choose the best answer to each question.



# PAWPRINTS

**A great source for animal news**



**Vol. 2, Issue 6** **Read about animal helpers in this issue!**

## **Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds**

- 1 A dog on a surfboard is something you might enjoy seeing in a funny video. But would you believe that a real surfing dog could help raise money for those in need? A golden retriever named Ricochet is using her special talents to do just that.
- 2 Ricochet’s trainer started coaching her to become a service dog when she was a puppy. Ricochet did well at many tasks during training. She learned how to turn on lights, tug open doors, and do other jobs. These skills would help her to assist a person with special needs. However, Ricochet had a bad habit that caused her to fail service dog training. She liked to chase birds. While this energetic activity might seem cute, it made Ricochet unfit to assist a person with special needs.

### **Surfing for a Cause**

- 3 Judy Fridono, the dog’s trainer, concentrated on Ricochet’s positive qualities. Like most retrievers, Ricochet loved water, so Fridono took her to the beach. Ricochet quickly became good at surfing. Her talent got people’s attention. Fridono decided that instead of being a service dog, Ricochet would become a “SURFice” dog. The idea was that Ricochet could use her surfing talent to raise money to help people.
- 4 Ricochet’s first fund-raiser was in 2009. She starred at a benefit to help a teenager named Patrick. Patrick was unable to walk, but he had always dreamed of surfing. At the benefit, Patrick and Ricochet were supposed to use their own surfboards. Ricochet decided to hop on Patrick’s board, however. They surfed together, and thrilled spectators donated more than \$10,000. The money helped pay for Patrick’s physical therapy and his own service dog.

- 5 Encouraged by this event, Fridono started the organization Surfin' for Paws-abilities. Ricochet now travels to different locations and surfs at events to raise money for the organization that helps people in need.



Ricochet surfs with Patrick at a fund-raising event in 2009.

© AP Images/Lenny Ignelzi

### **A Talented Fund-Raiser**

- 6 Ricochet also raises funds and awareness for many causes that help both people and animals. She's surfed to earn money to buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She's surfed at fund-raisers to help fight human and animal cancer. She's even shown off her surfing skills to raise money to buy teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes. It should not be surprising that she has also surfed to raise money to supply food for animal shelters.
- 7 As of 2012, this amazing dog has raised \$250,000 to help those in need.

# Confetti, the Helpful Horse

- 1 Dogs have been used as guides for a long time. They are the most common type of guide animal. Many people who are blind rely on a dog to help with daily activities. Cheryl Spencer used to depend on a guide dog named Delta to help her. When Delta became unable to work, Spencer learned that some people use miniature horses as guides. At first, Spencer thought this idea was silly. But after learning more, she started looking for a guide horse.
- 2 First Spencer found someone who could train a guide horse. Then she set about finding just the right horse. In 2002 she e-mailed all the nearby miniature-horse farms looking for a horse, 26 inches tall at most, to be trained as her guide. She received an e-mail from a horse breeder named Barbara McDermott saying that the only horse McDermott had that might work was her favorite, Confetti, who was 27 inches tall. McDermott wasn't willing to give Confetti away at first, but Spencer was persistent. After Spencer explained her situation to McDermott, she asked to meet Confetti. A few days later Spencer, her husband, and her horse trainer visited McDermott's ranch.
- 3 When Spencer first met Confetti, she immediately knew the horse would be perfect for her. The trainer also thought Confetti would be a good guide. Even McDermott could see that Spencer was already quite fond of the horse. She agreed to allow Confetti to become Spencer's full-time guide.



Confetti

© Courtesy of Cookie Serletic

- 4 Weighing 150 pounds, Confetti is the size of an extremely large dog. She goes everywhere a guide dog would. She even has a "horsey door" so she can go in and out of the house when she wants. Confetti



sleeps in Spencer’s closet and eats in the laundry room. When Spencer and her husband eat at a restaurant, Confetti goes with them. Confetti has flown to Boston and has even been to Walt Disney World®!

- 5 Confetti is only the third horse to be used as a guide animal in the United States. As guides, miniature horses have some advantages over dogs. Most guide dogs can work for only 8 to 10 years, but a horse can work for up to 30 years. These horses have excellent vision, are quick learners, and are gentle and smart. These qualities make them good guide animals and great helpers for people like Spencer.

*Third party trademark Walt Disney World® was used in these testing materials.*

**Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” (pp. 12–13) to answer questions 13–16. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.**

- 13** What prevented Ricochet from becoming a service animal?
- A** She was distracted by birds.
  - B** She had to get on a surfboard.
  - C** She had to learn how to open doors.
  - D** She received too much attention from people.
- 
- 14** The author wrote this article most likely to —
- F** convince the reader to support the work that dogs do for others
  - G** inform the reader about the special work of an unusual dog
  - H** explain to the reader how a dog becomes a service animal
  - J** teach the reader how to train dogs to surf

**15** What information is included in the section titled “A Talented Fund-Raiser”?

- A** Some of the causes that Ricochet has helped
  - B** A description of how Ricochet learned to surf
  - C** An explanation of why Ricochet could not be a service dog
  - D** A story about the first time Ricochet surfed to raise money
- 

**16** What is the best summary of the article?

- F** Ricochet can surf very well. She helps many people and animals who are in need. She has helped buy pet oxygen masks for fire departments. She has also helped raise money for teddy bears for children in hospitals and people in nursing homes.
- G** Many people have watched Ricochet surf. The first time the dog surfed for a cause, she hopped on the back of a boy’s surfboard. People were amazed. Because of this, they gave money for the boy to get his own service dog.
- H** Ricochet helps people and animals by participating in fund-raising events. She helps out by surfing, even though she is a dog. The first person she helped was a boy named Patrick who had always dreamed of surfing even though he could not walk.
- J** Ricochet was training to be a service dog but did not qualify. Instead, she learned to surf, and her trainer realized that she could help others with this unusual skill. Today, Ricochet surfs for an organization that raises money for different causes.

Use “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” (pp. 14–15) to answer questions 17–20.  
Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

17 Read the dictionary entry for the word common.

**common** \ˈkă-mən\ *adjective*  
1. shared by people or groups  
2. regularly seen or used  
3. expected actions or behavior  
4. not having wealth or privilege

Which definition best matches the way common is used in paragraph 1?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

---

18 The reader can conclude that McDermott most likely —

- F thinks horses are better guide animals than dogs
- G enjoys helping others find guide animals to help them
- H believed Confetti needed more training to help Spencer
- J misses Confetti but is happy that the horse can help Spencer

**19** The author included paragraph 4 of the selection to —

- A** explain what Confetti does when she is not working
  - B** demonstrate that Confetti is a friendly guide horse
  - C** describe what Confetti’s life is like with Spencer
  - D** show that Confetti is able to take care of herself
- 

**20** What is the main idea of the selection?

- F** Spencer spent a long time trying to find a guide horse to help her.
- G** Confetti is a miniature horse that has become a wonderful guide animal.
- H** Guide horses must be trained before they can help people with special needs.
- J** Confetti is a lot like a dog and can go anywhere a guide dog can go.

Use “Ricochet: The Dog Who Surfs to Raise Funds” and “Confetti, the Helpful Horse” to answer questions 21–24. Then fill in the answers on your answer document.

**21** One **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti is that Ricochet —

- A** helps a person with special needs
  - B** has an owner who cares about her
  - C** was unsuccessful at becoming a guide animal
  - D** had to learn to do something before helping others
- 

**22** **Both** selections express the importance of —

- F** making animals famous
- G** making new friends
- H** teaching about animals
- J** caring for those in need

**23** Which sentence best describes a **difference** between Ricochet and Confetti?

- A** Ricochet required training, but Confetti did not.
  - B** Ricochet helps many people, but Confetti helps one person.
  - C** Ricochet spends time outdoors, but Confetti works indoors.
  - D** Ricochet does not notice other animals, but Confetti does.
- 

**24** What is one **difference** between the animals featured in the two selections?

- F** Ricochet was able to stay with her owner, but Confetti had to leave her owner in order to do her job.
- G** Ricochet's duties are typical for a service animal, but Confetti performs tasks that are not usually done by an animal.
- H** Ricochet's owner believed she would make a good guide animal, but Confetti's owner worried that she would not make a good guide animal.
- J** Ricochet must stay at home with her trainer, but Confetti travels as part of her job.

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

# Lengths of Time

by Phyllis McGinley

Time is peculiar  
And hardly exact.  
Though minutes are minutes,  
You'll find for a fact  
5 (As the older you get  
And the bigger you grow)  
That time can  
Hurrylikethis  
Or plod, plod, slow.

10 Waiting for your dinner when you're hungry?  
Down with the sniffles in your bed?  
Notice how an hour crawls along and crawls along  
Like a snail with his house upon his head.

But when you are starting  
15 A game in the park,  
It's morning,  
It's noon,  
And suddenly it's dark.  
And hours like seconds  
20 Rush blurringly by,  
Whoosh!  
Like a plane in the sky.

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**25** Read line 8 from the poem.

Hurrylikethis

The lack of spaces between the words creates a sense of —

- A** mystery
  - B** feeling rushed
  - C** happiness
  - D** feeling surprised
- 

**26** What is the message of this poem?

- F** Time moves at the same pace no matter what is happening.
  - G** Time seems to pass more quickly in the morning than in the evening.
  - H** The passage of time is usually noticed more by older people than by younger people.
  - J** Time seems to pass at different speeds depending on what we are doing.
- 

**27** How is line 21 important to the poem?

- A** It shows that the speaker is confused.
- B** It shows that the speaker has to leave.
- C** It suggests that the speaker is having fun.
- D** It uses a sound to describe the speaker's experience.

**28** In line 1 of the poem, what does the word peculiar mean?

- F** Strange
  - G** Certain
  - H** Sensible
  - J** Cautious
- 

**29** Read line 12 from the poem.

Notice how an hour crawls along and crawls along

Which of these does the poet use in line 12 to help the reader understand that time seems to pass slowly?

- A** Repetition
  - B** Meter
  - C** A line break
  - D** Rhyme
- 

**30** The first stanza is important to the poem because it —

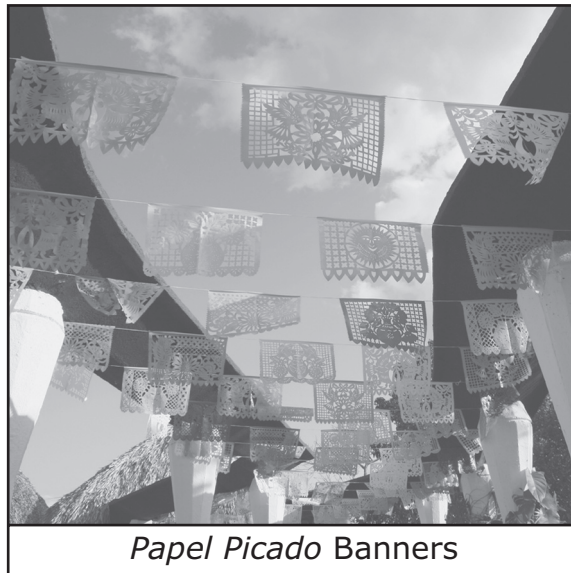
- F** describes an experience the speaker enjoys
- G** introduces the subject of the poem
- H** identifies the setting of the poem
- J** reveals the speaker's feelings

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



## ***Papel Picado***

- 1 *Papel picado* is a beautiful and delicate form of paper art. This art form began in Mexico, possibly as early as the sixteenth century. However, the thin tissue paper used to make the designs did not come from Mexico but from China. This paper was first introduced to Mexico when items shipped from China were wrapped in it to protect them from breaking. People living in Mexico soon had a lot of this tissue paper, and they began using it to make decorations. The paper art continues to be popular to this day.



*Papel Picado* Banners

© iStockphoto.com/Graffizone

### **What Does *Papel Picado* Mean?**

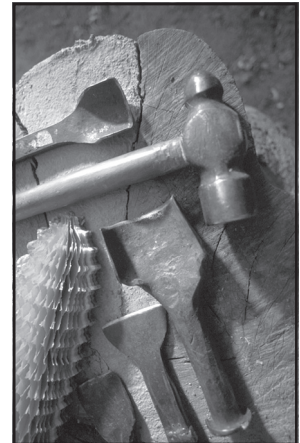
- 2 In Spanish, *papel* means “paper,” and *picado* means “punched.” It is clear that *papel picado* is a fitting name for this art form. After all, it is created by cutting, pressing, or punching designs into layers of tissue paper. The designs reflect the values and traditions of the Mexican people. They include images of people, animals, flowers, lettering, and any design that has special meaning to the artist.

### How Is *Papel Picado* Made?

- 3 To make *papel picado*, artists first draw the pattern for the art. Next they stack thin sheets of colorful tissue paper in a pile and lay them on a hard surface. Depending on the project, as few as five sheets or as many as 50 or more sheets may be used. Stacking many sheets of paper allows the artists to create the same pattern on all the sheets at the same time. Once the paper is stacked, the pattern is placed on top of the stack of tissue paper to help the artists make the design.
- 4 The artists then use sharp chisels to cut through the layers of tissue paper. After they cut the desired shapes in the paper, the artists carefully remove the cutout pieces. The punched-out spaces that remain in the tissue paper create the beautiful designs.

### How Is *Papel Picado* Used Today?

- 5 People today often string separate sheets of tissue paper together into long, colorful banners. Then the art is hung in windows and across doorways or narrow streets. *Papel picado* banners are used as decorations at celebrations and during special holidays. The banners may be displayed at weddings, birthday parties, and other festive events. The colors and designs are chosen especially for the occasion. On a *papel picado* wedding banner, for example, hearts and the names of the bride and groom may be part of the design.
- 6 As with other forms of art, people would like to preserve the delicate tissue cuttings and enjoy them for years. However, because the tissue paper is very delicate, it tears easily. If *papel picado* is displayed outside, the tissue will fade, crumble, and fall apart. In order to create art that will last longer, some *papel picado* artists have started using thicker paper, coated paper, sheets of metal, or sheets of plastic. No matter what material is used, people will continue to appreciate displays of *papel picado*.



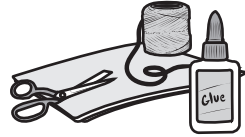
Special tools are used to cut designs into the paper.

© Danita Delimont/Alamy

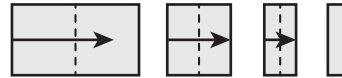
## An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*

1. Gather the materials you will need.

- Several sheets of tissue paper
- Scissors
- String
- White glue



2. Stack a few sheets of paper and fold them in half vertically. Then fold the stack vertically two more times.



3. To make the design, cut shapes into three sides of the folded tissue paper (two long sides and one short side). Leave some space between each cutout shape.



4. Open the tissue paper carefully and flatten.



5. Place the flattened sheets of tissue paper on a flat surface. The straight edge of each panel should be at the top.



6. Make a thin line of glue  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the top. Lay a piece of string on the glue. Leave some extra string at each end so you can hang the banner when it is finished. Fold the top  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of tissue paper over the string. Press firmly and allow the glue to dry.



7. Now your very own *papel picado* banner is ready to be displayed!

- 31** The photograph under paragraph 1 suggests that —
- A** artists who make *papel picado* need many years of training
  - B** making *papel picado* is something that a person must do alone
  - C** artists use detailed designs for *papel picado*
  - D** making *papel picado* requires only a short amount of time to complete
- 

- 32** Which sentence from the selection expresses an opinion?
- F** *Papel picado is a beautiful and delicate form of paper art.*
  - G** *In Spanish, papel means “paper,” and picado means “punched.”*
  - H** *To make papel picado, artists first draw the pattern for the art.*
  - J** *The artists then use sharp chisels to cut through the layers of tissue paper.*
- 

- 33** The author includes paragraph 6 most likely to —
- A** inform the reader of places where *papel picado* should not be displayed
  - B** describe different reasons that people like *papel picado*
  - C** tell the reader where to find the materials needed to create *papel picado*
  - D** explain how a problem with *papel picado* has been solved

**34** According to the section titled "An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*," what should a person do just before unfolding the paper?

- F** Glue the paper
  - G** Hang the string
  - H** Cut the paper
  - J** Draw the design
- 

**35** Which sentence from the selection explains why artists first created *papel picado*?

- A** *People living in Mexico soon had a lot of this tissue paper, and they began using it to make decorations.*
  - B** *They include images of people, animals, flowers, lettering, and any design that has special meaning to the artist.*
  - C** *Stacking many sheets of paper allows the artists to create the same pattern on all the sheets at the same time.*
  - D** *On a papel picado wedding banner, for example, hearts and the names of the bride and groom may be part of the design.*
- 

**36** In which section would the reader find information about occasions where *papel picado* is often displayed?

- F** What Does *Papel Picado* Mean?
- G** How Is *Papel Picado* Made?
- H** How Is *Papel Picado* Used Today?
- J** An Easy Way to Make Your Own *Papel Picado*













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