The White House Easter Egg Roll

Have you ever heard of an Easter Egg Roll? In the United States, Easter Egg Rolls are held in many cities during the Easter season. The largest, most widely attended, Easter Egg Roll is held on the White House lawn every year on the Monday following Easter Sunday. Children and their parents, either invited directly by the U.S. President and his family or selected by lottery, participate in the event each year.

The Egg Roll is actually a race, where children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs with long-handled spoons through the grass of the South Lawn at the White House. Other fun events, such as appearances from the Easter Bunny, story-telling, sports courts activities, musical concerts, and exhibits of beautiful, painted eggs take place during the event.

Since 1814 when Dolley Madison, wife of President James Madison, started the annual Easter Egg Roll, children had gathered on the lawn of the United States Capitol on the Monday following Easter Sunday to roll their eggs and declare an egg-rolling champion. In 1877, however, the gardeners cancelled the event because they had just planted new grass seed. Congress then met and voted to make it illegal to use the Capitol lawn for the egg-rolling event, so that the grounds would not be trampled and ruined.

A couple of weeks before Easter that same year, some disappointed children approached President Rutherford B. Hayes when he was out for his daily walk. They asked if they could hold the event at the White House. He went home, talked to his staff and his wife, and decided to open his lawn for the annual Easter Egg Roll. Successive, or later, Presidents continued to hold the annual event in the South Lawn of the White House.

The event has been canceled a few different times through the years. Poor weather conditions stopped the event once, and World Wars I and II also caused the Egg Roll to be cancelled. During those war year, children could be seen rolling eggs on the grounds near the National Zoo, Washington Monument, and once again on the lawn of the United States Capitol!

On April 13, 2009, President Barack Obama and his family hosted their first White House Easter Egg Roll. They used the theme of “Let’s Go Play,” and had activities to encourage young people to lead healthy, active lives. In 2012, the First Family invited J.K. Rowling, Justin Bieber, and the cast of “Glee” to attend the Egg Roll in 2010. Children attending the event were treated to musical numbers, story-telling, and healthy foods.

Even though the Annual White House Easter Egg Roll has grown and changed through the years, one thing has remained the same. The favorite event of the day is always watching the smiling children rolling and racing their beautifully decorated hard-boiled eggs across the lush, green lawn of the President’s home.
The White House Easter Egg Roll

Name: _______________________________ Date: __________________

Answer the following questions:

1. Where and when is the Easter Egg Roll held each year?

______________________________________________________________

2. What exactly is the Egg Roll?

______________________________________________________________

3. What happened in 1877 to change the location of the Easter Egg Roll?

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4. Which U.S. President opened the South Lawn of the White House to the annual Easter Egg Roll in 1877?

______________________________________________________________

5. Name 3 things that have caused the Easter Egg Roll to be cancelled.

______________________________________________________________

6. In the 4th paragraph, what does the word “successive” mean?
   a. earlier, before         b. following, later
   c. winning                d. different

7. What is the author’s purpose for writing this passage? Give at least 2 details from the text to support your answer.

______________________________________________________________

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______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
Easter Text Organization

Directions: Read each of the following paragraphs. Cut out each box and paste it on the following page in the box of the text structure category to which it belongs.

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To find lots of eggs during an Easter egg hunt, you must look around very closely. Then, walk carefully with your basket, so you do not step on any eggs. Next, as soon as you find an egg and put it in your basket, start looking for the next one. As you hunt for eggs, look in every spot; behind trees, under sticks, and in clumps of grass. Finally, when all the eggs are collected, show your findings to your family and friends.

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As Lucy was coloring and decorating Easter eggs, she tripped and fell into the table. As a result, the bowl of red egg dye tipped over and spilled all over the floor.

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Easter was coming and the Jolly Jelly Bean Company had a big problem. Their red jelly bean machine was broken. Red jelly beans were their most popular flavor, too! In order to fill all their orders, they were able to borrow the Cool Candy Company's red jelly bean machine. Thankfully, they had enough of the favorite jelly beans in time for Easter.

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Mya and Kira both celebrate Easter. They both get up early to find their Easter baskets and they both enjoy a special Easter dinner with their friends and family. Mya, however, goes to church services with her family, while Kira's family has a huge Easter egg hunt. For dinner, Mya always has a ham dinner with her family, and Kira goes to an Easter buffet at a fancy restaurant with her friends and family.

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Peanut butter and cream-filled candy eggs are two Easter favorites. Both candies are covered with milk chocolate and are egg-shaped with a flat bottom. They are wrapped in colorful foil.

While they are similar in some ways, the two candies are also quite different. One is filled with sweet peanut butter, while the other is filled with white, sugary cream. Peanut butter eggs are more expensive, also.

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When coloring Easter eggs, it is important to follow the directions carefully. First, drop the tablet of dye into a bowl. Then, add 2 tablespoons of vinegar and ½ cup of water. Stir well. When the dye has dissolved completely, drop your egg into the bowl. After that, wait for 3 full minutes. Finally, take the egg out of the bowl and let it dry. You should have a beautifully decorated egg!

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Derrek set his alarm clock for early the next morning so that he would have plenty of time to get ready for the town's big Easter egg hunt. Sadly, the power went off sometime during the night, and Derrek's alarm clock stopped working. As a result, Derrek overslept by 20 minutes. Luckily, he was able to hurry and make it to the hunt on time!

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Sally was in charge of making the cake for Easter dinner. Unfortunately, there was no baking cocoa in the cupboard. This was a problem, since her family's favorite Easter cake was chocolate.

To fix the situation, Sally went to her neighbor's house and borrowed some baking cocoa. She was finally able to begin baking the cake.
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AN EASTER ACROSTIC POEM

Directions: Fill in each line of the Easter acrostic poem by thinking of a word or phrase that begins with each letter in the word “Easter.” Be descriptive and remember to use your five senses when you are writing. Your poem does not need to rhyme, but it does need to create a picture in your reader’s mind.

An Example:

Beautiful, soft, and just beyond reach
Under the garden gate he dashes
Nibbling hungrily on fresh, bright-orange carrots
Nestling down into soft, tender grass
Yearning and dreaming of large, untended gardens.

After you have completed your Easter acrostic poem rough draft below, rewrite it neatly on the next page and illustrate it in the box provided.