

# Topic Thinking Skills

Comprehension Activities



Science and Medicine

# 1. Saving Our Smiles, Saving Our Bites

- 1. While all the scientists in the book helped to improve our understanding of tooth decay, in my opinion, the most important discovery was...
- 2. If I had to choose between being a doctor, a vet, a nurse, or a dentist, I would choose \_\_\_\_\_\_ because...
- **3.** Finding out about the work that scientists have done to improve our teeth is interesting because...



There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading Saving our Smiles, Saving our Bites, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. Why do you think scientists are investigating ways to use stem cells in treating damaged teeth?
- 2. If you were a scientist who had been asked to invent a way of stopping tooth decay, what would you invent?
- **3.** How do you think dentists repair teeth that have broken?



### 2. Dr John Snow: The Scientific Thinker of Soho

- 1. In my opinion, Dr Snow didn't invent a cure for cholera but he did find out that it could be prevented by...
- 2. I think that Dr Snow was able to convince the councillors to act quickly because...
- 3. In my opinion, the work of Dr Snow is inspiring because...



There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about Dr Snow, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. What do you think would be other examples in which mapping the places where people have had a disease would help to stop it spreading?
- 2. What will be useful to know about a disease if you want to prevent it from happening?
- Is prevention better than cure? What are some advantages to having to cure a disease? What are some advantages to preventing diseases?



## 3. Penicillin: The Drug That Happened by Chance

- 1. In my opinion, the discovery of penicillin is most remarkable because...
- **2.** The amazing thing about Fleming's achievement is...
- **3.** I think that the work Fleming did to discover penicillin shows us that...



There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about Fleming and the discovery of penicillin, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. What do you think is the best scientific thinking that Fleming used in his discovery of penicillin?
- 2. If you were in charge of an experimental new drug, what would make you decide it was time to try it out on people to see if it works?
- A lot of people are concerned that antibiotics are being overused. What do you think are the dangers of overusing antibiotics?



### 4. Malaria: The Challenge for Scientists

- 1. In my opinion, the best way to get rid of malaria is to \_\_\_\_\_\_
  because...
- 2. I didn't know that malaria...
- When I think of the thousands of people who get sick every day because of insects, it makes me think...



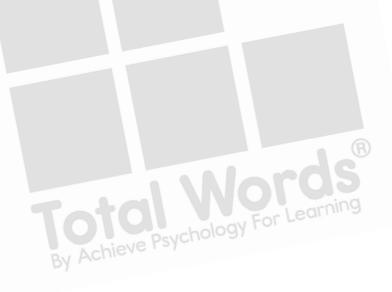
There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about malaria, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. Cure or prevention? From what you know, what do you think is the best way to stop malaria?
- What do you think are the main things that have made it so difficult to get rid of malaria?
- 3. If one species of insect were taken out of an environment, what do you think the effect would be on other insects and birds?



### 5. Edward Jenner: Scientist, Doctor, Observer and Experimenter

- 1. In my opinion, Edward Jenner's scientific work is most remarkable because...
- 2. The thing that I admire most about the work of Edward Jenner is...
- **3.** If I were James Phipps and were asked if I were happy to be given injections of pus, I would have said...



There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about Edward Jenner and vaccinations, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. Is it worth the risk to see if new medical vaccinations will work by injecting people?
- 2. Why do you think flu vaccines are not always successful in preventing the flu for a lot of people?
- **3.** What diseases would you like to have a vaccine for?

