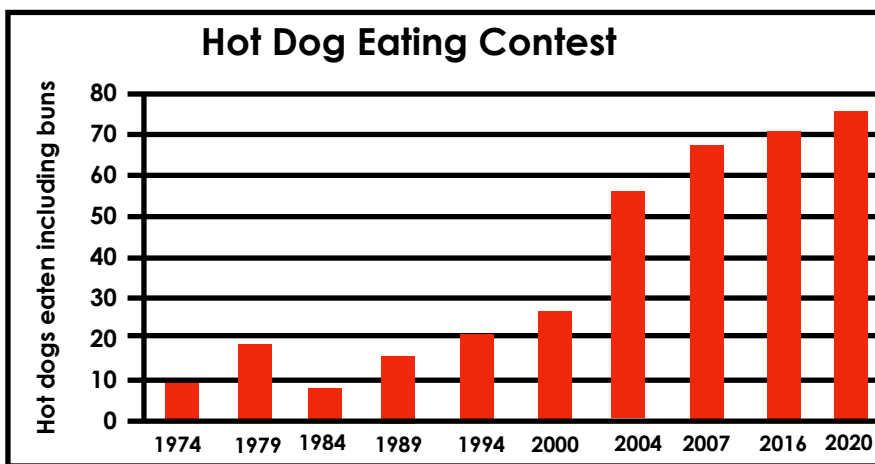


HOT DOG EATING CONTESTS

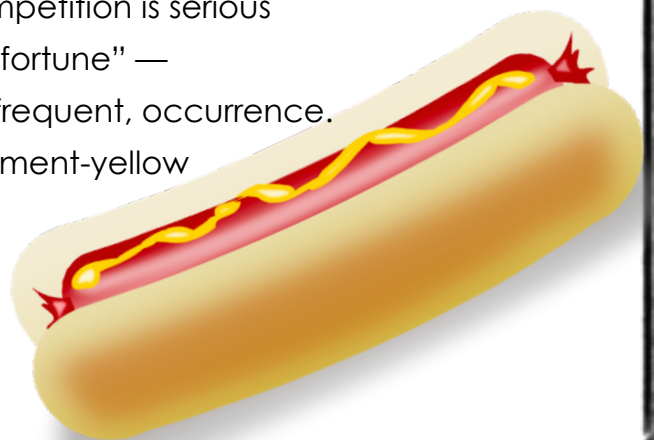
When the average person indulges in a few hot dogs for dinner, they have one, two, or maybe three at the most. Imagine, if you will, eating 75 franks and buns in a mere ten minutes. It might sound preposterous, but that is exactly what competitive eating titan and men's champion, Joey Chestnut, did at the famous hot dog eating contest. They don't call him Joey "Jaws" Chestnut for nothing.



This particular hot dog eating contest is held every year on July 4th on Coney Island, a neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. The promoter, Mortimer Matz, claimed that in 1916, four immigrants held the first contest in an attempt to see who was the most patriotic.

The contestants stand on a raised platform behind a long table with the world famous hot dogs, buns, and drinks to wash the franks down. Water is the drink of choice for many, but other beverages have been consumed as well. Condiments are permitted but typically are not used, and the hot dogs are allowed to cool prior to consumption, so the contestants don't burn their mouths.

Competitors have it down to a science, and the competition is serious with penalty cards for messy eating and "reversal of fortune" — a diplomatic way of describing an unfortunate, but frequent, occurrence. The men's league winners get to take home a condiment-yellow belt, and the women's league winner earns a pink one, appropriately sponsored by a pink-branded antacid company. They also win \$10,000 each; not too bad for ten minutes of "work"!



HOT DOG EATING CONTESTS

After reading the nonfiction piece, complete the tasks below using text evidence where appropriate.

Name: _____ Date _____

Infer information from the text and text features to answer the following questions.

1. In what year did Joey Chestnut win with 75 hot dogs eaten? How do you know?
2. What is significant about the date that this hot dog eating contest is held?
3. What is a *reversal of fortune*? How do you know?
4. Why are the belts' colors notable?

Analyze the author's tone of the last sentence.

Use context to infer the meaning of these words:

mere

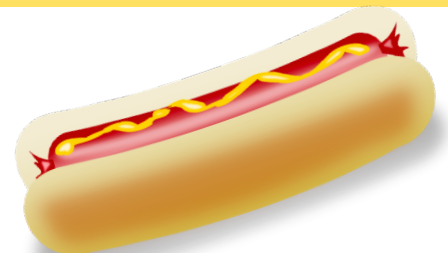
preposterous

diplomatic

ALL THE FIXIN'S: Draw a hot dog below with three strange condiments or toppings.

Would you eat this hot dog? Yes No Maybe

Analyze the graph and theorize why people are able to eat more hot dogs now than in the past.



HOT DOG EATING CONTESTS

After reading the nonfiction piece, complete the tasks below using text evidence where appropriate.

Name: _____ Date _____

Infer information from the text and text features to answer the following questions.

1. In what year did Joey Chestnut win with 75 hot dogs eaten? How do you know?

Joey Chestnut won with 75 hot dogs in 2020. You can infer this by looking at the graph to see in which year the winner ate that number of hot dogs.

2. What is significant about the date that this hot dog eating contest is held?

The hot dog contest is held on July 4th which is Independence Day in the USA. A clue of this is provided with the claim that four immigrants had the first contest to see who was most patriotic.

3. What is a reversal of fortune? How do you know?

Reversal of fortune means to throw up. This can be inferred from what it is called (reversing) and in the way it is described as an unfortunate but common occurrence with eating so many hot dogs in such a short period of time.

4. Why are the belts' colors notable?

The men's belt is yellow and meant to mimic the color of the most commonly used hot dog condiment — mustard. The women's belt is sponsored by a pink-branded antacid - something that helps with indigestion and likely would be used by all participants.

Analyze the author's tone of the last sentence.

***Answers may vary**

The last sentence uses quotation marks around "work" which suggests that the author might think that this is a lofty prize for the amount of time that it would take to complete the task.

Use context to infer the meaning of these words:

mere
Used to emphasize how small or insignificant someone or something is

preposterous
Contrary to reason or common sense; utterly absurd or ridiculous

diplomatic
Acting or speaking in a way that does not cause offense

ALL THE FIXIN'S: Draw a hot dog below with three strange condiments or toppings.

Students must draw a hot dog in this area with strange toppings and decide if they would eat it or not by circling one of the options below.

Would you eat this hot dog? Yes No Maybe

Analyze the graph and theorize why people are able to eat more hot dogs now than in the past.

Answers to this question may vary, but students should analyze the graph and theorize possible reasons based on their own background knowledge why contestants can maybe eat more now than they could before.

