

## Summary of an Article Writing Task

### Directions:

- Read the informational article on the following page.
- As you read, you may mark the article or make notes. Marks and notes will not be scored.
- After reading the article, write a summary of what you have read. You will have time to read, plan, write, and proofread.
- You may reread or go back to the article at any time during the test.
- Only what you write on the lined pages in this booklet will be scored.

### Scoring:

Your writing will be scored on how well you:

- state the main ideas of the article;
- identify the most important details that support the main ideas;
- use your own words in writing the summary; and
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

## Kiting

Most kites today are made of plastic or paper, but in China as many as three thousand years ago, kites were made of bamboo and silk. Over time, kites became popular in other places, including the United States, Europe, and Australia, for scientific studies, transportation, and entertainment.

Americans have used kites to conduct scientific experiments. Benjamin Franklin, a famous scientist, inventor, and founding father of our country, used a kite to find out more about lightning. His scientific experiment, on a stormy day in June of 1752, led to the development of many terms we use today when we speak of electricity. As a result of Franklin's work on electricity, others were able to add to what he had discovered. Michael Faraday built the first electric motor, and Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, the phonograph, and a small box for viewing moving films. None of these inventions would have been possible without Franklin's discovery.

Kites were also used to study the atmosphere during the 18th century. In the 1790s, box kites, with scientific instruments bound to them, were sent high into the sky. There, they were able to measure wind speed, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and the moisture in the air.

Alexander Graham Bell, an American scientist and inventor, wanted to fly. He was convinced that kites could be used to carry people. In 1907, he actually

built kites that were big enough to lift human beings into the air. His work eventually led to the development of gear that made flight safer, speedier, and easier to control.

Kites have always been used for entertainment. Many people simply enjoy flying their colorful kites. In Japan, however, Mr. Katsutaka Murooka sends his kites, complete with digital video cameras, to take photos from 90 to 120 feet up in the sky. These photos are displayed in a small, dome-shaped building that serves as the Miniature Portable Museum of Wind Energy, the smallest museum devoted to kiting. Using this method of photography, Mr. Murooka has been able to take safe and inexpensive photos of many different things, including volcanoes, the ocean, and sporting events.

Today, people enjoy power kiting, that is, being transported by kites as they take part in outdoor activities such as kite sailing, kite buggying, and kite jumping. In kite sailing, kites are stacked and used to sail on water, making travel speedy and smooth. Kite buggying, one of the most popular forms of power kiting, is done by stacking kites and using them to pull a small go-cart across places such as beaches, pavement, or dry lake beds. Buggying is safe and easy to learn. In kite jumping, a pilot lifts himself off the ground for a short period of time. As with any sport, training and safety are important.

Over the years, kite flying has resulted in great scientific discoveries. Kites have also provided us with outdoor fun and entertainment. The next time you see a kite flying, remember just how valuable they have been in the past and how important they are today.

**Writing the Summary:**

Write a summary of the article. Use the following lined pages.

Remember that your writing will be scored on how well you:

- state the main ideas of the article;
- identify the most important details that support the main ideas;
- use your own words in writing the summary; and
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.