

## Unit 17

1. Are you aware that Americans are the only Western people who use a fork in the left hand to cut food but then shift the fork to the right hand to eat it? The fork was not used in England until the late 1700s, so it was rare or unavailable to pioneer American colonists. Not until the 1870s were forks universally accepted in the United States. The early American custom was to eat with the knife in the right hand and to spear food with its point—aided by a spoon and the fingers. When the fork was introduced, the custom of eating right-handed had become too much of a habit to be changed.

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2. The Chinese invented paper almost a thousand years before Europeans did. In A.D. 105 Ts'ai Lun found that plant fiber that was ground up and soaked in water would dry into a lightweight, usable material on which to write. A Chinese chemist, Bi Sheng, invented movable type in 1040, about 400 years before Johannes Gutenberg developed it in Germany. More than 1,000 years ago, the Chinese invented the magnetic compass. This led to long-distance ocean travel and worldwide exploration and trade.

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3. Deserts are fascinating ecosystems. Because they have so little water, any animal or plant that lives in a desert must be suited for the climate. The kangaroo rat does not drink any water. It gets moisture from seeds. Cacti and other desert plants have root systems that spread out over a large area just below the ground's surface. These roots quickly collect any rain that falls then they store it in stems that can expand to hold a considerable amount of moisture. The spines on the cacti keep desert animals from getting to the water.

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4. Alexander Graham Bell is best known for inventing the telephone in 1876. This made him wealthy, and he used his money to invent many more things. Bell invented a type of metal detector, called an electric probe. Doctors used the probe to find metal pieces, such as bullets, in the human body, and it saved many lives. Bell also invented a vacuum jacket that forced air in and out of the lungs, helping people who had trouble breathing on their own. Bell experimented with flying machines and also built a boat called the hydrofoil. It was the fastest boat in the world for ten years.

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5. Born in New York City in 1850, Charlotte Ray was the first African American woman to become a lawyer in the United States and the first woman allowed to practice law in a court in the District of Columbia. She attended a school in Washington, D.C., and then taught at a university. Charlotte Ray graduated from law school in 1872, and the following month she was accepted by the District of Columbia bar. In addition to her brilliant legal work, she was known to have great interest in the women's suffrage movement.

# Unit 17

1. The paragraph tells mainly
  - (A) when the fork was first used in England.
  - (B) when forks became popular.
  - (C) how an American eating custom originated.
  - (D) how the colonists ate their food.

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2. The paragraph tells mainly
  - (A) how to make paper and movable type.
  - (B) how Gutenberg learned from Ts'ai Lun.
  - (C) about Chinese inventions.
  - (D) about how the magnetic compass works.

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3. The paragraph tells mainly
  - (A) how the kangaroo rat gets moisture.
  - (B) how animals and plants survive in the desert.
  - (C) about the widespread root systems of desert plants.
  - (D) about why the desert has so little water.

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4. The paragraph tells mainly
  - (A) why Bell used his money to invent things.
  - (B) about Bell's lesser known inventions.
  - (C) how Bell only invented things that saved people's lives.
  - (D) which of Bell's inventions was the best.

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5. The paragraph tells mainly
  - (A) where Charlotte Ray went to law school.
  - (B) where Charlotte Ray was born.
  - (C) why Charlotte Ray taught school.
  - (D) about Charlotte Ray's unique accomplishments.