Student: _____ **Date:** _____

Passage**:   Soldiers of the Surf**   **Expository 9.5**

During the 18th and 19[th]centuries, large sections of the eastern seaboard of the United States remained sparsely populated. The crew of a vessel run aground could expect very little, if any, help. As maritime trade increased, so did the demand for assistance for those wrecked near the shore.

Sailing ships navigated narrow approaches to harbors. In heavy surf the chances of running aground on sandbars were high. Stranded ships disintegrated within hours as they were pounded by the waves. Few sailors could survive a long swim in frigid, rough surf. Even if they did, it was likely they would perish from exposure on an uninhabited shore.

The Massachusetts Humane Society spearheaded the first lifeboat stations to provide lifesaving services to shipwrecked mariners. In 1848, Congress appropriated government funding for equipment, stations, inspectors, and full-time station keepers. Station keepers worked alone most of the time, and were required to travel for miles to assemble a volunteer crew in the event of a shipwreck. During the time it took to gather a lifesaving crew, the stranded ship was usually destroyed and all souls aboard lost.

The lifesaving service suffered from neglect during the Civil War. When many lives were lost during a vicious storm in 1870, newspapers clamored for reform. As a result, the U.S. Life-Saving Service was created. Manned year-round by full-time crews, stations were categorized as Life Saving, Life Boat, and Houses of Refuge. Daring rescues by "soldiers of the surf" captured America's attention. In 1915, the Coast Guard was established o take over the functions of the U.S. Life-Saving Service, which had served faithfully for forty-four years. Today, the U.S. Coast Guard carries on the traditions of the U.S. Life-Saving Service to all those at peril on the sea.

Question	Incorrect	Correct	Type
1. What is this passage about? *(lifesaving services)*			Main Idea
2. How populated was the eastern coastline of America in the 1700s and 1800s? *(sparsely populated)*			Fact
3. What amount of help could the crew of a vessel run aground expect? *(very little)*			Fact
4. As maritime trade increased, what grew along with it? *(the demand for assistance for those ships wrecked near shore)*			Fact
5. What happened to ships that ran aground on sandbars as they navigated narrow entrances to harbors in heavy surf? *(they disintegrated within hours)*			Fact
6. Who organized the first lifesaving services? *(the Massachusetts Humane Society)*			Fact
7. Although early lifesaving stations had equipment, the station keeper had to travel miles to do what? *(to assemble a volunteer crew)*			Fact
8. What lifesaving service was formed after newspapers began calling for reform of existing services in 1870? *(the U.S. Life-Saving Service)*			Fact
9. Why do you think the Life-Saving Service was neglected during the Civil War? *(any logical response: the eastern shoreline was divided between North and South, government money was needed to fund the war)*			Inference
10. Why were lifesavers called "soldiers of the surf?" *(any logical response: because they battled the sea to rescue mariners, they fought through the waves to rescue people)*			Inference
11. Describe the mission of both the U.S. Life-Saving Service and today's Coast Guard. *(any logical response such as: to save lives at sea)*			Inference
12. In this passage, what does the word "peril" mean? *(danger, exposed to danger, at risk, unsafe)*			Vocabulary
Total *(circle the outcome)* Green 10-12 Correct Yellow 4-9 Correct Red 1-3 Correct			

Question Type	Correct	Incorrect
Main Idea		
Fact		
Inference		
Vocabulary		

Likert Scale Rating: _____

1	2	3	4
I really did NOT like it.	I did not like it much.	I liked it a little.	I really liked it.

Comments/Observations: