

Colleen King Reading Comprehension – Creator of Math Playground

Name _____

Colleen King was born in Brooklyn, New York, where she spent the first five years of her childhood. After her two younger siblings arrived, Colleen's family moved to Long Island. Colleen had a large extended family there and spent her summer vacations and holidays with cousins, aunts, and uncles. Growing up near the ocean, Colleen quickly became a strong swimmer and even learned how to surf.

Music was an important part of Colleen's childhood. At the age of 7, she taught herself how to play the guitar although she secretly longed to be a drummer. Colleen did well in school and was especially fond of her math classes. She enjoyed computing numbers in her head and was very good at estimating the number of jelly beans, pennies, or gum drops in a jar. Colleen majored in Biochemistry at Hofstra University and completed three years of graduate work in Chemistry. Math was essential to her research along the way.

While working in biotech, Colleen met her future husband, Tom. Tom was a high school teacher whose classroom stories inspired her to change her career. Together, Tom and Colleen founded a math and science school in 1997. Once in the classroom, Colleen made it her mission to create engaging math lessons for her students. Impressed with the progress her students made, Colleen wondered if she could create a similar learning environment online.

In 2002, Colleen launched Math Playground and invited students to play with numbers. Her first game was a role playing adventure about a boy named Astro whose toy rocket would take him into space. Colleen went on to create dozens of math games to teach children about place value, number operations, fractions, geometry, and algebra. Colleen developed games that provided immersive learning experiences where children could be X Detectives, Penguin Pals, or Candy Cashiers.

In 2018, Math Playground celebrated its 16th year online. Today, Colleen works full-time at Math Playground and continues to design original math games for children. In her spare time, Colleen volunteers at a local food pantry, plays drums in a rock band, and supports a number of humanitarian causes. She lives with her family and two golden retrievers in Massachusetts.

- 1. Which question about Colleen is NOT answered in the first paragraph?**
 - A. How many siblings did Colleen have?
 - B. Did Colleen have any brothers?
 - C. How long did Colleen live in Brooklyn for?
 - D. What skills did Colleen learn from living in Long Island?

- 2. Which of the following details supports the fact that Colleen had unusual talent in math?**
 - A. Even at a young age, Colleen could make accurate estimates of the number of jellybeans in a jar
 - B. Colleen's husband was a high school math teacher
 - C. Colleen taught herself to play the guitar
 - D. Colleen made a role-playing adventure game about a boy named Astro

- 3. What question led to the creation of Math Playground?**
 - A. Should I change my career?
 - B. Can my students learn math on the computer?
 - C. Should I become a math teacher?
 - D. Could I create engaging math experiences online?

- 4. Which of the following best explains why Colleen changed her career?**
 - A. Colleen decided she wanted to create a popular math website
 - B. Stories from her husband's classroom experiences proved inspirational
 - C. She decided to help build a math and science school
 - D. She had already accomplished everything she hoped for in biochemistry

- 5. Which of the following MOST SPECIFICALLY describes the types of games available on Math Playground?**
 - A. Role-playing learning games
 - B. Role-playing math adventure games
 - C. Role-playing adventure games
 - D. Place value and fractions games

- 6. What information is OMITTED from the passage?**
 - A. How long has Math Playground been online?
 - B. What does Colleen do besides work on Math Playground?
 - C. What does the future hold for Math Playground?
 - D. Where does Colleen live currently?

- 7. If Colleen added information about the growth of Math Playground's audience, what paragraph could that information be added to?**
- A. First
 - B. Second
 - C. Third
 - D. Fourth