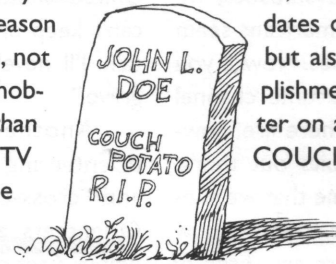


These are just three examples of captivating pastimes. Why are they all so popular? One principal reason is that they're basically active, not passive. Aficionados of these hobbies get out and act rather than passively sitting in front of the TV screen. Suppose that at some



future time we start engraving, on our tombstones, not only the names and the dates of people's births and deaths but also their hobbies and accomplishments. Which would look better on a gravestone: JOHN L. DOE, COUCH POTATO, or JOHN L. DOE, ORIENTEER?

Sources: Includes information from Michael Raphael, "Survey Says You've Got It Easier," Copyright The Associated Press, *Newsday*, June 5, 1997, p. A49; Ellen Sweets, "Runaway Favorites: Coaster to Coaster, Americans Love Life on the Fast Tracks," *Dallas Morning News*, July 4, 1996, p. 1C; Harley Jebens, "Getting One's Bearings: Orienteering Combines Map-Reading and Compass Work with Cross-Country Running," *Dallas Morning News*, December 27, 1998, p. 21B; and Chris Granstrom, "They Live and Breathe Letterboxing," *Smithsonian Magazine*, April 1998.

UNDERSTANDING MEANING FROM CONTEXT

Circle the letter of the choice closest in meaning to the italicized word or phrase from the reading.

- With all the extra leisure time that we supposedly have, it *behooves* us to know how to spend it interestingly.
 - benefits
 - interests
 - frightens
- The *precursors* of roller coasters originated in Russia as ice slides built high into the air.
 - first roller coasters
 - devices that later developed into roller coasters
 - inventors of roller coasters
- Best of all, it taxes both your physical strength and your mental *acumen*.
 - enjoyment
 - appreciation
 - skill
- These are just three examples of *captivating* pastimes.
 - attractive
 - inexpensive
 - demanding
- For some *aficionados*, letterboxing is so enjoyable that it's become a way of life.
 - fans
 - participants
 - spectators