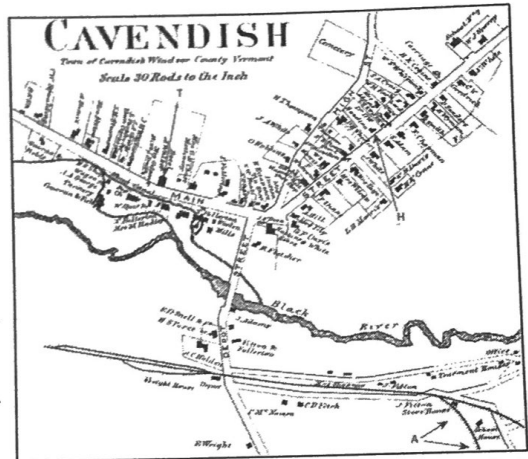


C HAPTER QUESTIONS



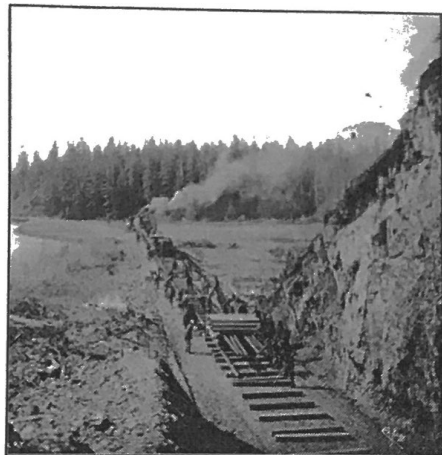
Cavendish, Vermont 1869 Map Image credit: EEng

1. The author chose to tell the story of Phineas’s accident in the _____ tense. Why do you think he chose to do that?

2. The author says that Phineas possesses “an iron will as well as an iron frame.” What do you think he means by that?

3. Using information from the text, write a description of Phineas Gage, describing both his physical appearance and his character.

4. What was the date of Phineas’s accident?



5. Describing the explosion, the author writes:

The drill hole acts as a gun barrel. Instead of a bullet, it fires Phineas's rod straight upward.

How does this use of figurative language help readers understand what happened?

6. What was remarkable about Phineas's condition just after the accident?

7. What was "lucky" about Phineas's open brain injury?



8. What was bad about Phineas's open brain injury?

Skull diagram of Phineas Gage, 1868 By: John M. Harlow, M.D.

9. Closely read the last paragraph on page 9 (continued on page 10). List 3 details the author gives to support his statement that Phineas should have died.

1) _____

2) _____

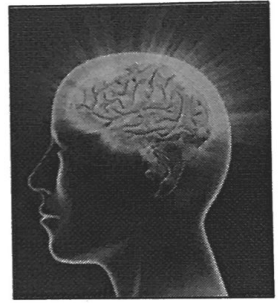
3) _____

10. What didn't medical science "have the slightest notion" about or know in 1848?

11. Describe Phineas's condition when Dr. Harlow sent him home to his mother in New Hampshire in the fall of 1848.

12. Describe the "something odd" Dr. Harlow described about the "recovered" Phineas.

13. In the spring when Phineas returns to Vermont, describe what has changed about him.



14. Who is Dr. Bigelow, and what does he want Phineas to do?

15. In Chapter 1, how does the author build the text to help us understand exactly what happened to Phineas, the unlikelihood of his survival, and how he was changed by the accident?
