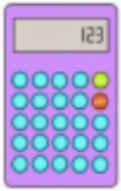Name: _____

Mrs. Swiski's Computer Class

Instructions: Read the passages below and answer the questions on the back of this page.

Computers can do lots of jobs. They can do math, store information, or play music. You can use a computer to write or to play games. What do you know about the history of computers?

The first computers were very big. They were the size of a room! They were so big that people didn't have them at home. Early computers could also only do simple math, like a calculator. In the 1930's Alan Turing had the idea for a computer you could program to do different things.

In 1958 Jack Kilby invented the microchip. Microchips are tiny but can store lots of information. They helped make computers smaller. In the 1970's, computers were smaller and cheaper so people started to use them at home. In the 1980's, computer games were very popular. Lots of people bought computers just to play games.

In 1989 Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web, which is a way to organize information on the internet. Now people all over the world can look for and share information on websites.

Today people can use smartphones to play games, email, and go on the internet. In the past a simple computer was the size of a room. Now it can go in your pocket!

FUN FACTS:

○ More than 3 billion people use the internet!
○ More than 200 billion emails are sent every day!
○ The first computer mouse was made of wood!

Questions 1 through 6 are True/False. Circle the correct answer.

1. Early computers were very big and could do math.   true   false

2. Microchips are very small and store lots of information.   true   false

3. Alan Turing invented the microchip in 1958.   true   false

4. People started to buy computers to use at home in the 1970s.   true   false

5. The World Wide Web was created in 1979.   true   false

6. The first computer mouse was made of plastic.   true   false

7. What was the most interesting fact about computers, from this passage?

_____

_____

8. Do you have a computer, smartphone or tablet?

_____

9. What do you use computers for?

_____

10. How often do you use a computer?

_____