

02.27.12

# ▶ COMPREHENSION SKILLS

## Analyze the Cartoon

Here's a serious cartoon about Syria. Study the cartoon. Then answer the questions below.



—Manny Francisco, Manila, the Philippines/Cagle

1. Who is depicted in the cartoon? How is he portrayed?

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2. What might be a good title for this cartoon?

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3. Write a caption for the cartoon that describes what is taking place.

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4. What point is the cartoonist trying to make about the likelihood of change in Syria and the truthfulness of its leader? Do you agree? Why or why not?

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**Extra Credit:** On a separate piece of paper, draw an editorial cartoon about a topic in *Current Events*. Mail your cartoon to *Current Events*, 44 South Broadway, 18th floor, White Plains, NY 10601-4425. If your cartoon is selected, we'll print it here or on our Web site at [www.weeklyreader.com](http://www.weeklyreader.com).

## Comprehension

Read the issue's cover story, "Coming Apart," and Time Trip. Then fill in the correct answers below.

- What is the main idea of the article?
  - Ⓐ Cyber communication has been useful among Syrian protesters.
  - Ⓑ Syria's civil war has resulted in thousands of deaths.
  - Ⓒ Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has refused to resign despite opposition.
- What happened first?
  - Ⓐ The U.S. demanded that al-Assad step down.
  - Ⓑ Members of the Arab League adopted a peace plan for Syria.
  - Ⓒ Antigovernment protests erupted in the Syrian city of Deraa.
- What percent of Syria's population is Muslim?
  - Ⓐ 35
  - Ⓑ 74
  - Ⓒ 87
- What is true about the reasons behind the Syrian revolt?
  - Ⓐ Gaining greater democracy is the only motivation for most protesters.
  - Ⓑ Religious differences are one of several reasons behind the revolt.
  - Ⓒ The protesters' main goal is to avenge the killing of Sunni Muslims by the al-Assad family.
- What did archaeologists discover in the ancient Syrian city of Ebla that revealed much about its economic activity, language, religion, and everyday life?
  - Ⓐ a throne room
  - Ⓑ wooden library shelves
  - Ⓒ cuneiform tablets

