

Welcome to Marshall, Minnesota

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about Marshall?
- What would you like to know?

Definitions:

- Liberal arts – general academics
- Enterprise – a large business organization
- State-of-the-art – using the most currently available technology



Reading

Welcome to Marshall, a friendly community of 13,000 people located on the beautiful southwestern Minnesota prairie. It is 90 miles northeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and 180 miles southwest of the Twin Cities.

Marshall is surrounded by flat, wide open country. The sky **extends** for miles and miles. The prairie is good farmland. Thousands of acres of corn and soybeans are grown in the Marshall area.

Marshall is an academic center. It is home to Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), a four year liberal arts college. SMSU has been named the best college in its class for eight **consecutive** years by *U.S. News and World Report* magazine. It has an enrollment of 3,500 students.

Marshall is also home to both small and large companies. The Schwan Food Company is the largest of them. It began in 1952 with Marvin Schwan and his 1946 Dodge van. He drove door to door selling ice cream. The Schwan Food Company has grown into a billion dollar enterprise that does business all over the world. In fact, it is the world's largest producer of frozen pizza!

Marshall is a safe, family friendly city. It has a beautiful YMCA, many nice parks, good schools, and a large public library. The \$10 million YMCA opened in the fall of 2003. It has a large swimming pool equipped with a water slide that both children and adults can enjoy. The YMCA hosts many events and classes for all ages.

Marshall has both public and private schools available for children's education. A new state-of-the-art public high school is being built. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2005.

Understanding

1. What is the closest state to Marshall (besides Minnesota)? _____

2. Why is Marshall a “family friendly” city? _____

3. How did The Schwan Food Company begin? _____

4. What does the word **extend** mean? _____

5. Would you say Marshall is a city of growth? Why or why not? _____

6. What is the name of the college in Marshall? _____

7. What does the word **consecutive** mean? _____

Writing

Option A: In your own words, write a summary of the reading.

Option B: What do you like about the area where you live? What do you not like about it?
