

Warm-Up

14

Name _____

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is in New York City. It is one of the world's great storehouses of art. It opened in 1870. The museum is open to the public. The idea is to let all people view great art. The original building has had many additions. The Met is twenty times larger now than when it was first built. It houses more than two million objects.

The Met's first **acquisition** was a Roman stone coffin. This type of tomb is called a **sarcophagus**. It was joined by Egyptian artifacts and objects recovered from ancient societies. There are classical Greek marble statues and parts of temples. The Met has furniture on display from the great European

castles of the Middle Ages. Visitors can see more than 15,000 pieces of arms and armor. These span twenty-three centuries.

Artwork from ancient Egypt and medieval Europe grace its walls. Popular 19th century impressionists, such as Vincent Van Gogh, have a number of works on exhibit. What's the biggest painting? The canvas of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." It's over twelve feet tall and twenty-one feet wide!

You can learn more about the museum by reading *From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg. It is a sixth-grade mystery set in the museum.

Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is a **sarcophagus**?
 - a bed
 - a stone coffin
 - a castle
 - a statue
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **acquisition**?
 - something old
 - a popular item
 - something bought or gained
 - a coffin
- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - The Met has a lot of paintings from impressionists.
 - The Met is a great museum with many extraordinary historical and artistic treasures.
 - The Met is in New York City.
 - The Met has a lot of arms, armor, and furniture from castles.
- Why was the Met originally built?
 - to get some art out of storage places
 - to provide a museum for rich and famous visitors
 - to provide an art museum for ordinary people
 - to fill up an empty lot in New York City

/4



Name _____

15

The Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is located on the National Mall. The Mall is in the heart of the nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. The exterior of this beautiful monument is made of white Colorado marble. It has thirty-six columns. They surround a central block. They stand for the thirty-six states that made up the United States at the time of Lincoln's death. The name of each of these states and its date of admission to the Union are **inscribed** at the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

There is a huge white marble statue of Abraham Lincoln. It sits on an armchair inside the chamber. It is nineteen feet high. American sculptor Daniel Chester French carved it. The statue was dedicated in 1922.

The text of the Gettysburg Address is engraved on a stone tablet. It is in the south chamber of the Lincoln Memorial. Lincoln's second inaugural address is engraved in the north chamber. Above Lincoln's head is this inscription: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."

The Lincoln Memorial is open day and night. Many people enjoy viewing it at dusk. At that time, some people say that the light makes it look as though Lincoln is watching over the nation he once loved.

Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **inscribed**?
 - scribbled in ink
 - written or engraved on a surface
 - a kind of marble
 - a stone column
- What was Daniel Chester French's occupation?
 - architect
 - president
 - sculptor
 - painter
- Why were the Gettysburg Address and the second inaugural address inscribed on the memorial?
 - There were no other copies of the documents.
 - They were written about Lincoln.
 - They needed to fill up space.
 - They were Lincoln's most famous speeches.
- Which of the following facts would *not* be relevant to the passage about the Lincoln Memorial?
 - Lincoln helped preserve the Union.
 - Lincoln's speeches inspired Americans.
 - The president of the Confederacy was Jefferson Davis.
 - The Lincoln Memorial is made of marble.



Warm-Up

16

Name _____

The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument was built to honor George Washington. He was America's first president. Its construction was discussed even before his death. Designers and public leaders proposed different designs. They helped to raise money, too. However, lack of funds and design arguments halted work on it several times. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848. Construction took thirty-seven years to complete. The monument was dedicated in 1885. This was almost ninety years after Washington's death.

The monument is an obelisk. The shaft of white marble slowly tapers to a point. That's why the walls are fifteen feet thick at the base and just eighteen inches thick at the top. Its top is shaped like a pyramid.

The monument's white marble blocks came from **quarries** in Maryland and Massachusetts. They are held together with a cement-like mortar. There is no metal reinforcement. The monument weighs 90,854 tons. That's as much as 60,000 cars! The Washington Monument is the world's tallest masonry structure (stone and mortar). It is the tallest structure in the nation's capital. It will remain that way. It is against the law to build anything taller.

Eight small windows are located at the 500-foot-level. There are two windows on each side. They offer a beautiful view of the city. An elevator gives visitors a fast ride to the top.

Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what are **quarries**?
 - places where wine is stored
 - places where wood is kept
 - places where stone is dug out of the ground
 - places where railroad cars are kept
- What material holds the marble blocks in place?

a. steel	c. nothing
b. bricks	d. mortar
- From the context of the passage, what natural event might pose the most danger to the Washington Monument?

a. floods	c. long periods of heat
b. blizzards	d. earthquakes
- Which word describes the shape of the monument as a towering shaft of white marble?

a. obelisk	c. pyramid
b. quarry	d. cylinder

/4



Warm-Up

17

Name _____

The Appalachian Mountains

The Appalachian Mountains run through eastern North America. They extend from Newfoundland, Canada, all the way to Alabama. Four mountain ranges are included in the Appalachian system. They are the Alleghenies of New York, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, and the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Geologists know that parts of the Appalachian Mountains formed from 750 million to one billion years ago. These mountains are not nearly as tall as the Rocky Mountains in the American West or the Himalaya Mountains in Asia. In fact, Mount Mitchell in North Carolina is the tallest peak. It is 6,684 feet

high. That's just 25 percent as tall as Mt. Everest.

You can walk the length of the Appalachian Mountains along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. American Indians once used its winding path. It is 2,144 miles long. The trail starts at Mount Katahdin in Maine and goes to Springer Mountain in Georgia. Along the way, hikers pass through fourteen states, eight national forests, and two national parks. Most people hike just a section of the trail. A few thru-hikers do the whole route. Hiking starts in March and ends in October.

Check Your Understanding

- Where are the Appalachian Mountains located?
 - the western United States
 - in Asia near Mt. Everest
 - in eastern North America
 - in the center of the United States
- Which people first made the path along the Appalachian Trail?
 - park rangers
 - thru-hikers
 - lumbermen
 - American Indians
- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
 - The tallest peak is 6,684 feet high.
 - The Great Smoky Mountains are in Tennessee.
 - The Appalachian Mountains are the most beautiful mountains in America.
 - Many rivers begin in the Appalachians as small streams.
- What can you infer from reading the first paragraph?
 - The Appalachian Mountains are new and tall.
 - Mountain ranges are larger than mountain systems, such as the Appalachians.
 - Mountain ranges are smaller than mountain systems, such as the Appalachians.
 - The Appalachian Mountains have three ranges.



/4

Warm-Up

18

Name _____

The Statue of Liberty

France and the United States became friends during the Revolutionary War. France made the Statue of Liberty as a gift for the United States. It celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, created the Statue of Liberty. He took twelve years to build it. He based the face on his mother as a young woman. Completed in 1884, the sculpture stood on display in France for a year. Then it was taken apart. It crossed the Atlantic in 214 huge packing crates. The ship carrying the crates nearly went down in a storm.

When the sculpture arrived, it was put on a granite pedestal. It stands on the twelve-acre Liberty Island in New York. The Statue of

Liberty's official name is *Liberty Enlightening the World*. Its location is close to the Ellis Island **immigrant** station. It is a symbol of America's welcome to immigrants.

The Statue of Liberty is covered with copper sheets. It weighs 225 tons. There are 354 steps to the crown. The crown has seven rays. They represent the seven seas and continents. Lady Liberty holds a tablet. Inscribed on it is the date July 4, 1776, in Roman numerals.

Check Your Understanding

- What date is written in Roman numerals on the tablet held by Lady Liberty?
 - January 1, 1884
 - July 4, 1886
 - July 4, 1776
 - February 22, 1732
- Which of these titles would best express the main idea of the passage?
 - "A Statue for Washington"
 - "Celebrating the Revolution"
 - "The Statue of Liberty as an American Symbol"
 - "Climbing the Statue of Liberty"
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **immigrant**?
 - a person who leaves a country
 - a person who enters a country to live there
 - a person who builds statues
 - a tourist
- What is the Statue of Liberty built upon?
 - an old ship
 - a pedestal
 - dirt
 - copper sheeting

/4



Warm-Up

Name _____

19

Angkor Wat

One thousand years ago, the largest city in the world was Angkor Thom in Cambodia. More than one million people lived in this city. No other city in the world could support this many people. Emperor Suryavarman II was the ruler of the great Khmer Empire. He controlled Angkor Thom and most of Southeast Asia. He ordered the construction of Angkor Wat, which became the largest temple in the world. The huge temple stands outside the city. It was built as a combination of a royal palace and a Hindu temple. The king lived there and was worshipped as a god-king. This unique temple was surrounded by a deep water-filled **moat**. The moat was more than 620 feet wide. Inside the walls of the temple, there were shrines and galleries. There was a central dome-shaped pyramid more than 200

feet high. Skilled artists created carvings and statues throughout the temple.

The capital city of Angkor Thom was defended both by water and warriors. The people were very dependent upon rice as their staple food. They built two huge tanks to store water. Each held more than two billion gallons of water. The water was used for watering rice and other crops. It was used for drinking, personal cleanliness, and **sanitation**. The water also filled a moat that surrounded the city. This man-made river helped defend against enemy armies. No one knows why the ancient city and temple were abandoned to the jungle sometime after 1100 CE.

Check Your Understanding

- Which of the following is the name of a temple?
 - Suryavarman
 - Cambodia
 - Angkor Thom
 - Angkor Wat
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **moat**?
 - a man-made, deep ditch around a castle, temple, or city
 - a lake in the middle of a city
 - a small stream in front of a castle, temple, or city
 - a pile of rocks
- Which religion was practiced by the Khmer people?
 - Islam
 - Christianity
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **sanitation**?
 - swimming
 - disposal of waste
 - personal defense
 - water warfare



/4

Warm-Up

20

Name _____

The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower was built for the 100th celebration of the French Revolution that began in 1789. The Eiffel Tower was the **focal point** of the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. Seven hundred people submitted designs. Yet all the judges chose the one done by Gustave Eiffel. Work began in 1887. It was done two years later. About 50 engineers, 100 iron workers, and 120 laborers worked on it. When it was finished, Eiffel used the tower to conduct experiments. He studied weather and flight.

The Eiffel Tower weighs about 10,000 tons. It is made of 15,000 pieces of iron. They are held together by 2.5 million rivets. It takes forty tons of paint to cover it! It is painted every seven years. The temperature affects

the structure's height. It varies from 984 to 990 feet tall. (It is taller on hot days.) In addition to seven elevators, it has 1,665 steps.

The city of Paris owns the building. It serves as a radio-broadcasting tower. It is also an observation tower. It is the most-visited paid monument on Earth. Millions go there each year. On a clear day, a visitor can see about thirty-seven miles at the top. A mountain climber has scaled the Eiffel Tower. Parachutists have landed on it, too. Have you ever been to the Eiffel Tower?

Check Your Understanding

- Which of these facts would *not* be relevant to the passage?
 - Weather experiments included barometers and other devices.
 - Flight experiments dealt with air and wind resistance.
 - About 6.8 million people visit the tower each year.
 - The French Revolution led to many deaths in France.
- From the context of the second sentence, what is the meaning of **focal point**?

a. an eye	c. a kind of sport
b. something that holds the eye's attention	d. something you want to buy
- From the context of the passage, what word means "all the individuals agreed"?

a. dissent	c. disapproved
b. unanimous	d. reluctant
- From the context of the passage, what can you infer about Gustave Eiffel?
 - Eiffel wasn't married.
 - Eiffel didn't plan the tower very well.
 - Eiffel was a man with very few interests.
 - Eiffel was a man with many interests and abilities.

/4



Warm-Up

Name _____

21

The World Cup

The World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events in the world. This great soccer championship features players from thirty-two nations. Each nation wants to win the cup by becoming the number one soccer team. The World Cup is a worldwide contest that takes place only once every four years. However, it holds the attention of much of the planet when the games begin. The World Cup was created in 1928, and the first World Cup games were held in Uruguay in 1930. It was an all-male contest at the time. The first women's World Cup was held in China in 1991.

Soccer is not quite as popular in the United States as basketball, football, or baseball. However, it still has millions of followers. People all over the world often get up in the middle of the night or skip work to watch their

nation's team compete. More than five billion people watch the final match on television. That is most of the people living on the planet. During the contests leading up to the final game, people in the winning nations often hold street parties to celebrate their teams' **victories**.

Some countries seem to be the best in the game for a period of time. When Pele played for Brazil in 1970, his team won the World Cup. Brazil's team is considered one of the greatest. Pele is regarded as the best soccer player by many fans. Brazil has won a total of five World Cups, far more than any other nation.

Check Your Understanding

- Who is Pele?
 - a coach
 - an average soccer player
 - a Brazilian team
 - one of the greatest soccer players
- When was the first women's World Cup?
 - 1928
 - 1997
 - 1930
 - 1991
- Which of the following is the best topic sentence?
 - paragraph one, first sentence
 - paragraph two, first sentence
 - paragraph three, first sentence
 - paragraph one, last sentence
- From the context of the passage, which is the best antonym for **victories**?
 - wins
 - happiness
 - results
 - defeats



/4



Warm-Up

22

Name _____

Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial stands in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is a monument to four American presidents. They represent the courage and vision of a young nation. George Washington was the winning general in the American Revolution. He was also the first president. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. As president, he bought the Louisiana Territory. Abraham Lincoln guided the nation through the suffering of the Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt led the nation into its years of power in the 20th century.

The idea of a monument dedicated to the presidents was born in 1924. The sculptor who designed and led the project was Gutzon Borglum. He was the son of Danish

immigrants. A respected artist, he had already worked on a mountain statue in Georgia. The Mount Rushmore project began in 1925. It was completed in 1941 just after the sculptor died. Workers carved the giant faces out of stone, using dynamite and jackhammers. The statues are sixty feet high. They are solid granite and can be found at the top of the nearly 6,000-foot-high Mount Rushmore. This is a 60 million-year-old mountain. More than 450,000 tons of rock were removed during construction. The actual work only took a little less than seven years. But there were many periods where no money was available. The actual cost was about one million dollars. Most of the cost was paid by the federal government.

Check Your Understanding

- What was the approximate cost of the monument at Rushmore?
 - ten million dollars
 - one hundred million dollars
 - one million dollars
 - one billion dollars
- From the context of the passage, which word refers to “a time of distress or pain”?
 - construction
 - nation
 - granite
 - suffering
- Which American presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore?
 - Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt
 - John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
 - Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt
 - George Washington and Franklin Roosevelt
- Which of the following would be a good title for the passage?
 - “A Monument for Presidents”
 - “A North Dakota Highlight”
 - “A Sculptor Dynamites a President”
 - “From Famous People to a Monument”





Name _____

23

The Wall

The Wall honors 2,700,000 men and women who served in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975. It is a silent tribute to the 58,267 men and women who died during that long war. The idea for the memorial came from a wounded veteran. His name is Jan Scruggs. He was deeply concerned and unhappy. The war had caused anger and division in the United States. He wanted to make up for the poor attitude shown towards returning veterans. They were not welcomed as earlier war veterans had been. Congress approved his idea. Supporters began raising money for a memorial. The fund collected nine million dollars. The money came from individuals and community groups. No government funds were used.

Of the 1,421 designs that were submitted, Maya Lin won the national competition for her

wall design. She was a college student at the time. Her parents had fled from Communist China to America. (She had received only a B- from her professor for the same design.) Her black granite wall of names was not popular right away. However, people soon recognized the beauty and simplicity of the monument. Construction began in March of 1982. It was finished in November of the same year. Later, a statue of the “Three Fighting Men” was added. This was in 1984. A flagpole flying the American flag was also added. You can visit the monument anytime. It is open seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. Many former soldiers and family members visit it. They search for the names of loved ones carved on the wall.

Check Your Understanding

1. Who led the effort to create a memorial for Vietnam veterans?
 - a. army generals
 - b. Jan Scruggs
 - c. Maya Lin
 - d. the president of the United States

2. From the context of the passage, which of the following can you infer about the Vietnam War?
 - a. Many Americans had opposed the war.
 - b. Many Americans weren't very supportive of returning veterans.
 - c. The war was very popular.
 - d. both a and b

3. Which of the following is the best topic sentence?
 - a. paragraph one, last sentence
 - b. paragraph two, last sentence
 - c. paragraph one, first sentence
 - d. paragraph two, first sentence

4. What is the wall made of?
 - a. green jade
 - b. gray granite
 - c. black granite
 - d. black marble

