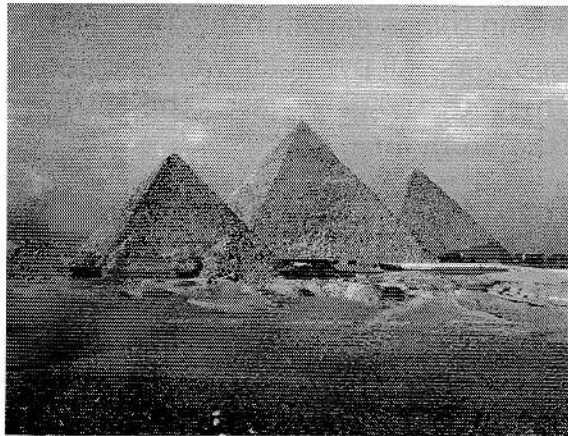


**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

Stone Wonders

- 1 Egypt's pyramids are some of the oldest stone buildings in the world. They were built over a span of one thousand years as burial tombs for kings and queens. The first pyramids were built from a series of stepped terraces that looked very much like the layers of a wedding cake. Later, pyramids evolved to the sloped pyramidal shape that we see today. The largest pyramids date from about 2700 B.C. to 2200 B.C. Today more than 80 pyramids still stand in Egypt.
- 2 The pyramids are enormous. The largest one, which sits at the site of Giza, is known as the Great Pyramid. The Great Pyramid is 480 feet tall and is taller than a 40-story building. It covers an area greater than ten football fields. It is estimated that nearly 2.3 million blocks were used to build it. Some of the largest blocks weigh as much as 15 metric tons. The Great Pyramid is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the World that still survives.
- 3 All pyramids have certain things in common. They all have rectangular bases and are made of brick or stone. All pyramids were aligned so that their sides ran almost exactly due north-south and east-west. The entrances to pyramids were always in the center of the north face.
- 4 Almost all pyramids have four sloping sides that meet at a point. Most are filled with secret passageways, hidden rooms, ramps, and false doors. The inside walls are painted with pictures, called hieroglyphs. The outside walls are not painted.
- 5 Egyptian pyramids were used primarily as tombs for kings and queens. After a ruler died, his or her body was wrapped and preserved as a mummy. Gifts were also brought and stored in storage chambers within the pyramids. People believed that the kings and queens would need these objects in the afterlife. Some of these things included a table, food, jewelry, and clothing. Years later, thieves found these hidden chambers and stole many of these valuable objects.
- 6 Artists carved certain hieroglyphs, known as Pyramid Texts, into the walls of the burial chambers. These texts included sacred hymns, magical spells, instructions on how to act in front of the gods, and other information they thought might be useful in the afterlife.
- 7 The ancient Egyptians also built other kinds of tomb structures. One kind was the flat-topped mastaba. This kind of tomb was built by many kings long before the earliest pyramids.

- 8 Mastabas have four sides that do not rise to a point. These structures have no secret passageways, hidden rooms, ramps, or false doors. You cannot even go inside them. The outside walls are carved and painted with pictures. They show people bringing food, water, milk, and honey to the king.
- 9 A pyramid never stood alone in the desert. It always served as the focal point of a complex of temples and smaller pyramids. Most pyramid complexes contained kings' pyramids, queens' pyramids, and satellite pyramids. The kings' pyramids were the largest and most ornate. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the best example of a king's pyramid. The queens' pyramids were simpler, smaller versions of the kings' pyramids. The queens' pyramids sometimes contained temples of their own and were intended for the burial of the most important kings' wives. The smallest type of pyramid was the satellite pyramid. They were too small to serve as burial places. Researchers are still trying to solve the mystery of their purpose.
- 10 From the Great Pyramid of Giza to the small satellite pyramids, all the Egyptian tombs are remarkable structures. To this day, scientists continue to explore these ancient pyramids to learn more about them and what mysteries they hold.



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- 1 From paragraphs 1-2, the reader can conclude that the pyramids –
- A began to fall a few years after they were built
 - B can be found in many colors and designs
 - C took a long time to build, using lots of materials
 - D blend in with the landscape of Egypt

- 2** Which statement best explains the purpose of the pyramids?
- A** The pyramids housed jewelry, clothes, and secret passageways.
 - B** The pyramids were created as tombs for kings and queens.
 - C** The pyramids were the focal point of the complex with temples and smaller pyramids.
 - D** The pyramids were used to display hieroglyphs.

-
- 3** The author organizes paragraphs 3 through 6 by —
- A** Contrasting Egyptian pyramids with other Egyptian tombs
 - B** Listing the steps to build a pyramid
 - C** Providing details about the secret passageways inside pyramids
 - D** Describing the similarities among most pyramids

-
- 4** The author's organization of paragraph 9 shows us —
- A** the differences between the types of pyramids
 - B** how kings' pyramids were identical to queens' pyramids
 - C** how there is variety in how hieroglyphs were used
 - D** the geographic location of the majority of the pyramids

- 5** The author most likely wrote this selection to –
- A** show the scientific studies about the Great Pyramid
 - B** explain why the pyramids were remarkable structures
 - C** provide a detailed description of mastabas
 - D** illustrate the different ways pyramids were constructed
-

- 6** The author provides measurements in paragraph 2 in order to –
- A** help the reader construct a pyramid
 - B** describe the size of a football field
 - C** explain how the Egyptian measurement system works
 - D** allow the reader to visualize the size of the structures
-

- 7** In paragraph 5, the word preserved, which is based on a Latin root, means –
- A** kept in good condition
 - B** buried underground
 - C** dressed and decorated
 - D** hidden and kept secret
-

- 8** In paragraph 9, the word ornate comes from a Latin root word that means –
- A** simple and bare
 - B** organized and well-stocked
 - C** adorned and decorated
 - D** protected and cared for

- 9** What can the reader conclude about pyramids from learning that 80 of them are still standing?
- A** Even without computers and technology, the pyramids were built extremely well.
 - B** Other pyramids were knocked down to create room for the growing Egyptian population.
 - C** The pyramid builders had help from many other countries.
 - D** There were a lot of kings and queens dying and needing tombs.
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- 10** Which of the following ideas is best supported by paragraph 10?
- A** Satellite pyramids are almost as tall as the Great Pyramid.
 - B** There are many unanswered questions about the pyramids.
 - C** The tombs are much like structures we see every day.
 - D** Scientists aren't sure about what is hidden inside most pyramids.
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- 11** What is the main idea about the Great Pyramid presented in paragraph 2?
- A** Nearly 2.3 million blocks were used to build the Great Pyramid.
 - B** The grand size of the Great Pyramid makes it one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
 - C** The Great Pyramid is located at the site of Giza and is 480 feet tall.
 - D** The Great Pyramid is the best example of a king's pyramid.

12 Which sentence best expresses the main idea about mastabas?

- A** Mastabas can sometimes have secret passageways, hidden rooms, ramps, or false doors.
- B** While mastabas were also built as tombs, they are different than pyramids in many ways.
- C** Pyramids were painted on the inside, while mastabas were painted on the outside.
- D** Mastabas have four sides that rise to a point and there is no way to get inside.

13 Which of the following is the best summary of the passage?

- A** The Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid and is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It stands taller than a 40-story building and is built of nearly 2.3 million blocks. The location of the Great Pyramid is at the site of Giza.
- B** The pyramids of Egypt are some of the oldest stone buildings in the world. There are many things that all pyramids have in common including the direction that they face. The pyramids were mainly used as tombs for kings and queens. Inside you could find objects needed for the afterlife, but many of these objects were stolen by thieves years later. Hieroglyphs still cover the walls with spells and instructions and are considered sacred.
- C** Pyramids were built in Egypt a very long time ago, but more than 80 still stand today. These enormous buildings were used primarily as tombs for kings and queens. There are several types of pyramids, but most have the same shape and none of them have ever stood alone. All pyramids are remarkable structures and are still studied by scientists today.
- D** Pyramids are a mystery that people don't understand. Egyptians built these structures before 2200 B.C. and many are still standing today. There are all kinds of things that can be found on the inside including secret passageways, jewelry, and clothing. The smallest type of pyramid is called a satellite pyramid while the largest is called the Great Pyramid.