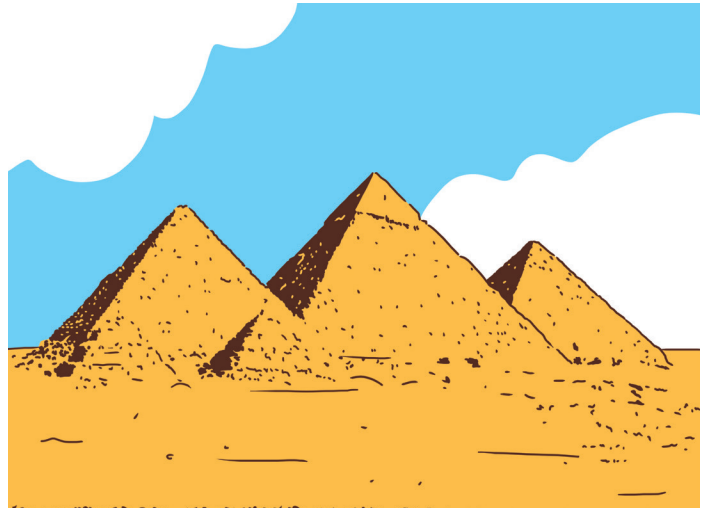


The Great Pyramids

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When do you think the pyramids of Egypt were built?
2. Do you know why they were built?
3. What kind of things do you imagine were placed inside the pyramids?
4. What is an archaeologist?
5. How many men do you think were needed to build a pyramid?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. tomb | a) with agreement, without being forced |
| _____ 2. palace | b) to pile, to put things on top of |
| _____ 3. chamber | c) a place to bury a dead body |
| _____ 4. utensils | d) stealing, taking away goods illegally |
| _____ 5. local | e) very large, huge |
| _____ 6. willingly | f) a room |
| _____ 7. prosperous | g) a slope used to move from one level to another (instead of stairs) |
| _____ 8. evolve | h) a king or queen's very large, beautiful house |
| _____ 9. stack | i) very valuable |
| _____ 10. massive | j) instruments or tools for eating or cooking |
| _____ 11. ramp | k) to change slowly, to develop gradually over time |
| _____ 12. looting | l) in the area |
| _____ 13. precious | m) successful, rich |

Reading

1. The pyramids are **tombs** that were built over 5,000 years ago for the kings of ancient Egypt.
2. Ancient Egyptians believed that after their kings died, they became gods in another world. A pyramid was to be the dead king's **palace** in the afterlife where he would rule as a god. As well as a burial **chamber**, the complex included rooms to hold things the king would need in the afterlife, such as furniture, jewelry, and cooking **utensils**. Servants or wives who died later were buried close by in much smaller tombs.
3. Archaeologists believe that **local** farmers and villagers **willingly** worked on the pyramids during the flood season, when the land could not be worked. The workers thought it would ensure their own afterlife and make Egypt **prosperous**.
4. The structure of the pyramids **evolved** slowly. They went from platforms **stacked** on an underground tomb, to larger step-style structures, to the **massive** smooth-sided pyramids found at Giza.
5. Of the 80 known pyramids, the biggest and finest is the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza. The base of this pyramid covers over 13 acres (about 5 hectares). It was 481 feet (about 147 meters) high but, over the years, it has lost 30 feet (about 9 meters) off its top. Two million blocks of stone, each weighing over 2 tons (about 1,814 kilograms), were used to build it. Workers likely moved these huge stones into position by using ropes to pull them up **ramps**. As many as 20,000 to 30,000 men may have worked on this pyramid, which took 20 years to finish.
6. Smaller pyramids of this type were built for another 1,000 years. When robbers started **looting** the **precious** goods stored inside them, kings were buried in hidden tombs. Tombs of later kings were discovered in a valley near Luxor, which is now called the Valley of the Kings.

For over 3,800 years, the Pyramid of Giza was the tallest man-made structure in the world.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. The pyramids were built for the afterlife of the ancient Egyptian kings.
- _____ 2. Local farmers were forced to work on the pyramids.
- _____ 3. The pyramids held many things besides the kings' bodies.
- _____ 4. The structure of the pyramids changed gradually over time.
- _____ 5. It took 200 years to finish the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Why were the pyramids built?
- 2. What kinds of things were placed in the pyramids?
- 3. According to archaeologists, why did local farmers and villagers work on the pyramids willingly?
- 4. How did the structure of the pyramids change over time?
- 5. Describe the Great Pyramid of Khufu.
- 6. How did workers likely move the massive stones into place?
- 7. Why were kings eventually buried in hidden tombs?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

You may need to change the word forms.

1. Please don't _____ your books on the floor. Put them on the shelves.
2. Eating _____ are different in different countries.
Some people use chopsticks while others use knives and forks.
3. His business is becoming very _____, and he is making a lot of money now.
4. Now that she is using a wheelchair, they are going to build a _____
to the front door of their house because she can't use the stairs.
5. I'm happy there is a university in our _____ area. Our children will not have to go away to study.
6. There was a violent demonstration in the city, and a lot of store windows were broken.
There was also a lot of _____ before the police arrived.
7. Many people were killed in the _____ earthquake last year.
8. Buckingham _____, where Queen Elizabeth lives, is a very popular British tourist destination.
9. Her grandmother left her a beautiful gold ring with three _____ stones.
10. Maria is an excellent music student. She _____ practices
the piano for over an hour every day. Her mother never has to ask her to do it.

Discussion

1. Besides the ancient Egyptians, what other cultures
built pyramids? Where can we see pyramids nowadays?
Have you ever visited any of them?
2. How have burial customs changed throughout history,
and how do they differ from culture to culture?
3. Do you believe that local villagers worked willingly on the pyramids,
or do you think that forced labor was involved? Explain your answer.
4. Would you like to be an archaeologist? Why or why not?