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Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 28

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Learning About the Past

The next time you are at a playground, take a moment to look around you. Can you imagine how people lived 100 or more years ago? What do you think they did for fun? What other questions would you have? Archaeology is the study of people who lived long ago, and it can help answer these questions.

The Job of an Archaeologist

Archaeologists are scientists who practice archaeology. In some ways, they are like pirates hunting for buried treasure. The treasures they hunt for are not always gold. Instead, archaeologists look for treasures such as tools, toys, and even food. Archaeologists look for artifacts, or things that people made and used in the past. They use the artifacts to draw conclusions about people and how they lived long ago. They study the artifacts for information about how life was different from today and even how it might still be the same. Their work is very interesting.

A Place to Dig

The first thing that an archaeologist must do is find a place to dig for artifacts. Think again about standing on the playground and imagine that something small catches your eye. It is a white object, mostly buried in the ground. If you were an archaeologist, this might be a clue that there are more artifacts nearby. What would you do next?

Once archaeologists identify a site, they would love to start digging, but they can't. First, they must get permission from the government to dig, or excavate, a site. Once they have permission, archaeologists use string to make a temporary grid around the entire site. Then, they draw a map that matches the grid, so when they find an artifact, they can carefully mark its exact location on the map. It is essential for archaeologists to not be careless as they work with such specific measurements.

The archaeologists are ready to start digging, but they must be patient as they work. They need to be careful because artifacts can be damaged easily. The artifacts may be old and have small, fragile pieces. Archaeologists use many different tools to dig. For example, archaeologists may place dirt on a

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wire screen and gently shake it back and forth. This method helps prevent the artifacts from breaking. As dirt falls through the screen, small artifacts, such as a seed or button, are left on top. It is rare that an archaeologist will find a complete artifact. Even finding a small piece of a ceramic plate is a triumph.

Putting It All Together

After archaeologists have gathered the artifacts at a dig site, they bring them to a lab. First, they carefully remove the dirt from the artifacts using small brushes. Sometimes they even use a toothbrush. Some artifacts can be washed, but others cannot. The water might damage them. Once the artifacts are cleaned, each one is labeled and put in its own protective bag. The archaeologists store the bags until they are ready to take a closer look at the discoveries.

Archaeologists study the artifacts and the map of the site. Now their work is as tricky as a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle. It sounds impossible, but it is not. It just takes patience. The more pieces they can put together, the clearer their picture will be of the people who lived there. Archaeologists understand a lot about artifacts. For example, if they find an arrowhead, they might conclude that the people who lived there were hunters. While archaeologists cannot know for sure how the people lived, they develop theories about their everyday lives. Based on these theories, they may make drawings that show how the village may have looked. The more artifacts they find, the more evidence they may have to support their theories.

Archaeologists also share the information that they learn. They write reports about their findings. Some reports may appear in a magazine. The artifacts that the archaeologists found may be shared with the public in a museum display.

Learn More About It

Would you like to learn more about being an archaeologist? There are many ways to learn more about this interesting job. You can visit a museum or check out a book about archaeology from the library. Websites are the easiest way to learn more. There are also many websites for kids that are about archaeology, and the National Park Service offers an Archaeology Program for children and teenagers. You may even be able to help excavate a real archaeological site!

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- 1 Which statement from the passage is an opinion?
- (A) Instead, archaeologists look for treasures such as tools, toys, and even food.
 - (B) Archaeologists look for artifacts, or things that people made and used in the past.
 - (C) They use the artifacts to draw conclusions about people and how they lived long ago.
 - (D) Their work is very interesting.
- 2 Which statement based on the passage is a fact?
- (A) Archaeologists must be patient.
 - (B) Websites are an easy way to learn.
 - (C) Archaeologists are people who practice archaeology.
 - (D) Even finding a small piece of a ceramic plate is a triumph.

- 3 Read the sentences from the passage.

Archaeologists study the artifacts and the map of the site. Now their work is as tricky as a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle. It sounds impossible, but it is not. It just takes patience.

What is the **best** definition for the word impossible as it is used in the passage?

- (A) something that can be done
- (B) something that might be done
- (C) something that cannot be done
- (D) something that should not be done

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- 4 Correctly identify which statements are facts and which are opinions.

| | Fact | Opinion |
|---|------|---------|
| Before starting, archaeologists must first get permission from the government to dig, or excavate, a site. | | |
| Archaeologists study artifacts for information about how life was different from today and even how it might still be the same. | | |
| An archaeologist's work is as tricky as a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle. | | |
| There are many ways to learn about this interesting job. | | |

- 5 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which choice **best** describes the author's opinion about how archaeologists should work?

- (A) They should work with love.
- (B) They should work with care.
- (C) They should work with interest.
- (D) They should work with triumph.

Part B

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer to part A?

- (A) The first thing that an archaeologist must do is find a place to dig for artifacts.
- (B) The artifacts may be very old and have small, fragile pieces.
- (C) After archaeologists have gathered the artifacts at a dig site, they bring them to a lab.
- (D) For example, if they find an arrowhead, they might conclude that the people who lived there were hunters.

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- 6 In the last paragraph, the author writes that there are many ways to learn more about archaeology. How does the author support this claim? Use examples from the passage to support your answer.

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Writing

- 7 Which sentence is written correctly?
- (A) The last apple in the refrigerator drawer is he.
 - (B) The last apple in the refrigerator drawer is his.
 - (C) The last apple in the refrigerator drawer is him.
 - (D) The last apple in the refrigerator drawer is him's.
- 8 Choose the sentence that contains a spelling error.
- (A) We think it is time for annother bake sale at our school.
 - (B) They believe it is important to recycle paper in the classroom.
 - (C) His idea was to help cats, dogs, and other animals at different shelters.
 - (D) I hope others will agree that we must work together to complete this project.
- 9 Terrance is writing an opinion piece about the class election. Read the paragraph. Then, underline the sentence that contains an error in grammar usage.

Please vote for Claudia for class president. This job should be hers because she has made great suggestions for changes. Aaron has good ideas as well, but his plans will cost too much. These are mine opinions. The choice is yours.

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Writing

10 Charles is writing a public service announcement about a community cleanup. Below is a list of details he wants to include.

- this Saturday
- warm weather
- have fun
- cleanup of town lake
- collect trash
- help town

Help Charles write a first draft by giving opinions supported by facts, reasons, and examples. Be sure to end with a call to action.
