

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Weekly Test Lesson 28

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Archaeology Museum Digs into the Past

If you have driven out of town on Route 7 in the last several months, you have probably noticed people working on the cliffs above Roaring River. These people are researchers from the Archaeology Museum, and they have made some exciting discoveries about the area in which we live.

The archaeologists dug very carefully for months. They found a huge collection of fossils. Museum director Sarah Wiggins says, “This is a tremendous find. There are fish fossils, pieces of Native American pottery, and even some whole animal skeletons. I believe a group of people must have lived on this spot near the river.”

The cliffs by the river clearly show different layers. These are sedimentary rock, laid down layer by layer. Long ago, the land our city is built upon was covered by water. Pieces of earth and rock washed into the sea, animals died, and ancient people threw things into the sea. Everything sank to the bottom and stayed in the layer that was forming at the time. Later, the sea dried up, and a river began to cut through the land. The power of the running water left the familiar area that surrounds our city.

Wiggins said that the dig uncovered the largest number of index fossils ever found in the area. She explained that an index fossil is one that can be used to tell the age of the land in which the fossil is found. She and her team will excavate the fossils and use them to determine how long ago each layer of sediment was laid down.

Rick Fowler, head of museum research, explains how an organized dig works. “The cliff is marked off in numbered grids, using spikes and string,” he says. “This way, we can keep track of where we find each fossil.” They also take pictures of each fossil before it is carefully removed, bagged, and labeled by the location where it was found. Then the fossils are taken to the museum for research. “We should be able to identify and age many of the items.”

“Kids will love this,” says Fowler. “We’ll let the public know when the fossils will be on display. By then, we will know much more about them and the time frame of when they were formed. It will be fun and educational for every citizen of our town.”

Wiggins adds, “We won’t remove all the fossils. Many will be left behind. Right now, the area is fenced off so nobody but museum personnel can get to it. But later, when we are finished, our education director will create a training class for amateur archaeologists. Adults and children will be able to sign up to be part of a fossil dig.”

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

This exciting news will most likely prompt many curious visitors to visit the site and give it a shot. The Archaeology Museum hopes to persuade people to stay away from the dig until it is open to the public. Wiggins suggests that interested people contact the Roaring River Rock Club. That organization already has classes on beginning archaeology, and it leads field trips to other cliff areas around town, where students can dig for fossils.

In addition, the Rock Club has supplies and tools available to students so they can dig safely. The Rock Club likely will not want people to bring their own shovels, picks, rock hammers, and other equipment. It is important to use correct tools and to learn proper scientific methods for finding and caring for fossils.

The Archaeology Museum will post information about the dig on its website. The weekly calendar in the *Roaring River Times* will let the public know when the display is ready. People are encouraged to come by the museum anytime.

-
- 1 Which fact from the text supports Sarah Wiggins's opinion that the area near the river was once inhabited by people?
- (A) The archaeologists dug very carefully for months.
 - (B) There are fish fossils, pieces of Native American pottery, and even some whole animal skeletons.
 - (C) The cliffs by the river clearly show different layers.
 - (D) The power of the running water left the familiar area that surrounds our city.
- 2 Read the paragraph from the text. Underline the **two** sentences that are opinions.
- “Kids will love this,” says Fowler. “We’ll let the public know when the fossils will be on display. By then, we will know much more about them and the time frame of when they were formed. It will be fun and educational for every citizen of our town.”

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 3 What are Sarah Wiggins’s and Rick Fowler’s opinions on the archaeological dig? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

- 4 Read the sentences from the text.

“But later, when we are finished, our education director will create a training class for amateur archaeologists. Adults and children will be able to sign up to be part of a fossil dig.”

This exciting news will most likely prompt many curious visitors to visit the site and give it a shot.

What does the phrase give it a shot mean as it is used in the text?

- (A) try it
 - (B) bother it
 - (C) shut it down
 - (D) think about it
- 5 Which statement is an opinion?
- (A) “This is a tremendous find.”
 - (B) “We won’t remove all the fossils.”
 - (C) “But later, when we are finished, our education director will create a training class for amateur archaeologists.”
 - (D) “Adults and children will be able to sign up to be part of a fossil dig.”

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

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

Part A

What is most likely the author's opinion about the area that the archaeologists uncovered?

- Ⓐ Supplies and tools should be used safely in the area.
- Ⓑ The area is a fascinating addition to the archaeological field.
- Ⓒ The fossils found there are dated from hundreds of years ago.
- Ⓓ Most people do not care about fossils that were found in the area.

Part B

Choose the sentence from the text that **best** supports the answer to part A.

- Ⓐ . . . they have made some exciting discoveries about the area in which we live.
- Ⓑ . . . an index fossil is one that can be used to tell the age of the land in which the fossil is found.
- Ⓒ “Right now, the area is fenced off so nobody but museum personnel can get to it.”
- Ⓓ The Rock Club likely will not want people to bring their own shovels, picks, rock hammers, and other equipment.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Which of the following sentences contains a spelling error?
- (A) She believes the last paragraf in her essay needs revision.
 - (B) I recently read an interesting biography in English class.
 - (C) My grandmother still owns a telephone with a dial.
 - (D) Dante knows how to warm food in a microwave.
- 8 Which sentence contains a punctuation error?
- (A) When did you read your assigned biography, Caitlyn?
 - (B) However, my dad must telecommute to work every day.
 - (C) Yesterday the classes used microscopes, for the first time.
 - (D) Mary enjoys going to the symphony, reading, and watching TV.
- 9 Which sentence contains a punctuation error?
- (A) Do you think Tico that you could find more helpers?
 - (B) Thanks to the sun, we can go to the beach today.
 - (C) Lauren, how will you get home after the game?
 - (D) Well, at least the teacher agreed with me.
- 10 Read the paragraph. Underline the **two** sentences that contain punctuation errors.

Jenny, my best friend from summer camp, is coming for a visit this weekend. Although she is from a big city with a lot of exciting things to do I am sure she will enjoy visiting our farm. She will enjoy swimming in our pond, riding horses, and picking berries for pies. My brother is afraid she will get bored on our farm but I think she will love it here.