

PYRAMIDS Reading Comprehension

The Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the world's most amazing landmarks. Rising high above the Sahara Desert in the Giza region of northern Egypt, the Great Pyramid stands some 450 feet into the burning desert sky and occupies an area of 13 acres. The rough climate of the Sahara has actually caused the pyramid to shrink 30 feet from its original height. The pyramid was such an amazing feat of engineering that it remained the tallest structure in the world for over 3,800 years! The entire pyramid was originally faced with polished limestone to make it shine brilliantly in the sun.

Most Egyptologists, scientists who study ancient Egypt, agree that the Great Pyramid was built around 2560 BC, a little more than 4,500 years ago. It took tens of thousands of workers twenty years to build. The pyramid contains over two million stone blocks. Although most of the blocks weigh two or three tons, some weigh up to eighty tons!

The Great Pyramid of Giza was ordered built by the Pharaoh Khufu as a magnificent tomb. His vizier (advisor), Hemon, is credited with being the pyramid's architect. Khufu's pyramid is actually part of a complex of pyramids that includes the Pyramid of Khafre, the smaller Pyramid of Menkaure, a variety of smaller pyramids and structures, and the Great Sphinx. The Great Pyramid of Giza is the last remaining of the Seven Wonders of the World.

1.) Where is the Great Pyramid NOT located?

- a.) Giza
- b.) Southern Egypt
- c.) Sahara Desert
- d.) Northern Egypt

2.) The Great Pyramid was built a little more than _____ years ago.

3.) How many stone blocks make up the pyramid?

- a.) More than two million
- b.) 3,800
- c.) 4,500
- d.) 2,560

4.) Most of the blocks in the pyramid weigh about _____ tons.

- a.) 5
- b.) 2 or 3
- c.) 4,500
- d.) 80

5.) The Great Pyramid of Giza has shrunk about _____ feet.

6.) Egyptians used polished _____ to make the pyramid shine in the sun.

7.) The Pharaoh _____ ordered the pyramid to be built as his _____.

- a.) Hemon; tomb
- b.) Khufu; wonder of the world
- c.) vizier; tomb
- d.) Khufu; tomb

8.) Which of the following definitions best describes the meaning of "complex" in the passage?

- a.) group or set
- b.) pyramid
- c.) materials
- d.) army

9.) Which is NOT part of the complex of pyramids?

- a.) The Sphinx
- b.) The Pyramid of Khafre
- c.) The Tomb of King Tut
- d.) The Great Pyramid of Giza

10.) Which of the following is FALSE?

- a.) Khufu was Hemon's vizier and architect.
- b.) Hemon was Khufu's vizier and architect.
- c.) The pyramid took tens of thousands of workers about twenty years to complete.
- d.) The Great Pyramid is the last of the Seven Wonders of the World.