3. A Visit to Ajanta and Ellora

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following story and answer the questions below.

About 2.3 million blocks make up the Great Pyramid of Giza [2600 B.C.], which is also the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu. The pyramid's four sides face almost perfectly north, south, east and west, a precise alignment that hints that the pyramid might also have been a sky observatory. Mysterious passageways in the pyramid might have been placed for viewing the stars at certain points of the year. Perhaps ancient stargazers made their observations from these openings while the pyramid was under construction, before the passageways were sealed shut. Another theory is that the airshafts guided Khufu's soul towards his ancestors living among the stars.

Throughout the jungles of Central and South America are spectacular ruins of ancient flattopped pyramids. The Aztec, Toltec and Maya people built them, starting around 1200 B.C., as royal tombs and temples. To the Aztecs, the most important god and 'star' was Venus. When Venus appeared in the night sky, according to one 16th century historian, the Aztecs sacrificed captives in its honour.

Like the Egyptian pyramids, the New World temple plazas are laid out so precisely that experts believe they were for studying the night sky. The Mayans also made detailed astronomical observations. In fact, their elaborate solar calendar was the most accurate in the world till our Gregorian Calendar was created in 1582.

–Young Discoverer Series 'Universe'

A. Answer the following questions.

1. How many blocks were used to build the Pyramid of Gaza?

   _____

   _____

2. What hints at the pyramid having been a sky observatory?

   _____

   _____

3. Where do we find the ruins of ancient flat-topped pyramids?

   _____

   _____

4. What was the most important god of the Aztecs?

_____

_____

5. Who made an elaborate solar calendar?

_____

_____

6. When was the Gregorian Calendar created?

_____

_____

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.

1. The Great Pyramid of Giza is also the tomb of _____ _____.

2. There are _____ passageways in the pyramid.

3. The flat-topped pyramids were built as _____ _____ and temples.

4. When Venus appeared in the night sky, the Aztecs sacrificed _____ in its honour.

Worksheet 2

GRAMMAR

A. Form adjectives from the following words.

1. Habit   _____   2. Sentiment   _____

3. Man   _____   4. Read   _____

5. Haste   _____   6. Kindness   _____

7. Curiosity   _____   8. Ghost   _____

9. Child   _____   10. Miser   _____

B. Correct the following sentences.

1. Give this book to the man tall old.

   _____

2. American five ladies fat climbed into the bus.

   _____

VOCABULARY AND WRITING SKILLS

A. Add prefixes from the Help Box to complete the following words.

under   pre   auto   semi   mis   post

1. _____script   _____pone

2. _____fix   _____dict

3. _____colon   _____circle

4. _____graph   _____biography

5. _____take   _____lead

6. _____go   _____ground

B. Make sentences using the following words.

1. anticipate: _____

2. contradict: _____

3. nimble: _____

4. prevent: _____

5. fountain: _____