

3. The Chocolate Room

Worksheet 1

COMPREHENSION

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 have also 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 scent towards his ancestors living among the stars.

Throughout the jungles of Central and South America are spectacular ruins of ancient flat-topped 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.

—From Young Discoverer Series 'Universe'

A. Read the above passage and answer the following.

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

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.

C. Write the correct degrees of comparison given below.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
1.		Best
2.	Fairer	
3. Intelligent		

Worksheet 3

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A. Each group of words given below begins with a common letter. Fill in the letter to complete the words.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. (a) ___yramid | (b) ___recise | (c) ___laza |
| 2. (a) ___ertain | (b) ___reate | (c) ___entury |
| 3. (a) ___targazers | (b) ___acrificial | (c) ___pectacular |
| 4. (a) ___lignment | (b) ___ncient | (c) ___ccurate |
| 5. (a) ___bservation | (b) ___bservatory | (c) ___pening |

B. Use the following words in making sentences of your own.

1. accurate _____
2. precise _____
3. opening _____
4. certain _____
5. spectacular _____

C. Write a paragraph of six sentences to describe what you see in a night sky.
