

The Forbidden City.

Surrounded by a 50 metre-wide moat in the heart of China's capital, Beijing, the Forbidden City is by far the largest palace complex in the world. So called because for 500 years it was forbidden to enter the city without the permission of the Emperor of China and the fate of uninvited guests was death by execution. The City contains halls, galleries, palaces and large imperial gardens and was the reclusive home to 24 emperors in the years before China became a republic in 1912. There are 8,700 rooms, mostly painted in yellow which was the colour that was symbolic with the Chinese royal family, although the Royal Library has a black roof as it was believed that black represented water and therefore could extinguish fires.

The Great Wall of China.

China was once made up of seven smaller states all at war with each other. In 221BC, the first Emperor of China, Shi Huang - the first of the Qin dynasty - unified the warring states into what is now modern China and he ordered that all the country's defence walls be connected as he feared invasion from tribes in the north, especially the Xiongnu warriors. Most of the wall that exists today was built in the 1600s - during the Ming Dynasty - to defend China from Mongolian invasions. The wall's purpose as a strong defensive barrier ended in 1644 with the collapse of the Ming Dynasty and subsequently great parts of the wall fell into disrepair. Between the 1700s and the 1950s, the Great Wall was extended and certain parts rebuilt and by the late 20th century, the Great Wall had become a major world tourist attraction.

The Terracotta Army.

In the hot summer of 1974, builders digging a well near the city of Xi'an - the former capital city of China - discovered a life-sized model clay soldier poised for battle. Government archaeologists sent to investigate found thousands more soldiers, each with unique facial expressions and arranged strictly according to rank. The archaeologists concluded that the collection was part of a huge mausoleum created to accompany the first great emperor of China into the afterlife. According to the writings of the historian Siam Qian during the following Han Dynasty, Shi Huang ordered work to begin on the mausoleum shortly after he ascended to the throne and he employed 750,000 labourers and it took 40 years to complete. Today, Shi Huang's tomb remains unexcavated, though Qian's writings suggest that his tomb contains models of palaces and millions of precious stones. Qian's account also states that the tomb contains replica's of Beijing's rivers made from mercury and models of the sun, the moon and the stars are richly embellished with thousands of pearls.

The Panda Breeding Research Centre.

World wide, the giant panda's numbers have reduced to just 1,500 in recent years and the Panda Breeding Research Centre at Chengdu cares for rescued wild pandas and provides the best way to glimpse these cute national treasures. Now home to 129 giant pandas, the centre focuses on encouraging these very shy creatures to breed and to introduce new pandas into the wild. A large area has been created that mimics the panda's own natural habitat and thousands of clumps of bamboos have been cultivated to provide their diet. These quiet and solitary creatures are at their most active in the mornings at feeding time. The research centre provides well maintained enclosures for its animals and the pandas spend their afternoons sleeping, particularly during the hot summer months, when they head for their air-conditioned sleeping quarters. Since opening, 100 baby pandas have been born at the centre and the most exciting time to visit is in the winter, when there may well be very cute baby pandas in the nursery.

Qinghai to Tibet Railway.

Prior to 2006, the people living at high altitude in the south western Chinese province of Tibet were largely cut off from the outside world. They lagged behind the rest of China both in communications and economic development. The Chinese government had realised since the mid 1950s that a train service was needed to connect eastern China to Tibet's capital, Lhasa. The ambitious project was considered by successive governments but it wasn't until 2003 that a feasible plan was conceived. The railway is a miracle of modern engineering as constructors had to overcome harsh climates and rough terrain. Passengers are required to carry a medical certificate in order to travel on the world's highest railway and emergency oxygen is available for those who struggle to breathe in the thin air 5,000m above sea level. On its journey to Tibet, the train traverses plains, mountain ranges, great rivers and lakes, grasslands and the desolate Gobi, which is the world's third largest cold winter desert.

Comprehension - China.

1 Which city used to be the capital of China?

- A Beijing.
 - B Xi'an.
 - C Lhasa.
 - D Chengdu.
-

2 Which one of the following statements is **not** true?

- A During the Qin dynasty, China was fearful of the Xiongnu tribe.
 - B The giant panda is considered a national treasure in China.
 - C The Qin dynasty was followed by the Han dynasty.
 - D Shi Huang's tomb has been unearthed and thousands of precious stones discovered.
-

3 In which year did China become a republic?

- A 1974.
 - B 221BC.
 - C 1912.
 - D 1644.
-

4 Which one of the following best describes the temperament of the giant panda?

- A They are bashful, peaceful and prefer to be on their own.
 - B They are adorable but can become aggressive when approached by tourists.
 - C They are incredibly sociable and like to play with other pandas.
 - D They are lively and like to spend their afternoons frolicking in the bamboo shoots.
-

5 Which colour was associated with the Chinese royal family?

- A Black.
 - B White.
 - C Crimson.
 - D Yellow.
-

Comprehension - China.

6 'The City contains halls, galleries, palaces and large imperial gardens and was the reclusive home to 24 emperors in the years before China became a republic in 1912'.

What does the word 'reclusive' mean in this context?

- A Shut off from society and the public.
- B Richly decorated.
- C Massive.
- D Expensive.

7 What is the capital city of the south western Chinese province of Tibet?

- A Lhasa.
- B Xi'an.
- C Chengdu.
- D Beijing.

8 What type of desert is the Gobi?

- A It is a monsoon desert.
- B It is a coastal desert.
- C It is a cold winter desert.
- D It is a trade wind desert.

9 Which one of the following statements is true?

- A China has historically always consisted of seven united states.
- B The Qinghai to Tibet railway is the second highest in Asia.
- C Giant pandas are at their most active in the early afternoons.
- D The model soldiers in the Terracotta Army are all unique.

10 How long did it take for the concept of a railway line to Tibet become feasible?

- A A decade.
- B 20 years.
- C Over half a century.
- D 70 years.

1 mirror	A reflect	B react	C recycle
2 book	A muscle	B spine	C tendon
3 kettle	A fry	B roast	C boil
4 oar	A barge	B ferry	C canoe
5 spines	A porpoise	B porcupine	C piranha
6 ram	A horse	B sheep	C cattle
7 future	A policy	B privacy	C prophecy
8 primary	A orange	B red	C green
9 two	A telescope	B horoscope	C binoculars
10 ring	A mixing	B boxing	C fixing
11 bolt	A thunder	B rain	C lightning
12 young	A foal	B fox	C frog

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
$\frac{1}{7}$	$\frac{5}{6}$	$\frac{2}{7}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

Please find the answers as fractions in their simplest form

1 Pippa has read 45 pages of her new book.

The book has a total of 360 pages.

What fraction of the book has she left to read?

2 George is saving for a new dress for the end of term party.

The dress she has her eye on costs £96.00

She has managed to save £36 so far.

What fraction of the total cost has she saved?

3 Henry is on a flight to Beijing.

The plane has travelled 2,300 miles out of a distance of 6,900 miles.

What fraction of the flight has the plane completed?

4 Poppy's dad, Brian, is downloading a movie from the internet, but his broadband speed is very slow.

The movie is 336 megabytes in size and Brian has managed to download 56 megabytes so far.

What fraction of the movie is still to be downloaded?

1 **assets**

A	B	C	D	E
antiques	valuables	presents	artifacts	fortune

2 **plunge**

A	B	C	D	E
submit	summit	dive	overflow	gush

3 **enlightened**

A	B	C	D	E
bright	informed	enthusiastic	respectful	sensitive

4 **disarray**

A	B	C	D	E
displaced	unarmed	confusion	ordered	disable

5 **delicious**

A	B	C	D	E
delightful	feast	banquet	charming	tasty

6 **sceptical**

A	B	C	D	E
pessimistic	clever	doubting	sarcastic	believable

7 **commerce**

A	B	C	D	E
transactions	start	talk	dealing	trade

8 **shirk**

A	B	C	D	E
sneak	avoid	shuffle	quit	ditch

9 **flammable**

A	B	C	D	E
flameproof	burning	alight	flaming	flammable

10 **scuffle**

A	B	C	D	E
strike	hassle	uproar	quarrel	fight

1 **hefty**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

light bright sunny shiny glossy

2 **stingy**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

thrifty biased greedy generous firm

3 **irksome**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

tedious mundane helpful crucial handsome

4 **content**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

discourage grimy unhappy distant cursed

5 **subdued**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

displeased beaten agitated soothed pestered

6 **clemency**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

clarify charity compassion cruelty clarity

7 **precarious**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

hilarious maintained cherished illustrious safe

8 **confident**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

apprehensive expectant convinced poised wise

9 **swift**

A	B	C	D	E
---	---	---	---	---

idle lazy slack easy slow

10 **conclusion**

A	B	C	D	E
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occasion cause purpose foundation beginning

All wild creatures have ways of **protecting**¹ themselves from their enemies. Butterflies and moths can be eaten by an enemy; one way they can avoid an early death is to hide or **disappear**² into their surroundings.

They may **camouflage**³ themselves by looking like another object, or they may take on the patterns and colours of local trees, rocks or leaves. Many animals have patterns of colour on their bodies that allow them to blend into their **surroundings**⁴ this way. These animals are hard to detect as long as they stay still. But, once they move, you can **easily**⁵ pick them out. That is because humans, as well as many other animals, have specialised brain cells that can tell when something is moving. Predators also use camouflage to hide until their prey is close enough to be caught and eaten.

Butterflies, which are active by day, usually rest with their wings together over their backs and remain **motionless**⁶. As a result, they are less likely to be seen, **especially**⁷ from above. Only when they move can you **detect**⁸ their presence and real shape.

Some butterflies rest like moths with their wings **spread out**⁹. They disguise themselves as either living or **decaying**¹⁰ leaves, blending in with their environment. Some butterflies and moths have marks on their wings that look like eyes. This can scare their enemies so the prey can make a **quick**¹¹ getaway.

Many caterpillars go through a series of moults, they push through their old skin to allow new skin to come out. By moulting, a caterpillar not only increases its size, but can also **change**¹² its **colouring**¹³ and appearance. This is another way that it can stay safe from predators.

Because a pupa cannot move around, the insect is far more likely to be eaten by predators at this time than when it is a caterpillar or an adult. For the majority of pupae, their best hope for survival is to adapt their shape and colour to their surroundings.

Some of the most colourful butterflies don't need to hide because they are **poisonous**¹⁴ to their predators. The poison in a butterfly's body comes from the plants it **ate**¹⁵ as a caterpillar. For example, monarch caterpillars feed on the poisonous milkweed plant and these poisons then are a part of their systems when they become adults.



swift	environment	extended	venomous	modify
particularly	consumed	still	vanish	comfortably
shading	disguise	defending	rotting	notice

Synonym pairs to learn.

Syns 11 mixed	Syns 11 assorted	Syns 11 legal	Syns 11 lawful
Syns 11 accident	Syns 11 misadventure	Syns 11 maze	Syns 11 labyrinth
Syns 11 partner	Syns 11 accomplice	Syns 11 infamous	Syns 11 notorious
Syns 11 verify	Syns 11 confirm	Syns 11 learner	Syns 11 apprentice
Syns 11 mask	Syns 11 conceal	Syns 11 previously	Syns 11 formerly
Syns 11 strenuous	Syns 11 vigorous	Syns 11 catastrophe	Syns 11 disaster
Syns 11 fable	Syns 11 story	Syns 11 intrepid	Syns 11 brave
Syns 11 judgement	Syns 11 verdict	Syns 11 enchant	Syns 11 fascinate
Syns 11 disgust	Syns 11 loathing	Syns 11 unswerving	Syns 11 straight

Answers

Comprehension

1	B	Xi'an
2	D	Shi Huang's tomb has been unearthed and thousands of precious stones discovered.
3	C	1912.
4	A	They are bashful, peaceful and prefer to be on their own.
5	D	Yellow.
6	A	Shut off from society and the public.
7	A	Lhasa.
8	C	It is a cold winter desert.
9	D	The model soldiers in the Terracotta Army are all unique.
10	C	Over half a century.

Maths 3

1	F
2	G
3	I
4	B

Synonyms

1	B
2	C
3	B
4	C
5	E
6	C
7	E
8	B
9	E
10	E

Antonyms

1	A
2	D
3	C
4	C
5	C
6	D
7	E
8	A
9	E
10	E

Word Ass.

1	A
2	B
3	C
4	C
5	B
6	B
7	C
8	B
9	C
10	B
11	C
12	A

Synonyms

protecting	defending
disappear	vanish
camouflage	disguise
surroundings	environment
easily	comfortably
motionless	still
especially	particularly
detect	notice
spread out	extended
decaying	rotting
quick	swift
change	modify
colouring	shading
poisonous	venomous
ate	consumed