

The Taj Mahal



The Taj Mahal is one of the world's most famous buildings. The beautiful building is in Agra, a city in northern India. It stands near the edge of the Yamuna River.

The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum. That is a large structure that houses a tomb. The Taj Mahal was built in the 1600s. The emperor Shah Jahan had it built for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. She had died, and he wanted her to be buried somewhere special.

The Taj Mahal took twenty years to build. Twenty thousand people worked on the Taj Mahal and the surrounding structures. And they had the help of 1,000 elephants!

The building was made from white marble. The white walls have small, detailed designs. These are made of stones like jade and crystal. In the center of the Taj Mahal is a large dome. Four smaller domes surround that dome. And four tall, thin towers stand in the corners. The tomb of Mumtaz

Mahal lies below the center of the building. Shah Jahan was later buried there, too.

But that's not all! In front of the Taj Mahal is a garden with long pools of water. And to its sides are two smaller buildings. These buildings were made to look just like each other. One is a mosque, or a Muslim place of prayer. The other is a guest house. In all, the design of this area gives a sense of balance.

All together, the Taj Mahal and the structures near it are a beautiful sight to see.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the Taj Mahal?

- A. a governmental building where the president of India lives
- B. a mosque, or Muslim place of prayer
- C. mausoleum, or a large structure that houses a tomb

2. What does the text describe?

- A. what the Taj Mahal looks like
- B. what Shah Jahan was like as an emperor
- C. the life of Mumtaz Mahal

3. Read the following sentences about the Taj Mahal:

"The building was made from white marble. The white walls have small, detailed designs. These are made of stones like jade and crystal. In the center of the Taj Mahal is a large dome. Four smaller domes surround that dome. And four tall, thin towers stand in the corners."

Which conclusion does this information support?

- A. The Taj Mahal one of the world's most famous buildings.
- B. The Taj Mahal is a very impressive building.
- C. The Taj Mahal's surrounding area is very beautiful.

4. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. How did Shah Jahan most likely feel about his wife?

- A. He probably disliked her and was annoyed by her.
- B. He probably loved and respected her very much.
- C. He probably feared her and distrusted her.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. The Taj Mahal has a mosque on one side of it and a guest house on the other side of it.
- B. The Taj Mahal took twenty years and the help of 1,000 elephants to build.
- C. The Taj Mahal is a beautiful mausoleum in India that an emperor built as a place to bury his wife.