READING COMPREHENSION

1.You are doing a project on pyramids from all over the world. You have drawn up a chart to show  
your classmates, but you haven’t been able to find all the information yet. You have just come  
across an educational text that may be useful. Read and fill in the blanks. Then answer the questions

**Pyramids**

... legends, full of mystery and well-kept secrets that have lasted over the centuries. We know that man made some of them, nature made others... some were even built using mountains as a foundation!

... Now, we usually think of pyramids as something exclusively Egyptian, but nothing could be

further from the truth!

Let’s take a look at Egypt: 90 pyramids there, 100,000 men worked for 20 years to complete the

largest one, the one that was King Khufu’s tomb.

What about China? Believe it or not, there are pyramids there, too. One of them – the White Pyramid – is the largest in the world: 300m tall! Wow! Now, these pyramids were made of dirt, and some even had trees planted on them – from far away you might think they were mountains!They were used as royal tombs or as observatories from which the Chinese could study the skies and the stars.

Let’s move on to Europe now. One of the newest – maybe the newest – pyramid is in France!Very modern and very impressive. It’s at a height of 22m and it was constructed in 1989.What strikes visitors about this pyramid is that it is made of glass and metal! You can see right through it! Now, where exactly is it? Well, if you visit the Louvre, you can’t miss it – it’s right in front of the main entrance.

Greece is a country well-known for its beautiful classical structures, lovely ancient temples, white marble, you all know the Parthenon. What if I told you that there are also 16 small pyramids in Greece? Unbelievable?Well, it’s true! Now, as I said they’re not big, just about the size of a house. One of them

is very old, built in the year 2720 BC! Even older than King Khufu’s pyramid in Egypt!

These pyramids are made of stone and unfortunately most of them are not in very good condition.

In nearby Turkey, high up on the peak of Mount Nemrut, a pyramid of 50m exists ...

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Size/Height | Built in... | Made of... | Use |
| China | (1) ................... | ― | dirt | royal tombs / observatories |
| France | 22m | (2) ..................... | (3) .................... | decorative entrance to the Louvre |
| Greece | size of a house | (4) .................... | (5) .................... | communication post / battle memoria |

1. Are pyramids exclusively Egyptian?

2. How long did it take to build king Khufu's pyramid?

3. What are Chinese pyramids made of?

4. Is the newest pyramid in Europe? Where exactly?

5. When was the oldest Greek pyramid built?

2.Read the text and answer the questions

**Easter Island statues**

Hundreds of gigantic statues - some standing on stone platforms, others buried up to their necks in the soil or lying broken on the ground - dominate a small remote Pacific island. The island has been known to the outside world as Easter Island since it was discovered by Europeans on Easter Day in the year 1722

The statues were carved by inhabitants of the island to decorate coastal temples. It has been estimated that a team of 90 men would have taken about 18 months to carve each statue and get its position! The statues were apparently created over a period of several hundred years, ending about 200 years before the first Europeans arrived in the 18th century.

There are about 1,000 of the giant Easter Island statues. They range from 3ft (1m) to 70ft (21m) high and probably represent famous chiefs or long dead ancestors of the islanders who erected them. The statues were carved from stone composed of compressed volcanic ash using primitive tools.

1.How did the Easter Island sculptors create their statues?

2.Where do some of the statues stand?

3. Are the statues small?

4. Why was the island called Easter Island?

5. Who curved the statues?

6. How tall are the statues?

7. What do they represent?

8. What kind of tools were used by the sculptors?