



Read the article. For questions 1-8, choose the answer 1, 2, 3, or 4.

1. What is a distinguished feature in the area surrounding Yonaguni?
 1. The spectacular scenery.
 2. The tropical reefs.
 3. The marine animals.
 4. The pleasant climate.
2. The writer uses the phrase "*this is no ordinary rock*" (line 12) because the monument
 1. is exceptionally large.
 2. is unusually shaped.
 3. is very attractive.
 4. is made of a rare stone.
3. What initially motivated the writer to visit the monument?
 1. An interest in geology.
 2. His passion for diving.
 3. Various reports on the site.
 4. His curious nature.
4. What surprised the writer about the monument?
 1. Its overwhelming size.
 2. Its organised layout.
 3. Its proximity to the surface.
 4. Its resemblance to another place.
5. The word '*they*' (line 32) refers to...
 1. roads
 2. edges
 3. stones
 4. columns
6. What was the writer's impression of the statue?
 1. It didn't look man-made.
 2. It had been expertly carved.
 3. It had distinguished features.
 4. It looked rather odd.
7. What feature of the sharks did the writer find unusual?
 1. The way they swam
 2. Their passiveness.
 3. The shape of their faces.
 4. Their poor vision.
8. How does the writer feel upon returning to the surface?
 1. Inspired.
 2. Satisfied.
 3. Puzzled.
 4. Indifferent.

The Japanese Atlantis

I inhaled deeply, the cool sea air filled my lungs and breezed through my hair. Together with three other travellers, I was on a boat at the edge of the East China Sea. The sub-tropical region, situated off the picturesque coast of Yonaguni Island, was renowned among divers for the sharks that frequented the area. 5 However, I hadn't flown 6,000 km just to see sharks. I was here for a different kind of adventure.

Nestled among the vibrant coral reefs and colourful fish is a structure that has fascinated scholars since its discovery in the late 1980s. Known as the Yonaguni Monument, it is a massive 10 sandstone formation some 150m wide and almost 30m tall. However, this is no ordinary rock. With its pyramid-like structure composed of a series of steps, it looks more like an incredible feat of architecture.

Prior to my departure, I had read countless articles about the 15 monument. These are what had sparked my interest in the first place. Some people were convinced that it was man-made, while others held that it was a natural formation. Being no expert, I wasn't sure what to believe. However, I was looking forward to finding out for myself. 20

As I plunged into the aquamarine water I was immediately taken aback by the sheer magnitude of the structure. It stretched far beyond my vision, but was clearly distinguishable: a monolithic rock with steps and enclosures that resembled a town plan. It was easy to see why it had been compared to the legendary lost 25 city of Atlantis which is said to have been submerged beneath the sea.

I descended deeper towards the seabed where I found what seemed to be a cobblestone road encircling the monument. There were also matching rectangular columns; 6m tall with perfectly 30 square edges that seemed far from natural. However, upon closer inspection, I discovered that they weren't as even as I originally thought.

Beyond this, I found a massive boulder which one scholar claimed was a statue of a man's head. Squinting, I could barely make out 35 any features let alone a face. It seemed rather crudely carved and was at odds with the precision found in the rest of the site. I was left with the impression that it hadn't been sculpted at all.

I continued to explore the monument and as I did, several hammerhead sharks crossed my path. I watched in wonder as 40 they floated past me, somewhat oblivious to my presence. With their peculiar T-shaped noses, they were surely one of nature's great oddities. And this reminded me: Mother Nature was capable of creating so many awe-inspiring and magical things. Could the Yonaguni Monument be one of them? 45

While pondering this, a fellow diver startled me by tapping me on the shoulder. She pointed upwards, indicating that it was time to go. As we surfaced, I was in awe from all that I had seen. At this point, my diving companion turned to me. "So what do you think?" She grinned. I paused to collect my thoughts. After a brief moment, 50 I finally spoke. "I think the world is full of mysteries," I replied with a smile.