4ºESO - Reading Practice - Mysteries

1. **Read the text and complete the sentences with the verbs below. Use the Past Simple or Past Perfect Simple.**

The Mystery of the Stone of Destiny

The Stone of Destiny is 66 cm long, weighs about 152 kg and looks just like an ordinary piece of stone. However, it is very important to Scotland because from the middle of the 9th century until 1292, all the kings of Scotland sat on it during their coronation. According to one legend, it was the stone which Jacob used as a pillow in the famous story in the Bible, and it came to Scotland via Egypt, Spain and Ireland.

At the end of the 13th century, during the Scottish Wars of Independence, the English army invaded Scotland. On his way back to England in 1296, the English king stopped at Scone Palace and took the Stone of Destiny with him. He took it to Westminster Abbey and it became part of the English throne. From 1308 until 1953, almost every English or British king or queen had sat on it during his or her coronation ceremony.

Many Scottish people were angry about this. They felt that the stone's real home was in Scotland. In 1950, four students from Glasgow University decided to do something about the situation. They drove down to London and on Christmas Eve, they broke into Westminster Abbey and stole the Stone of Destiny. As soon as the police found out, they assumed that the missing stone was on its way to Scotland. They blocked all the roads to Scotland, but they didn't catch the thieves ... or find the stone. For four months, no one could find it. Then, it mysteriously appeared in Arbroath Abbey in Scotland. Someone had wrapped the flag of Scotland around it. The stone was taken back to Westminster and it was used at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

However, there was a rumour in Scotland that the real Stone of Destiny was still in Scotland. The stone in Westminster was just a replica. In 1996, the British government decided to return the stone to Scotland. The Stone of Destiny is now on display in Edinburgh Castle. Many people still wonder: is it the real Stone of Destiny? There is no proof. Only the four students know the truth, and they won't discuss the matter with anyone.

steal ◇ use ◇ happen ◇ pass ◇ not find

1. According to the legend, the stone _____ through several European countries by the time it reached Scotland.
2. By the time the English king invaded Scotland, the Scots _____ the Stone of Destiny every time they crowned a king.

3. Even though the police blocked all the roads to Scotland, they _____ the Stone of Destiny.
4. The stone appeared in Arbroath Abbey four months after the four students _____ it from Westminster Abbey.
5. Only the four students know what _____ to the real stone.

2. Answer the questions.

1. When was the Stone of Destiny last used in Scotland?

2. Why were many people in Scotland annoyed?

3. Why did the police block the roads to Scotland?

4. Where is the Stone of Destiny today?

5. What mystery does this text deal with?