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The Pyramids and the Sphinxes

Ancient Egypt built many classic buildings like the pyramids and the sphinxes. They are some of the largest buildings made in ancient times and have lasted well through the ages.

There are about 110 pyramids in total and they vary in size and shape. Some are step pyramids, which rise in big steps up to the top. Others have much smoother sides, creating the classic shape. The largest is the Great Pyramid of Khufu. This pyramid is the only one of the original Seven Wonders of the World that still exists. Sphinxes are ancient icons. This statue's body looks like a lion, but it has a human head, usually a Pharaoh's head. The ancient Egyptians believed the sphinx guarded the pyramids. The largest and most famous is the Great Sphinx of Giza near the Great Pyramid.

We know that the pyramids were tombs for the ancient Egyptian kings. It took thousands of workers many years to make each pyramid. The architects had to use advanced math to make the shapes perfect. The workers built the pyramids and the sphinxes without any machines – they cleverly used their primitive tools to create these amazing buildings.

1. **Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the first highlighted sentence in the passage?**
   - A. The pyramids are the largest well-preserved buildings of all time.
   - B. The pyramids have lasted a long time because they are very large buildings.
   - C. The pyramids are among the largest buildings of old times and still survive.
   - D. The pyramids were once the largest buildings in the world but they are mostly destroyed.

2. **Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the second highlighted sentence in the passage?**
   - A. The workers had great skill to build pyramids and sphinxes with many tools.
   - B. The workers did not have machines, so they used simple tools cleverly.
   - C. Even though they had machines, the workers used primitive tools instead.
   - D. Pyramids and sphinxes were cleverly built with amazing machines and primitive tools.



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