

Complete Name: _____

Taj Mahal



Taj Mahal is regarded as one of the eight wonders of the world. It was built by a Muslim Emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his dear wife at Agra. Taj Mahal is a

Mausoleum that houses the grave of queen Mumtaz Mahal. The mausoleum is a part of a vast complex comprising of a main gateway, an elaborate garden, a mosque (to the left), a guest house (to the right), and several other palatial buildings. The Taj is at the farthest end of this complex, with the river Jamuna behind it. The Taj stands on a raised, square platform (186 x 186 feet) with its four corners truncated, forming an unequal octagon. The architectural design uses the interlocking arabesque concept, in which each element stands on its own and perfectly integrates with the main structure. It uses the principles of self-replicating geometry and a symmetry of architectural elements. Its central dome is fifty-eight feet in diameter and rises to a height of 213 feet. It is flanked by four subsidiary domed chambers. The four graceful, slender minarets are 162.5 feet each. The central domed chamber and four adjoining chambers include many walls and panels of Islamic decoration. Taj Mahal is built entirely of white marble. Its stunning architectural beauty is beyond adequate description, particularly at dawn

and sunset. The Taj seems to glow in the light of the full moon. On a foggy morning, the visitors experience the Taj as if suspended when viewed from across the Jamuna river.

Instruction :

Read the text above in one minute and choose A, B, C, or D to answer questions numbers 1 - 5.

1. Who built Taj Mahal?
 - a. Mumtaz Mahal
 - b. The Queen
 - c. Shah Jahan
 - d. Agra
 - e. President Soekarno
2. What is Taj Mahal?
 - a. A Mausoleum
 - b. A Mosque
 - c. A Garden
 - d. A Mall
 - e. A Museum
3. How can Taj Mahal seem glow in the light of the moon?
 - a. Because it has magic
 - b. Because it has miniarets
 - c. Because it is made of marble
 - d. Because of the interlocking arabesque concept
 - e. Viewed from across Jamuna river
4. How long the diameter of Taj Mahal's dome?
 - a. 58 feet
 - b. 213 feet
 - c. 186 feet
 - d. 160 feet
 - e. 150 feet
5. What is the concept that used in designing Taj Mahal?
 - a. Self-replicating geometry
 - b. Interlocking arabesque
 - c. Unequal octagon
 - d. Square platform
 - e. Full moon