

reading 4

Instructions: Read. Then write True or False for each statement. Correct the false statements.

The Ica Stones

In the early 1960s, a farmer claimed to have discovered thousands of mysterious ancient stones buried in the desert caves of Ica, Peru. The stones were in many shapes and sizes. Some were the size of coins, and some were as large as a basketball.

What made the stones so interesting were the images carved on them. The stones showed many things that are hard to explain. For example, some stones showed flying machines, telescopes, and other advanced technology, but these did not exist in the ancient world. Other stones showed people riding horses, but there were no horses in South America at this time. And still other stones showed advanced medical operations, such as heart and brain surgery, that ancient people could not do.

The Ica stones were mysterious because they challenged what we know about the ancient world and human evolution. They suggested that humans were brought to Earth from different planets and more advanced civilizations. There is no organic material on the rocks to help determine their age, but scientists in Germany who studied the stones believe there is evidence that cuts on the stones were from ancient times.

In total over 15,000 stones were collected and the farmer began selling his treasures to tourists and made good money doing **this**. He soon became a local and international celebrity and attracted the attention of archeologists from around the world who wanted to investigate his findings. But the Peruvian government quickly got involved and arrested the farmer. He later admitted that it was all a hoax; he said that he'd carved the images on the stones himself.

1. The text describes some ancient rocks found in Peru.

2. Some stones showed advanced technology like telephones.

3. Other stones showed difficult heart and lung operations.

4. One idea was that the stones showed people from other planets.

5. German scientists thought cuts on the stones were made a long time ago.

6. The farmer who found the stones sold some of them to scientists.

Instructions: Read. Then complete each statement with two words from the text.

Non-traditional Majors

If you're planning to go to college you may already know what you would like to major in; however, perhaps this is different from what your parents would like you to major in. It's an important, but difficult, decision to make. There are so many choices and so many questions. These days though, young students are very lucky because they can really shape and design their own studies. Thinking creatively about your educational plans or deciding to really focus on what you like (specializing) can lead to a wonderful career. More and more colleges are offering non-traditional subjects to fit the wide range of interests of students today. Here are just a few:

Professional Nanny: Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky, offers a professional nanny program, which prepares its graduates to work in daycare centers, children's hospitals, and private homes. This is a perfect major if you grew up babysitting all the neighborhood children.

Retail Floristry: Usually working at the local flower shop doesn't require a college degree, but Mississippi State University offers this degree program where graduates can expect a 90 percent job placement rate. The curriculum teaches everything from working the cash register to special event designing and display gardening.

Adventure Recreation: Courses in snowboarding, scuba diving, and whitewater rafting! Green Mountain College in Vermont is offering majors in Adventure Recreation, which aims to place graduates in a variety of outdoor recreation careers.

These three majors may seem unusual, but they are studies that both the professors and students take very seriously. Since they are so specialized, the chances of the graduates finding good jobs is quite high. If these majors seem interesting to you, perhaps you should consider doing what you love for a job and start by making it your college major.

7. _____ teaches people the skills they need for running a business that requires both professional and creative skills.

8. If you have experience working with young people, studying to become a _____ might be a good subject to study.

9. According to the writer, more colleges are offering non-traditional subjects to appeal to a _____ of interests.

10. Active people who enjoy the outdoors might choose _____ as a major.

Instructions: Read. Then answer the questions. Use reasons and examples from the text to support your answers.

The Next One Hundred Years

A person from one hundred years ago would not recognize today's world. Cars have replaced horses. People use the internet to communicate instead of telephones or letters. Diseases that used to be dangerous can now be treated with a single pill. How much will the world change in the *next* one hundred years? Scientists are already experimenting with new technologies that might become very common in the future.

Computers have been getting smaller and more powerful. Can this continue? Possibly, if scientists can develop a powerful new kind of computer—the quantum computer. With quantum computers, communication will become incredibly fast. Engineers believe that a single quantum computing center could provide computer services for the whole world.

Transportation systems will become smaller and faster as well. Current roads take up a lot of space. Cars, trucks, and planes also produce a lot of pollution. In the future, people and items might move through systems of tubes. These networks would use clean, renewable energy. They would be very fast, too, moving people and things at more than one thousand kilometers per hour.

Medicine is already improving in many ways. Soon, scientists will be able to treat many diseases with tiny viruses and robots. Do you need a new heart or other body part? Not a problem: doctors will be able to grow new body parts from just one or two cells when the old **ones** wear out. People might even be able to live twenty or more years longer.

11. What is one advantage of quantum computers?

12. According to the third paragraph, what could future transportation systems do?

13. According to the text, what might doctors do in the future?

14. In Paragraph 4, what does the word *ones* refer to?

Instructions: Read. Then choose the correct answers.

The Future is Nature

What does a robot look like? Traditional robots are large machines that stay in the same place and do one or two special tasks. Sometimes robots can move outside.

These robots usually have some kind of wheels, but they are slow, and if the ground is not flat, they often get stuck. Engineers are exploring ways to make robots that are fast, light, and smart. How? By stealing ideas from nature.

Animals are basically living robots. Like planes or boats, animals have special shapes and features that allow them to do things like fly or swim. Muscles pull different body parts in a certain order so that the animals move easily through their environment; eyes, ears, or other organs let animals see and react to the world around them; and their brains are the computers that make all these parts work together.

Until recently, however, technology was not good enough to make robots that act like animals. Five hundred years ago, Leonardo da Vinci designed a flying machine that looked like a bat, but there were no materials light or strong enough for it to work. Now, advances in computer technology and material science have helped solve these problems. Amazingly, engineers have successfully made a flying robot based on da Vinci's original design.

Engineers are now designing robots that swim like fish. Other robots with four legs can move over rough ground like a dog or cat. Tiny robots that look like insects and spiders can **scurry** through small places. There are even soft robots that move like octopuses and jellyfish! At the moment, most of these animal robots are in the development stage, but this may soon change.

- ____ 15. What is the main idea of the article?
 - a. How animals have inspired robot designers
 - b. The uses of robots that look like animals
 - c. The problems that robots have outside

- ____ 16. The phrase *these robots* in the first paragraph refers to ____.
 - a. robots that work in factories
 - b. robots that can move around
 - c. robots that look like animals

- ____ 17. According to the writer, why are animals like robots?
 - a. They can both do work for human beings.
 - b. They look like machines, such as planes.
 - c. They both share the same basic parts.

___ 18. Why does the writer mention Leonardo da Vinci?

- To describe the first animal robot ever made
- To explain how designers get ideas from nature
- To show the importance of new technology

___ 19. In the fourth paragraph, the word *scurry* is closest in meaning to _____.
a. run
b. hide
c. see

___ 20. In the final paragraph, what is implied about the animal robots that exist today?

- Most of them can be used underwater.
- They are often made of soft materials.
- They are not ready to be used yet.

