



Extra Training

Sequencing Task 295

Read the texts and place (drag) the sentences in the correct order.

(A) Watkins returned from his Yosemite adventure with about 30 plates and 100 stereoscopic views which were the latest fashion in those days. When the pictures were printed in San Francisco, they were greeted with enthusiastic praise.

(B) His first employer, a friend from Oneonta, was Collis P. Huntington, who would later be one of the founders of the Southern Pacific Railroad and an important patron of Watkins's in his travels as a landscape photographer.

(C) Soon he had exhibitions of his work in New York and London, and in 1863 he moved into a gallery in San Francisco. He started working with the California State Geological Survey. His Yosemite pictures became his hallmark and this was the name he gave to his gallery.

(D) He soon abandoned portraiture in favour of landscapes, and learnt to make glass-plate negatives. His first documented landscape commission, in 1858, was to take photographs of the Guadalupe quicksilver mine.

(E) Despite these personal worries, the beauty of Watkins's pictures still exists in many forms - the rhythm of the compositions, the clarity of the landscapes, the sense of fascination and admiration. Watkins's art is the way he brings all together in harmony.

(F) Watkins's second employment was in a portrait studio. The idea was that he would take a picture which would be improved by a more experienced photographer later on. But Watkins had no trouble mastering the necessary skills and began his photographic career making daguerreotype portraits.

(G) Supported by Fremont, in 1861 Watkins set off to photograph Yosemite itself. He took his equipment, including a custom-made gigantic camera, by mules. The negatives were exposed and developed on a mountainside in a primitive 'dark tent', where the slightest dust could ruin them.

(H) Despite the success of these pictures and, to a lesser extent, his other work, Watkins never achieved lasting financial security. He was more concerned with travelling to make new pictures and even at the height of his fame, his debts exceeded his income.

(I) Carleton Eugene Watkins was born in Oneonta, New York, in 1829. His father, an innkeeper and carpenter, was a poor businessman, a trait that Watkins was to inherit. When he was 22, Watkins travelled to California to work in the newly developed gold mines.

(J) He then continued to document the progress of Western industrialists, who commissioned him to produce pictures of mining operations, new towns and railroad routes. One of these was Colonel John C. Fremont, a powerful landowner whose estate bordered the newly discovered Yosemite.

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