## GAP-FILL (TABLES)

### PASSAGE 1

### STEPWELLS

In Patan, the state's ancient capital, the stepwell of Rani Ki Vav (Queen's Stepwell) is perhaps the finest current example. It was built by Queen Udayamati during the late 11th century, but became silted up following a flood during the 13th century. But the Archaeological Survey of India began restoring it in the 1960s, and today it's in pristine condition. At 65 metres long, 20 metres wide and 27 metres deep, Rani Ki Vav features 500 distinct sculptures carved into niches throughout the monument, depicting gods such as Vishnu and Parvati in various incarnations. Incredibly, in January 2001, this ancient structure survived a devastating earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale.

Another example is the Surya Kund in Modhera, northern Gujarat, next to the Sun Temple, built by King Bhima I in 1026 to honour the sun god Surya. It's actually a tank (kund means reservoir or pond) rather than a well, but displays the hallmarks of stepwell architecture, including four sides of steps that descend to the bottom in a stunning geometrical formation. The terraces house 108 small, intricately carved shrines between the sets of steps.

Rajasthan also has a wealth of wells. The ancient city of Bundi, 200 kilometres south of Jaipur, is renowned for its architecture, including its stepwells. One of the larger examples is Raniji Ki Baori, which was built by the queen of the region, Nathavatji, in 1699. At 46 metres deep, 20 metres wide and 40 metres long, the intricately carved monument is one of 21 baoris commissioned in the Bundi area by Nathavatji.

In the old ruined town of Abhaneri, about 95 kilometres east of Jaipur, is Chand Baori, one of India's oldest and deepest wells; aesthetically, it's perhaps one of the most dramatic. Built in around 850 AD next to the temple of Harshat Mata, the baori comprises hundreds of zigzagging steps that run along three of its sides, steeply descending 11 storeys, resulting in a striking geometric pattern when seen from afar. On the fourth side, covered verandas supported by ornate pillars overlook the steps.

Still in public use is Neemrana Ki Baori, located just off the Jaipur–Dehli highway. Constructed in around 1700, it's nine storeys deep, with the last two levels underwater. At ground level, there are 86 colonnaded openings from where the visitor descends 170 steps to the deepest water source.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Today, following years of neglect, many of these monuments to medieval engineering have been saved by the Archaeological Survey of India, which has recognised the importance of preserving them as part of the country's rich history. Tourists flock to wells in far-flung corners of northwestern India to gaze in wonder at these architectural marvels from 1,000 years ago, which serve as a reminder of both the ingenuity and artistry of ancient civilisations and of the value of water to human existence.

Complete the table below

Choose **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

| **Stepwells** | **Date** | **Features** | **Other notes** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rani Ki Vav | Late 11th century | As many as 500 sculptures decorate the monument | Restored in the 1990s<br>Excellent condition, despite the 1_____ of 2001. |
| Surya Kund | 1026 | Steps on the 2 _____produce a geometric pattern<br>Carved shrines. | looks more like a 3_____than a well. |
| Raniji Ki Baori | 1699 | Intricately carved monument | One of 21 baoris in the area commissioned by Queen Nathavatji |
| Chand Baori | 850 AD | Steps take you down 11 storeys to the bottom | Old, deep and very dramatic<br>Has 4 _____ which provide a view to the steps. |
| Neemrana Ki Baori | 1700 | Has two 5 _____ levels. | Used by public today |

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**PASSAGE 2**

## A REMARKABLE BEETLE

Dung beetles work from the inside of the pat so they are sheltered from predators such as birds and foxes. Most species burrow into the soil and bury dung in tunnels directly underneath the pats, which are hollowed out from within. Some large species originating from France excavate tunnels to a depth of approximately 30 cm below the dung pat. These beetles make sausage-shaped brood chambers along the tunnels. The shallowest tunnels belong to a much smaller Spanish species that buries dung in chambers that hang like fruit from the branches of a pear tree. South African beetles dig narrow tunnels of approximately 20 cm below the surface of the pat. Some surface-dwelling beetles, including a South African species, cut perfectly-shaped balls from the pat, which are rolled away and attached to the bases of plants.

For maximum dung burial in spring, summer and autumn, farmers require a variety of species with overlapping periods of activity. In the cooler environments of the state of Victoria, the large French species (2.5 cms long) is matched with smaller (half this size), temperate-climate Spanish species. The former are slow to recover from the winter cold and produce only one or two generations of offspring from late spring until autumn. The latter, which multiply rapidly in early spring, produce two to five generations annually. The South African ball-rolling species, being a subtropical beetle, prefers the climate of northern and coastal New South Wales where it commonly works with the South African tunnelling species. In warmer climates, many species are active for longer periods of the year.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete the table below. Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

| **Species** | **Size** | **Preferred climate** | **Complementary species** | **Start of active period** | **Number of generations per year** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| French | 2.5 cm | cool | Spanish | late spring | 1 – 2 |
| Spanish | 1.25 cm | 1) …….. | | 2) …….. | 3) …….. |
| South African ball roller | | 4) …….. | 5) …….. | | |

LIVEWORKSHEETS