

VIDEO MODULE 8



B. Read the statements below. Which ones do you think are true? Watch the video and check your answers. 

1. Alcatraz is a small island near San Francisco.
2. Alcatraz derives from an old Spanish word for Pelican.
3. There are still a few inmates in the Alcatraz prison.
4. The government avoided sending aggressive convicts to Alcatraz.
5. Nobody ever escaped from Alcatraz.

C. Complete the paragraph. Then watch again and check your answers.



The inmates were all imprisoned on their own in a bare cell, 5 feet by 9 feet. There was a total of 1 _____ cells in 2 huge blocks. Inmates were constantly observed, and they were locked behind bars even when in the prison 2 _____ or while taking showers twice a week. Inmates were rarely allowed out of their cells. 3 _____ was provided once every two weeks, and for 4 _____ a week they were allowed out into a yard surrounded by 5 _____-foot-high walls. The aim of the yard break was to reduce trouble, although in fact it gave inmates a chance to plan an escape or cause disturbance.

D. Watch again and answer the questions. Choose a, b, c or d.

1. Where did Alcatraz get its name from?
 - a. its location
 - b. the people who lived there
 - c. the wildlife that lived there
 - d. the kind of rock that the island is made of

2. What is true about Alcatraz?
 - a. The prison isn't the main reason people visit Alcatraz.
 - b. The prison was in operation for less than 30 years.
 - c. Alcatraz's reputation wasn't as bad as people believed.
 - d. About 1,500 convicts were sent there every year.

3. When were inmates locked behind bars?
 - a. while in their cells
 - b. while taking a shower
 - c. while in the prison hospital

4. What was “the black hole”?

- a.** a nickname for Alcatraz prison
- b.** another name for the prison factory
- c.** a special cell where very aggressive inmates were sent
- d.** a room where inmates used to meet

5. What happened in 1962?

- a.** Three men robbed a bank.
- b.** Three inmates were caught trying to escape.
- c.** The prison closed.
- d.** Three inmates escaped from the prison.

E. Watch again and answer the questions. 

1. What nicknames have been given to Alcatraz?

2. Why do you think Alcatraz was known as ‘A prison of the mind’?

3. What does the video suggest happened during yard breaks?

4. How did inmates feel about the prison factory?

5. What reasons does the video give for the closure of the prison?
