Warm-Up

Name _____

14 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is in New York City. It is one of the world's great storehouses of art. It opened in 1870. The museum is open to the public. The idea is to let all people view great art. The original building has had many additions. The Met is twenty times larger now than when it was first built. It houses more than two million objects.

The Met's first **acquisition** was a Roman stone coffin. This type of tomb is called a **sarcophagus**. It was joined by Egyptian artifacts and objects recovered from ancient societies. There are classical Greek marble statues and parts of temples. The Met has furniture on display from the great European castles of the Middle Ages. Visitors can see more than 15,000 pieces of arms and armor. These span twenty-three centuries.

Artwork from ancient Egypt and medieval Europe grace its walls. Popular 19th century impressionists, such as Vincent Van Gogh, have a number of works on exhibit. What's the biggest painting? The canvas of "Washington Crossing the Delaware." It's over twelve feet tall and twenty-one feet wide!

You can learn more about the museum by reading *From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg. It is a sixth-grade mystery set in the museum.

Check Your Understanding

1. From the context of the passage, what is a **sarcophagus**?
   a. a bed
   b. a stone coffin
   c. a castle
   d. a statue

2. From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **acquisition**?
   a. something old
   b. a popular item
   c. something bought or gained
   d. a coffin

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. The Met has a lot of paintings from impressionists.
   b. The Met is a great museum with many extraordinary historical and artistic treasures.
   c. The Met is in New York City.
   d. The Met has a lot of arms, armor, and furniture from castles.

4. Why was the Met originally built?
   a. to get some art out of storage places
   b. to provide a museum for rich and famous visitors
   c. to provide an art museum for ordinary people
   d. to fill up an empty lot in New York City

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