Warm-Up

Name _____

20 The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower was built for the 100th celebration of the French Revolution that began in 1789. The Eiffel Tower was the **focal point** of the 1889 World's Fair in Paris. Seven hundred people submitted designs. Yet all the judges chose the one done by Gustave Eiffel. Work began in 1887. It was done two years later. About 50 engineers, 100 iron workers, and 120 laborers worked on it. When it was finished, Eiffel used the tower to conduct experiments. He studied weather and flight.

The Eiffel Tower weighs about 10,000 tons. It is made of 15,000 pieces of iron. They are held together by 2.5 million rivets. It takes forty tons of paint to cover it! It is painted every seven years. The temperature affects the structure's height. It varies from 984 to 990 feet tall. (It is taller on hot days.) In addition to seven elevators, it has 1,665 steps.

The city of Paris owns the building. It serves as a radio-broadcasting tower. It is also an observation tower. It is the most-visited paid monument on Earth. Millions go there each year. On a clear day, a visitor can see about thirty-seven miles at the top. A mountain climber has scaled the Eiffel Tower. Parachutists have landed on it, too. Have you ever been to the Eiffel Tower?

Check Your Understanding

1. Which of these facts would *not* be relevant to the passage?
   a. Weather experiments included barometers and other devices.
   b. Flight experiments dealt with air and wind resistance.
   c. About 6.8 million people visit the tower each year.
   d. The French Revolution led to many deaths in France.

2. From the context of the second sentence, what is the meaning of **focal point**?
   a. an eye
   b. something that holds the eye's attention
   c. a kind of sport
   d. something you want to buy

3. From the context of the passage, what word means "all the individuals agreed"?
   a. dissent
   b. unanimous
   c. disapproved
   d. reluctant

4. From the context of the passage, what can you infer about Gustave Eiffel?
   a. Eiffel wasn't married.
   b. Eiffel didn't plan the tower very well.
   c. Eiffel was a man with very few interests.
   d. Eiffel was a man with many interests and abilities.

/4

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