Warm-Up

Name _____

22 Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial stands in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is a monument to four American presidents. They represent the courage and vision of a young nation. George Washington was the winning general in the American Revolution. He was also the first president. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. As president, he bought the Louisiana Territory. Abraham Lincoln guided the nation through the suffering of the Civil War. Theodore Roosevelt led the nation into its years of power in the 20th century.

The idea of a monument dedicated to the presidents was born in 1924. The sculptor who designed and led the project was Gutzon Borglum. He was the son of Danish immigrants. A respected artist, he had already worked on a mountain statue in Georgia. The Mount Rushmore project began in 1925. It was completed in 1941 just after the sculptor died. Workers carved the giant faces out of stone, using dynamite and jackhammers. The statues are sixty feet high. They are solid granite and can be found at the top of the nearly 6,000-foot-high Mount Rushmore. This is a 60 million-year-old mountain. More than 450,000 tons of rock were removed during construction. The actual work only took a little less than seven years. But there were many periods where no money was available. The actual cost was about one million dollars. Most of the cost was paid by the federal government.

Check Your Understanding

1. What was the approximate cost of the monument at Rushmore?
   a. ten million dollars
   b. one hundred million dollars
   c. one million dollars
   d. one billion dollars

2. From the context of the passage, which word refers to "a time of distress or pain"?
   a. construction
   b. nation
   c. granite
   d. suffering

3. Which American presidents are carved into Mount Rushmore?
   a. Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt
   b. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
   c. Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt
   d. George Washington and Franklin Roosevelt

4. Which of the following would be a good title for the passage?
   a. "A Monument for Presidents"
   b. "A North Dakota Highlight"
   c. "A Sculptor Dynamites a President"
   d. "From Famous People to a Monument"

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