

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Passage 1

One of the most famous Renaissance painters of all time is Michelangelo Buonarroti, simply known as Michelangelo. He was an Italian painter, sculptor and architect, and also recognized as a poet. In 1508, Pope Julius II hired Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo did not want to paint the dome of the chapel since he felt himself to be more of a sculptor than a painter. Nevertheless, Pope Julius II was able to convince Michelangelo to accept the project by giving him the freedom to paint the chapel's ceiling with images that inspired him. The results were his legacy of breathtaking scenes from the Book of Genesis and The Last Judgment, which Michelangelo painted on the chapel's altar wall.

Question

Why did Michelangelo hesitate to paint the dome of the Sistine Chapel?

- A. He was painting the *Mona Lisa* at that time.
- B. He believed that sculpting was better than painting.
- C. He considered himself as a sculptor.
- D. He saw himself as a great painter.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.

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Passage 2

On January 24, 1848 at Sutter's Mill, California, James W. Marshall found the first gold piece. This marked the beginning of the California Gold Rush. As more individuals discovered the presence of gold in the California area, more people began to gather there. From a total of roughly 1,000 residents during the late 1840s, the population surged to more than 20,000 inhabitants during the early 1850s. The rise in population improved social and economic conditions in California at that time. However, the Gold Rush also brought some detriments like the destruction of many areas due to mining and the displacement of many Native Americans.

Question

Which are TWO of the negative effects caused by the California Gold Rush?

- A. environmental destruction
- B. social disorder
- C. relocation of Native Americans
- D. economic disturbance

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question or stem.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Choose the correct answer – A, B, C, or D.