



Reading Comprehension: The Petrified Wood Park

Level: A2–B1

Instructions: Read the text carefully and answer the questions.

Part 1. Reading

The quiet little town of Lemmon, South Dakota, looks like any small American town. However, it is special because it has a park as impressive as any top tourist attraction.

The Petrified Wood Park is an outdoor park that covers a whole city block. It is located in the heart of the town centre of Lemmon.

Petrified wood is wood that has turned into stone over millions of years. The park has a large collection of petrified wood, with thousands of sculptures and structures.

Amateur geologist Ole S. Quammen started building the park in 1930. He wanted to display a large collection of petrified wood near the town. Quammen hired a group of 40 men to search for and collect wood. Together, they created cone-shaped pyramids, a wishing well, a museum, and a fairytale castle.

They built the castle out of petrified tree trunks more than nine metres tall. They also used dinosaur bones to decorate the inside of the walls. The museum displays objects from the town's history.

The latest addition to the park is a waterfall with a petrified wood wall that has dinosaur claw marks on it. The park is so unique that it is well worth visiting!

Part 2. Answer the questions

1. Where is the Petrified Wood Park located?

1. Lemmon, South Dakota
2. New York City
3. Los Angeles

2. What is petrified wood?

1. Wood painted like stone
2. Wood that has turned into stone
3. A type of dinosaur bone

3. When did Ole S. Quammen start building the park?

1. In 1930
2. In 1950
3. In 2000

4. How many men did Quammen hire?

1. 14 men
2. 30 men
3. 40 men

5. What structures did the men create?

1. A hospital and a school
2. Pyramids, a wishing well, a museum, and a castle
3. A shopping centre and a hotel

6. What did they use to build the castle?

1. Bricks and glass
2. Petrified tree trunks
3. Metal and plastic

7. What did they use to decorate the inside of the walls?

1. Dinosaur bones
2. Flowers
3. Shells

8. What is the latest addition to the park?

1. A swimming pool
2. A waterfall
3. A restaurant

Part 3. True or False?

Write T for True or F for False.

1. _____ The park is located in South Dakota.
2. _____ Petrified wood turns into stone in a few days.
3. _____ Ole S. Quammen hired 40 men.
4. _____ The castle was built using petrified tree trunks.
5. _____ The park has a waterfall with a petrified wood wall.