

Directions: Read each passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Boy King

A typical nine year old spends his or her day going to school, doing homework, playing outside, and watching TV. Imagine being king at the age of 9 and ruling a country. That might sound absurd today, but thousands of years ago, a nine year old boy was the king of Egypt. His name was Tutankhamun, or King Tut.

This young monarch was only king of Egypt until he was 18 years old. That makes his reign only 9 short years. It's unclear how he died. Some scientists think he died of an injury; others think he died of an illness. He was not a popular king and did not leave behind any children. He was so unpopular that they took his name off of several buildings after he died.

So why is King Tut one of the most famous pharaohs of Egypt? King Tut became famous in 1922 by a team of British archaeologists. Most pharaoh tombs had been raided and all of the valuables were stolen. King Tut's tomb had not been entered in thousands of years. When the archaeologists entered the tomb, they were astonished to see four untouched rooms in the tomb. This was something archaeologists had never seen before. Inside they found over 5,000 priceless treasures including King Tut's mummy, a chariot, a golden throne, and much more.



What is the meaning of absurd?

- A. normal
- B. smart
- C. strange
- D. young

What is the meaning of monarch?

- A. king
- B. throne
- C. butterfly
- D. servant

What is the meaning of reign?

- A. rule
- B. king
- C. tomb
- D. treasure

What is the meaning of astonished?

- A. bored
- B. surprised
- C. explained
- D. calmed

An Unusual Creature

If an animal had a beak and laid eggs, you might think of a bird. What if that same creature had eight legs and lived under water? This strange animal also has bulging eyes and three hearts. What is this unusual creature? An octopus, of course.

An octopus may seem odd, but it really is an extraordinary creature that is not only perfectly adapted for ocean life, but also very smart. Scientists have learned that octopi can solve problems and even identify shapes. An octopus is a very flexible creature and can bend and fold its body into very small, tight spaces.

An octopus has a beak like a bird. They use their beak to break open crustaceans such as crabs, snails, clams and other animals with shells. The octopus uses its long tentacles to reach into small spaces between rocks to grab something to eat.

When an octopus is in distress from another animal trying to eat it, the octopus can squirt a black cloud of ink and distract the predator. An octopus also uses camouflage to hide from predators. This amazing creature can even change colors to blend in.



What is the meaning of extraordinary?

- A. normal
- B. amazing
- C. boring
- D. funny

What is the meaning of flexible?

- A. stiff
- B. large
- C. bendable
- D. washable

What is the meaning of crustaceans?

- A. a fish
- B. an animal with a shell
- C. a bendable animal
- D. a tentacle

What is the meaning of distress?

- A. danger
- B. comfort
- C. accident
- D. hidden

Mae C. Jemison

A woman named Mae Jemison once said, "Never be limited by other people's imaginations." Mae Jemison has never been limited by other people's imaginations. Her list of accomplishments is plentiful. She graduated high school early, studied chemical engineering and medicine, joined the Peace Corp, directed plays, and taught college. Jemison is probably most well-known as being the first African-American woman admitted to an astronaut program and to fly in space. That long list isn't complete!

Jemison was a typical child who enjoyed the usual activities. She loved playing outside, reading, and being curious about the world. Her love of science and space started as a child and she realized that there were no astronauts that were like her -female, African-Americans. Girls weren't encouraged to like science or to become astronauts. Jemison's family had a big impact on her success. They always encouraged her learn and follow her dreams.

Mae Jemison is a reminder that hard work and determination will help a person triumph and accomplish great things. Today she continues to encourage minority girls to follow her footsteps and study for careers in science.



What is the meaning of plentiful?

- A. very few
- B. wanting
- C. abundant
- D. short

What is the meaning of typical?

- A. usual
- B. different
- C. rare
- D. early

What is the meaning of impact?

- A. a hit
- B. effect
- C. a feeling
- D. smash

What is the meaning of triumph?

- A. achieve
- B. learn
- C. fail
- D. talent