

Read the text and decide if the sentences are T (true) or F (false).



Long ago in 1613 there lived an emperor of India, Shah Jahan, who married a beautiful woman named Taj Mahal. Her name meant "Crown of the Palace".

The emperor and the empress lived happily for 18 years and had 13 children. But when she died, the emperor was so grieved at the loss of his lovely wife that he decided to build a palace in her memory.

The site he chose was in the small city of Agra in the north of central India. It was to be the most beautiful structure in the entire world.

Shah Jahan hired 20,000 men, and construction of the palace began in 1632. Twenty years later, when it was finished, everyone agreed that it was the most beautiful palace in the world. The outside was pink-coloured sandstone; the inside, white marble brought in from all over the empire. Many of the walls were covered with precious stones. The surrounding gardens contained 1,000 square feet of trees and exotic flowers. A long pool ran down the centre of the garden and reflected the beautiful palace.

The emperor was so pleased with the palace that he decided to build a matching one across the river. Unfortunately, he died before this could be done. His people buried him alongside his beloved wife.

The palace still stands today, and is considered to be the most beautiful in the world. Visitors to the Taj Mahal say that when the sun sets, the whole palace shines like a rose-coloured crown.

1. Shah Jahan, the emperor of India, lost his beautiful wife. T (true) F (false)
2. The palace is situated in the west of central India. T (true) F (false)
3. The Taj Mahal is made of sandstone, marble and precious stones. T (true) F (false)
4. The emperor built a matching palace across the river. T (true) F (false)