

Day 1

After several English explorations of North America, a permanent settlement was attempted by Queen Elizabeth in 1587. Over 100 settlers departed England to build a new colony in the Chesapeake Bay area on the coast of North Carolina. John White was the leader of the colonists, as he had previous experience in the area. The colonists attempted to build relationships with the local Native Americans that lived nearby, but the relationship was arduous because of some difficult experiences in the past. After some challenging months, John White went back to England for more supplies for the settlement.

1. What does departed mean?
 - a. was banned from
 - b. left
 - c. shifted
2. What does arduous mean?
 - a. easy
 - b. difficult
 - c. expensive
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?
 - a. John White did not want to stay.
 - b. The colonists didn't have enough resources to support their needs.
 - c. John White returned because of difficulties with the natives.

Day 2

John White's return to England for more supplies was plagued by difficulties. White had set sail close to winter, which made it difficult for him to find a ship that would take him back to the colony. Additionally, England was at war with the Spanish and many available ships were being used to fight. At one point, John White tried to return with supplies, but the ship he was on attempted to steal cargo from Spanish ships. The supplies intended for the colonists were seized after the attempt failed. Three years after he initially arrived in England, White was finally able to return to the colony with supplies.

1. What does plagued mean?
 - a. sickness
 - b. troubled
 - c. angered
2. What does seized mean?
 - a. frozen
 - b. sunk
 - c. taken
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of today's passage?
 - a. John White faced many difficulties, which delayed his return.
 - b. The war with the Spanish was the only cause of the delay.
 - c. John White returned with supplies.

Day 3

When he returned three years later, John White was baffled to find the colony completely abandoned without any real evidence to show why they left. Among the missing colonists were White's daughter and granddaughter. Some of the buildings had been taken down, which led White to believe that they had not necessarily left quickly. John White had told the settlers to carve a certain symbol if they were in peril and they had not done so, which led White to believe that they left willingly. The word CROATOAN was carved into a board causing White to believe that the settlers had possibly moved to nearby Croatoan Island.

1. What does baffled mean?
 - a. confused
 - b. angered
 - c. overjoyed
2. What does peril mean?
 - a. hunger
 - b. danger
 - c. sickness
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?
 - a. John White believed that the colonists had not survived.
 - b. The colonists did not want John White to know where they went.
 - c. John White believed the colonists were still alive.

Day 4

White deduced that the colonists had moved to Croatoan Island because of the carving left behind. The word CRO had also been carved into a tree. White attempted to search for the colonists, but was unable to because of the weather. Shortly after, White was forced to return to England with the ship. John White was never able to return to search for the colonists, which included his daughter and granddaughter. He passed away without ever knowing the fate of the colony that he helped establish.

1. What does deduced mean?
 - a. betrayed
 - b. explained
 - c. assumed
2. What does establish mean?
 - a. create
 - b. destroy
 - c. invest
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What effect did the weather have on White's search?
 - a. White was able to search for the colonists despite the weather.
 - b. The weather had no effect on White's search.
 - c. The delay caused by the weather was part of the reason White never determined the fate of the colony.

Day 5

Years later, officials finally decided to try to determine the fate of the colonists. The search did not turn up any answers and the fate of the colony, now known as the Lost Colony, remains a mystery to this day. Although there is no evidence that definitively shows what happened to the colony, there are some theories. One theory suggests that the colonists made an attempt to return to England on their own. Evidence shows that there was a drought at the time and the colonists may have been desperate enough to attempt the dangerous voyage. Other theories suggest that the colonists went to local Native American tribes. Some experts suggest that the Native Americans did not welcome them, while others believe that the colonists were absorbed by a friendly tribe. More recent research has turned up new evidence and a few researchers believe they have solved the mystery.

1. What does definitively mean?

- a. hurriedly
- b. convincingly
- c. questionably

2. What does absorbed mean?

- a. taken in
- b. attacked
- c. ignored

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Which theory do you think is the least likely to be true? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.

Day 1

On November 24, 1971, the day before Thanksgiving, a man bought a ticket using the name Dan Cooper. The man boarded a plane in Portland that was headed to Seattle. He was professionally dressed in a suit and carried a briefcase. Once the plane took off, he handed a note to a flight attendant that said he was carrying a bomb. He let the flight attendant know that he wanted \$200,000, four parachutes and a way to refuel the plane. The flight attendant asked to see the bomb and he opened his briefcase to show her a device that appeared to be an explosive. Despite his seemingly nefarious intentions, he was very friendly to the flight attendant and attempted to tip her and offered to buy food for her and the rest of the crew.

1. What does nefarious mean?
 - a. positive
 - b. average
 - c. evil
2. What does intentions mean?
 - a. plans
 - b. memories
 - c. attitude
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about the hijacker's decision to wear a suit?
 - a. He wanted to avoid suspicion.
 - b. He had a job interview.
 - c. That was the standard dress for flying in 1971.

Day 2

The plane landed at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport. Once the hijacker was able to confirm that his demands for \$200,000 and four parachutes had been met, he allowed the 36 passengers to exit the plane. He discussed his stipulations with the pilots and they decided they would fly towards Mexico. He demanded that the plane fly very slowly and low to the ground. He also requested that the staircase stay down, but when the pilot protested citing safety concerns, the hijacker said that he would just lower the staircase once in flight. A few hours later, the plane took off with the hijacker and a few crew members on board.

1. What does stipulations mean?
 - a. demands
 - b. plans
 - c. fears
2. What does citing mean?
 - a. promising
 - b. referencing
 - c. refusing
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. It can be inferred that the hijacker didn't really want to hurt anyone. What supports that inference?
 - a. He wanted the plane flown slowly.
 - b. He let the passengers off the plane.
 - c. He asked for four parachutes.

Day 3

As soon as the plane took off, authorities expediently worked to make sure that other planes were following from a safe distance. On the plane, Cooper told the flight attendant to go the cabin with the rest of the crew and to shut the door. As she was leaving, she saw him tie something around his waist. After they had been flying for a bit, a warning sounded that indicated that the staircase had been lowered and shortly after there was evidence that the plane's door had been opened. When the plane landed, authorities quickly surrounded and swarmed the plane. Their search of the plane for the hijacker turned up empty.

1. What does expediently mean?
 - a. patiently
 - b. importantly
 - c. quickly
2. What does indicated mean?
 - a. showed
 - b. hinted
 - c. hid
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?
 - a. The hijacker hid on the plane.
 - b. The hijacker did not have a plan.
 - c. The hijacker jumped out of the plane.

Day 4

Authorities immediately began gathering clues to try to track down the escaped hijacker. Aboard the plane, authorities found fingerprints and a couple of personal items. Interviews were conducted with anyone that interacted with him and a police sketch artist was able to create a facial composite of the man. While the police did interview some people, they were unable to find any conclusive answers. Searching the areas where the man may have jumped was very difficult because no one knew exactly where and when he was able to jump and if he even survived.

1. What is a facial composite?
 - a. video footage
 - b. photograph
 - c. drawing
2. What does conclusive mean?
 - a. certain
 - b. adequate
 - c. false
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is a central idea of today's passage?
 - a. Police knew who the hijacker was, but couldn't find him.
 - b. No one could describe the hijacker.
 - c. Despite their efforts, authorities didn't know who the hijacker was.

Day 5

The FBI searched extensively to try to find the hijacker or at least the money he received. Based on information from the pilot, they tried to determine the area where he most likely would have jumped and put a lot of resources into the search there. Regular citizens even participated in the search for the hijacker and the money he had with him. Later, the FBI published the serial numbers for the ransom money and offered a financial incentive for turning the money in. None was ever turned in. Nearly a decade afterwards, a young boy found three bundles of money while out camping. The FBI confirmed the money matched the serial numbers of the ransom money. It was assumed that the money had floated down the river, but one of the bundles was missing 10 bills. The FBI never believed that the hijacker survived the jump, but there has never been any evidence to prove that.

1. What does extensively mean?

- a. thoroughly
- b. partially
- c. quickly

2. What does incentive mean?

- a. requirement
- b. reward
- c. ransom

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. What do you believe happened to the hijacker? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.

Day 1

The legend of the Oak Island money pit has intrigued people for centuries. Oak Island, an island off the coast of Canada, is home to a curious pit that has been the focus of many fortune seekers throughout the years. It all began in the late 1790s when a young man found a mysterious indentation in the ground. The young man believed the indentation meant that maybe something had been buried there. There had long been rumors of pirate's treasure that had been buried on the island or nearby, and the man thought that he had potentially stumbled on it. Shortly after finding the area, he recruited friends to help him dig. While their search didn't turn up any valuable treasure, every ten feet they uncovered wooden platforms that had been mysteriously buried. They eventually gave up after finding nothing but buried platforms.

1. What does intrigued mean?
 - a. scared
 - b. interested
 - c. confused
2. What does indentation mean?
 - a. a raised area
 - b. a lowered area
 - c. a bush
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?
 - a. The young man believed something was buried in the area near the indentation.
 - b. Nothing was buried near the indentation.
 - c. Something was buried near the indentation.

Day 2

The rumors and mystery surrounding the area persisted. Years later, the Onslow company decided to take a risk on the rumors and invest their time and money into the area. Just like the first time, they kept finding wooden platforms every ten feet. Interestingly enough, at about 60 feet down, they found a layer of coconut shells. They continued to dig and at 90 feet down discovered something more perplexing than the wooden platforms and coconut shells. At 90 feet down, they discovered a stone inscribed in strange symbols that no one was able to decipher. While this discovery was interesting, no one was any closer to being able to answer what, if anything, the pit actually contained.

1. What does persisted mean?
 - a. returned
 - b. faded
 - c. lasted
2. What does decipher mean?
 - a. visualize
 - b. curious
 - c. understand
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of today's passage?
 - a. While mysterious items were found, no treasure had been found in the pit.
 - b. The pit didn't contain anything.
 - c. The pit was a trap.

Day 3

The curious stone was inscribed with symbols that no one could immediately understand. Several cryptographers became involved and attempted to break the mysterious code. Eventually, someone was able to determine that the inscription said: "Forty feet below, two million pounds lies buried." A pound is a form of British money and two million pounds is worth around 2.5 million U.S. dollars, a staggering amount now and enough money then to motivate most people to participate in the search. The company continued digging, but soon ran into trouble when the pit flooded once they reached a certain depth.

1. What does inscribed mean?
 - a. painted
 - b. carved
 - c. decorated
2. What is a cryptographer?
 - a. someone that looks for treasure
 - b. someone that solves riddles and codes
 - c. a historian
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. Why would the author include the meaning of the symbols on the stone?
 - a. To help the readers understand how intriguing the stone was.
 - b. To confuse the reader.
 - c. To make the reader look for clues.

Day 4

After the Onslow company gave up, the pit was left abandoned for years. The Onslow company had dug down at least 90 feet, but once the pit began to flood, the water rose 60 feet. Later, another company decided to take up the task of excavating the pit in hopes of finding potential treasure. They attempted to use a pump to drain the water, but the pump failed and they gave up. Throughout the years there were multiple attempts to find the treasure. One attempt ended with a collapsed platform that led many to believe the area had been sabotaged in order to protect it. As time has passed, the mystery surrounding the pit has increased, yet no one has found anything.

1. What does excavating mean?
 - a. bury
 - b. dig out
 - c. researching
2. What does sabotaged mean?
 - a. destroy intentionally
 - b. left out in the open
 - c. hidden
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is a central idea of today's passage?
 - a. Despite difficulties, people continued to look without success.
 - b. The treasure was found.
 - c. No one tried to search in the pit and no treasure was found.

Day 5

Throughout the years many people and companies have unsuccessfully attempted to locate the hidden treasure in the pit. These attempts have been very expensive and yet the treasure, if it exists at all, remains hidden. Despite the lack of any real evidence, there are a number of theories that explain what may be hidden that has eluded people for centuries. One theory is that the pit contains treasure buried by pirates and some believe that the pirate may have even been Blackbeard. A different theory suggests that the pit doesn't contain any treasure at all and is simply leftover from a time when the island was used for the production of tar. Another theory speculates that the pit isn't actually manmade and is a sinkhole that has collected debris over the years. Despite current technology and prolonged interest in the pit, no one knows what the pit contains.

1. What does eluded mean?

- a. searched
- b. puzzled
- c. found

2. What does speculates mean?

- a. suggests
- b. determines
- c. proves

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Which theory do you think is the least likely to be true? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.

Day 1

Construction on the Flannan Isles lighthouse off the coast of Scotland was finished in 1899. One year later, the lighthouse became the setting to a mystery that has perplexed people to this day. The goal of the lighthouse was to show ships where to go and to warn of potential danger ahead. The lighthouse itself was constructed on an isolated island that only the three keepers of the lighthouse lived on. People living near the island had long heard rumors and superstitions about the island being a dangerous place. Things were fine with the lighthouse for most of the first year, but in the year 1900, the lighthouse became the center of a mystery that remains unsolved.

1. What does perplexed mean?

- a. burdened
- b. interested
- c. confused

2. What does isolated mean?

- a. populated
- b. forested
- c. lonely

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What inference can be made about today's passage?

- a. Something significant happened on the island.
- b. The lighthouse is no longer in use.
- c. The lighthouse is a popular landmark.

Day 2

The mystery began when a ship passed by the island and noted that the lighthouse was not illuminated. This was reported because a working light was necessary for safety, yet nothing was immediately done. Later, a ship that regularly delivered supplies and materials arrived late because it had been delayed for a few days because of the weather. The crew on the supply ship was surprised to see that nothing had been left out to hold the new supplies. The crew was also shocked to see the flag that was usually prominently displayed on the flagpole was missing. To add to this mystery, no lighthouse crew member showed up to greet the supply ship.

1. What does illuminated mean?

- a. working
- b. broken
- c. lit up

2. What does prominently mean?

- a. obviously
- b. hidden
- c. secretly

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?

- a. It was very concerning that the lighthouse was not illuminated.
- b. No one was really concerned about the lighthouse not being illuminated.
- c. The flag was not regularly displayed.

Day 3

Someone aboard the relief ship sounded an alarm and flashed a light, yet no one in the lighthouse responded. A few members of the ship's crew went aground and still could not locate the men, but they did find some concerning clues. The doors were closed and the men searching found that the beds were unmade. Perhaps the most concerning of all is that the clock had simply stopped working. Further searching found that one waterproof uniform had been left abandoned. In the kitchen, a plate of unconsumed food had been left out and a chair was knocked over.

1. What does aground mean?
 - a. on earth
 - b. buried
 - c. on shore
2. What does unconsumed mean?
 - a. uneaten
 - b. unattractive
 - c. uncooked
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?
 - a. There were enough clues to figure out what happened.
 - b. The men living in the lighthouse left willingly.
 - c. It is not clear why the clock stopped working.

Day 4

The search continued and the island was scoured. There were signs of extensive wind damages from storms on one side of the island, including iron railings that had been bent over. Those in the search crew also found a diary that contained regular updates of what was going on at the lighthouse up until December 15. The diary documented incredibly strong winds in the days leading up to the last entry and also noted that the men, seasoned veterans, were afraid. The entries discussing the storms and wind were perplexing because nearby weather reports indicated that the weather had been pleasant on the island during that time period.

1. What does scoured mean?
 - a. reported
 - b. searched extensively
 - c. retreated
2. What does seasoned mean?
 - a. experienced
 - b. new
 - c. bad
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is a central idea of today's passage?
 - a. The diary was incorrect.
 - b. The search turned up a lot of useful information.
 - c. Information found in the search created more questions than answers.

Day 5

The search was eventually abandoned and no one knows exactly what happened at the lighthouse after the diary entries stopped. A report was officially sent in and the lighthouse had new men assigned to it. Of course, there are some theories about what happened. The most pervasive theory, which is believed by many, is that the island was struck by a powerful storm and the men were washed out to sea. As believable as this is, nearby weather reports showed no signs of inclement weather until days after the last diary entry. Another theory is that the men were attacked and kidnapped by spies from another country. Finally, there is a more questionable theory that suggests that the men were carried off the island by a wild animal.

1. What does pervasive mean?

- a. important
- b. common
- c. confusing

2. What does inclement mean?

- a. cold
- b. rainy
- c. severe

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Which theory do you think is the least likely to be true? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.

Day 1

In 2004, Parisian police made a discovery in the Paris Catacombs, far below where people live and work each day in the capital city of France. They discovered a secret theater and restaurant in a large and previously undiscovered underground chamber. There were no clues as to who built or used this enigmatic place. Some claim a secret society meets in the catacombs and that there are even more hidden places similar to this one that may never be found. The catacombs are mostly unmapped and have been blocked off due to numerous cave-ins and safety concerns, making a full exploration by officials dangerous and unfeasible.

1. What does enigmatic mean?
 - a. criminal
 - b. important
 - c. mysterious
2. What does unfeasible mean?
 - a. unrealistic
 - b. preventable
 - c. underground
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about the Paris Catacombs?
 - a. There are many complete maps of the catacombs.
 - b. There are lots of areas that authorities don't know about.
 - c. Most people have never heard of the catacombs.

Day 2

Deep beneath the city of Paris, there is a large network of subterranean tunnels known as the Paris Catacombs. Many people call the Paris Catacombs the "World's Largest Grave," due to the fact that it holds the remains of more than six million people. Beginning around 1785, millions of bodies were moved from overflowing city cemeteries and relocated to the catacombs, which had previously been limestone quarries. Millions of tourists visit the catacombs each year. The catacombs are so popular that there is a group of people that covertly explore the miles of maze-like caverns illegally.

1. What does subterranean mean?
 - a. underwater
 - b. below sea level
 - c. underground
2. What does covertly mean?
 - a. in the open
 - b. secretly
 - c. sometimes
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?
 - a. The catacombs are a popular place for tourists.
 - b. Many cities have catacombs.
 - c. Many people believe that the catacombs shouldn't have been built.

Day 3

Self-described “Cataphiles” routinely explore the large underground network that makes up the Paris Catacombs. It is illegal to enter all but the small area mapped out for tourists. While it is illegal to enter, it is difficult to impede people from entering due to the numerous opportunities for entry. Cataphiles mark paths to guide other explorers with secret clues veiled in graffiti, but are careful not to encourage too many outsiders into this secret place.

1. What does impede mean?
 - a. encourage
 - b. prevent
 - c. disguise
2. What does veiled mean?
 - a. hidden
 - b. painted
 - c. written
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about Cataphiles?
 - a. Cataphiles want many people to explore the catacombs.
 - b. Cataphiles are afraid of underground tunnels.
 - c. Cataphiles don't want many people to explore the catacombs.

Day 4

Paris officials established a small police force that is responsible for policing the 170 miles of tunnels, caves, galleries and catacombs. This police task force discovered the peculiar room after coming across a sign warning that it was a building site. Shortly after the sign, the police found a desk and security cameras that recorded anyone that walked by. The tunnel then opened up into a large room that contained a movie screen with a projector and many different films. Beside that room was a smaller cave that had been turned into a restaurant. Perhaps the most confounding discovery was the presence of electricity and phone lines in the hidden room so many feet under the city.

1. What does peculiar mean?
 - a. large
 - b. modern
 - c. strange
2. What does confounding mean?
 - a. exciting
 - b. maddening
 - c. confusing
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is a central idea of today's passage?
 - a. There is a police force that only protects the catacombs.
 - b. Police uncovered a strange room in the catacombs.
 - c. There was electricity in the discovered room.

Day 5

Even more mysterious than the discovery of the room itself is what happened three days later when police returned to the scene. Upon their return, officials discovered that the power and phone lines had been cut out and removed. The secret group left one clue, a note lying in the middle of the floor that said, "Do not try to find us." Police have yet to find who devised this hidden world and why, although there has been much speculation. Officials have examined graffiti discovered at the scene, but it has not given them any solid leads. Some people do not find the discovery mysterious at all. According to them, there is a growing group of Paris youth consisting of artists, musicians, explorers and filmmakers that explore the catacombs looking for freedom, adventure and artistic expression.

1. What does devised mean?

- a. reported
- b. created
- c. sold

2. What does speculation mean?

- a. guessing
- b. promising
- c. lying

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Do you think the explanation suggested in today's passage is believable? Why or why not?

Day 1

In 1872, a ship called the Mary Celeste set sail from New York. The ship contained 282 tons of cargo and was destined for Italy. The wife and daughter of the captain were aboard the ship, along with around ten other crew members. The captain kept a detailed log for two weeks and recorded all of the notable events that happened each day. The log showed that the ship and the people on it dealt with severe weather on a nearly daily basis. The log entries stopped on November 25, leaving behind an enigma that has perplexed people for over a century.

1. What does notable mean?
 - a. untrue
 - b. important
 - c. planned
2. What does enigma mean?
 - a. diary
 - b. report
 - c. mystery
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the effect of the last sentence?
 - a. An element of suspense is developed.
 - b. The reader understands the purpose of the paragraph.
 - c. A question is answered.

Day 2

Nearly a month after the Mary Celeste set sail, the captain of a different ship, the Dei Gratia, noticed a boat adrift in the middle of the ocean. The captain noted that the boat, which turned out to be the Mary Celeste, didn't seem to have anyone or anything steering or powering it. He attempted to make contact with the Mary Celeste, but no one responded to his signals. He was concerned by the lack of response and decided to go out of his way to offer assistance. Once he got close, he ordered a probe of the ship and sent a group of men on board to investigate. The captain and the crew were astonished to find that the ship had apparently been abandoned.

1. What does adrift mean?
 - a. sinking
 - b. racing forward
 - c. randomly floating
2. What does probe mean?
 - a. witness
 - b. report
 - c. search
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about the captain of the Dei Gratia?
 - a. He was willing to help people in need.
 - b. He was inexperienced.
 - c. He was in a hurry and didn't care about the people on the Mary Celeste.

Day 3

When the men of the Dei Gratia searched the Mary Celeste, they didn't find anyone on board. Under certain circumstances, it wouldn't be that uncanny for the passengers of a ship to abandon it, but the Mary Celeste was still floating and there were no signs that would substantiate that it had been damaged in a way that might cause the captain to order everyone off. One lifeboat was missing and all the food and water rations had been left behind. Everything left on the boat was in order and it didn't seem like an emergency had taken place.

1. What does uncanny mean?

- a. unnecessary
- b. unusual
- c. underwhelming

2. What does substantiate mean?

- a. deny
- b. hide
- c. prove

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What inference can be made about today's passage?

- a. The Mary Celeste had been attacked.
- b. It is unclear why the passengers of the Mary Celeste left.
- c. The Mary Celeste was sinking.

Day 4

It was unclear why the passengers of the Mary Celeste had abandoned the ship. The fact that a lifeboat was missing seemed to bespeak that they had willingly left, yet they didn't take food or water with them, which would have been necessary at sea. The ship had taken on some water, but it was not enough to actually jeopardize the safety of the passengers and clearly had not caused the ship to sink. The captain of the Dei Gratia assumed that everyone on board had decided to use the emergency lifeboat, although their motivation for doing so was not clear.

1. What does bespeak mean?

- a. say
- b. show
- c. underlie

2. What does jeopardize mean?

- a. endanger
- b. question
- c. devalue

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What does the water in the ship suggest?

- a. The Mary Celeste was in some sort of distress.
- b. It does not suggest anything.
- c. The Mary Celeste was sinking.

Day 5

While the disappearance of the passengers of the Mary Celeste was unusual, many assumed that the missing passengers would turn up at some point. As months turned to years, it became clear that the passengers of the Mary Celeste never made it to land. Since then, many have conjectured about what may have caused the passengers of the Mary Celeste to disembark. Some theories suggest that a crewmember decided to take over and force everyone off the ship. Other theories take note of the water left in the ship and speculate that the crewmembers wrongly believed the ship was sinking and therefore evacuated into the lifeboat. To this day, no one knows for sure what the fate was of the passengers on the Mary Celeste.

1. What does conjectured mean?

- a. talked
- b. created
- c. guessed

2. What does disembark mean?

- a. leave the ship
- b. go into hiding
- c. leave the country

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Which theory do you think is the least likely to be true? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.

Day 1

The Bermuda Triangle is an area of the Atlantic Ocean that has mystified travelers and observers for decades. Reports of mysterious happenings in the area actually date back many centuries. There have been a number of ships and planes that have gone missing or encountered unusual circumstances there, which has led many to believe that there is something incredibly atypical about the area. While there have been a number of mysterious tales about the place, there are also many people that believe there is nothing unusual about the Bermuda Triangle at all.

1. What does mystified mean?
 - a. scared
 - b. attacked
 - c. puzzled
2. What does atypical mean?
 - a. haunting
 - b. normal
 - c. unusual
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of today's passage?
 - a. Some mysterious events have happened in the Bermuda Triangle.
 - b. The Bermuda Triangle is too dangerous for travel.
 - c. There are no reports of unusual things happening in the Bermuda Triangle.

Day 2

One incident that happened in the Bermuda Triangle involved members of the U.S. military. In December of 1945, a group of five airplanes disappeared over the Bermuda Triangle. Using radio transmission, the crew members discussed the fact that they believed they were lost and shortly after that all contact was lost with the airplanes. Later that day, two seaplanes were dispatched to investigate and look for the missing planes. Less than two hours later, all contact was lost with those two planes and they never returned. It was unusual for just one mission to go missing, so some people felt that two missions disappearing on the same day proved that there was something mysterious about the Bermuda Triangle.

1. What does transmission mean?
 - a. mission
 - b. stations
 - c. communication
2. What does dispatched mean?
 - a. fought
 - b. sent
 - c. forbidden from
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from today's passage?
 - a. Travel over the Bermuda Triangle should be banned.
 - b. There is nothing unusual about the Bermuda Triangle.
 - c. Officials initially did not think the pilots on the second mission were in danger.

Day 3

Another notable event in the Bermuda Triangle took place in 1881, but the details are more dubious in nature and harder to verify. Crews aboard a ship called the Ellen Austin came across an abandoned ship floating near the Bermuda Triangle. The captain sent aboard some of his members to claim the ship. The stories about what happened afterwards vary to some degree, with one story suggesting that the boat disappeared and then actually reappeared. While the actual events will never be known, neither the abandoned ship nor the men on board were ever seen again.

1. What does dubious mean?
 - a. truthful
 - b. untrustworthy
 - c. untrue
2. What does degree mean?
 - a. rank
 - b. temperature
 - c. extent
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about the validity of this story?
 - a. Multiple versions of the story make it unreliable.
 - b. Multiple versions of the story make it more reliable.
 - c. The age of the story makes it unreliable.

Day 4

Another strange incident in the Bermuda Triangle occurred in 1918. The USS Cyclops, a U.S. Navy ship, was carrying a full load and over 300 crew members on board. Members of the ship ceased communication with their command and no one on board was ever heard from again. What made the disappearance even more unusual is that the USS Cyclops did not send out a distress call even though it was equipped to do so. There are a number of theories that attempt to explain the disappearance, and while it is not that unheard of for a boat to disappear in the middle of the ocean, the location of the disappearance has led to it being linked to the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle.

1. What does ceased mean?
 - a. began
 - b. paused
 - c. stopped
2. What does equipped mean?
 - a. unable
 - b. able
 - c. refused
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the effect of the last sentence?
 - a. It casts doubt on the connection between the ship and the Bermuda Triangle.
 - b. It proves that this incident is related to the Bermuda Triangle.
 - c. It explains what caused the ship to disappear.

Day 5

There are a myriad of other stories of mysterious disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle. Some people take these stories as definitive evidence that there is something unusual about the area and that all of these events are somehow linked. Of course, there are skeptics who believe there is nothing strange at all about the Bermuda Triangle. Some state that it is simply a large area of open sea and that accidents will always happen. Others believe that there is a natural occurrence that takes place with the magnetic poles that then interferes with compasses, which would explain the number of people that have reported being lost. While there are still stories about strange events happening in the Bermuda Triangle, recent technology has shown no evidence to prove any theory.

1. What does myriad mean?

- a. a number
- b. a few
- c. none

2. What does definitive mean?

- a. uncertain
- b. ultimate
- c. zero

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. What is the effect of the last sentence?

Day 1

In 2013, a California couple was out walking their dog on their property. They had lived there for a few years and regularly walked their dog throughout the rolling hills. As they were outside enjoying nature, something protruding from the ground caught their eye. They almost missed seeing a tin can that was covered in rust and almost completely buried. They were able to use a stick to dig the can out of the soil. The can was incredibly heavy, so they decided to carry it back to their house to see if they could ascertain what was inside.

1. What does protruding mean?
 - a. sticking out
 - b. buried
 - c. hidden
2. What does ascertain mean?
 - a. determine
 - b. disprove
 - c. open
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of today's passage?
 - a. The California couple walks their dog regularly.
 - b. The couple took the can back to their house.
 - c. A California couple discovered a mysterious can on their property.

Day 2

The couple walked back to the house with the very heavy can. As they struggled to carry the leaden can, the lid was damaged and the edge of a single gold coin was revealed. After opening the can, they were astonished to find that it was full of gold coins. After multiple returns to the site of the first can and many excavations near where it was found, the couple ended up uncovering eight cans that contained over 1400 coins. While the couple was overjoyed by their incredible luck, the origin of the mysterious find was unknown and the couple was concerned that they might not get to keep the coins.

1. What does leaden mean?
 - a. dirty
 - b. heavy
 - c. rusty
2. What does excavations mean?
 - a. trips
 - b. walks
 - c. digs
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be drawn from the last sentence?
 - a. The mystery behind the coins meant that the couple's claim to treasure may be in question.
 - b. The couple would get to keep the found treasure if the owner claimed it.
 - c. The couple refused to turn over the coins.

Day 3

The couple was ecstatic about their find but were cautious with their next steps because they wanted to protect their anonymity. They were afraid of trespassers on their land if people knew exactly where the coins had been found. The coins were finally appraised by experts and while the coins had a face value of over \$28,000, some coins could be worth as much as one million dollars each. The dates on the coins range from the 1840s to 1894. The couple learned more about the coins, but they were still uncertain about their history.

1. What does anonymity mean?
 - a. savings
 - b. privacy
 - c. investment
2. What does appraised mean?
 - a. cleaned
 - b. returned
 - c. valued
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about the dates of the coins?
 - a. The coins were buried after 1900.
 - b. The coins were buried in the 1880s.
 - c. The coins were not buried before 1894.

Day 4

The mysterious origins of the coins left their ownership in question. If the rightful owner of the coins could prove their claim to them, then the couple might have to return their windfall. The discovery of such a valuable amount of coins is unusual in the United States and many people were quick to theorize as to why the coins had been buried. Most people keep large amounts of money in the bank, so some believe the person who buried the coins was a criminal that had more clandestine motivations. If the coins were indeed stolen, then it was very possible that the victim, which could have likely been a bank, could still be the rightful owner.

1. What does windfall mean?
 - a. fortune
 - b. items
 - c. surprise
2. What does clandestine mean?
 - a. positive
 - b. illegal
 - c. stolen
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of the paragraph?
 - a. The couple had to return the coins.
 - b. Because of the uncertain history, it was unclear if the couple could keep the coins.
 - c. The couple was allowed to keep the coins.

Day 5

The unknown past of the coins led many to speculate about their history. Many of the theories posited that the coins were the result of a theft and were buried in an attempt to hide the evidence. The high profile theft from the San Francisco Mint in 1901 was commonly linked to the find. An employee had stolen nearly \$30,000 in coins, which were never returned. Authorities with the U.S. government investigated the details extensively and determined that the buried coins were not related. Of course, some unscrupulous people tried to claim ownership of the coins in a greedy attempt to become wealthy, but no one was ever able to actually prove the source of the coins. It is possible that the coins were buried by someone who didn't trust the banks and never returned for them. The couple who discovered the coins has listed them for sale and while they may never know where they came from, they can rest easy knowing that they are now the rightful owners.

1. What does posited mean?

- a. falsely claimed
- b. guessed
- c. questioned

2. What does unscrupulous mean?

- a. dishonest
- b. poor
- c. angry

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. What would motivate some people to say that they had any claim to the coins?
