

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1. About how many workers were needed to build the monument?

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-
-
-

2. When was work on Mount Rushmore completed?

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3. How many workers died building the monument?

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-
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-

4. Which president was chosen for his role in conservation?

-
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-
-

5. About how many tourists visit the monument every year?

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6. Which of the following can visitors do at the Mount Rushmore Memorial Park?

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Discuss these questions with a friend or classmate.

1. What information in the lecture did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. Do you know of any similar landmarks in the US or in other countries?
3. Have you ever visited a famous landmark? If yes, which one(s)?
4. Would you like to have your face carved into a mountain? Why? / Why not?
5. Which of these four presidents do you admire most? Why?
6. What three questions would you like to ask one of the workers who helped to construct the memorial?

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Audio Script

Mount Rushmore is an iconic landmark located in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. This colossal sculpture was created by Gutzon Borglum and his team of almost 400 workers between 1927 and 1941. It was initially planned to be a tourist attraction to draw visitors to South Dakota. However, the purpose of the sculpture grew over time. During the construction, the US was going through the Great Depression and the project provided employment for hundreds of workers. Additionally, it also became a symbol of American democracy, freedom, and perseverance.

The carving of Mount Rushmore is an engineering marvel. To construct the sculpture, the workers had to climb the mountain to reach the faces and use explosives to remove large chunks of granite. The workers then used jackhammers and chisels to sculpt the faces into the rock. The work was dangerous and many workers suffered injuries, although no one lost their lives during the construction process. It has been estimated that the faces may still be somewhat distinguishable even after another 500,000 years!

The faces of the presidents, each about 60 feet tall, were chosen by Borglum for their contributions to the country. George Washington, the first president, was chosen for his leadership during the American Revolution, and his role in establishing the country's democracy. Thomas Jefferson, the third president, was chosen for his role in drafting the Declaration of Independence, which declared the US's independence from Great Britain. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, was chosen for his leadership during the Civil War and for ending slavery in the country. And Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president, was chosen for his role in conservation as he established many national parks and forests during his presidency.

In recent years, some Native American groups have criticized the sculpture as being built on land that was sacred to their tribes. Nevertheless, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial continues to attract about two million visitors every year. Visitors can explore the park and take part in related activities such as hiking, camping, and wildlife watching. The park also offers a visitor center where guests can learn about the history of the sculpture and its creation. A 14-minute film about the history of the sculpture is shown hourly in the visitor center.

ANSWER KEY

1. 400
2. 1941
3. none
4. Theodore Roosevelt
5. two million
6. hike