



“Umbrellas”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

The umbrella is an old idea. It has not changed much over time. Old **sculpture** (art made with clay) from the Middle East, shows the king with an umbrella. The sculpture is over 1,000 years old. At that time, common people did not have umbrellas. Only **royalty** had them.

More than 2000 years ago, fashionable women carried umbrellas in ancient Greece. In China, only royalty used umbrellas. In old Chinese books, there are **illustrations** of umbrellas. These pictures were made with paint, blood, and special drawing tools. The umbrellas in old Chinese books look a lot like today’s umbrellas.

There is not much information about umbrellas in Europe in the Middle Ages. People probably used their coats to protect themselves from the rain. People in the South Pacific used umbrellas made of palm leaves to protect themselves from the sun and rain.

There have been many **improvements** to umbrellas. Now, **modern** umbrellas are better than the old umbrellas. The old umbrellas were often made of oiled silk. Modern umbrellas are made of cotton or plastic. Old umbrellas had ribbing made of wood. Modern umbrellas have steel ribs. Also, the trunk of the modern umbrella extends like a telescope. It can collapse and become shorter or extend and become longer.

Questions:

1) Fashionable women had umbrellas in...

- A. Europe in the Middle Ages.
- B. the South Pacific.
- C. the Middle East.
- D. ancient Greece.

2) In ancient China ...

- A. only royalty had umbrellas.
- B. umbrellas were made of palm leaves.
- C. umbrellas looked modern.
- D. Both A and C are correct.

3) In Europe in the Middle Ages...

- A. people used their coats to keep dry.
- B. people used modern umbrellas.
- C. people used silk umbrellas.
- D. None of the above.

4) People in the South Pacific used...

- A. umbrellas made of palm leaves.
- B. umbrellas made of plastic.
- C. collapsing umbrellas.
- D. telescopes.

5) Old umbrellas were often made with...

- A. steel.
- B. cotton.
- C. plastic.
- D. oiled silk.



Vocabulary:

1) **Sculpture** is...

- A. art made with wood.
- B. art made with clay.
- C. writing in books.
- D. pictures in books.

2) **Royalty** is...

- A. fashionable women.
- B. kings and queens.
- C. common people.
- D. information.



3) Another word for **illustrations** is...

- A. texts.
- B. coats.
- C. pictures.
- D. umbrellas.

4) What is an **improvement**?

- A. A way of making something better
- B. A way of keeping rain off people
- C. A kind of telescope
- D. None of the above

5) The best synonym for **modern** is...

- A. young.
- B. old.
- C. new.
- D. nice.