



Name: _____

Yosemite: A Land of Giants

Yosemite National Park is a very famous place in the state of California. It is located high up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Millions of people visit this park every year to see its giant rocks, tall waterfalls, and thick forests. It is like nature's version of a skyscraper city, but with way more squirrels and fresh air.

One of the most amazing things in Yosemite is the giant rock called El Capitan. It is made of granite and is over three thousand feet tall. Another famous rock is Half Dome, which looks like a giant stone ball that was sliced right in half. Long ago, huge sheets of ice called glaciers carved these amazing shapes into the mountains. As the ice moved slowly across the land, it acted like a giant shovel that scooped out the valley.



El Capitan

Yosemite is also home to some of the tallest waterfalls in North America. Yosemite Falls is so high that the water looks like it is dancing in the wind as it falls down the cliff. In the spring, when the snow on the mountains melts, the waterfalls become very loud and powerful. You can hear the crashing water from far away. In the winter, some of these waterfalls even freeze into giant towers of ice!

The park is a safe home for many different animals. You might see a black bear looking for berries or a mule deer eating grass in a meadow. There are also giant trees called giant sequoias. Some of these trees are thousands of years old and are so wide that they make everything else look tiny. Many years ago, a man named John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt went camping in Yosemite. They saw how beautiful it was and worked hard to make sure it became a protected National Park so the plants and animals would stay safe forever.



Giant sequoias

Today, people visit Yosemite to go hiking, camping, and take beautiful photos. Before the park was a National Park, the Ahwahneechee people lived there for a very long time. They called the valley "Ahwahnee," which means "place of the gaping mouth." They knew the land was special and took great care of it. When we visit today, we have to be respectful by staying on the trails and never feeding the wild animals. This helps keep Yosemite a "Land of Giants" for many more years to come.

1. Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

"As the ice moved slowly across the land, it acted like a giant shovel that scooped out the valley."

What does the author most likely mean by the word shovel in this sentence?

- A. A tool used by visitors to plant trees.
- B. Something used by the Ahwahneechee people to build homes.
- C. A way to describe how the ice moved and shaped the earth.
- D. A machine that workers used to make the mountains taller.

2. According to the passage, what causes the waterfalls in Yosemite to become "loud and powerful"?

- A. The wind dancing against the cliff face.
- B. The ice from glaciers carving the rock.
- C. The winter cold turning the water into ice.
- D. The melting snow from the mountains in the spring.

3. Which two details from the passage show why Yosemite is called a "Land of Giants"?

- A. The park is located in the state of California.
- B. El Capitan is a rock that is over three thousand feet tall.
- C. Black bears look for berries in the thick forests.
- D. Sequoias are trees that are thousands of years old and very wide.
- E. People visit the park to take beautiful photos.

4. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What can the reader conclude about the Ahwahneechee people?

- A. They were the first people to build skyscrapers in the valley.
- B. They had a deep respect for the land long before it was a park.
- C. They invited President Roosevelt to go camping in the mountains.
- D. They were afraid of the "gaping mouth" and stayed away from the valley.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "It is like nature's version of a skyscraper city..."
- B. "They called the valley 'Ahwahnee,' which means 'place of the gaping mouth.'"
- C. "They knew the land was special and took great care of it."
- D. "In the spring... the waterfalls become very loud and powerful."

5. Why did the author include the information about John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt?

- A. To explain how Yosemite became a protected National Park.
- B. To show the reader the best places to go camping in California.
- C. To list the names of every person who has visited the valley.
- D. To argue that only famous people should be allowed to visit the park.

6. Based on the passage, what is the most likely reason visitors should stay on the trails?

- A. So they do not get lost in the "skyscraper city."
- B. So they can find the best places to take photos.
- C. To make sure they can see the black bears eating berries.
- D. To protect the plants and keep the park beautiful for the future.

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