

Old Man of the Mountain

by Susan LaBella



The Old Man of the Mountain was famous. People came from far away to visit him in New Hampshire. They knew that they could find him in Franconia Notch State Park.

This old man was not a human being, however. He was a rock formation on a mountainside! To many people, five huge granite rocks in the White Mountains looked like the side, or profile, of a man's face. Some people called him Great Stone Face.

The Old Man of the Mountain was discovered around 1805. For a very long time, Great Stone Face was one of the best-known places in New Hampshire. Then, sometime during the night of May 3, 2003, the rocks that made up the old man's face fell apart. Millions of years of rain, snow, and wind had worn away parts of the rocks. Finally, those rocks collapsed.

Great Stone Face was damaged. It no longer looked like a man's profile. Many people were sad that the Old Man of the Mountain would never be the same. But visitors can look north to a different rock formation. They can see what looks like the barrel of a cannon sticking out from a fortress.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is another name for the Old Man of the Mountain?

- A. White Mountain Face
- B. Great Mountain Man
- C. Great Stone Face

2. The text describes a sequence of events that happened to the Old Man of the Mountain. Which of these events happened first?

- A. The Old Man of the Mountain collapsed.
- B. The Old Man of the Mountain became famous.
- C. The Old Man of the Mountain was discovered.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"For a very long time, Great Stone Face was one of the best-known places in New Hampshire. Then, sometime during the night of May 3, 2003, the rocks that made up the old man's face fell apart. Millions of years of rain, snow, and wind had worn away parts of the rocks. Finally, those rocks collapsed."

What can you conclude about the rocks that made up the Great Stone Face based on this evidence?

- A. The rocks were worn away quickly, but they fell apart slowly.
- B. The rocks were worn away bit by bit until they fell apart quickly.
- C. The rocks were worn away quickly and fell apart suddenly.

4. What most likely would have happened to the Old Man of the Mountain if it hadn't been touched by snow, wind, or rain for millions of years?

- A. Its rocks would have grown bigger.
- B. Its rocks would have been totally worn away.
- C. Its rocks would not have collapsed.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. A famous rock formation on a mountain looked like the side of a man's face, but then the rocks collapsed.
- B. People come from far away to visit an old man who lives in the mountains of New Hampshire.
- C. Today, people visit the mountains in New Hampshire to see rocks that look like a cannon sticking out from a fortress.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Then, sometime during the night of May 3, 2003, the rocks that made up the old man's face fell apart. Millions of years of rain, snow, and wind had worn away parts of the rocks. Finally, those rocks collapsed."

What does the word "collapsed" mean here?

- A. fell apart
- B. disappeared
- C. got stronger

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

The Old Man of the Mountain doesn't exist anymore _____ the rocks fell apart.

- A. so
- B. but
- C. because

8. What did the rocks of the Old Man of the Mountain look like?

9. Why did the rocks that made up the Old Man of the Mountain collapse?

10. People who visit the mountains in New Hampshire can see a rock formation that looks like a cannon sticking out from a fortress. Is this cannon rock formation likely to stay the same forever? Why or why not? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.