**“The Lost People of Mesa Verde”**

**by Elsa Marston**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pg. 236:**

1. **Text Structure – The first two sentences, which are set apart from the rest of the text, introduce the article’s topic. How do these sentences help you understand who the “lost people” of the title are?**
2. **Infer – Pause at line 22. Write down the details that help you infer that the Anasazi were skilled craftspeople.**

**Pg. 237:**

1. **Clarify – Re-read lines 26 – 37. How long did the Anasazi live in the alcoves after moving back into them?**

**Pg. 238:**

1. **Identify – Write down the answer to the question asked in lines 38 – 39.**
2. **Vocabulary – What context clues help you figure out the meaning of *archaeologists*?**
3. **Identify – Pause at line 54. Write down the effects of the Anasazi population growth.**

**Pg. 239:**

1. **Analyze – Is the statement “They probably quarreled often” a** *supported* **or an** *unsupported inference***? Explain.**
2. **Analyze – Do you think the facts provided in this article support the author’s statement that the Anasazi “respected nature and tried to farm wisely” (line 81)? Explain.**
3. **Analyze – In the final sentence, is the writer stating a fact or an opinion? Explain.**

**Pg. 240:**

**Inferences Chart – In “The Lost People of Mesa Verde,” the writer makes inferences about the Anasazi and why they left Mesa Verde. In the chart below, record some of the writer’s inferences. Then, list facts that show whether each inference is supported or unsupported in the right-hand column.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Writer’s Inference** | **Supported by Facts** |
| **Example:**  **The Anasazi planned to stay in the alcoves after moving back into them.** | **Example:**  **Yes**  **They built elaborate cliff dwellings.** |
| **Rain washed away the soil on the mesa top.** |  |
| **They probably quarreled often.** |  |

**Pg. 241**

**A: Selection Vocabulary** Write the Word Bank words on the blanks to complete this paragraph. Use each word only once.

Word Bank

Archaeologists Erosion Dwindled Quarreled Mingled

When we visited Mesa Verde National Park, I (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with my brother about what happened to the Anasazi, who lived there long ago. He thought they must have been scared away by other tribes, but I knew that

(2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who studied the site didn’t think so. My guide book said that bad weather, drought, and soil (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made farming more difficult. As a result the Anasazi mixed and (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with other peoples in the Southeast. After I showed my brother the book, his willingness to debate

(5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a hurry!

**B: Reading Comprehension** Answer each question below.

1. When did the Anasazi first begin to settle at Mesa Verde? Where did they live when they first arrived?
2. Why don’t archaeologists think the Anasazi were driven from Mesa Verde by other Native American tribes?
3. Why did the Anasazi cut down the trees on the top of the mesa?
4. What were the consequences of soil erosion for the Anasazi?