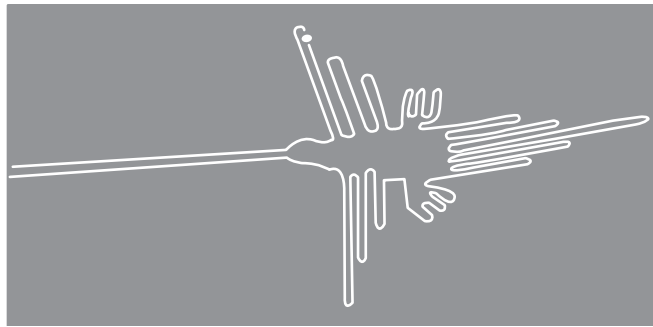
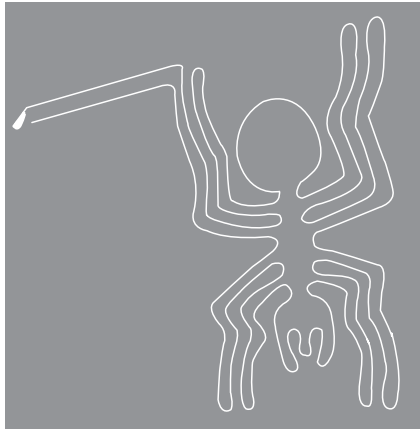


The Mystery of the Nazca Lines

Read the passage below about the mysterious Nazca Lines in Peru. Then turn over your paper, and write a summary of the information. Look carefully at the pictures to help you remember the information.



Who doesn't love a good mystery? The Nazca Lines have provided plenty of that since their discovery in the early 20th century when airlines spotted them as they flew across the Nazca Desert. Located in the desolate province of Nazca, one of the driest places on Earth, the Nazca Lines have inspired many good stories over the years.

Archaeologists have discovered Cahuachi, the city of line-builders, just south of the Nazca Lines. The city was built about 2,000 years ago, but the people left it 500 years later. No one knows why. Researchers speculate that the city was probably abandoned after natural disasters destroyed it. Archaeologists now think that Cahuachi was a center for rituals and ceremonies.

There are hundreds of Nazca Lines in an area about 37 miles long and one mile wide. They range from simple lines scattered at random to complex figures—all of which took years to create. The Lines were made by digging out furrows in the ground. The reddish pebbles of the desert soil contrast with the light-colored earth underneath. This contrast—light against dark—makes it easy to see the Lines from the air. Since there is little climate change in this region, the Lines are virtually untouched by bad weather.

The Nazca Line designs include huge animals, plants, flowers, yarn, looms, and strange figures. Nobody really knows for sure why the Lines were created. They could have been used in rituals to summon water. They could have been giant astronomical calendars. Some even think aliens created them and used them as runways for their spaceships. Whatever the real reason for their existence, the mystery of the Nazca Lines continues to intrigue and fascinate us to this day!

Soapmaking

For thousands of years people made their own soap. The recipe for making soap is quite simple: lye + water + tallow = soap. The process of making soap wasn't quite so simple, nor was it a very pleasant task.

Soapmaking had to be done outdoors because of the strong smells and mess involved. It took most of a day to make one barrel of soap.

To make soap, people first prepared tallow from cooking grease and animal fat, a process called rendering. They put the grease and fat in a large kettle over an outdoor fire. It took about 20 to 25 pounds of fat and grease to make enough tallow for one barrel of soap.

After cooking the fat and grease with water, they skimmed off the grease that floated to the top, then strained the grease to remove impurities. This process had to be done two or three times before the tallow could be used.



To obtain lye, the other main ingredient in soap, they poured hot water through a tub filled with ashes, called a leach barrel. As the water filtered through the ashes out a hole in the barrel, it formed lye. It took five or six large buckets of ashes to produce enough lye for one barrel of soap.

Working with lye is dangerous. Lye causes terrible burns to the skin or eyes. Fumes can burn the lungs. If swallowed, lye is poison.

When lye and tallow were mixed with water and boiled, they formed a jelly-like substance called soft soap. Stored in a barrel until needed, this soap was used for bathing and washing clothes.

1. State the main idea of "Soapmaking." _____

2. What ingredients were needed to make soap?

3. Why was soapmaking done outdoors? _____

4. Why was soapmaking dangerous? _____

Not Enough Time?

Is your life too busy? Do you feel you have too many demands on your time and not enough time to do what you really want to do?

Do you sometimes say, I'd like to . . . learn to play the piano . . . volunteer to help . . . participate in more church activities . . . read more books . . . join the soccer team . . . stop and visit a friend . . . but I don't have enough time.

Think about what you do with your time. Do you spend three hours a day in front of the television? If you gave up one hour a day, you'd have an extra seven hours a week to do something else.

Do you stay in bed extra late on Saturday mornings? What if you got up an hour or two earlier?

Do you spend several hours at the video arcade or playing computer games every week? Would some of that time be better spent doing something else?

Do you belong to several clubs? Play several sports? Would you be better off dropping one of these activities and doing something else you'd enjoy more?



You cannot control all of your time. Some hours of every day must be set aside for school, homework, chores, and other responsibilities. But you can control what you do with the rest of your time.

Take a look at how you spend your time. What changes could you make to give yourself more time to do what you'd like to do?

Time is precious. Once it's gone, you can never get it back. It's time to take control of your time.

1. What is the author's purpose?

_____ to entertain _____ to inform _____ to persuade

2. What is the main idea of this article?

3. What suggestions does the author make to give yourself more control over your time?

4. What would you most like to do if you had more time? _____

