

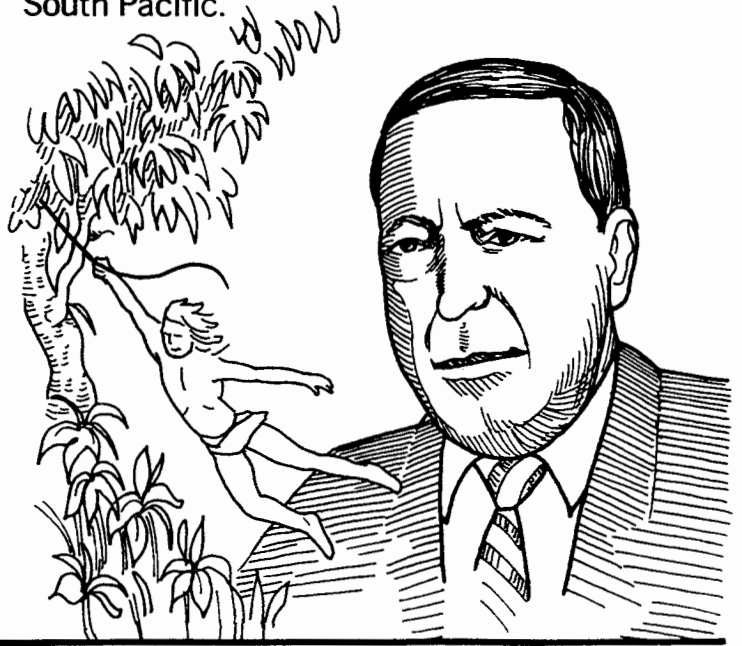
Edgar Rice Burroughs

Sometimes important people have a town named for them. But not many towns are named for characters out of books. Tarzana, California is headquarters for Tarzan of the Apes, the hero of many books, cartoons, and movies. Tarzan was the son of an English lord. He was abandoned at birth in the jungle and raised by apes. Tarzan's adventures are still popular, even though they were written in 1914. A recent remake of his story, the movie *Greystoke*, was an immediate Hollywood hit.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, the author of the Tarzan books, led an adventurous life himself. At different times, he was a soldier, gold miner, businessman, cowboy, storekeeper, and policeman. Then he wrote the story of Tarzan and became such a success that he spent the rest of his life writing. He published over seventy adventure novels. In addition to crime and western stories, Burroughs gave his readers more and more science fiction tales about lost cities and distant civilizations. In the 1960s, the Tarzan books were reprinted, and

captured the imagination of a new generation of readers.

Burroughs' last writing assignment was much different from his futuristic tales. He wrote about an exotic place where he lived for four years during World War II. Burroughs was the oldest of the war correspondents who sent us news from the South Pacific.



Main Idea

1. What made Edgar Rice Burroughs successful?
 - a. Burroughs was the son of an English lord.
 - b. He made a fortune at gold mining.
 - c. He wrote tales of adventure and science fiction.

Significant Details

2. Tarzan's life was spent in
 - a. the jungle.
 - b. Tarzana, California.
 - c. England.

Context Clues

3. Burroughs wrote *futuristic* tales.
 - a. western stories
 - b. tales of the future
 - c. tales of the past
4. An *exotic* place is
 - a. strange.
 - b. familiar.
 - c. boring.

Inference

5. Would people today be interested in stories written over seventy years ago?
 - a. No. People like different things today.
 - b. Yes. People like to read the same things over again.
 - c. Yes. The original Tarzan stories were reprinted in 1960, and rewritten into a popular movie.

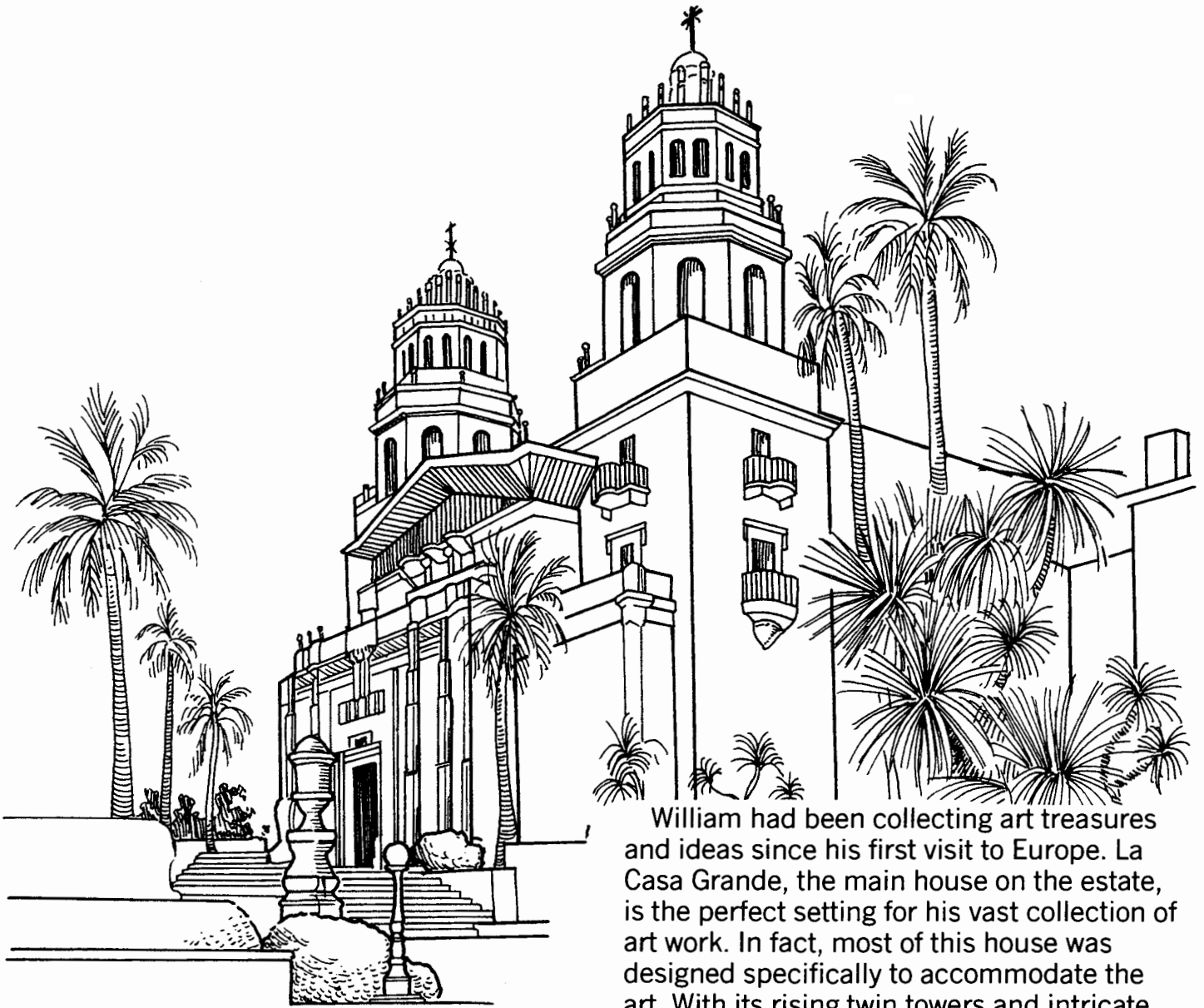
Drawing Conclusions

6. What probably made Edgar Rice Burroughs an interesting writer?
 - a. He was a soldier, gold miner, and businessman.
 - b. He wrote from personal experiences of adventure and exotic places.
 - c. He received excellent training in journalism.

Following Through

7. Read *Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Compare it with the popular movie *Greystoke*.

Hearst Castle



William Randolph Hearst was a wealthy American publisher and politician. His parents had left him 250,000 acres of land in San Simeon, California. This land afforded a view of the Pacific Ocean to the west, and majestic mountains to the east. William and his family often went there to camp. But in 1919, William became tired of camping out in the open. He met with an architect, Julia Morgan, and told her he would like to build a little something.

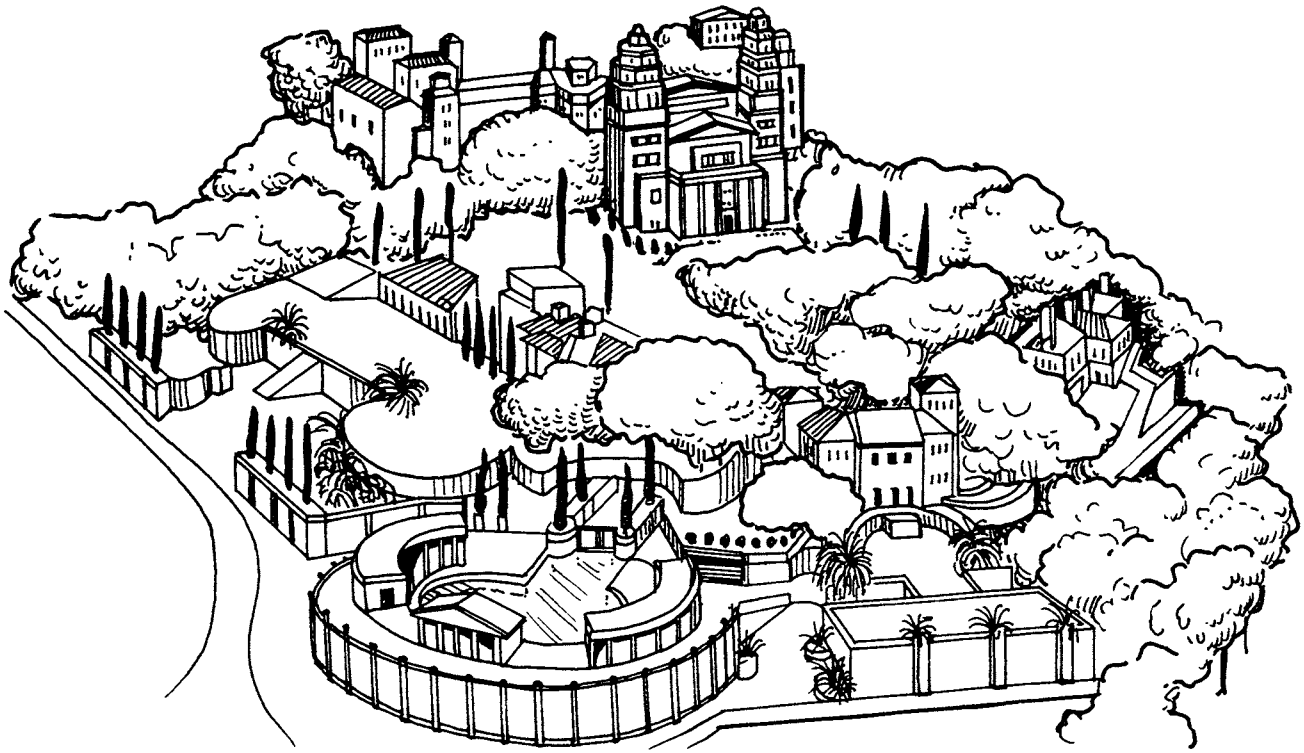
The “little something” Hearst and Morgan eventually built was one of the most lavish and spectacular estates in the country. He called the estate La Cuesta Encantada, which means The Enchanted Hill. The place is also known as Hearst Castle.

William had been collecting art treasures and ideas since his first visit to Europe. La Casa Grande, the main house on the estate, is the perfect setting for his vast collection of art work. In fact, most of this house was designed specifically to accommodate the art. With its rising twin towers and intricate carvings, La Casa Grande does indeed look like a castle. There are over one hundred rooms in the house, including a movie theater. Every room is adorned with Hearst’s art objects, paintings, and fine furniture.

The three guest houses on the hill look like miniature castles. Each has its own terraces and gardens.

Behind the main house is the immense indoor swimming pool known as the Roman pool. The walls of this huge building are set with rich blue mosaic tiles and are trimmed in gold. Two narrow staircases lead to the second floor where an arched diving platform overlooks the pool. On the roof of the building are tennis courts.

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One of the most breathtaking sights on the estate is the outdoor pool, known as Neptune's pool. With white marble columns surrounding it, the pool lends itself to Hearst's collection of marble statues. One group of French statues is set right in the shallow end of the water.

Along the main road is Hearst's private zoo. Among his exotic animals are water buffalo, chimpanzees, yak, elephants, tigers, zebra, and ostriches. Hearst also had stables where he raised Arabian horses. The

kennels behind the house had about eighty well-cared for dachshunds and terriers.

When William Hearst died, Mrs. Hearst donated the estate to the California park system. Since 1958, nearly one million visitors drive up California's coastal highway to tour La Cuesta Encantada each year.

Main Idea

1. What is La Cuesta Encantada?
 - a. a Spanish mission
 - b. a luxurious residence
 - c. an art gallery

Significant Details

2. The house was designed specifically to accommodate
 - a. many people.
 - b. lost treasure.
 - c. art work.

Context Clues

3. The estate is one of the most *lavish* in the country.
 - a. fancy
 - b. large
 - c. practical

Inference

4. Why didn't Hearst open an art museum and display his treasures there?

Drawing Conclusions

5. Some people have called the Hearst Castle "a rich man's plaything." Why?

Following Through

6. Imagine you owned several acres of land. Design a home you would build for yourself. What would you include? Draw plans for your home. Try to estimate the cost of building your home.

The Water Clock

Long ago people often used a sundial, or shadow clock, to give them some idea of the time of day. They could tell ten o'clock in the morning from three o'clock in the afternoon. At night or on a cloudy day, however, the sun did not cast a shadow. At those times, people could not use a sundial.

Around 1600 B.C., the Egyptians created a water clock, or *clepsydra*. This was a much more exact way of measuring time. The clepsydra was a large bowl that often had carvings or paintings on the outside. There were holes in the bottom of the bowl. Water dripped through them steadily. Inside the bowl, there were markings every inch or so. These marks were spaced to measure a certain length of time. As the water dripped from the bowl, the water level dropped. The amount of water still in the bowl showed the time of day. Many kinds of water clocks were later used by the Greeks, Romans, Arabs, and Chinese.

Recently a number of ancient Egyptian treasures were brought to the United States. They were shown in Memphis, Tennessee, a sister city of Memphis, Egypt. Some of them dated back to the time of an important

Egyptian pharaoh. His name was Ramses the Great. One of the treasures was a wonderful water clock. It was made of alabaster, a smooth, white stone. The ancient markings could still be seen inside the bowl. There were faded paintings on the outside of the bowl. Despite all of our modern clocks, the Egyptian water clock, thousands of years old, dripped on to let visitors know the time of day.



Main Idea

1. The most important thing in this story is
 - a. a Chinese exhibition.
 - b. an Egyptian invention.
 - c. a river in Tennessee.

Significant Details

2. A clepsydra is
 - a. a sundial.
 - b. a modern watch.
 - c. a water clock.
3. The water clock was first used
 - a. by Egyptians.
 - b. in the United States.
 - c. in space.

Context Clues

4. A *pharaoh* is
 - a. a large ship.
 - b. an alabaster bowl.
 - c. the ruler of a country.

Inference

5. Alabaster must be very hard because
 - a. it has lasted for thousands of years.
 - b. it will not break if dropped.
 - c. the pharaohs built ships from it.

Following Through

6. Look up "Egypt" in the encyclopedia. List some of the other materials used by Egyptians to make beautiful art objects.

Langston Hughes

Young Langston Hughes loved music. He often made up words in his mind to match blues melodies that he enjoyed. But Langston did not think of these words as poetry. He gave no real thought to poetry until he was in the eighth grade in Lincoln, Illinois. Langston was one of two blacks in the class. He was well liked and was a good student. When class officers were chosen, the students elected Langston to be class poet.

Langston was pleased with the honor, but he did not know that he would really have to write a poem. As graduation came closer, Langston learned that he not only had to write a poem, but he also had to read it at the graduation ceremony.

“My first poem was about the longest I ever wrote—sixteen verses,” said Langston later. The first half of the poem praised the teachers. The second half praised his classmates.

That poem was the beginning of a long and remarkable literary career for young Hughes. He was born in Joplin, Missouri, in 1902. His family moved around the country as he grew up. Later, Langston traveled to other countries: Mexico, Spain, and parts of Europe. Sometimes the family had little money. Other times they had plenty.

Langston worked at a variety of jobs in many places, but there was always time for writing. He saw poor people, rich people, happy people, hard times, and wonderful times. Much of his writing told of people or things he had seen as he traveled.

Langston was sometimes called the “poet of his people.” His work showed a realistic picture of the lives of black Americans. He also had a wonderful gift of humor. It, too, worked its way into his poetry and plays. He combined fun and sadness in such a moving way that many humorists tried to copy his style. Langston’s poems have been translated into six languages, and many have been set to music. In 1960, Langston was awarded the Spingarn Medal. This honor is given to a black person who has reached the highest achievement in his or her field.



Main Idea

1. Langston Hughes was known mainly for his
 - a. blues music.
 - b. fine poetry.
 - c. sense of fun.

Significant Details

2. How long was Langston’s first poem?
 - a. sixteen lines
 - b. sixteen pages
 - c. sixteen verses
3. Langston was awarded
 - a. a scholarship.
 - b. a trip to Spain.
 - c. the Spingarn Medal.

Context Clues

4. A *humorist* is someone who
 - a. sings and dances.
 - b. writes or tells funny stories.
 - c. lets others have their own way.
5. His work was *realistic*.
 - a. true to life
 - b. very pretty
 - c. printed many times

Following Through

6. Find a book with poems by Langston Hughes. Read two poems. Decide whether they are happy, sad, or both. Write a paragraph about one poem.