



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Practice

Use the Reading Guide to help you understand the passage.

## Reading Guide

Remember that a summary should restate only the main idea and most important details.

Which details from paragraph 4 belong in a summary of that paragraph?

## The Great Nile

Today, we know that the Nile River is the longest river in the world. It covers over four thousand miles as it flows from Burundi in east-central Africa to the Mediterranean Sea in northeast Egypt. We know a great deal about the native people who have depended on the Nile for their survival for centuries. For instance, we know that it supports almost all of the agriculture of Egypt. We have also studied the abundant and varied wildlife in and around the Nile.

Centuries ago, however, much about the Nile was a mystery. People knew almost nothing about it. They didn't even know where it started and where it ended. A Greek astronomer and mathematician named Ptolemy wrote that the source of the Nile was "the Mountains of the Moon." Historians believe that Ptolemy was referring to a mountain range in east-central Africa whose peaks are shrouded in an eerie mist. Unfortunately, Ptolemy's research sources were incorrect. The origin was elsewhere.

In the first century CE, Roman explorers attempted to find the source of the Nile. However, they only reached the swamplands of modern-day southern Sudan. Later explorers would also be unsuccessful.

Two of the most ambitious explorers were Richard Burton and John Hanning Speke. They both served in the British Indian Army. Burton was known to be adventurous and unpredictable. He was also highly skilled and adept at learning foreign languages. Although Speke loved adventure and exploration as well, he was different from Burton. He did not want to adopt the local customs when exploring. Speke could be arrogant, at times; he was known to treat the people working for him harshly. Burton, on the other hand, enjoyed learning native languages and practices.

In 1856, the Royal Geographical Society commissioned Burton and Speke to find the source of the Nile. They set off in 1857 on a long and grueling journey. They endured illness, pain, attack by a native tribe, and great hardship, but in 1858 they reached Lake Tanganyika. However, the difficulty of the trip had caused many of the men they had hired to desert them. The men that were left, including Burton and Speke, were also ill and running out of money. At the time, some considered Lake

What is paragraph 6 mainly about?

Which details from this passage belong in a summary of that passage?

Tanganyika a possible source of the Nile. However, the explorers were unable to complete their exploration of the lake.

After Burton determined that he was physically unable to continue, Speke went on alone, reaching Lake N'yanza in 1859. After checking his notes and other research, Speke convinced himself that this lake was the source of the Nile. He renamed it Lake Victoria, after the British queen. Speke then returned home and publicly announced his discovery. However, Burton questioned Speke's findings. He argued that Speke had not followed the course of the river far enough to be certain. And, upon examining a map, Burton found that the river, in fact, probably ended elsewhere.

Their disagreement started a prolonged and heated public debate. In 1864, the two explorers agreed to present their theories before the British Association for the Advancement of Science. The members of the Association would decide who was correct. However, in a tragic incident that still causes controversy, Speke accidentally shot himself while hunting on the day before the debate.

Today, the Nile's source is still a bit of a mystery. The complex geography still causes debate about the true source. In 2006, a group of explorers claimed that they had reached the true source of the Nile: a stream in the Nyungwe forest in Rwanda. Lake Victoria, which is fed by a number of rivers, is not considered the source currently. However, it is one of the main reservoirs the Nile feeds near its beginning, so Speke was not so far off.

The Nile is truly one of the great rivers of the world. As we continue exploring it, we will continue to make remarkable discoveries.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the BEST summary of paragraph 1?
  - A. The people and wildlife of the Nile River region have taught us a great deal.
  - B. Today, the Nile River flows from east-central Africa to the Mediterranean Sea.
  - C. We have learned a lot about the Nile River and the people and wildlife connected to it.
  - D. We now know that the Nile River is the longest river in the world.
2. Which detail from paragraph 4 should NOT be included in a summary of the paragraph?
  - A. Burton was skilled and learned languages easily.
  - B. Speke and Burton had different personalities.
  - C. Burton and Speke were English explorers.
  - D. Burton and Speke served in the British Indian Army.
3. Which summary of paragraph 5 contains inaccurate information?
  - A. Burton and Speke's long and difficult journey to find the source of the Nile was made worse by illness and lack of money.
  - B. Burton and Speke joined the Royal Geographical Society in 1856 before leaving to find the source of the Nile.
  - C. Due to various unfortunate circumstances, Speke and Burton were unable to fully explore Lake Tanganyika.
  - D. Speke and Burton traveled to Lake Tanganyika, a candidate for the source of the Nile.
4. What information belongs in a summary of paragraph 7?
  - A. Speke's death before the debate
  - B. the reason Speke was hunting
  - C. how Burton felt about Speke's death
  - D. the history of the Science Association
5. Write a summary of paragraph 6.
 

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