

Day 1

The legend of the Oak Island money pit has intrigued people for centuries. Oak Island, an island off the coast of Canada, is home to a curious pit that has been the focus of many fortune seekers throughout the years. It all began in the late 1790s when a young man found a mysterious indentation in the ground. The young man believed the indentation meant that maybe something had been buried there. There had long been rumors of pirate's treasure that had been buried on the island or nearby, and the man thought that he had potentially stumbled on it. Shortly after finding the area, he recruited friends to help him dig. While their search didn't turn up any valuable treasure, every ten feet they uncovered wooden platforms that had been mysteriously buried. They eventually gave up after finding nothing but buried platforms.

1. What does intrigued mean?
 - a. scared
 - b. interested
 - c. confused
2. What does indentation mean?
 - a. a raised area
 - b. a lowered area
 - c. a bush
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What inference can be made about today's passage?
 - a. The young man believed something was buried in the area near the indentation.
 - b. Nothing was buried near the indentation.
 - c. Something was buried near the indentation.

Day 2

The rumors and mystery surrounding the area persisted. Years later, the Onslow company decided to take a risk on the rumors and invest their time and money into the area. Just like the first time, they kept finding wooden platforms every ten feet. Interestingly enough, at about 60 feet down, they found a layer of coconut shells. They continued to dig and at 90 feet down discovered something more perplexing than the wooden platforms and coconut shells. At 90 feet down, they discovered a stone inscribed in strange symbols that no one was able to decipher. While this discovery was interesting, no one was any closer to being able to answer what, if anything, the pit actually contained.

1. What does persisted mean?
 - a. returned
 - b. faded
 - c. lasted
2. What does decipher mean?
 - a. visualize
 - b. curious
 - c. understand
3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.
4. What is the central idea of today's passage?
 - a. While mysterious items were found, no treasure had been found in the pit.
 - b. The pit didn't contain anything.
 - c. The pit was a trap.

Day 3

The curious stone was inscribed with symbols that no one could immediately understand. Several cryptographers became involved and attempted to break the mysterious code. Eventually, someone was able to determine that the inscription said: "Forty feet below, two million pounds lies buried." A pound is a form of British money and two million pounds is worth around 2.5 million U.S. dollars, a staggering amount now and enough money then to motivate most people to participate in the search. The company continued digging, but soon ran into trouble when the pit flooded once they reached a certain depth.

1. What does inscribed mean?

- a. painted
- b. carved
- c. decorated

2. What is a cryptographer?

- a. someone that looks for treasure
- b. someone that solves riddles and codes
- c. a historian

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Why would the author include the meaning of the symbols on the stone?

- a. To help the readers understand how intriguing the stone was.
- b. To confuse the reader.
- c. To make the reader look for clues.

Day 4

After the Onslow company gave up, the pit was left abandoned for years. The Onslow company had dug down at least 90 feet, but once the pit began to flood, the water rose 60 feet. Later, another company decided to take up the task of excavating the pit in hopes of finding potential treasure. They attempted to use a pump to drain the water, but the pump failed and they gave up. Throughout the years there were multiple attempts to find the treasure. One attempt ended with a collapsed platform that led many to believe the area had been sabotaged in order to protect it. As time has passed, the mystery surrounding the pit has increased, yet no one has found anything.

1. What does excavating mean?

- a. bury
- b. dig out
- c. researching

2. What does sabotaged mean?

- a. destroy intentionally
- b. left out in the open
- c. hidden

3. Underline the clues that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. What is a central idea of today's passage?

- a. Despite difficulties, people continued to look without success.
- b. The treasure was found.
- c. No one tried to search in the pit and no treasure was found.

Day 5

Throughout the years many people and companies have unsuccessfully attempted to locate the hidden treasure in the pit. These attempts have been very expensive and yet the treasure, if it exists at all, remains hidden. Despite the lack of any real evidence, there are a number of theories that explain what may be hidden that has eluded people for centuries. One theory is that the pit contains treasure buried by pirates and some believe that the pirate may have even been Blackbeard. A different theory suggests that the pit doesn't contain any treasure at all and is simply leftover from a time when the island was used for the production of tar. Another theory speculates that the pit isn't actually manmade and is a sinkhole that has collected debris over the years. Despite current technology and prolonged interest in the pit, no one knows what the pit contains.

1. What does eluded mean?

- a. searched
- b. puzzled
- c. found

2. What does speculates mean?

- a. suggests
- b. determines
- c. proves

3. Underline the word or words that helped you determine the answers to 1 & 2.

4. Write an objective summary of today's passage.

5. Which theory do you think is the least likely to be true? Support your answer with evidence from any passage.
