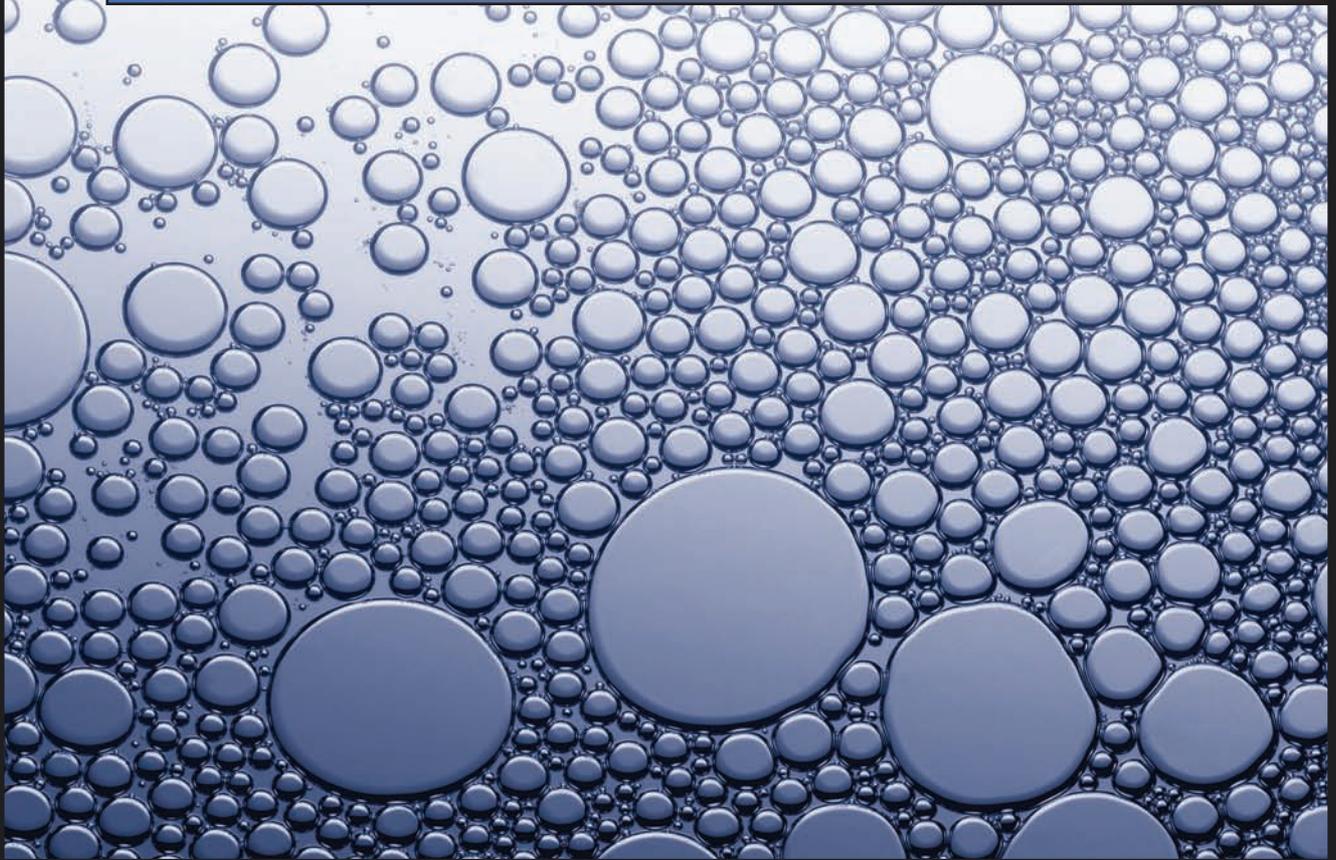


STUDENT BOOK **G**

FOCUS on

UNDERSTANDING MAIN
IDEA AND DETAILS



HAWKER BROWNLOW
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NAME _____

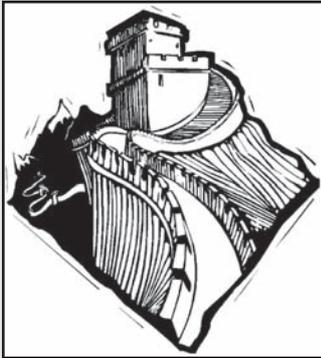
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Lesson

Preview

Read this sample passage about the Great Wall of China. As you read, think about the main idea of the passage. Also think about what the details tell about the main idea.



THE GREAT WALL

The Great Wall of China, an amazing structure that stretches 6352 kilometres across the mountains of northern China, was built by the peasants of China.

The wall started as four separate and smaller walls. They were built by individual states. After Emperor Qin Shi Huang united China in 214 BC, he wanted a wall that would connect and extend these four walls. The emperor forced peasants, captured enemies and anyone else who wasn't farming the land to work on the wall. Over hundreds of years, other emperors extended and improved the wall.

The wall served as a defence against invasion. Troops stationed there were a first line of defence against northern enemies. Signal fires could be lit along the length of the wall to warn of attacks. The wall served China's emperors well. The only successful invasions of China happened not because the wall was weak but because the governments at the time of the invasions were weak.

Although it was emperors who commanded the wall to be built and extended, it was the peasants of China who built it. They are responsible for this marvel of construction.



1. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

- Ⓐ Emperor Qin Shi Huang had the idea to build the Great Wall of China.
- Ⓑ The Great Wall is an amazing structure built by the peasants of China.
- Ⓒ To warn of attack, signal fires were lit along the Great Wall of China.
- Ⓓ It was difficult to get supplies to soldiers serving at the Great Wall of China.

2. Why were some invasions of China successful?

- Ⓐ because the Great Wall had become damaged
- Ⓑ because the Emperor Qin used peasants to build the wall
- Ⓒ because the materials used to build the wall were not strong
- Ⓓ because the governments at the time of the invasions were weak

Look at the answer choices for each question. Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct.

1. What is the main idea of the whole passage?

- Ⓐ Emperor Qin Shi Huang had the idea to build the Great Wall of China.

This answer is not correct because it is not what the whole passage is mostly about. It is the main idea of the second paragraph, but it is not the main idea of the whole passage.

- The Great Wall is an amazing structure built by the peasants of China.

This answer is correct because the whole passage is about the fact that the Great Wall is amazing and was built by the peasants of China.

- Ⓒ To warn of attack, signal fires were lit along the Great Wall of China.

This answer is not correct because it is a detail in the third paragraph, telling about how the Great Wall of China was used to defend China. The whole passage is not about the use of signal fires at the Great Wall.

- Ⓓ It was difficult to get supplies to soldiers serving at the Great Wall of China.

This answer is not correct because the information is not mentioned anywhere in the passage. It may be true, but it is not stated in this passage.

2. Why were some invasions of China successful?

- Ⓐ because the Great Wall had become damaged

This answer is not correct because the third paragraph states that the only successful invasions did not happen because the wall was weak.

- Ⓑ because the Emperor Qin used peasants to build the wall

This answer is not correct because the passage does not make any connection between the use of peasants to build the wall and the successful invasions. The peasants are mentioned in the second paragraph and the successful invasions are mentioned in the third paragraph.

- Ⓒ because the materials used to build the wall were not strong

This answer is not correct because the passage does not say anything about the materials used to build the wall.

- because the governments at the time of the invasions were weak

This answer is correct because the last sentence of the third paragraph states that the only successful invasions of China happened because the governments at the time of the invasions were weak.