

NONFICTION PRETEST

The Hidden Cost of Buried Treasure

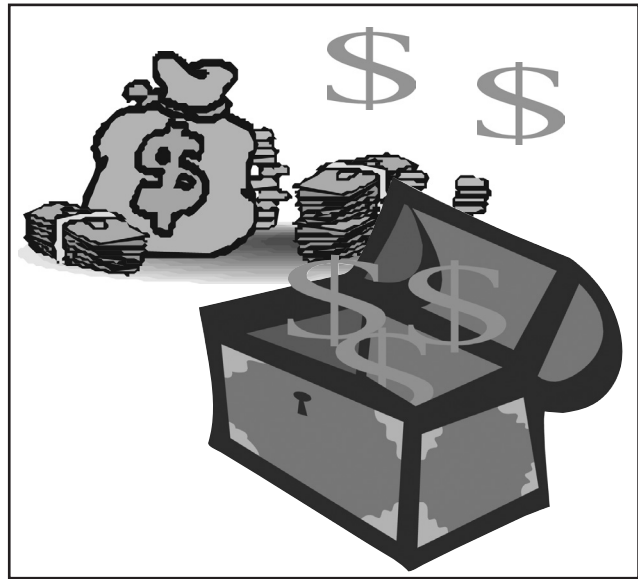
A ¹When we hear of hidden treasure, our eyes may light up with excitement. ²We may even be tempted to take up pick and shovel and head for the hills. ³But will extracting the bounty be worth the price it extracts from us? ⁴Here are just some of the things that have happened to people who heeded the call of the treasure.

B ⁵1560: Antonio de Sepulveda tries to retrieve offerings of gold that are said to lie at the bottom of Colombia's volcanic Lake Guatavita. ⁶He uses thousands of workers and digs through the rim of the crater to start draining the lake. ⁷A few precious items surface, so he digs deeper. ⁸The rim fails, and many workers are killed in the collapse. ⁹Sepulveda dies poor.

C ¹⁰1795: Nova Scotian Daniel McGinnis finds a shaft more than 90 feet deep. ¹¹A stone is found whose markings tell of treasure below, but the shaft has a complex system of booby traps and flood channels. ¹²McGinnis and others sink their savings into a hole that refuses to give up its prize. ¹³During attempts to block the floods and reach the treasure, accidents claim at least six lives.

D ¹⁴1937: Milton Noss finds a cave holding coins, jewels, and gold in southeastern New Mexico. ¹⁵He removes some of the gold and hides it elsewhere. ¹⁶Later, he tries to widen the cave opening by blasting with dynamite. ¹⁷Instead, the blast starts a landslide that seals the cave. ¹⁸In an argument over the gold that had been retrieved, a partner shoots him to death.

E ¹⁹1968: Tom Gurr finds the wreck of the *San José de las Animas* after searching diligently for four years. ²⁰Boundary rules change, and a judge decides that the state of Florida has a



right to half the treasure. ²¹After court battles, the man is so frustrated he dumps the money back where he found it. ²²Facing a lawsuit for larceny, he is forced to retrieve it again. ²³But after spending so much time and effort for so little, he loses the desire to ever do any more treasure hunting.

F ²⁴Undoubtedly, there are stories of more successful treasure hunts. ²⁵But who can tell what hidden costs the finders may eventually incur?

DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence provided in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support the answer.

1. The word *extract* means to draw or pull out. Explain the meaning of the words “price it extracts from us,” as used in sentence 3.

2. The author’s main purpose is to:
- A. persuade you that searching for treasure may cost a lot.
 - B. give examples of times and locations of finding treasure.
 - C. entertain you with the adventures of treasure seekers.
 - D. describe the details of difficulties suffered by particular men.

Give the number of the sentence from paragraph A that best supports the answer. ____

3. According to paragraphs B through E, all of the following were lost as a result of seeking treasure EXCEPT:
- A. money.
 - B. lives.
 - C. effort.
 - D. land.
4. The word *heeded*, as used in sentence 4, most nearly means:
- A. refused to hear.
 - B. looked for.
 - C. paid attention to.
 - D. required.

5. Write the phrase in sentence 12 that shows personification.

6. What cause and effect are suggested in sentence 6?

7. Choose the best summary for the passage.

- A. Many of us are attracted to treasure, but whether in a lake, a cave, a shaft, or at the bottom of the sea, finding a fortune can carry a high price tag.
- B. Some people do find money and live happily ever after, but chances are strong that most of us will never even have the opportunity to hunt for treasure.
- C. Though it costs a lot to find buried or hidden riches, human greed has remained the same from the 1500s to the 1900s.
- D. If you are tempted to search for hidden fortunes, it is best not to go looking in lakes, caves, shafts, or shipwrecks.

8. What made Tom Gurr's search different from the other treasure hunts?
- A. He got to keep all the money.
 - B. No treasure was found.
 - C. No people were killed.
 - D. The treasure was underwater.
10. Explain why the first statement is a fact but the second is an opinion.
- A. Some treasure hunts have ended in death. (fact)
 - B. Treasure hunting is not worth the cost. (opinion)

Give the numbers of the 3 sentences from paragraphs B, C, and D that best support the answer. ____, ____, ____

9. Based on the examples given, what generalization is the author trying to convey?
- A. Treasure hunting is a successful activity.
 - B. Most buried treasure lies in the oceans.
 - C. Seeking hidden treasure is not worth the effort.
 - D. Treasure is always hidden intentionally.

Answers

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1. The word *extract* means to draw or pull out. Explain the meaning of the words “price it extracts from us,” as used in sentence 3. (inference)

The phrase means *what it takes from us* or the *cost to us* to retrieve the treasure.

Explanation: Paragraphs B–E describe the price, or costs, in time and lives, of hunting treasure. Sentence 25 reinforces the idea of costs.

2. The author’s main purpose is to: (author’s purpose)
- A. **persuade you that searching for treasure may cost a lot.**
 - B. give examples of times and locations of finding treasure.
 - C. entertain you with the adventures of treasure seekers.
 - D. describe the details of difficulties suffered by particular men.

1 best evidence sentence from paragraph A: **3**

Explanation: We can tell by the author’s question in sentence 3, and the subsequent examples, that she intends to show that searching for treasure has been costly to the seekers. B, C, and D are simply byproducts of the main purpose.

3. According to paragraphs B through E, all of the following were lost as a result of seeking treasure EXCEPT: (reading for detail)
- A. money.
 - B. lives.
 - C. effort.
 - D. **land.**
4. The word *heeded*, as used in sentence 4, most nearly means: (vocabulary)
- A. refused to hear.
 - B. looked for.
 - C. **paid attention to.**
 - D. required.

Explanation: Since the author goes on to describe what happened to people who did follow the treasure, choice C makes sense, and A is contradicted. It makes no sense for people to look for or require the *call* of the gold; it is the gold they look for or think they require, so B and D make no sense.

5. Write the phrase in sentence 12 that show personification. (figurative language)

hole that refuses

Explanation: An inanimate object is incapable of *refusing*, something requiring thought; therefore, *hole* is being personified.

6. What cause and effect are suggested in sentence 6? (cause/effect)

Digging through the crater’s rim causes the lake to drain.

7. Choose the best summary for the passage. (summary)
- A. **Many of us are attracted to treasure, but whether in a lake, a cave, a shaft, or at the bottom of the sea, finding a fortune can carry a high price tag.**
 - B. Some people do find money and live happily ever after, but chances are strong that most of us will never even have the opportunity to hunt for treasure.
 - C. Though it costs a lot to find buried or hidden riches, human greed has remained the same from the 1500s to the 1900s.
 - D. If you are tempted to search for hidden fortunes, it is best not to go looking in lakes, caves, shafts, or shipwrecks.

8. What made Tom Gurr’s search different from the other treasure hunts? (compare/contrast)
- A. He got to keep all the money.
 - B. No treasure was found.
 - C. **No people were killed.**
 - D. The treasure was underwater.

3 best evidence sentences from paragraphs B, C, and D: **8, 13, 18**

9. Based on the examples given, what generalization is the author trying to convey? (generalization)
- A. Treasure hunting is a successful activity.
 - B. Most buried treasure lies in the oceans.
 - C. **Seeking hidden treasure is not worth the effort.**
 - D. Treasure is always hidden intentionally.

Explanation: All four paragraphs support choice C. Choice A is contradicted by all four. There is no support for choice D in paragraphs B (gold is thrown in the lake as an offering, not to hide it) and E (there is no reason to assume the ship was wrecked for the purpose of hiding its treasure). There is no evidence for choice B.

10. Explain why the first statement is a fact but the second is an opinion: (fact/opinion)
- A. Some treasure hunts have ended in death.
 - B. Treasure hunting is not worth the cost.

A is a fact because it can be proven. B is an opinion because someone might believe that it is worth the effort.