

## SET 4 READING

**Q1. *Read the following passage carefully to answer the questions correctly.***

The Egyptian pyramids are ancient pyramid-shaped masonry structures located in Egypt, on the west bank of the Nile. There are 138 pyramids discovered in Egypt as of 2008. Most were built as tombs for the country's Pharaohs and their consorts during the Old and Middle Kingdom periods.

The earliest known Egyptian pyramids are found at Saqqara, northwest of Memphis. The earliest among these is the Pyramid of Djoser (constructed 2630 BCE-2611 BCE) which was built during the third dynasty. This pyramid and its surrounding complex were designed by the architect Imhotep, and are generally considered to be the world's oldest monumental structures constructed of dressed masonry. The estimate of the number of workers to build the pyramids range from a few thousand to a million.

The most famous Egyptian are those found at Giza on the outskirts of Cairo. Several of the Giza pyramids are counted among the largest structures ever built. The Pyramids of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid. It is the only of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still in existence.

The shape of a pyramid is thought to be representative of the descending rays of the sun, and most pyramids were faced with polished, highly reflective white limestone, in order to give them a brilliant appearance when viewed from a distance. Pyramids were often also named in ways that referred to solar luminescence. While it is generally agreed that pyramids were burial monuments, there is continued disagreement.

The Egyptians believed the dark area of the night sky around which the stars appear to revolve was the physical gateway into the heavens, one of the narrow shafts that extend from the main burial chamber through the entire body of the great Pyramids points directly towards the center of this part of the sky. This suggests the pyramids may have been designed to serve as a means to magically launch the deceased pharaoh's soul directly into the abode of the gods.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why were the pyramids constructed?

---

---

---

2. Which is the earliest known Egyptian pyramid?

---

---

3. Which of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World still exists?

---

---

4. What does the design of the pyramids suggest?

---

---

---

---

5. Which word from the passage means ‘partners’ or ‘associates’?

---

---

**Q2. Read the following passage to answer the questions correctly.**

God organized a bird festival. All the birds were invited. God’s messenger made the announcement. “It will not only be a day of fun, it will also be a day when you will get special gifts”, he said. At last the day dawned. And God’s almighty presence filled the entire forest. Soon it was time for the

gifts. The Lord had an enormous bag filled with gifts. As each bird came to the Lord, he or she received a gift.

The Lark came late. She flew in breathless and painting. “Lord, I’m late”, she stammered. “Oh no; the gifts are all given away”, said the Lord with a sigh. “Please Lord, may be a little something” said the Lark, pleading, “I’m sorry; you can see for yourself, the bag is empty”, the Lord said. Every bird cocked its head to look at the Lark sadly. “It’s okay then, Lord”, the Lark said with a heavy heart.’ “She stopped to free my foot from the bramble”, said a tiny squirrel, running up to the Lord. “I know”, said the Lord very quietly.

When the Lark looked up, she felt something stirring in her throat; the Lord was smiling. When she tried to clear her throat, her voice broke into a song crystal clear and sweet, it resounded in the woods. “Awesome!” cried the creatures of the forest. Every creature --- especially the Lark, knew and believed that the Lord had rewarded the Lark for her kindness.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why was Lark late in arriving for the festival?

---

---

2. How did God know about it?

---

---

3. What was in the bag?

---

---

4. What were birds looking at sadly?

---

---

5. Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

a. moving: \_\_\_\_\_

b. echoed: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.studiestoday.com](http://www.studiestoday.com)