Year 4 reading comprehension: The red rock

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 4 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read these texts, then answer questions 1–4.

The red rock

Read the three texts on the theme of Uluru.

TEXT A

Uluru is a huge rock in the desert of the Northern Territory. It is made of sandstone that contains iron. Over a very long time, the iron has reacted with the air, a little like a bike left out in the rain, and that is why the surface is a rusty red. At sunrise and sunset, sunlight passes through more of the air before it reaches the rock, so the light is redder, and Uluru seems to glow orange and deep red.

TEXT B

We reached the viewing area just as the sun slipped behind the dunes. Nobody spoke. The rock, which had looked brown and dusty all afternoon, began to burn, first orange and then a red so deep it was almost purple. Even my little brother, who never stays still for anything, stood with his mouth open. When the colour finally faded, I realised I had forgotten to take a single photo.

TEXT C

For the Anangu people, Uluru has been a sacred place for tens of thousands of years. Since 2019, visitors have not been allowed to climb it, and that was the right decision. A sacred place is not a playground. If you visit, walk around the base, listen to the Anangu guides and follow the signs that ask you not to take pictures of certain places. Showing respect costs nothing.

1. Which text gives a scientific reason for the colour of Uluru?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and B

2. Which text suggests that the writer was so amazed they forgot what they had planned to do?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts B and C

3. Which text tells readers how they ought to behave when they visit?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and C

4. Which texts describe the colours Uluru seems to turn at sunset?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Texts A and B ○ **B** Texts A and C ○ **C** Texts B and C

○ **D** All three texts

Answer key

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1. A — Text A

Text A gives the reason: the sandstone 'contains iron', and the iron has reacted with the air, 'and that is why the surface is a rusty red'. Text B shows the colours but never says why they happen.

2. B — Text B

Text B says, 'I realised I had forgotten to take a single photo.' People usually plan to take photos on a trip, so the writer must have been too amazed to remember. Text C mentions pictures, but only in a rule for visitors.

3. C — Text C

Text C speaks to visitors: 'If you visit, walk around the base, listen to the Anangu guides and follow the signs.' Text B is about a visit, but it tells a story; it doesn't tell readers what to do.

4. A — Texts A and B

Text A says Uluru seems to 'glow orange and deep red', and Text B says it turns 'first orange and then a red so deep it was almost purple'. Text C never mentions colours.