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# Common Core State Standards

The lessons and activities included in *Nonfiction Reading Comprehension for the Common Core, Grade 6* meet the following Common Core State Standards. (©Copyright 2010. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers. All right reserved.) For more information about the Common Core State Standards, go to <http://www.corestandards.org/> or visit <http://www.teachercreated.com/standards/>.

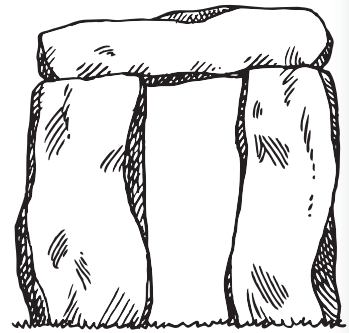
Informational Text Standards	
Key Ideas and Details	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.RI.6.1.</b> Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.	10–47
Craft and Structure	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.RI.6.4.</b> Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.	10–47
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.RI.6.10.</b> By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently.	10–47
Language Standards	
Conventions of Standard English	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.1.</b> Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.	11–47
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.2.</b> Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	11–47
Knowledge of Language	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.3.</b> Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.	10–47
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.4.</b> Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on <i>grade 6 reading and content</i> , choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.	10–47
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.5.</b> Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.	10–47
<b>CCSS.ELA.L.6.6.</b> Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.	10–47
Language Standards	
Research to Build and Present Knowledge	Pages
<b>CCSS.ELA.W.6.9.</b> Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.	10–47

# One Massive Mystery

A large circular structure sits in a field of grass deep in the English countryside. It is made of massive stones. These ancient rocks are nearly 5,000 years old, and some of the largest ones weigh as much 50 tons. Together, the stones form a monument called Stonehenge. It is one of the most famous sites in the world, attracting about a million visitors each year. It is also one of history's greatest mysteries.

How was Stonehenge built, and who built it? These are questions that still puzzle us to this day. With the knowledge we now have, we can determine that Stonehenge was built over a period of about 1,500 years. Construction began in about 3100 BCE and continued over various stages until about 1600 BCE. These were prehistoric times, so we don't have any written record of how or why the monument was built. Scientists have to piece together the evidence they can find in order to understand how Stonehenge came to be. The evidence, though, raises many questions that do not have simple answers:

- Why is the monument built from these particular stones? The huge stones that form Stonehenge do not come from the immediate area. They had to be moved over miles of rough terrain to get there.
- How were these massive stones moved such long distances? This was before modern equipment. The monument features several groups of three huge stones, two standing on end with another large stone placed across the top. How could this have been accomplished so long ago?
- What was the purpose of Stonehenge? There may be several answers to this question. It may have been used as a kind of observatory, for example. The monument seems to be aligned with the rising of the sun at certain times of the year. Stonehenge has likely also served as a sacred burial site at one time or another. A large number of bones and artifacts have been unearthed in the area.



Over the years, scientists and historians have continued to study Stonehenge in an attempt to learn more about its past. Will we ever fully solve the mystery of Stonehenge? For now, the answer to that question remains a mystery, too.

Answer the following questions about the story “One Massive Mystery.” The weights show you how hard you will need to work to find each answer.



1. Based on the passage, what is the definition of *prehistoric*?

- (A) “mysterious” (B) “made of stone” (C) “before written records” (D) “very important”



2. If the year 3100 BCE was over 5,000 years ago, then how long ago was 1600 BCE?

- (A) about 3,600 years ago (B) about 2,000 years ago (C) about 1,600 years ago (D) about 1,000 years ago



3. Which question is not given in the passage as a reason why Stonehenge is mysterious?

- (A) Why were those rocks used?  
(B) How were the rocks moved?  
(C) Why was Stonehenge built?  
(D) Why do so many people visit Stonehenge?



4. An *analogy* is a comparison between two things. Look at the first part of this analogy to determine what the missing answer should be.

Stone is to *stones* as *mystery* is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) *Stonehenge* (B) *puzzle* (C) *mysteries* (D) *mysterious*

On the lines below, write your own question based on “One Massive Mystery.” Circle the correct picture on the left to show the level of the question you wrote.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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**On a separate piece of paper . . .**

- Write a sentence that includes the word *massive*.
  - Why do you think so many people visit Stonehenge each year? Write at least two sentences to explain your answer.
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## Her Words Live On

Since 1886, the Statue of Liberty has greeted visitors to the United States. This giant symbol of freedom towers atop an island in New York Harbor. In her right hand, Lady Liberty holds high a brightly lit torch. On her pedestal, or base, is inscribed a poem named "The New Colossus." This famous poem ends with these words:

*. . . cries she*

*With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,*

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*



Written by a local poet named Emma Lazarus, "The New Colossus" is about taking people in and giving them a place to grow. It's about offering a place to "breathe free." For many immigrants who passed through New York Harbor on their way to a new life in the United States, Lazarus's words have rung true. Her words perfectly capture the hope that America represents.

Emma was born into a wealthy family in New York City on July 22, 1849. At a young age, Emma showed immense talent as a writer, and her parents encouraged her to pursue her work. At age 17, she published her first book of poetry. Four years later, Emma's second book became a big success. Throughout her 20s and 30s, she published many poems in books and magazines. She also became increasingly interested in helping those who did not grow up in a life of privilege like she had. This focus in her life led her to write "The New Colossus" in 1883. She donated the poem to help raise money to build the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty.

In 1887, while in Europe, Emma became very ill. She returned to the U.S., but she never got better. On November 19, 1887, Emma died. It was not until 1903 that "The New Colossus" was inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty.

Answer the following questions about the story “Her Words Live On.” The weights show you how hard you will need to work to find each answer.



1. Based on information given in the passage, which of these statements is true?

- Ⓐ Emma was alive when the statue was placed in New York Harbor.
- Ⓑ Emma was alive when her poem was inscribed on the statue’s base.
- Ⓒ Emma Lazarus died while traveling in Europe.
- Ⓓ The first book of poetry that Emma published was a big success.



2. Based on the passage, which word is the closest in meaning to *inscribed*?

- Ⓐ greeted
- Ⓑ donated
- Ⓒ encouraged
- Ⓓ written



3. How old was Emma Lazarus when she died?

- Ⓐ 34
- Ⓑ 37
- Ⓒ 38
- Ⓓ 54



4. In “The New Colossus,” what symbol is used to represent the opportunity that life in the U.S. offers?

- Ⓐ “silent lips”
- Ⓑ “huddled masses”
- Ⓒ “wretched refuse”
- Ⓓ “golden door”

On the lines below, write your own question based on “Her Words Live On.” Circle the correct picture on the left to show the level of the question you wrote.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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**On a separate piece of paper . . .**

- Write a sentence that includes the word *immense*.
  - Write about a building, statue, or landmark that you think is a great symbol of your country. Explain why you feel this way. (Choose something other than the Statue of Liberty.)
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