

Lesson 6 Activities

6.1

read the text below and choose the best answer

1. The text gives information about...

A. the most famous skyscrapers in the world today.

B. the people who designed skyscrapers.

C. why skyscrapers were needed.

The first skyscrapers

The term 'skyscraper' has been used in a number of ways over the years: an ornament on the top of a building, a high-flying bird, a very tall man and a sail at the top of a mast. At the end of the nineteenth century, the word was used to refer to buildings of ten storeys or more. Later, a lift was used to take people up to the higher floors, as in the most famous skyscraper, the Empire State Building.

During the middle ages, the people who lived in the cities of northern Europe began to build great cathedrals. Tall spires were added to make these churches higher and bring them closer to heaven.

In the nineteenth century, as cities grew more crowded with people looking for work the value of land rose. New businesses were starting and in order to make room for offices on a small plot of land, it was necessary to build higher. But the problem was that to put up a stone building of such height, the walls on the ground floor would have to be more than two metres thick to hold the weight of the building. So another material was required to make skyscrapers possible.

About this time, three buildings were put up that used iron or steel to support great weight with safety. They were the Crystal Palace in London, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. From then on, architects started to experiment with buildings that had steel frames. Today, the tallest skyscrapers are a hundred storeys or more, compared to the first 10 storeys skyscrapers, which seem tiny.

6.2

read the text again and choose the best answers

1. In the past, the word 'skyscraper' had....

A. only one meaning.

B. different meanings.

C. the same meaning as today

2. In the middle ages, they built tall churches because...

A. they were more beautiful.

B. it felt like approaching God.

C. they took in more people.

3. Why were taller buildings necessary in the nineteenth century? Because...

A. they were cheaper.

B. land was expensive.

C. they made better offices.

4. In the nineteenth century, skyscrapers were needed...

A. for offices.

B. as houses for the poor.

C. for shops.

5. What was the problem with making tall buildings with stone?

A. it was an expensive material.

B. it was too heavy.

C. it wasn't strong enough.

6.3

change the words so that they can complete these sentences

natural she practises piano every day, but she is _____ talented as well.

ambition he is an _____ man who wants to progress in the company.

similar there are some surprising _____ between the two leaders.

able after weeks of training, she developed the _____ to hold her breath for a long time.