

Directions
Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 7.

Excerpt from *Addison Cooke and the Treasure of the Incas*

by Jonathan W. Stokes

- 1 Aunt Delia dropped Addison and Molly off in front of the New York Museum of Archaeology. It was a sprawling marble building, backlit by lightning strikes in the glowering night sky. Trees bent under the lash of a whipping wind. Addison and Molly dashed through the heavy raindrops of the growing storm, splashing their way through puddles to the basement entrance.
- 2 Aunt Delia and Uncle Nigel were museum curators,¹ so Addison and Molly knew the wooded grounds by heart. They cut through a maze of hedges and ducked under an arched portico. Skimming rainwater from his face, Addison found the basement key hidden in a crack of loose mortar. He unlocked the creaking iron door and hauled it open with all his strength. He and Molly slipped inside from the howling rainstorm, the great door booming shut behind them.
- 3 The New York Museum of Archaeology was Addison’s favorite place in the world. Great echoing halls filled with Egyptian mummies, Mongolian battle armor, a Viking warship, and the eastern wing of an Aztec temple. Deep down in the musty, snaking passageways of the basement archives was a secret underground world the public never saw. A labyrinth of vaults where millions of specimens were filed and stored. This was their uncle’s workplace.
- 4 Addison and Molly trotted through the dark corridors by feel, listening to the rising thunder rattling the cement walls above. They passed a long hallway crammed with crates of Ice Age bones for the Hall of Paleontology: saber-toothed tiger skulls with teeth curved like Arabian sickle swords, giant sloth femurs heavy as tree limbs, dire wolf claws sharp as switchblades. At last they spotted a light glowing from an office at the end of a dark passage.
- 5 “Uncle Nigel, we’re here!” Molly called. . . .

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6 “Your aunt has a lot to worry about right now,” explained Uncle Nigel. “People don’t visit museums as often as they used to. So your aunt and I have to work incessantly,² like Slinkies on an escalator. If we don’t find a great exhibit that will draw visitors back to the museum, our funding will be slashed and . . .” Uncle Nigel trailed off. Then, looking hard at Addison and Molly, he seemed to decide that honesty was the best policy. “Well, we could lose our jobs.”

7 Addison and Molly weren’t sure how to respond. Molly busied herself picking bits of turf from her cleats. Addison drew in his notebook, sketching the Cherokee headdress he saw draped over the filing cabinet.

8 “The point is,” continued Uncle Nigel, “your aunt is on a short fuse. And you’d be wise to be model children for her until we sail through this rough patch.” . . .

9 “Well, that’s enough serious talk,” said Uncle Nigel. “I just returned from a dig in the jungles of Bolivia and found the most improbable relic. An artifact that’s not even supposed to exist! I don’t suppose you’d like to see it?”

10 “I don’t see why not,” said Addison, who could think of nothing better than a strange relic from a distant country.

11 As Uncle Nigel talked, Addison’s eyes darted to the shadowy corners of the office, containing relics from every era of history. Ancient maps, papyrus scrolls, and decaying mummies. Blood-encrusted samurai swords from feudal Japan. Maasai spears decorated in ostrich feathers. The fossil skeleton of an extinct dodo bird. Even the ten foot tusk of a narwhal, spiraled like a unicorn’s horn. . . .

12 Uncle Nigel nodded and wound up his tale. “The Incas never delivered their treasure. Instead, they locked it away in a secret chamber and hid three keys across the Incan Empire. Each key contains a clue leading to the next. Locals believe Atahualpa’s treasure is cursed . . . Fortune hunters have searched for it over the centuries, and none have returned alive. Legends say the treasure vault will open only for someone who has learned from King Atahualpa’s mistakes.” . . .

13 “So what did you find on your dig in Bolivia?” Addison asked quietly.

14 “Oh, only this,” replied Uncle Nigel, unlocking the safe behind his desk and removing a fragile wooden box. He pried open the mildewed lid and tilted it to the light.

15 Addison’s jaw dropped in amazement. Molly’s followed suit. Inside the box lay an intricately carved stone, roughly the size of a large chess piece.

- 16 “One of the three keys!” cried Addison.
- 17 More thunder broke outside the museum. It shook the walls, as if giants upstairs were rearranging their furniture, and repeatedly changing their minds on where to set the couch. The wind howled so fiercely it could be heard even in the basement.
- 18 Molly shivered. “Is it real?”
- 19 Uncle Nigel allowed himself a smile. “I’m pretty sure it is Atahualpa’s first key,” he replied, his precise Oxford accent elegantly slicing the words into perfect squares. “Though the key is made of stone, so we can’t carbon-date it.”

¹**curator:** a person who chooses items for use in a museum

²**incessantly:** without stopping

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1

Which important idea is developed in paragraph 6?

- A Uncle Nigel has been at the museum a long time.
- B Uncle Nigel is afraid he may lose his job.
- C Uncle Nigel has a plan to attract visitors to the museum.
- D Uncle Nigel is hoping to start a new job soon.

2

What does the phrase “on a short fuse” mean as used in paragraph 8?

- A hard to please
- B hard to find
- C easy to upset
- D easy to frighten

3

How does paragraph 9 contribute to the structure of the story?

- A It changes the setting of the story.
- B It establishes the conflict in the story.
- C It states the theme of the story.
- D It foreshadows events in the story.

4 How does the language in paragraph 12 contribute to the overall tone of the story?

- A** It introduces a threatening tone.
- B** It highlights the sorrowful tone.
- C** It stresses the mysterious tone.
- D** It creates a worried tone.

5 What do paragraphs 10 and 13 indicate about Addison?

- A** He is uncertain whether his uncle's story is true.
- B** He is curious to see what his uncle has found.
- C** He knows that his uncle's discovery will save the museum.
- D** He wishes he had gone with his uncle on the dig.

6 Which sentence from the story signals a turning point?

- A** "Addison and Molly weren't sure how to respond." (paragraph 7)
- B** "I just returned from a dig in the jungles of Bolivia and found the most improbable relic." (paragraph 9)
- C** "Instead, they locked it away in a secret chamber and hid three keys across the Incan Empire." (paragraph 12)
- D** "The wind howled so fiercely it could be heard even in the basement." (paragraph 17)

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7

Which quotation is **most** important to include in a summary of the story?

- A “. . . Addison and Molly knew the wooded grounds by heart.” (paragraph 2)
- B “ ‘Uncle Nigel, we’re here!’ Molly called.” (paragraph 5)
- C “As Uncle Nigel talked, Addison’s eyes darted to the shadowy corners of the office . . .” (paragraph 11)
- D “I’m pretty sure it is Atahualpa’s first key.” (paragraph 19)

Directions
Read this article. Then answer questions 8 through 14.

Finding Sacagawea

by Eileen Charbonneau

- 1 Were we related? I had to find out.
- 2 I grew up in a house without books. Our family owned only an encyclopedia and a well-used dictionary. The only other books we had were those we borrowed from the library.
- 3 The day I was able to write the seventeen letters of my name and receive my library card was one I can remember as if it were yesterday, right down to the big desk that smelled of paper and paste and ink. I was so afraid that I'd made a mistake and would be banished from this wondrous place where the books lived. But I succeeded. The card was mine. My life as a reader had begun!
- 4 When I was ten, I found a book at the library about celebrated women. The book said that the American woman with the most statues in her honor was a Shoshone Indian named Sacagawea. She had been an interpreter on Lewis and Clark's great voyage from 1804 to 1806, joining them in the spring of 1805.
- 5 President Jefferson had hired Lewis and Clark and their band of adventurers to map and explore the United States, including the vast new territory just acquired from France in the Louisiana Purchase. Sacagawea was the only woman to go with them. She made the perilous journey across half our continent with her baby on her back. The presence of a mother and child was a sign that the expedition was a peaceful one and helped keep it safe from Indian attack.
- 6 Sacagawea provided a woman's laughter, strength, and endurance on the journey. During a boat mishap, she remained calm and saved instruments and documents from floating down the Missouri River. Lewis and Clark needed Shoshone horses and guidance over the Rocky Mountains, so Sacagawea's help translating was crucial to the expedition's success.
- 7 When I discovered that Sacagawea and I had the same last name—Charbonneau—I jumped up from my place at my father's feet and announced my discovery to him.

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- 8 My father put down his newspaper. Yes, he knew about the woman and her brave trek across the territory that was to become part of the United States. Yes, this woman had been married to a French Canadian named Charbonneau. Daddy’s father was also a French Canadian. I asked if we could possibly be related.
- 9 My father said he didn’t know, but he’d wondered himself if we had a common ancestor.
- 10 From that day on, it became our project. We used the resources of the Library of Congress, which began its collection with President Jefferson’s books. We explored tiny libraries on American Indian reservations. We visited libraries in Canada, France, and Ireland, and we also entered the ever-expanding web of cyberspace. In search of our family, we made friends with the world.
- 11 After hours spent in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., poring over passenger lists of great ocean liners, I recognized the name of a girl from Ireland. I knew she had seen the Statue of Liberty for the first time on her nineteenth birthday in 1894. She had traveled across the Atlantic with one suitcase and the dream of a better life. Like Sacagawea, she was to marry a man named Charbonneau. “Dad!” I yelled. “Look! It’s grandma!”
- 12 My father and I located family members galore on our search. One ran an ice-cream stand in the beautiful Laurentian Mountains of Quebec, Canada. Three brothers changed their name to Cole before traveling south to fight in the American Civil War. Two centuries before them, another set of Charbonneau brothers had been traders with the Indians of the American West. One of these brothers fathered our line. The other’s descendants led to the fur trader Toussaint, husband of Sacagawea, always facing west in her statues.
- 13 So now we know how we’re related. We’re cousins of the Shoshone woman with the baby on her back who explored America by canoe, horseback, and on foot to map it for the first time. Her baby, Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau, also called Pomp, was educated by Captain William Clark and became a guide, too. He traveled through Europe as the guest of a prince and could understand five languages. Once he helped the United States govern an Indian mission in California, but lost his position for being “too fair” to the Indians. I think I would have liked that cousin.
- 14 Now I’m a storyteller. I travel through the past to find stories for my own books. In search of stories I spend lots of time in libraries, for that’s still where the books live. In books and in life, the words of a Lakota Indian saying ring true for me: Mitakuye oysain, “We are all related.”

8

In paragraph 4, what does the phrase “woman with the most statues in her honor” show about Sacagawea?

- A that she was a charming person
- B that she had been fearless
- C that she is a famous person
- D that she died long ago

9

How is the author’s pride in her ability to read introduced in the article?

- A through a story from her childhood
- B by contrasting her family with other families
- C through examples of the books she finished
- D by comparing herself with other readers

10

How do the details about Sacagawea in paragraphs 5 and 6 contribute to the development of the article?

- A by helping readers see the difficulties in Sacagawea’s life
- B by explaining the mystery surrounding Sacagawea’s life
- C by creating curiosity for readers about where Sacagawea traveled
- D by describing how Sacagawea played an important role in history

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11 Which is the **best** definition of “crucial” as it is used in paragraph 6?

- A heroic
- B fantastic
- C important
- D urgent

12 Based on the article, the author’s relationship to Sacagawea is developed through

- A a comparison of the author’s life to that of Sacagawea
- B explanations that show how the author is similar to Sacagawea
- C examples of the research that the author did on the life of Sacagawea
- D a chronological sequence of events that explained Sacagawea’s life to the author

13 Read this sentence from paragraph 13.

We’re cousins of the Shoshone woman with the baby on her back who explored America by canoe, horseback, and on foot to map it for the first time.

What does this sentence suggest about Sacagawea?

- A how long she participated in the expedition
- B how remarkable her accomplishment was
- C how familiar she was with the areas being explored
- D how she felt about her leadership abilities

14 Which sentence **best** expresses a central idea of the article?

- A** “Our family owned only an encyclopedia and a well-used dictionary.”
(paragraph 2)
- B** “The presence of a mother and child was a sign that the expedition was a peaceful one and helped keep it safe from Indian attack.” (paragraph 5)
- C** “My father said he didn’t know, but he’d wondered himself if we had a common ancestor.” (paragraph 9)
- D** “We explored tiny libraries on American Indian reservations.”
(paragraph 10)

GO ON

Directions Read this article. Then answer questions 36 through 38.

Top Spot

by Scott Elder

- 1 A stealthy¹ predator glides along a river in South America, the top half of its head peeking out of the water’s surface. Noticing a group of alligator-like animals called caimans floating by the shore, the hunter silently cruises toward the reptiles. It swims between plants to mask its movements and pauses beside an unsuspecting caiman. Then the animal shoots through the water at its target, sinking its teeth into the reptile’s scaly skin.
- 2 With its prey clamped between its jaws, the creature climbs from the water and onto the riverbank. In doing so, it reveals its true identity. The dripping-wet hunter is a jaguar.
- 3 “We knew jaguars were good swimmers,” says wildlife ecologist Alan Rabinowitz, who runs a big cat conservation organization called Pantera and witnessed the splashy smackdown while on an expedition. “But we were astonished to learn that they can hunt as they swim.”
- 4 Snagging prey while swimming is something that no other feline does. Then again, the jaguar is full of unique features that make the animal stand out from the rest of the cat crowd.
On the Hunt
- 5 One thing that makes a jaguar unique from other cats is its hunting techniques. This cat hunts for food on the ground, in trees and while swimming in water. No other cat does this. “Even lions and tigers—the closest relatives of the jaguar—don’t go after prey in all three spots,” Rabinowitz says. “They usually just nab prey on the ground.”
- 6 What’s more, jaguars use a different hunting strategy from most other felines. A lot of cats chase targets over long distances. A jaguar silently sneaks up to prey such as tapirs before ambushing its meal. The animal creeps closer to its mark than even the tiger, another sneaky cat that gets about 20 feet from prey before pouncing.
- 7 When jaguars finally strike, they do so in their own special way. Most felines struggle with prey before overpowering it. But a jaguar has the largest jaws of any big

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cat, so its bite is so strong it's often able to take down its target with just one chomp. "Jaguars don't mess around," Rabinowitz says. "They're extremely efficient hunters."

- 8 But just because jaguars slay it with their hunting skills doesn't mean they like to fight. They only scuffle when necessary.

Bon Voyage

- 9 The cat's habits—its ability to swim and climb, its avoidance of conflict, and its stealth—have contributed to another unique jaguar feature: its traveling skills.

- 10 When these felines become independent from their moms at around age two, they go on a solo road trip, trekking up to 150 miles in search of new territory. (The jaguar's range stretches from northern Mexico to the country of Argentina.)

- 11 Using their swimming skills, they can cross bodies of water that would act as an obstacle to most other cats. And their sneaky nature and reluctance to fight allow them to pass through many dangerous areas without being noticed. Because of their one-of-a-kind characteristics, jaguars can travel longer distances than other cats looking for new home turf.

Adaptation Nation

- 12 So why is the jaguar so different from other felines? Over their four-million-year existence, jaguars have developed adaptations to help deal with unique challenges in their habitats. For instance, it's hard to chase prey through the forests where the cats live. That's why they creep right up to their target.

- 13 Deadly parasites thrive in the cat's habitat. If the jaguar is wounded, it would become exposed to infection. Um, no thank you! "Avoiding face-offs means that the jaguar is less likely to get a cut that could become infected," Rabinowitz says. That also may be why the cat developed its jumbo-size jaws, which allow it to quickly knock out prey. A swift take-down means less opportunity for infection-causing cuts.

- 14 The jaguar's adaptations help it survive. But they also show how living things are shaped by their habitat. "We change our environment," Rabinowitz says. "But our environment also changes us." And scientists aren't done learning about the relationship between the jaguar and its home. "We're still figuring out everything. And we can't wait to uncover more jaguar secrets."

¹**stealthy:** quiet and sneaky

THE JAGUAR RANGE IN THE AMERICAS



