

Answer the following questions about “Discovering Kites.”

1. Which of the following quotes from the text best illustrates the main idea of this passage?

- a. “For generations, children and adults alike have enjoyed the simple delight of flying a kite on a windy day...”
- b. “For hundreds of years, kites have played a significant role in human exploration and artistic expression.”**
- c. “As the years went on, kites became increasingly more colorful and elaborate.”
- d. “Polo’s stories and the growing influence of Asian culture helped popularize kites across Europe.”

2. According to the text, what are some different ways that kites have been used since they were first invented? **Sample answer**

Kites have been used to spy on enemies,  
send messages, and measure long distances.  
They’ve been used as an art form, as part of  
celebrations, and in experiments.

3. How has the appearance of kites changed over time? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer. **Sample answer**

“The first kites were practical, not necessarily  
pretty,” but over time, “kites became  
increasingly more colorful and elaborate,”  
with new shapes and colorful decorations.

4a. What is the organizing structure of this text?

- a. chronological**
- b. compare-and-contrast
- c. problem-solution
- d. cause-and-effect

4b. How does that structure support the main idea of the passage? **Sample answer**

Providing information chronologically helps  
show how kites have been important for  
hundreds of years.

5. Which of the following phrases would make the best heading for paragraph 5?

- a. A Delightful Pastime
- b. Flying Art
- c. Experimenting with Kites**
- d. Traveling Kites

6. Read this sentence from the passage.

“Since then, kites have become more than just entrancing pieces of flying art.”

Without changing the meaning of the sentence, what is another word that could be substituted for **entrancing**?

- a. attractive**
- b. adventurous
- c. common
- d. practical

7. Which sentence uses the same meaning of **descended** as it is used in paragraph 6?

- a. The ladies have **descended** from their bedchambers and are ready to go to the ball.
- b. Many scientific names have descended** from Latin or Greek words.
- c. The crowds have **descended** into chaos as rowdy football fans celebrate their team’s win.
- d. Dozens of journalists have **descended** on the home of the recent lottery winner.

8. Write a brief and objective summary of the text. Include the main idea and key supporting details.

**Sample answer**  
Kites have played an important role throughout  
history. Kites were first used in China over  
3,000 years ago as instruments of war. By the  
1300s, kites had become more decorative and  
were used in celebrations. The popularity of  
kites spread across the world through trade  
routes. Kites have aided in major discoveries  
over the years, specifically in the invention of  
the lightning rod and the first airplanes.