

Topic: Fact and Opinion

Reading: America's Forgotten City

Instructions: Read the following excerpts. Then, choose the option that best describes each one.

1. "I'm standing at the center of what was once the greatest civilization between the deserts of Mexico and the North American Arctic—America's first city and arguably American Indians' finest achievement—and I just can't get past the four-lane gash that cuts through this historic site" (Paragraph I, lines 1 to 4)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

2. "Today only one survives, along with some photographs and a little dogleg road named Mound Street." (Paragraph II, lines 3 to 4)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

3. "Even now, the idea of an Indian city runs so contrary to American notions of Indian life that we can't seem to absorb it, and perhaps it's this cognitive dissonance that has led us to collectively ignore Cahokia's very existence." (Paragraph III, lines 9 to 11)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

4. "The first person to write a detailed account of Cahokia's mounds was Henry Brackenridge, a lawyer and amateur historian who came upon the site and its massive central mound while exploring the surrounding prairie in 1811." (Paragraph IV, lines 1 to 4)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

5. "They preferred sending their archaeologists to Greece and Mexico and Egypt, where the stories of ancient civilizations were comfortably distant and romantic." (Paragraph V, lines 2 to 4)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

6. "President Dwight Eisenhower's interstate highway program, though a massive undertaking that changed America's landscape as dramatically as the railroads once did, contained provisions for the study of archaeological sites in its path." (Paragraph VI, lines 2 to 5)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

7. "People streamed in from surrounding areas, built houses, and quickly constructed the infrastructure of a new city—including several mounds with buildings on top and a grand plaza the size of 45 football fields, used for everything from sporting events to communal feasts to religious celebrations." (Paragraph VII, lines 6 to 10)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

8. "It was too soon to tell, but something spectacular had happened here, and it became clear this was a mystery worth trying to solve." (Paragraph VIII, lines 8 and 9)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

9. "Everyone agrees that Cahokia developed quickly a couple centuries after corn became an important part of the local diet, that it drew together people from the American Bottom, and that it dwarfed other Mississippian communities in size and scope." (Paragraph XI, lines 3 to 6)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

10. "This is a controversial theory, because the research supporting it hasn't been published yet, and because it goes to the heart of the argument about just what kind of society Cahokia was." (Paragraph XIV, lines 5 to 7)
 - a. Fact
 - b. Opinion
 - c. A blending of fact and opinion
 - d. None of the above

11. "Cahokia was a ghost town by the time Columbus landed in the New World, and the American Bottom and substantial parts of the Mississippi and Ohio River

Valleys were so depopulated they are referred to as the Vacant Quarter.”

(Paragraph XVI, lines 1 to 4)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

12. “For an agricultural community dependent on regular crop yields, the changing conditions could have been anything from stressful to catastrophic.”(Paragraph XVI, lines 7 to 9)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

13. “The fact that between 1175 and 1275 Cahokia's inhabitants built—and rebuilt, several times—a stockade encircling the main part of the city suggests that conflict or the threat of conflict had become a standard feature of life in the region, perhaps because there were fewer resources.”(Paragraph XVII, lines 1 to 4)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

14. “If you look broadly at human history, failure is the norm,”(Paragraph XVII, line 8)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

15. “Emerson is currently heading a huge excavation in East St. Louis of Cahokia's next-door neighbor, a site that had thousands of residents of its own (sort of like Fort Worth to Cahokia's Dallas)” (Paragraph XVIII, lines 1 to 3)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

16. “But they didn't find a trace of Big Mound, only remnants of the 19th-century factories that had taken its place.” (Paragraph XIX, lines 5 and 6)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion

d. None of the above

17. "What a shame. There's history here, and it needs to be taken care of." (Paragraph XX, line 9)

- a. Fact
- b. Opinion
- c. A blending of fact and opinion
- d. None of the above

Answer Key

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. B
- 4. A
- 5. B
- 6. C
- 7. A
- 8. B
- 9. A
- 10. B
- 11. A
- 12. B
- 13. C
- 14. B
- 15. A
- 16. A
- 17. B