

*If you only have 15 minutes ...*

Reading an article with a focus on answering questions is a great way to enhance your general understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, questions can serve as a foundation to pave the way for you as the reader to delve deeper into the content. Challenge yourself to go past basic comprehension and apply the topic into your own world perspective. Answering the following questions that highlight some of the main ideas will allow you to further explore the author's intention.

Read these questions prior to reading the article "A Monumental Legacy" and let them soak into your mind. After reading the article, spend some time answering the questions.

- 1) In what city is the Taj Mahal located?<sup>1</sup>
  
- 2) Who painted the "Taj Mahal by Moonlight"?<sup>2</sup>\_
  
- 3) What is the British East India Company?<sup>3</sup>
  
- 4) Describe "Company Painters" and explain why they were commissioned to paint "Company Paintings."<sup>4</sup>
  
- 5) Why was the Taj Mahal built?<sup>5</sup>

**Common Core Standard(s) Met:**

**CCRA.R.1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**CCRA.R.2** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

---

1 North Indian City of Agra.

2 Bengali Artist Sita Ram.

3 The world's biggest trading corporation during the 1800s.

4 Company Paintings were a hybrid artistic style created by Indian-origin artists that were commissioned by East India Company (EIC) officials and their wives.

---

5 As a mausoleum for the favorite wife of Emperor Shah Jahan, Mumtaz Mahal, who died during childbirth in 1631.