“Digging Up The Past” Discussion Prompts

Name__________________________________  Period________________________

Page 872
~Preview the article’s title and graphic aids. What do you think the article will focus on?
______________________________________________________________________________

~These terra-cotta soldiers are only a small number of the thousands of statues unearthed at the
sight of Shi Huangdi’s tomb. What details do you notice in the rows of statues?
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 873
Reread lines 1-13. This passage establishes the focus of the selection: the discovery and
excavation of the emperor’s tomb.
~Who found the tomb? What did they do when they realized what they’d found?
______________________________________________________________________________

~How many clay soldiers have workers dug up?
______________________________________________________________________________

~When did the emperor begin building his tomb? When was it finished?
______________________________________________________________________________

~What is the focus of the information presented in lines 14-22?
______________________________________________________________________________

~What information is provided in the first 2 paragraphs?
______________________________________________________________________________

~Based on the title and first two paragraphs, how do you think this selection will differ from “The
First Emperor”?
______________________________________________________________________________

~”The First Emperor” described the emperor as a tyrant. What information in this passage
reinforces this view?
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 874
~What information do readers learn from the graphic on this page?
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 875
~How far away from the pits is the emperor’s burial ground?
______________________________________________________________________________
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~What does the author mean by “It once stood at 400 feet” (lines 60-61)?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Based on information from both articles, why do you think the emperor’s burial ground remains untouched?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

~Lines 67-72. How might excavations like this one encourage people to learn about the past?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Page 876.

Selection Wrap Up: Use the better answer formula to respond to this question.
The author describes Shi Huangdi and his people as having had “tremendous energy and genius” (lines 92-93). In what ways did the emperor and his people exhibit these qualities? Use information from “The First Emperor” and “Digging Up the Past” to support your answer.
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