

Miriam Makeba

Miriam Makeba (full name Zensi Miriam Makeba) was born in South Africa in 1932. Her father died when she was very young, and her mother worked many jobs as they were very poor. Because of this, Miriam spent a lot of time with her grandmother. During the early 1900s, South Africa was divided by racial segregation laws known as apartheid, meaning “aparthood,” or “being apart,” in Afrikaans language. These laws prevented people from different races from living near each other, getting married, or sharing equal rights in the eyes of the law. Apartheid made it very difficult for many people to have a good life in South Africa. These laws affected Miriam’s life in many difficult ways.

Miriam always loved to sing, but she didn’t begin singing professionally until the 1950s. She toured with the Manhattan Brothers from 1954 to 1957, building a reputation and gaining professional experience. Miriam later joined an all-women’s group called the Skylarks and participated in popular films and musicals such as *King Kong*. Unfortunately, the South African government did not always approve of the artistic projects that Miriam participated in. They did not renew her passport after she left the country. After she testified against apartheid in 1963, they took away her citizenship, effectively exiling her from her native country.

Miriam performed in Europe and the United States, where she became well-known in the 60s. She sang both traditional African melodies and jazz music and is credited with helping to make this music popular in the West. Miriam’s music helped to promote awareness of the unjust political situation in South Africa, although her focus was not political activism. She did use her fame to fund and promote humanitarian work. Miriam is remembered as an African artist who never forgot her roots or changed herself to fit into her new cultural surroundings. She was an authentic and gifted musician, and her work impacted both music and culture in profound ways.



Questions

1. Summarize this passage. [6.2]
 - a. Miriam Makeba was exiled from her country for speaking out against apartheid.
 - b. Miriam Makeba never married.
 - c. Miriam Makeba was a singer who brought African music to the West.
 - d. Miriam Makeba had a hard childhood and later life.

2. Which of the following is a theme in this passage? [6.2]
 - a. Cruelty
 - b. Resilience
 - c. Travel
 - d. Justice

3. Which of the following details supports the main idea of this passage? [6.2]
 - a. Miriam performed in musicals.
 - b. Miriam lived with her grandmother for much of her childhood.
 - c. Miriam suffered from apartheid laws in South Africa.
 - d. Miriam became a humanitarian.

4. How did Miriam begin her professional singing career? [6.1]
 - a. By traveling to New York
 - b. By going to Europe
 - c. By singing to raise money against apartheid
 - d. By joining the Manhattan Brothers

5. What is the meaning of “authentic”? [6.4]
 - a. Beautiful
 - b. Strong-willed
 - c. Genuine
 - d. Trustworthy



Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is known as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. This is because it is so extensive and beautiful! A reef is an underwater habitat. It consists of corals and sea plants growing together, filled with and supporting other marine life. You could call it the landscaping of the ocean. On a reef, new corals build on old coral skeletons, and so every year a reef gets bigger and more impressive. Scientists call these old corals “skeletal waste.” Massive amounts of this skeletal waste exist along the eastern coastline of Australia, which is where the Great Barrier Reef is located. It is the product of years of ocean life growing, dying, and being built on by new corals and algae.

Captain Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef in 1770, and Europeans have been studying it ever since. It is a vast network covering some 135,000 square miles. Of course, this whole area is not packed with coral; there are gaps and differences in the types of reef included in this area. The corals on the reef require warmer temperatures to survive, so the reef has grown on a shelf which is closer to the ocean’s surface than many areas of the ocean. In fact, in some areas the very topmost part of the Great Barrier Reef will rise up into the sun during low tide.

The Great Barrier Reef is not only a huge, interesting scientific ecosystem to study; it is also incredibly beautiful. The corals and fish which live on the reef are colorful and diverse, and many people travel from all around the world to snorkel and dive on the reef. The best place to travel to in order to see the Great Barrier Reef is Cairns (pronounced Cans), Australia, a city located in the northeast of Queensland. From Cairns, many boats and tour companies take people out to visit the reef. They must be very careful on these visits, to make sure the reef is not harmed. The Great Barrier Reef is such a beautiful part of Earth that Australian scientists and tour companies are working to minimize damage and ensure it is thriving for the next generation to appreciate.



Questions

1. According to this passage, what is the Great Barrier Reef? [6.1]
 - a. A large amount of skeletal waste that built up in the ocean
 - b. A massive ecosystem of corals and fishes off the coast of Australia
 - c. A large coral reef located off of Cairns, Australia
 - d. All of the above

2. What is “skeletal waste”? [6.1]
 - a. Dead coral
 - b. Whale bones
 - c. Shells and bones on the ocean’s floor
 - d. A layer of skeletons under the ground

3. Why do tourists visit the reef? [6.1]
 - a. Because it is advertised so much
 - b. To research the ecosystem there
 - c. To see the colorful corals and fishes
 - d. To experience swimming with dolphins

4. Summarize the second paragraph. [6.2]
 - a. The reef was discovered in 1770.
 - b. The reef is large and close to the surface of the ocean.
 - c. European’s were the first to know about the reef.
 - d. The reef is not as large as first assumed.

5. What is the author’s goal in writing this text? [6.6]
 - a. To convince readers to visit the reef
 - b. To give an overview of the Great Barrier Reef
 - c. To discuss the science behind the reef
 - d. To describe what the Great Barrier Reef looks like



“I Have a Dream”

Excerpt from a speech by Martin Luther King, Jr.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."



This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

Questions

1. What is the speaker's purpose in this text? [6.6]
 - a. To explain a dream he had once
 - b. To inspire and encourage
 - c. To convict and condemn
 - d. To explain why he is there
2. How does the author achieve his purpose in the text? [6.6]
 - a. Through specific examples
 - b. Through remembering the past
 - c. Through repetition
 - d. Through dialogue with others



3. Which lines most directly show the author’s point of view when giving the speech? Choose all that apply. [6.6]
- a. “one day every valley shall be exalted”
 - b. “we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow”
 - c. “this is the faith that I go back to the South with”
 - d. “one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed”
4. What is the main theme of this speech? [6.2]
- a. Judgement
 - b. Equality
 - c. Faith
 - d. Dreams
5. Which of the following words shows the author’s emotion as he speaks? [6.6]
- a. Dream
 - b. Vicious
 - c. Mountain
 - d. Freedom



How to Build a Shelter

Have you ever come across an old shelter when hiking in the woods? Sometimes children will build shelters to play in, and sometimes adults will make them as a temporary resting place when hunting. The bad news is that many people have no idea how to construct a shelter, and it is an important basic skill to have. The good news, however, is that building a shelter is easier than it looks! Building a shelter requires a few simple tools, or even just a basic knowledge and a few available building materials.

There are several things to consider before you build a shelter. First of all, do you want a hidden location or one that is easy to find? What materials and tools are available to you (logs, a tarp, a saw)? What is your shelter for (warmth, comfort, shelter from wind)? Answering these questions will help you to efficiently tailor your shelter to exactly what you need.

Most shelters are built from trees, logs, and a tarp if one is available. Good tools to have are a small saw, a survival knife, or a small axe. In other words, being able to cut down small trees and lengths of wood will be a bonus! However, forests are full of old trees and logs which can be recycled into a shelter. Look around and gather what you can find before beginning your shelter. Below are several options.

1. Tipi shelter – can be built around a tree or free-standing. Lean long branches and logs against a central pole (or balance them around each other, tied at the top) to create a tipi shape. Fill in the holes with smaller branches, brush, or a tarp. Somewhat small, but creates an effective barrier between you and the outside world.
2. Lean-to shelter – set up a long log off the ground between two trees. This may be tied to the trees or sitting in forks in the branches. Next, lean branches and debris against it from one side to create one closed side and one open side. This type of shelter is excellent for warmth, as you can safely build a fire near the open side.
3. A-frame shelter – similar to the lean-to, except both sides are closed off. Add extra branches and brush to fill in the gaps and create a



tunnel-like shelter. Excellent way to create a barrier between you and the outside world.

4. Snow shelter – lean several branches at a 45-degree angle against a tree. Use snow to create a natural wall between the branches and the tree and use a tarp or more snow to fill in the gaps between the other branches. Snow is an excellent insulator and will help to keep you warm!

As with any other outdoor skill, building a shelter will get easier the more you practice. Having tools as well will make it easier. However, with a basic understanding of shelter structures anyone can build a stable shelter. Next time you are camping, try one of these out!

Questions

1. What does the author describe as the “good news”? [6.10]
 - a. Most people will never need to build a shelter.
 - b. Most people already know how to build a shelter.
 - c. Shelters are actually easy to build.
 - d. Building shelters will increase strength for other important wilderness skills.
2. What type of shelter is best for insulating a fire safely? [6.10]
 - a. A tipi
 - b. A lean-to
 - c. An A-frame
 - d. A snow shelter
3. What tools are useful to have in order to build a shelter? [6.10]
 - a. A scouting tool
 - b. A cutting object (axe, knife, saw)
 - c. A pile of logs
 - d. Plenty of brush and a tarp



4. What is the main purpose of this passage? [6.2]
 - a. To describe various shelter structures
 - b. To complain about the lack of known wilderness skills
 - c. To illustrate the best method for building a shelter
 - d. To give a step-by-step guide for building basic shelters

5. Based on the passage, why do people build outdoor shelters? [6.10]
 - a. For fun
 - b. To “shelter” them from the cold or damp
 - c. To make campfires more comfortable
 - d. All of the above

