The Great Sphinx Statue

By: Sue Peterson

The Great Sphinx is a lion with the head of a person cut out of rock. It is a **statue** located in **Egypt**. Legends have been told about the Great Sphinx. Many of these stories talk about the Sphinx being strong and **wise**. Some people think that there is a hidden area inside the Sphinx for people to enter. But no one has found a way to get inside.

There is a story about a young man who fell asleep next to the Great Sphinx. He had gone hunting in the daytime and he was tired. The man had a dream that he would be
the King of Egypt if he cleaned the sand away from the sphinx. At that time, the Great Sphinx was covered up with sand except for its head. Sandstorms sometimes cover the body of the statue.

But the story doesn’t have an ending. What do you think happened? Did the boy clean the sand away from the Sphinx? Did he become King of Egypt? No one seems to know.

The statue is very large. The whole statue is 150 feet long with 50 feet long paws. The head is 30 feet long and 14 feet wide.

The sphinx is getting fixed. It will look like it once did. This process is called restoring. Wind and sand have worn parts of the statue’s nose and some other parts of the statue away completely. These parts will be rebuilt to look as good as new.

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Practice

Language Work

A. Fill in the blank and spell.

statue   s t a __ __ __ _______________________
Egypt    E __ __ __ t _______________________
wise     w __ s __ _______________________
sphinx   s __ __ i n __ _______________________

B. Use each word in a sentence. Underline the word used.

happened _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________.

sandstorms _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________.

restoring _________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________.

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C. Phonics work. When adding “ing” to the word “restore”, the silent letter “e” is dropped to make “restoring”. Can you think of three other words that end in a silent “e” and write them down? Then write the new word by dropping the “e” and adding “ing”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word with silent “e”</th>
<th>Word with “ing”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: restore</td>
<td>Example: restoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ________________________________________________

2. ________________________________________________

3. ________________________________________________
D. Word Search.

Find the words: statue, Egypt, wise, happened, sandstorms, restore, sphinx, myth, legend

| s | t | a | t | u | e | y | u | i | r | m |
| a | h | a | p | p | e | n | e | d | e | y |
| b | x | r | w | t | s | e | r | t | s | t |
| d | n | e | g | e | l | r | h | s | t | h |
| w | i | s | e | h | j | w | i | y | o | l |
| r | h | v | e | r | o | t | s | e | r | k |
| t | p | y | g | E | i | E | c | e | e | j |
| f | s | m | r | o | t | s | d | n | a | s |

**Multiple-Choice Questions** (Put an X in front of the correct answer.)

1. The text describes the sphinx as a _____________.
   - a. A person cut out of rock.
   - b. A lion cut out of rock.
   - c. A person with the head of a lion cut out of rock.
   - d. A lion with the head of a person cut out of rock.

2. Why is the sphinx getting fixed?
   - a. Rain ruined the statue.
   - b. Wind and sand wore away the nose and other parts.
   - c. Snow damaged the statue.
   - d. A flood washed away part of the statue.
3. What is the Great Sphinx?
   ( ) a. a statue in Egypt about 150 feet long
   ( ) b. a statue in Egypt about 100 feet long
   ( ) c. a famous cave in Egypt about 150 feet long
   ( ) d. a desert in Egypt about 1000 feet across

**Definitions** (Write the meaning of each word as it is used in the text.)

1. statue

2. Egypt

3. wise

**Extended Response** (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. Describe the size of the Great Sphinx (its paws, head, and the entire statue).

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________.

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2. What is one of the legends surrounding the Great Sphinx?

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

3. The story about what happened to the Sphinx does not have an ending. What do you think happened? Did the boy clean the sand away from the Great Sphinx? Did he become King of Egypt?

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________.

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Multiple-Choice Questions
1. d
2. b
3. a

Extended Response (Accept reasonable answers.)
1. The statue is 150 ft. long; it has 50 ft. long paws, and the head is 30 ft. long.
2. One legend is a boy dreamt that if he cleaned the sand off of the statue that he would become King.
3. Free expression.