

Objective sight words (matching funds, commission, dedicated, expansion, symbolizes, preservation, promote, Panama Canal, merge, marvel); concepts (Mount Rushmore)



Vocabulary

matching funds	preservation
commission	promote
dedicated	Panama Canal
expansion	merge
symbolizes	marvel

Mount Rushmore Birth, Expansion, Preservation, and Development

By: Sue Peterson

Mount Rushmore known as “The Presidents’ Mountain” is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Doane Robinson thought of the idea to have a stoned carved monument as one way to attract people from all over the country to come to his state.

Robinson met with Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor who worked on Stone Mountain in Georgia. Borglum selected the location for Mount Rushmore and Robinson worked to get funding for this project.

Congress agreed to matching funds of \$250,000 for this project and created the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission. The monument was completed and dedicated in 1941.

Facts about Mount Rushmore

- The four presidents carved in the mountain are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.
- Gutzon Borglum chose these four presidents because he felt they represented the first 150 years of American history.
- Washington as first president represents the **BIRTH** of our country.
- Jefferson stands for the **EXPANSION** of the nation as he is credited with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.
- Lincoln symbolizes the **PRESERVATION** of the nation in leading the nation through the challenging Civil War.
- Theodore Roosevelt represents the **DEVELOPMENT** of our country. He helped promote the construction of the Panama Canal.
- It took 14 years to complete Mount Rushmore.
- Nearly 400 workers helped create this memorial.

- The sculpture cost \$989,992.32 to build.
- Mount Rushmore is 5,725 feet tall.

The Black Hills in South Dakota is home to many creatures like bison, elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and others. This is a land where mountains meet the plains and merge two very different ecosystems, leading to a blend of diverse habitats and animals.

Many thousands of people visit South Dakota each year and stop to visit Mount Rushmore to see this attraction.

We salute Robinson for his creative idea and Borglum for his creative skill in making Mount Rushmore possible for all of us to enjoy and marvel, not only at this great artistry carved in a stone mountain, but for what it stands for... American History is shown through the examples of four great men who were once President of the United States.

Extended Response (Answer in complete sentences.)

1. Why did the author select the title of this story to include the words “birth”, “expansion”, “preservation”, and “development” in regard to Mount Rushmore?

2. What are **3** important facts about Mount Rushmore?

1.

2.

3.

3. How does the author organize the information in the story?

Answer Sheet

Answers for Matching, Phonics, Multiple-Choice Questions, and Extended Response

Mount Rushmore (Birth, Expansion, Preservation, Development)

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. c
2. b, d
3. c

Extended Response (Accept reasonable answers.)

1. These four words each stand for one of the Presidents who is carved on the mountain.
2. The student writes any 3 facts about Mount Rushmore.
3. The author uses cause and effect, chronological order, and description in writing the text.