

“Beds”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

A long time ago, people didn’t sleep in beds. Ten thousand years ago, people probably slept on leaves and animal furs.

Long ago in Egypt, people ate, slept, and talked to friends in bed. Over 3,000 years ago, King Tut of Egypt had a beautiful bed made of wood and gold! But **common** people in Egypt slept on beds of grass and leaves.

In the 16th **century**, in the 1500’s, people piled bird feathers or straw on rope webs. Later, people made **mattresses** by stuffing feathers inside large cotton bags.

Louis 14th, king of France from 1643 until 1715, had 413 beds. He liked to talk to his friends and do his work in bed. He liked beautiful beds.

In 1865, people started to put springs under their mattress to make it more **flexible**. This would make it bend and flex when the sleeper moved. By the 1930’s, most beds had springs. About 100 years after people started to put springs under their mattress, the modern waterbed was **invented**.

Today there are different kinds of beds. Some people have waterbeds. Some sleep on mats. Others sleep on foam mattresses or airbeds.

Questions:

1) King Tut and Louis 14th both had...

- A. springs in their beds.
- B. beds made of fur.
- C. beautiful beds.
- D. many beds.

2) How many beds did Louis 14th have?

- A. 3,000
- B. 1,715
- C. 1,643
- D. 413

3) Who liked to talk in bed?

- A. Egyptian people
- B. French people
- C. The king of France
- D. Both A and C are correct.

4) The modern waterbed was invented in...

- A. the 1830’s.
- B. the 1860’s.
- C. the 1930’s.
- D. the 1960’s.

5) What do people sleep on now?

- A. Foam mattresses
- B. Waterbeds
- C. Airbeds
- D. All of the above

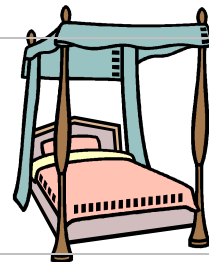
Vocabulary:

1) The best synonym for **common** is...

- A. rich.
- B. sleepy.
- C. ordinary.
- D. important.

2) A **century** is...

- A. 1 year.
- B. 10 years.
- C. 100 years.
- D. 1000 years.



3) **Mattresses** are...

- A. mats filled with something soft.
- B. wooden frames for beds.
- C. types of rope.
- D. kings.

4) Something **flexible**...

- A. sleeps very easily.
- B. sleeps a lot.
- C. bends and flexes.
- D. looks beautiful.

5) When something is **invented** it is...

- A. made of something soft.
- B. built of wood and gold.
- C. made for the first time.
- D. built with springs.