

A Musical Pioneer (250L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

Sentence starter:
"I think that "

In the world of classical music, most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. But South Africa's Ofentse Pitse stands out. She's a young, black, female conductor. What do you think?



Photo credit: Courtesy Ofentse Pitse

This is a photo of Ofentse Pitse. Pitse is the conductor of Anchored Sound.

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Achieve3000, January 14, 2020). Ofentse Pitse is 27. She lives in South Africa. She used to be an architect. But classical music was calling to her. And she listened! Now she leads Anchored Sound. That's an orchestra and choir. She started the group herself.

Why did Pitse start Anchored Sound? To change the lives of young black people. First, she put together a choir. This was in 2017. She picked great singers. Where did they live? In poor communities. Pitse gave them a chance to use their gifts. In 2019, she put together the orchestra. She's the conductor.

In the world of classical music, Pitse is a pioneer. Most conductors are men. And there are few conductors of color. Pitse is a young black woman. So she stands out, or appears different from other people.

At classical music concerts, you often hear music written long ago. The pieces are by European composers. Beethoven is one. But Pitse's shows are different. The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.

Dictionary

architect (*noun*) a person who designs buildings

choir (*noun*) a group of singers especially in a church

conductor (*noun*) a person who stands in front of people while they sing or play musical instruments and directs their performance

orchestra (*noun*) a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

pioneer (*noun*) a person who helps create or develop new ideas, methods, etc.

classical (*adj.*) type of music or art that has been respected (liked) for a long time

composers (*noun*) a person or group of people who write music

stand out (*idiom*) to be different from everyone else

Vocabulary Matching

Draw a line from the vocabulary word to the definition.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. architect | • a type of art or music that has been respected (liked) for a long time |
| 2. choir | • a person who helps create or develop new ideas or methods |
| 3. classical | • a person who stands in front of people and directs them while they sing or play music |
| 4. composer | • to be different from everyone else |
| 5. conductor | • a group of singers |
| 6. orchestra | • a group of musicians who play classical music together |
| 7. pioneer | • a person who writes music |
| 8. stand out | • a person who designs buildings |

Step 3: Activity (Answer the Questions)

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ Beethoven is a European composer.
- Ⓑ Pitse used to be an architect.
- Ⓒ Most conductors are men.
- Ⓓ Pitse leads an orchestra and choir.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.

- Ⓐ Pitse put together a youth choir in 2017.
- Ⓑ The music of African composers sounds good.
- Ⓒ Beethoven was a European composer.
- Ⓓ Pitse started a group called Anchored Sound.

Question 3

The Article says:

But Pitse's shows are different. The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.

Why is this passage in the Article? It helps the reader to know _____.

- Ⓐ what kind of music Pitse's shows have
- Ⓑ where Pitse usually has her shows
- Ⓒ when Pitse became a composer
- Ⓓ why Pitse has written classical music

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings? (Which 2 words have different meanings?)

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ first and last
- Ⓑ poor and strange
- Ⓒ classical and loud
- Ⓓ lives and stays

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that _____.

- Ⓐ Pitse was not born in South Africa
- Ⓑ Pitse doesn't like the music of Beethoven
- Ⓒ Pitse has written some classical works
- Ⓓ Pitse wants to help other people

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ Why Pitse likes Beethoven
- Ⓑ When Pitse put together an orchestra
- Ⓒ Why Pitse started Anchored Sound
- Ⓓ When Pitse started her choir

Question 7

The Article says:

At classical music concerts, you often hear music written long ago. The pieces are by European *composers*. Beethoven is one.

Which means almost the **same** as *composer*?

- Ⓐ teacher
- Ⓑ writer
- Ⓒ leader
- Ⓓ singer

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how Pitse's concerts are different from most concerts?

- Ⓐ The music is by African composers. Pitse hopes to bring African classical music to the world.
- Ⓑ Now she leads Anchored Sound. That's an orchestra and choir.
- Ⓒ Ofentse Pitse is 27. She lives in South Africa. She used to be an architect.
- Ⓓ Why did Pitse start Anchored Sound? To change the lives of young black people.

Step 4: After Reading Poll (Did you change your mind?)

Now that you have read the article, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement.
People who are willing to stand out help to bring about change.

Sentence starters:

“I agree with this statement because “
“I disagree with this statement because “

Step 5: Thought Question (Write Your Response)

reporter (*noun*) someone who asks questions and writes news stories for a newspaper

Imagine you are a reporter who is speaking with Ofentse Pitse. What questions might you ask her? What might her answers be? Include information from the Article, as well as vocabulary terms and describing words, in your answer.

Me: Ms. Pitse, why did you start
Anchored Sound?

Ms. Pitse: I wanted to change
young people's lives.

Me:

Ms. Pitse:

Ancient Lines in the Sand (250L)

Step 1: Before Reading Poll (Write Your Answer)

In Southern Peru, there are big ground drawings. They're in the desert sand. They were put there more than 1,500 years ago. But scientists aren't sure what they were for. What do you think?

Sentence starter:

“I think the big ground drawings are there because “



Photo credit: Daniel Prudek/Shutterstock

A monkey geoglyph is seen from above. It's one of the many ground drawings known as the Nazca Lines.

Step 2: Article (Read the Article)

NAZCA, Peru (Achieve3000, January 3, 2020). You're in an airplane. It's flying over southern Peru. You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sands. They're of animals, plants, and more.

These geoglyphs are called the Nazca Lines. They've been around for more than 1,500 years. And there are many of them. Some are as large as the Statue of Liberty! But people didn't notice them until 1927. That's when an archaeologist found some. Today, technology such as drones has found more geoglyphs. The best way to see them is from up above.

Who made the geoglyphs? The Nazca people. They lived before the Incas. How did they make them? By taking away some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.

Why were the geoglyphs made? Researchers aren't sure. They think they were part of rituals for rain and crops. Or that they led people to where the rituals took place.

Video credit: Achieve3000 from footage by maxuser/Creatas Video+/Getty Images

Dictionary

archaeology (*noun*) a science that deals with past human life and activities by studying the bones, tools, etc., of ancient people

drone (*noun*) a type of small aircraft that flies without a pilot

research (*verb*) to study (something) carefully

ritual (*noun*) an act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time

geoglyphs (*noun*) drawings on the ground

crops (*noun*) food (like vegetables, fruit, etc.) grown on farms

Question 1

What is this Article mainly about?

- Ⓐ The geoglyphs might have led people to rituals.
- Ⓑ The Nazca Lines were found by an archaeologist.
- Ⓒ The Nazca Lines are drawings in the desert sand.
- Ⓓ The geoglyphs have been around for many years.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

An opinion tells what a person thinks or feels. Others may not think this is right.

- Ⓐ The best way to see the lines is from up above.
- Ⓑ Drones have found some of the geoglyphs.
- Ⓒ It's very interesting to study the Nazca Lines.
- Ⓓ The Nazca people lived before the Incas did.

Question 3

The Article says:

You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground! They're called geoglyphs. They're in the desert sands. They're of animals, plants, and more.

This helps the reader to know _____.

- Ⓐ what the Nazca Lines look like
- Ⓑ why the Nazca Lines were made
- Ⓒ that animals live in the desert
- Ⓓ that finding the lines is not easy

Question 4

Which two words have **opposite** meanings? (What 2 words have different meanings?)

Only some of these words are used in the Article.

- Ⓐ desert and ground
- Ⓑ before and after
- Ⓒ think and see
- Ⓓ technology and computer

Question 5

Think about the Article. The reader can tell that _____.

- Ⓐ most of the Nazca Lines were made after 1927
- Ⓑ some of the lines point to places to grow crops
- Ⓒ it's hard to see the animal shapes from the ground
- Ⓓ the Nazca Lines were made by an archaeologist

Question 6

Which is **not** in the Article?

- Ⓐ What researchers think the lines were for
- Ⓑ Who found the Nazca Lines in 1927
- Ⓒ Who lived before the Incas
- Ⓓ Why researchers made the lines

Question 7

The Article says:

How did they make them? By taking away some of the dark *rocks* that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.

Which means almost the **same** as *rocks*?

- Ⓐ mud
- Ⓑ dirt
- Ⓒ water
- Ⓓ stones

Question 8

Read these passages from the Article. Which one tells how the Nazca Lines were made?

- Ⓐ By taking away some of the dark rocks that covered the ground. This showed the lighter-colored sand underneath.
- Ⓑ Why were the geoglyphs made? Researchers aren't sure. They think they were part of rituals for rain and crops
- Ⓒ You're in an airplane. It's flying over southern Peru. You look out the window. What's below? Drawings on the ground!
- Ⓓ These geoglyphs are called the Nazca Lines. They've been around for more than 1,500 years. And there are many of them.

Answer Key

Vocabulary Matching

Draw a line from the vocabulary word to the definition.

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|--------------|---|
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| 4. composer | • to be different from everyone else |
| 5. conductor | • a group of singers |
| 6. orchestra | • a group of musicians who play classical music together |
| 7. pioneer | • a person who writes music |
| 8. stand out | • a person who designs buildings |

A Musical Pioneer

1. D
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. A
7. B
8. A

Ancient Lines in the Sand

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. A