

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1–13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

Caral: an ancient South American city

Huge earth and rock mounds rise out of the desert of the Supe Valley near the coast of Peru in South America. These immense mounds appear simply to be part of the geographical landscape in this arid region squeezed between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes mountains. But looks deceive. These are actually human-made pyramids. Strong evidence indicates they are the remains of a city known as Caral that flourished nearly 5,000 years ago. If true, it would be the oldest known urban center in the Americas and among the most ancient in the world.

Research undertaken by Peruvian archaeologist Ruth Shady suggests that the 150-acre complex of pyramids, plazas and residential buildings was a thriving metropolis when Egypt's great pyramids were still being built. Though discovered in 1905, for years Caral attracted little attention, largely because archaeologists believed the structures were fairly recent. But the monumental scale of the pyramids had long interested Shady, who began excavations at the site in 1996, about 22 kilometers from the coast and 190 kilometers north of Peru's capital city of Lima.

Shady and her crew searched for broken remains of the pots and containers that most such sites contain. Not finding any only made her more excited; it meant Caral could be what archaeologists term pre-ceramic, that is, existing before the advent in the area of pot-firing techniques. Shady's team undertook the task of excavating Piramide Mayor, the largest of the pyramids. After carefully clearing away many hundreds of years' worth of rubble and sand, they identified staircases, walls covered with remnants of colored woven bags and brickwork. In the foundations, they found the remains of grass-like reeds woven into bags. The original workers, she surmised, must have filled these bags with stones from a nearby quarry and laid them atop one another inside retaining walls, gradually giving rise to the pyramid's immense structure. Shady had samples of the reeds subjected to radiocarbon dating and found that the reeds were 4,600 years old. This evidence indicated that Caral was, in fact, more than 1,000 years older than what had previously been thought to be the oldest urban center in the Americas.

What amazed archaeologists was not just the age, but the complexity and scope of Caral. Piramide Mayor alone covers an area nearly the size of four football fields and is 18 meters tall. A nine-meter-wide staircase rises from a circular plaza at the foot of the pyramid, passing over three terraced levels until it reaches the top. Thousands of manual laborers would have been needed to build such a project, not counting the many architects, craftsmen, and managers. Shady's team found the remains of a large amphitheater, containing almost 70 musical instruments made of bird and deer bones. Clearly, music played an important role in Caral's society. Around the perimeter of Caral are a series of smaller mounds and various buildings. These indicate a hierarchy of living arrangements: large, well-kept rooms atop pyramids for the elite, ground-level quarters for craftsmen, and shabbier outlying dwellings for workers.

But why had Caral been built in the first place? Her excavations convinced Shady that Caral once served as a trade center for the region, which extends from the rainforests of the Amazon to the high forests of the Andes. Shady found evidence of a rich trading environment, including seeds of the cocoa bush and necklaces of shells, neither of which was native to the immediate Caral area. This environment gave rise to people who did not take part in the production of food, allowing them to become priests and planners, builders and designers. Thus occupational specialization, elemental to an urban society, emerged.

But what sustained such a trading center and drew travelers to it? Was it food? Shady and her team found the bones of small edible fish, which must have come from the Pacific coast to the west, in the excavations. But they also found evidence of squash, sweet potatoes and beans having been grown locally. Shady theorized that Caral's early farmers diverted the area's rivers into canals, which still cross the Supe Valley today, to irrigate their fields. But because she found no traces of maize, which can be traded or stored and used in times of crop failure, she concluded that Caral's trade leverage was not based on stockpiling food supplies.

It was evidence of another crop in the excavations that gave Shady the best clue to Caral's success. In nearly every excavated building, her team discovered evidence of cotton—seeds, fibers and textiles. Her theory fell into place when a large fishing net made of those fibers, unearthed in an unrelated dig on Peru's coast, turned out to be as old as Caral. "The farmers of Caral grew the cotton that the fishermen needed to make their nets," Shady speculates. "And the fishermen gave them shellfish and dried fish in exchange for these nets." In essence, the people of Caral enabled fishermen to work with larger and more effective nets, which made the resources of the sea more readily available, and the fishermen probably used dried squash grown by the Caral people as flotation devices for their nets.

Questions 1–6

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1–6 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE	<i>if the statement agrees with the information</i>
FALSE	<i>if the statement contradicts the information</i>
NOT GIVEN	<i>if there is no information on this</i>

- 1 Caral was built at the same time as the construction of the Egyptian pyramids.
- 2 The absence of pottery at the archaeological dig gave Shady a significant clue to the age of the site.
- 3 The stones used to build Piramide Mayor came from a location far away.
- 4 The huge and complicated structures of Piramide Mayor suggest that its construction required an organised team of builders.
- 5 Archaeological evidence shows that the residents of Caral were highly skilled musicians.
- 6 The remains of housing areas at Caral suggest that there were no class distinctions in residential areas.

Questions 7–13

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 7–13 on your answer sheet.

Caral as a trading centre

Items discovered at Caral but not naturally occurring in the area

- the 7 _____ of a certain plant
- 8 _____ used to make jewellery
- the remains of certain food such as 9 _____

Clues to farming around Caral

- 10 _____ still in existence today indicate water diverted from rivers
- no evidence that 11 _____ was grown

Evidence of relationship with fishing communities

- the excavation findings and fishing nets found on the coast suggest Caral farmers traded 12 _____
- dried squash may have been used to aid 13 _____ of fishing nets

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判断题 (1–6)

题号	答案	题干翻译	定位句 (段落)	详细解释
1	FALSE	卡拉尔的建造与埃及金字塔是同时期。	“was a thriving metropolis when Egypt’s great pyramids were still being built.” (第2段)	题干说“建造同时期”；原文说“埃及金字塔建造时，卡拉尔已繁荣 (已建成并兴盛)”，不是“正在建造”。时间逻辑相反，故为 False。
2	TRUE	发掘地未发现陶器让 Shady 对遗址年代有重要线索。	“Not finding any only made her more excited; it meant Caral could be pre-ceramic ...” (第3段)	“没有陶器 → 可能为前陶器时代 (更早)”，确实是关键线索，故 True。
3	FALSE	建造 Piramide Mayor 的石头来自很远的地方。	“filled these bags with stones from a nearby quarry ...” (第3段)	明确写“附近的采石场”，与“远处”相反，故 False。
4	TRUE	其巨大而复杂的结构表明建造需要有组织的团队。	“Thousands of manual laborers ... not counting the many architects, craftsmen, and managers.” (第4段)	提到大批工人、建筑师、工匠、管理者 = 组织化分工，故 True。
5	NOT GIVEN	考古证据显示居民是高超的音乐家。	“an amphitheater ... almost 70 musical instruments ... music played an important role.” (第4段)	文中只说明“音乐重要/有乐器”，没说他们“技艺高超 (highly skilled)”，信息缺失，故 NG。
6	FALSE	住宅遗迹表明没有阶层差异。	“These indicate a hierarchy of living arrangements ... elite / craftsmen / workers.” (第4段)	明确有“等级 (hierarchy)”，与“无阶层差异”相反，故 False。

笔记填空 (7–13 | 每空一词)

题号	答案	题干翻译	精确定位句 (段落)	解释与同义
7	seeds	某种植物的 7_____	“including seeds of the cocoa bush ... neither ... native to the immediate Caral area.” (第5段)	“seeds”=种子；可可灌木不产于当地，符合“非本地却在卡拉尔发现”。
8	shells	用来做首饰的 8_____	“and necklaces of shells, neither of which was native ...” (第5段)	“necklaces of shells” → 制作首饰的材料为 shells。题干要求材料而非“necklace”。
9	fish	某些食物的残留物，如 9_____	“the bones of small edible fish, which must have come from the Pacific coast ...” (第6段)	题干要食物名称；原文给出“fish”的骨头，且来自海岸，非本地。
10	canals	仍然存在的 10_____ 表明水从河流改道	“diverted the area's rivers into canals, which still cross the Supe Valley today.” (第6段)	“still ... today” 与题干“仍存在”精确对应。
11	maize	没有证据表明种植了 11_____	“because she found no traces of maize ...” (第6段)	“no traces of”=没有证据/痕迹。
12	cotton	发掘与海岸渔网表明卡拉尔农民交易了 12_____	“evidence of cotton—... ‘The farmers of Caral grew the cotton that the fishermen needed to make their nets.’ ” (第6段)	农民种棉 → 与渔民交换，说明交易物为 cotton。
13	flotation	干南瓜可能用于帮助渔网的 13_____	“used dried squash ... as flotation devices for their nets.” (第6段)	名词化为 flotation，与题干“帮助...的 (过程/功能)”匹配；一词作答。