Teacher Answer Key

Case Study

1. Four years of physically exhausting debris removal by hand contradicts the movie image of archaeologists making dramatic discoveries through adventurous action. Real archaeology requires sustained patience, institutional funding over multiple seasons, and large teams of workers — not individual heroes with whips.

2. Pakal's tomb proved for the first time that Maya pyramids, like Egyptian ones, could serve as mortuary monuments housing elite burials rather than only as platforms for temples. It also revealed the extraordinary sophistication of Maya jade work, burial ritual, and dynastic record-keeping.

Multiple Choice

1. D

2. B

3. D

Matching

1-E, 2-D, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B

Fill-in-the-Blank

1) 12, 2) 200, 3) astronaut

Short Answer (Sample Responses)

Q1: The interpretation assumes ancient Maya people were incapable of creating sophisticated symbolic art and needed alien intervention to produce a masterpiece, which denies their intellectual and artistic capacity. It reduces one of the most studied examples of Maya cosmological imagery to a science fiction fantasy.

Q2: Jade was associated with water, corn, and the life force in Maya belief, making it the appropriate material to surround the royal dead and facilitate their journey and resurrection. The 200+ piece jade mask and full jade adornment of Pakal signaled his supreme political and spiritual status.

Q3: Pakal's dynasty came to power through an unusual succession including a female regent, which could be challenged as illegitimate. By carving a 620-glyph dynastic history connecting his lineage to mythological ancestors and cosmic forces, he created a permanent public record that was impossible to dismiss.