



Read each passage and decide: did the author write to Persuade, Inform, or Entertain? Answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Ingenuity of Terraced Farming

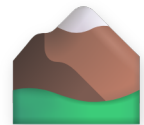
For centuries, communities around the world have found clever ways to grow food, even in challenging landscapes. One ancient and effective method is terraced farming. This technique involves cutting flat steps, or terraces, into hillsides. Imagine a giant staircase carved into a mountain, with each step wide enough to plant crops. This ingenious approach allows farmers to cultivate land that would otherwise be unusable due to its steepness.



Terraces prevent soil erosion, which is a significant problem on steep slopes. When rain falls, it washes away valuable topsoil if the land is not protected. The flat steps slow down the flow of water, allowing it to soak into the soil instead of running off quickly. This also helps conserve precious water, making it available for plants to drink. Farmers often build small walls of stone or earth to support the edges of each terrace, further strengthening the structure and preventing collapse.



Many cultures, from the Incas in the Andes Mountains to rice farmers in Asia, have mastered terraced farming. The Banaue Rice Terraces in the Philippines, often called the "Eighth Wonder of the World," are a stunning example, built by hand over 2,000 years ago. These impressive structures not only provide food but also show the deep understanding, cooperation, and hard work within these communities. They stand as a powerful testament to human ingenuity and sustainable living practices.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



(1) What is the MAIN purpose of this passage?

- (A) To convince readers that terraced farming is the best way to grow food.
- (B) To explain how terraced farming works and its benefits to communities.
- (C) To tell an exciting story about ancient farmers building terraces.
- (D) To describe the beautiful scenery of mountain terraces around the world.

(2) The author wrote this passage mainly to _____ the reader.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) Which detail from the passage BEST shows the author's purpose?

- (A) "This technique involves cutting flat steps, or terraces, into hillsides."
- (B) "Imagine a giant staircase carved into a mountain..."
- (C) "They stand as a powerful testament to human ingenuity and sustainable living practices."
- (D) "The Banaue Rice Terraces in the Philippines... are a stunning example..."

(4) How do you know the author's purpose? Use TWO details from the passage to support your answer.



(5) What is the PRIMARY purpose of this passage? Is there a secondary purpose? Use details from the text to explain.

