

Humanities

The Leaning Tower of Pisa, one of the seven wonders of the world, stirs the imagination of practically everybody, from young to old. It is one of the most famous buildings in the world.

5 The construction of this imposing architectural wonder was started in the year 1174 by Bonanno Pisano. Designed in the decorative architectural style known as Romanesque, the tower was intended to serve as a belfry for an
10 adjacent cathedral, completed some fifty years earlier. When the construction of the tower had just about reached the third story, operations ceased because the tower had started sinking into the ground. The soil under one side of the
15 circular structure began to sink and the tower tipped. The tower remained tilted for ninety-nine years. In 1275 two architects worked out a plan to compensate for the tilt. Two stories of the tower, the third and the fifth, were built out
20 of line with the others, closer to the true vertical, in an effort to alter the tower's center of gravity. The work was completed in 1284, and in 1350 a top story, also altered to the true vertical, was added to complete the building.

25 Aside from the fame it has acquired because of its tilt, the tower is greatly admired for its handsome architecture. The eight-story structure is made of striking white marble and is decorated with graceful arches and colored marble inlays.
30 The lowest story with fifteen columns is surmounted by six arcades with thirty columns each and a highly ornamental belfry with twelve columns. In the tower's bell chamber there are seven bells, each one of them turned to a
35 different note of the musical scale. The tower is 179 feet high and 52 feet in diameter. An inner stairway of 296 steps leads to the observation platform near the top.

Each year thousands of visitors come to
40 marvel at the tower. Not only is the tower studied as an architectural wonder but also it serves as the site for some modern day experiments about the effects of gravity. It was long believed that Galileo dropped weights from
45 this platform in his studies of the effect of gravity on the acceleration of falling objects, but this story is now doubted.

1. The passage suggests that the reason the tower was built was to
 - A. operate solely as a lookout post for Pisa.
 - B. create a seventh wonder of the world.
 - C. provide opportunities for Galileo's experiments.
 - D. house the bells for the cathedral.
2. In which of the following sequences (from earliest to latest) did the events below occur as described in the passage?
 - I. The cathedral was completed.
 - II. The altering of the top story to the true vertical.
 - III. The tower began to tilt.
 - IV. The third and fifth stories of the tower were built.
 - F. I, II, III, IV
 - G. I, III, II, IV
 - H. I, III, IV, II
 - J. II, I, IV, III
3. Which of the following statements about the Leaning Tower of Pisa is supported by the passage?
 - A. In 1257, architects restored the tower to its original vertical position.
 - B. The tower's belfry contains the least number of the columns.
 - C. Galileo dropped weights from the tower to test the effects of gravity on acceleration.
 - D. The architectural style of the tower is a mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architecture.
4. The passage suggests that the main purpose of building the third and fifth stories out of line with the others was to
 - F. increase the weight of the tower.
 - G. permit the installation of more columns.
 - H. provide a stronger foundation of the bells.
 - J. prevent further tilting of the tower.
5. The word *surmounted* in line 31 means
 - A. paved.
 - B. covered.
 - C. concealed.
 - D. surrounded.