Mountains rise high above the land across America. One of the most famous of these mountains is called Mount Rushmore. It is a national memorial. This means it is set aside to help people remember parts of American history. It is special because it holds four important carvings. These carvings are the faces of four American presidents.

The four faces are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. They are chosen because they represent a core American value.

George Washington is the first face. He was the first American president. He fought for independence and stood for freedom.

Thomas Jefferson is the second face. He was one of the founders of America, and he was the second president. He stood for a government led by the people.

Abraham Lincoln is the third face. He was the sixteenth president. He freed the slaves, and he stood for all men being equal.

Theodore Roosevelt is the fourth face. He was the twenty-sixth president. He founded the National Park Service, and he helped build the Panama Canal. He stood for preserving nature, growing the country, and working with other countries to make the world better.

Mount Rushmore was finished in 1941, but people came to see it for years before that. In fact, visitors came to witness this historic mountain from the moment the
The project started in 1927. Calvin Coolidge was the president. A man named Doane Robinson had the idea to create a memorial that would bring tourists to the state of South Dakota. That area had been popular in the late 1800's because of gold that was found in the Black Hills. Those hills were where the memorial would be located.

The carvers chose a specific mountain for the memorial—Mount Rushmore. It was named Rushmore after a man from New York. This man was a lawyer who had done a lot of work there for the gold mines. The new national memorial would be placed on his mountain. It was a beautiful spot that was highlighted by the bright sunshine.

The workers got right to work. The mountain was made of hard rock called granite. They used dynamite and drills to soften the rock and break it into pieces. The workers would sell pieces of the rock to guests. Then the workers began carving and shaping the rock into faces.

The project took fourteen years to complete, but a lot of that time was spent nothing. This was because sometimes there were problems that kept the workers from working. At times, bad weather made it hard for the men to work. Other times, they ran out of money and had to take a break.

At last, the project was finished. The completed memorial stands nearly sixty feet high. It did its job by bringing many visitors to the state of South Dakota.

Today, many people come still. Over three million guests come each year. The area is surrounded by nature preserves, monuments, and national parks. Visitors can hike nature trails, do a junior ranger program, take guided tours, and explore the caves. It allows them to experience the beauty of the area. At the same time, it teaches them about history. It is one of many important national memorials in the country.
Mount Rushmore

1) Why is Mount Rushmore special?

2) Why was Mount Rushmore named so?

3) What two problems did the workers face while working on Mount Rushmore?

4) Read the last paragraph again and make a list of the things visitors can do at Mount Rushmore.

5) Write a reason/ reasons why each president was chosen for his face to be carved on Mount Rushmore.

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<th>President</th>
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Mount Rushmore

1) Why is Mount Rushmore special?
   It is special because it has the carvings of the faces of four great American presidents.

2) Why was Mount Rushmore named so?
   It was named Rushmore after a man from New York. This man was a lawyer who had done a lot of work there for the gold mines.

3) What two problems did the workers face while working on Mount Rushmore?
   One was bad weather and the other was to do with money.

4) Read the last paragraph again and make a list of the things visitors can do at Mount Rushmore.
   Visitors can hike nature trails, do a junior ranger program, take guided tours, and explore the caves.

5) Write a reason/ reasons why each president was chosen for his face to be carved on Mount Rushmore.

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