Frank Hamilton Cushing was a pioneer anthropologist. Born in Pennsylvania in 1857, Cushing was a white man who studied Native Americans as no one had before. He actually lived among the Zuni Tribe of New Mexico for several years. While doing so, he adopted their customs and learned their ways. In fact, he was one of the first professional anthropologists to live with the people he was studying.

Cushing seemed to be born into a career in anthropology, the science that deals with the study of the origins and development of cultures among different groups of people. He showed an interest in the field as a young boy, collecting relics and fossils while he was eight.

When he was 13, his family moved to New York. This move opened new worlds for him to explore. He wandered the forests near his home. He became fascinated with the Indian artifacts he found. Cushing's interest became so great he even taught himself to reproduce arrowheads and other artifacts by processes similar to those of the natives.

By the time Cushing was 17 he had published his first scientific paper. He followed this up with a brief enrollment as a student at Cornell University. More knowledgeable than his instructors, he became curator of an exhibition of Indian artifacts. Not long after this, the director of the Smithsonian Institution made a 19-year-old Cushing curator of the Ethnological Department at the National Museum in Washington, D.C. Now Cushing was in the big leagues of anthropology.
In 1879, John Wesley Powell, a man already famous for his exploration of the Grand Canyon via the Colorado River, asked Cushing to be part of an expedition to New Mexico. The 22-year-old Cushing jumped at the chance.

During the trip, the group spent several months observing the Zuni Pueblo in the western part of the state. The Zuni are believed to be descendants of the Ancient Pueblo Peoples (or Anasazi) who lived in the desert southwest of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. Captivated by the living material he observed on this trip, Cushing requested and gained permission to remain with the Zuni.

At first, his sketches, notes and inquisitive ways wasn’t welcomed by some Zuni people. However, after some time he earned their respect. Other whites had lived with Native Americans before, but not as scientists recording data that would be useful for future anthropologists. Cushing saw and wrote that cultures weren’t just something unique to white Europeans and white Americans. He said all people have cultures they draw from.

A great bond grew between Cushing and the Zuni. He told them of his own culture while working to learn theirs. He also adopted their style of dress while living among them. He studied their stories, songs, language and rituals. He also adopted their style of dress while living among them.

In 1882, after three years of living with the Zuni, Cushing escorted a small group of their leaders on a tour to parts of the eastern United States, including the Atlantic Ocean. During this tour, Cushing was also married to a Washington D.C. resident. His wife accompanied him back to New Mexico, and the two lived among the Zuni for a time. However, in 1884, ill health and political reasons brought them back to Washington D.C. He was able to return for a bit two years later but ill health again brought him back east.

Cushing also conducted archaeological research in abandoned Indian villages in...
parts of Arizona. In 1890, he led an expedition to the Florida Keys. The expedition found thousands of artifacts revealing a society of Florida Indians that had built elaborate settlements on piles of seashells over the water.

Sadly, in 1900 at the age of 42 while on a research trip to Maine, Frank Hamilton Cushing choked on a fish bone and died. However, his achievements were many. He was a leader in 19th century anthropology.
Frank Hamilton Cushing

1) Cushing collected fossils and relics while he was eight, which shows he had a flair for anthropology at a very young age. Explore Cushing's anthropological journey as portrayed in this text.

2) How are paragraphs three and four crucial in the passage?

3) Many scientists lived with the Zuni, but Cushing was different from them. What made Cushing's living with the Zuni unique?
4) Anthropology is a science that deals with the study of the origin and development of cultures among different groups of people. Make a small list of branches that come under anthropology and explain what aspects of anthropology each branch deals with.

5) a) What does the phrase 'big-league' mean? Use this in a sentence.

b) Pick out three phrasal verbs from the passage.
Frank Hamilton Cushing

1) Cushing collected fossils and relics while he was eight, which shows he had a flair for anthropology at a very young age. Explore Cushing's anthropological journey as portrayed in this text.

   ** When Cushing was 13, his family moved to New York, where the Indian artifacts found in the forests fascinated him. He had published his first scientific paper when he was 17. As a student at Cornell University, he amazed his teachers with his sheer brilliance. By 19, his name was in the big leagues of the world of anthropology.**

2) How are paragraphs three and four crucial in the passage?

   **By running the reader through a string of significant details, the two paragraphs quickly establish Cushing as a young anthropologist. By the time he was 19, a lot had happened in his life which helped shape the anthropological endeavors that Cushing embarked on.**

3) Many scientists lived with the Zuni, but Cushing was different from them. What made Cushing’s living with the Zuni unique?

   **Cushing, unlike other whites, lived with the Zuni as a scientist recording**
Frank Hamilton Cushing

data that would be useful for future anthropologists. He saw and wrote
that cultures weren't just something unique to white Europeans and
white Americans, but all people have cultures they draw from, which
was an eye-opener for many.

4) Anthropology is a science that deals with the study of the origin and
development of cultures among different groups of people. Make a small list of
branches that come under anthropology and explain what aspects of
anthropology each branch deals with.

- Cultural anthropology
- Biological anthropology
- Linguistic anthropology

Cultural anthropology deals with human societies and cultures
and their development.

Biological anthropology is concerned with the biological and
behavioral aspects of human beings.

Linguistic anthropology evaluates the influence of languages on
individuals and communities.

5) a) What does the phrase 'big-league' mean? Use this in a sentence.

It means the most important or successful people in a particular field or
activity. Example: After her big breakthrough in 1987, Steffi Graf was in
the big leagues of world tennis.

b) Pick out three phrasal verbs from the passage.

deal with, jump at and draw from.