

Forms of Art Ansel Adams

Ansel Adams is one of the most famous American photographers in history. He is known for his **dramatic**¹ photographs of the West. He took large black and white pictures of landscapes, mostly at Yosemite National Park in California. His photographs of mountains, rivers, and forests are shown all over. Many people have posters of his work hanging up in their homes.

Adams' work was popular because it was easily understood. Adams is what is known as a "straight photographer." His style was simple and direct. His subjects were detailed and **straightforward**². In 1932, Adams and six other photographers formed a group. The group **promoted**³ this style of photography.

In 1940, Adams helped establish the photography department of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Six years later he also founded a photography department at the San Francisco Art Institute. The department was the first of its kind in the nation. Ansel Adams was born on Feb. 20, 1902 in San Francisco. He passed away on April 22, 1984.

¹ **dramatic** – striking, impressive

² **straightforward** - honest and open

³ **promoted** – helped with the growth or development of something

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Ansel Adams is from
 - a. Yosemite.
 - b. San Francisco.
 - c. New York.
 - d. Park City.

2. Adams' photos are loved because they are
 - a. complicated.
 - b. colorful.
 - c. western.
 - d. straight-forward.

3. Which did Ansel Adams do first?
 - a. He established a photography department at the Museum of Modern Art.
 - b. He formed a group to promote his style of photography.
 - c. He founded a photography department at the San Francisco Institute.
 - d. He hiked in Yosemite National Park.

4. Where would you most likely find this passage?
 - a. In a calendar
 - b. In a cookbook
 - c. In a biographical book
 - d. In a letter

5. Ansel Adams is known for
 - a. his dramatic photographs of the West
 - b. his work with museums
 - c. his work with animals at Yosemite National Park
 - d. inventing the modern-day camera

6. Why would someone write a passage about Ansel Adams?

7. What is the most important point of this passage?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Ansel Adams kept his photographs easy to understand and, _____, his photographs were very popular.

- a. on the contrary
- b. but
- c. as a result
- d. after

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The photography department of the San Francisco Art Institute was established by Ansel Adams.

What? _____

(was) What? established by Ansel Adams

Where? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** dramatic: something that happens suddenly in a very surprising and noticeable manner.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 720**Featured Text Structure:** Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic**Passage Summary:** Ansel Adams is one of the most famous American photographers in history. He is known for his straightforward style, and later in life did important work with museums.

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6. Why would someone write a passage about Ansel Adams?

Suggested answer: Someone would write a passage about Ansel Adams because Adams is one of the most famous American photographers in history. [paragraph 1]

7. What is the most important point of this passage?

Suggested answer: Answers will vary but should include that Ansel Adams was a famous photographer who took pictures of landscapes, especially in California.

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What? **the photography department**

(was) What? established by Ansel Adams

Where? **at the San Francisco Art Institute**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** dramatic: something that happens suddenly in a very surprising and noticeable manner.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.