



Delicate Arch Reading Comprehension

Word Count: 266 | Lexile 700

Delicate Arch is the most famous natural arch in Arches National Park in Utah. The arch stands alone on a wide, open bowl of rock. Its bright orange-red color comes from sandstone, a rock made of tiny grains. Sunlight makes the arch glow at sunrise and sunset, drawing visitors from around the world.

Over millions of years, wind, rain, and freezing water slowly wore away the sandstone. Cracks widened. Softer rock eroded first, and harder layers stayed in place. Little by little, an opening formed. Today the arch rises more than 40 feet high and frames the sky like a giant window. Although it looks strong, the arch is still changing as nature continues to shape it.

People have noticed Delicate Arch for a long time. Indigenous peoples left rock art in the region, showing that this landscape has been important for centuries. In modern times, the arch has become a symbol of Utah. It appears on license plates, postage stamps, and travel posters. Many hikers follow a three-mile round-trip trail to see it up close.

Hiking to Delicate Arch can be hot and dry. Visitors are urged to carry water, wear sturdy shoes, and stay on marked paths to protect fragile crusts and plants. By caring for the land, people help preserve the arch and the desert around it so future visitors can experience this remarkable place.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Only experts should visit Delicate Arch.
- B. Delicate Arch is a famous Utah landmark formed by erosion and cared for by visitors.
- C. Delicate Arch is the tallest arch in the world.
- D. Delicate Arch is dangerous and always closed.

2. Where is Delicate Arch located?

- A. Arches National Park, Utah
- B. Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
- C. Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona
- D. Zion National Park, Utah

3. How did Delicate Arch form?

- A. People carved it from rock.
- B. A volcano created it quickly.
- C. Wind, water, and ice eroded sandstone over time.
- D. An earthquake split a mountain in two.

4. Why is Delicate Arch a symbol of Utah today?

- A. It is the only arch in the state.
- B. It was built as a monument by settlers.
- C. It is hidden and hard to find.
- D. It appears on license plates and travel images and is widely recognized.

5. What should hikers bring or do when visiting Delicate Arch?

- A. Carry water, wear sturdy shoes, and stay on marked paths.
- B. Hike at night without lights to avoid heat.
- C. Collect plants to take home.
- D. Leave the trail to make shortcuts.

6. What does the word *eroded* most nearly mean as used in the passage?

- A. Painted
- B. Worn away
- C. Melted
- D. Lifted up

7. Which statement is supported by the passage?

- A. Delicate Arch was discovered in the 1800s by volcano scientists.
- B. The arch never changes and will last forever.
- C. Nature is still shaping the arch, and people can help protect the area.
- D. Indigenous peoples built the arch as a doorway.

Answer Key

1. **B**

2. **A**

3. **C**

4. **D**

5. **A**

6. **B**

7. **C**