

King Solomon's Mines Questions

Test Yourself!

Here are some questions on *King Solomon's Mines* for you to answer. ***Remember: sometimes a question may have more than one right answer.***

You can find answers to these questions at www.booksforlearning.com.au.
Go to The Children's Classical Library page and follow the links to the King Solomon's Mines page.



(Please note: these questions are designed to accompany the adapted version of *King Solomon's Mines* by Books for Learning. Chapter numbers do not correspond to the original text.)

Chapter 1

1. True or False:
 - a. Sir Henry is a naval officer.
 - b. Captain Good has one glass eye.
 - c. Sir Henry and Good have heard of Quatermain.
 - d. Sir Henry and Good expected Quatermain to be traveling on this ship.
 - e. José Silvestre died ten years ago.
 - f. José Silvestre made it to Solomon's Mines.
 - g. The map to Solomon's Mines is drawn in blood.
 - h. José da Silvestra died on the Suliman Mountains.
 - i. Sir Henry is very wealthy.

2. Which of the following are TRUE statements about Quatermain? He—
 - a. is a hunter.
 - b. is not used to writing.
 - c. first heard about Solomon's Mines from José Silvestre.
 - d. wants to tell Sir Henry and Good about Solomon's Mines.
 - e. does not believe in King Solomon's Mines.
 - f. first meets Captain Good and Sir Henry in Cape Town.
 - g. has met Sir Henry's brother.

3. The treasure map was written by—
 - a. a slave
 - b. José da Silvestra
 - c. José Silvestre

4. José da Silvestra died because—
 - a. he was starving.
 - b. he was badly injured.
 - c. he could not cross the desert.

5. Sir Henry intends to cross the desert, because—
 - a. he wants to find his brother.
 - b. he wants to find Solomon's treasure.
 - c. he is keen for an adventure.

6. Sir Henry wants Quatermain to come with him, because—
 - a. he has a treasure map.
 - b. he has a lot of valuable knowledge.
 - c. he knows George Curtis.

Chapter 1 (cont.)

7. Quatermain needs time to consider Sir Henry's request, because—
 - a. he is only a poor hunter and trader.
 - b. he does not really believe in Solomon's Mines.
 - c. the journey will be very risky.

Chapter 2

1. True or False:
 - a. Quatermain lives in Durban.
 - b. The danger of the journey does not concern Sir Henry.
 - c. Umbopa is not a true Zulu.
 - d. Umbopa is taller than Sir Henry.
 - e. The men take weapons on their journey.
 - f. The journey from Durban to Sitanda's Kraal takes about three and a half months.
 - g. The travelers have to leave their wagon at Sitanda's Kraal.
 - h. Umbopa is not very cheerful.
2. Quatermain agrees to go on the expedition, because—
 - a. he is confident they will return safely.
 - b. if he dies, his son will be looked after.
 - c. he will be paid well.
 - d. he is keen for adventure.
3. Umbopa wants to join the expedition, because—
 - a. he wants to return to his true home.
 - b. he needs money.
 - c. he is brave.
4. This chapter reveals that—
 - a. Captain Good is not as brave as Sir Henry.
 - b. Quatermain has a son, called Harry, who lives with him.
 - c. The expedition begins in summer.
5. Another word for 'provisioning' is—
 - a. supplies.
 - b. weapons.
 - c. clothing.

Chapter 3

1. True or False:
 - a. The expedition starts properly at Inyati.
 - b. Quatermain has never been to Sitanda's Kraal before.
 - c. The journey across the desert begins in the moonlight.
 - d. The men find fresh water at the top of a hillock.
 - e. The men spend two days camping by the pool.
 - f. The men find melons on the side of the hillock.
 - g. The men devour the melons because they are hungry.
 - h. The men reach the left Twin after four nights.
 - i. Quatermain shoots the bustard for fun.
 - j. Ventvögel dies of hunger in the cave.

2. The men only walk at night, because—
 - a. it is too hot by day.
 - b. their water supplies will dry up in the sun.
 - c. dangerous animals will sneak up on them if they sleep at night.

3. The men are confident there is water near the hillock, because—
 - a. they can smell it.
 - b. they can see it.
 - c. they find animal tracks.

4. The desert landscape could best be described as—
 - a. sandy and dry.
 - b. rocky and lonely.
 - c. extremely hot and devoid of (or lacking any) plant life.

5. The men are planning to climb the left Twin, because—
 - a. the instructions with the map tell them to do so.
 - b. the rest of the mountain range is too steep to climb.
 - c. they are hoping to get a view of Solomon's Mines from the top.

6. Place each of these words in the most appropriate space below:
certain, likely, possible, unlikely
 - a. It is _____ that the Suliman Mountains are named after King Solomon.
 - b. It is _____ that water will be found close to the gazelle tracks.
 - c. It is _____ that the men will find shelter in the desert.
 - d. It is _____ that the men will have water to drink on the mountain.

Chapter 4

1. True or False:
 - a. Dom Silvestra was a Christian.
 - b. The travelers bury Ventvögel together with Dom Silvestra.
 - c. The Kukuanas are afraid when the travelers first point their guns at them.
 - d. The Kukuanas speak perfect Zulu.
 - e. Infadoos gives the white men a royal salute when he first sees them.
 - f. The Kukuanas do not know who built the great road.
 - g. Imotu was the half-brother of Infadoos.
 - h. Twala is the rightful king of Kukuanaland.
 - i. Gagool, the old woman, helped Twala become king.
 - j. Scragga is the son of Twala.
 - k. The Kukuanas cry '*Koom!*' when they are upset.

2. Silvestra's body has remained intact in the cave, mainly because—
 - a. there are no animals on the mountain that could eat it.
 - b. the darkness has preserved it.
 - c. it is frozen.

3. The men can only take one shot at the antelopes, because—
 - a. the antelopes will run away when the gun goes off.
 - b. the men are running out of ammunition.
 - c. the animals are too far away.

4. The men eat the antelope raw, because—
 - a. they are too hungry to wait.
 - b. they cannot make a fire.
 - c. they prefer the meat uncooked.

5. The Kukuana warriors want to kill the travelers, because—
 - a. Good's teeth fall out.
 - b. they are afraid of them.
 - c. they are strangers to the land.

6. The Kukuana men do not try to kill the travelers, because—
 - a. they think they are spirits.
 - b. they are fascinated by Good's moving teeth and eye.
 - c. they fear the white men's power.

Chapter 5

1. True or False:
 - a. Infadoos believes that Twala is a good king.
 - b. Imotu's wife fled with her child over the mountains.
 - c. The eldest son of a Kukuana king traditionally wears a snake around his middle.
 - d. Loo is three days' journey from the Suliman Mountains.
 - e. The great witch hunt is held every year.
 - f. King Twala has only one eye.
 - g. Twala has a pet monkey.
 - h. The white men's guns do not impress Twala.
 - i. Quatermain shows Twala how to use a rifle.
 - j. Gagool knows that the white men have come for diamonds.
 - k. Imotu's wife and son Ignosi were helped across the desert by a wandering tribe.

2. Twala killed Imotu because—
 - a. there was famine in the land.
 - b. Gagool told him to.
 - c. the people wanted him to.

3. This chapter reveals that—
 - a. Imotu is Twala's father.
 - b. Ignosi is the missing son of Imotu.
 - c. Gagool is the mother of Twala.
 - d. Ignosi is the nephew of Infadoos.

4. The Kukuana people do not rise against Twala, because—
 - a. they are too afraid.
 - b. Scragga would be an even worse king.
 - c. they like him.

5. Twala has men killed at the witch-hunt, because—
 - a. they are evil.
 - b. he wants people to be afraid of him.
 - c. he enjoys killing.

6. Which word best describes Quatermain in each of the following situations?
Bold, Clever, Wise, Brave
 - a. He makes a sign to Sir Henry not to protest at the killing of the young warrior.
 - b. He tells Twala that their journey from the stars is 'too high' for him to understand.
 - c. He offers to shoot Scragga.
 - d. He aims his gun at Twala.

Chapter 6

1. True or False:
 - a. Infadoos needs to see a sign from the white men before he will believe that Umbopa is really Ignosi.
 - b. The chiefs are not impressed by Umbopa's tattoo.
 - c. The Kukuana girls dance in the moonlight.
 - d. The Kukuanas kill a girl each year as a sacrifice.
 - e. Foulata is chosen for death because she is the finest dancer.
 - f. It is partly Quatermain's fault that Foulata is chosen for sacrifice.
 - g. Gagool has seen eclipses before.
2. The chiefs ask for a sign from the white men, because—
 - a. they are not sure that Umbopa is really Ignosi.
 - b. they are not sure that the white men really have magic powers.
 - c. to prove whether or not they are really from the stars.
3. The white men agree to help Ignosi fight Twala, because—
 - a. he is their friend.
 - b. they want to see the end of Twala.
 - c. they are afraid of Twala.
4. The travelers left Durban at the end of January. This chapter confirms that they have now been traveling for roughly—
 - a. three months.
 - b. four months.
 - c. five months.
5. Foulata begs Good for help, because—
 - a. he is closest to her.
 - b. she thinks he is from the stars.
 - c. he shows concern for her.
6. Scragga's spear does not kill Sir Henry, because Sir Henry—
 - a. jumps out of the way.
 - b. spears Scragga first.
 - c. is wearing armor.
7. Place these words in the most appropriate spaces below:
fortunate, appropriate, timely, opportune
 - a. The arrival of the eclipse is _____.
 - b. Good remembers eclipse at the _____ moment.
 - c. It is _____ that Sir Henry is wearing chain mail.
 - d. It is _____ for Sir Henry to kill Scragga.

Chapter 6 (cont.)

8. When Quatermain describes his heart as being ‘in my boots’ (p 31), he means—
- he is very angry.
 - he is feeling very brave.
 - he is full of fear.

Chapter 7

1. True or False:
- Ignosi’s army numbers some 20,000 warriors.
 - The hill beneath which the battle is fought is shaped like a C.
 - Sir Henry’s brother has not been seen by the Kukuanas.
 - The battle begins at dawn.
 - The white men help Ignosi’s army greatly by firing their guns at the enemy.
 - The battle only lasts for an hour.
 - The white men do not join in the fighting.
 - The white men survive the battle unharmed.
 - Only Twala’s army suffers heavy losses.
 - After the battle, Ignosi’s intention is to capture Twala, not to kill him.
 - The Kukuanas will not recognize Ignosi as their king until Twala is dead.
 - After the battle, Twala fights because he wants to stay alive.
 - Ignosi asks Sir Henry to fight Twala.
 - Twala wounds Sir Henry twice.
 - Quatermain states two reasons why Ignosi deserves to be king.
2. Ignosi sends his army to fight at the opening of the hill because—
- Twala’s soldiers will not be able to enter all at once.
 - Twala’s army will be facing uphill.
 - Some of his forces will be able to strike Twala’s army from either side.
3. Sir Henry joins the battle because—
- Ignosi’s army depends on his help.
 - Ignosi orders him to.
 - he wants to.
4. Place each word in the most appropriate space:
reluctantly, triumphantly, wisely, sternly
Ignosi—
- _____ decides to fight Twala at the opening of the hill.
 - _____ places his foot on the corpse of Twala.
 - _____ addresses Twala after the battle.
 - _____ allows Sir Henry to fight Twala.

Chapter 8

1. True or False:
 - a. Foulata makes a traditional medicine for the men to swallow.
 - b. Good nearly dies from his wounds.
 - c. Foulata saves Good from death.
 - d. Good and Foulata start to fall in love.
 - e. Only Gagool and Twala know that there is a store of diamonds under the mountain.
 - f. Gagool is not afraid of death.
 - g. Gagool is happy to lead the way to the treasure chamber.
 - h. Six people travel to Solomon's Mines.
 - i. It takes three days to get to Solomon's Mines from Loo.
 - j. The white men are afraid that Gagool may be plotting against them.
 - k. The great pit was formed by a volcano.
 - l. The three Silent Ones stand behind the three colossi.
 - m. It is a Kukuana custom to sacrifice people to the three mountains at the end of the great road.

2. Ignosi does not kill Gagool, because—
 - a. he does not want to.
 - b. she is wise.
 - c. she can guide the white men to the treasure chamber.

3. When Gagool gets a glint in her eye, this indicates that—
 - a. she is happy.
 - b. she is angry.
 - c. she is up to something.

4. Which word best describes the following statements?
definite, likely, possible, unlikely
 - a. The travelers would be able to find the treasure chamber without Gagool.
 - b. Gagool has shown the diamonds to a white man before.
 - c. Good would die of his wounds without the help of Foulata.
 - d. Da Silvestra's map shows the way to the diamond mines.

Chapter 9

1. True or False:
 - a. Gagool shows the men how to open the stone door.
 - b. The great stone door slides sideways.
 - c. There are about twenty wooden chests in the treasure chamber.
 - d. There are seventeen chests full of diamonds.
 - e. Gagool stabs Foulata.
 - f. The men open the trap door with a knife.
 - g. Sir Henry pulls open the trap door on his own.
 - h. The men discover the stone staircase at dawn.
 - i. The three men gather diamonds before going down the stairs.
 - j. There are fifteen steps on the stone staircase.
 - k. The passageways through the mountain were made by ancient miners.
 - l. After descending the staircase, the men turn to the right.

2. Gagool tries to crawl under the falling door, probably because—
 - a. she is desperate to get away from the men.
 - b. there is no way of opening it from the inside.
 - c. the door is closing quickly.

3. Gagool kills Foulata, because—
 - a. she hates her.
 - b. Foulata tries to stop her from getting away.
 - c. Foulata warns the men that Gagool is escaping.

4. The diamonds are suddenly worthless to the men once they are trapped, because—
 - a. they cannot keep the men alive.
 - b. they are useless underground.
 - c. the men no longer want to be rich.

5. How many matches do the men have when they enter the treasure chamber?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5

Chapter 10

1. True or False:
 - a. Within hours of their escape, the white men try again to find a way into the treasure chamber.
 - b. Ignosi does not understand why his friends want to leave Kukuanaaland.
 - c. Infadoos is sad that the white men are leaving.
 - d. The travelers head back home the same way they came.
 - e. The men cross the mountains in a single day.
 - f. The return journey across the mountains is easy.
 - g. It is only a single day's journey across the desert to the oasis.
 - h. Sir Henry's brother has lived alone at the oasis for two years.
 - i. George has been stuck at the oasis because of a broken leg.
 - j. Quatermain says that the journey from the oasis back to Durban takes six months.
 - k. Quatermain is going to take time away from hunting to travel to England.
 - l. Quatermain reveals that he is writing this story in England.
 - m. Sir Henry and Good meet Quatermain's son in England.

2. The men try to find a way into the treasure chamber again, because—
 - a. they did not get enough diamonds to make them rich.
 - b. it is the biggest amount of treasure ever gathered together.
 - c. they want to solve the riddle of how the door opens.

3. Quatermain does not describe the journey back to Sitanda's Kraal, because—
 - a. he has run out of time and space to tell more of the story.
 - b. it is too much like the original journey across the desert.
 - c. it was easy and uneventful.

Topics for Discussion



1. Why do the men risk death by crossing the desert? Is this a sensible thing to do? What reason does each man have for undertaking the journey?
2. Is treasure—or any kind of wealth—worth risking your life for? Does life have any value without riches?
3. Why does Quatermain tell the Kukuanas that he and his companions are ‘from the stars’? Should he do this? Is it ever right to tell a lie?
4. Imagine that you are one of the Kukuana people. What would it be like to see people with white skin, who can pull out their teeth, kill from afar with their magic tubes and darken the moon? How would you react to them?
5. How old is Gagool? Does the story expect readers to believe that she was alive when da Silvestra was alive? Consider the following points:
 - What clues are there that she may be unusually old? (Find at least 5 examples)
 - What clues are there that she may not be unusually old? (Find at least 1 example)
 - If you do not believe that she is hundreds of years old, how can her knowledge be explained?
6. Do you think the travelers are foolish to be tricked by Gagool? What could they do to avoid letting her trap them in the treasure chamber?
7. Give an overview of the life of Ignosi. For example, explain who his father was, what happened to him as a child, why is he the rightful king of the Kukuanas, and how he is related to Twala and Infadoos.
8. Discuss the story of *King Solomon’s Mines* as a whole, perhaps considering the following questions:
 - Is this a good adventure story?
 - Is the story believable?
 - What was your favorite part of the story?