

Name _____

The Great Wall Goof: Building China's Marvel

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Humor played a crucial role in Li's leadership because it helped him connect with his laborers, boost their morale, and turn challenges into moments of levity. His ability to use humor to diffuse tense situations and keep the spirits of his team high was a valuable leadership trait that contributed to the successful construction of the Great Wall.
2. The Great Wall of China is significant in history because it served as a formidable defensive fortification that protected China from invasions by nomadic tribes. It also played a symbolic role in unifying the country and preserving its cultural identity. The wall's construction spanned centuries and involved the efforts of countless workers, making it a testament to human determination and ingenuity.
3. Li faced challenges such as managing a large workforce, dealing with the emperor's demands, and coping with adverse weather conditions. He creatively solved these challenges by hiring donkeys, creating optical illusions, and turning a heavy snowfall into a day of camaraderie. His ability to think on his feet and adapt to changing circumstances was crucial in overcoming these obstacles.
4. If I were one of Li's laborers working on the Great Wall, I might have felt a mix of awe at being part of such a monumental project, frustration at the challenges we faced, and appreciation for Li's leadership and his ability to bring humor into our daily work. I would have viewed Li as a leader who cared about the well-being of his team and who could find joy in even the most difficult situations. His leadership would have motivated me to give my best in the construction of the Great Wall.

