

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## My Last Night in Cairo, Egypt

It was my last night in the wonderful city of Cairo, so my friends and I wanted to do something special. We all decided that we wanted to spend our evening relaxing, since we had a long day of traveling ahead of us. After thinking about places to go, we decided to go to Al-Azhar Park. After making sure our bags were all packed, we got ready to go and headed to the main street to catch a taxi.

Al-Azhar Park is a hilly landscape that is surrounded by historical areas of Cairo. The park is on 74 acres of beautiful land and is covered with trees, flowers, and open grass areas where you can relax with friends or even have a picnic.

My friends and I piled into a taxi and told the driver where we wanted to go. Our driver asked us a few questions, and we answered them in Arabic, hoping to get some practice. He told us we could speak this language very well, and we continued to talk to him until we arrived at the park. We climbed out of the taxi and headed up to the park entrance. Once inside, we noticed that the path was made out of stone and set in a mosaic pattern. A mosaic is made from small and large stones put together to form a picture or pattern. Inside the pattern were fountain holes that shot up water every few seconds. We took a few pictures of happy, smiling children playing in the fountains and then continued walking through the gardens.

After walking around for a while, we found an empty wall and decided to sit down on it and watch the sunset. The view we had was amazing. It was on the edge of the park, so we had a clear view of the city skyline. The sight was breathtaking. My friend and I are photographers and spent a good while taking pictures of the gardens and city buildings. We also took pictures of each other and our friends, so we could remember our last night in the city. We took pictures of the sun as it went down and when it had gone down completely, we decided to look for something to eat.

Inside the park there is an old fort with a restaurant on the second level. A fort is like a castle with tall outer walls with many rooms and courtyards inside. We walked over to it and decided that we would get a light dinner or dessert. The fort floors were also lined with mosaic patterns in beautiful stone, just like the walkways throughout the park. On the second floor there were tables with small stools and pillows where you could sit and enjoy the beautiful views of the park. We decided on ice cream and ordered two servings to share with each other. We ate the ice cream and enjoyed talking as the night went on. After several hours, we decided it was time to head back to the hotel.

During the taxi ride back to our hotel, we were both happy and sad. On the one hand, we were all excited to go home and see our families again. On the other hand, we did not want our adventure to be over. We arrived at our hotel and stayed up a little longer talking and making sure everything we had was packed and ready to go. The next morning, we carried our luggage to the street, packed into a taxi, and headed off for the airport to catch our flight home. As we flew off into the sunrise, we took cherished memories of a beautiful place with us.

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- 1 According to the text, why did the friends decide to visit Al-Azhar Park?
    - A to study the mosaic fountains
    - B to eat a light dinner or dessert
    - C to have a relaxing night before traveling
    - D to practice speaking the Arabic language
  
  - 2 Why did the author and her friends speak in Arabic to the taxi driver?
    - A They were hoping to get some practice speaking the language.
    - B They were planning to spend a relaxing evening in the park.
    - C They were hoping the taxi driver would be nicer to them.
    - D They were planning to go to the airport the next day.
  
  - 3 According to the text, what did the fountains provide for the children?
    - A a place where they could bathe
    - B a place to get water for the flowers
    - C a place to get water if they were thirsty
    - D a place where they could play in the water

- 4 According to the text, how were the fort floors and walkways alike?
- A Both had courtyards.
  - B Both had fountains.
  - C Both had mosaic patterns.
  - D Both had tables and stools.
- 5 According to the text, why did the author and her friend spend so much time taking pictures?
- A They were waiting for their taxi.
  - B They were both photographers.
  - C They had lots of time to waste.
  - D They had very good cameras.