

Reading

1 Completa la pagina web con i titoli del riquadro.

Things to do at Mount Rushmore Who chose the presidents?
 Why did they build Mount Rushmore? Who are the Mount Rushmore presidents?
 How did they build the monument?



Welcome to our new Friends of Mount Rushmore website

Visit the most unusual monument in America and see the faces of four of our greatest presidents on Mount Rushmore! Each face is 18 metres high and they're the largest group of portrait sculptures in the world!

Who are the Mount Rushmore presidents?

The faces are George Washington (1732 – 1799), Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1809), Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865) and Theodore Roosevelt (1858 – 1919).

1

The Mount Rushmore sculptures were the idea of historian Doane Robinson in the early 1900s. The area around Mount Rushmore was very poor and Robinson wanted to attract tourists. Today, more than 2 million tourists visit the monument every year.

2

At first Robinson didn't know what to build there, but then the politicians in Washington agreed to create a memorial to four presidents from the first 150 years of US history. But which four? The politicians all had different ideas about which presidents to choose and, in the end, the sculptor Gutzon Borglum made the final decision.

3

Gutzon Borglum and his son created the Mount Rushmore sculptures between 1927 and 1941. They employed 400 local mine workers and taught them to sculpt.

Mount Rushmore was one of the biggest and most difficult construction jobs in US history. The sculptors used more than 2 million tons of rock from Mount Rushmore to build the statues!

The workers had to hang 500 feet above the valley and use heavy machines and dynamite to sculpt the rock. It was very dangerous, but Borglum designed special safety chairs for his workers and nobody died.

4

The four presidents are amazing to see, but there are lots of other things to do at Mount Rushmore. In the museum, visitors can learn all about the construction project, see Gutzon Borglum's original models and even do a sculpture course! Nature walks are another popular activity in the summer. Visitors can learn about the different wild flowers on Mount Rushmore and how the local Native American Lakota tribe used them.

Glossary

sculpture	scultura	sculptor	scultore
sculpt	scolpire	rock	roccia
mine worker		hang	appendere
minatori		safety	sicurezza

Culture focus



La tribù indiana dei Lakota viveva vicino al Monte Rushmore. Il più grande ritratto scolpito del mondo è il monumento incompleto di un guerriero Lakota, Cavallo Selvaggio (*Crazy Horse*). Anch'esso si trova nel Sud Dakota.

2 Comprehension Rispondi alle domande. ES

- 1 Why did they make the Mount Rushmore sculptures?

- 2 Whose faces can you see at Mount Rushmore?

- 3 Who created the sculptures?

- 4 How long did it take them?

- 5 Why was the work difficult?

- 6 What did Borglum design for his workers?

- 7 What course can you do at Mount Rushmore?

- 8 Which Native American people lived there?

Writing

3 Leggi il brano e completa il factfile.

The Grand Canyon Skywalk

Walk on glass over the deepest canyon in the world!

The Grand Canyon Skywalk is the highest walkway in the world and one of the biggest tourist attractions in the south-west of America. Visitors can look down through the glass floor to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, 1,200 metres below! The Hualapi Native American people built the Skywalk on their land.

How to get there:

Book a bus tour in Las Vegas or fly into Grand Canyon West airport.

The Grand Canyon Skywalk

Why is the Skywalk special?

It's the highest walkway in the world.

Who built it?

1 _____

What can you see there?

2 _____

How can you get there?

3 _____

- 4 ⚡ Scrivi un paragrafo (45–50 parole) su un'importante attrazione turistica italiana. Scegli un luogo tra i *factfile* qui sotto e usa le domande dell'es. 3 per aiutarti. ES K

Factfile



The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Milan

What's special about it?

It's the most famous arcade in Italy and one of the most fashionable shopping places in Europe.

Who built it?

Giuseppe Mengoni

What can you see and do there?

Go shopping, have a coffee or just watch the fashionable people in Milan.

How can you get there?

Take the metro to Piazza del Duomo or take buses 2, 3, 8, 15, 18 or 19.

Factfile



The Pantheon

What's special about it?

It's the most complete Roman building in the world and one of the most amazing sights in Rome.

Who built it?

The Romans, in 125 AD

What can you see and do there?

See the tombs of famous people (Rafael, Corelli, Victor Emanuele II and Umberto I), go on a guided tour or have a coffee outside in Piazza della Minerva.

How can you get there?

Piazza della Minerva is in central Rome. Walk or take the metro.