

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

The Toy for All Ages

- 1 The number 915,103,765 is pretty big. You might be surprised to know that that is the number of different ways six eight-stud LEGO bricks can be arranged. No wonder LEGOs have been a popular toy for so many years.



Making LEGO Bricks

- 2 In the 1930s a Danish carpenter named Ole Kirk Christiansen started making wooden toys. He called his company LEGO, a blend of the Danish words *leg godt*, meaning "play well." After making wooden toys for years, Christiansen wanted to accelerate production so that he could make more toys in less time. He invested in a machine that would allow him to make plastic toys. In 1958 he produced the first plastic LEGO brick.
- 3 Making LEGO bricks is a fairly simple process. Small plastic granules are heated at an extreme temperature. A machine then presses the melted plastic into brick molds. Once the plastic cools and hardens, the bricks are ready to be packaged and sold.
- 4 LEGO has produced more than 400 billion of its plastic LEGO bricks over the years. Today more than two million LEGO items are produced every hour, or about 40,000 a minute. Approximately seven LEGO sets are sold around the world every second. The company must work at a fast pace to keep up with demand.
- 5 Christiansen believed in producing good products. LEGO toys today are still manufactured to Christiansen's high standards. LEGOs last for many years. In fact, a standard-size LEGO brick made today can be attached to any other LEGO brick made since 1958.

Building with LEGO Sets

- 6 Although Christiansen's original LEGO bricks all had the same basic rectangular shape, there now are 2,400 different-shaped LEGO bricks made in a variety of colors. LEGO creates building sets for children of all ages. LEGO blocks for preschoolers are larger and easier for toddlers to handle. The company also offers sets for older children and teens. These sets contain intricate parts that are more detailed and challenging to put together. With such a variety of

products available, it is understandable that children of all ages enjoy playing with LEGO toys.

Becoming a LEGO Professional

7 As LEGOs have been shared with friends and family and new sets have been purchased throughout the years, many generations of builders have used their creativity to construct LEGO masterpieces. Some people enjoy working with LEGO products so much that they have made building with LEGO bricks their career. Many of these LEGO professionals build projects for LEGOLAND theme parks. They also display their projects in museums and art galleries.

LEGO Artist	LEGO Creations	Interesting Fact
Nathan Sawaya	Known for creating 3-D figures from LEGO pieces	Nicknamed his most popular LEGO figures Red, Yellow, and Blue
Sean Kenney	Known for his LEGO model of Yankee Stadium	Makes LEGO products as his full-time job
Mariann Asanuma	Once constructed models as a "master model builder" at LEGOLAND	Sells her own LEGO creations online

8 Amazingly, the appeal of LEGO products continues to grow. Today, there are LEGO video games, theme parks, and stores worldwide. Christiansen had a great idea for a toy in 1958, but he probably never predicted that a plastic brick would inspire the imaginations of so many people.



"Master model builders" at LEGOLAND work on a model of the U.S. Capitol made entirely of LEGOs.

© Sandy Huffaker/CORBIS

9 By the end of the selection, what can the reader conclude about LEGO products?

- A** LEGO products are more popular with adults than with children.
 - B** LEGO products are not as popular outside the United States.
 - C** LEGO has designed its products to appeal to people of all ages.
 - D** LEGO has created theme parks and video games to replace its original products.
-

10 What is paragraph 2 mainly about?

- F** Christiansen worked as a carpenter.
 - G** The word “LEGO” is a Danish word that means “play well.”
 - H** Christiansen changed LEGO toys from wood to plastic.
 - J** The first plastic LEGO brick was produced in 1958.
-

11 In which section of the selection could the reader find information about adults using LEGO products?

- A** The introductory paragraph
- B** Making LEGO Bricks
- C** Building with LEGO Sets
- D** Becoming a LEGO Professional

12 Which of the following words from paragraph 6 help the reader understand the meaning of intricate?

- F** *detailed and challenging*
 - G** *larger and easier*
 - H** *is understandable*
 - J** *different-shaped*
-

13 Read this sentence from the selection.

In fact, a standard-size LEGO brick made today can be attached to any other LEGO brick made since 1958.

What can the reader conclude about LEGO products from this sentence?

- A** People have shared LEGO sets with friends and family for a long time.
 - B** The basic design of the LEGO has stayed the same.
 - C** LEGO toys made of plastic last longer than those made of wood.
 - D** Ole Kirk Christiansen believed in making LEGO toys that were fun and entertaining.
-

14 By organizing paragraph 3 sequentially, the author is able to —

- F** compare how different types of LEGO pieces are made
- G** explain the method for making LEGO bricks
- H** show how LEGO is able to make toys so quickly
- J** list the reasons why making LEGO bricks is simple

15 Which of these is the best summary of the selection?

- A** Six eight-stud LEGO bricks can be arranged in many ways. Ole Kirk Christiansen of Denmark first made wooden toys, but then he switched to making plastic LEGO bricks. LEGO bricks are made out of melted plastic pressed in a special machine.
 - B** Ole Kirk Christiansen bought a machine to make plastic toys and began making LEGO bricks. The LEGO company has produced LEGO bricks for children of all ages, but even adults build things from LEGOs.
 - C** In the 1930s Ole Kirk Christiansen made wooden toys. Then in 1958 he began producing plastic LEGO bricks. Today there are thousands of different-shaped LEGO bricks in many colors and sizes.
 - D** The first plastic LEGO bricks were made in 1958 by Ole Kirk Christiansen. Today millions of LEGO bricks are made in many shapes, sizes, and colors. People of all ages enjoy building with LEGO bricks, and LEGO products continue to be very popular.
-

16 Which statement best explains the appeal of LEGO products over the years?

- F** People appreciate visiting theme parks where LEGO models are displayed.
 - G** People enjoy toys that allow them to be creative in many ways.
 - H** Toys made from plastic are lighter than those made from other materials.
 - J** LEGO is able to produce the plastic bricks quickly.
-

17 What information can the reader learn about Nathan Sawaya and Sean Kenney from the chart below paragraph 7?

- A** How their art can be purchased
- B** What they have created using LEGO pieces
- C** Where their art can be viewed
- D** Why they enjoy working with LEGO pieces