Name _____ Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Louvre Museum

The Louvre Museum is located in Paris, France. Some would say that the Louvre is the most important museum in the world. If you laid out all of its galleries in a straight line, the distance covered by the galleries would be about 8 miles long. Exhibits in the Louvre consist of art from all over the world. The Louvre was not always a museum. It was built around the year 1200. At that time, the purpose of this building was as a fortress. During the mid-1300's, King Charles had the building remodeled and he used it as his country home. In the mid-1500's, the Louvre was again remodeled on the orders of King Francis I. During this remodeling phase, the Louvre began to take on its present appearance. King Francis desired to transform the building into a great palace that could rival any of the great Renaissance architecture in Italy. The palace was reconstructed and redecorated. Its grounds were ornamented with Greek and Roman statues. The expansion ended in 1670. In 1793, after King Louis XIV moved his court to nearby Versailles', the building was turned into a public museum. During the 1800's, under the direction of Napoleon I, two long wings were added to the Louvre. The last major development of the Louvre building was in 1984 when a modernization project was begun. For this project, an enormous glass pyramid was added to the courtyard of the building. The pyramid is now the main entrance to the museum.

1. For what purpose was the Louvre building originally built?

   _____

2. Why did King Francis I have the building remodeled in the mid-1500's?

   _____

   _____

3. What were some changes that King Francis made to the Louvre?

   _____

4. Under the direction of Napoleon I, what changes were made to the Louvre?

   _____

5. Look up the Louvre Museum in an encyclopedia. Name some of the works of art you could see in the museum.

   _____

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