

02.27.12

▶ COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Analyze the Cartoon

Here's a serious cartoon about Syria. Study the cartoon. Then answer the questions below.



—Manny Francisco, Manila, the Philippines/Cagle

1. Who is depicted in the cartoon? How is he portrayed?

2. What might be a good title for this cartoon?

3. Write a caption for the cartoon that describes what is taking place.

4. What point is the cartoonist trying to make about the likelihood of change in Syria and the truthfulness of its leader? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Extra Credit: On a separate piece of paper, draw an editorial cartoon about a topic in *Current Events*. Mail your cartoon to *Current Events*, 44 South Broadway, 18th floor, White Plains, NY 10601-4425. If your cartoon is selected, we'll print it here or on our Web site at www.weeklyreader.com.

Comprehension

Read the issue's cover story, "Coming Apart," and Time Trip. Then fill in the correct answers below.

- What is the main idea of the article?
 - Ⓐ Cyber communication has been useful among Syrian protesters.
 - Ⓑ Syria's civil war has resulted in thousands of deaths.
 - Ⓒ Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has refused to resign despite opposition.
- What happened first?
 - Ⓐ The U.S. demanded that al-Assad step down.
 - Ⓑ Members of the Arab League adopted a peace plan for Syria.
 - Ⓒ Antigovernment protests erupted in the Syrian city of Deraa.
- What percent of Syria's population is Muslim?
 - Ⓐ 35
 - Ⓑ 74
 - Ⓒ 87
- What is true about the reasons behind the Syrian revolt?
 - Ⓐ Gaining greater democracy is the only motivation for most protesters.
 - Ⓑ Religious differences are one of several reasons behind the revolt.
 - Ⓒ The protesters' main goal is to avenge the killing of Sunni Muslims by the al-Assad family.
- What did archaeologists discover in the ancient Syrian city of Ebla that revealed much about its economic activity, language, religion, and everyday life?
 - Ⓐ a throne room
 - Ⓑ wooden library shelves
 - Ⓒ cuneiform tablets