King of Camouflage The art of remaining hidden in plain sight

By Bruce Barcott

1. Where is Guy Cramer's research lab located? Why is this an appropriate choice, given the nature of his work, and what can the reader infer about Cramer from his choice of business location?

2. At the time this article was written, Cramer was about to submit a bid to design U.S. Army uniforms. Explain why

Cramer chooses not to show his proposed camouflage pattern to Bruce Barcott, the article's author.

3. In World War II, American soldiers fighting in the Pacific region wore camouflage uniforms, but their fellow U.S. soldiers fighting in Europe, for the most part, did not. Explain why.

4. In your own words, explain why digital camouflage is surprisingly more effective than traditional "striped, swirled, and blobbed" camouflage designs.

5. Who was Donald L. Hings? What did he invent? What's

interesting about this in regards to Guy Cramer's line of work?

6. Describe "adaptive camouflage." How would this be helpful for today's soldiers?

7. What is this scientific principle called? Explain what is

happening to cause this effect. How might this be helpful in the art and science of camouflage creation?

8. An idiom is an expression that has a figurative meaning that's separate from the literal meaning of the words in the phrase. Toward the end of the article, Barcott uses an idiom to describe a time when Barcott suspected Cramer was lying, or at least embellishing, his accomplishments in regards

to bending light waves. First, find and write down the line. (Hint: The sentence with the idiom has just seven words.) Then, explain why Barcott likely chose to include the idiom at that spot in the story. What does the inclusion of the idiom bring to the writer's voice?

