

## The Lost City of Mato Grosso

***Read the text about the legend of a lost city in Brazil, then decide whether the following statements are true or false.***

In 1925, at around the time the world was in awe at Howard Carter's discoveries of the Egyptian mummies, another intrepid English explorer, Colonel P. H. Fawcett, set out for Brazil. Following a manuscript he read in Rio de Janeiro's National Library, Fawcett's goal was to rediscover a lost city in the high plains of Mato Grosso described so breathtakingly by a Portuguese explorer from Minas Gerais 170 years earlier.

In 1753, after a ten-year treasure hunt for the mines of Moribeca, the Mineiro and his party of Portuguese, Indians and slaves discovered the city by accident after following a deer through a gap in a steep rock face. What they saw in the distance was quite unbelievable: a sight that appeared to be a huge abandoned city in the middle of nowhere. Through enormous black stone arches, they found a wide street full of two-storey houses, a vast square with a huge statue of a man, and what could have been a palace with elaborate wall carvings and another statue in perfect condition. Finally, beyond the square the men learned how the city had been destroyed - there were great piles of fallen rock and wide gaps in the Earth, all the signs of a huge earthquake.

The explorers returned in two groups - one was never seen again; the other, after finding evidence of the mines they had gone so far to see, failed to convince the authorities with their story. And what of Colonel Fawcett? He, too, never returned, and to this day the lost city of Mato Grosso remains one of the world's great mysteries.

### **True or False?**

1. A great city in a remote part of Brazil was first discovered in 1925 by an English explorer, Colonel Fawcett.
2. Moribeca was the name of an explorer from Minas Gerais.
3. It was an animal that led the explorers to discover the city.
4. The city might have been destroyed by a natural disaster.