Mount Rushmore National Memorial, located in South Dakota, is a monumental granite sculpture by Gutzon Borglum. The sculpture is a United States Presidential Memorial that represents the first 150 years of the history of the United States of America with 60-foot sculptures of the heads of former presidents (left to right): George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Mount Rushmore was named after Charles E. Rushmore, a prominent New York lawyer, during an expedition in 1885.

The project of carving Rushmore was undertaken to increase tourism in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. The carving started in 1927, and ended in 1941 utilizing 400 workers. These presidents were selected by Borglum because of their role in preserving the Republic and expanding its territory.

Mount Rushmore is largely composed of granite. The memorial is carved on the northwest margin of the Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Tourism is South Dakota’s second-largest industry, with Mount Rushmore being its number one tourist attraction. In 2004, over two million visitors traveled to the memorial.

1. **What type of rock is Mount Rushmore carved from?**

2. **How tall are the sculptures?**

3. **How many years did the sculpture take to complete?**

4. **Why were these presidents selected?**
   - What was the goal for South Dakota in undertaking this project?
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1. What type of rock is Mount Rushmore carved from?  
   **Granite**

2. How tall are the sculptures?  
   **60 foot tall**

3. How many years did the sculpture take to complete?  
   **14 years**

4. Why were these presidents selected?  
   Their role in preserving the Republic and expanding its territory

5. What was the goal for South Dakota in undertaking this project?  
   **To increase tourism**

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