

Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 32. ročník

krajské kolo 2021/2022

kategória 2B

1.

READING COMPREHENSION

Task 1: Read the text carefully. Complete the task below the text.

How Rivers Made Civilisation

Around 8,000 years ago, new civilizations began to flourish all over the world. In present-day Egypt, China, Iraq, and Pakistan, these groups developed innovations that are the building blocks of human societies today. The only thing that made all this possible was water. More specifically, these civilisations arose from rivers: the Nile in Egypt, the Yellow River in China, the Tigris and Euphrates in Mesopotamia, and the Indus in Pakistan. The rivers and their surrounding geography provided people with fertile soil for agriculture, valuable trade routes, and a base for the first real cities. The rivers may even have had an effect on these early peoples' beliefs and worldviews. This article will examine one of the most significant river valley civilisations – Mesopotamia, and the impact of rivers and other aspects of geography on its rise.

Mesopotamia was never a single, unified country; the name comes from a Greek word that means “land between the rivers”. In reality, the region was a loose collection of cultures that rose and fell over the millennia, starting around 8,000 years ago, and were often at war with each other. They included Sumeria, Assyria, Akkadia, Babylon, and many others. Despite this disunity, the cultures of Mesopotamia were the first to develop agriculture, domesticate livestock, invent the wheel, build cities, and write literature.

The rivers of Mesopotamia were the Tigris and the Euphrates, flowing through present-day Iraq and emptying in the Persian Gulf. In this area, which we know today as the “fertile crescent”, the rivers flooded violently and unpredictably, but the soil left behind by the floods made for excellent farmland for wheat, barley, and dates. The marshes around the rivers were a source of fish and birds to eat, and reeds growing in the marshes could be used to weave mats and roofs. These commodities had great value to people around the region. As a result, within a few thousand years, the Mesopotamians had also established trade routes with Iran, India, and the regions to the north.

Since the Mesopotamians were organised in large cities, some as large as 100,000 people, there was a labour force large enough to build large-scale irrigation projects. This resulted in more farmland and more food, but also in disputes over land and water. It is probably not a coincidence that after these conflicts arose, Mesopotamians developed the world's first systems of writing and laws. Without irrigation, they might never have been invented.

Although these cultures flourished, the geography of Mesopotamia left them vulnerable. The floods that made their civilisation possible also brought much suffering. The rivers did not flood on a predictable schedule and could cause serious harm. Despite the floods, the climate was not rainy, and water was scarce, leading to constant conflicts. There were no mountains, deserts, or other natural barriers to keep outside groups away, or to prevent one city within Mesopotamia from attacking another. Not surprisingly, the outlook on life that resulted from these circumstances was deeply pessimistic. Ancient Babylonian literature contains a great deal of sorrow and mourning – a trait that some Arab observers say is still present in the culture of this region.

Task: Based on what you have read in the article, complete the statements below. You must fill in 1 word or 2 words (the number of missing words is indicated). The statements do not follow in the same order as the information appears in the article.

1. Extensive were carried out due to the large population in cities. (2 words)

2. The region of Mesopotamia was composed of different cultures that were frequently

. (2 words)

3. In Mesopotamia there were no other groups from fighting. (2 words)

4. The rivers and other geographical attributes led to the establishment of valuable needed for trade. (1 word)

5. Reeds that grew in flooded areas were used to produce and . (2 words)
6. It is very likely that the rivers had an impact on the and of early peoples.
(2 words)
7. Writings of that period carried emotions such as and . (2 words)
8. Early peoples of Mesopotamia managed to make farm animals . (1 word)
9. Repeated conflicts resulted in the evolution of the earliest systems of and
 . (2 words)
10. Mesopotamia was located mostly in what is now known as . (1 word)

2.

VOCABULARY

Task 1: Complete each sentence with an appropriate expression from the words given. Be careful; there are more words available than you will need.

RELATED - CONNECTED - EVOLVED - DESCENDED - INHERITED

1. He said he was from a French king!

2. The idea from a brainstorming session with the team.

Task 2: Fill each blank space in the article below with the correct form of the word in capital letters.

THE QUIET CRUSADERS

I like to think that in my 26 years on this earth, I have seen a few things. But recently I've been talking to a (3)

(HAND) of the 22,000 Voluntary Service (4) (SEA) volunteers past and present who have been flung far by this extraordinary organisation, and it has proved to be something of a (5)

(HEART) experience.

Chris Triple, now Director of Education for Northumberland, was among the first recruits in 1958 in Ghana. The earliest recruits like him left with no training and little idea of what awaited. But youth and innocence were soon found to be (6)

(ADEQUATE) . "Many countries were declaring independence at the time and launching into huge

schemes of education, health care, and (7) (STRUCTURE)," says Dick Bird, VSO's director of fund-raising.

Adrian Hughes returned in December from one of the more bizarre postings. She owned a flourishing training (8)

(CONSULT) business before giving it all up for a posting to Malawi. "I wanted to do something

more (9) (WORTH) than just be a tourist," she explains.

Recruits are getting harder to find. Fewer applications are received each year, and only 50 per cent of (10)

(REQUIRE) from foreign countries are met.

3.

GRAMMAR

Task 1: Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one suitable word.

BRITONS LOVE BANANAS

Britain (0) has gone mad for bananas. Over (1) past 12 months, Britons have consumed an unprecedented 3.5 bn pieces of the tropical fruit, forcing the native apple (2) second place. The nation's banana boom is one of the most remarkable nutritional trends of recent years; a guide not (3) to the growing health consciousness of the British people but also to the country's economic health. (4) is amazing is that bananas were virtually unheard of during the 19th century and even up (5) the end of the 1920s, hardly anyone in Britain (6) tasted or even seen (7) .

Early attempts to introduce them to northern countries had met (8) failure because, by the time they had been shipped to Britain, they had rotted (9) recognition. (10) , thanks to the development of refrigerated shipping, all this changed. Refrigerated shipping meant that then, as (11) , bunches of imported bananas could arrive in good condition at ripening houses in dockyards where they (12) stored. The first commercial refrigerated shipment arrived 100 years ago, triggering an enthusiasm from (13) Britons have never looked back.

Task 2: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

14. I believed you were the murderer because of this clue. (led)

This clue that you were the murderer.

15. It's very kind of you to pick me up at the station. (appreciate)

I at the station.

FARTHEST NORTH by Fridtjof Nansen

You will hear explorer and writer Ian McDonald talking about a book that changed his life. Fill in the missing words in the sentences below which summarize his speech. (The number of missing words is given in brackets).



1. Ian considers himself, when he was at the age of 12, to have been a/an boy. (1 word)

2. According to Ian, the book describes an expedition which had a/an , and character. (3 words)

3. Ian describes the book as extremely long, and . (2 words)

4. As an adult, Ian read the book again, though only its format. (1 word)

5. In Ian's opinion, the books that influenced readers so much when they were children could be a complete or in adulthood. (2 words)