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Grade 8 General English Reading Exam Term 3 2020-2021



1 - 3



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- Where the River Begins** The Volga river is 3,690 kms long, making it the longest river in the European continent and the 18th largest river in the world. Its source is in the Valdai Hills, in a town known as Volgo-Verjovie, between the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg in Russia. The river starts here and flows east.
- The Joining of Many Rivers** The Volga and its tributaries that form the Volga river system include the Kama, the Oka and the Vetluga rivers. Because of its great length, there are approximately 200 other tributaries that join the river Volga.
- Where the River Ends** The Volga flows downstream from the city of Astrakhan and finally into the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water.
- Wildlife and Ecosystem** Although the Volga has had damage from pollution, it has rich and fertile soil along its riverbanks which provide homes for many different plants and animals. Its animals include beavers, otters and many different birds, from herons to eagles. Over 120 different fish, which include carp, pike and catfish, live in the river.
- Climate and Temperature** The average temperatures of the Volga basin change from North to South, ranging from -7 degrees to 24 degrees Celsius. It lies in a temperate zone – cold and snowy in winter and warm and humid in the summer.



Read the following paragraphs about the Volga River. For questions 1 - 5, choose the best heading for each paragraph. There is one extra heading that you will not need.

1. The Volga river is 3,690 kms long, making it the longest river in the European continent and the 18th largest river in the world. Its source is in the Valdai Hills, in a town known as Volgo-Verjovie, between the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg in Russia. The river starts here and flows east.

2. The Volga and its tributaries that form the Volga river system include the Kama, the Oka and the Vetluga rivers. Because of its great length, there are approximately 200 other tributaries that join the river Volga.

3. The Volga flows downstream from the city of Astrakhan and finally into the Caspian Sea. The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water.

4. Although the Volga has had damage from pollution, it has rich and fertile soil along its riverbanks which provide homes for many different plants and animals. Its animals include beavers, otters and many different birds, from herons to eagles. Over 120 different fish, which include carp, pike and catfish, live in the river.

5. The average temperatures of the Volga basin change from North to South, ranging from -7

°C to 31°C. It lies in a temperate zone - cold and snowy in winter and warm and humid in the summer.

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Read the following paragraphs about the Volga River. For questions 1 - 5, choose the best heading from the list below. One heading is extra and you will not need it.

- Where the River Begins** The Volga river is 3,690 kms long, making it the longest river in the Europe the world. Its source is in the Valdai Hills, in a town known as Volgo-Verjovie, between the cities of Moscow and starts here and flows east.
- The Joining of Many Rivers** The Volga and its tributaries that form the Volga river system include the Because of its great length, there are approximately 200 other tributaries that join the river Volga.
- Where the River Ends** The Volga flows downstream from the city of Astrakhan and finally into the world's largest inland body of water.
- Wildlife and Ecosystem** Although the Volga has had damage from pollution, it has rich and fertile homes for many different plants and animals. Its animals include beavers, otters and many different birds, fish, which include carp, pike and catfish, live in the river.
- Climate and Temperature** The average temperatures of the Volga basin change from North to South Celsius. It lies in a temperate zone – cold and snowy in winter and warm and humid in the summer.

Free time activities are usually done after school or working hard. They are important because they help you relax. There are indoor and outdoor activities young people can do, and both are good for your body and mind.

In a recent survey, 1,000 young people answered questions about what they like to do in their free time. Around 60% of these young people said that they prefer indoor activities. Around 30% of them said that they like outdoor activities. Only 10% of people said that they enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities.

When we asked about free time spent indoors, 30% of people we asked like reading. Nearly 10% of young people like writing poetry and 20% like writing stories. The other 30% of people like

answer A, B or C.

2 - 5

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When do young people normally have free time?

- a. after school
- b. during school
- c. before school

Read the following paragraphs about the titanic disaster. For questions 1 - 5, choose the best heading for each paragraph. There is one extra heading that you will not need.

- 1. The Titanic was launched in 1912 and was the largest ship in the ocean. In April 1912, it left England, United Kingdom for New York on its maiden voyage. Passengers called it the unsinkable ship because people said it could not sink.
- 2. On the night of Sunday 14th April, four days after the ship left England, the passengers heard a loud crash. The Titanic hit a large white object. It was an iceberg. Soon, the ship began to sink. It took three hours for the ship to sink after hitting the iceberg. It sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic Ocean.
- 3. The Titanic had more than 2000 passengers on board when it left England. Less than 700 people got on the lifeboats. There were not enough lifeboats for everyone to escape. More than 1500 died.
- 4. On Tuesday, April 16th, the newspapers said, 'Titanic sunk, no lives lost'. They didn't know what had happened. Later it was changed to 'Titanic sunk, A terrible disaster'.
- 5. The wreck of the ship was found in 1985. Scientists found objects such as silver, letters, clothes, shoes and other personal belongings. They also found some parts of the ship at the very bottom of the ocean.

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The Titanic

Dear Olivia,

We set sail from Southampton to New York in April 1912. It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining. There it was in front of me, The *Titanic*. It was the biggest, fastest, most luxurious liner of its time. I could feel the excitement all around – people were smiling and wearing their best clothes.

We were making good progress across the Atlantic when disaster struck. There was a wedding taking place on the deck of the ship when the iceberg hit. I was watching the bride dancing and singing when I heard a loud crash, but I didn't know what it was. Moments later, I heard someone at the top of the ship shouting, 'We have struck an iceberg'. Immediately, it was clear to me what had happened. We ran for the lifeboats.

As the ship was sinking, we were desperately trying to survive freezing temperatures on the lifeboats. It was dark and I could hear women and children crying and shouting for help, but we were the lucky ones. There weren't enough lifeboats for everyone, and some people went

Read the letter about the Titanic. For questions 6 - 10, choose the correct answer A, B or C.

1 - 5

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6. On the day the ship set sail how did Sammy know people were excited for their journey on the Titanic?

- a. People were singing and dancing.
- b. People were smiling and wearing their best clothes.
- c. The sun was shining.



Read the following paragraphs about the titanic disaster. For questions 1 - 5, choose the best heading for each paragraph. There is one extra heading that you will not use.

- The Titanic was launched in 1912 and was the largest ship in the ocean. In April 1912, it left England, United Kingdom for New York on its maiden voyage. People called it the unsinkable ship because people said it could not sink.
- On the night of Sunday 14th April, four days after the ship left England, the passengers heard a loud crash. The Titanic hit a large white object. It was an iceberg and the ship began to sink. It took three hours for the ship to sink after hitting the iceberg. It sank to the bottom of the North Atlantic Ocean.
- The Titanic had more than 2000 passengers on board when it left England. Less than 700 people got on the lifeboats. There were not enough lifeboats for everyone to escape. More than 1500 died.
- On Tuesday, April 16th, the newspapers said, 'Titanic sunk, no lives lost'. They didn't know what had happened. Later it was changed to 'Titanic sunk, A terrible disaster'. The ship was found in 1985. Scientists found objects such as silver, letters, clothes, shoes and other personal belongings. They also found some human remains. The ship was found at the very bottom of the ocean.
-

1. The Titanic was launched in New York on its maiden voyage. Passengers called it the unsinkable.

2. On the night of Sunday 14th April, the ship spotted a large white object. It was an iceberg. Soon, the ship began to sink in the North Atlantic Ocean.

3. The Titanic had more than 2000 passengers. There were not enough lifeboats for everyone to escape. More than 1500 people died.

4. On Tuesday, April 16th, the newspaper headlines were changed to 'Titanic sunk, A terrible disaster'.

5. The wreck of the ship was found in 1985. Divers recovered some of the ship's belongings. They also found some parts of the ship at the very bottom of the ocean.



Sporting Heroes

LeBron Raymone James is an American professional basketball player in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He was introduced to basketball at the age of nine. Top qualities such as, co-ordination and competitiveness are needed in order to be a good basketball player. Together with determination and agility they have made LeBron James one of the greatest basketball players. Athletes of the NBA said, "He is going to be the best basketball player on Earth". His coach agreed. "I definitely agree! He is going to be a very successful athlete", he said.

James also agreed. He said, 'I knew I was going to be a successful champion. It has been my dream since I was a little boy'.

Top qualities such as quick reactions and competitiveness have made Usain Bolt one of the greatest Olympic athletes of all time, but it was his speed that gave him the name "Lightning Bolt". Bolt loved sports as a child. He played football and cricket. "As a child I knew I was going to be a successful athlete", he said. In 2007, Bolt became an Olympic champion when he won the 100m sprint. In the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, he won first place in 3 races.

Write a paragraph about an activity you have done outside. You must include the following information in your writing. Write at least 50-80 words.

- who have you done the activity with
- where you have done the activity
- why you do the activity

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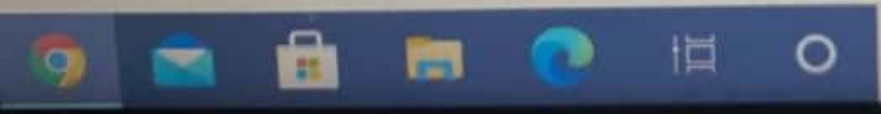
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the letter about **T**he Titanic. For questions 6 - 10, choose the letter A, B or C.

5 33.00 علامة

On the day the ship set sail how did Sammy know people were excited about their journey on the Titanic?

- a. People were singing and dancing.
- b. People were smiling and wearing their best clothes.
- c. The sun was shining.



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