

ЧТЕНИЕ
“ЗАГОЛОВКИ”
(ЗАДАНИЕ 12) ОГЭ



ВСЕ ТЕКСТЫ ИЗ ФИПИ
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ФИПИ. ОТКРЫТЫЙ БАНК ЗАДАНИЙ ОГЭ 2026

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1. Channel Tunnel

Выполните информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What other necessary things had to be done to start operating the Channel Tunnel?
2. Why didn't the British support the first project of the Channel Tunnel?
3. How many tunnels does the project actually contain?
4. What are the safety tips while travelling through the Channel Tunnel?
5. What are the possible ways for a passenger to travel through the Channel tunnel?
6. Why is the Channel Tunnel considered to be a great engineering achievement?
7. What was the most difficult task in constructing the Channel Tunnel?

A. The Channel Tunnel (or Chunnel) is a long tunnel between England and France under the English Channel. The section under the sea is 38km long and the entire length is 50.5km. At its lowest point it is 75 metres deep. The Channel Tunnel is the longest undersea tunnel in the world. The tunnel was recognised as one of the 'Seven Wonders of the Modern World' by the American Society of Engineers.

B. For centuries, crossing the English Channel via boat had been considered a miserable task. The windy weather and choppy water made travellers seasick. So, in 1802, French engineer Albert Favier was the first person who proposed to dig a tunnel under the water of the channel. Favier's plan was adopted by French leader Napoleon Bonaparte. But the British rejected the plan. They feared that Napoleon wanted to build the tunnel in order to invade England.

C. At the end of the 20th century the idea was revived. The digging of the Channel Tunnel began simultaneously from the British and the French coasts. The greatest challenge was making sure that both the British side of the tunnel and the French side actually met up in the middle. Special lasers and surveying equipment were used. On December 1, 1990, the meeting of the two sides was officially celebrated. For the first time in history, Great Britain and France were connected.

D. Although the meeting of the two sides of the service tunnel was a cause for great celebration, it certainly wasn't the end of the Channel Tunnel building project. Crossover tunnels, land tunnels from the coast to the terminals, electrical systems, fireproof doors, the ventilation system and train tracks all had to be added. Also, large train terminals had to be built at **Folkestone** in Great Britain and **Coquelles** in France.

E. It took 13,000 engineers and technicians to construct the Channel Tunnel. In fact, there are two running tunnels, one each way. Additionally, there is a smaller service tunnel with a crossover in the middle, so in case there's an emergency, the trains can actually change to either side. It is wrong to call it a tunnel as there are actually three tunnels. The tunnels are about 50 meters below the seabed.

F. If you want to use the tunnel, you have got a choice. You can either go on a passenger train, the Eurostar, which departs from London, Paris and Brussels city centers. Or you can go on the drive-on service, called the Eurotunnel Shuttle, starting close to the tunnel entrance where you drive your car or truck onto special rail cars.

2. Iceland

Выпроводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What natural resource do Icelanders use as an alternative to central heating?
2. What should you take with you when going to Iceland?
3. What are the national characteristics of the local people?
4. In what seasons can you see snow in Iceland?
5. What extreme excursions can the country offer?
6. What does a traditional Icelandic house look like?
7. Why are these animals widely used in tourist business?

A In spite of its hard northern climate, Iceland is very attractive to tourists. Many people who have visited the country once want to go there again and again. The country turns skeptics into poets and optimists. It's not only because of the views but also because of the local people. Icelanders are friendly and hospitable and welcome guests. It really compensates for the cold harsh climate!

B An adventurous traveller would never mistake Iceland's scenery for any other because of the boiling water fountains and the steam coming from the earth. Smoking volcanoes attract the bravest tourists. Iceland is the only place in the world where you can hike up a volcano and even go inside. There are guided walks to the glaciers, large masses of slowly moving ice, too.

C Icelandic weather is unpredictable throughout the year. Bright sunshine can easily change to cold and miserable weather within a few hours. In the summer, rain is typical in Iceland. From September to May, when the temperature falls, it often snows, especially on the south and west coasts.

D Till nowadays Icelanders cannot do without horses. And horses are very important not only for farming. From the Viking Age, horses have become a part of Iceland's culture. They look like *My Little Pony* toys but they are exceptionally strong, so they can do heavy work and survive cold winters. The horses are good-natured, which is perfect for new riders. Guesthouses and travel companies across the country offer horse rides and tours.

E If you decide to visit Iceland, you'll never regret your decision. The only thing that can spoil your trip is the weather. That's why it's very important to get a reliable weather forecast whatever season it is. If you wear appropriate clothes and have some smart heating devices, neither rain nor snow can ruin your trip.

F Hengill, a place near Reykjavik, is a famous landmark of the country. It is a field of more than 7 thousand hot springs. The water from the springs is used to warm the houses and to fill the open pools in the capital of Iceland. The water comes from below the earth where the temperature is about seven thousand degrees.



3. the Isle of Wight

Выполните информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Why did a prehistoric reptile get a girl's name?
2. Where is the Isle of Wight?
3. What is the origin of the island's name?
4. What animal is prohibited on the Isle of Wight?
5. What is the emblem of the Isle of Wight?
6. What do tourists take from the Isle of Wight as a memory?
7. What is special about the language spoken on the island?



A. The Isle of Wight is considered to be the largest island of England. The island measures about 380 square km, of which about half is an area of outstanding natural beauty. About 140,000 people live on the island and several million people visit it each year. This paradise is located in the English Channel which separates the continent and Great Britain.

B. The accent of the Isle of Wight is similar to the traditional dialect of southern England. While speaking, the natives of the island drop some consonants and put an emphasis on longer vowels. The Isle of Wight has its own local and regional words. Some of their words (e.g. grockle – visitor, tourist and nipper – a younger male person) are used in the neighbouring areas of the mainland too.

C. There are many red squirrels which are the only squirrel native to the British Isles. However, there are few of them left on the mainland now. Red squirrels are being replaced by American grey squirrels. The grey squirrels carry the deadly parapox virus, which is fatal to the reds. The strait between the island and the mainland provides a barrier to grey squirrels. It is illegal to bring a grey squirrel onto the island, with a penalty of two-year's imprisonment.

D. The Isle of Wight is not large, but it has lots of sights to see. One of the most well-known places is Alum Bay which is famous for the sand on its beach. The sand is of different colours – from red to purple, from brown to white. Tourists usually buy a glass paperweight with stripes of coloured sand, and take it back home as a souvenir.

E. The Isle of Wight has recently been declared the Dinosaur capital of the UK! Bones of more than 25 different species were found on the small island, including the largest British dinosaur. In 2009, five-year-old Daisy Morris discovered the remains of an undiscovered species on the beach, which has been named after her – the Vectidraco (Dragon of the Wight) Daisymorrisae.

F. The correct spelling of the island's name is Wight not White. Wight is an old English word to describe a creature or living being. The experts do not have a common opinion on why the island was called that. The only thing that can be said for sure is that the name has nothing to do with the colour

4. Scotland

Выполните информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What goods were made from the plant, the symbol of Scotland?
2. What is the national sporting event of the country?
3. What endangered plants grow in the Scottish Highlands?
4. What plant brings luck and success?
5. What is the stereotype of Scotland like?
6. Why is Scotland an attractive place for those who love sports?
7. What is the modern profile of Scotland like?

A Thanks to television and films, Scotland is often seen by the rest of the world as a magical country, a land of misty mountains and the home of a lake creature called Nessie. This is the image most people have in mind. The truth, however, is completely different from the way the world thinks of Scotland. You may be surprised to find out that most Scots live in the lowlands and don't believe in Nessie.

B Scotland is much more than green hills and picturesque valleys. It's dynamic and cosmopolitan, with a colourful history of invention and innovation. It's the home of big businesses and a centre of new medical and scientific development. Each year, it hosts the world's biggest contemporary arts festivals.

C Scottish heather, a small bush with flowers, is the floral symbol of the country. The colour of the flowers usually varies from purple to lilac, but they can also be white. In the past, the Scots believed that they would never be captured by enemies and would win victories if they wore white heather. Today, when getting married, girls add white heather to bouquets to bring fortune to their family.

D Heather has grown in Scotland as far back as its history goes. It is an essential thing for any household. Famous heather honey is rich in minerals, and was traditionally used in medicinal drinks. Traditionally dried heather was used to make perfumes, and the tough stems were used to make ropes. On many of the northern Scottish islands, heather was used in the construction of houses.

E Scotland is an excellent destination for open-air activities all year round. Its lakes and coastline are ideal for boating and rowing and have some of the best sea-kayaking in the world. The rivers are perfect for fishing and the mountains are wonderful for hill climbing and skiing. Scotland is also good for walkers. You can enjoy easy family walks or more difficult mountain hikes.

F The history of Scotland is rich in armed conflicts. The Scots have always valued physical power and the skills needed for battle and survival. That's why the Highland Games were very popular. They date back to long before Scotland's written history. The Games are still held today and include the athletic competitions in their original form as well as dancing contests. Traditional bagpipe music accompanies all the events.

5. Thanksgiving Day

Выполните информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What is the favourite sports entertainment on Thanksgiving Day in the USA?
2. What happens to the turkeys which are chosen by the President?
3. Why was it decided to celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of November?
4. How can people make the house ready for the autumn holiday?
5. Why did the turkey become the main dish for the Thanksgiving dinner?
6. What is the day after Thanksgiving known for?
7. Why is Thanksgiving celebrated on different dates in different countries?

A. The people of Canada celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the second Monday of October every year. It is celebrated to thank God for the past harvest and pray for the coming year. The United States, however, celebrates Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November every year. The reason behind the difference is geographical: autumn starts earlier in Canada than in the USA.

B. Thanksgiving is the right time to decorate homes. You can add some autumn-colored pillows to the sofa, light a candle and arrange some yellow or orange flowers in a vase. Special message boards have become very popular recently. As guests arrive for Thanksgiving, let them write what they are thankful for on a paper leaf and pin it up on the board. Paper leaves can be cut from scrapbooks and painted in autumn colours.

C. Lots of Americans cannot imagine Thanksgiving afternoon without watching TV. This tradition began in 1934. The reason was a great match between two football teams – the Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears. That game turned out to be really exciting. Since that time, matches have been held every year (except the years of World War II) on Thanksgiving Day and have become very popular.

D. Once, President Truman chose a turkey on Thanksgiving Day and sent it back to the farm. That happened in 1947. Since that time it has become a tradition. Nowadays the President selects two turkeys and frees them in front of a large crowd. Then the turkeys are sent to a farm house to let them live in peace.

E. Some people use Thanksgiving Day and the day after to visit their families or friends. Others use this day to go shopping. The Americans call the day after Thanksgiving 'Black Friday'. It first got its name in 1960 in Philadelphia. Many people visited the city for shopping. It was overcrowded and the local people considered it a bad black day. Nowadays 'Black Friday' means the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

F. In 1863 Sara Hale, an editor and writer, wrote a letter to President Lincoln and advised him to proclaim a national day of Thanksgiving. She selected the last Thursday in November because, as she said, the harvests were finished, the elections were over and people were back from their summer vacations. She even suggested a list of dishes for the traditional holiday menu. President Lincoln liked her idea and declared a national holiday, Thanksgiving Day.

6. South Africa

Выпродите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. How did the valuable present from South Africa get to England?
2. What animal is the symbol of South Africa?
3. How many years can the African giant plant live?
4. Why is the flag of South Africa so colourful?
5. What measures do the authorities take to save endangered animals?
6. How many names has the country got?
7. Why was state power divided between three places?

A The Republic of South Africa is a country located at the southern tip of Africa and is washed by the Atlantic and the Indian oceans. It is sometimes called the **Rainbow Nation** because there are so many different cultural traditions. The **Rainbow Nation** includes 38 million black South Africans, 5 million whites, 3.5 million people of mixed race and 1.5 million people of Asian origin. The colours of the rainbow can now be seen on the flag of the state.

B Unlike most other countries around the world, South Africa has not one but three capital cities. More precisely, the government branches are divided among the major South African cities: Pretoria, Cape Town, and Bloemfontein. When creating the state, it was decided that if the government was in one place, that place could have more influence and political control.

C The majority of the population can speak and understand English which is the language of business, politics and the media in South Africa. Most citizens know three or more languages. In total, there are eleven official languages in South Africa. So there are eleven official names for the country, one for each different language.

D Today South Africa maintains its position as a major diamond producer. The largest diamond, Cullinan, was found in 1905. The Government decided to present the diamond to King Edward VII for his birthday. However, it was a problem to find a safe way to deliver such an expensive diamond to London. It was decided to place a fake diamond on a steamboat to attract those who would be interested in stealing it. The actual diamond was sent to England in a plain box via parcel post, though registered.

E It is a sad truth but the population of African rhinos is getting smaller. Though using rhino horns for medicine has been illegal since 1993, this hasn't stopped people killing this rare animal simply for the horn. To prevent rhino extinction, their horns are covered with a special toxin that does not harm the animal. But it is designed in such a way that any product (powder, tea or cream) that is made from the poisoned horn will taste bitter or will cause burns. It can also be seen in airport scanners.

F Baobabs, the largest trees in the world, grow in South Africa. The baobab is called 'The Tree of Life'. It provides food, water and shelter to people, animals and birds. All the parts of the baobab are used for different purposes. For example, its fruit, called 'monkey bread', is full of vitamin C. Baobabs live up to five thousand years and reach a trunk diameter of twenty-five meters!



7. Ireland

Выполните информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов *A–F* содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы *1–7*. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What old Irish traditions are still followed?
2. What vegetables are exported from Ireland to other countries?
3. What vegetable is very popular in Irish cuisine?
4. Why were Irish people afraid of wearing green in old times?
5. What made the Irish town popular?
6. What is wrong with the stereotype of an Irish person?
7. How can you keep the talisman effective?text

A. When you think of the Irish, you often picture a red-haired person dressed all in green. However, it's just a popular myth. It's customary in Ireland to wear green clothes only on St. Patrick's Day. Lots of people are tricked by this cliché. In fact, originally, the colour associated with Saint Patrick was not green but blue.

B. In Ireland, the colour green was long considered to bring bad fortune. The reason is that, in Irish folklore, green is the favourite color of the Good People (the proper name for fairies). Myths run that they are likely to steal people, especially children, who wear too much of the colour. In the past, a girl would never wear anything green on her wedding day.

C. Christmas is a very important celebration in Ireland. People try to keep the old Irish customs. After dinner on Christmas Eve, it is still common for families to leave milk and bread on the table as a sign of friendliness and kindness. Another custom is to leave the door unlocked. A lit candle is left in a window during the night. It represents help for any traveller who is passing by.

D. Irish people enjoy good and substantial food. The basis for many traditional Irish dishes is potatoes which are eaten boiled, mashed, fried and baked. Potatoes are mixed with cabbage or green onions to make traditional Irish dishes. They are also made into potato cakes and used in soups or stews. It's common to find potatoes cooked in two different ways on the same dinner plate.

E. In Ireland it is believed that shamrock brings good fortune to everyone. It helps in different situations and saves its owner from bad luck. There are certain conditions to be met so that its power remains strong: the owner of the shamrock must keep it away from the public eye and never give it to anyone else.

F. Ireland is known as the native land of limericks – short humorous poems that have five lines. They make people laugh and are easy to remember! Lots of poets and writers were fond of limericks. The word limerick probably comes from the Irish town of Limerick. The short poem has made the town known all over the world.

8. Street art

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Why do street artists create their works?
 2. Why are serious companies getting interested in street art?
 3. Where are the international street art exhibitions held?
 4. What does the term **street art** include?
 5. Which of the famous street artists managed to keep his/her real name a secret?
 6. What is the most innovative technique in street art?
 7. Why don't street artists sign their works with their real names?
- A.** **Street art** can be described as art that is developed in public spaces and, above all, in the street. Typically, **street art** is used to separate public-space artwork from illegal graffiti and vandalism. It can mean a lot of different things including graffiti, poster art, wall paintings and just about any artwork that is displayed in public places.
- B** The start of street art is closely connected to graffiti, which appeared in New York in the 1970s. For the following ten years, street art grew more and more popular and was soon joined by new forms including street installations, street sculptures and 3D pavement illusions. Kurt Wenner was the person who developed 3D pavement illusion as an absolutely new form of street art and inspired a future generation of street artists.
- C** Street artists are often associated with opposition. Their artwork is considered a crime and vandalism and the artists may be arrested for damaging property, so the artists prefer to use nicknames and create their drawings mostly at night. They are not looking for fame, especially in countries where graffiti is still illegal.
- D** Banksy is probably the most well-known English street artist who has already become a legendary figure. His works are exhibited in galleries across the world. An American magazine even named him among the top most influential people in the world. However, it's still true that no one knows who the person really is. He is the only one whose photo has never been made or published.
- E** The motivations and ideas that inspire street artists are as different as the artists themselves. Some street artists, by creating certain works, want to draw attention to social and political problems. For other artists, street art is just a form of self-expression. And there are those who enjoy the danger and risks which are connected with working illegally in some city areas.
- F** Traditional graffiti has recently been used as a successful method for advertising. Lots of companies agree that traditional advertising on city streets is too boring and common, so many people simply ignore it. However, graffiti adverts catch your attention, creating a memorable image. Big companies find this quite useful and try to include more elements of graffiti in their advertising campaigns.



9. Coffee

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What was coffee's long way to Europe like?
2. How did drinking coffee become a social life activity?
3. How was coffee discovered?
4. Why was coffee prohibited in some countries?
5. What ingredients are used in coffee recipes?
6. Why do some people refuse to drink coffee?
7. What helped coffee to conquer the USA?

A. Coffee was first found in Eastern Africa in the area we know today as Ethiopia. A popular legend says that one day, a man called Kaldi was watching his goats eating grass and leaves. He noticed that after eating berries from a certain bush, the goats became very active. Curious, Kaldi tried the berries himself. He found that these berries gave him additional energy. The story quickly spread throughout the region.

B. The first coffee berries were transported from Ethiopia to Arabian countries and then they were cultivated in Yemen. From there, coffee travelled to Turkey where coffee beans were roasted for the first time over open fires. The roasted beans were crushed and then boiled in water, creating the drink we enjoy today. Finally, in the seventeenth century, coffee arrived in France, Britain and Italy.

C. The first coffeehouses opened in Mecca and quickly became popular centres of social and political activity. The government believed that coffee stimulated radical thinking, and even thought it might unite the opposition. As a result, soon coffee was forbidden in Mecca. The same thing happened in Turkey a century later, when coffee drinkers were severely punished.

D. They say, in 1776, the thirteen American colonies adopted coffee as their national drink instead of tea. When the British tried to raise the tax on tea, Americans refused to buy it and switched to coffee. In fact, by drinking coffee, Americans demonstrated their political views and their dislike for the British – the famous tea-lovers.

E. The Italians drink their espresso with sugar, the Germans and Swiss add an equal part of hot chocolate, the Mexicans prefer it with cinnamon, and the Belgians – with chocolate. Coffee drinkers in the Middle East usually add cardamom and spices. The Egyptians, on the other hand, are extremely fond of pure, strong coffee. They add neither milk nor cream.

F. When the first European coffeehouses opened, they quickly grew into places where people played chess, exchanged gossip, sang and danced. Coffeehouses were very popular. Anyone could go and enjoy a cup of the drink because the price of a cup of coffee was reasonable. European coffeehouses became meeting points for intellectuals, writers and businessmen.

10. Ravens

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Why were ravens considered to be scary and dangerous birds?
2. Why is keeping a raven as a pet really difficult?
3. How do ravens entertain themselves?
4. What is a raven's essential diet?
5. How can you distinguish a raven from a crow?
6. Why are ravens important for Great Britain?
7. What tricks do ravens play to get and save their food?

A. For intelligence, ravens rate up with chimpanzees and dolphins. These birds have the largest brain of any bird species. Ravens can push rocks on people to keep them from climbing to their nests and play dead to scare other ravens away from a delicious meal. If a raven knows another raven is watching, it hides the tasty bits. It pretends to put the food in one place but hides it in another.

B. It's amazing to watch ravens sliding on snow-covered roofs. For fun, they also roll down snowy hills. Ravens often play keep-away with other animals like wolves, foxes and dogs. They even make toys—a rare animal behaviour—from sticks, pine cones, golf balls, or rocks to play with each other or by themselves. When they feel bored, they mock other creatures like crows, cats and dogs and find it very amusing.

C. According to surveys, the ravens are one of the main reasons why tourists come to see the Tower of London. Nobody knows when the ravens first appeared there but there is a belief that at least six ravens must always remain on the territory of the Tower. Otherwise, the British Monarchy may fall. To prevent the birds from flying away their wings are clipped every three weeks.

D. In the past, in some cultures, people were truly afraid of these dark birds. In Germany, ravens were considered to be the incarnation of criminals' souls. In Sweden, ravens were thought to be the souls of murdered people. And in Denmark, people believed that it was dangerous to look at ravens because you could turn into a raven yourself.

E. Sometimes people find injured ravens and take them home, but it's really challenging.

These birds require a lot of care, a lot of freedom and a lot of time. Ravens are wild creatures, and they cannot be treated like cats and dogs are. If the bird is strong and healthy, it is unfair and cruel to keep it in captivity. In some countries it's even illegal. So, if you really love and admire these birds, enjoy them from a distance.

F. These birds are often confused with each other because they are both black birds. Even people who are well aware of the differences between them can get confused. Ravens are larger than crows, with thicker beaks and longer tails. Ravens have a deeper voice than crows.



11. The Republic of Ireland

Выпроводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. How many official languages are there in the Republic of Ireland?
2. Which colour dominates on the island?
3. What do the colours of the Irish flag mean?
4. What Irish name is now used as a noun in several European languages?
5. After what Irish person did a geographical place get its name?
6. What are the two things associated with the country?
7. Why is the name of an Irishman well-known in the United States?

A. One of the informal names of Ireland is ‘the Emerald Isle’. This is because of its lush greenery and rolling hills. The island country receives a lot of rain each year, which keeps the grass green and the plants blooming. Experts argue that the flora of Ireland demonstrates more than forty shades of green.

B. The most famous symbol of Ireland is undoubtedly the shamrock clover. However, the official emblem of the country is the Celtic harp. Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument as its national symbol. The harp has become Ireland’s national symbol not because it was created there, but due to the collection of the oldest harps in the world which can now be seen in the museum at Trinity College in Dublin.

C. There is a tricolour of green, white and orange vertical stripes on the national flag of the Republic of Ireland. The flag was designed to reflect the country’s political situation. Created in 1848, the orange stripe represents Irish Protestants. Green is for Irish Catholics and white is for the hope that peace might eventually be reached between them.

D. Most people of the Republic of Ireland speak English. It is the second official language of the country because, according to the Constitution, Irish (Gaelic) is the national language of the Republic of Ireland. Irish was the primary language that was used on the island. Though children are still taught Irish at school, the language is losing its importance.

E. The White House, the official residence of the US President, was designed by an Irishman. James Hoban was born in Ireland and studied architecture in his homeland. In 1792, James Hoban won a competition for the construction of the President's house in America. He spent nine years supervising the building process. He also designed a few other important buildings in the American capital. No wonder that the name of James Hoban is famous across the ocean.

F. The widely used word **boycott** originated in Ireland. In 1880, a campaign of isolation against Charles Boycott, a land agent, was started. He threw out the farmers from his land when they complained that the rents were too high. After that, the local shops refused to serve him, his servants left and the boy who delivered his mail disappeared too. The surname of the land agent became a word which means ‘silently ignoring somebody or something’. The word was adopted in English, French, Dutch, German, Russian etc.



12. Tourism

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What nature-friendly ideas started a new branch in the tourism business?
2. What means of transport is the most popular with tourists?
3. Why can tourism be dangerous to nature?
4. What are the reasons that make people go on a trip?
5. What kind of tourism is getting popular with elderly people?
6. Why does travelling make people smarter?
7. What are the ways to save money while travelling?

A. Tourism has become a popular activity. Indeed, nowadays people travel more, and further, than they used to. The main reasons for tourism are: recreation, leisure and business. When travelling for recreation, people want to escape their stressful daily routine and to relax. Beach holidays are an example of such tourism. Business trips involve going to a distant place in order to settle business issues.

B. Whether on a business trip or on a honeymoon, people want to explore the place they are in. They go on excursions, try new activities like diving or mountain climbing and learn about the historical background of the place and its cultural peculiarities. Sometimes they find out amazing facts about people and places and about themselves too! In fact, when people travel, they broaden their horizons.

C. A new branch of tourism is ecotourism. It involves visiting relatively untouched places in remote areas. Ecotourism is often misinterpreted as any form of tourism involving wildlife - but it's completely different from jungle tourism or safari. Eco-tourists are against disturbing the environment; even taking photos is not recommended. ***Take only memories and leave only footprints*** is a very popular slogan for them.

D. By educational tourism, most people mean different versions of ***Learn and Travel Programmes*** for students. But it's not only for the young and brave. Lots of training and educational programmes for adults are offered in different corners of the world. Retired people participate in these programmes too. They gladly enroll on overseas courses ranging from gardening and design to computer skills and programming.

E. If possible, consider means of transport other than the plane. Rapidly increasing numbers of flights have put the environment in danger. Planes pollute the air, which results in global warming. In fact, tourism is not harmless fun as many may think: new airports and tourist infrastructure, pollution and crowds of noisy tourists make wild animals migrate, which may decrease their population or even make them extinct.

F. With all its benefits, travelling is still a very expensive activity and may not fit every budget. To reduce the costs, avoid travelling in high season when flight tickets and hotels are overpriced. Remember that, along with expensive destinations, there are less prestigious but even more interesting places. When planning a trip, find out about low-cost airlines, discounts and special offers.

13. Christmas tree

Выпроводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What should the main New Year tree of the country look like?
- 2 What is one of the legends of the Christmas tree?
3. What are the advantages of artificial Christmas trees?
4. What rules did people follow in the past when decorating the Christmas tree?
5. Who changed the date of New Year's Day in his country?
6. How did the technological progress change Christmas decorations?
7. How did the tradition of decorating the tree with coloured glass balls start?

A. Why do people decorate Christmas trees at home? There are several stories about the start of the tradition. One of them is about Martin Luther, the founder of the protestant faith. While he was walking through a forest on a Christmas Eve, he looked up and was impressed by the beauty of the stars that were shining through the tree branches. He cut down a small tree and took it home. There, he decorated the tree with candles as a present for his family.

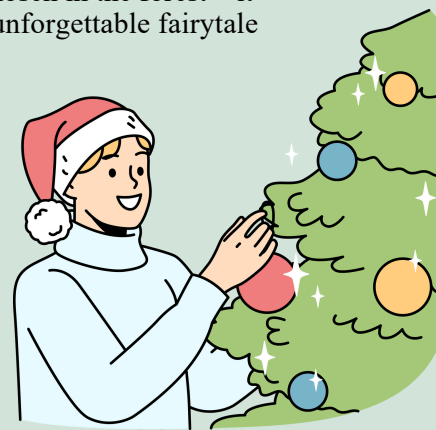
B. The tradition of decorating a Christmas tree comes from Germany. Until the 17th century, people decorated their Christmas tree in a certain order. Firstly, a star was fixed on the top. Then people hung apples on lower branches of the tree. Finally, they placed biscuits, gingerbread and sweets underneath. The Christmas tree in the fairy tale *Nutcracker* was decorated in exactly this way.

C. The Christmas tree tradition came to Russia with Peter the Great in the 18th century. He enjoyed the celebration tradition in Germany and issued a law according to which all families had to decorate their houses with pine tree branches. It also announced that people should have fun on that day. Peter the Great also decided to move New Year's celebration from 1st September to 1st January.

D. The most popular Christmas decoration was invented by a German glass-blower. He made a ball and decorated it with angel figures and snowflakes. The man gave it as a gift to his daughter. The girl decided to put the ball on the Christmas tree. It was so beautiful that the glass-blower made many more decorated balls and sold them. Now people all over the world choose to decorate their Christmas trees in this way.

E. In the 18th century, people started decorating Christmas trees with candles. Later, with the discovery of electricity, electric lights were put on Christmas trees. It was Edward Johnson, an assistant of Thomas Edison, who first used electric lights for Christmas tree decoration. People liked his idea. However, it took several years before the electric lights became available to the general public.

F. Nowadays, Christmas trees are found everywhere – in houses, on the streets and squares. Most of them are artificial trees. However, in the centre of Moscow, in the Kremlin, you can always see a natural Christmas tree. The most important tree of the country is carefully chosen in the forest – it should be tall and beautiful. Professional designers decorate it to create an unforgettable fairytale tree for thousands of children and their parents.



14. *Mobile phones*

Выпроводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Young people of which country are the fastest at texting?
2. Who made the first mobile call and why?
3. Are the rules of using phones in school always followed by students?
4. Which mobile phone has no other advantages but glamour?
5. Why can a mobile phone be dangerous for children?
6. What are the safety tips of using mobile phones?
7. How can a mobile phone message save your life?

A. The first call from a mobile phone was made in 1973. Motorola engineer Martin Cooper made the call from the pavement of Sixth Avenue in New York to show off to his competitor – engineer Joel Angel. He said, "I'm ringing you just to see if my call sounds good at your end." With the first mobile phones, only voice calls were available and there was no texting facility.

B. Recently the most expensive phone in the world was presented. It is the iPhone 5 with a case made of 24 carat gold with 600 diamonds! The home button of the smartphone is made of a rare black diamond and the company logo is covered with small diamonds. The cost of this device is about \$15 million. The technical characteristics of the iPhone 5 are no different from the regular models.

C. Mobile phones are permitted at school in the UK, but students are not allowed to use them in class. Teachers can take away phones if these rules are broken. School students can use their phones at breaktime and at lunchtime. However, some teachers in British schools complain that students don't always follow the rules and that lessons are disrupted by people texting, receiving calls, looking at social networking sites, watching videos and even making videos in class.

D. The mobile phone is a way to warn people about disasters. Some countries have worked out the following system: phone companies automatically notify their population in advance about emergencies and disasters. Such warnings are very efficient and free of charge. Japan and Finland were among the first countries that understood the necessity of this system.

E. Parents want their kids to be safe. Are children safer with a mobile phone or without? Many parents want their children to have a phone so that they can be in contact at any time or in any place. On the other hand, for lots of parents a phone is a source of possible danger. Parents worry that their child may meet the wrong kind of 'friends' on social networking sites or that they might receive cruel messages from school bullies.

F. The idea of sending short text messages originated in 1984. It was later brought to life by a group of engineers from different companies. Writing text messages became extremely popular in Asian countries, especially in Korea. Korean teenagers are certainly text message fans. They send over 200,000 text messages a year - that's more than sixty texts per day. This hobby must have made their fingers really fast.

15. The Olympic Games

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Where is the history of the Olympic Games presented to the visitors?
2. What were the reasons to stop the Olympic Games twice in the 20th century?
3. How many Olympic Games were held in Greece?
4. What are the official languages of the modern Olympics?
5. What were the life-long benefits for the first Olympic Games winners?
6. What does the Olympic symbol mean?
7. Why was that place chosen for the Olympic Games?

A. A victory in the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece made a man a national hero and all the little children wanted to be like him. The first champions got free food and housing for their whole lives. They were mentioned in poems and became well-known all over the country. Sculptors even built statues of the competitors. Everyone respected and admired them.

B. Olympia was a relatively peaceful and neutral area. It had a beautiful green valley which was very suitable for all kinds of sports competitions. People could easily get to Olympia because there were two rivers nearby. It was impossible to find a better place anywhere else in Greece.

C. The Olympic Museum was founded in 1993 in Switzerland. It is surrounded by a park with wonderful works of art based on a sporting theme. It has a big collection of pieces connected with the Olympic movement. It also has the largest number of books and documents about the Games in the world. No wonder the place is one of the main tourist attractions.

D. The modern Olympics began in 1894. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a Frenchman, decided to bring back the ancient Greek tradition. He wanted to begin a sports festival to celebrate health, youth and peace. The first modern Olympiad took place in Athens in 1896. Since then, the Olympic Games have been held every four years with two exceptions because of the two world wars.

E. The Olympic Games traditionally start with the “Parade of the Nations”. Most of the participating athletes walk out into the stadium. The Greek athletes open the parade and the hosts appear on stadium the last. The name of each country is announced in French and English, the official languages of the Olympic Games, and the language spoken in the country that organizes the Games.

F. The five Olympic rings represent the five main regions of the world – Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. They are blue, yellow, black, green and red because every national flag in the world includes one of these five colours. The rings are connected and there is a reason for it. It's done to show that the Games are for all nations. All good sportsmen can come and compete against one another in unity.

16. India

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What can the Indian ancient drawings tell us about?
2. Why do people come to the holy waters?
3. Where are Indian movies made?
4. Why is India getting more and more popular with tourists?
5. How can travellers escape the heat?
6. Which ancient language influenced modern languages a lot?
7. Why is the Indian capital called a city of contrasts?

A. The world's first university was established in India in 700 BC, where more than 10,500 students from around the world studied more than 60 different subjects. The training was conducted in Sanskrit. Nowadays, Sanskrit is considered to be the mother of all the European languages. Its elements can be traced in most of them.

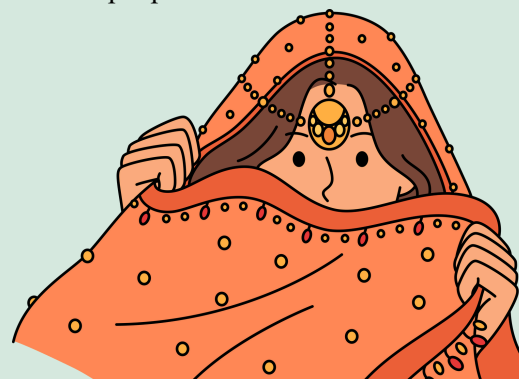
B. The most frequently visited place in India is Delhi, the capital city of the country. It seems to be divided into two parts. New Delhi is a modern city with hi-tech architecture, tourist attractions and modern facilities. Old Delhi is several centuries old, with narrow streets, ancient churches and noisy bazaars. Lots of people live in slums without the most essential facilities like toilets and running water.

C. People all over the world know of India's greatest river, the Ganges. The river looks extremely beautiful in the morning light. It is the subject of thousands of prayers. It has become a common ritual for pilgrims to gather by the holy river in the mornings. It is believed that bathing in the Ganges helps to cure all kinds of diseases and can improve your life in general.

D. Indian climate differs from one part of the country to another. The air is cool and fresh in the mountains, but in the plains it is usually very hot and dry, so even a short trip can be very hard for an inexperienced traveller. That is why tourists are always glad to have a rest at one of the numerous stations in the hills. There they can enjoy a nice cup of real Indian tea, the most refreshing drink in such a climate.

E. India is not all history. It is also famous for its Bollywood industry, which produces different films. Indian films have always had their own style; they are rich in music and dancing. Though the industry is still developing, many Indian film stars have received Oscar prizes and are known throughout the world. The home of Bollywood is Mumbai, also known as a busy port and the country's commercial centre.

F. There is an unusual treasure hidden in the Indian mountains. These are striking ancient temples cut in the rocks. For example, the Buddhist cave temples at Ajanta were built at least 2,000 years ago. Inside the caves on the walls, tourists can see animal images and pictures of people's lives. Some researchers believe that the interpretation of the images can help us to learn a lot about people's lives in ancient times.



17. New Zealand

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. How many of the native people of New Zealand still live there?
2. What meteorological information can you get looking at the flag?
3. What traditions have the Maoris kept to the present day?
4. Which tourist destination in New Zealand can become extremely dangerous?
5. Where can you see the landscapes of New Zealand without going there?
6. How did people damage the ecosystem of New Zealand?
7. After which European place was New Zealand named?

- A.** The weather of New Zealand is pleasant in all seasons, though it's rather windy. Wellington, the country's capital, is known as the **Windy City**. The strongest winds blow from the south. The wind speed and direction can be seen from the flag flown from the Parliament. A large flag is flown only on calm days and a small flag is flown when windy days are expected.
- B.** More than a century before Columbus crossed the Atlantic to discover America, the Maoris sailed over thousands of kilometers of ocean to settle in New Zealand. They made their great journey in double canoes. Today, Maoris make up 14 percent of the country's population, and their history, language and traditions are central to New Zealand's identity.
- C.** Before humans settled in New Zealand, it had an incredible variety of birds. As they had no natural enemies to fly away from, wings became unnecessary for some birds. When Maoris and, later, Europeans went to New Zealand, they started to hunt birds. They also brought predators, including rats. The new enemies and loss of territory led to the reduction in the birds' populations and to the complete extinction of some species.
- D.** Ever since the first 'Lord of the Rings' film was released in 2001, New Zealand has been known as the 'Home of Middle-earth'. New Zealand's dramatic scenery plays the mythical world of Middle-earth on the big screen in both 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' trilogies. More than 250 places throughout the country were used as locations for the films, which made New Zealand the greatest destination for Tolkien enthusiasts.
- E.** New Zealand is an extremely beautiful country situated in the south-western Pacific Ocean. Mountain ranges and hill country dominate New Zealand's landscape. Its dramatic views impressed the Europeans when they first landed on the islands. The name New Zealand comes from the Dutch **Nieuw Zeeland**. This name was given by the first European explorer Abel Tasman after the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands.
- F.** Auckland's diverse landscapes provide countless opportunities to be impressed: rainforests and black sand beaches, picturesque country gardens and calm bays. However, this region is spotted with 48 volcanic cones. Rangitoto Island, just a 25-minute ferry ride from Auckland, is the region's most iconic volcano. A lot of tourists visit the island every day to see the volcano. But who knows when it might wake up?



18. Antarctica

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What people live on the continent?
2. What is done to protect Antarctica's environment?
3. How was Antarctica discovered?
4. What would happen if Antarctica's temperature rose?
5. How has the continent changed over the years?
6. What are the colours of Antarctica's flag?
7. Why is Antarctica often called a dry land?

A. Antarctica has no government and no country owns this continent. It is the only region on earth which is not ruled by any nation. There are no local people in Antarctica. However, in the summer season, more than four thousand scientists from different countries come to study the mysterious region while one thousand stay there in the winter season. The scientific bases are the only 'settlements' with residents who stay for several months or a year.

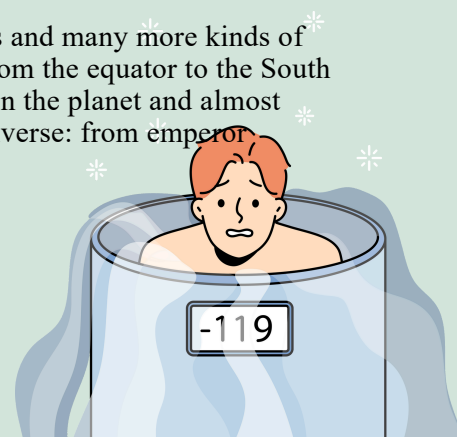
B. Antarctica is a huge desert, despite the fact that it holds 70 percent of the world's fresh water. Usually, no more than six centimeters of rain fall per year. Most of this falls in the eastern part of the continent. These figures are comparable to those of the Sahara Desert. Some parts of Antarctica have had no rain or snow for the last 2 million years.

C. You will be surprised to know that Antarctica was found just 200 years ago. The ancient Greeks did not mark Antarctica on their maps. It was only in 1820 that travellers found this icy, white continent. Actually, it happened by accident. The captain of the Imperial Russian Navy, Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, was the first person who saw Antarctica from his ship. It was on 27th January 1820.

D. Antarctica contains about 90 percent of the world's ice. It also has 8 times more ice than the Arctic. If all of the Antarctic ice melted, the sea level around the world would rise about 70 meters. But the average temperature in Antarctica is -37°C and the ice is in no danger of melting so far. In fact, in most parts of the continent it never gets above freezing.

E. Since Antarctica is not a country, it has neither a state emblem nor an official flag. However, in 2002, a special flag was approved by the Antarctic Treaty Organization. The design of the flag was suggested by Graham Bartram who used the flag of the United Nations as its basic pattern. The white image of Antarctica on the blue background looks simple and elegant.

F. Fifty million years ago Antarctica had a mild climate, evergreen forests and many more kinds of animals than it has today. Due to continental drift, Antarctica moved from the equator to the South Pole, where it is today. Nowadays, Antarctica is the coldest continent on the planet and almost completely covered with a layer of ice. However, its wildlife is quite diverse: from emperor penguins and humpback whales to small bugs in the coastal areas.



19. London

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Which place in London keeps a message for future generations?
2. Which place in London is good to watch sports and buy related goods?
3. How long does it take to raise the famous bridge for a ship?
4. How does a fairytale character help real people of London?
5. Which London bridge got a nickname after its reconstruction?
6. What is the most visited tourist attraction in London?
7. What were the false buildings in London made for?

- A.** Tower Bridge, which is over a hundred years old, has become a symbol of London. It is the only bridge on the Thames that can be raised and lowered to allow ships to pass. Nowadays it takes only 90 seconds for the heavy drawbridges to be pulled up with electric motors. It is considered that watching the Tower Bridge opening brings good luck.
- B.** Waterloo Bridge is a foot traffic bridge crossing the River Thames in London. It was opened in 1817, on the second anniversary of the famous battle. A century later, in the early 1940s, the famous Bridge needed to be rebuilt. It was during World War II, and most men were away fighting. So the bridge was rebuilt mainly by women. The new Waterloo Bridge was opened in 1945 and got a second name, the 'Ladies Bridge'.
- C.** Wembley Stadium is a football stadium located in Wembley Park, London. The stadium is home not only to football. It also hosts concerts, rugby games and American football games. There is Wembley Market not far from the stadium. Unlike many London Street markets, this one is situated in an open space. A visit here is a good option for football fans to find club T-shirts, boots or accessories.
- D.** 23 and 24 Leinster Gardens in Paddington (just opposite Hyde Park) are fake houses built to hide the Tube line running underneath. The windows are painted on, there are no letter boxes, and behind the facade there is a railway. The first London underground trains were steam trains so they needed ventilation. Underground lines were planned with tunnels and open-air sections so the trains could let out their steam and smoke, and that is what the house facades are hiding.
- E.** Great Ormond Street Hospital, which is situated at Russell Square, London, owns the copyright to *Peter Pan*, a story written by J.M. Barrie. The author had no children himself and gifted the rights to his famous literary pieces to the hospital in 1929. The hospital receives royalties from all films, cartoons and performances of Peter Pan. All the money is used to run the hospital.
- F.** Cleopatra's Needle was brought to London in 1819 from Alexandria, the royal city of Cleopatra. Underneath Cleopatra's Needle there's a time capsule from 1778. It keeps information about 18th century life. It contains copies of the Bible in several languages, a portrait of Queen Victoria, a set of British coins, cigars, a razor, a map of London, copies of 10 daily newspapers and pictures of the 12 best-looking English women of the day.

20. *The Beatles*

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. How did the band get their first manager?
2. How many songs did *The Beatles* record?
3. What does the band's name mean?
4. What music of the band was lost forever?
5. How did *The Beatles* start?
6. What sort of music did *The Beatles* play?
7. How did The Beatles conquer America?

A. *The Fab Four*, the famous Liverpool musical group commonly known as *The Beatles*, reached the peak of their popularity in the 1960s. But the real story began much earlier when Paul McCartney heard the skiffle country music played by John Lennon's group at St. Paul's church in Liverpool. McCartney was a brilliant guitarist, so they let him join the group at once.

B. The group changed its name several times, from *Johnny and the Moondogs* to *Long John and the Silver Beatles* and finally *The Beatles*. The short title is in itself a smart mixture of two words. The *beat* is a synonym for musical rhythm, while *the beetles* describe insects producing sounds using their shiny wings.

C. Lennon, Harrison, McCartney and Starr were the heart of *The Beatles* while the other members constantly changed. Many guitarists and drummers joined but finally left the group. The style changed too. When *The Beatles* left Britain to perform in Europe, they turned from folk to rock-n-roll to win over the public. They also played foreign music and composed their own songs.

D. Soon the group issued their first single, *My Bonnie*, which became popular in Liverpool. A customer once asked for it in a music shop, but there were no copies left. When Epstein, the shop owner, finally got the disc, he was surprised to hear a good quality song by the group that played in the club next to his shop. The same month he signed the first contract with *The Beatles* as their musical agent.

E. Although in 1963 the group issued more than three hundred thousand copies of their second album at home, they only broke the American market a year later. During their first tour to the USA the group was welcomed by thousands of fans at Kennedy airport in New York. For half a year *The Beatles* were touring the USA and were top of the charts.

F. During their USA tour *The Beatles* visited Elvis Presley. They talked a lot, played music and managed to record several priceless compositions. The reason why none of the songs have been issued is widely discussed today. No matter how hard musical agents tried to find the recordings, they failed. This is one of the secrets *The Beatles* left unrevealed.



21. Shrek

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Why is the musical about Shrek successful?
2. What makes Shrek different from traditional fairytale characters?
3. The voices of which celebrities can we hear in the cartoons about Shrek?
4. What famous films do the cartoons about Shrek remind us of?
5. Why do children like the cartoons about Shrek?
6. Why can Shrek's story be interesting to computer gamers?
7. What person does Shrek look like?

A. Somewhere in a far-away magical kingdom, there lived a beautiful princess, a prince and animals who could talk like humans. This is a typical plot for many fairy tales. In 1990, a short story for children about Shrek, a big green troll, appeared. Unlike previous heroes he looked ugly and scary but had a big, kind heart. In 2001, DreamWorks studio made the first animated Shrek cartoon.

B. All the characters of the cartoons about Shrek are easy to remember and have a good sense of humour. The cartoons are full of episodes about friendship, good and evil, love and family values. The cartoons present an amusing mixture of traditional fairy tales and real-life events familiar to everyone. All that made the story of the troll very popular, especially with children.

C. Maurice Tillet was a famous professional French boxer and wrestler of the 20th century. Unfortunately, at the age of twenty he got a rare disease which changed his body and appearance. It made him look like a huge troll. Few people know that Shrek's appearance copies that of Maurice Tillet. However, in contrast to the cartoon character, Maurice Tillet was highly intelligent – he spoke fourteen languages and was good at writing prose.

D. Several scenes in cartoons about Shrek are based on scenes from famous movies. For example, the 'Welcome to Duloc' song sounds like the popular Disney tune 'It's a Small World'. During the fight between Fiona and Robin Hood's men, the camera moves as in 'The Matrix'. There are hints of the 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'Mission Impossible'.

E. The famous story was also made into a Broadway show, 'Shrek the Musical'. Technically, the musical show is not the same as the film but it has its advantages. Children and adults enjoy seeing celebrities in the roles of Shrek and Princess Fiona. The success of the musical is also based on a nice combination of new and old popular songs.

F. The stories about the green troll and his friends are for all ages. Teenagers and grown-ups may enjoy modern computer games about Shrek. Computer stories have attractive design and dynamic plots, so gamers and fans will not be bored. Though the images of Shrek and Fiona are a bit different from the film, they are easily recognizable.



22. Christmas

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What is the most unusual way to get to church on Christmas night?
 2. Who can bring Christmas presents instead of Santa?
 3. Why is the first guest on Christmas Day so important?
 4. What creature helped to decorate a Christmas tree?
 5. What transport does Santa use in warm countries?
 6. How do people celebrate Christmas in hot climate?
 7. Why is Christmas celebrated on another date in this country?
- A** For people who live in the northern hemisphere, the thought of celebrating Christmas with great heat and bright sun seems strange and exotic. But in Australia, where the holiday falls in summer, it's completely normal. Though most of the traditions of celebrating Christmas in Australia are the same as in European countries, there is still a little variation. On Christmas Day, most Australians have the holiday midday dinner outside. The dinner is often followed by some backyard cricket or a swim in the pool.
- B** In Italy, children do not ask Santa Claus for presents. In their country an ugly, yet kind old witch named Befana performs Santa's duties. The witch flies around the world on her broomstick and enters the houses down the chimney. She delivers toys, clothing and candy to well-behaved children and puts coal — or dark candy — in bad kids' socks.
- C** A Ukrainian legend tells us about children from a poor family. Unfortunately, their parents could not afford any Christmas decorations and the kids were upset. However, on Christmas morning when the children woke up, they saw that spiders had spun webs of shiny silk around the tree's branches. The sun turned each thread into silver and gold. Even nowadays the Ukrainians decorate their trees with spider webs to welcome good luck.
- D** Different celebrations take place over Christmas in Scotland. One of the most important traditions is called First-Footing. Once midnight strikes, all eyes await the arrival of the year's first visitor. The person who crosses the home's threshold first is said to bring good fortune for the year ahead. Top of the lucky list: a male, dark-haired visitor. Women or blonde men are believed to be unlucky.
- E** According to tradition, on Christmas Eve some Russian people don't eat anything until the first star has appeared in the sky. In Russia, Christmas is celebrated on the 7th of January, not on the 25th of December like in most other countries. The different date of the holiday is because the Orthodox Church uses the old 'Julian' calendar for religious celebration days.
- F** Like in most countries the locals of Venezuela, especially in their capital city, Caracas, go to church on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus. However, in Caracas, people of all ages don't just walk to church, they usually roller skate to church. The streets of Caracas are closed to vehicles up to 8am on Christmas Day to make way for their citizens who use roller skates to travel to and from church.



23. Singapore

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What should you take out of your luggage when you travel to Singapore?
2. Which city has much in common with Singapore?
3. What is the coldest month on the island?
4. How do the people of the island feel about their weather?
5. What animal gave its name to the city?
6. How many official languages has the country got?
7. How does the government limit the number of car owners?

A. There are only three city-states in the world. One of them is Singapore, a small country in South East Asia. It can be called a modern equivalent to the Italian medieval Venice. Both cities are built on islands and became wealthy by trade. Like medieval Venice, Singapore is an independent city-state and is governed by a small group of powerful politicians and businessmen.

B. Modern Singapore is full of numerous statues of the king of animals. According to legend, the founder of the city saw a lion on the island and decided that it was a sign of good luck. The Malay word for the country, *Singapura*, means Lion City. However, zoologists doubt that he could see a lion because lions have never lived on the island. More likely, he saw a tiger or another kind of big cat native to the area.

C. From an extremely humid but sunny morning to a gloomy and rainy afternoon, and then to a cloudy, starless night sky; Singapore is predictable in its climate. A week of terrible heat follows a week of non-stop rainfall. In general, tourists think February is the best month to visit the country. The citizens of Singapore disagree. They think that any time is good – you just have to accept the hot and rainy weather.

D. Singapore has three main communities. The largest group is the Chinese, then come the Malays and the smallest group is the Indians. English is the language of government, television and universities. Along with English, the official languages of the country are Mandarin, Malay and Tamil. The national anthem *Majulah Singapura* is actually sung in Malay.

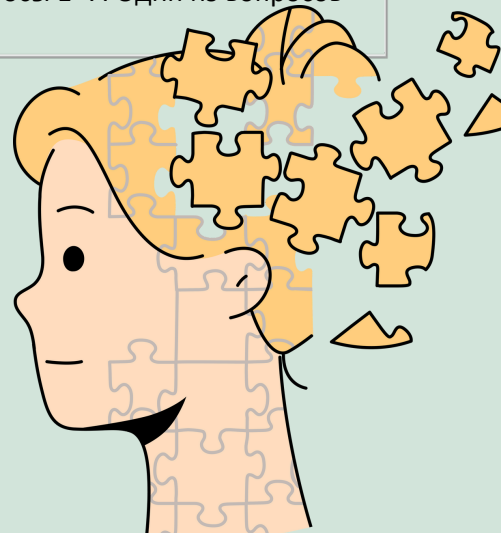
E. The island is densely populated and the government has to think about the environment. Unlike in most countries, citizens of Singapore cannot just buy a car. To own a car, a citizen must enter his or her name in a lottery that is drawn twice a month. If the citizen wins the lottery, he or she is granted a Certificate which allows them to own a car for 10 years. Then it is necessary to pay a registration fee, which is 140% of the value of the car.

F. When you are in Singapore, you can't buy chewing gum anywhere. It is illegal to import or sell gum in the country. The sale of gum was prohibited in 1992 after gum was used to shut down the SMRT, the country's public transportation system. The gum was stuck on the sensor doors and the system was paralyzed. The punishment for bringing gum into the country is a year in prison and a big fine.

24. LEGO

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов А–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Which object made the company famous?
2. Why are some sets of LEGO twice as big?
3. Where does the name LEGO come from?
4. Why is LEGO considered to be an educational toy?
5. Who are the owners of LEGO?
6. Why do adults enjoy LEGO toys?
7. What can make some LEGO-toy customers unhappy?



A. The company that makes the famous little plastic bricks known as LEGO started as a small shop in the town of Billund in Denmark. At first the shop sold wooden toys and other things. Soon the business became known as LEGO. It came from the Danish words 'LEg GOdt', meaning 'play well'. Later, it was realized that the original meaning in Latin was 'I put together'.

B. The LEGO Group was founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Christiansen. The company has come a long way from a small carpenter's workshop to a modern, global corporation, the world's third-largest producer of toys. Lego has passed from father to son and is now owned by a grandchild of the founder. As a child, he often came up with the ideas for new models and Lego sets.

C. The brick, the main component of all Lego sets, appeared in its present form in 1958 and since then has remained compatible with previous editions. This little piece of plastic offers unlimited building possibilities. It lets children experiment and try out their creative ideas. The LEGO company owes its success to the traditional Lego brick. The company has been awarded 'Toy of the Century' twice.

D. Last year Charlotte Benjamin wrote a letter to the Lego Company in which she complained that, during a visit to the toy store, she noticed that 'there are lots of Lego boy people and barely any Lego girls.' She felt sad that, in Lego, girl figures mostly sat at home, went shopping and had no job. At the same time boy figures went on adventures, worked, saved people and 'even swam with sharks'.

E. The LEGO Group produces thousands of sets with a variety of themes. In 1969 the company introduced **Lego Duplo**, designed for children who are 1 to 5 years old. Duplo bricks are twice the length, height and width of traditional Lego bricks. It makes them easier to handle and less likely to be swallowed by younger children. Duplo sets now include farm, zoo, town, castle and pirate sets.

F. Lego Games are a great way of having fun together with family and friends. These sets excite imagination and improve creativity because the child needs to put a game together before he or she can play it. They also develop hand and eye coordination, teach children to follow directions with logic and find scientific and technological solutions. In a fun way, these games promote basic ideas of Maths, Geometry and Engineering.

25. *Valentine's Day*

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. Why do a lot of letters come to the Italian city on Valentine's Day?
2. Why is it important to see the right bird on Valentine's Day?
3. What message can be sent with the flowers?
4. Why do some people give St Valentine's presents to their pets?
5. What is a different way to celebrate February 14?
6. How did the holiday get its name?
7. Why did a traditional St Valentine's box of sweets have the form of a heart?

A. Chocolate is the most common present on St. Valentine's Day. The tradition goes back to the 1800s when doctors made patients eat chocolate to make them feel happier. This might also be the reason why in the 1860s, Richard Cadbury produced his heart-shaped box of chocolates exclusively for Valentine's Day.

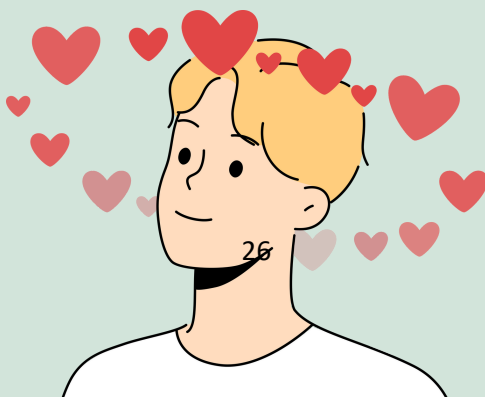
B. St Valentine's Day is a perfect occasion to express your deepest feelings to the person you love. On Valentine's Day lovers, friends and family members exchange Valentine's Day gifts as symbols of love. However, statistics show that nearly 9 million people prefer celebrating Valentine's Day with their pets and give them presents. The reason is that most pet owners consider animals to be more grateful and loyal than humans.

C. Each rose sent on Valentine's Day has some meaning. For example, a red rose means love and respect and pink say, 'I am having sweet thoughts about you'. Also, it is believed that one rose stands for love at first sight, eleven flowers mean that the receiver is truly and deeply loved and a hundred and eight roses are recommended for marriage proposals.

D. Some superstitions about seeing birds on Valentine's Day are really funny. It was once believed that if a woman saw a flying robin, she would get married to a sailor. However, if she saw a sparrow, her future husband would be poor. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire. There is no answer to who she would marry if she saw a pigeon, as history does not say anything about pigeons.

E. Romeo and Juliet, the two characters from the play by William Shakespeare, are remembered all over the world as an emblem of romance. The young lovers lived in Verona, Italy. Every Valentine's Day, this city still receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet. The fictional character is still alive for many people who believe in romantic and immortal love.

F. Started by a group of feminists, Quirkyalone Day is celebrated on February 14 as an alternative to Valentine's Day. The new holiday started in 2003 as a celebration of romance, freedom and individuality. It's a day to celebrate the things you enjoy doing alone. Ways to celebrate include: buying yourself a new dress, taking a long walk without your mobile phone, exploring a new part of town, trying a new recipe etc.



26. *The Falkland Islands*

Вы проводите информационный поиск в ходе выполнения проектной работы. Определите, в каком из текстов A–F содержатся ответы на интересующие Вас вопросы 1–7. Один из вопросов останется без ответа. Занесите Ваши ответы в таблицу.

1. What is the capital of the Falkland Islands?
2. Where can you learn about the islands' history?
3. What is the emblem of the Falkland Islands?
4. What do the local people do for a living?
5. What energy resources are used on the islands?
6. What is the educational policy of the Falkland Islands?
7. What was the result of the conflict between Argentina and the UK?

A. About 250 miles off the coast of South America lie the Falkland Islands, a British overseas territory. About 3,000 people live on the islands. Like most isolated communities around the world, they are always pleased to welcome tourists. The people of the Falkland Islands mostly work in sheep farming and fishing.

B. Everything outside Stanley, known locally as **Camp**, is home to numerous farms and settlements spread across the islands. In fact, over three quarters of the population live in Stanley. Although one of the smallest capitals in the world, Stanley provides a variety of supermarkets, excellent restaurants and hotels, a swimming pool, gym and golf course.

C. Open whenever tour ships are in the port, the Falkland Islands Museum contains artifacts from everyday life, natural history samples and a fine collection relating to the islands' shipwrecks. Outdoor exhibition sites include the Reclus Hut, originally made in Stanley, then shipped to Antarctica and set up there in 1956. Forty years later the famous house was brought back.

D. There are only about 380 children of school age living on the islands. For them, there is a primary and a secondary school in Stanley and three small settlement schools on large farms. Other rural pupils are taught by 'travelling' teachers. Schooling is free and compulsory for children between five and sixteen years of age. The government pays for older students to attend colleges, usually in the UK.

E. The Falkland Islands government is taking advantage of cheap wind power. Since 1996, the government has been investing in the development of alternative sources of energy and can already enjoy the results. The Islands have experimented with other forms of energy, including hydro-electric and solar power. However, these forms cannot match the effectiveness of wind power yet.

F. The Falklands War was fought in 1982 between Argentina and the United Kingdom. It started with the Argentine invasion and occupation of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The war lasted 74 days and ended with an Argentine defeat. However, Argentina still has not fully given up its claim to the territory of the islands.

