Top Skills

Advanced Comprehension

For Selective Schools and Scholarship Preparation

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A
FIVE SENSES
PUBLICATION

SAMPLE

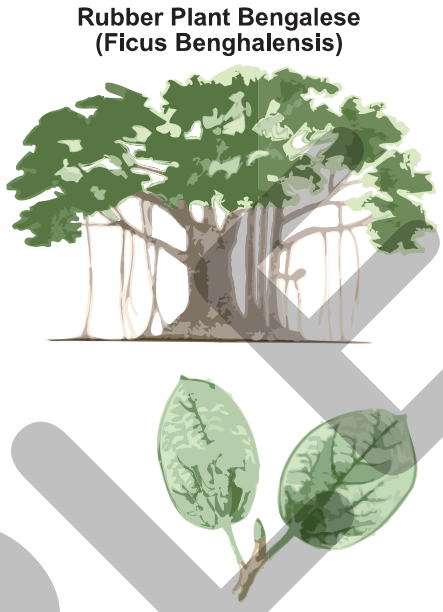
Contents

Unit	Title	Page
1	Rubber	6
2	Email from Emily	8
3	Coelacanths	10
4	The Hanging Gardens	12
5	The Legend of Icarus	14
6	Going, going, gone!	16
7	Dog Tales	18
8	Life in an Acorn	20
9	A Close Shave	22
10	Pearling	24
11	The Eye of the Storm	26
12	Tigers Threatened	28
13	Monster Drool	30
14	Rockets	32
15	Slings	34
16	Lichen	36
17	How to Keep Mice as Pets	38
18	The Giant Octopus	40
19	Life as a Cabin Boy	42
20	The Snowy River Scheme	44
21	King Arthur – Real or Not?	46
22	Gold	48
23	The Stolen Cat	50
24	The Cockroach	52
25	Come to Dinner	54
26	The Sun	56
27	Letters to the Editor	58
28	William Tell	60
29	What is Diwali?	62
30	Louis XVI	64
31	Sauropods	66
32	The Tale of Paddy	68
33	The Book of Kells	70
34	Cane Toads	72
35	Muhammad Ali	74
36	Early Submarines	76
37	Strange Remedies	78
38	How Are Underwater Tunnels Made?	80
39	Dragons	82
40	The Humble Hermit	84
Answers		86

SAMPLE

✪ UNIT 1 Rubber

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.



Rubber is a natural substance – the sap of certain trees. The sap is collected by making an incision, at an angle, in the tree trunk. A cup is attached below the incision and the sap drains gradually into it. Each night or in the early morning, the worker or rubber tapper removes a thin layer of bark in a downward slant. The timing is important, to avoid the higher temperatures during the day. A tree can yield latex (rubber in its pure form) for up to five years. At that time, incisions are made on the opposite side to allow the tree trunk to heal.

In 1839, Charles Goodyear found a way to treat natural rubber with heat, sulphur and white lead. The process was called vulcanisation and meant that rubber could be utilised in many different ways; the most important being for car and bicycle tyres.

Malaysia is a big producer of rubber. It provides 20% of the world's needs and has 1.3 million hectares of land given over to rubber plantations run by thousands of small holders.

1. The purpose of the brackets in the first paragraph is
- **a.** to introduce another idea
- **b.** to provide a simpler word to use
- **c.** to give a definition of a word
- **d.** to show that latex has impurities

2. A synonym for 'incision' -
- **a.** amputation
- **b.** notch
- **c.** splint
- **d.** diagonal

3. An antonym for 'yield' –
- **a.** surrender
- **b.** withhold
- **c.** produce
- **d.** endure

4. This text could form part of one of these books.
- **a.** "Rubber Band Creations."
- **b.** "Nature's Gifts."
- **c.** "Tourist Guide to Malaysia."
- **d.** "Car Manufacturing."

5. The text suggests that
- **a.** The sap flows quickly into the cup.
- **b.** The rubber flows consistently at all times in the day.
- **c.** After five years, the tree cannot be used.
- **d.** The sap flows better in cooler temperatures.

6. Vulcanisation involves using
- **a.** water, heat and sulphur
- **b.** white lead, sulphur and heat
- **c.** heat, saffron and lead
- **d.** heat, white sulphur and lead

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7. Latex is

a. vulcanised rubber
b. processed rubber
c. crude rubber
d. utilised rubber

8. The importance of vulcanisation was

a. to increase the number of plantations producing rubber
b. to enable artificial rubber to be produced
c. to allow the invention of the car
d. to expand the uses of rubber

9. Which statement about the Malaysian rubber industry is true?

a. It is decreasing in importance.
b. It has increased 20 % in recent years.
c. It was founded by Charles Goodyear.
d. It is based on small plantations.

10. Which fact cannot be found in the text?

a. A rubber tree produces 5 grams of rubber each day.
b. Malaysia has 1.3 million hectares of rubber plantations.
c. The slant is cut obliquely.
d. Vulcanisation was invented more than 170 years ago.

11. Number these steps 1 to 6.

[ ] The rubber is vulcanised.
[ ] Car tyres are made.
[ ] The latex goes to a factory.
[ ] The sap seeps into the cup.
[ ] A slit is cut in the trunk.
[ ] The worker collects the sap.

12. The purpose of the illustration is

a. to explain a particular part of the text
b. to show that rubber trees are all similar
c. to convey information by visual means
d. to show the size of rubber trees

13. The information in the brackets above the illustration is included

a. to demonstrate the correct pronunciation of the name of the rubber tree
b. to provide the scientific name of the tree
c. to reveal the more common name of the tree
d. to show that rubber trees originally had a different name

14. Which of these statements can be inferred from the text?

a. The rubber industry significantly damages the environment.
b. To benefit the environment, synthetic rubber should be developed.
c. The rubber trees rejuvenate and thus, tapping is not a threat to the environment.
d. The environment is enhanced by the planting of rubber trees.

15. A phrase which has a similar meaning to 'given over' is

a. devoted to
b. exploited by
c. donated by
d. sold cheaply

16. 'The timing is important' is an example of

a. an opinion
b. a phrase
c. technical language
d. a statement without evidence

17. Which of these words is not a synonym for 'utilised'?

a. employed
b. marketed
c. used
d. applied

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✪ UNIT 2 Email from Emily

Read the email and answer the questions that follow

Hi Pop,



We are having the best time in Vietnam! After we arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday, we had a ride in a cyclo. This is a kind of little taxi with a seat in front and a bicycle at the back. The traffic is so busy and there are millions of motor-scooters. We saw two men carrying a big pane of glass on a motor-scooter!

We took an overnight train on Tuesday from Hue (the old capital) to Hanoi. The beds were very hard and the top bunk was so high that Mum was afraid she'd fall out in the night. (She didn't.) We saw some Water Puppets on Wednesday night. They were cool. They just seemed to be swimming about on a pond and we couldn't work out how the people working them did it. Alex said later that they were boring, but she thinks everything is boring right now. Besides, she was laughing at the funny bits.

Yesterday, we drove to Halong Bay. The rice harvest is happening now and we saw lots of rice spread out on the roadside to dry. Halong Bay was amazing. There were literally dozens of limestone islands rising straight up out of the water. We boarded a junk and travelled to a big island where there were caves with stalactites and stalagmites. It was quite hot inside the caves and we were glad to go for a swim afterwards. We spent the night on the junk.

Today, we came back to Hanoi and took a tour in a little electric bus. I'm really tired now, so I'll email you again when we get to Cambodia on Sunday.

Love, Emily

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1. Number these, 1 to 8, in the order in which Emily saw them.

[ ] The islands.
[ ] The rice harvest.
[ ] The train.
[ ] The Water Puppets.
[ ] The cyclo.
[ ] The electric bus.
[ ] The stalactites.
[ ] The pane of glass.

2. 'There were millions of motor-scooters'. This is an example of

a. a simile
b. a metaphor
c. hyperbole
d. personification

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3. **They travelled to the caves by**
   - **a.** bus
   - **b.** car
   - **c.** boat
   - **d.** train

4. **Where did they see puppets?**
   - **a.** Hue
   - **b.** Halong Bay
   - **c.** Ho Chi Minh City
   - **d.** Hanoi

5. **What puzzled Emily?**
   - **a.** the train trip
   - **b.** the puppets
   - **c.** the pane of glass
   - **d.** the caves

6. **The caves**
   - **a.** were made of limestone
   - **b.** were extensive
   - **c.** were gloomy
   - **d.** were on the mainland

7. **Which statement is true?**
   - **a.** It was cool in the Water Puppet theatre.
   - **b.** Alex slept on the top bunk.
   - **c.** Alex was amused by the Water Puppets.
   - **d.** They had a tour by electric car in Ho Chi Minh City.

8. **Which of these facts cannot be found in the text?**
   - **a.** The train from Hue to Hanoi travels at night.
   - **b.** The family are visiting two countries.
   - **c.** The train journey took twelve hours.
   - **d.** Hue was the old capital of Vietnam.

9. **They went on the junk on**
   - **a.** Wednesday
   - **b.** Thursday
   - **c.** Friday
   - **d.** Saturday

10. **When do they leave Vietnam?**
    - **a.** the next day
    - **b.** in two days
    - **c.** in three days
    - **d.** the next week

11. **A word that means the same as 'literally' is**
    - **a.** seemingly
    - **b.** possibly
    - **c.** factually
    - **d.** figuratively

12. **Emily suggests that Alex**
    - **a.** wanted to convey that the water puppets were too childish for her
    - **b.** actually felt that the water puppets were silly
    - **c.** didn't want anyone in the family to enjoy the water puppets
    - **d.** regularly tries to spoil Emily's fun

13. **What did Emily find 'amazing'?**
    - **a.** the caves with stalagmites and stalactites
    - **b.** the way the water puppets seemed to swim
    - **c.** the traffic in Ho Chi Minh City
    - **d.** the panorama of Halong Bay

14. **Emily's attitude towards the trip is**
    - **a.** restrained
    - **b.** amused
    - **c.** apathetic
    - **d.** animated

15. **Which of these statements is false?**
    - **a.** The train went from Hue to Hanoi.
    - **b.** Mum was nervous on the overnight train.
    - **c.** They took a cyclo in Hanoi.
    - **d.** The rice is spread right beside the traffic.

16. **This text could be described as**
    - **a.** a fantasy
    - **b.** an almanac
    - **c.** a saga
    - **d.** a chronicle

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✪ UNIT 3 Coelacanths

Read the extract and answer the questions that follow.

The fossil vestiges of this bulky blue fish have been found in rocks dating back four hundred million years, to a period known as the Middle Devonian age. Until the middle of the 20th century, the fish was thought to have been extinct, as no specimen less than 60 million years old had been found. Then, in the 1950's, the fish was rediscovered.

The coelacanth, and its relative, the lung-fish, are the last remaining members of a group of fish that had special fins which had their own skeletons and muscles. Scientists believe that coelacanths are related to the amphibian which probably became the ancestor of all land creatures. The coelacanth has a fat-filled buoyancy organ which is like a lung, and unlike most fish, it gives birth to live young, which are called pups. The coelacanth may have been able to survive for 30 million generations by slowing down their metabolism between meals. This would save energy and stop the fish feeling hungry. It would be able to exist on a very small amount of food.

The coelacanth's habitat is the deep ocean, usually between 170 and 200 metres. The fish was able to catch prey in the deep ocean because of special abilities. It has a special flexible joint in its head, allowing its jaw to open widely. As well, a jelly-filled organ in its nose may be a device that helps in locating the electrical charges given out by prey. Divers have observed these fish doing head stands for as long as two minutes at a time, and it is thought that they might be trying to sense these charges. Coelacanths have been seen to swim backwards as well as upside down, and so these strange acrobatics may have a purpose.

Coelacanths are 'mucilaginous' which means that their scales release mucus and their bodies give out oil. The oil makes the fish inedible unless it is dried and salted. Because of this, fishermen usually throw them back!

1. A word with the same meaning as 'vestiges' is
- **a.** relatives
- **b.** remains
- **c.** bones
- **d.** ancestors

2. An antonym for 'ancestor' is
- **a.** relative
- **b.** follower
- **c.** forefather
- **d.** descendant

3. A coelacanth would feel
- **a.** dry
- **b.** slippery
- **c.** spiky
- **d.** warm

4. A slow metabolism would help
- **a.** to detect electrical impulses
- **b.** to bear live young
- **c.** to perform acrobatics easily
- **d.** to survive on little food

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ANSWERS

Unit 1: Rubber

1. c 2. b 3. b 4. b 5. d
6. b 7. c 8. d 9. d 10. a
11. 5, 6, 4, 2, 1 ,3 12. c 13. b
14. c 15. a 16. c 17. b

Unit 2: Email from Emily

1. 6, 5, 3, 1, 8, 7, 2
2. c 3. c 4. d 5. b 6. a
7. d 8. c 9. b 10. b 11. c
12. a 13. d 14. d 15. c 16. d

Unit 3: Coelacanths

1. b 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b
6. c 7. c 8. b 9. b 10. c
11. c 12. d 13. b 14. d 15. b,f
16. a

Unit 4: The Hanging Gardens

1. d 2. c 3. d 4. c 5. d
6. d 7. c 8. b 9. c 10. c
11. b 12. d 13. d 14. b

Unit 5: The Legend of Icarus

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. d 5. a
6. c 7. d 8. d 9. a 10.b
11. d 12. d 13. a 14. d 15. b
16. c

Unit 6: Going, going, gone.

1. b 2. d 3. b 4. c 5. b
6. c 7. d 8. d 9. d 10. b
11. d 12. c. 13. a 14. b

Unit 7: Dog Tales

1.b 2. d 3. c 4. d 5. c
6. c 7. d 8. b 9. c 10. a
11. b 12. d 13. c 14. b

Unit 8: Life in an Acorn

1.b 2. c 3. d 4. d 5. b
6. c 7. b 8. d 9. c 10. b
11. c 12. a 13. b

Unit 9: A Close Shave

1. c 2. c 3. b 4. d 5. b
6. c 7. a 8. d 9. c 10. d
11. c 12. b 13. b 14. c

Unit 10: Pearling

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. d
6. c 7. a 8. b 9. b 10. d
11. b 12. c 13. a

Unit 11: The Eye of the Hurricane

1. b 2. c 3. b 4. b 5. c
6. d 7. c 8. b 9. d 10.c
11. a 12. d 13. b 14. d

Unit 12: Tigers Threatened

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b
6. b 7. b 8. a 9. b 10. c
11. b 12. c 13. d

Unit 13: Monster Drool

1. c 2. d 3. c 4. b 5. d
6. b 7. c 8. d 9. b 10. d
11. d 12. c

Unit 14: Rockets

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. c 5. c
6. b 7. d 8. c 9. a,c,f,g,h
10. d 11. b 12. d 13. c 14. a
15. c 16. b 17. c 18. c 19. d

Unit 15: Slings

1. c 2. b 3. d 4. a 5. c
6. d 7. b 8. a 9.a,c,h,i
10. d 11.b 12. d 13. b 14. b
15. a 16. c 17. b 18. b 19. d

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