



Reading Comprehension Pack

FREE RESOURCE

Five passages with comprehension questions – perfect for exam preparation.

Passage 1: The History of Coffee

Coffee is one of the most popular beverages in the world. Its history dates back to the 9th century in Ethiopia, where a goat herder named Kaldi noticed his goats became energetic after eating berries from a certain tree. The berries were coffee beans. From Ethiopia, coffee spread to the Arabian Peninsula, where it became an important part of Middle Eastern culture. By the 17th century, coffee had reached Europe and quickly became popular. Today, coffee is grown in over 70 countries and is consumed by millions of people daily.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where did coffee originate?
2. Who discovered coffee beans?
3. When did coffee reach Europe?
4. How many countries grow coffee today?

Answers: 1. Ethiopia, 2. A goat herder named Kaldi, 3. The 17th century, 4. Over 70 countries

Passage 2: The Benefits of Learning a New Language

Learning a new language has many benefits. Studies show that bilingual people have better memory, problem-solving skills, and even improved decision-making abilities. Learning a language also opens doors to new cultures, travel opportunities, and career prospects. It can also delay the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The best way to learn a language is to practice regularly, immerse yourself in the culture, and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What are three cognitive benefits of learning a language?
2. What health benefit is mentioned?
3. What is the best way to learn a language?

Answers: 1. Better memory, problem-solving skills, improved decision-making, 2. Delays dementia/Alzheimer's, 3. Practice regularly, immerse yourself, don't fear mistakes

Passage 3: The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China is one of the most impressive structures ever built. Construction began in the 7th century BC and continued for over 2,000 years. The wall stretches over 13,000 miles, making it the longest wall in the world. It was built to protect China from invasions. The wall is made of stone, brick, earth, and wood. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts millions of tourists each year.

Comprehension Questions:

1. When did construction of the Great Wall begin?
2. How long is the Great Wall?
3. What was the purpose of the Great Wall?

Answers: 1. The 7th century BC, 2. Over 13,000 miles, 3. To protect China from invasions

Passage 4: Climate Change

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing humanity. The Earth's average temperature has increased by about 1°C since the Industrial Revolution. This warming is caused by greenhouse gas emissions from human activities such as burning fossil fuels. The effects of climate change include rising sea levels, more frequent extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity. Many countries are working to reduce their carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy sources.

Comprehension Questions:

1. How much has the Earth's temperature increased since the Industrial Revolution?
2. What causes climate change?
3. What are three effects of climate change?

Answers: 1. About 1°C, 2. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, 3. Rising sea levels, extreme weather, loss of biodiversity

Passage 5: The Rise of Remote Work

Remote work has become increasingly popular in recent years. Advances in technology have made it possible for people to work from anywhere in the world. Remote work offers many benefits, including flexibility, reduced commuting time, and a better work-life balance. However, it also has challenges, such as feelings of isolation and difficulty separating work from personal life. Many companies are adopting hybrid models, where employees split their time between the office and home.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What has made remote work possible?
2. What are two benefits of remote work?
3. What are two challenges of remote work?
4. What is a hybrid work model?

Answers: 1. Advances in technology, 2. Flexibility, reduced commuting time, 3. Isolation, difficulty separating work from personal life, 4. Employees split time between office and home

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