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English speaking countries. General information

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Пособие предназначено для студентов всех специальностей дневного и заочного факультетов, аспирантов, изучающих английский язык и имеющих основные знания об англоязычных странах, а также для всех лиц, желающих овладеть основами английского языка.

Основная цель пособия – содействие формированию социокультурной коммуникативной компетенции учащихся на основе базового владения английским языком; дальнейшее совершенствование языковых навыков и умений, различных видов речевой деятельности и форм речи (устной, письменной, диалогической и монологической); развитие умений собирать, систематизировать страноведческую информацию, анализировать и сравнивать сведения и факты иноязычной культуры и делать сообщения.

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Предисловие

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Использование страноведческой информации в учебном процессе обеспечивает повышение познавательной активности учащихся, способствует воспитанию у учащихся понимания и уважения к другой культуре, расширяет их коммуникативные возможности, благоприятствует созданию положительной мотивации к предмету, даёт стимул к самостоятельной работе над языком.

Страноведческое содержание этого пособия направлено на обеспечение возможности изучать национальную культуру английского, американского, канадского, австралийского и новозеландского народов; на обогащение активного словаря учащихся необходимым запасом специальных терминов и понятий, связанных с данным страноведческим материалом; формирование речевых навыков, обеспечивающих познавательно-коммуникативные потребности учащихся;

В основу этого пособия положен коммуникативный подход к овладению всеми аспектами иноязычной культуры: познавательным, развивающим все виды речевой деятельности. Ведущим остаётся чтение и говорение.

Весь текстовый материал пособия аутентичен, основан на страноведческих материалах учебников английского языка и других оригинальных источников. Материал является необходимым для знакомства с действительностью англоязычных стран, для формирования мировоззрения, совершенствования владения английским языком и для последующего оперирования полученными знаниями при включении в диалог культур, то есть для реализации современного метода творчески и коммуникативно-ориентированного обучения иностранному языку.

При отборе текстов учитывалась их доступность, информативность, познавательная ценность и актуальность тематики.

Пособие состоит из 10 разделов (Units) по определенной теме. Тексты в каждой части сопровождаются лексическими, переводческими и коммуникативными упражнениями и заданиями, обеспечивающими активную деятельность в области речевой практики. Это позволяет обучать навыкам разноцелевого чтения в сочетании с другими видами речевой деятельности; говорением, аудированием, письмом.

Памятка студенту

Посмотреть перевод слова, например - <http://www.multitran.ru/> ;

<http://online.multilex.ru/english-russian-english/> ;
<http://www.lingvo.ru/lingvo/>

Послушать произношение слова - <http://www.howjsay.com/>
(скопируйте слово у себя и вставьте в рамку на стр. сайта, нажмите Submit, дождитесь ответа, слово можно прослушивать многократно, подводя к нему стрелку курсора)

Правила чтения английских слов - <http://www.alleng.ru/mybook/2read/0reading.htm>

Сводные таблицы спряжения глаголов - <http://www.alleng.ru/texts/mybook/verb.htm>

Правила произношения - <http://www.alleng.ru/mybook/1phonet/0phonetics.htm> (обязательно произносите тексты вслух, иначе Вы уподобитесь спортсмену, который готовится к соревнованиям, лишь тщательно изучает теорию и мысленно выполняет все движения).

UNIT 1

ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

GENERAL INFORMATION

TEXT 1 THE UNITED KINGDOM

1. Read the text and point out the most important facts about the geographical position

The United Kingdom is very small **comparing** with the biggest countries of the world such as Russia, China or the USA. It **occupies** only 0.2 per cent of the world's **surface** and its **total area** is about 244,000 square kilometers. However, there are only 15 countries with more people (there are about 57 million people in the UK now) and London is the world's seventh biggest city.

Many **foreigners** say "English" and "England" when they mean "British" and "Britain". This is very **annoying** for the 5 million Scotsmen, 2.8 million Welsh and 1.5 million Irishmen who are not certainly English but British.



The country whose official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and is **situated** on the British Isles. This group of is-

lands lies between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and **consists of** two large **islands**, Great Britain and Ireland, and 550 smaller islands around them. It is separated from the continent of Europe by the English Channel, **the narrowest part** which is called the Strait of Dover or Pas de Calais. In the west the UK is separated from Ireland by the Irish Sea and the North Channel. The seas around Britain are often **rough** and difficult to navigating during **storms** but they are **full of fish** and extremely important for trade. Britain's main ports are London, Hull, Liverpool, Glasgow and some others.

You will not find mountains or large **plains** in Britain. Everything occupies very little place. The highest mountain, Ben Nevis, is in Scotland. In the centre of England is **a range of hills** called the Pennine Chain which is also known as the "backbone of England". The Cambrian Mountains in Wales and the Cumbrian mountains in the Lake District in the north of England are not high but amazingly beautiful. The Cheviot Hills mark the **boundary** between England and Scotland, and physically Scotland is divided into three regions: the Highlands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.

There are very many rivers in Great Britain but they are not very long. The Thames is the deepest of the British rivers and the most famous because it gave rise to the capital of the country — London. Some of the British greatest ports are situated in the estuaries of the Thames, Mersey, Trent, Tyne, Clyde and Bristol Avon. The longest river is the Severn in England.

Many people say that Great Britain looks like a large **well-kept** park. There are beautiful gardens, fields, **meadows**, lakes and woods there. The best-known is Sherwood Forest where Robin Hood once lived, the legendary outlaw who **robbed the rich** and gave their money to **the poor**. The most-famous lake is Loch Ness in Scotland which is said to have a water monster.

Great Britain is not very rich in **mineral resources** though there is **oil**, in the North Sea, **coal** in Wales and in the north of England, **tin** and other **non-ferrous metals** in the south.

Great Britain is a highly industrialized country. New industries have been developed in the last three **decades**. The main industrial centres are London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol.

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary monarchy.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation.

3. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) Where is the United Kingdom situated
- 2) What islands do the British Isles consist of?
- 3) What ocean and seas are the British Isles washed by?
- 4) How many parts does the Island of Great Britain consist of and what are they called?
- 5) What country does Northern Ireland border on?
- 6) Are there any high mountains in Great Britain?
- 7) What sea do most of the rivers flow into?
- 8) What mineral resources is Great Britain rich in?
- 9) What is the climate like in Great Britain?
- 10) What is the population of Great Britain?
- 11) What city is the capital of the U. K.?
- 12) What kind of state is Great Britain?

4. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| to consist of | граничить с... |
| isle | разделять |
| estuary | устье реки |
| to stretch | простирается |
| to separate | состоять из... |
| to border on | течение |
| severely | омываться |
| mountainous peninsula | гористый полуостров |
| to be washed by | обнаруживать |
| current | остров |
| decade | монархия |
| monarchy | десятилетие |
| iron ore | залежи |
| deposits | железная руда |
| to discover | чрезвычайно |

5. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences

- 1) Полное название страны — Соединенное Королевство Великобритании и Северной Ирландии.

2) Соединенное Королевство находится на Британских островах. Британские острова состоят из двух больших (Великобритания, Ирландия) и большого количества маленьких островов.

3) Остров Великобритании состоит из трех основных частей: Англия (южная и средняя часть острова), Уэльс (гористый полуостров на западе) и Шотландия (северная часть острова).

4) В Великобритании нет высоких гор.

5) В Британии очень мало равнинной местности, кроме как в области, известной как Восточная Англия.

6) Темза — самая глубокая река Британии.

7) Великобритания не очень богата полезными ископаемыми. Она имеет небольшие залежи угля и железной руды и богатые залежи нефти, газа, которые были открыты в Северном море.

8) Великобритания — страна с высокоразвитой промышленностью.

6. Sum up the information and give a short summary of the text using the following phrases:

The text deals with ...; the text is about...; the first part is concerned with...; the next part contains examples of...; the passage is a description of...; the title of the text gives an idea of...; first I would like to dwell on...; it is worth noting that...; according to...; one important point should be mentioned...; in conclusion I would like to state briefly the main problem... .

TEXT 2

ENGLAND

1. Read the text and point out the unknown facts about England.

England is the largest and the richest country of Great Britain. England **occupies** the largest part of the island Great Britain. England has an **area** of more than 50 thousand square miles and a **population** of more than 46 million people.

England **is bounded** on the north by Scotland, on the east by the North Sea, on the south by the Strait of Dover and the English Channel, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean, Wales and the Irish Sea.

The climate is temperate; temperatures range from —5 C in winter to +25 C in summer.

England is the **heart** of Britain. It is the richest, the most **fertile** and the most populated in the country. The north and the west of England are mountainous, but all the rest of the territory is a **vast plain**.

A **county** is a **chief** regional **administrative unit** in England. This part of the UK is divided into 39 non-metropolitan and 7 metropolitan (that is, including a big city) counties.

The capital of England is London but there are other large industrial cities, such as Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and other famous and interesting cities such as York, Chester, Oxford and Cambridge. Stonehenge is one of the most famous **prehistoric places** in the world. This **ancient circle** of stones stands in Southwest England. It measures 80 metres across and made with **massive** blocks of stone up to four metres high. Why it was built is a mystery.

Not far from Stonehenge stands Salisbury Cathedral. It is a **splendid** example of an English Gothic Cathedral; inside there is one of four copies of Magna Charta and the oldest clock in England.

Chester is very important town in the north-west of England. In the past it used to be a Roman fort; its name comes from the Latin word **castra**, meaning "fortified camp".

In Chester there is a famous museum which contains over 5000 **ancient** and modern toys.

Oxford is the home of the oldest **university** of England. The most famous college is Christ Church. It has a great hall which was built **during the reign** of Henry VIII and its chapel has become the Cathedral of Oxford.

Cambridge is the home of Britain's second oldest university. York was the capital of Northern England. It is one of the **best preserved medieval** cities of Europe. It was built by Romans, **conquered** by Anglo-Saxons and ruled by the Vikings.

Birmingham is often called the "City of 1,500 trades" because of the great variety of its industries.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) What is an area of England?
- 2) What is England bounded by?

- 3) What is the relief of England?
- 4) What are the most important rivers in the UK?
- 5) What kind of climate does England have?
- 6) What is the chief administrative unit in England?
- 7) What are large industrial cities of England?
- 8) What is one of the most famous prehistoric place in the world?
- 9) Where are the oldest clock in England and a copy of Magna Charta now?
- 10) What is Chester interesting for?
- 11) What are two oldest universities in England?
- 12) What was the capital of Northern England?
- 13) Why is Birmingham called the "City of 1,500 trades"?

4. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| famous | средневековый |
| to measure | завоеванный |
| cathedral | колледж |
| fort | лагерь |
| camp | форт |
| college | собор |
| medieval | знаменитый |
| conquered | измерять |

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) England has an area of more than....
- 2) England has a population of more than...
- 3) The climate of England is...
- 4) Temperatures range from... to...
- 5) England is divided into...
- 6) The north and the west of England are...
- 7) A county is...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Англия — самая большая и самая богатая страна Великобритании. Столица Англии — Лондон.

2) Стоунхендж — одно из самых известных доисторических мест в мире. Это древний круг из камней, находящийся на юго-востоке Англии.

3) Честер — очень важный город на северо-западе Англии. В прошлом это был римский форт.

4) Оксфорд — это родина самого старого университета Англии.

5) Кембридж — родина второго самого старого британского университета.

6) Йорк был столицей Северной Англии. Сейчас это один из наиболее сохранившихся средневековых городов Европы.

7) Он был построен римлянами, завоеван англосаксами и управлялся викингами.

8) Бирмингем часто называют "городом 1500 ремесел" из-за большого количества отраслей промышленности.

7. Make up a brief summary of the text.

TEXT 3 SCOTLAND

1. Read the text and point out the most interesting and important facts about the geographical position of Scotland.

Scotland forms the northern part of Great Britain, including the islands of the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland.

Scotland is a very **mountainous** country; three-fourth of the area of Scotland is occupied by mountains.

Scotland is famous for its beautiful large **lakes** with mountains round them. There are many rivers in Scotland, but they are not long. The longest and the most important Scottish river is the Clyde. In its climate, its **vegetation** Scotland **resembles** other regions of north-west Europe that look out **towards** the Atlantic.

Roughly the country is **divided into** three main regions: that of the Border (i.e. the **frontier** with England), a **pastoral** area with low **hills**, that of the central Lowlands, the least **picturesque** region, and the Highlands with their beautiful **landscape**. A lot of places in Scotland are a natural **paradise**, still untouched by man.

The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world. They **reach** their highest point in Ben Nevis. The area of the Lowlands **contains** three quarters of the whole population and all the

towns of considerable size are situated here. The largest of them are Glasgow and Edinburgh. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland and is well known for its **castle**. Glasgow is the industrial capital of Scotland. It is the third largest city in Great Britain. The typical products of Scotland are **timber**, whisky, **salmon**. **Golf** is the Scottish natural sport and it seems to have originated in this country. The Lowlands are the **cradle** of the Scottish nation. They are the centre of heavy industry.

Scotland is also the land of myths and **mysteries**; every castle has its **ghost**. Glamis Castle is said to have nine of them. And of course everyone knows about the Loch Ness Monster. "Nessie" **is said** to be about six meters long, with a long, thin **neck**. The first report of the monster in Loch Ness was in 565 A.D. Since 1934 thousands of people **claimed** to they had seen the monster. Scientists have **investigated** the Loch and taken pictures but no **scientific explanation** of the mystery has been given.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| paradise | долина |
| ghost | утверждать |
| tobacco | замок |
| cathedral | тайна |
| abbey | призрак, привидение |
| untouched | нетронутый |
| destroy | рай |
| mystery | табак |
| background | собор |
| valley | разрушать |
| to claime | фон |
| castle | аббатство |
| cross | крест |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) Where is Scotland situated?
- 2) Is Scotland an independent country now?
- 3) What is the capital of Scotland?
- 4) What language do the Scots speak?

- 5) What industrial and cultural Scottish cities and towns do you know?
- 6) What regions of Europe does Scotland resemble?
- 7) What is the highest point in Scotland?
- 8) What is the centre of heavy industry?
- 9) How many regions are there in Scotland?
- 10) What is the industrial capital of Scotland?
- 11) What are typical products of Scotland?
- 12) What are Scottish castles famous for?
- 13) What is Loch Ness Monster?
- 14) Do you know any large cities there?
- 15) What is Glasgow famous for?

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) Scotland is the land of ...
- 2) Scotland falls into three main regions...
- 3) Scotland is famous for...
- 4) Roughly the country is divided into
- 5) The highest point of the highland is...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Шотландия — страна на севере Великобритании. Это часть Соединенного Королевства.
- 2) Шотландия разделена на три области: Южные возвышенности, Центральные низменности и высокогорья, а также острова. Многие места в Шотландии являются настоящим раем, не тронутым человеком.
- 3) Шотландия также страна мифов и загадок; в каждом замке есть свой призрак.
- 4) И, конечно, все знают о лох-несском чудовище. Первые сведения о чудовище датируются 565-м годом.
- 5) С 1934 года тысячи людей начали утверждать, что они видели чудовище. Ученые исследовали озеро и делали фотографии, но научного объяснения этой загадки не найдено.
- 6) Эдинбург — столица Шотландии.
- 7) В Шотландии много гор и озер. Самая высокая гора — Бен Невис.

7. Find some additional information and interesting facts about the Loch Ness Monster not mentioned above. Share your impressions with your group and try to explain this phenomenon.

TEXT 4 WALES

1. Read the text and point out the most important and unknown facts about the geographical position of Wales.

Wales is a small country, **bounded on** the north and the **west** by the Irish Sea, and on the south by the Bristol Channel. It has an area of more than 120 miles long and 60 miles wide. It has an area of more than 9 thousand square miles (20 thousand square kilometers) and a population about 3 million people.

Approximately 70 per cent of the population **resides** in the three industrial countries of the South — Glamorgan, Monmouth and Carmarthen.

The **surface** of Wales is largely mountainous, reaching 3,560 feet in Snow-don. 6 per cent of **ales is covered** by forest, and much of the country is **pasture-land** for sheep and **cattle**.

Wales is noted for mineral **wealth**, producing **iron, coal, copper, lead, zinc, slate** and **limestone**.

The population of Wales is about 3 million people. About one half of the total population lives in the South Wales **coastal** area, where the three biggest towns are located — Swansea, Cardiff and Newport.

The **ancient** capital of Wales is Caernarvon, where the British monarch's eldest son **is** traditionally **crowned** Prince of Wales.

Wales is traditionally is divided into North Wales and South Wales (sometimes into North Wales, Mid Wales and South Wales) A county is a chief regional administrative unit and according to this official division Wales consists of 8 **counties**.

There is no other part of the British Isles where national **spirit** is stronger, national **pride** more **intense** or national traditions more **cherished** than in Wales. The Welsh still proudly wear national dress on **festive occasions**; the Welsh language is still very much a living force and is taught side by side with English at schools; the Welshmen, who have a highly developed **artistic sense**, have a **distinguished** record in the **realm** of poetry, song and drama.

The Welsh call their country Cymru, and themselves they call Cymru, a word which had the same root as "camrador" (friend or comrade).

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation.

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| chiefly | равный |
| equal | определенный |
| sense | главным образом |
| broadcast | добыча угля |
| Celtic | трансляция |
| independence | кельтский |
| certain | чувство |
| coal-mining | независимость |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) What is the area of Wales?
- 2) What is its population?
- 3) What is the capital of Wales?
- 4) What is Wales noted for?
- 5) What languages are spoken in Wales and why?
- 6) Does the Welsh language differ from the English language?
- 7) How is Wales traditionally divided?
- 8) What is a chief administrative unit?
- 9) Do England and Wales form one single political and administrative unit?

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) Wales has an area...
- 2) The population of Wales is...
- 3) Wales is noted...
- 4) Wales is bounded on...
- 5) The Welsh call their country...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Уэльс — это страна на востоке Великобритании.

2) Это, главным образом, гористая местность с преобладающей сельскохозяйственной экономикой и промышленным и угледобывающим районом на юге. Ландшафт ее прекрасен.

3) Кардифф, огромный город на юге, был выбран в качестве столицы Уэльса в 1955 году, главным образом, из-за своего размера.

4) С 1536 года Уэльс управляется Англией, и наследник английского престола носит титул принца Уэльского, но уэльсцы обладают сильным чувством индивидуальности.

5) Есть Уэльская национальная партия, которая добивается независимости от Соединенного Королевства, а уэльский язык до сих пор используется в отдельных местах страны.

6) Уэльский язык происходит от древнекельтского языка и является родственным языку бретонскому, на котором говорят в Бретани, во Франции.

7) В 60-х годах уэльскому » языку был присвоен статус официального языка, наравне с английским, и он стал использоваться в судебном делопроизводстве. Его учат в школе, и на нем вещают некоторые "телевизионные каналы в Уэльсе.

8) Но только около 20% населения говорит на уэльском.

7. Express your vision of idea: Why many English people move to Wales when they retire? Prove your opinion with your own arguments or from the text

TEXT 5

NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Read the text and comment on the outstanding feature of the Irish weather.

Ireland is the second largest of the British Islands lying in the Atlantic off west coast of Great Britain.

The island of Ireland is politically divided into two parts: Northern Ireland (Ulster), which still forms the part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, capital Belfast, and the Republic of Ireland — a separated state named Eire in Irish, its capital is Dublin.

Northern Ireland is made up of six countries: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone and occupies 1/5 of the island of Ireland. One third of the population lives in and around the capi-

tal, Belfast. Belfast is also the most important port and commercial and industrial centre. Some parts of the territory, those that are not close to the capital, have remained mainly rural.

The Irish population is divided into two groups: the Protestants and the Catholics. The Protestants are of British origin. They are descendants of British settlers who came to

Ireland in the XVI-th and XVII-th centuries, during and after the Reformation. The Catholics are mostly natives of Ireland.

The Protestants were the majority and dominated the Catholics with strong discrimination. In 1968 the Catholics began the movement for equal civil rights. The fightings between the two groups of the population continue to this day.

The outstanding feature of the Irish weather is its changeability. Extremely high or low temperatures are unknown. Ireland is considered as a whole, drier than either Scotland or Wales. There is an old Irish saying that Ireland must be the cleanest place in the world, because God washes it every year. An Irishman does not really expect it to rain every day, just every other day; two days out of three on the west coast. It rarely rains hard, but the water does not seem to keep dripping down most of the time. It is hard to grow crops or even to make hay, when the June sun can't break through the clouds for more than six hours a day. But it is a good climate for ducks, umbrella-makers, and the rich pastures.

Northern Ireland has a strong cultural tradition: songs, dances, literature and festivals.

It has its own Art Council, and there are orchestras, theatres, ballet and opera companies.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| origin | гражданские права |
| descendant | поселенец, переселенец |
| civil rights | потомок |
| settler | происхождение |
| population | дискриминация |
| discrimination | население |

3. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) How many parts is Ireland politically divided into? Why?
- 2) Why is Northern Ireland a unique region within the UK?
- 3) What is the outstanding feature of the Irish weather?
- 4) What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
- 5) Who are the Catholics?
- 6) Who are the Protestants?
- 7) Has the Catholics-Protestants problem been solved?
- 8) Does Northern Ireland have strong cultural traditions?

5. Finish the following sentences.

- 1) The island of Ireland is politically divided into...
- 2) One third of the population lives...
- 3) Belfast is...
- 4) The Protestants are of...
- 5) The Catholics are...
- 6) Northern Ireland is made up of...
- 7) The outstanding feature of the Irish weather is....
- 8) Northern Ireland has...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Северная Ирландия, известная как Ольстер, является частью Соединенного Королевства.
- 2) Она состоит из шести частей: Антрим, Даун, Ферманаг, Лондондерри и Тирон.
- 3) Треть населения живет в столице — Белфасте — и вокруг нее.
- 4) Белфаст также является самым важным портом, коммерческим и промышленным центром.
- 5) Некоторые части территории, расположенные не совсем близко к столице, остаются, по большей части, сельскими.
- 6) Ирландское население делится на две группы: протестантов и католиков.
- 7) В 1968 году католики начали движение за равные гражданские права.

8) В Северной Ирландии сохранились сильные культурные традиции: песни, танцы, литература и фестивали.

7. Find out about Northern Ireland as much as possible. Discuss the information you've got with your group.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Read the dialogue and dramatize it.

Travel agent: Can I help you?

Valentina: Oh, yes. You know, last year we went to Greece and spent two weeks at the sea resort. It was really great. But this year we are looking for something different, you see, something exciting.

Vladimir: I would say, something we could remember for many years to come.

Travel agent: Well, I think there is something for you. How about a 2 week holiday in Britain? You will travel by coach around the country and see the most interesting places in England, Scotland, Wales. Castles, palaces, ancient monuments, medieval towns and modern cities.

Vladimir: It sounds great.

Travel agent: And not very expensive. The price includes everything: accommodation, catering, excursions and admission fee to all museums and historical buildings.

Valentina: Yes, we will take it.

At London Airport they are joined by some other Russian tourists who are going on this tour: Anna and Denis. The tourists are welcomed by Richard Dawson – their tour guide.

Richard: It is my profound pleasure to invite to this wonderful journey around the United Kingdom. This tour was designed to give you the freedom to explore both the history and the culture of Britain.

Anna: Excuse me, I have a question which I have always wanted to answer. You say the UK and Britain, is there any difference?

Richard: Well, actually, no. The official name of my country is The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland but it is such a fuss to pronounce it that we usually say just UK. Britain and Great Britain are geographical names. As you know UK consists of several parts: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The word Eng-

land should never be used to describe Britain, because England is only one part of the country. It is always correct to call people from England, Scotland, or Wales British, although people from England are properly called the English, people from Scotland are the Scots, and people from Wales are the Welsh.

Denis: So, if I address anyone “English” in, say, Scotland...

Richard: You will offend this person. Please, be careful with what you are saying.

Valentina: How very interesting!

Richard: The United Kingdom is a small nation: 244,110 sq km, it is about the size of Byelorussia or twice the size of New York State. The climate, in general, is mild and often wet. We have about 300 rainy or cloudy days per year.

Anna: Now I understand all these sayings about “the English weather”.

Valentina: The British weather...

Richard: Despite its size, Britain is a highly developed nation with stable economy, prosperous and peaceful. The British enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Britain’s rich cultural heritage and traditions are the main reasons why it has millions of visitors each year. The attractions include theaters, museums, art galleries, and historical buildings that are all around the country and numerous annual arts festivals. Tourism is very important to our economy. Britain is one of the world’s most visited countries. We have about 25 million visitors a year.

1. Take the map of the United Kingdom, and study it.

2 Find all geographical names mentioned in the texts and answer the following question: How many counties is England divided into? What are they?

Collect as much information as possible about some of them and present brief oral reports.

4. Imagine you are going to spend two weeks outside your country. Where would you like to go? Give reasons for your choice. Use the facts presented in the texts to support your arguments.



TEXT 6 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Read the text and point out new and important information to you and be ready to speak on the symbol of American way of life.

The USA is the most **powerful** and highly developed country of the world. It is situated in the central part of the North American continent. Its western coast **is washed** by the Pacific Ocean and its eastern coast is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

The USA **is separated** from Canada in the north by the 49th



parallel and the Great Lakes, and from Mexico in the south by a line following the Rio Grande River and continuing across the **highlands** to the Pacific Ocean.

The total area of the USA is over 9 million square kilometres. The continental part of the USA consists of the highland regions and two **lowland** regions. The highland regions are the Appalachia mountains in the east and the Cordillera in the west.

Between the Cordillera and the Appalachian Mountains are the central lowlands which are called the **prairie**, and eastern lowlands called the Mississippi **valley**.

The principal rivers of the USA are the Mississippi, the longest river in the world (7,330 km) and the Hudson river. The climate of the USA differs greatly from one part of the country to another. The coldest climate is in the northern part, where there is heavy snow in winter and the temperature may go down to 40 degrees below **zero**. The south has a **subtropical** climate, with temperature as high as 49 degrees in summer.

The population of the United States of America is about 250 million people, who are called Americans. Most of the people live in towns and the population of the countryside is becoming smaller and smaller. For many **decades** the USA has been the place where lots of people **sought refuge** from **persecution** for political or religious **beliefs**. That's why in America there are **representatives** of practically all **racial** and national groups.

There are about 25 million Negroes in the country and a little over half a million Indians.

The capital of the USA is Washington. It is situated in the District of Columbia. Washington is a beautiful administrative city with practically no industry.

The USA is a highly developed industrial state. Its **agriculture** is also highly **mechanized**. There are **coal-mines** in the Cordillera Mountains, in the Kansas City region. **Iron** is mined near the Great Lakes. The USA has rich **oil-fields** in California, Texas and some other regions. It occupies one of the first places among the countries of the world for production of coal, iron and oil.

The USA has a highly developed motor-car industry. **It would be no exaggeration to say** that cars have become the **symbol** of American **way of life**. The **vehicles** produced at such companies as Ford and the General Motors are **known world-wide**. The motor-car industry **is concentrated** in and around Detroit. Ship-building is developed along the Atlantic coast and in San Francisco. The **textile** industry is to be found in the north-east and in the south of the country.

The USA has a highly developed railway system. It also has the best **network** of roads in the world. They are called highways.

After 350 years of development the United States of America still holds the **leading** position in the western world.

The USA is a federal country of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The political life of the country has always been **dominated** by the two major parties: the Democratic party and the Republican party. At an **election** time they **contest presidency** and the **majority** of seats in the Congress. The Congress is the highest legislative body of the

country. It consists of two **chambers** — the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The President, elected by the whole nation for four years, is head of the state and the Government.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| chamber | богатые месторождения нефти |
| to seek (sought, sought) refuge | символ |
| network of roads | прерии |
| lowland regions | мощный |
| powerful | палата |
| prairie | низменность |
| rich oil fields | возвышенность |
| symbol | преследование |
| persecution | искать убежище |
| the highest legislative body | сеть дорог |
| textile | высший законодательный орган |
| highland regions | текстильная промышленность |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) What kind of state is the USA?
- 2) Where is it situated?
- 3) What is the USA washed by in the east and in the west?
- 4) What is the USA separated from Canada by?
- 5) What is the total area of the country?
- 6) What are the principal rivers of the USA?
- 7) What is the population of the country?
- 8) Where do most people live?
- 9) What did many people seek in the USA?
- 10) Why are there representatives of all racial and national groups in America?
- 11) Where is the capital of the country situated?
- 12) Is the agriculture in America highly mechanized?
- 13) What raw materials is America rich in?
- 14) What has become the symbol of American way of life?
- 15) Where is the motor-car industry situated?

- 16) Where is the textile industry to be found?
- 17) Has the USA a highly developed railway system?
- 18) How many states are there in the USA?
- 19) By what party has the political life in America been dominated?
- 20) What do the two parties contest at an election time?
- 21) What is the highest legislative body of the country?

5. Complete the sentences.

- 1) The USA is...
- 2) It is washed by...
- 3) The total area of the USA is...
- 4) The continental part of the USA consists of...
- 5) The principal rivers of the USA are...
- 6) Most of the people live in...
- 7) The capital of the USA is...
- 8) The USA is a highly...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) США — самая мощная и высокоразвитая страна в мире. Она расположена в центральной части Северной Америки.
- 2) Ее западное побережье омывается Тихим океаном, а восточное — Атлантическим океаном и Мексиканским заливом.
- 3) Между Кордильерами и Аппалачами находится Центральная низменность, которая называется прериями, и восточная низменность, называемая долиной Миссисипи.
- 4) Население Соединенных Штатов Америки составляет около 250 млн человек, они называются американцами. Большинство людей живет в городах, а население в сельской местности уменьшается.
- 5) В течение многих десятилетий США являются страной, куда приезжают люди, которые ищут убежище от преследований за политические и религиозные убеждения. Поэтому в Америке имеются представители практически всех рас и национальных групп.
- 6) Вашингтон расположен в округе Колумбия. Вашингтон — красивый административный город, практически без промышленности.

- 7) США — высокоразвитая индустриальная страна. Ее сельское хозяйство также высокомеханизированно.
- 8) Около Великих озер добывается железная руда. В США имеются богатые месторождения нефти на территории Калифорнии, в Техасе и других регионах.
- 9) Штаты занимают одно из первых мест среди стран мира по добыче угля, железной руды, нефти.
- 10) В США высокоразвитая автомобильная промышленность. Не будет преувеличением сказать, что автомобили стали символом американского образа жизни.
- 11) Машины, производимые такими компаниями, как "Форд" и "Дженерал Моторс", известны во всем мире. Автомобильная промышленность сосредоточена в Детройте и вокруг него.
- 12) В США высокоразвитая система железных дорог. Здесь также находится лучшая в мире сеть автомобильных дорог. Их называют автострадами.

7. Find some additional facts about The United States of America and prepare a report/presentation on the following points:

Political Life
Major Political Parties
Geographical Position.
Climate.
Natural Resources
Industry and Agriculture

8. Choose the place in the USA you want to visit, describe it and give reasons for your choice.

TEXT 7 CANADA

1. Read the text and point out new and important information to you and be ready to speak about the beauty of this country.

Take a look at the map. It shows the places and cities mentioned in the text.

Canada **is located** in North America and **stretches** all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific, **being made up** of ten Provinces and

three Territories. To the North is the Arctic ocean; Davis Strait on the North East separates it from Greenland, to the East is the Atlantic Ocean; the South is bordered by the United States of America and the West by the Pacific Ocean and Alaska.

A country of **outstanding** natural beauty, Canada has a **wide variety** of **landscapes**: the mountains, the **prairies**, lakes and rivers with many national and **provincial** parks to **protect**



the **habitats**. With a total land mass of 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq mi), Canada is the second largest country in the world. There are more lakes and **inland waters** in Canada than any other country, in fact 7.6% or 755,180 sq km (291,577 sq) is made up of fresh water.

Most **images** of Canada **refer** to the Mounties, **bears**, snow or the Rocky Mountains with the **amazing turquoise** lakes though there is truly more to this **vast** landscape. Tourism is a large part of the economy with the **abundant** natural resources quickly turning Canada into a rich and **vibrant** country that is a **permanent** listing at the top of the best places to live. With **distinct** seasons – the winters are cold with **plentiful** snow and then warm summers, the best way to **survive** is to make the most of nature's **offerings**. **Skiing**, **snowboarding** and **snowmobiling** are popular **pastimes** and great exercise and **fun**. In the summer, **hiking**, **camping** and **exploring** the great outdoors are fantastic ways to spend your free time. This is especially true when you are amongst the most **brehtaking** and **fabulous scenery** the world has to offer!

The **monetary** unit is the Canadian Dollar. The Canadian dollar traditionally trades at a lower **value** than its American **counterpart** but is now coming closer to **parity**.

All motor vehicles are driven on the right hand side of the road and are left hand drive. Each Province or Territory is **responsible** for its own driving **laws** and **regulations** so each has a different system.

Canada is an independent nation. But **according to** the Constitution Act of 1982 British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom is recognized as Queen of Canada. This **symbolizes** the country's strong ties to Britain. Canada **was ruled** by Britain completely until 1867, when Canada **gained** control of its **domestic affairs**. Britain governed Canada's **foreign affairs** until 1931, when Canada gained full **independence**. Canada's people are varied. About 57% of all Canadians have some English **ancestry** and about 32% have some French ancestry. Both English and French are official languages of the country.

French Canadians, most of whom live in the provinces of Quebec, have kept the language and customs of their ancestors. Other large ethnic groups are German, Irish and Scottish people. Native people — American Indians and Eskimos — make up about 2% of the country's population. 77% of Canada's people live in cities or towns. Toronto and Montreal are the largest urban areas. Ottawa is the capital of the country.

Today, maintaining a sense of community is one of the major problems in Canada because of differences among the provinces and territories. Many Canadians in western and eastern parts of the country feel that the federal government does not pay enough attention to their problems. 80% of Quebec's population are French Canadians. Many of them believe that their province should receive a special recognition in the Canadian constitution.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| to govern | признавать |
| custom | суровый |
| thinly populated | править |
| ties | управлять |
| uninhabited | происхождение |
| recognition | малонаселенный |
| to recognize | сохранять |
| community | предки |
| to make up | незаселенный |

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| ancestors | признание |
| to rule | составлять |
| severe | общность |
| capital | столица |
| ancestry | обычай |
| to maintain | связи |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) Where is Canada situated?
- 2) How many people live in Canada?
- 3) Where do most Canadians live?
- 4) Who is the head of state in Canada?
- 5) When did Canada gain its independence?
- 6) What are the official languages in Canada?
- 7) What people live in Canada?
- 8) What is the main problem facing Canada today?

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) Canada is located in....
- 2) Canada has a wide variety...
- 3) Canada is the second...
- 4) Tourism is...
- 5) The best way to survive is...
- 6) All motor vehicles are driven...
- 7) According to the Constitution Act of 1982...
- 8) Toronto and Montreal are ...
- 9) Ottawa is ...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Канада — это вторая по величине страна в мире. Только Россия имеет большую площадь.
- 2) Канада находится в Северной Америке.
- 3) Канада немного больше Соединенных Штатов, однако в ней живет в десять раз меньше людей.
- 4) Большая часть территории Канады не заселена или мало заселена из-за суровых природных условий.
- 5) Канада — это независимое государство.

- 6) Около 57% канадцев имеют английское происхождение и около 32% жителей - канадцы французского происхождения.
- 7) Коренные народы, американские индейцы и эскимосы, составляют около 2% населения страны.
- 8) 77% населения Канады живет в больших и малых городах.
- 9) Торонто и Монреаль — самые большие города. Оттава — столица страны.
- 10) Сегодня сохранение чувства общности является главной проблемой в Канаде из-за различий среди провинций и территорий.

7. Find some interesting facts about Canada and prepare a short essay, using the following phrases:

The text deals with ...; the text is about...; the first part is concerned with...; the next part contains examples of...; the passage is a description of...; the title of the text gives an idea of...; first I would like to dwell on...; it is worth noting that...; according to...; one important point should be mentioned...; in conclusion I would like to state briefly the main problem....

TEXT 8 AUSTRALIA

1. Read the text and point out new and important information to you and be ready to answer why people call Australia “The Land of Blue Mountains”.



Take a look at the map. Study it. It shows the places and cities mentioned in the text.

Although **Australia** encompasses a **vast amount of land** (7,686,850 sq. km., or 2,967,909 sq. mi.), it only has six States - five of which are on the **mainland**, and one

which is an island. The five mainland States are New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and Western Australia. The island State is Tasmania. Australia also has two Territories, which have their own **executive branches** of government. Those are the Australian Capital Territory, or ACT, and Northern Territory. There are also several islands off the **coast** of Australia which are dependent upon it. Those are Ashmore, Cartier, Christmas, Cocos (Keeling), Coral Sea, Heard, McDonald, Norfolk, and Macquarie Islands.

Australia is the only country in the world that is also a continent.

Australia is the smallest continent, but the sixth largest country in the world. It's only slightly smaller than the **contiguous** 48 United States. The terrain is **predominantly** low **plateaus** with **deserts**, but the country does have several small mountain ranges as well.

The Great Barrier Reef on the coast of Queensland is a garden under the sea. There are 1,400 different kinds of fish, and more than 300 kinds of **coral**. Tropical fruit and flowers grow on the beautiful islands. It's not surprising that more **holiday-makers** come to Queensland every year.

Tasmania, the island south of Australia, is small. It is the same size as England. It is also very different from the other states. There are no deserts in Tasmania. It often rains, **both** in winter **and** summer. Only a half of million people live in Tasmania, and a large part of the island is still **covered** with wild, beautiful wild forests. These forests are full of wonderful flowers and interesting animals.

In the Northern Territory you will find the red **heart** of Australia. And it really is red, with red **rocks**, red sand, and red skies in the evening. Every year, thousands of tourists visit Ayers Rock and a strange group of huge red stones called "the Olgas". But these places are also **holy** to the Aborigines. They believe that the land itself has life.

Sydney is the best known place in New South Wales. In fact, it's the best known place in Australia. But New South Wales has more than cities. There are, for example, the Blue Mountains. They **are covered** with forests of blue coloured **eucalyptus** trees. The air above the forest contains millions of **microscopic drops** of eucalyptus oil. When the sun shines, the air of the Blue Mountains is a real, beautiful blue.

Less than a hundred years ago, there was nothing except **sheep** in Canberra. But then Australians decided to build a capital city. The Work began in 1913. Now, Canberra is an international city, full of diplomats and government offices. It's a beautiful place, with parks, lakes, big open streets and fine buildings.

Australia is sometimes called "the lucky country". One reason is the wonderful riches under the **earth**: **gold**, **silver**, iron, coal and many **precious** metals. The Bass Strait, of the coast of Victoria, has been one of the country's biggest oil fields for many years.

The country's official name is Commonwealth of Australia. Australia is a constitutional monarchy like Great Britain. The nation is administered under written constitution. The British monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is also **queen** of Australia and country's head of state. But the queen has little power in the Australian government. She serves mainly as a symbol of long historical tie between Great Britain and Australia. Australia is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations which is an association formed by Britain and some of its former colonies.

South Australia is the **driest** of all the states, but it does have Murrey River. The river brings greenness and life to the south-east corner. In the early of Australian history, the Murrey River was South Australia's main road. Before real roads and railways came, the river carried people and goods from the east up into the country. Some towns on the Murray still keep the old river boats, and visitors can ride on them.

There are two kinds of gold in Western Australia. First, there's real kind — the kind that comes out of the ground.

Gold was found in Kalgoorlie in 1893, and the "Golden Mile" was for a time the most expensive piece of land in the world. Kalgoorlie still exports some gold, but the new gold of Western Australia is **wheat**. Big farms grow millions of tons of wheat every year, and wheat has become Australia's second biggest export.

Australia is one of the world's developed countries. Australia has modern factories, highly productive mines and farms, and busy cities. It is the world's leading producer of wool and **bauxite** (the ore from which aluminium is made). It also produces and exports large amounts of other minerals and farm goods. Income from the export **enables** Australians to have high standard of living. The most important trading partners of Australia are Japan and the United States.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

wild
riches
oil

богатства
материк
пшеница

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| to lie | уровень жизни |
| income | эвкалипт |
| holiday-maker | нефть |
| standard of living | дикий |
| eucalyptus | быть расположенным |
| to be situated | промышленность |
| mainland | отпускник |
| state | находиться |
| wheat | штат |
| industry | доход |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) How many kinds of fish are there on the coast of Queensland?
- 2) What grows on the beautiful islands?
- 3) Where will you find the red heart of Australia?
- 4) What is the best known place in New South Wales?
- 5) Why is the air above the forests blue?
- 6) Why is Australia sometimes called "the lucky country"?
- 7) What state is the driest of all?
- 8) What is the new gold of Western Australia?
- 9) Where does the Australia lie?
- 10) What is the official name of the country?
- 11) What is the capital of the country?
- 12) Who is the country's head of state?
- 13) Is there a written constitution in Australia?
- 14) What are the main products of Australia?
- 15) What are the most important trade partners of the country?

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) The country's official name is...
- 2) Australia is the smallest...
- 3) South Australia is...
- 4) Australia is a member of...
- 5) Australia is one of the world's...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences:

- 1) Неудивительно, что каждый год сюда приезжает все больше отдыхающих.

- 2) Тасмания — это небольшой остров на юге Австралии. По размеру он такой же, как и Англия.
- 3) В Тасмании живет лишь полмиллиона людей, а большая часть острова покрыта красивыми дикими лесами. Эти леса полны чудесных цветов и интересных животных.
- 4) Сидней — наиболее известный город Нового Южного Уэльса. Фактически это самый известный город Австралии.
- 5) Голубые горы покрыты голубыми эвкалиптовыми лесами. Когда светит солнце, то воздух голубых гор действительно необыкновенно голубой.
- 6) Австралию иногда называют "счастливая страна". Одна из причин — подземные богатства: золото, серебро, железо, уголь и множество ценных металлов.
- 7) Южная Австралия — самый сухой из всех штатов, но в нем находится река Муррей. Река приносит зелень и жизнь а этот юго-восточный уголок страны.
- 8) Австралия — это единственная страна в мире, являющаяся одновременно континентом. Она является шестой по размерам страной в мире и самым маленьким континентом.
- 9) Официальное название страны — Австралийский Союз. Австралийский Союз — это федерация штатов. Австралия состоит из шести штатов.
- 10) Австралия — конституционная монархия, как и Великобритания. Государство управляется согласно записанной конституции.
- 11) Австралия является одной из наиболее развитых стран мира. В Австралии есть современные фабрики, высокопроизводительные шахты и фермы, города с высокой степенью деловой активности.

7 Find as much information as possible about the wild animals that inhabit Australia. Make a presentation.

Prepare a short report about the importance of animals in our life.

TEXT 9 NEW ZEALAND

1. Read the text and point out the most important facts about the geographical position

New Zealand is an island country in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. It lies about 1 600 km southeast of Australia and about 10 500 km southwest of California. New Zealand belongs to a large island group called Polynesia. New Zealand, about 1,250 mi (2,012 km) southeast of Australia, consists of two main islands —the North Island and the South Island — and a number of smaller **outlying** islands so **scattered** that they **range** from the tropical to the Antarctic. The country is the size of Colorado. New Zealand's two main islands are separated by Cook Strait. The North Island (44,281 sq mi;



is 515 mi (829 km) long and **volcanic** in its south-central part. This area contains many hot springs and beautiful **geysers**. South Island (58,093 sq mi; 151,215 sq km) has the Southern Alps along its west coast, with Mount Cook (12,316 ft; 3754 m) the highest point. Other **inhabited** islands include Stewart Island, the Chatham Islands, and Great Barrier Island. The largest of the uninhabited outlying islands are the Auckland Islands (234 sq mi; 606 sq km), Campbell Island (44 sq mi; 114 sq km), the Antipodes Islands (24 sq mi; 62 sq km), and the Kermadec Islands (13 sq mi; 34 sq km).

Wellington is the capital of New Zealand and Auckland is the largest city. English is the official language of New Zealand and is spoken **throughout** the country. Many native people speak their own language, Maori, in addition to English.

The country once **belonged** to the British **empire**. Today it is an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations, an association of Britain and a number of its former colonies.

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, is the monarch of New Zealand. She appoints a governor general to represent her, but the gover-

nor general has little power. The **legislation**, prime minister, and Cabinet run the national government. Britain gave New Zealand a constitution in 1852, when it was a British colony. But through the years the New Zealand legislature has changed almost all its **provisions**. Today, the nation has no written constitution.

New Zealand has one of the highest standard of living in the world. For many years, the economy of the country **depended** largely **on** agriculture. Today agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries are all important to the economy. New Zealand economy depends on trade with many countries - Australia, Britain, Japan and the United States.

2. Pay attention to the marked words and word combinations. Give your versions of translation

3. Match the English words to Russian ones:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| service industry | государственный язык |
| to appoint | селиться |
| dozen | назначать |
| to lie | уровень жизни |
| manufacturing industry | поселенец |
| governor general | законодательная власть |
| brown-skinned | находиться |
| standard of living | положение |
| legislation | представлять |
| official language | с коричневой кожей |
| to settle | дюжина |
| provision | генерал-губернатор |
| settler | потомок |
| trade | обрабатывающая промышленность |
| to represent | сельское хозяйство |
| agriculture | торговля |
| descendant | сфера услуг |

4. Find the answers to the following questions in the text:

- 1) Where is New Zealand situated?
- 2) What city is the capital of New Zealand?
- 3) What languages do people in New Zealand speak?
- 4) What is the official language in New Zealand?

- 5) Who is New Zealand's head of state?
- 6) Who runs the national government?
- 7) Who were the first people to live in New Zealand?
- 8) What are the main industries of the country?

5. Finish the sentences.

- 1) New Zealand lies about...
- 2) New Zealand belongs to...
- 3) The largest of the uninhabited outlying islands are...

6. Give suitable English equivalents to the following sentences

- 1) Новая Зеландия — это островная страна на юго-западе Тихого океана.
- 2) Новая Зеландия принадлежит к большой группе островов, которая называется Полинезией.
- 3) Страна расположена на двух главных островах — Северном и Южном — и нескольких десятках более мелких островов.
- 4) Столица Новой Зеландии — Веллингтон, крупнейший город - Окленд. Государственный язык Новой Зеландии — английский, на нем говорят по всей стране.
- 5) Когда-то страна входила в состав Британской империи. Сейчас она является независимым членом Содружества, ассоциации Британии и нескольких бывших ее колоний.
- 6) Новая Зеландия является конституционной монархией. Королева Великобритании Елизавета II является главой государства Новой Зеландии.
- 7) Первыми людьми, которые поселились в Новой Зеландии, были люди с коричневой кожей, называемые маори.
- 8) Страна была открыта европейцами в 1642 году, однако они не селились на островах до конца XVIII века.
- 9) В Новой Зеландии уровень жизни — один из самых высоких в мире.
- 10) Многие годы экономика страны в большой степени зависела от сельского хозяйства.
- 11) Сегодня как сельское хозяйство, так и обрабатывающая промышленность и сфера услуг важны для экономики.

7. Find some interesting facts about New Zealand and prepare a short essay.

UNIT II

National Emblems and Symbols

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Read the text to find answers to the following questions:

1. What does the word "Britain" mean in everyday speech?
2. What is the flag of the United Kingdom made up of?
3. How is the Welsh flag called?
4. What do some Englishmen wear on St. George's Day?
5. What day is regarded as Scotland's national day?
6. What day is a national day in Northern Ireland?
7. What do three lions in the Royal Arms symbolize?
8. What does the unicorn symbolize?

The United Kingdom (abbreviated from "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland") is the political name of the country which consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (sometimes known as Ulster).

Great Britain is the name of the island which is made up of England, Scotland, Wales, whereas the British Isles is the geographical name of all the islands off the north-west coast of the European continent. In everyday speech "Britain" is used to mean the United Kingdom.

The flag of the United Kingdom, known as the Union Jack, is made up of three crosses. The upright red cross on a white background is the cross of the 1st George, the patron saint of England. The white diagonal cross on a blue background is the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, The red diagonal cross on a white background is the cross of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

The Welsh flag, called the Welsh dragon, represents a red dragon on a white and green background.



St. George's Day falls on 23 April and is regarded as England's national day. On this day some patriotic Englishmen wear a rose pinned to their jackets'. A red rose is the national emblem of England from the time of the Wars of the Roses (15th century).

St. Andrew's Day (the 30th of November) is regarded as Scotland's national day. On this day some Scotsmen wear a thistle in their buttonhole. As a national emblem of Scotland, thistle apparently first used in the 15th century as a symbol of defence. The Order of the Thistle is one of the highest orders of knighthood. It was founded in 1687, and is mainly given to Scottish noblemen (limited to 16 in number).

St. Patrick's Day (the 17th of March) is considered as a national day in Northern Ireland and an official bank holiday there. The national emblem of Ireland is shamrock. According to legend, it was the plant chosen by St. Patrick to illustrate the Christian doctrine of the Trinity to the Irish.

St. David's Day (the 1st of March) is the church festival of St. David, a 6th-century monk and bishop, the patron saint of Wales. The day is regarded as the national holiday of Wales, although it is not an official bank holiday.

On this day, however, many Welshmen wear either a yellow daffodil or a leek pinned to their jackets, as both plants are traditionally regarded as national emblems of Wales.

In the Royal Arms three lions symbolize England, a lion rampant — Scotland, and a harp — Ireland. The whole is encircled and is supported by a lion and a unicorn. The lion has been used as a symbol of national strength and of the British monarchy for many centuries. The unicorn, a mythical animal that looks like a horse with a long straight horn, has appeared on the Scottish and British royal coats of arms for many centuries, and is a symbol of purity.

AMERICAN SYMBOLS

Read the text to find answers to the following questions:

1. What do people often call American flag?
2. What are the colours of the American flag?
3. How many stripes has the flag got?
4. What is the national emblem?
5. Where is the statue of Liberty placed?
6. What country did gift to the USA?

The American flag is often called "The Stars and Stripes", it is also called "Old Glory". It represents the growth of the nation. It has 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red and 6 white which stand for the original 13 states. In the top left hand corner there are 50 white stars on a blue background: one star for each state.

The national anthem of the United States is "The Star Spangled Banner". The words written during the Anglo- American war of 1812— 1814 and set to the music of an old song. Every state has its own flag, its own emblem and its own anthem too.

The eagle became the national emblem of the country in 1782. It has an olive branch (a symbol of peace) and arrows (a symbol of strength). You can see the eagle on the back of a dollar bill.

The Statue of Liberty is the symbol of American democracy. It stands on Liberty Island in New York. It is one of the first things people see when they arrive in New York by sea. This National Monument was a present from France to the USA. France gave the statue to America in 1884 as a symbol of friendship. Liberty carries the torch of freedom — in her right hand. In her left hand she is holding a tablet with the inscription "July 4, 1776" — American Independence Day.



ASSIGNMENTS:

Using additional sources, find information and pictures of the symbols of other English-speaking countries and prepare a presentation.

UNIT III POPULATION

Read the texts below. Sum up and compare the information. Answer the question: How do you see the life of people (the cities they'll live in, the food they'll eat, their way of life, etc.) in the 22nd and 23^d centuries?

Canada has a population of 30,007,094 (2001 Census), compared with 28,846,761 (1996 Census) which shows a 4% increase. Most of the population lives in the cities and most of these are located in the South of the country; about three quarters of the population live within about 300 kms of the U.S border. The most populated Provinces are Ontario and Quebec with Toronto (in Ontario) being the most populated city.

The First Nations or Indian people were the original inhabitants of Canada and the name comes from their language and means "Village" or "Community". The Vikings, who arrived in the 11th century and didn't stay for long, were the first Europeans to land in Canada.

More Europeans arrived in the 16th century bringing with them manufactured goods which they traded for furs and native products - because of this they were made welcome by the indigenous people. The two main groups of European settlers were the French, who came first, and then the English. Despite France losing its part of the territory to Britain in a war in 1760, many of the French speaking people stayed. In 1867, three colonies of Britain merged in an event called Confederation; this created a partially independent state of four Provinces. Six more Provinces and three Territo-



ries have since been added and in 1931 full independence was achieved. Canada still belongs to the Commonwealth of Nations.

Canada is a Democratic Federation and has both a Federal and Provincial Governments. The responsibilities and powers are divided between the Federal and Provincial Governments which make for a complex political system

Australian Aborigines - The First Settlers

The literal translation of the word “Aborigine” is “the people who were here from the beginning”. A second translation, not as literal, is “native”. While there are no early written records of their history, archaeologists have found pictorials on rock all over Australia, and the Aborigines themselves have handed down oral history for many generations.



According to their oral history, and reliable archaeological dating, the Aborigines arrived in Australia through the north end of the continent when it was still part of the mainland below Southeast Asia. Although they are of the species Homo Sapiens, their biological isolation has deemed that they are not closely related to any other ethnic group.

Due to their isolated locations throughout the continent, it was necessary for them to find their own solutions and adaptations to problems and the environment. Because they were able to find effective ways to live and survive comfortably, forward progress was thwarted. In the vernacular, theirs was the thought that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”. Unfortunately, this was possibly a reason why, in their first encounters with white settlers, they were thought ignorant and unwilling to “adapt” or change. However, there is archaeological proof that they were innovators in such things as being the first race to embrace human cremation, they created some of

the earliest rock art and they invented many useful tools such as the boomerang, the first sharpened axes and grindstones.

For this people to be construed as passive to the circumstances of their environment is most likely one of the greatest misperceptions to a people in human history. Proof has been found that they made the landscape work for them by employing “firestick farming”, to control underbrush growth and to make their hunting easier. They also used a form of resource management, which resulted in alterations in species of flora and fauna. They may well have even assisted in the extinction of prehistoric animals.

When contact with British settlers began (1788), disease, loss of political autonomy, and other circumstances caused widespread problems and even extinctions in some groups of Aborigines. Because of fear, and a desire for control and power by white settlers, many natives were removed from their lands and placed in missions and/or what amounted to concentration camps. This led to further depopulation and demoralization of this proud people. Children were even taken from their natural parents and fostered with those which the “powers that be” determined more capable of helping them to “assimilate”. What began as an ethnic group of about 350,000 in the 18th century dwindled down to roughly half of that number in a period of less than 150 years. There had been 500 to 600 distinct groups, which spoke about 200 different dialects. Many group bloodlines were wiped out, and about 50 of the dialects are now extinct as well.

In more recent years, the Australian Government enacted land-rights legislation that gave back to the Aborigines a small degree of their autonomy and in 1992 and 1996, courts decreed that the Aborigines have the right to own property. There have been apologies, although not formally by the Government, and many more efforts to restore to them their rightful place in both past and modern history. Many Aborigines have stepped forward and helped to educate others about their heritage.

There is currently a reconciliation process in the works to further restore to this native culture the rights and dignity which they most certainly, and richly, deserve.

FIRST INHABITANTS OF NEW ZEALAND

The first people who settled in New Zealand were a brownskinned people called Maoris. They came from Polynesian islands located northeast of New Zealand. The country was discovered

by Europeans in 1642, but they did not start to settle in the islands until the late 1700's. Today, most New Zealanders are descendants of the early European settlers.

Maoris make up about 12% of the country's population. Maoris were the first inhabitants of New Zealand, arriving on the islands in about 1000. Maori oral history maintains that the Maoris came to the island in seven canoes from other parts of Polynesia. In 1642, New Zealand was explored by Abel Tasman, a Dutch navigator. British captain James Cook made three voyages to the islands, beginning in 1769. Britain formally annexed the islands in 1840.

The Treaty of Waitangi (Feb. 6, 1840) between the British and several Maori tribes promised to protect Maori land if the Maoris recognized British rule. Encroachment by British settlers was relentless, however, and skirmishes between the two groups intensified.

POPULATION OF THE UK

England is densely populated part of the UK. The population of England is, and has been for centuries, greater than that of all other parts of the United Kingdom combined.

About 30 million people live within the area which runs approximately from the mouth of the river Thames in the east to the mouth of the river Mersey in the west and contains five of the biggest cities, a number of other sizable towns and much rich agricultural land.

The earliest known people of Britain were of Iberian origin. Then followed a long succession of invaders, including the Celts, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Danes and at last in 1066, the Normans.

It was the last time Britain was invaded.

Nowadays one can see people of many colours and races in the United Kingdom.

The population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is over 57 million people.

The United Kingdom is inhabited by the English, the Scots, the Welsh, and the Irish who constitute the British nation. Over 46 million people live in England, over 3 million in Wales, a little over 5 million in Scotland and about 1.5 million in Northern Ireland.

The population lives mostly in towns and cities and their respective suburbs. The distribution of the population is quite uneven.

The most densely populated areas are Greater London, the South and the Southwest. Only London's population is over 7 million.

Most of the mountainous parts of the United Kingdom, including much of Scotland, Wales and the Pennine Chain in Northern England are very sparsely populated.

The British are the descendants of different peoples who settled in the British Isles at different times.

They are mostly inhabitants from the former British colonies.

The official language of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is English.

Besides standard literary English there are several regional and social dialects.

UNIT IV

SOME FACTS AND HISTORY

OUTSTANDING EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN

1. Read the text and answer the following questions:

- 1) What tribes influenced the British civilization most of all?
- 2) What happened in 43 A.D.?
- 3) Whose invasion played an important role in the history of Britain?
- 4) What led to the Industrial Revolution?
- 5) What were the 13 North American colonies replaced by?

There were many outstanding events in the history of Great Britain. Many different tribes tried to control the territory of Britain. England was added to the Roman Empire in 43 A.D. Roman invasion played a very important role in the history of the country. The Roman built the first roads in the country, dug the first walls. The Romans, who were great architects, constructed the first towns in Britain.

But the Normans influenced the British civilization most of all. They came in 1066 under the leadership of William the Conqueror. As the invaders spoke French, their speech influenced the English language.

Once the British had to face the French in 1805 at the battle of Trafalgar. Then Admiral Nelson won a great victory over the French

fleet. In order to commemorate this event the monument to Admiral Nelson was erected on this square.

In the 18th century technological and commercial innovation led to the Industrial Revolution. The 13 North American Colonies were lost, but replaced by colonies in Canada and India.

THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

1. Read the text and answer the following questions:

- 1) Who discovered America?
- 2) Did Columbus intend to reach America or India?
- 3) Is there any confusion about the East and the West?
- 4) How did Columbus call first people in America?
- 5) Did he make other voyages in search of India?
- 6) What do you know about Pilgrims?

America was founded by Columbus in 1492. He was born in Italy. His father and both grandfathers were cloth makers. Columbus was a seaman and made many sea voyages. Most people in Columbus's days thought that the earth was flat and they did not believe that beyond the Atlantic Ocean lay India.

In 1492 the King and the Queen of Spain gave him money to go to India. He decided to sail west as he was sure that our planet was round. There were 3 caravels: the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinta. After sailing 4000 miles he reached some land. The crew saw something like a white cliff and cried out: "Tierra! Tierra!". Columbus thought 'that it must be India but it was not. It was a new land — a new continent. It was America. Columbus named the land they had reached San Salvador ("Holy Saviour"). People began to speak about the land as "The new World".

European people came to the New World for many reasons. Some hoped to find gold and silver. Priests and missionaries came to bring the Christian religion to the Indians. Among those who came for freedom was a small group of English people called Pilgrims. They wanted to start a new life and to have no religious problems they had in England. In 1620 on the ship "Mayflower" they landed in the north-east of America.

They set up a colony and called that part of the country "New England".

CANADA'S HISTORY

1. Read the text and ask questions to your group-mates:

Canada's history is an exciting story of development of a vast wilderness into a great nation. Most experts believe that the first people who lived on this land came from Asia about 15000 years ago. They came over a land bridge that once connected Asia and North America. Their descendants are known today as Indians. The ancestors of the Eskimos came to Alaska after them probably about 5000 years ago.

In 1497, John Cabot, an Italian navigator in the service of England, found rich fishing grounds off Canada's south-east coast. His discovery led to the European exploration of Canada. France set up a colony in Eastern Canada in the early 1600's. Great Britain gained control of the country in 1763, and thousands of Britain emigrants came in Canada. In 1867, the French and English-speaking Canadians helped to create a united colony called the Dominion of Canada. Two groups worked together to settle the country and to develop its great mineral deposits and other natural resources.

Canada gained its independence from Britain in 1931. During the middle of 20th century, hard-working Canadians turned their country into an economic giant. Today Canada is a leading producer of wheat, oats, barley. Canada also ranks among the world's top manufacturing countries, and it is a major producer of electronic power.

Throughout its history, Canada has often been troubled by lack of unity among its people. French Canadians, most of them live in the province Quebec, have struggled to preserve their own culture. They have long been angered by Canadian policies based on British traditions. Many of them support a movement to make Quebec a separate nation. People in Canada's nine other provinces also frequently local needs over national interests.

THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

1. Read the text and ask questions to your group-mates:

The history of **Australia** records that the first settlers were Aborigines from Southeast Asia who arrived about 40,000 years ago. The first European explorations did not begin until the 17th century. The first territorial claim was made in 1770, by Captain James Cook, who took possession in the name of the British Empire.

Between the 18th and 19th centuries, six colonies were established: New South Wales (1786), Tasmania (formerly Van Diemen's Land – 1825), Western Australia (1829), South Australia (1834), Victoria (1851) and Queensland (1859). In 1901, the colonies united and became federated as the States of the Commonwealth of Australia.

THE HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND

1. Read the text and ask questions to your group-mates:

New Zealand was one of the last major landmasses settled by humans. New Zealand was first settled by Eastern Polynesians between 1250 and 1300, concluding a long series of voyages through the southern Pacific islands. Over the centuries that followed these settlers developed a distinct culture now known as Māori.

The first Europeans known to have reached New Zealand were Dutch explorer Abel Tasman and his crew in 1642. In a hostile encounter, four crew members were killed and at least one Māori was hit by canister shot. Europeans did not revisit New Zealand until 1769 when British explorer James Cook mapped almost the entire coastline. Following Cook, New Zealand was visited by numerous European and North American whaling, sealing and trading ships. They traded food, metal tools, weapons and other goods for timber, food, artefacts, water, and on occasion sex. The introduction of the potato and the musket transformed Māori agriculture and warfare. Potatoes provided a reliable food surplus, which enabled longer and more sustained military campaigns.

New Zealand, originally part of the colony of New South Wales, became a separate Colony of New Zealand on 1 July 1841. The colony gained a representative government in 1852 and the 1st New Zealand Parliament met in 1854. In 1856 the colony effectively became self-governing, gaining responsibility over all domestic matters other than native policy.

UNIT V TRADITIONS

Very often when speaking of English traditions we think first of some curious theatrical ceremonies of the court or parliament procedure. There come to our mind the medieval uniforms of the guards, the solemn cloaks and wigs of the judges or the top hats (bowlers) and the invariable umbrellas of the clerks of the London City.

But the word “tradition” does not mean only that. First and foremost “tradition” is the generally accepted mode or way of living, acting, behaving of just doing things. There are many very good traditions of this kind in the everyday life of the English.

EVERYTHING IS THE OTHER WAY ROUND

1. Read the text, analyze the information. Express your opinion about differences between continental people and Englishmen.

In England everything is the other way round. On Sunday on the Continent even the poorest person puts on his best suit, tries to look respectable, and at the same time the life of the country becomes gay and cheerful; in England even the richest peer or motor-car manufacturer dresses in some peculiar rags, does not shave, and the country becomes dull and dreary.

On the Continent there is one topic, which should be avoided – the weather; in England, if you do not repeat the phrase “Lovely day, isn’t it?” at least two hundred times a day, you are considered a bit dull. On the Continent Sunday papers appear on Monday; in England – a country of exotic oddities – they appear on Sunday.

On a continental bus approaching a request stop the conductor rings the bell if he wants his bus to go on without stopping; in England you ring the bell if you want the bus to stop. On the Continent people have good food; in England people have good table manners.

On the Continent public orators try to learn to speak fluently and smoothly; in England they take a special course in Oxonian stuttering.

On the Continent learned person love to quote Aristotle, Horace, Montaigne and show off their knowledge; in England only uneducated people show off their knowledge, nobody quotes Latin or Greek authors in the course of a conversation, unless he has never read them.

Continental people are sensitive and touchy; the English take everything with an exquisite sense of humour – they are only offended if you tell them that they have no sense of humour.

People on the Continent either tell you the truth or lie; in England they hardly ever lie, but they would not – dream of telling you the truth.

Many continentals think life is a game; the English think cricket is a game.

LUNCH AT 1 O’CLOCK

1. Read the text and find the unknown information to you.

Many foreigners are sometimes taken aback when they are faced with this typically English custom for the first time.

Whatever one is doing, no matter how important it is, or seems to be – a parliamentary debate or any kind of business routine – as soon as the clock strikes one everybody breaks for lunch.

The time from one to two o’clock is a “sacred” hour in England. And it appears to be not only good for health – having meals at regular times is certainly healthy – but it is very convenient socially as well. Everybody knows that there is no use trying to get in touch with some official, business executive or firm representative at this time. They won’t be in. it is no use no waste your time going from one shop to another at one o’clock sharp they will open. For punctuality is also one of the English traditions.

ENGLISH SUNDAY

1. Read the text and find some key words to speak about English Sunday.

The so-called Sunday Observance laws prohibiting all kind of public entertainment on Sunday date back to the 17-18 century. The

idea was to encourage people to go church and not to allow them “to profane the Lord’s Day” by amusing themselves.

Three hundred years have passed since then. Church services are attended by fewer people now than some decades ago. But the old custom of having a quiet Sunday is still alive. This is another English tradition preserved by law.

On Sunday you may visit a museum or go to a concert but all shops, theatres, dance and music halls are closed. This is rather illogical when compared with the unrestricted variety programmes on radio and television or the fact that one can always go to the bingo-club to enjoy himself or to the cinema to see a “thriller” or the latest American “hit”.

Pubs and restaurants are open only from 12 to 2, and from 5 to 10 p.m. The police are very strict and do not hesitate to withdraw the licence from the proprietors who disregard closing time.

ENGLISH TEA

1. Read the text and make presentation using the above given text, Internet, other sources of information.

The trouble with the tea is that originally it was quite a good drink. So a group of the most eminent British scientists put their heads together, and made complicated biological experiments to find a way of spoiling it. To eternal glory of British science their labour bore fruit. They suggested that if you do not drink it clear, or with lemon or rum and sugar, but pour a few drops of cold milk into it, and no sugar at all, the desired object is achieved. Once this refreshing, aromatic, oriental beverage was successfully transformed into colorless and tasteless gargling-water*, it suddenly became the national drink of Great Britain and Ireland – still retaining, indeed usurping, the high-sounding title of tea.

There are some occasions when you must not refuse a cup of tea, otherwise you are judged an exotic and barbarous bird without any hope of ever being able to take your place in civilized society.

If you are invited to an English home, at five o'clock in the morning you get a cup of tea. It is either brought in by a heartily smiling hostess or an almost malevolently silent maid. When you are disturbed in your sweetest morning sleep you must not say: “Madame (or Mabel), I think you are a cruel, spiteful and malignant person who deserved to

be shot." On the contrary, you have to declare with your best five o'clock smile: "Thank you so much. I do adore a cup of early morning tea, especially early in the morning." If they live you alone with the liquid, you may pour it down the washbasin.

Then you have tea for breakfast; then you have tea at eleven o'clock in the morning; then after lunch; then you have tea for tea; then for supper; and again at eleven o'clock at night. You must not refuse any additional cups of tea under the following circumstances: is it hot; if it is cold; if you are tired; if anybody thinks that you might be tired; if you are nervous; if you are gay; before you go out; if you have just returned home; if you feel like it; if you do not feel like it; if you have had no tea for some time; if you have just had a cup...

FIREPLACES

1. Read the text and point out new information to you.

In English homes, the fireplace has always been, until recent times, the natural center of interest in a room. People may like to sit at a window on a summer day, but for many months of the year prefer to sit round the fire and watch the dancing flames.

In the Middle Ages the fireplaces in the halls of large castles were very wide. Only wood was burnt, and large logs were carted in from the forests, and supported as they burnt, on metal bars. Such wide fireplaces may still be seen in old inns, and in some of them there are even seats inside the fireplace.

Elizabethan fireplaces often had carved stone or woodwork over the fireplace, reaching to the ceiling. There were sometimes columns on each side of the fireplace. In the 18th century, place was often provided over the fireplace for a painting or mirror.

When coal fires became common, fireplaces became much smaller. Grates were used to hold the coal. Above the fireplace there was usually a shelf on which there was often a clock, and perhaps framed photographs.

PUBS

1. Read the text and give a summary of the following points:

- **pubs in Great Britain**
- **pubs games**

Do you know what a pub is? The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines it as a public house or building where people go to drink and to meet their friends. English men like to get together in the pub in the evening. The usual opening hours for pubs are on weekends from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. On Sundays pubs may remain open for not more than 5 and a half hours.

Pubs usually have two drinking rooms called bars - the public and the saloon bar, which is more comfortable but more expensive. "Bar" also means the counter at which drinks are served.

Pubs serve alcoholic and other drinks and often light meals. The main drink served in pubs, is, of course, beer, light or dark. Light beer is usually called bitter. As for other kinds of alcohol, most pubs serve whisky, gin and wine. Beer is always sold in pint or half-pint glasses. A pint is equivalent to 0.57 liter. No alcoholic drinks may be served to young people under eighteen under British law.

In Great Britain today there are some 80,000 pubs situated in different cities, country towns, villages, and so on. Of London's 5,000 pubs some of the most interesting are right by the River Thames, downstream as well as up. Every English pub has its own sign and name. Some people refer to pub signs as a great open-air portrait gallery, which covers the whole country. But actually this gallery includes far more than portraits.

Some pub signs present different types of transport such as coaches, trams, ships, airplanes and even flying boards. There are signboards depicting animals, birds, fish as well as kings and queens, dukes and lords, sailors, soldiers, fat men and giants. A first class example of an heraldic pub sign is found near Leeds in

Yorkshire at Burley. The Butcher's Arms can be seen in Gloucestershire on a small typical English country pub near Sheepscombe.

At Cheltenham also in the same county you will see a sign showing the head of a horse, the name of the pub being Nags Head. At the village of Slad, also in Gloucestershire you can have a pint of lager in

Woolpack and this pub sign shows a horse with two heavy packs of wool slung over it.

In Wales the most attractive sign in a number of pubs share the name of Market Tavern because all of them are on the pubs adjoining the market place.

In London the famous Sherlock Holmes pub with the big portrait of the famous detective smoking his favourite pipe attracts thousands of visitors to Northumberland Avenue.

History, geography, fairytales are kept alive by the name or sign of the "local" (the neighbourhood pub). As history is being made, so the owners of the pubs - usually the brewery companies - and individual publicans are quick to record it by new signs. Typical example is the "Sir Francis Chichester" named after the first man to sail alone around the world.

Not all British pubs have individual signboards, but a considerable effort is being made now to retain old signs. Jerome K. Jerome, the creator of the internationally known book "Three Men In a Boat" over a hundred years ago revealed himself at probably his most authoritative intro matter or pubs. He clearly was a pub man and you can consider his famous book not only a guidebook to the Thames but as the first of those now familiar surveys of recommended places where to sleep, eat and enjoy beer. But in many pubs one can also enjoy some traditional pub games. There are darts, cards, skittles, coin games and various table games, of which playing darts is the oldest one.

Some of these games are difficult to find, as pubs have updated their amenities by offering TV and video games, such as two-men tennis, fruit machines, pinball machines, and so on. There are also other pub entertainments, such as piano playing, folk-singing, jazz performances and even theatres. However, if such table games as billiards or table football which are played with two or four players as well as cards, dominoes and coin games are known in this country, skittles and darts are less familiar.

Skittles is one of the oldest pub games and dates back to medieval England, the object of the game being to knock down as many skittles as possible with a wooden ball. This pub game has lots of variations all over Britain. Darts is also an old game, ' which was played by the Pilgrims in 1620 when they sailed, from England to the New World. That is why it is well known in the USA, too. To play this game one must first of all have a standard dartboard with numbers marked on it to indicate score. The outer ring counts double, the middle one treble

while at the very centre is the bull (50) with its own outer circle (25). Dart players should stand at least eight feet away from the board. The aim of the game is to score as quickly as possible with the least number, of throws. The actual score a player must get depends on the variety of game he is playing. Many pubs in Great Britain have their own darts teams. So, if you come to Britain drop in a pub, enjoy a pint of bitter and a "tongue sandwich, which speaks for itself".

It sounds funny to foreigners but when it is closing time, the pub barman calls "Time!" or "Time, gentlemen, please!"

ASSIGNMENTS:

Using additional sources, find information and pictures of the other English-speaking countries traditions and prepare a report / presentation.

UNIT VI

NATIONAL CHARACTER, MANNERS

ENGLISH HABITS OF POLITENESS

1. Read the text, analyze the information. Express your opinion about differences between continental people and Englishmen.

Some greetings in England are very informal: a simple "good morning" or a wave of the hand across the street is quite enough. Handshakes are only exchanged on a first introduction or as a token of agreement or congratulation. "Sorry" takes the place of "no" when you cannot do something for a person or give a positive answer in situation like "May I use your pen?", "Do you know the time?" or "Have you any size seven shoes?". "Pardon" is the polite way of asking somebody to repeat what he has said.

English people do not readily ask each other to do anything, they prefer to wait for a service to be offered before asking for it. If they do ask, then they say something like "I don't really like asking you, but..."

It is considered polite to give up one's seat a woman who is standing, to open door for her, carry things for her, and so on.

ENGLISH MANNERS IN PUBLIC

1. Read the text, analyze the information.

English manners in public, like their manners in their homes, are based on self-respect and consideration for other people.

It is really surprising how stingy they are with their "Please" when they ask anyone to do something for them. They unwillingly part with their "Thank you", as if it were the most difficult and costly thing in the world. They don't stand aside for others to pass them in the trams, buses or the underground. They don't rise to let people pass them to their seats in the theatres or movies.

2. Read the following and remember.

1. Not to make yourself conspicuous, not to attract unfavourable attention to yourself or others, here are some of the rules for correct behaviour in a public place.

2. Not to be conspicuous, don't wear conspicuous clothes.

3. One should not talk loud or laugh loud.

4. No matter how trying the circumstance, do not give way to anger or uncontrolled emotion.

5. Never eat anything in the street, or in a public place (restaurants, buffets and cafes excluded).

6. Do not rudely push your way through crowds.

7. Never stare at people or point at them.

8. Do not ridicule or comment on anyone in public.

9. Reserve "affectionate demonstration" (kissing, embracing, etc.) for appropriate places.

10. Don't monopolise the sidewalk, by walking 3 or 4 abreast, or by stopping in the centre to speak with someone.

When in the street keep to the right.

AMERICAN HABITS OF POLITENESS

1. Read the text, analyze the information. Express your opinion about American habits of politeness.

Americans are often very informal in both their dress and **interactions** with others. People **frequently** call each other by their first names, which should not be seen as **a lack of** respect. When meeting someone for the first time, Americans usually shake hands and say "Hi," "Pleased to meet you" or "How do you do?" When greeting someone you **are** already **acquainted with**, you may smile or wave. A common greeting is "How are you?" The usual **response** to this question is "I'm fine, thanks"; the person asking generally does not expect a detailed response. Similarly, phrases such as "See you later" are just ways of saying goodbye, and do not **imply** an **invitation**. You may call persons your own age and your **colleagues** by their first names. It is best, however, **to address** professors and older persons with their title (Dr., Professor, Mr., Mrs., or Ms.) unless they ask you to do **otherwise**.

When **receiving** an invitation, it is polite to respond as soon as possible to let your **host** or **hostess** know whether or not you are able to accept. If you are invited to dinner, you should arrive on time. You are not expected to bring a gift, but if you wish to show your appreciation, flowers or other small items are appropriate. It is not as important to be on time to events such as parties; guests are often late, as no one wants to be the first to arrive.

AMERICAN MANNERS IN PUBLIC

2. Read the text and remember important information.

Always shake hands: Americans shake hands when greeting each other. This is true for both men and women. Other forms of greeting such as kissing on the cheeks, etc., is generally not appreciated.

Look your partner in the eye: Americans look each other in the eyes when they are speaking as a way of showing that they are sincere.

Don't hold hands: Same sex friends do not usually hold hands or put their arms around each other in public in the United States.

Smoking is Out!!: Smoking, even in public places, is strongly disapproved of by most Americans in the modern United States.

Monitor your attitude and keep your outlook positive.

Do not hesitate to ask questions and seek assistance when ever you feel a need.

Talk to people about what you observe to gain a better understanding of what you see.

Get Involved

Join a club.
Engage in service opportunities.
Attend lectures, workshops and International Services' programs.
Participate in intramural sports.

NEW ZEALAND WAY OF LIFE

1. Read the text, analyze the information. Express your opinion about New Zealand way of life.

New Zealand have a high standard of living. New Zealanders eat more butter and meat per person than do the people of any other country. The government's medical program provides excellent health care. About 70% of New Zealand people own their houses. Almost every family has a car.

Most New Zealanders live in singlefamily houses with a small vegetable gardens. In the larger cities, some people live in highrise apartment buildings. Almost in every New Zealand home there are refrigerators, wash mashines, and other modern electrical appliances. But air conditioning and central heating are rare because the weather rarely becomes extremely hot or extremely cold. In summer, New Zealanders prefer to keep windows open. In winter, fireplaces or electric heater keep the homes warm.

Although about fourfifths of New Zealand's population live in urban areas, cities are uncrowded. Traffic jams seldom occur, even in downtown areas. Large cities have excellent restaurants, milk bars, theatres, concert halls, and other places of entertainment. City life in New Zealand tends to be rather quiet. However it is changing in larger cities, where international tourism is developing rapidly.

Near a fifth of New Zealand's people live in rural areas — in some of them, small settlements are linked by good roads. But in other areas, rancher's nearest neighbours may live kilometers away. Some ranchers live almost in isolation.

Nevertheless, most farms and ranches have electricity. Many farm families run their farms with little or no hired help.

UNIT VII HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS

1. Read the texts, analyze the information. Express your opinion about Christmas celebration in different lands.

Christmas in England



In English speaking countries, children don't get their presents on Christmas Eve (24 December). Santa comes at night when everyone is asleep. Santa's reindeer can fly and take him from house to house. They land on the roofs of the houses and then Santa climbs down the chimney to leave the presents under the Christmas tree.

In the morning of Christmas Day (25 December), children usually get up very early to unwrap their presents. Then they have plenty of time to play with their new toys.

Christmas dinner is served in the early afternoon. Most people eat turkey and sprouts and a Christmas pudding.

26 December is called Boxing Day. It hasn't always been a holiday. People used to go back to work on that day where their bosses gave them little Christmas presents in small boxes. That's why the day is called Boxing Day.

Christmas in New Zealand

New Zealand is on the southern hemisphere. Our winter is their summer, so New Zealanders celebrate Christmas in the warm summer sun. Many flowers and trees are in bloom at this time of the year, for example the pohutukawa. The pohutukawa tree grows on the North



Island, mainly in coastal areas and has lovely red blossoms. Therefore New Zealanders call the pohutukawa their Christmas tree.

As it is usually quite warm on Christmas Day, New Zealanders can eat their Christmas dinner outside. Many people have a picnic or a barbecue. And some people even have a traditional Maori hangi: they dig a hole in the ground and heat it with hot stones. Then they put meat and vegetables into this hole, cover the hole and let the food cook inside. The hangi is served in the afternoon or evening; after the delicious meal, people often sit around and sing Christmas

carols.

Some New Zealanders can't get enough of Christmas—they celebrate it twice each year: on 25 December and in July, which is mid-winter in New Zealand. So if you go to New Zealand in July, you may find hotels and restaurants fully decorated for Christmas.

Christmas in the USA

Christmas is Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. For millions of Christmas throughout the world it is the happiest and the busiest time of the year. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth but most Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25. The world Christmas comes from Christes maesse, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ.

People of different countries celebrate Christmas in various ways. People in the United States and Canada decorate their homes with Christmas trees, wreaths and ornaments. City streets are filled with colored lights; the sound of bells and Christmas carols can be heard everywhere.

Children write letters to Santa Claus and tell him what presents they would like to get. Many department stores hire people to a Santa Claus costume and listen to children's requests. People send Christmas cards to relatives and friends. Many companies give presents to their employees.

A Christmas tree is one of the main symbols of Christmas in most homes. Relatives and friends may join in trimming the tree with lights, tinsel, and colorful ornaments. Presents are placed under the

tree. On Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, families open their presents. Many children believe that Santa Claus arrives on Christmas Eve in a sleigh pulled by reindeer and brings present. Some children hang up stockings so Santa Claus can fill them with candy, fruits and other small gifts.

In many parts of the United States and Canada groups of people walk from house to house and sing Christmas carols. Some people give singers money or small gifts or invite them for a warm drink. Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. They listen to readings from Bible and singing Christmas carols.

A traditional Christmas dinner consist of stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce a variety of other dishes. Some families have ham or roast goose instead of turkey. Pumpkin pie, plum pudding, and fruitcake are favorite desserts.

Christmas in Australia

Most Australians have been dreaming of a white Christmas for centuries. But the traditional European Christmas is just a myth for Australians. Santas wearing thick woollen clothes don't fit with Australia's thirty-degree heat. Thankfully things are changing fast. Now they have their own Christmas, Australian style.

Australia is a country which is largely made up of desert and sandy beaches. For the first settlers, two hundred years ago, a plate of corned meat and a mug of billy tea might have been the best Christmas dinner available. As a new nation developed and grew richer, people tried to recreate the kind of Christmas that they used to have in Europe.

Christmas in Australia happens in the summer. However, we tried our best to deny the reality of a summer Christmas. In the classroom, children learned songs like Frosty the Snowman and Jingle Bells. Up until recently, the only Christmas cards published portrayed white winter Christmases. All this was a bit ridiculous in a country where 80 per cent of the land has never witnessed a snowflake, even in winter.

However, the last ten years have witnessed some big changes in the Australian lifestyle. Many Australians now believe that the country should break its connections with Britain and the British Queen.

Now Australians see themselves as inhabitants of the Asia Pacific region. So now Christmas has got an Australian identity.

It's rare to find a flake of snow on Christmas cards these days. Now the publishers print Christmas cards with native Australian animals and landscape scenes of the Australian bush.

On Christmas day you'll find a large percentage of kids on the beach playing with their new surfboards, building sandcastles rather than snowmen. Indeed one of the most typical Australian Christmas presents is a beach towel.

It's not only with food and gifts that Australian Christmases differ from European ones. Because of the weather, the atmosphere of Christmas is different.

Instead of being a serious time where most families are indoors, Australians are usually outdoors in shorts and T-shirts, taking a cold six-pack of beer to a friend's barbecue.

There are loads of summer festivals with people celebrating Christmas in carnival style. What is unique though is something that most Australians are starting to dream of. That is a Christmas of sunshine, surf and sand. Although to many Europeans this may seem strange, to many Australians it's now the only Christmas worth dreaming of.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

1. Read the texts and speak about Christmas Traditions.

Christmas is probably the most festive time of the year, a season of gift-giving and celebration. We all know that Christmas is a religious holiday which marks the birth of Jesus Christ. But did you also know that some of the traditions are adapted from rituals dating back to a time before Christianity?

Many pagan peoples regarded the winter solstice as a time of celebration. Anticipating the return of spring, people decorated their homes with evergreen plants, a symbol of eternal life. Mistletoe was especially popular, as it was believed to have magic powers. People hung sprigs of mistletoe in their homes and kissed beneath them as a gesture of friendship. At pagan festivals there was also a lot of singing and dancing going on – “dancing in a circle” is the original meaning of the word “carol”.

Still now we keep these traditions up: we sing Christmas carols and dance around in circles, we kiss beneath



the mistletoe and we decorate our homes with Christmas trees. By the way, did you know that it was a German who set the trend of decorating Christmas trees in England? It was Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband. When he moved to England, Christmas trees had already been popular in continental Europe, but not in England. In 1841, Prince Albert put up a Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. The event was reported in the press; and as the whole country was very keen on the royal family, people enthusiastically took up the custom of decorating a tree at Christmas.

Irish Christmas Traditions

Ireland, like most countries, has a number of Christmas traditions that are all of its own. Many of these customs have their root in the time when the Gaelic culture and religion of the country were being suppressed and it is perhaps because of that they have survived into modern times.

The Candle in the Window

The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas eve is still practised today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travelled looking for shelter.

The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass as, during Penal Times this was not allowed.



The Laden Table

After evening meal on Christmas eve the kitchen table was again set and on it were placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveller, could avail of the welcome.

The Wren Boy Procession

During Penal Times there was once a plot in a village against the local soldiers. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as "The Devil's bird".

On St. Stephens Day a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has to a large degree disappeared but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephens Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

Decorations:

The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th.) and it is considered to be bad luck to take them down beforehand.

Traditional Gaelic Salutation

The Gaelic greeting for "Merry Christmas" is: "Nollaig Shona Duit" ... which is pronounced as "null-ig hun-a dit".

Happy Christmas!

OTHER HOLIDAYS

1. Read the text, find new information. Speak on any holiday.

Independence Day

On July 4 the Americans celebrate their national holiday-independence Day. The United States gained independence as a result of gradual and painful process. By the mid 1700's it became difficult for thirteen British colonies in the New World to be ruled by a kind 3000

miles across the ocean. The British Empire imposed high taxes upon the colonies.

In 1774, the First Continental Congress drew up a list of grievances against the British crown. This document was the first draft of the document that would formally separate colonies from England. In 1755, the Revolutionary War began. On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress presented a second draft of the list of grievances. On July 4 the Continental Congress approved the declaration of Independence. But the War of independence lasted until 1783. After the war Independence Day became an official holiday.

On July 4, Americans have holiday from work. People have day-long picnic with favorite foods like hot dog, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans. Lively music is heard everywhere. People play baseball or compete three-legged races or pie-eating or water-melon-eating contests. Some cities have parades with people dressed as the original founding fathers who march to the music of high school bands. In the evening people gather to watch firework displays. Wherever Americans are around the globe they will get together to celebrate Independence Day.

Halloween

Halloween is a festival that takes place on October 31. In the us children wear costumes and masks and go trick-or-treating. Many of them carve jack-o'-lanterns out of pumpkins. Fortunetelling and storytelling about ghosts and witches are popular activities.

Halloween developed from new year festivals and festivals of the dead. Christian church established a festival on November 1 called All Saints' Day so that people could continue to celebrate their festivals. The Mass said on All Saints' Day was called Allhallowmass. The day before All Saints Day was known all hallows Eve or Halloween.

The main Halloween activity for children is trick-or-treating. Children dress in costumes and masks and go from door to door saying "trick or treat". The neighbors give children such treats as candy, fruit and pennies so that children do not play tricks on them.

Jack-o'-lanterns are hallowed-out pumpkins with face carved into one side. Most jack-o-lanterns contain a candle inside. An Irish legend says that jack-o'-lanterns are named after the man called jack. He could not enter heaven because he was a miser, and he could not enter hell because he had played jokes on devil. As a result, Jack has to walk on the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day.

Fortunetelling an important part of Halloween. For example, a coin, a ring, and thimble were baked into a cake. It was believed that

the person who found the ring would marry soon. And the person who found the thimble would never get married. Today people practice cardreading or palmistry.

People once believed that there were many ghosts and witches on the Earth and that they met on October 31 to worship the devil. Today, people do not believe in ghosts and witches but they like to tell stories about them on Halloween.

Thanksgiving

Almost in every culture in the world there is a celebration of thanks for rich harvest. The American Thanksgiving began as a feast of thanksgiving almost four hundred years ago.

In 1620, a religious community sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. They settled in what is now known as the state of Massachusetts. Their first winter in America was difficult. They arrived too late to grow a rich harvest. Moreover, half the colony died from disease. The following spring the Iroquois Indians taught them how to grow corn. Indians showed them also how to grow other crops and how to hunt and fish.

In the autumn of 1621 they got a beautiful harvest of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins. The colonists had much to be thankful for, so they planned a feast. Local Indian chief and ninety Indians were present. The colonists learned from Indians how to cook cranberries and dishes of corn and pumpkins.

In following years many of the colonists celebrated the harvest with a feast of thanks. After the United States gained independence, Congress recommended one yearly day of thanksgiving for the whole country. Later George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day. Then, after the civil war, Abraham Lincoln suggested the last Thursday in November to be the day of thanksgiving.

On Thanksgiving Day, family members gather at the house of an older relative, even if they far away. All give thanks for everything good they have. Charitable organizations offer traditional meal to homeless.

Foods, eaten at the first thanksgiving, have become traditional. The traditional thanksgiving meal consists of roast turkey stuffed with herb-flavored bread, cranberry jelly, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie. Other dishes may vary as to region: ham, sweet potatoes, creamed corn.

Valentine's Day

There are several legends about St. Valentine's Day. One of the legends says that Valentine was Christian priest who lived in the 3 cen-

tury A.D. he was put into prison by roman authorities for his teachings and was beheaded on February cured his jailer's daughter of her blindness. Before the execution he wrote her a letter signed "From Your Valentine". Another legend says that the same Valentine wrote to children and friends who loved him from the jail.

According to another legend, Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived at about the same time. He was thrown into prison because he secretly married couples, contrary to the laws of the Roman Empire. The legend says that he was burnt at the stake.

February 14 was also a Roman holiday. On this day young men randomly chose the name of the girl to escort to the festival. The custom of choosing a sweetheart on this day became very popular in the medieval Europe. Later this custom spread to American colonies.

Now, St. Valentine's Day is the day of sweethearts. On this day, people show their friends relatives and loved ones that they care. People send candy of flowers to those whom they love. Most people send "valentines", greeting cards named after St. Valentine's letters written from jail. Valentines can be sentimental and romantic, or funny and friendly. Valentines can be anonymous. Valentines can be heart-shaped or can carry hearts on them. People buy valentines or make them themselves.

Saint Patrick's Day

Every 17 March, Irish people all over the world celebrate St. Patrick's Day in honour of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Let's find out what was so special about that person.

When St. Patrick was born, his name actually was not Patrick but Maewyn. He grew up in Wales, but when he was 16, people kidnapped him and sold him into slavery in Ireland.

Maewyn spent six years as a slave in Ireland, but then he escaped and went to Gaul in France

where he studied in a monastery for 12 years. Finally, Maewyn became a bishop and adopted the Christian name Patricius (in English: Patrick).



Later Patrick decided to go back to Ireland. Unlike many other missionaries before him, Patrick successfully converted Irish pagans to Christianity because he knew a lot about Irish life and their gods. So Patrick for example did not simply introduce the Christian cross – he put a sun behind it because he knew that the sun was an important symbol for the Irish. The so called Celtic Cross therefore is a cross with a circle symbolising the sun.

Furthermore, Patrick explained the holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) with the help of a shamrock, which grows everywhere in Ireland. The shamrock has three equally sized leaves and Patrick used this to show how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could exist as separate elements of the same entity.

There are several legends about St. Patrick, for example that he banned all snakes from Ireland (still now there are no snakes in Ireland). People also say that Patrick met some Irish legends such as the Children of Lir.

Patrick died on 17 March 461. That day now is a national holiday in Ireland and there are parades in the streets and music everywhere. Not only in Ireland – Irish emigrants took this tradition all over the world. So there will most probably be a St. Patrick's Day party in an Irish pub near you. Why not go there and get a little St. Patrick's Day feeling? Have a good time and sing along. Here are two traditional Irish songs that will surely be sung in every Irish pub that night: Whiskey in the Jar and The Wild Rover.

UNIT VIII

SPORTS

1. Read the text, analyze the information. Express your opinion about national games in different countries. Speak on the popular kinds of sport.

IN GREAT BRITAIN

British people are very fond of sports. Sport is a part of their normal life. The two most popular games are football and cricket.

Football, also called soccer, is the most popular sport in the United Kingdom. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own Football Leagues and national teams. Games are played on Saturday afternoons from August to April. In addition to the FL games there is a competition called the Football Associations Cup. The Cup Final is played at Wembley Stadium(London) in May.

Cricket is considered to be the English National game. Its rules are very complicated. Two teams of eleven men each play it, the player at a time tries to hit ball with a bat.

Golf is the Scottish national game. It originated in the XV century and the most famous golf course in the world, known as a Royal and Ancient Club, is at St. Andrew's.

Lawn tennis was first played in Britain in the late 19th century. The most famous British championship is Wimbledon, played annually during the last week of June and the first week of July.

Those are the most popular kinds of sport in the UK. But there are many other sports such as rugby, golf, swimming, horse-racing and the traditional fox-hunting.

IN THE USA

Americans' interest in sport seems excessive to many foreign visitors. Television networks spend millions of dollars arranging to telecast sport events. Publications about sports sell widely. In the US professional athletes can become national heroes.

Sports are associated with educational institutions in a way is unique. High schools have coaches as faculty members, and school teams compete with each other.

Nowhere else in the world are sports associated with colleges and universities in the way they are in the States. College sports, especially football, are conducted in an atmosphere of intense excitement and pageantry. Games between teams attract nationwide television audiences

The sport that is most popular in most of the world-soccer-is not well known in the US. The most popular sports are football and baseball, games that are not played in large number of countries.

Sports play such an important role in American life that the sociology of sport, sport medicine, and sport psychology have become respectable specializations.

Many Americans jog every day, or play tennis or bridge two or three times a week. They go on ski trips and hunting expeditions that require weeks of planning and organizing. In Americans' view, all these

activities are worth the discomfort they may cause because they contribute to health and physical fitness. That is probably why Americans are known as a healthy nation.

Americans are very fond of sport. The most popular sports in USA are football, baseball, basketball and ice hockey.

American football derives from the English game of rugby. It started at Harvard University in the 1870's. It is a game for two teams of eleven men on field. The object of the game is to have control of the ball and to score points by carrying it across the goal-line.

Baseball is a team game derived from the English game of cricket. It is played with a bat and ball by two teams of nine players each, on a field with four bases. Baseball is the national game in the USA and it is very popular in Canada too.

Basketball is a game which nowadays is popular all over the world. It was invented in 1891. During the '20s the first US league championship was organized. In the '70s the American Championship was divided into two leagues: the ABA (American Basketball Association), which does not exist any longer and which played with a blue, red and white ball and NBA (National Basketball Association).

The NBA is a professional league which still plays.

There are more activities which Americans take part in such as golf, swimming, tennis, aerobics, wrestling, etc.

IN AUSTRALIA

A lot of Australians think you shouldn't worry too much about life. But some things in life are really important, and to many Australian men, one of these things is sport. It's something they don't joke about. Sport matters. In pubs, clubs and even at work you'll often find men who can talk about only one thing — sport.

Australians are lucky. They have a perfect climate, and an endless amount of land. They have wonderful waves for surfers on their beaches. They also have a strong wish to win. Put these together and you get a lot of good sportsmen and women. In fact, Australia has a very high number of world champions, in all kinds of sports, for a country of only 16 million people.

Around the country you'll find plenty of opportunities for golf, squash, tennis, trail riding (horse or motorcycle), fishing and so on. Surfing is almost a religion for many Australians who follow the waves around the country and there are a number of important surfing contests.

You'll find football of assorted types including the unique Australian Rules Football. Then, there's motor racing and motorcycle racing, horse racing, yacht racing, cricket matches and lots more.

The best thing, of course, is to play sport yourself. But if you can't, or you don't want to, then you can watch other people doing it. Every year, more than 100,000 people go to the final of Australian Rules Football. Crowds of more than 90,000 watch the big cricket matches against India, Pakistan, New Zealand and England.

There are sport happenings and holidays in Australia year round. Here are some of them.

In February there's Regatta Day with boat races and other water activities. In June in Darwin the Beer Can Regatta takes place when there are boat races for boats constructed entirely out of beer cans — there are plenty of those in the world's beer drinking capital.

In August in the Northern Territory camel racing is on in Alice Springs, and then the Apex Rodeo is held, one of the biggest rodeo in Australia — the town fills up with cowboys.

Meanwhile in Sydney, Australia's biggest race takes place with 25,000 competitors running the 14 km from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach in the city. It is a public holiday in Victoria but the whole country shuts down for the three minutes or so which the race takes.

In December the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race starts on the 26th, a fantastic sight as the yachts stream out of the harbour and head south.

UNIT IX

Important people

1. Read the texts below about famous people. Try to remember some outstanding personalities from history, literature, etc. Pay attention to the most interesting and important facts about these people. Be ready to prepare reports on some outstanding personalities and comment your choice.

Saint Patrick

The Patron Saint of Ireland was born into either a Scottish or English family in the fourth century. He was captured as a teenager by Niall of the Nine Hostages who was to become a King of all Ireland.

He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd. He worked in terrible conditions for six years drawing comfort in the Christian faith that so many of his people had abandoned under Roman rule.

Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him. He travelled over 200 miles from his Northern captivity to Wexford town where, sure enough, a ship was waiting to enable his escape.

Upon arrival in England he was captured by brigands and returned to slavery. He escaped after two months and spent the next seven years travelling Europe seeking his destiny.

During this time he furthered his education and studied Christianity in the Lerin Monastery in France. He returned to England as a priest. Again a dream greatly influenced him when he became convinced that the Irish people were calling out to him to return to the land of his servitude.

He went to the Monastery in Auxerre where it was decided that a mission should be sent to Ireland. Patrick was not selected for this task to his great disappointment. The monk that was selected was called Paladius, but he died before he could reach Ireland and a second mission was decided upon.

Patrick was made a Bishop by Pope Celestine in the year 432 and, together with a small band of followers, traveled to Ireland to commence the conversion.

Patrick confronted the most powerful man in Ireland – Laoghaire, The High King of Tara – as he knew that if he could gain his support that he would be safe to spread the word throughout Ireland. To get his attention Patrick and his followers lit a huge fire to mark the commencement of Spring. Tradition had it that no fire was to be lit until the



Kings fire was complete, but Patrick defied this rule and courted the confrontation with the King.

The King rushed into action and travelled with the intention of making war on the holy delegation. Patrick calmed the King and with quiet composure impressed the King that he had no other intention than that of spreading the word of the Gospel. The King accepted the missionary, much to the dismay of the Druids who feared for their own power and position in the face of this new threat. They commanded that he make snow fall. Patrick declined to do so stating that this was Gods work. Immediately it began to snow, only stopping when Patrick blessed himself.

Still trying to convince the King of his religion Patrick grasped at some Shamrock growing on the ground. He explained that there was but one stem on the plant, but three branches of the leaf, representing the Blessed Trinity. The King was impressed with his sincerity and granted him permission to spread the word of his faith, although he did not convert to Christianity himself.

Patrick and his followers were free to spread their faith throughout Ireland and did so to great effect. He drove paganism (symbolised by the snake) from the lands of Eireann.

Patrick was tempted by the Devil whilst on a pilgrimage at Croagh Patrick. For his refusal to be tempted, God rewarded him with a wish. Patrick asked that the Irish be spared the horror of Judgement Day and that he himself be allowed to judge his flock. Thus, the legend that Ireland will disappear under a sea of water seven years before the final judgement, was born.

Patrick died on March 17th in the year 461 at the age of 76. It is not known for sure where his remains were laid although Downpatrick in County Down in the North of Ireland is thought to be his final resting place.

His influence is still felt to this day as nations the world over commemorate him on March 17th of every year.

Saint Brigid – The Other Irish Saint

Although Saint Patrick is known worldwide, Ireland does have a female patron Saint: Saint Brigid. Known as Bridey, Mary of Gaels and



even as Biddy, Saint Brigid was born near Dundalk to a pagan Gaelic chieftain named Dubtach (Duffy) and to a Christian slave mother named Brocessa, who was sold soon after Brigid's birth. She was baptized by Saint Patrick with whom she was to become friends.

As a child the young Brigid enjoyed a position of some comfort and privilege, the family being in receipt of financial support because of their position of authority. Upon reaching adulthood, however, she assumed a role of servitude and was charged with caring for her father and family.

She never forgot her mother, however, and, despite being forbidden to do so, she left

the family home, located her mother, negotiated her release from slavery and returned home to her father's house. To her dismay, her father had arranged her marriage to a poet, who was among the most prestigious men of the time. Brigid had already vowed to remain celibate and to do God's work, so once more she left her home, this time forever.

Together with seven other dedicated women she formed the first ever female monastic community in Ireland in the year 468. They helped the poor of the time and were attributed with many miracles. Despite having limited resources they never seemed to be without food or supplies for their good works. She founded a school of art and a monastery at Cill Dara, about which the modern town of Kildare now stands.

The most famous miracle associated with Brigid tells of her confrontation with an Irish chieftain. She asked him for a quantity of land so that she could build a monastic community. The chieftain replied that she could have whatever amount of land her cloak could cover. Brigid

took the cloak from her shoulders and cast it on the ground where it covered over 12 acres of the chieftains lands. He gave it willingly.

The date of her death is now that of her feastday, February 1st, which is still celebrated with the traditional creation of the Saint Brigid Cross made from reeds. She is buried next to Saint Patrick in Downpatrick.

Brian Boru – The last great High King of Ireland

The line between Irish Legend and Irish Myth have often been blurred, especially as the retelling of heroic deeds has been passed on through generations.

Brian Boru was no legend although his life deeds were legendary. He was very much a real man and was in fact the last great High King of Ireland and perhaps the greatest military leader the country has ever known.

Brian Boru was born Brian Mac Cennétig. His mother was sister to the mother of Conor, the King of Connaught.

His brother, Mahon, had become King of Munster in 951, upon the death of their father, Cennétig. Together they fought against the invading Norsemen, who had imposed taxes in Munster. This struggle eventually led to the murder of Mahon in 975 by the Ostermen (Norse). Brian avenged his brother's death by killing the King of the Ostermen of Limerick, King Ímar.



From this point onwards Brian held Munster as his own, including the pivotal trade-centre of Limerick. He marched into Connaught and Leinster and joined forces with Mael Sechnaill II in 997. Together they divided Ireland between them.

The Norse settlers in Dublin especially ranged against Brian but were defeated at Glen Máma where the King of Leinster was captured. The King of Dublin, Sitric Silkenbeard, was soon defeated too.

In 1002 Brian demanded of his comrade Mael Sechnaill that he recognize him as King of Ireland. Mael agreed, partially because many of his own people viewed Brian as a hero who had restored Ireland to greatness after the Viking invasions. The rule of the Uí Néill's was thus at an end as a non-O'Neill was proclaimed as King. The O'Neill's had been rulers for over 600 years.

He earned his name as "Brian of the Tributes" (Brian Boru) by collecting tributes from the minor rulers of Ireland and used the monies raised to restore monasteries and libraries that had been destroyed during the invasions.

The Norsemen were not done yet, however, and once more waged war on Brian Boru and his followers at Clontarf in Dublin in 1014. The King of Connaught, Tadhg O'Connor refused to ally with Brian against the Ostermen although Uí Fiachrach Aidne and Uí Maine did join with him.

Despite the lack of backing from the men of Connaught, the Munstermen won the day but lost Brian Boru in the battle. This battle was a major turning point as it finally subjugated the Norse presence in Ireland who were henceforth considered subordinate to the Kingships of Ireland. Their military threat had been ended and they retreated to the urban centres of Dublin, Waterford, Limerick, Wexford, and Cork. They eventually became completely hibernicized and integrated into Gaelic culture.

After his death and the death of one of his sons, his remaining sons, Tadhg and Donnchad, were unable to assume the kingship which was assumed by Mael Sechnaill. He died in 1022 after which the role of High King of Ireland became more of a position in name only, rather than that of a powerful ruler.

Perhaps the best that should be said of Brian Boru therefore, is that he was the last great High King of Ireland.



Michael Collins – An Irish Rebel

Michael Collins was born in Cork in 1890. He attended school and then worked as a local journalist (writing sports reviews) before moving to London at the age of 15 to work for the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

In London Collins associated with the Irish community and became keenly aware of

the history of Irish nationalism. He joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1909. By 1915 he had risen through the ranks of the London branch of the IRB and was aware of the increasing tension in Dublin between the various factions of republicanism. He returned home and helped in the recruitment that was necessary before any uprising could be successful. He also joined the Gaelic League, an organisation that stressed the use of the Irish language as another means of nationalistic expression.

Despite the extreme unlikelihood of any success, the Easter Rising went ahead and resulted in the destruction of large part of Dublin city centre as well as the execution of the seven leaders of the revolt. This was the mistake by the British that turned the tide in favour of the insurgents for the first time. Public sympathy towards the executed men increased so much that Collins, DeValera and the remaining leaders could see that nationalism was about to peak in the country.

Collins was imprisoned in Frongoch internment camp where his credentials as a leader were further recognised by his captured comrades. After his release Collins quickly rose to a high position in both Sinn Fein and the IRB and started to organise a guerrilla war against the British. He even broke DeValera out of prison in England. The War against the British continued on through 1920 and 1921 despite the introduction of the "Black and Tans" – mercenary soldiers introduced into Ireland by Churchill.

The British Prime Minister, Lloyd George, eventually compromised and offered a partition of Ireland and a "Free State". Collins and Arthur Griffith had been sent to London as the Irish delegation because DeValera knew that the ultimate aim - independence - was not attainable.

The resultant civil war that broke out between the pro-treaty and anti-treaty factions was bloody indeed but Collins defeated his former comrades-in-arms only to eventually have his own life taken in an ambush in Cork in 1922.

Eamon de Valera – An Irish Leader

Foreword: Eamon de Valera was one of the most important figures in the history of Ireland. His relationship with the people of the country was often strained and his attitude and motives have frequently puzzled historians throughout this century. The fact remains



however, that without his involvement in the Irish Nationalist movement the course of Irish history would have been radically different.

He was born in New York on the 14th of October in 1882 to Catherine Coll (a young Irish immigrant from County Limerick) and Juan Vivion de Valera (an immigrant of Spanish origin).

Little is known of his early childhood except that his family moved from America in 1885 to Ireland where the young Eamon studied at Blackrock College in Dublin and was largely reared by his Grandmother. He studied languages and mathematics and was, like Michael Collins, a student of English Rule in Ireland. The early 1900s was a time of the great Gaelic cultural revival in Ireland as literature, drama, sport and the language of the Gaelic nation were all revived.

The main spearhead of the revival was The Gaelic League which he joined in 1908. He was greatly influenced by the League and learned the Irish language whilst immersing himself in the Gaelic culture. The Gaelic League was an obvious recruiting ground for the various revolutionary organisations of the time and it was not long before de Valera became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. De Valera was second in command to Thomas MacDonagh of the Dublin Brigade during the Easter Rising of 1916.

The Rising failed and the seven leaders, MacDonagh and Pearse among them, were executed, along with 9 other rebels. De Valera was also sentenced to death as an organiser of the revolt but was to escape the firing squad because of the confusion surrounding his ancestry (the English authorities did not want to risk the execution of an American citizen).

De Valera was elected as the leader of Sinn Fein upon his release and set about the formation of an Irish parliament (the Dáil). He was arrested in 1918 for subversion and imprisoned in England in Lincoln prison. With the help of Michael Collins he escaped to America to raise both funds for and consciousness about, the Irish plight. In his absence the War of Independence was being waged by Collins. The English Prime Minister of the time was Lloyd George who wanted to see an end to the violence.

De Valera returned to negotiate with Lloyd George and soon realised that his ambition of a free and independent Ireland would not be granted. He returned home and sent a delegation led by Michael Collins to negotiate a settlement.

The subsequent Anglo-Irish Treaty was ratified by the Dáil in 1922 but de Valera opposed both the partition of the country and the Oath of Allegiance to the English crown that the Treaty required. A

bloody Civil War followed which saw both the defeat of the Anti-Treaty side, led by de Valera, and the death of Michael Collins.

De Valera was again imprisoned but released in 1926 when he formed the Fianna Fáil party. He now attempted to achieve his aims by the use of constitutional politics. By 1932 he had removed the Oath of Allegiance and sought about establishing an independent Ireland. He created an Irish Constitution in 1937 but an Irish Republic was not declared because of the partition of the country.

De Valera resisted both bribes and threats from Churchill during the war years (“the emergency”) and it was not until the Costello led Government declared a Republic in 1949 that the effects of the Anglo-Irish Treaty were finally removed from the Southern part of Ireland. Partition remained.

De Valera was Taoiseach of Ireland for much of the fifties and on 25 June, 1959 he was inaugurated as President of Ireland, a position he held for 14 years. He retired in 1973 and died shortly afterwards, on 29th August 1975 at the age of 92.



Robert Emmet – Nationalist and Orator

Robert Emmet's short, dramatic life came to a tragic end on September 20, 1803. However, although his life was short and his struggle in vain, his efforts, vision and idealism left a mythic mark on Irish and on the world history.

Born in Dublin in 1778 into a fairly well-to-do Protestant family, Emmet was educated at Trinity College, Dublin. With high ideals of fraternity and equality, Robert, like his elder brother Thomas, became involved with the United Irishmen, an organization formed in 1791 by Wolfe Tone, James Tandy, and Thomas Russell to achieve Roman Catholic emancipation and, with Protestant cooperation, parliamentary reform.

From 1800 to 1802, Emmet resided on the continent with leaders of the United Irishmen who had been exiled from Ireland following the rebellion of 1798. While there, Emmet attempted to enlist French support for an insurrection against British rule. With the promise of French military aid secured, Emmet returned to Ireland in 1802 and began to

organize and arm the country in preparation for the French landing. However, Emmet's hand was forced in July 1803 when an explosion at one of his arms depot's compelled an early call for insurrection on July 23. His plan now awry, the ill-timed insurrection ended in confusion as various factions failed to receive or failed to heed the call to arms, and the promised French invasion failed to materialize.

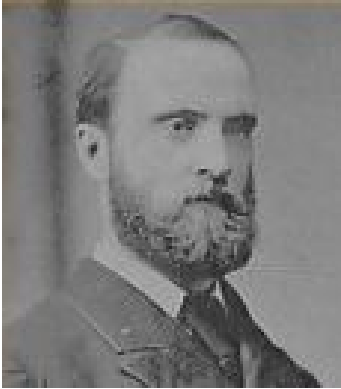
Determined and undaunted Emmet, wearing a green and white uniform, marched a small band against Dublin Castle. On their way, the group happened upon Lord Kilwarden, the Lord Chief Justice and his nephew. Emmet's followers seized them from their coach, piked them to death and then began to riot in the streets. Disillusioned by his followers' behavior and realizing the cause was lost, Emmet escaped and hid in the Wicklow Mountains.

From there, Emmet moved to Harold's Cross to be near Sarah Curran, his bride-to-be (Thomas Moore's songs, "She is far from the land where her young hero sleeps" and "Oh breathe not the name" were inspired by Emmet's love for her). Emmet had hoped to escape to America but was captured on August 25, 1803 and imprisoned at Kilmainham. He was tried for high treason in Green Street Courthouse where he was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

When asked if he had any thing to say in response to this sentence, Emmet gave what is considered to be one of the most famous speeches of the period. Emmet's speech to the court (The Speech from the Dock) could be regarded as the last protest of the United Irishmen:

"I have but one request to ask at my departure from this world – it is the charity of its silence. Let no man write my epitaph. No man can write my epitaph, for as no man who knows my motives and character dares now to vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them rest in obscurity and peace until other times and other men can do justice to them. When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then shall my character be vindicated, then may my epitaph be written."

Although he held out hope for a rescue, on September 20, 1803, he was executed. Out of deference to his aristocratic background, Emmet was hanged and beheaded but was not subsequently disemboweled – as such a sentence usually involved. His burial site remains a mystery to this date.



Charles Stewart Parnell

The Great Famine of 1845 to 1849 left over 1 million dead with a further 1 million emigrating over the following 10 years. One of the effects of the disaster was to demonstrate to ordinary Irish people that the English government had failed them in their time of need and that they must seize control of their own destiny.

Out of the Famine grew several revolutionary movements which culminated in the 1916 Easter Rising. In the second half of the nineteenth century the main concern of the Irish people was their land and the fact that they had no control whatsoever over its ownership.

Charles Stewart Parnell was the son of a Protestant landowner who organised the rural masses into agitation against the ruling landlord class to seek the 3 Fs: Fixity of Tenure, Freedom to Sell and Fair Rent.

Violence flared in the countryside but Parnell preferred to use parliamentary means to achieve his objectives and the result was a series of Land Acts which greatly improved the conditions under which the Irish agricultural class toiled.

Parnell's main ambition was Home Rule for Ireland (local government) and he led the Irish Party, deposing Isaac Butt in the process to achieve this aim. He and colleagues such as Joseph Biggar made a science out of 'fillibustering' and delayed the English parliament by introducing amendments to every clause of every Bill and then discussing each aspect at length. His popularity in Ireland soared to great heights.

Trouble loomed for Parnell, however, in his private life. He had secretly courted a married woman, Kathleen O'Shea, the husband of whom filed for divorce, naming Parnell as the co-respondent. He tried to ignore the scandal and continued his public life. Public pressure in Ireland and from Gladstone in England eventually brought his downfall and he died shortly afterwards, in 1891. The Home Rule Bill that he had forced Gladstone into introducing was passed in the House of Commons, but defeated in the House of Lords.

In his last speech in Kilkenny in 1891 he said: "I don't pretend that I had not moments of trial and of temptation, but I do claim that

never in thought, word, or deed, have I been false to the trust which Irishmen have confided in me.”

But perhaps he will be most remembered for the quotation that can be found on his statue at the junction of O’Connell Street and Parnell Street in Dublin City Centre:

“No man shall have the right to fix the boundary to the march of a Nation”.



Padraig Pearse – An Irish Nationalist

Patrick Pearse was born in Dublin, on November 10, 1879 to an English father (he was a sculptor) and an Irish mother.

Pearse became interested in the heritage and history of Ireland at a very early age and joined the Gaelic League when 21 years old. The purpose of the league was to promote Irish tradition and language and it was very much part of the revival of Gaelic consciousness that took place at the turn of the century. Pearse was an enthusiastic member and became editor of the league's newspaper: *An Claidheamh Solais* ('The Sword of Light').

Pearse tried to use knowledge and education to defeat the English and insisted on the use of the native Irish language and founded St. Edna's College near Dublin in 1908. St Edna's structured its curriculum around Irish traditions and culture and tutored in both the Irish and English languages.

Pearse was a pioneer of Irish writing and published poems, stories, articles and essays to further the identification of Ireland as a separate culture.

The Gaelic League inevitably attracted militant nationalists and Pearse soon realised that it would take more than education and tradition to break the link with England.

In July 1914, Pearse was made a member of the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), a militant group that believed in using force to throw the British out of Ireland.

When England entered the First World War Irish nationalism split between those who wanted to take advantage of England's plight and

those (including John Redmond) who wanted to assist England in the war in the hope of getting concessions when it was over.

John Redmond, a member of Parliament fighting for Home Rule, took a pro-British stance during the war. This alienated many Irish citizens and support for the Brotherhood grew. Shortly before 1915, the Irish Republican Brotherhood had plans for a full military revolution in Ireland. Pearse was a believer in a revolution while the British were occupied fighting a war in Europe. Pearse was opposed to Redmond's stance and felt that the only way to liberate Ireland was by insurrection. His famous oration at the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa (an Irish revolutionary) in August 1915 demonstrates this:

"We stand at Rossa's grave not in sadness, but in exultation of spirit ... This is a place of peace sacred to the dead, where men should speak with all charity and all restraint; but I hold it a Christian thing... to hate evil, to hate untruth, to hate oppression, and hating them to strive to overthrow them ... while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree, shall never be at peace."

Pearse was heavily involved with the planning of the 1916 Easter Rising which was the catalyst for the subsequent War of Independence, Civil War and eventual declaration of a Republic in 1949.

The Rising failed as Pearse must have known it must. He was executed on May 3, 1916 with fourteen other rebels.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

- Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854.

- His mother, Lady Jane Francesca Wilde (1820-96), was a successful writer.

- His father, Sir William Wilde, was Ireland's leading ear and eye surgeon.

- Oscar had one elder brother, Willie.

- Oscar was educated at home up to the age of nine.

- From 1864 to 1871, he attended Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.



- From 1871 to 1874, he studied the classics at Trinity College, Dublin.
- From 1874 to 1878, he studied at Magdalen College in Oxford.
- After his graduation, Wilde lectured in London, the United States and Canada. He also lived in Paris for a while.
- On 29 May, 1885 Wilde married Constance Lloyd. They had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan.
- In May 1895 Wilde was imprisoned for homosexuality.
- After his release in 1897, Wilde moved to France and lived under the name Sebastian Melmoth.
- He died of cerebral meningitis in Paris on 30 November, 1900.
- He was buried in the Cimetière de Bagneux outside Paris and later moved to Le Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

Some of Oscar Wilde's Works

1887 – The Canterville Ghost

1888 – The Happy Prince and Other Tales

1890 – The Picture of Dorian Gray (his only novel)

1892 – Lady Wintermere's Fan (play)

1893 – A Woman of No Importance (play)

1895 – An Ideal Husband (play)

1895 – The Importance of Being Earnest (play)

George Washington

George Washington (1732—1799) won a lasting place in American History as the "Father of our Country". For nearly twenty years he guided his country much as a father cares for a growing child.

Washington lived an exciting life in exciting times. As a boy, he explored the wilderness. When he grew older, he helped the British fight the French and Indians. Many times he was nearly killed. As a general he suffered hardships with his troops in the cold winters.

He lost many battles, but led the American Army to final victory. After he became President, he successfully solved many problems facing his country, Washington belonged to an old colonial family that believed in hard work, in public service and in worshipping God.

George Washington was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia; on a farm, on February 22, 1732. His first American ancestor came to Virginia from England in 1657. Farming, land buying, trading, milling, and the iron industry were the means by which the family rose in the

world. George's father, Augustine, had four children by his first wife and six by his second wife, Mary Ball, George's mother.

Of George's early life little is known. His formal education was slight: no more than 7 or 8 years of school. Men, plantation life and the haunts of river, field and forest were his principal teachers. His favourite subject was arithmetic.

He studied enough history and geography to know something of the outside world. But he never learned very much about literature, foreign languages and history.

At the age of 14 he began to work as a surveyor, making many trips into the wilderness areas of Virginia and Pennsylvania. His first military experience came in the French and Indian War (1754—1763), when he was sent on two missions deep into the Ohio county.

In 1759 Washington retired and married Martha Dandridge, a rich widow. He became a loving stepfather to Martha's two children. He was a progressive farmer of that time.

In 1760's the American colonists grew angrier and angrier at the taxes placed on them by Great Britain. In September 1771 the Continental Congress met, where Washington had his first chance to meet and talk with leaders of other colonies. The members were impressed with his judgement and military knowledge. He was sent to attend the Second Continental Congress (1775) where he was elected a commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. He proved himself a capable commander of the War of Independence. In 1787 Washington was chosen president of the Continental Convention and later elected first president of the republic (1789), followed by reelection (1792).

George Washington died after an illness of two days on December 14, 1799. No other American has been honored more than Washington. The nation's capital, Washington D. C., was named after him. There the giant Washington Monument stands. The state of Washington is the only state named after President. Many cities, parks, streets, bridges, lakes, and schools bear his name. Washington's portrait appears on postage stamps, on the \$1 bill, and on the quarter.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in April 1564. His father was a rich citizen whose business was making and selling leather gloves. His mother was the daughter of an important farmer. When he was nineteen, William married Anne. She was a farmer's daughter and she was some years older than himself. During that years he may have helped

his father in the family business or he may have been a country schoolmaster for a time, we don't know exactly.

Shakespeare had three children: Susannah, the eldest, then twins — a son, Hamnet, and another girl, Judith. In 1587 Shakespeare went to work in London, leaving Anne and the children at home.

Some years later Shakespeare began to write plays. The parents did not even guess that their son would be such an important figure in English poetry and drama and that his plays would still be acted four hundred years later in England and all over the world. By 1592 Shakespeare was an important member of well-known company. In 1599 the famous Globe Theatre was built on the south bank of the river Thames.

In that theatre most of his plays were performed. It was a round building with the stage in the center, open to the sky. If it was raining, the actors got wet; if the weather was too bad, there was no performance at all.

By 1603 Shakespeare was the leading poet and dramatist of his time. He continued to write for the next ten years. In 1613 he finally stopped writing and went to live in Stratford where he died in 1616. He is buried in Stratford-on-Avon.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1. Imagine your partner is a student from England / America / Australia. Ask him / her about interesting people of their country.**
- 2. Prepare a short report on some outstanding personality. Say why you have chosen this particular person.**
- 3. Discuss with your group what the life of some people can teach us.**
- 4. Collect as much information as you can about famous scientists (politicians, writers, artists, doctors, teachers, etc.) What interesting and important facts can you tell your group about these people?**

UNIT X

Legends

1. Read the texts, analyze the information. Express your opinion about myths and legends.

The Children of Lir

Once upon a time, there lived a chieftain in Ireland whose name was Lir. Together with his wife Aev, he had four beautiful children, three sons and one girl. But shortly after the birth of their fourth child, Aev died. As his children needed a mother, Lir married Aev's sister Aoife.



Aoife was very jealous of Lir's love for his children and so she made an evil plan. One day, she took the children to see their grandfather. On their way they passed Lough Derravaragh, the Lake of the Oaks where Aoife sent the children in for a bath. When the children were in the water, Aoife turned them into swans and said:

“For three hundred years you will stay on the Lake of the Oaks; for three hundred years you will be on the Isle of Maoile, between Ireland and Scotland; and for three hundred years you will be at Innis Gluaire, on the wild North Coast of Ireland. Only when you hear a bell ring in honour of God, you will get your human forms again.”

Aoife allowed the children to keep their human voices, so they could talk to one another and sing. Their songs were very sad, but their voices were so beautiful that many people stopped to listen.

About the time when the 900 years were over, St. Patrick arrived in Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He travelled all over Ireland and also built a chapel at Innis Gluairé where the children of Lir had lived for the past 300 years.



One day, St. Patrick heard a wonderful song and went to find the people with those beautiful voices. He wanted to ask them to sing in his chapel. St. Patrick was surprised to find four swans with human voices. The children of Lir told him their sad story and St. Patrick asked them to come to his chapel.

So one day, the children of Lir attended mass in St. Patrick's chapel. But when the chapel bell rung in honour of God, the swans got their human forms again. It were not the forms of children, however, but of four very old people – after all they were more than 900 years old. St. Patrick quickly gave them God's blessing and baptized them and shortly afterwards the children of Lir died.

Giant's Causeway

Once upon a time, Ireland had a giant called Finn MacCool. He was rather small for a giant, but he was very clever. Across the sea, in Scotland, there was another giant called Benandonner. He was an enormously tall giant, but not very clever.

Benandonner was a real showoff and boasted about being the strongest giant on earth. So Finn invited Benandonner over to Ireland for a contest and even built a causeway across the sea for the Scottish giant.

The day of the contest finally arrived. When Finn saw Benandonner approaching, however, he realised that he really didn't stand a chance against that large and fearsome giant. So Finn decided to play a trick on Benandonner.

Finn put on a nightgown and a bonnet and went to bed. When the Scottish giant arrived, Finn's wife Oonagh told him that Finn wasn't at home.



Benandonner didn't believe her. "Where is the coward hiding?" he shouted and started searching the house. When he heard a noise in the bedroom, he

rushed towards it and flung the door open. But Oonagh warned him, "Be quiet or you'll wake the baby."

"That's your baby?" Benandonner muttered when he saw the person in the bed. He didn't realise that the "baby" was Finn. Instead he was shocked by the size of the child - if the baby was that big, how much bigger and stronger might Finn be? Benandonner panicked. Hastily he ran back to Scotland destroying the causeway behind him.

Nowhere in the world has quite such a colourful collection of myths and legends as England, from goblins and dragons, to mermaids and witches, we present a selection of our favourite English myths and legends.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Tell your group about a strange or supernatural thing you've experienced. Say if you think it can be explained scientifically or otherwise.
2. Find out about unexplained phenomena from different sources. Discuss the problem with your group.
3. Select some legends. Explain their origins.

VOCABULARY

isle — остров

island — остров
to separate — разделять
european — европейский
the English Channel — Ла-Манш
to be washed by — омываться
to border on — граничить с...
to consist of — состоять из...
mountainous peninsula — гористый полуостров
to stretch — простирается
estuary — устье реки
deposits — залежи
iron ore — железная руда
to discover — обнаруживать
current — течение
severely — чрезвычайно
decade — десятилетие
monarchy — монархия
paradise — рай
untouched — нетронутый
castle — замок
whisky — виски
myth — миф
ghost — призрак, привидени
to claime — утверждать
mystery — тайна
cross — крест
background — фон
abbey — аббатство
to destroy — разрушать
cathedral — собор
tobacco — табак
trade — торговля
valley — долина
population — население
origin — происхождение
descendant — потомок
settler — поселенец, переселенец
discrimination — дискриминация
civil rights — гражданские права
powerful — мощный
western — западный

eastern — восточный
highland regions — возвышенность
lowland regions — низменность
prairie — прерии
to seek (sought, sought) refuge — искать убежище
persecution — преследование
political and religious beliefs — политические и религиозные убеждения
rich oil fields — богатые месторождения нефти
California — Калифорния
It would be no exaggeration to say — не будет преувеличением сказать, что
symbol — символ
textile — текстильная промышленность
network of roads — сеть дорог
to contest presidency — оспаривать, претендовать на пост президента
the majority of seats in the Congress — большинство мест в конгрессе
the highest legislative body — высший законодательный орган
chamber — палата
land area — площадь
population — население
border — граница
uninhabited — незаселенный
thinly populated — малонаселенный
severe — суровый
natural conditions — природные условия
federation — федерация
independent — независимый
Constitution Act — конституционный акт
British Monarch — английская королева
the United Kingdom — Соединенное Королевство
to recognize — признавать
ties — связи
to rule — править
domestic affairs — внутренние дела
to govern — управлять
foreign affairs — иностранные дела
ancestry — происхождение

official language — государственный язык
custom — обычай
ancestors — предки
Indians — индейцы
to make up — составлять
urban — городской
capital — столица
to maintain — сохранять
community — общность
government — правительство
to pay attention — уделять внимание
recognition — признание
holiday-maker — отпускник
island — остров
wild — дикий
eucalyptus — эвкалипт
riches — богатства
industry — промышленность
oil — нефть
wheat — пшеница
to lie — находиться
to be situated — быть расположенным
mainland — материк
Latin — латинский
Commonwealth of Australia — Австралийский Союз
federation — федерация
state — штат
territory — территория
capital — столица
government — правительство
tie — связь
Commonwealth of Nations — Британское Содружество
наций
income — доход
standard of living — уровень жизни
to lie — находиться
is situated — расположена
the North Island — Северный остров
the South Island — Южный остров
dozen — дюжина
capital — столица

official language — государственный язык
Maori — маорийский язык
the Commonwealth of Nations — Содружество
the United Kingdom. — Соединенное Королевство
to appoint — назначать
governor general — генерал-губернатор
to represent — представлять
legislation — законодательная власть
prime minister — премьер-министр
Cabinet — кабинет
government — правительство
provision — положение
brown-skinned — с коричневой кожей
to settle — селиться
New Zealander — новозеландец
descendant — потомок
settler — поселенец
to make up — составлять
population — население
standard of living — уровень жизни
agriculture — сельское хозяйство
manufacturing industry — обрабатывающая промышленность
service industry — сфера услуг
trade — торговля
everyday speech — быденная речь
background — основание
patron saint — святой-покровитель
pin — прикалывать булавкой
thistle — чертополох
kighthood — рыцарское достоинство
nobleman — дворянин
bank holiday — большой праздник
shamrock — трилистник
church festival — церковный праздник
monk — монах
bishop — епископ
daffodil — нарцисс
rampant — стоящий на задних лапах
unicorn — единорог
coats of arms — герб

purity — чистота
to represent — представлять
background — фон
anthem — гимн
eagle — орел
olive branch — оливковая веточка
to arrive — прибывать
torch — факел
tribe — племя
outstanding — выдающийся
empire — империя
battle — битва
persecution — преследование
to reach — достигать
confusion — путаница
voyage — путешествие
Lud Hill — Лад Хилл
church — церковь
frontage — фасад
prehistoric — доисторический
order — орден
priest — священник
Tintagel — Тинтэйджэл
Canterbury Cathedral Archbishop — архиепископ Кентерберийский
antiquity — антиквариат; древность
mummies — мумии
wax — воск
myth — миф
desert — пустыня
to recreate — развлекаться
to portray — изображать, рисовать
snow lake — снежинка
to dream of — мечтать о (чем-либо)
lasting — прочный
to guide — вести
to explore — изучать
to kill — убивать
hardships — трудности
to solve — решить
ancestor — предок

to retire — уйти в отставку
to be elected — быть избранным
citizen — гражданин
gloves — перчатки
to guess — догадываться
play — пьеса
stage — сцена
distinction — различие
regard — уважение
society — общество
inhabitant — житель
density — плотность населения
to reveal — обнаруживать
New Zealander — новозеландец
standard of living — уровень жизни
government — правительство
to provide — предоставлять
health care — здравоохранение
to own — владеть
single-family — на одну семью
vegetable garden — огород
high-rise apartment building — многоэтажный жилой дом
refrigerator — холодильник
wash mashine — стиральная машина
electrical appliances — бытовая техника
air conditioning — кондиционирование
central heating — центральное отопление
extremely — слишком
to prefer — предпочитать
fireplace — камин
electric heater — электрический обогреватель
urban — городской
uncrowded — малонаселенный
traffic jams — пробки на дорогах
downtown — центр города
entertainment — развлечение
to tend — иметь тенденцию быть
rapidly — быстро
rural — сельскохозяйственный
settlement — поселок, деревня
to link — связывать

rancher — фермер
nevertheless — тем не менее
electricity - электричество
hired help — наемная рабочая сила
to worry — волноваться
to joke — шутить
beach — пляж
contest — соревнование
to take place — проходить
to hit — ударять
racing — гонки
to shut down — прекращать работу
to stream out — выплывать
to head south — держать курс на юг

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