

Card № 1

Read the text and answer the following questions.

History of transport in London

London is one of the biggest cities in the world with a population of over 8 million. London's transport system has a rich history that developed with the capital. 200 years ago London was a compact city where most people got around on foot. Streets were often crowded with pedestrians, only the wealthy were able to travel by horse. The River Thames provided a faster way of getting around. In 1900 almost every vehicle on the streets of London was horse-drawn. More than 300,000 horses were needed to keep the city on the move. Everything from private carriages and cabs to buses, trams and delivery vans was horse-drawn. 15 years later everything changed. Horse buses and horse trams disappeared in London, and motor taxis outnumbered horse-drawn cabs. Motor cars replaced carriages, but only for the wealthy. Motorbuses and electric trams were everywhere, they were used by everyone.

1. What means of transport are described in the text?
2. What role did the River Thames play two centuries ago?
3. What was the favourite means of transport of the rich at the beginning of the 18th and 20th century?

Card №2

Read the text and answer the following questions.

Solar cars

Did you know that there are cars which do not need "traditional" energy sources like petrol or diesel? They are solar powered cars, using the energy of the Sun. They are ecologically friendly as they are free of exhaust fumes, but their speed is not as high as that of conventional petrol and diesel fuel cars. Solar powered cars have been developed and driven around the world for years, but almost exclusively in contests or research programmes — just to show that cars could travel without petrol. In most cases, the cars have been small capsules designed to hold only the driver. Today Ford has developed a concept model solar car for everyday use.

1. What is a "solar car"?
2. What is the energy source used in solar cars?
3. Are solar cars a common means of transport? Who drives them, and when?

Card № 3 Read the text and answer the following questions.

Letters from the past

By Sandy Hall

After living in the same house for over forty years my grandmother has come to live with us, which is great, because I really like her. Last week we moved all her stuff, and it was crazy! I don't think she's thrown anything out for ... well, for forty years.

Down in the basement we found six boxes of letters, and grandma and I have read through them together. One box is just letters that she and her parents sent to each other when she was in college. There must be hundreds of them. She used to write every week telling them about the bad cafeteria food and about how her roommate talked in her sleep.

1. How were grandmother's letters found?
2. When were they written?
3. What were the letters about?

Card № 4

Read the text and answer the following questions.

Dear RAP readers

Recently I've read about a bird called the passenger pigeon, or wild pigeon, — it lived in North America a century ago. It was a beautiful, swift and graceful bird.

There were thousands, even millions of them.

I was surprised to find out that today there is not even one left. All living passenger pigeons disappeared from the earth entirely. The passenger pigeon became extinct. It happened for many reasons. The main one is the change in the pigeons' natural habitat, in the environment. These birds needed large forests, but farmers needed land, so they cut down forests. No forests — no food for the birds. Second, many pigeons were shot for sport and because they were good to eat. At that time, there were no hunting laws to protect endangered species like there are now.

1. Why have passenger pigeons become extinct?
2. Can you think of other reasons why animals and plants become extinct?
3. What can we do to stop their extinction?

Card № 5

Read the text about education and answer the following questions.

Education in Russia

People in our country have the right for education. It is our Constitutional right. But it is not only a right, it is a duty, too. Every boy and every girl in Russia must go to school, that is, they must get a full secondary education. So, when they are 6 or 7 years old they begin to go to school. There are thousands of schools in Russia. There are schools of general education, where the pupils study Russian (or a native language), Literature, Mathematics, History, Biology, Music, Arts, Foreign Languages. After finishing 9 classes of secondary school young people can continue their education at different kinds of vocational or technical schools or colleges. They not only learn general subjects, but receive a speciality there. Having finished a secondary school, a technical school or a college young people can start working, or they may enter an Institute or a University. Professional training makes it easier to get higher education. As for high schools, there are a lot of them in our country. Some of them train teachers, others — doctors, engineers, architects, actors and so on. Many institutes have evening and extra-mural departments. That gives the students an opportunity to study at an institute without leaving.

1. Is education in our country free ?
2. What kind of schools are there in Russia?
3. What are the possible ways to continue education after the finishing of the secondary school?

Card № 6

Read the text and get ready to express your opinion on it.

School uniforms

Are school uniforms a good idea or a bad idea? It's a question that educators, parents and kids themselves often debate.

Supporters say that school uniforms improve classroom discipline and increase student safety, school pride and the public image of the school.

There are many, though, who think that uniforms are bad. Some parents complain that the cost of the uniforms is higher than regular store-bought clothes. Children psychologists say that students like to be creative with their clothing, and this is a good thing. According to one expert, through the clothes they wear children express who they are, and it's important to encourage differences, not hide them.

1. What do you think?

Card № 7

Say English equivalents of the following words and phrases.

1. начальная школа
2. основная школа
3. старшая школа
4. Единый государственный экзамен (ЕГЭ)
5. каникулы
6. одноклассники
7. пойти в школу (начать обучение)
8. делиться на 4 четверти/3 триместра
9. учиться 5/6 дней в неделю
10. двухнедельный перерыв на каникулы
11. дальнейшее образование/обучение
12. продолжать образование/обучение
13. сдавать экзамен
14. успешно сдать экзамен
15. получить аттестат
16. давать доступ к чему-либо
17. хорошо развитая сеть школ
18. работать под эгидой университета

Card № 8

Talk about famous person. Say:

1. Do you have a favourite famous person ?
2. Would you like to be a famous person?

Card № 9

Talk about Moscow zoo. Say:

1. Have you ever been to the zoo?
2. What interesting facts do we learn about Moscow zoo?

Card № 10

Talk about your favourite subject. Say:

1. What is your favourite subject ?
2. Why do you like this subject ?