

Lessons 3–4 **Sheikh Zayed: our father**

Reading **21st**

- 1** Read the article about Sheikh Zayed. Match the topic sentences (1–8) to the gaps (a–h). The first one is done as an example.



- a** 1 His religious faith, his determination and hard work, his generosity at home and abroad, and the way he served his people helped to create a great nation and a better world.
- b** ____ At the time Sheikh Zayed was born, the emirate was poor and undeveloped, with an economy based on fishing, pearl diving and simple farming.
- c** ____ He spent time with Bedouin tribesmen to learn about their way of life. He later recalled with pleasure his experience of desert life and his discovery of falconry, which became a lifelong passion.
- d** ____ He was responsible for six villages and a nearby desert region. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Sheikh Zayed did great things for the people of Al Ain, and became an example for everyone.
- e** ____ He used the money from selling oil to build schools, housing, hospitals and roads for the people.
- f** ____ Sheikh Zayed and the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, called for a new federation. Eventually, the UAE became a nation on 2nd December 1971. Sheikh Zayed's enthusiasm and values were key to the union of the UAE, and many of his fellow rulers respected him for this.
- g** ____ He believed that the character of the Emirati people came from their fight to survive in the harsh desert, so he wanted to protect animals like the Arabian oryx and the sand gazelle.
- h** ____ In an interview in 2002, he spoke about how Muslims stand against any person of Muslim faith who commits a wrong act against a fellow human being. He said that 'a true Muslim is friendly to all human beings and a brother to other Muslims and non-Muslims alike. This is because Islam is a religion of mercy and tolerance.'

Sheikh Zayed died in 2004, in his late eighties.

- 1 Understanding the UAE is impossible without understanding the life of Sheikh Zayed.
- 2 Sheikh Zayed spoke out against those who hurt their fellow human beings.
- 3 Protecting the natural environment and wildlife was important to Sheikh Zayed.
- 4 During the late 1920s and the 1930s, Sheikh Zayed lived in the desert.
- 5 In August 1966, Sheikh Zayed became ruler of Abu Dhabi, and tried to develop the emirate as quickly as possible.
- 6 In 1968, the British said they would leave the Gulf by the end of 1971.
- 7 In 1946, Sheikh Zayed became Ruler's Representative in the Eastern Region of Abu Dhabi, centred on the oasis in Al Ain.
- 8 Born in 1918 in Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed was the youngest of the four sons of Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi from 1922 to 1926.

2 Read the text again. Are the statements true (T), false (F) or not given (NG)?

- 1 Sheikh Zayed helped to raise his younger brothers. _____
- 2 Sheikh Zayed's first important post was Ruler of Al Ain. _____
- 3 Oil money was spent on improving life in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. _____
- 4 Sheikh Zayed had nature reserves built to protect the animals of the region. _____