

READING : Read the text and choose the correct answer.

DANCING FRENZY

This is a truly amazing event that happened in Medieval Europe. Hundreds of people literally danced to their deaths. The article describes the event and gives the possible explanations to this crazy phenomenon.

In July of 1518, in full view of her neighbours, Frau Troffea began to violently dance in the streets of the city of Strasbourg, France. There was no music and her face betrayed no expression of joy. She appeared unable to stop herself from her frenzy.

Had this remained an isolated incident, the city elders may have put it down to madness or demonic possession, but soon after Troffea began her dancing, a neighbour joined in. And then another. By the end of a week more than 30 people were dancing night and day on the streets of the city. And it didn't stop there. By the time a month had passed, at least 400 citizens of Strasbourg were swept up in the phenomenon.

Medical and civic authorities were called in once some of the dancers began dying from heart attacks, exhaustion, or strokes. For some inexplicable reason, these men believed that the cure for the dancing was more dancing, so they erected a wooden stage for the dancers and musicians were called in.

All these sounds like some archaic bit of folklore, but the dancing plague of 1518 is clearly chronicled in medical, civic, and religious notes of the time.

Modern researchers pore over those notes to develop theories as to what caused this bizarre incident.

One of those theories postulates that the dancers were the victims of mass hysteria. The Strasbourg incident occurred during a time of rampant famine and malnutrition and subsequent deaths. But 400 people? A well-known recent incident generally seen as an example of mass hysteria is 1962's "The Tanganyika Laughter Epidemic" which affected only 95 people.

A second theory is in the realm of agriculture. The condition called Ergotism occurs when grains of rye are attacked by a specific mold. Eating the infected rye can lead to seizures, although the movements of Strasbourg's afflicted looked much more like traditional dancing than seizures of any sort.

A final school of thought states that the dancing was in result of some kind of religious ecstasy caused by veneration of Saint Vitus, the patron saint of epilepsy.

None of the theories completely explain the 1518 dancing.

Bit by bit the dancers stopped, and the dancing would end as mysteriously as it began.

A) Circle the correct definition of each word.

1. frenzy

a) happiness b) wild behaviour c) sadness

2. exhaustion

a) extreme tiredness b) extreme excitement c) light sensation

3. bizarre

a) very useful b) very nice c) very strange

4. rampant

a) unrestrained or unchecked b) filled with joy c) extremely satisfied

5. afflicted

a) enjoyed b) adversely affected c) much appreciated

B) Decide whether the sentences are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Frau Troffea started to dance when she heard her favourite music.

T F

2. By the end of the week people started to quit dancing.

T F

3. Medical authorities believed that the dancers should not stop dancing.

T F

4. There are no historical evidences that this event really took place.

T F

5. The dancing plague is not the only occurrence of mass hysteria.

T F

6. There is only one theory to explain this phenomenon.

T F

7. The existing theories do not fully explain the occurrence.

T F

C) USE OF ENGLISH :

A) Here are some sentences about holidays. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use NO MORE than THREE words.

1. I've never been to America.
He said he to America.
2. The tickets were more expensive than I had expected.
The tickets weren't as I had expected.
3. Getting a visa isn't very difficult.
It isn't difficult a visa.
4. The hotel gave us a room with a beautiful view.
We a room with beautiful view by the hotel.
5. My friend suggested travelling by train.
My friend said 'If I were you travel by train'.

D) Complete the sentences using PRESENT PERFECT or PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS Tenses. Find the verbs using your creativity.

1. I and my legs are really tired now.
2. I'm sorry I'm late, for a long time?
3. How long Peter?-
4. Somebody my cookies. There are none left.
5. Somebody my cookies. There are very few left.
6. How many books ?
7. She must be tired. She all afternoon.
8. I all afternoon. I 5 chapters.
9. I think I chocolate since I was born.
10. They for months, and they three countries so far.

E) Complete the sentences with PAST PERFECT SIMPLE and PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE.

1. After I the letter, I realised that I the wrong address on it.
(post, write)
2. John asked me where I the day before. (be)
3. At this time yesterday, we for 6 km. (already walk)
4. When I walked through the streets of Madrid, I thought about the magnificent time I there as a student. (spend)
5. It was the first time that she me to dinner. (invite)
6. As soon as the maid scrubbing the kitchen floor, she started working in the garden.
(finish)
7. We started to worry about Jimmy because we him all afternoon. (call)
8. They their way out of town before the sun rose.(already make,)
9. We for two hours when we finally got to our hotel. (drive)
10. When I arrived home, I saw that the children(leave)
11. While I was working in the garden it struck me that I off the oven. (not turn)
12. I invited my best friend to the party, but he couldn't come because he other plans. (already make)
13. I looked out of the window because I I some noises. (think, hear)
14. We were watching TV when we saw that a devastating earthquake California. (hit)
15. The police told me that someone into our neighbour's house. (break)
16. When I finally arrived at the airport, he told me that he for half an hour. (wait)

GOOD LUCK!
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