10 Flower Power



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Are there many flowers or plants around your apartment building or house?
2. Why do people like to plant flowers around the places where they live?
3. What kinds of things do people have to do to take care of flowers?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. nice; enjoyable	d. person who officially lives in a place
b. times; countable events	e. put in; put up
c. robber; criminal	f. get people to join a group

1. ___ A <u>thief</u> entered our house through the back door and took our TV.
2. ___ The <u>incidents</u> of students getting hurt at school is lower this year than last year.
3. ___ If you are a <u>resident</u> of the city, you can go to school in the city for free.
4. ___ The police want to <u>recruit</u> volunteers to watch for crime in the neighborhood.
5. ___ My father <u>installed</u> a new light above our door because the front of our house was too dark at night.
6. ___ The weather is <u>pleasant</u> in the spring. It's a good season for walking outdoors.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Flower Power

Track 19



The city of Tokyo, Japan is divided up into special areas. Many people are familiar with famous **wards** such as Shibuya and Shinjuku. However, those are just two out of twenty-three wards that make up the whole city of Tokyo. One ward on the west side of Tokyo is named Suginami City. Visitors to Japan probably would not put Suginami very high on their list of places to see. This is mostly a residential area, although there are some nice clothing and antique stores there. Suginami boasts more than 300 city parks, in addition to three **metropolitan** parks, and even the name of the city comes from the Japanese word for **cedar** tree. Certainly the city is a pleasant place to live for its half a million residents.

However, in 2002, Suginami City had a big problem. Thieves were breaking into houses all over the city and stealing things! In fact, in that year alone, more than 1,700 houses were broken into across Suginami. That is a huge number of break-ins for a city of this size. The police and officials in Suginami knew that something had to be done to **curb** all of the crime in their area.

Finally, they came up with the idea of using flowers to curb crime in Suginami. City officials encouraged residents across the city to plant flowers around their houses and along streets, especially in places where thefts frequently occurred. The idea was that if people were outdoors taking care of the flowers, they would be watching people come and go at the same time. Thieves would be less likely to strike in areas where people were outdoors watching things closely.

Over the next few years, "Operation Flower" seemed to work surprisingly well. Just two years after residents of Suginami began planting flowers on streets and in front of their homes, crime in the city **dropped** eighty percent! Of course, the flowers can't take all the credit for the huge reduction in crime. The city also installed 200 security cameras around areas with high incidents of crime. In addition, Suginami was able to recruit more than 9,000 **volunteers** to serve as crime-watchers across the city. Maybe one thing that helped them recruit so many volunteers in the end was "Operation Flower." Many of the volunteers probably enjoy walking around their **neighborhoods,** admiring the flowers that have been planted while they do their **duty** as crime-watchers.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 410 words

3 *ward*: a part of a city or town, named as such for political reasons or administration

11 *metropolitan*: related to a large city

12 *cedar*: a kind of evergreen tree with red-brown bark and dark-blue berries

18 *curb*: to control; to bring down

27 *drop*: to go down quickly

30 *volunteer*: a person who agrees to serve as a helper for free

32 *neighborhood*: a limited residential area that includes only a few streets

33 *duty*: an assigned job

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What question does this reading answer?

a. How did flowers curb crime?
b. What kinds of flowers are popular there?
c. Who were the thieves in Suginami?
d. Why was the crime rate in the city so high?

2. What can be assumed about Suginami City?

a. Many of the people living there work in other parts of Tokyo.
b. Not many of the parks in Suginami had flowers in them.
c. Suginami is a poor part of Tokyo.
d. There are only a few people on the police force in Suginami.

3. On average, how many break-ins occurred each month in Suginami in 2002?

a. About one per day
b. Around a dozen
c. More than 1,700
d. Over 100

4. What was probably true about "Operation Flower"?

a. The city paid for all of the flowers.
b. The flowers came from other wards in Tokyo.
c. The residents thought it was a good idea.
d. The thieves did not know about the plan.

5. Which of the following was NOT a method used by Suginami City to curb crime?

a. Crime-watch volunteers
b. More police officers
c. Security cameras
d. Street gardens

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **divide up (into)** [to split or cut into pieces]
  The children divided up the candy in order to share it.
- **break into** [to enter illegally; to use criminal methods to get into]
  I had to break into my own car after I locked my keys inside of it.
- **take the credit (for)** [to be known as the reason (for)]
  It is not fair that the manager always takes the credit for the work of other employees.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. All of our data can be _____ four categories.
2. The detective _____ for catching the gang of thieves.
3. They thought nobody could _____ the bank's safe, but someone did.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

dropped	**incidents**	**installed**	**likely**
planting	**stealing**	**volunteers**	**ward**

A few years ago, the 1 _____ of Suginami City in Tokyo had a big problem. Thieves were breakings into houses and 2 _____ things. In order to curb the 3 _____ of robbery in their city, the residents of Suginami began 4 _____ flowers in front of their houses and along streets. City officials thought thieves were less 5 _____ to try and steal things from houses or streets where people were often outside taking care of plants. The city also 6 _____ video cameras along streets and recruited 7 _____ to watch for crime on their streets. In just a few years, the crime rates in Suginami City 8 _____ 80 percent!



Listening

My Neighborhood

Track 20

Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

1. What surprised the woman about "Operation Flower"?

a. That it worked
b. That so many volunteers were recruited
c. That the city suggested it
d. That the flowers could grow

2. What is true about the woman's neighborhood?

a. Not many people live there.
b. People aren't seen outdoors much.
c. The crime rate is rather high.
d. There aren't many flowers there.

3. What does the man think about the situation in her neighborhood?

a. He wants to visit during the weekend.
b. It is not a good place for her to live.
c. She should recruit more volunteers.
d. Coming out just on the weekends works.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. Have you or your family tried to grow plants? If so, what was your experience?
2. What kinds of plants can you see along the streets in your neighborhood?
3. Which are more effective in your opinion: security cameras or crime-watch volunteers? Why?

Grammar

Relative Adverbs

Relative adverbs such as *where*, *when*, *how*, or *why* introduce a subordinate adjective clause which modifies an antecedent noun or pronoun in the main clause.

City officials encouraged residents across the city to plant flowers around their houses and along streets, especially in places (which / where) thefts frequently occurred.
Thieves would be less likely to strike in areas (where / when) people were outdoors watching things closely.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

My Family's Garden

(1) When did you or your family have an experience growing plants? **(2)** What was the most difficult thing about caring for the plant(s)? **(3)** What was the end result of experience? **(4)** What, if anything, would you do differently next time?

Example

My family experienced growing a garden two summers ago when we planted some corn and watermelon seeds in our community's gardening space. The most difficult thing about caring for the plants was pulling out all of the weeds that kept growing in our garden. In the end, all of our corn plants died, but we did grow a few small watermelons. The next time we plant a garden, I want to grow flowers instead of fruits or vegetables.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. There are many _____ growing near the top of the mountain.
a. cedars b. spaces c. thieves d. wards

2. He could not _____ his bicycle well, so he hit his neighbor's mailbox.
a. estimate b. recruit c. steal d. steer

3. In art class, we each have to paint a different _____.
a. duty b. neighborhood c. object d. resident

4. My best friend does not have any _____. She is an only child.
a. incidents b. siblings c. tasks d. volunteers

5. These flowers will not _____, so we will have to buy new seeds every year.
a. curb b. drop c. install d. reproduce

6. I spent a(n) _____ afternoon just talking with my friend in a coffee shop.
a. effective b. metropolitan c. pleasant d. reliable

7. This is too much work for one person. Let's _____ the work to make it easier.
a. break into b. divide up c. take credit for d. wipe out

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. Although some people _____ eat bugs, I never would.
a. volunteer b. voluntary c. voluntarily

9. The _____ that you will ever win the lottery is very small.
a. likelihood b. likely c. unlikely

10. We didn't think the concert would be very good, but we were _____ surprised by the performers.
a. pleasant b. pleasantly c. unpleasant

LIVEWORKSHEETS