

COMPLETE THE STORY WITH THE CORRECT ARTICLES WHERE NECESSARY a / an / the / -

The tallest man in the world

There will soon be (1) _____ monument (памятник) to (2) _____ tallest man in (3) _____ world to commemorate (4) _____ 100th year of his death. His name is (5) _____ Fiodor Mahnov. (6) _____ monument will appear in his birthplace — in (7) _____ village of (8) _____ Staroye Selo in (9) _____ Vitebsk region. And it will be (10) _____ life-size monument.

How tall will it be then? “This is (1) _____ problem we are working on now”, says (2) _____ Margarita Yushkevich, (3) _____ author of (4) _____ book about (5) _____ giant. (6) _____ sponsor of (7) _____ monument is (8) _____ businessman from (9) _____ Moscow, and he wants it to be (10) _____ life-size.

(11) _____ researchers believe that (12) _____ Fiodor Mahnov’s height¹ was not given correctly in (13) _____ first contract with (14) _____ German circus, which he signed at (15) _____ age of (16) _____ 16. He was 253 cm tall at that time, but it’s understandable that at (17) _____ age of (18) _____ 16 he continued to grow. So another piece of (19) _____ information, saying he was 285 cm, might be quite correct.

(20) _____ name of (21) _____ Belarusian giant is not only remembered in his native village. In (22) _____ regional centre of (23) _____ Vitebsk there was (24) _____ contest of (25) _____ tall people in (26) _____ 2010. Naturally, (27) _____ tallest men and women could only reach his arm-pits.

(1) _____ Fiodor Mahnov was born in 1878. His mother died while delivering (2) _____ baby, because it was too large.

In his native village people used to often ask him for (3) _____ help as he was not only (4) _____ giant, but (5) _____ very strong young boy. At (6) _____ age of (7) _____ 14 he was found by (8) _____ German



circus owner who asked (9) _____ boy’s father to let him go to (10) _____ Germany to work in (11) _____ circus.

(12) _____ owner of (13) _____ circus hired (НАНЯЛ) (14) _____ teachers for (15) _____ big village boy from Staroye Selo, and (16) _____ boy got quite (17) _____ good education which later opened (18) _____ good opportunities for him to develop his own business when he came back to his native country.



Women were afraid of (19) _____ giant, but he did find (20) _____ wife, who was 'only (21) _____ metre' shorter than him. They had five children. All of his children were tall but none of them grew taller than two metres. His descendants are now living in (22) _____ Vitebsk and (23) _____ Grodno regions of (24) _____ Belarus and in (25) _____ Russia.

There are (1) _____ lot of interesting facts connected with this Belarusian giant.

When he was (2) _____ teenager his father had to make (3) _____ roof of (4) _____ house higher. (5) _____ Fiodor used to punish (6) _____ boys, who bullied him, putting their hats on (7) _____ house roofs. He had (8) _____ very long legs and (9) _____ large feet. (10) _____ 12-year-old teenager could hide in his boot! His ears were as long as 15 cm and his lips were 10 cm wide.

For (11) _____ breakfast (12) _____ Fiodor used to eat (13) _____ 20 eggs, 8 loaves of bread with (14) _____ butter and drink about two litres of (15) _____ tea. His dinner included 2.5 kg of (16) _____ meat, 1 kg of (17) _____ potatoes, 3 litres of (18) _____ beer. For (19) _____ supper he had (20) _____ large bowl of fruit, 2.5 kg of (21) _____ meat, three loaves of (22) _____ bread and two (23) _____ litres of tea. He could also have (24) _____ bite before going to (25) _____ bed — 15 eggs and (26) _____ litre of (27) _____ milk.

He died at (28) _____ age of 34. It was later found out that he had (29) _____ rare form of (30) _____ hormone disease.

(based on the materials of KP in Belarus)