

Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of Education Gudaibiya P & I Boys School English Department	Unit 1: Colour matters Phoenician purple dye	Teacher: Nizar A. Aziz Class: Grade 8 Basic Skill: Reading Time allowed: 20 mins
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Read the text below about the early history of purple dye and then answer the questions that follow.

Phoenician purple dye

[1] The seafaring **Phoenicians** of the 12th century B.C. were in love with the purple colour. They lived in what are now Lebanon and Tunisia and bravely **sailed** to faraway lands to sell their wood, precious metals, and leather. Also, they were the only people who sold purple dye!

[2] This purple dye was so popular that the people of Greece came to think of the Phoenicians when they thought of the purple colour. In fact, the word 'Phoenician' comes from the Greek language. It is a word that means 'the purple colour' or 'a person who sells purple dye'.

[3] The Phoenicians discovered that a particular type of **snail** had a substance that could make a vibrant purple dye. Cloth soaked in this substance and dried in the sun turned a rich purple color. One snail would give one or two **drops** of this substance. Because it is very expensive to make this dye, only the **royalty** and the very rich people could put on purple clothes.

A ★ Decide if these statements are true ☐ T or false ☐ F. [Pair Work]

- ☐ The Phoenicians lived in ancient Greece.
- ☐ The word 'Phoenician' is a Greek word.
- ☐ One snail gave very little dye.

3

B ★★ Answer these questions with reference to the text. [Pair Work]

- What** did the Phoenicians sell to other people?

- What** is the meaning of the word 'Phoenicians'?

- At that time, **who** could wear purple clothes?

3

C Assessment: Fill in each blank with a word from the list below. [Individual Work]

drops / dye / Phoenicians / royalty / sailed / snails

In ancient times, the ¹ _____ sailed across the Mediterranean sea in their boats to faraway lands to sell different goods and especially purple ² _____. They got it by squeezing some ³ _____ and getting ⁴ _____ of a special substance. Only the ⁵ _____ and very rich people could buy such expensive clothes.

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I find these activities ☺ ☐ easy ☹ ☐ of average difficulty ☹ ☐ difficult.

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