

1 Read the texts (1-8) and match them with the headings (A-H). There is one extra heading.

A. TV and health problems

E. TV and children

B. TV and the parents' guidance

F. Life without TV

C. The positive side of TV

G. TV and a daily routine

D. TV as a family member

H. TV in the past

1 _____ Many people think that television is evil. It isn't all that bad. TV is a friend for the elderly and an entertainer-babysitter for the young. It makes burglars think we're home when we're not. It entertains us cheaply with live action sports, great movies, ballets, concerts and singular events of the world all in living colour. It educates us about everything from healthy diets to international problems.

2 _____ How much television watching should parents allow? There is certainly nothing inherently wrong with TV. However, research has shown that as the amount of time spent watching TV goes up, the amount of time devoted to homework, study, social development and physical activities decreases. Television is bound to have its tremendous impact on a child, both in terms of how many hours a week he watches TV and of what he sees.

3 _____ With television programs designed specifically for babies, the question whether kids under two years of age should be watching becomes very important. We are learning more all the time about early brain development, but we do not yet have a clear idea how television may affect it. Some studies link early TV viewing with later attention problems. Other experts disagree with these results; though they admit that TV viewing before age three may hurt later development.

4 _____ Just about everyone now owns and watches television. We've become accustomed to a fairly predictable and monotonous home life. Every working day we come home and switch on the TV. Every night we cook dinner, clean up the kitchen, watch some TV. Every weekend we do the shopping and settle in to watch a movie. It's relaxing to lie down on the sofa at the end of a tiring day and to flip through the channels with the remote control in one hand and a bowl of chips in the other.

5 _____ Before TV families used to sit down together for dinner and dinner was hardly over with when the kids wanted to go outside and play with their friends. Then came black and white TV! It brought entertainment into our homes and also with this came the media. In the 1960s TV was really worth watching. There were all types of movies on. Most of today's kids would find those programmes boring now, but we laughed and it was good light entertainment.

6 _____ Five years ago we decided to get rid of our TV. So out went the TV set and in came books, cooking, lengthy discussions, hiking and much needed sleep. Life has become more relaxed and at last we are getting as much sleep as we need. To stay up to date on world events, we use the Internet. If there is a big sports game that

my husband wants to watch, he heads to a friend's house and they watch it together. Or sometimes we even head to the stadium to catch the real thing as a family.

7 _____ Parents can show how to choose useful and interesting TV programmes. They can help the kids to find informative, educational programmes. There are some remarkable things for a kid to see and enjoy on television, and parents can encourage them while discouraging watching undesirable programmes. Parents should remember that while television can give preschoolers a lot of useful information, it doesn't raise their IQ or improve their school grades.

2 Read the texts again. Which of the statements (1-5) correspond to the content of the texts **True** , **False** or **Doesn't Say**

1	We learn about a lot of things from television.	True	False	Doesn't Say
2	There is nothing good about TV	True	False	Doesn't Say
3	Young children's development almost always depends on watching television.	True	False	Doesn't Say
4	Watching TV was a good idea six decades ago.	True	False	Doesn't Say
5	Many families live without TV in their homes at present.	True	False	Doesn't Say
6	Parents should help their children to choose what to watch on TV.	True	False	Doesn't Say

3 Read the text and choose the correct answers.

1 *What is true about the people in Beihai Park?*

- A They introduced themselves to the writer.
- B Some of them were writing graffiti.
- C Their art didn't last very long.
- D They use paint and big brushes.

2 *What does the author say about the ice festival in Harbin?*

- A It's only popular with local people.
- B It's easy to make sculptures out of ice.
- C The sculptures don't last long.
- D The winter weather both helps and causes problems.

3 *The author says that Tibetan sand paintings*

- A last a long time.
- B are difficult to understand.
- C are destroyed by vandals.
- D have special meanings for local people.

4 *What is true about the terracotta soldiers of Xi'an?*

- A They all look the same.
- B Nobody saw them for a long time.
- C Many people died making them.
- D They are bigger than real people.
- E

5 *Which statement describes the author's feelings about Chinese art?*

- F She was surprised that it was so old.
- G She was impressed by different types of Chinese art.
- H She didn't think it was very realistic.
- I She particularly liked old Chinese paintings.

This month in Art Around the World,

Fiona Hitchens visits China

My first introduction to Chinese art was an early morning walk in Beihai Park in Beijing. There, I saw elderly people writing on the pavement with paintbrushes which were a metre long! I soon learned that they were doing water calligraphy – writing in water. The words have meanings, but they are also art. The calligraphy quickly disappears, of course. But tomorrow, the old people will be back.

Temporary art like this is very popular in China. Every winter, Harbin, in northern China, is visited by sculptors and tourists from around the world. They come for the Harbin Ice Festival, when the city has huge sculptures made out of ice. The sculptures are bigger than houses, and they take weeks to make. Harbin's freezing winter temperatures make it very difficult for the artists to work outside. But the weather also means that the sculptures will be protected until the spring.

A few days later in Tibet, western China, I watched artists make sand paintings. The pictures are full of symbols, and they have important religious meanings for Tibetan people. They look amazing, but the paintings are soon destroyed by the artists who make them. It is important for Tibetan culture to make these paintings, then have them destroyed.

Of course, not all Chinese art is temporary – some of it has been around for a very long time! Near the city of Xi'an, I visited the amazing terracotta warriors, or soldiers. In 200 BCE, 8,000 statues of soldiers were made by sculptors out of a material called terracotta. They are as big as real people and they all have different faces. An important king had the statues produced to protect his body after he died. They stayed under the ground with the dead king for over 2,000 years, until they were discovered by a farmer in 1974.

At the China Art Museum, in Shanghai, I saw wonderful 16th-century Chinese paintings of tall mountains, trees and cliffs. The paintings were beautiful, but they didn't look very realistic to me at the time. 'Mountains aren't like that,' I thought. But that was before the last stop on my trip: the mountains of Zhangjiajie National Park.

These mountains were used by film director James Cameron in his sci-fi film *Avatar* because they look like something from another planet. On my last weekend in China, I took a cable car up into the mountains there. Trees grew on the sides of hundred-metre cliffs, and strange towers of rock appeared out of the morning fog. It looked just like the pictures in the China Art Museum. For a moment, I felt like I was inside a Chinese painting!