

Lessons 3–4 Sheikh Zayed: our father

Reading 21st

1 Read the article about Sheikh Zayed. Match the topic sentences (1–8) to the gaps (a–h). The first one is done as an example.



- a 1 His religious faith, his determination and hard work, his generosity at home and abroad, and the way he served his people helped to create a great nation and a better world.
- b _____ At the time Sheikh Zayed was born, the emirate was poor and undeveloped, with an economy based on fishing, pearl diving and simple farming.
- c _____ He spent time with Bedouin tribesmen to learn about their way of life. He later recalled with pleasure his experience of desert life and his discovery of falconry, which became a lifelong passion.
- d _____ He was responsible for six villages and a nearby desert region. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Sheikh Zayed did great things for the people of Al Ain, and became an example for everyone.
- e _____ He used the money from selling oil to build schools, housing, hospitals and roads for the people.
- f _____ Sheikh Zayed and the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, called for a new federation. Eventually, the UAE became a nation on 2nd December 1971. Sheikh Zayed's enthusiasm and values were key to the union of the UAE, and many of his fellow rulers respected him for this.
- g _____ He believed that the character of the Emirati people came from their fight to survive in the harsh desert, so he wanted to protect animals like the Arabian oryx and the sand gazelle.
- h _____ In an interview in 2002, he spoke about how Muslims stand against any person of Muslim faith who commits a wrong act against a fellow human being. He said that 'a true Muslim is friendly to all human beings and a brother to other Muslims and non-Muslims alike. This is because Islam is a religion of mercy and tolerance.'
- Sheikh Zayed died in 2004, in his late eighties.

Fill-in the blanks with the words from the article above:

1. Sheikh Zayed was born in an economy based on fishing, _____, simple _____.
2. He spent time with _____ tribesmen.
3. He used money from selling _____ to build schools, _____, hospitals, and _____ for the people.
4. He was responsible for _____ villages and a _____ desert region.
5. He wanted to protect animals like the _____ and the _____.