Making water

Some interesting new ways of making water in dry parts of the world.

A What can we do about the problem of water? Clean drinking water is a basic need for all people, but not everyone can get it easily. In some dry places, like deserts, it is expensive to transport water, difficult to store it, and if a water system stops working, an engineer is needed to repair it but sometimes the nearest engineer is miles away.

B Recently, engineers have found new and easier ways to get water in dry places. It is simple - they have made machines that take water from the air. There were already a few machines like this, but they didn't make enough water for a whole village. The new designs are better because they can make many more litres of water every day, they are cheap, and they use much less energy.

C One design, the Warka Water Tower, uses the difference between day and night-time temperatures to take water from the cooling air. It doesn't need special parts to build, it doesn't use expensive technology, and it doesn't need complicated repairs. The Warka is made from pieces of wood, usually bamboo. Inside, there is some cloth. Water in the air collects on the cloth and runs down slowly into a bowl at the bottom. The bamboo is very light, so it is easy to build and easy for a person to carry. It's the perfect way to get water in the mountains of Ethiopia.

D Another design, the Water-Gen, was first made in Israel to provide water for people in the desert. It is easy to carry by car (but too heavy to carry on foot) and it is cheap – it can make a litre of water for just a few cents. It uses very little energy and the water it makes tastes very good. Bigger models could also make enough water for people's homes, and India is interested in using the Water-Gen for people living in the countryside.

E Clean water is becoming harder to find in many countries, from Jamaica to Australia, but with these new machines, maybe in the future we will all make water from the air in our own homes.

1 **Read the article quickly. Match the headings (1–5) to the paragraphs (A–E).**

1 The Warka Water Tower ___
2 New ways to get water ___
3 The answer to future problems? ___
4 The problems of getting water ___
5 The Water-Gen ___

2 **Read the article again. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.**

1 If a water system stops working in the desert
   - A it is expensive to repair.
   - B it needs an engineer to repair it.
2 The new water machines
   - A make air from water.
   - B make water from air.
3 The new water machines are better than the old machines because
   - A they make more water and don't use as much energy.
   - B they make more water and they are easier to carry.
4 The Warka Water Tower is made of
   - A wood.
   - B plastic.
5 The Warka Water Tower is
   - A difficult to build.
   - B not heavy.
6 The Water-Gen is
   - A not expensive.
   - B easy to carry on foot.

3 **Complete the sentences with words from the article. The first letters of the words are given.**

1 C_____water is a basic need for everyone.
2 Engineers have made new ways to get water in d_____places, like deserts.
3 The Warka Water Tower uses the difference between day and night-time t_____to take water from the air.
4 India might use the Water-Gen for people living in the c_____.

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