

THINK OF A WORD WHICH BEST FITS EACH GAP AND COMPLETE THE TEXT. USE ONLY ONE WORD IN EACH GAP.



DEVELOPMENTS IN UNDERWATER DIVING



People have been diving without mechanical aids (1) ancient times. In those days, divers mainly went underwater to search (2)..... pearls or sponges. Various ways of supplying divers with air, and so permitting them to stay underwater for long periods of time, have been tried for well (3)..... two thousand years. Alexander the Great (4)..... said to have gone underwater in an early (5)..... of diving machine, and Aristotle talked about apparatus (6)..... permitted divers to breathe underwater.

It was not (7)..... the beginning of the 18th century that more advanced equipment was developed. In 1717, the first practical diving machine, or 'diving bell' (8)..... it was called, was invented. This was a small wooden room with an open bottom, glass windows at the top to (9)..... in light, and a supply of air coming through leather tubes. Something similar, made of steel, is (10)..... use today for underwater work, (11)..... as building the foundations of bridges.

However, (12)..... divers want to move freely underwater, they require a suit. Early suits were made up (13)..... a leather jacket with a metal helmet over the head into (14)..... air was pumped down from the surface through tubes. Divers gained even (15)..... freedom of movement when they could (16)..... rid of these tubes and carry (17)..... own air with them in cylinders.

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MIRRORS



You probably have several mirrors in your house, but (1) you know they are not a modern invention? Most mirrors are now made from (2) coating of metal on glass, but images can (3) seen in any smooth, highly polished surface. Archaeologists have recently found a mirror which is thought (4) be typical of the polished bronze type in early use in Greece, Egypt and China. The Cairo museum in Egypt has one dating from 4,000 years (5)..... Other metals (6) as silver and tin were also used (7)..... mirrors, but by the 16th century the Venetians had discovered (8)..... to make glass, and 'silvered' glass mirrors (9) fashionable.

Through the ages, mirrors (10) been used not only for decoration (11)..... also in science. In the Middle Ages, Arab mathematicians made great contributions to (12) science of reflected light. Their discovery of the use of mirrors to direct, distort and reflect light is responsible (13) many of the inventions we have today. For example, mirrors used in cameras and telescopes enable us to see images the human eye (14) not normally be able to make out. Laser beams, (15) use reflected light, help doctors to perform medical operations. Mirrors do indeed play (16) important role in many aspects of our lives.