

Green Swedes

Can you imagine waking up one morning with bright green hair? Well, that's what happened to the people of a small town in Sweden. What or what was to blame?

At first the drinking water was suspected. Water experts investigating the case tested the water for copper*, because they knew that copper can turn hair green. But the amount of metal in the water was normal. They were confused. Then they noticed that the people's hair usually turned green after taking a hot shower in the morning. So they tested the hot water. They discovered very high levels of copper. The experts then tested the hot water again and found another surprising fact: there were higher levels of copper in new homes than in old. There was a problem with the new pipes.

How did the town solve the problem? People were told to wash their hair in cold water so that their hair would stay its natural color. Or - they could move to an older house!



Spanish Blue

Visitors to Játiva, a village in southern Spain, will find that all the houses are painted blue instead of white. A film company painted the houses blue for a new movie. Now that the movie is finished, the villagers don't want to paint them blue again!

Which movie needs a blue village, you may ask. A Smurf* movie, of course! The villagers want to keep their houses blue because their town now attracts thousands of tourists every year. Smurf fans fill the village, buying Smurf souvenirs*, touring the sites, visiting the Smurf fair and enjoying other Smurf events.

The mayor, who has been named Papa Smurf, is delighted. He says it has made the villagers happy and created jobs as well. He says proudly, "Thanks to being head blue, we are known throughout the world."



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Reading Comprehension

Getting the Facts

1. Complete the chart. Tick (✓) the correct place(s) for each question.

Where ... ?	Sweden	Spain
1. was a movie made		
2. was metal found in the water		
3. were experts asked to help		
4. did a color change people's lives		

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2. The people's hair became green because they ...

- a. drank hot water
- b. tested the water
- c. had a hot shower
- d. lived in old homes

3. Name one piece of advice given to Swedes with green hair.

Spanish Blue

4. Why was the Spanish town of Játiva painted blue?

5. What can you do when you visit Játiva? Name two things.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Putting It Together

6. Where would you read these texts?

- a. in an ad
- b. in a brochure
- c. in a magazine

Personal Response

7. What do you think you would do if your hair turned a strange color?

From Reading to Writing

Vocabulary

A Match the words in bold to their meanings.

- 1. investigate ... a. think that something is true, but not be certain
- 2. suspect ... b. look for facts
- 3. fan ... c. a business
- 4. a company ... d. amount of
- 5. level ... e. unable to think clearly
- 6. confused ... f. someone who is very interested in something

Getting Ready

B Complete the story with the words below.

blamed • thanks to • delighted • expert • solve

A HAPPY ENDING

Last week I lost my cellphone. I couldn't find it anywhere. My parents were very angry and I not for losing it. I really needed a phone so my sister helped me my problem. She lent me her old phone.

A few days later, my mother got a phone call from a man who said he had found my cellphone. She couldn't understand how he knew the phone was mine. When she asked him, he laughed. He said that you don't need to be an to open the address book in a cellphone. He found the name "Mom" and phoned the number. this person, I got my cellphone back. Of course, I was and so were my parents.

Writing Task

C Write a real or imaginary story about something strange or unusual that happened to you.