4 Civilisation
Reading and Understanding

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Read the text about the History of Oman.
Put paragraphs a-e into the correct order.

Learning Strategy

Using pictures to predict the content of a text can help you locate information more efficiently.

The History of Oman

___ a In the 7th century, within the Prophet Mohammed's lifetime, Islam reached Oman. A *Hadith* mentions that the Prophet said "God's mercy be on the people of Al Ghubairā" (the people of Oman). They have believed in me although they had not seen me". Mazin Bin Godhuboh was the first Omani to meet the Prophet Mohammed, Peace be upon Him. He also built Oman's first mosque, Al Midhmar Mosque in Wilayt Semail.





___ b The year 1970 is known as the start of the modern renaissance in the Sultanate. His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos became the leader of Oman. Since that time, he has transformed the country by establishing a modern government, developing natural resources, providing education and healthcare, and building and developing infrastructure. Oman is now a modern, peaceful and prosperous country.

___ c Oman has a very rich and interesting history. More than 250 million years ago the whole area was covered by the ocean. We know this because there are fossils in the rocks at the top of Jebel Shams and Jabel Hareem. Once the sea level dropped, there is evidence that people may have inhabited the region for more than 100,000 years. In 2010, tools estimated to be 106,000 years old were discovered by the Dhofar Archaeological Project.





___ d In 1698, the Omani Empire expanded to include Zanzibar and cities on the east coast of Africa. Trade records from China show that ivory was shipped from East Africa to China by Omani merchants. Zanzibar was also Oman's trade centre for pearls, cates, copper and its most famous commodity, cloves. In 1840, the Sultan of Oman, Said ibn Sultan, made Zanzibar his main place of residence.

___ e Oman was once known as the Kingdom of Majan. Ma'an was first mentioned in records by the Sumerians as a source of copper from about 2300 BC. The people of Majan were famous for their shipbuilding and sailing expertise. Pieces of pottery from around 2000 BC have been discovered at the Al-Baleed archaeological site in Dhofar. The chemicals used to colour the pottery cannot be found in Oman. Therefore it is believed that Al-Baleed was an ancient port. Frankincense was Majan's most valuable commodity and was traded with many other ancient civilisations along the Incense Route.



LIVEWORKSHEETS