

FULL NAME:

THE STORY OF MY VILLAGE

Many years ago, my village was very poor. The villagers had to work hard in the fields all day and could hardly make ends meet. Their lives were simple and they were in need of many things. Many people had to live in houses made of straw and mud, and few families had a radio or a TV set. However, in spite of the shortages, the villagers managed to send their children to school and college. They hoped that with an education of science and technology, their children could find a way of bettering their lives.

The children have met their parents' wishes. When they came back from college or technical high school, they introduced new farming methods, which resulted in bumper crops. They also helped the villagers grow cash crops for export. Soon, the lifestyle of my village changed. Today, people live in brick houses. In the evening, they can listen to the news on the radio or watch TV for entertainment. Sometimes they go to town on their motorbikes to do some shopping or to visit their friends.

"Our lives have changed a lot thanks to the knowledge our children brought home," said an old farmer, "and I always tell my grandchildren to study harder so that they can do even more for the village than their parents did."



Choose the best answer

Areas of change	Before	Now
Houses		
Radio & T.V		
Farming methods		
crops		
Travel		

WORD	Meanings	Vietnamese meanings
make ends meet	having to have many things that you don't have	
bettering one's life	good crops	
bumper crops	making one's better life	
in need of many things	having just enough money to pay for the things you need	
cast crops	crops to be sold, not for use by the people who grow it	

1. What was life like in the author's village many years ago?

2. Why did the villagers want to send their children to school and college in spite of their shortage?

3. How did the children help to improve the lifestyle in the village when they finished college or technical high school?

4. What did an old farmer say about the effect of the knowledge the young people brought home?

What exactly did he tell his grandchildren?