

LISTENING GAP FILL - Atatürk

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1) _____ the Republic of Turkey. His surname, Ataturk, means "Father of the Turks". He was born in 1881 in Salonika, then part of the Ottoman Empire. He had a long and active military career before entering politics. (2) _____ and revolutionary leader who swiftly modernized Turkey after becoming its first president. (3) _____ throughout Turkish life today.

When Atatürk was 12, he joined a military school. He later graduated from (4) _____ Istanbul in 1905. He quickly established his military (5) _____ against the Italians in Libya in 1911, and in the Balkan Wars between 1912-1913. He became a hero by defending the Dardanelles against the Allies in 1915. Atatürk was (6) _____ at the age of 35 because of his military skills.

Atatürk played a key role in the Turkish War of Independence (1919-1922). He started (7) _____ and successfully fought off European armies that (8) _____ occupied Turkey after WWI. In 1921, he established a temporary government in Ankara. Two years later, in 1923, Turkey (9) _____ with Atatürk as its president. He remained in office until 1938.

As president, Mustafa Kemal's reforms (10) _____ and encouraged education for girls. He also asked women to work to build Turkey's economy. He replaced Islamic courts with secular civil law and replaced Arabic script (11) _____ Turkish alphabet. He also promoted a more western style of dressing. Atatürk died on November 10, 1938, aged 57 years old. He (12) _____ figure in Turkey.

