

1. Read the email. Then read sentences (A–C) and choose the one that best fits each gap (1–3).

A visit to the Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre

Hi Michelle,

I had an incredible experience in Hanoi today! Cory and I went to see a traditional water puppet show at the Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre. We were excited because these performances are an important part of Vietnam's cultural heritage.

When the performance started, I was completely surprised to see a colourful dragon moving across water. (1) . While a band was playing traditional music, the puppets were moving and dancing on the surface of the water. The puppeteers hid behind a bamboo screen and used underwater rods to move the wooden puppets. The singers in the band were encouraging the characters in the stories with their songs. I couldn't understand what they were saying in Vietnamese. (2) . At one point, a dragon sprayed water at the audience!

The stories in the show are about farm life as well as folk tales and legends. (3) . Back then, villagers performed water puppet shows to celebrate the rice harvest and other special occasions. They made characters from wood and used rods to make them move on the water, just like the puppeteers do today.

I am so happy we had the chance to see this unique performance that goes back thousands of years!

See you soon.

Kevin

- A. This type of storytelling started in the 11th century.
- B. You see, the stage was a giant swimming pool.
- C. I didn't mind, though, as the puppets were so entertaining.

2. Answer the questions.

1. What city is the Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre located in?
2. What are the puppets made of?
3. Why did people originally do water puppet shows?