

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

UNIT 2: ENTERTAINMENT

READING EXERCISES

Passage 1

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



Task 1: True / False / Not Given

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the conversations? Write TRUE, FALSE, or NOT GIVEN.

1. The writer watched a water puppet show in Hanoi. T / F / NG
2. The stage was a traditional theatre stage. T / F / NG
3. The puppets moved on the water. T / F / NG
4. The writer understood the Vietnamese language. T / F / NG
5. The tradition started in the 11th century. T / F / NG

Task 2: Sentence Completion

Complete the sentences using NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage.

1. The stage was like a _____.
2. The puppets moved on the _____ of the water.
3. The puppeteers used _____ to control the puppets.
4. The shows celebrate the rice _____.

Passage 2

The Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall in South Kensington, London, is one of the UK's most famous concert halls. Queen Victoria opened it in 1871 and singers, choirs and orchestras from around the world came to perform on its famous stage. Everyone in the UK knows this beautiful venue. In fact, for many people, the Royal Albert Hall is the home of classical music in England.

One of the most famous events that happens here is the Proms. It is a special classical concert that celebrates music and British culture. This eight-week-long festival happens every summer. Classical musicians, orchestras, opera singers and even pop stars all perform during the Proms. There really is something for everyone! Over 5,000 people fill the seats inside the Hall, and over 18 million watch it on television and the Internet. People even call it the world's largest music festival!

The Proms isn't the only thing that happens at this amazing place. There are also rock concerts, ballet and theatre performances, film screenings and even tennis matches! Whatever you're interested in, you can find it at the Royal Albert Hall, Britain's most incredible entertainment venue!

Task: Table Completion

Complete the table using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage.

Information	Answer
Location	
Opened by	
Year	
Famous event	
Duration	
Audience	
Other events	

