

Name:

Class:

UNIT 1: LESSON 3

PRACTICE READING

Read the passage and then answer the following questions.

The oldest message in a bottle in the world

Have you ever found anything interesting on a beach? In 2018, the Illman family found a bottle on the beach in Western Australia. When they picked it up, they saw a piece of paper inside. They took the bottle and the piece of paper home, and looked at them more carefully. There was a message in German on the piece of paper. It was very difficult to read. However, the Illmans could read some words including a name, *Paula*, and a **date**, 12th June 1886.

The Illmans took the bottle and the message to the Western Australia Museum in Perth. The people at the museum wanted to find out more **information**, so they **contacted** some museums in Germany. Now they know the whole story of the message in the bottle. It's from a German boat called *Paula* and the message has been inside the bottle since 1886. It's been there for more than 130 years! The boat was in the Indian Ocean – 950 kilometres from Western Australia – when the people on board threw the bottle into the sea.

For the Illmans, finding the bottle – and learning that it was so old – was an incredible experience.

1. Where did the Illman family find the bottle?

- A. In Germany
- B. On a beach in Western Australia
- C. In a museum
- D. On a boat

2. What was inside the bottle?

- A. A photograph
- B. A newspaper
- C. A piece of paper
- D. A map

3. What language was the message written in?

- A. English
- B. French
- C. German
- D. Italian

4. What could the Illman family read on the piece of paper?

- A. A name and a date
- B. A phone number
- C. An address
- D. A short story

5. What was “Paula”?

- A. The name of a woman
- B. The name of a museum
- C. The name of a German boat
- D. The name of a beach

6. Why did the Illmans take the bottle to the Western Australia Museum?

- A. They wanted to sell it.
- B. They wanted to find out more information about it.
- C. They wanted to put it in another bottle.
- D. They wanted to send it to Germany.

7. What did the museum workers do to learn more about the message?

- A. They contacted some museums in Germany.
- B. They wrote a newspaper story.
- C. They travelled to Germany.
- D. They threw the bottle back into the sea.

8. When was the message put into the bottle?

- A. In 1886
- B. In 1970
- C. In 2018
- D. In 2019

9. How far was the boat from Western Australia when the bottle was thrown into the sea?

- A. About 95 kilometres
- B. About 500 kilometres
- C. About 950 kilometres
- D. About 1,300 kilometres

10. How did the Illman family feel about finding the old bottle?

- A. They thought it was boring.
- B. They thought it was frightening.

- C. They thought it was an incredible experience.
- D. They were angry about it.

Vocabulary – Choose the correct definition.

11. What does “date” mean?

- A. A place where people buy books
- B. A particular day of the month or year
- C. A person who writes newspapers
- D. A message sent by phone

12. What does “information” mean?

- A. Facts or details about someone or something
- B. A piece of clothing
- C. A kind of food
- D. A place where people travel

13. What does “contact” mean as a verb?

- A. To hide something underground
- B. To send or give someone a message, phone call, or email
- C. To read something carefully
- D. To throw something away

14. What is a “magazine”?

- A. A book of maps
- B. A publication with articles and pictures, usually published weekly or monthly
- C. A short letter sent to a friend
- D. A daily report about the weather

15. What is a “newspaper”?

- A. A publication that gives news and information about current events
- B. A book about animals
- C. A notebook for writing homework
- D. A piece of paper with only one picture