

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

British Cuisine

Some people criticize English food. They say it's unimaginable, boring, tasteless, it's chips with everything and totally overcooked vegetables.

The basic ingredients, when fresh, are so full of flavour that British haven't had to invent sauces to disguise their natural taste. What can compare with fresh peas or new potatoes just boiled and served with butter? Why drown spring lamb in wine or cream and spices, when with just one or two herbs it is absolutely delicious?

If you ask foreigners to name some typically English dishes, they will probably say "Fish and chips" then stop. It is disappointing, but true that, there is no tradition in England of eating in restaurants, because the food doesn't lend itself to such preparation. English cooking is found at home. So it is difficult to find a good English restaurant with a reasonable prices.

In most cities in Britain you'll find Indian, Chinese, French and Italian restaurants. In London you'll also find Indonesian, Mexican, Greek... Cynics will say that this is because English have no "cuisine" themselves, but this is not quite the true.

Questions:

1. What do foreigners say when they criticize English food?
2. Do English people use a lot of sauces?
3. From a foreigner's point of view, what are typically English dishes?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Scotland

Scotland is a country in the north of Great Britain. It is a

part of the United Kingdom. Scotland is divided into three natural regions: the Southern Uplands, the Central Lowlands and the Highlands and islands. A lot of places in Scotland are a natural paradise, still untouched by man.

The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh, well known for its castle. Glasgow is the industrial capital of Scotland. It is the third largest city in Great Britain. The typical products of Scotland are timber, whisky, salmon. Golf is the Scottish natural sport and it seems to have originated in this country.

Scotland is also the land of myths and mysteries; every castle has its ghost. Glamis Castle is said to have nine of them. And of course everyone knows about the Loch Ness Monster. "Nessie" is said to be about six meters long, with a long, thin neck. The first report of the monster in Loch Ness was in 565 A.D. Since 1934 thousands of people claimed to they had seen the monster. Scientists have investigated the Loch and taken pictures but no scientific explanation of the mystery has been given.

Questions:

1. Where is Scotland situated?
2. How many regions are there in Scotland?
3. What is the capital of Scotland?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The Irish Music

Ireland is strong and rich in music. The Irish people love to sing, to dance and to make music of all kinds. The harp has always been a very important musical instrument in Ireland. In the wars between the Irish and the English, it was like a national flag for the Irish. In the seventeenth century it became more than that. One very famous harper was O'Carloan. He was born in Westmeath in about 1670. When O'Carloan was about sixteen years old his eyes failed and he became blind. With the help of a kind, rich lady he learned to play the harp. He also wrote poetry and music for the harp. People have saved a lot of his music and harpers still play O'Carloan's beautiful songs.

When they hear the word "nocturne", people usually think of Chopin. Chopin's nocturnes are famous but the first nocturnes came from an Irishman. He was John Field. He was a pupil in London of the great piano player, composer and teacher Clementi. He was one of the really great pianists. We can't hear him today because there were no record of music in his time.

Ireland also has its great pop and rock musicians. A very successful group is U2. It started in Dublin in 1979. U2 is a rock group. It knows the young people of Ireland and the things that they feel and want. They speak for young Irish people but they are famous all over the world.

Today there are many Irish musicians. A lot of them are internationally famous, and that is wonderful for a country with only five million people.

Questions:

1. What is an important Irish musical instrument?
2. Who was O'Carolan?
3. What is John Field famous for?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The Town of My Dream

Peking is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It spreads across a vast area. Part of its border is formed by the Great Wall of China, a huge wall which stretches along the mountains. It is the ancient seat of government and a modern industrial and commercial city. The population of Peking is about 10 million people and is still growing, although it is only the second largest city in China.

In 1421 Peking became the imperial capital of the Ming dynasty (1368—1644) and it was during this time that the spacious walled city was built. Like many ancient Chinese cities, the walls and streets were based on the points of the compass. Peking has remained the capital of China since then. With its modern international airport, it is not surprising that Peking has become a popular tourist destination. Peking's broad, straight streets are crowded with people, bicycles and buses. Very few people own a car. Industries include textiles, steel and engineering. It is also a city of great cultural importance. There are more than fifty institutes of higher education, including Peking University. It has a famous opera, a ballet and some outstanding museums — The Museum of Chinese History and Gugun Museum. Among the many historical and cultural landmarks in Peking is Square, one of the largest public squares in the world. It is used for political rallies and military parades.

Questions:

1. What is the capital of People's Republic of China?
2. What is the population of Peking?
3. Peking is the second largest city in China, isn't it?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Transport in Britain

You can reach England either by plane, by train, by car or by ship. The fastest way is by plane. London has three international airports: Heathrow, the largest, connected to the city by underground; Gatwick, south of London, with a frequent train service; Luton, the smallest, used for charter flights.

If you go to England by train or by car you have to cross the Channel. There is a frequent service of steamers and ferryboats which connect the continent to the south-east of England.

People in Britain drive on the left and generally overtake on the right. The speed limit is 30 miles per hour (50 km/h) in towns and cities and 70 m.p.h. (110 km/h) on motorways.

When you are in London you can choose from four different means of transport: bus, train, underground or taxi. The typical bus in London is a red double-decker. The first London bus started running between Paddington and the City in 1829. It carried 40 passengers and cost a shilling for six kms.

The next to arrive were the trains; now there are twelve railway stations in London. The world's first underground line was opened between Baker St. and the City in 1863. Now there are ten underground lines and 273 underground stations in use. The London underground is also called the Tube, because of the circular shape of its deep tunnels.

Questions:

1. What is the fastest way of traveling?
2. How many airports are there in London?
3. What kind of service helps to cross the Channel?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Vincent Van Gogh

Vincent Van Gogh was born in Holland in 1853. Before becoming a painter he was a teacher. He started painting when he was twenty-seven. In 1886 he left Holland and joined his young brother Theo, who lived in Paris. Here he painted some of his most famous pictures. After living there for two years he moved to the South of France, because the climate was warmer there.

But Van Gogh was mentally ill. During one of his fits of madness he attacked his friend, the artist Paul Gauguin. In another fit of madness, he cut off part of his own ear. Eventually he went into a mental hospital but he didn't get any better. Finally, on Sunday 27th July 1890, in the small village Vincent Van Gogh took a gun. He went into a cornfield and shot himself. Thirty-six hours later Van Gogh died in his brother's arms. His last words were: "I hope I did it properly". Nobody has ever painted cornfields or sunflowers like Van Gogh. His paintings are full of colour and sunlight. Today his paintings are worth millions of pounds but in his lifetime he only sold one.

Questions:

1. When Van Gogh was born?
2. Was he a teacher before becoming a painter?
3. Why did he left Paris?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The Story of "McDonald's" and "Coca-Cola"

In 1937 the McDonnald brothers, Dick and Mark, opened little restaurant in California. They served hot dogs and milk shakes. In 1945 they have 20 waiters. All the teenagers in town ate hamburgers there. When the 1948 year came they got paper boxes and bags for the hamburgers. They put the price down from 30 to 15 cents. There were no more waiters — it was self-service. So it was cheaper and faster.

In 1960s the McDonald's company opened hundreds of McDonald's restaurants all over the States. In 1971 they opened restaurants in Japan, Germany and Australia.

Now the McDonald's company opens a new restaurant every 8 hours. There are more than 14,000 restaurants in over 70 countries.

The Coca-Cola story began in Atlanta in 1886. John Pemberton invented a new drink. Two of the ingredients were the South American coca leaf and the African cola nut. Pemberton couldn't think of a good name for the drink. Finally, Dr. Pemberton's partner Frank Robinson suggested the name Coca-Cola. Thirty years later the famous Coca-Cola bottle design first appeared.

For many years only Coca-Cola was made. They only introduced new drinks — Fanta, Sprite in the 1960s. The recipe of Coca-Cola is a secret. Today they sell Coca-Cola in 195 countries. Hundreds of millions of people from Boston to Beijing drink it every day. It has the most famous trademark in the world.

Questions:

1. When did McDonald brothers open first restaurant?
2. What did they serve there?
3. When did the Coca-Cola story begin?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Sport in the USA (1)

Americans play tennis, hockey and most other international sports but they do not play football in the same way as the rest of the world. The players can run with the ball, touch and push each other. Players wear special clothes for American football with helmets on their heads, because the game can be dangerous. Like international football teams, American teams have eleven players. The field looks different and even the ball is a different shape. American football is very different game.

Americans love winter sports and ice hockey is the most popular game. This game is very fast and can be dangerous. Basketball is another popular game in America. Only five people in each team.

Basketball is the most popular summer sport in America. The first American baseball match was in 1839 in New York. To play baseball you need two teams of nine players. Americans start playing baseball young. There are "leagues" which children of eight can join. The top players become big stars and earn a lot of money every year.

Questions:

1. Describe the way Americans play football.
2. Do Americans love winter sports?
3. How many people are there is basketball team?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

New Zealand Way of Life

New Zealand have a high standard of living. New Zealanders eat more butter and meat per person than do the people of any other country. The government's medical program provides excellent health care. About 70% of New Zealand people own their houses. Almost every family has a car.

Most New Zealanders live in singlefamily houses with a small vegetable gardens. In the larger cities, some people live in highrise apartment buildings. Almost in every New Zealand home there are refrigerators, wash mashines, and other modern electrical appliances. But air conditioning and central heating are rare because the weather rarely becomes extremely hot or extremely cold. In summer, New Zealanders prefer to keep windows open. In winter, fireplaces or electric heater keep the homes warm.

Although about fourfifths of New Zealand's population live in urban areas, cities are uncrowded. Traffic jams seldom occur, even in downtown areas. Large cities have excellent restaurants, milk bars, theatres, concert halls, and other places of entertainment. City life in New Zealand tends to be rather quiet. However it is changing in larger cities, where international tourism is developing rapidly.

Near a fifth of New Zealand's people live in rural areas — in some of them, small settlements are linked by good roads. But in other areas, rancher's nearest neighbours may live kilometers away. Some ranchers live almost in isolation. Nevertheless, most farms and ranches have electricity. Many farm families run their farms with little or no hired help.

Questions:

1. Who pays for health care in New Zealand?
2. How many New Zealanders own their houses?

3. Where do the most New Zealanders live?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The British Painters
, (Joseph Mallord William Turner)

William Turner, a great romantic English landscape painter, was born in Devonshire in 1775. He lived with his uncle in Middlesex, where he began to attend school. His first drawings are dated 1787, when he was only twelve years of age. His childish sketch-books, filled with drawings, are still preserved in the British Museum.

When he was 21, he began to exhibit oil paintings as well as water-colours at the Royal Academy. The first, "Fishermen at Sea" is now in the Gate Gallery.

He traveled much in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy. But he never lost his interest in his own country.

As a landscape painter Turner was interested mainly in light and colour effects. One of his famous paintings is even called "Light and Colour". His work is highly praised by great critics.

Turner died in London in 1851. His pictures and drawings became the property of the British nation.

William Turner is considered to be one of the world's greatest painters.

Questions:

1. Where and when was Joseph Turner born?
2. Where did he go to school?
3. At what age did he make his first drawings?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Fashion in the USA and Britain

Many British people don't think about clothes very much. In Britain, as well as in the USA, men in offices usually wear suits and ties and women wear dresses or skirts (not trousers). Doctors, lawyers and business people wear quite formal clothes.

And in some hotels and restaurants men have to wear ties and women wear smart dresses. Jeans and open shirts are sometimes not allowed. It is difficult to say exactly what people wear in Britain and the States because everyone is different. If you are not sure what to wear watch what other people do and then do the same. Or ask the advice of a friend or your host. You'll feel relaxed if you don't look too different from everyone else.

British people just like to be comfortable. When they go out to enjoy themselves, they can wear almost everything. At theaters, cinemas and concerts you can put on what you like — from elegant suits and dresses to jeans and sweaters. In many ways, Americans are more relaxed than British people, but they are more careful with their clothes. At home or on holiday most Americans wear informal or sporty clothes. But when they go out in the evening, they like to look elegant. In good hotels and restaurants men have to wear jackets and ties and women wear pretty clothes and smart hairstyles. But these days most people in Britain and the USA do not wear very formal clothes. But sometimes it is important to wear the right thing.

Questions:

1. British people don't think about clothes very much, do they?
2. What do British people wear to restaurant?
3. What clothes do Americans wear on holidays?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Hobbies in UK and the USA

Hobbies are a great British and American tradition. A hobby is a special interest or activity that you do in your time off. A "hobby" is usually something that a person does alone. But American (and British) families sometimes like to do things together too. Some American families have quite a lot of money to spend on their recreation. They can all enjoy their holiday home or their boat somewhere in the country away from it. Americans love to get out of town into the wild and many go for holidays or long weekends into the thirty-five fabulous national parks. Some people have animals as hobbies. They keep rabbits or go fishing. They train dogs to do tricks or keep pigeons to race and carry messages. Some are crazy about plants.

Others are mad about their car or their motorbike. They spend their Saturdays and Sundays washing them and painting them. But Americans do not only spend their free time having fun. Children and teenagers are great collectors. Millions take part-time courses in writing, painting and music and at the weekends the museums, art galleries and concert halls are full. Everyone in these countries is very interested in culture.

Questions:

1. What is hobby?
2. Do American families spend their free time together?
3. Some people have animals as hobbies, haven't they?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Traditional American Food

Americans eat a lot. They have three meals a day: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Most of Americans don't eat home but prefer to go to restaurants. They can choose from many kind of restaurants. There is a great number of ethnic restaurants in the United States. Italian, Chinese and Mexican food is very popular.

An American institution is the fast food restaurant, which is very convenient but not very healthy.

However there are some principles of American cuisine (if we may call it so). Americans drink a lot of juices and soda, eat a lot of meat, fruits and vegetables, not much bread. In the morning Americans have cereal or scrambled eggs, milk or orange juice. Chicken or fish, fried potatoes, vegetable salads, and desert: this is the most common menu for lunch. Dinner is probably the most important meal of the day, some people have family dinner, when all members of family have to be there. For dinner Americans usually have meat, fried or baked potatoes with ketchup or sour cream, corn, peas, sometimes macaroni and cheese or spaghetti; ice-cream, fruit or cake may be for dessert.

Turkey, ham and apple pie are traditional for Christmas and Thanksgiving Day dinners.

Questions:

1. How many times a day do Americans eat?
2. Do Americans like to eat at home?
3. What kind of restaurants is popular in the US?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The Discovery of America (1)

America was founded by Columbus in 1492. Columbus fled to this country because of persecution by Ferdinand and Isabella, who refused to believe the world was round. Before Columbus reached America he cried "Ceylon! Ceylon!" because he wanted to see India. When he arrived, he cried again. This time he cried "I have found it!"

Columbus was mistaken in thinking he had reached India. There is still a great deal of confusion about the East and the West. As Columbus discovered, if you go west long enough you find yourself in the east and vice versa. In the New World most of the eastern half of the country is called the Middle West although it is known as the East by those who live in the Far West.

Columbus, who was as confused as anybody who has been at sea for a long time, called the first people he saw "Indians". Accompanied by his followers, Columbus made several other voyages in search of India. Try as he might, however, he kept discovering America and finally returned to Spain to die.

Questions:

1. Who discovered America?
2. Did Columbus intend to reach America or India?
3. Is there any confusion about the East and the West?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

The US Government

After its 200th birthday the United States of America still holds the leading position in the western world. A country that has inspired many names — "Land of Opportunity", "Meeting Pot", "God's Country" is still referred to as land of superlatives — "the richest", "the greatest", "the most".

In size the United States is not the biggest. What makes the USA the leader of the western world is its economic, political and military dominance over other countries.

The United States is a parliamentary republic. The Government is divided into 3 branches: legislative (the US Congress), executive (the President and his Administration) and judicial (the US Supreme Court).

There are two main political parties in the USA: the Democratic (symbolize by a "donkey") and the Republican (symbolized by an "elephant"). The US president is both head of State and of government. He is elected for a 4-year term.

The Supreme Court consists of Chief Justice and 8 Associate Justices who are appointed for life. The Supreme Court is supposed to decide whether a law of the Congress or an executive order of the President is "Constitutional or not".

Questions:

1. Is the USA the biggest country in the world?
2. What makes the USA the leader of the western world?
3. Is the USA a parliamentary republic?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

British Museums

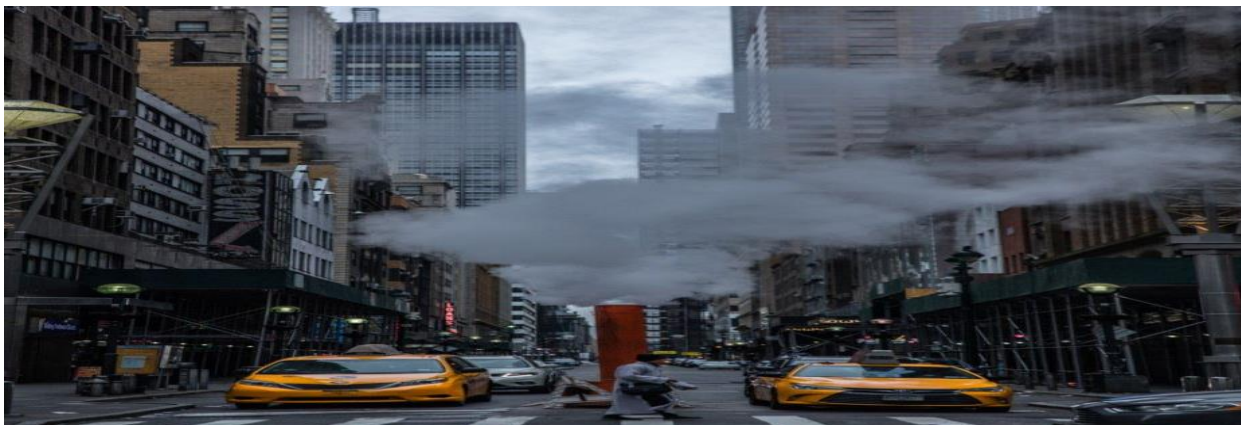
There are many museums in London. One of them is the Tate Gallery in Millbank, which presents modern masters of England and France. There are some fine examples of modern sculpture. Its collection of French Impressionists is marvellous. There is the Victoria and Albert Museum in Brompton Road. It has an outstanding collection of the applied arts of all countries and periods.

The National Gallery in Trafalgar Square has one of the best picture collection in the world. It has the most valuable display of French paintings from the early of the Impressionists, and, of course, the finest English painting, with Gainsborough, Turner, Constable and others. It shows the progress of Italian painting from the medieval to the Renaissance, some outstanding pictures of the old Roman masters. It also has a great variety of Dutch and Flemish masters and an excellent choice of Spanish painters. There are great treasures dispersed in private collections all over the world. The Queen's collection is the most valuable among them.

Questions:

1. Are there many museums in London?
2. Name British Museums you know.
3. What is the National Gallery famous for?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Isaac Newton

Newton, one of the greatest scientists of all times was born in 1642 in the little village in Lincolnshire, England. His father was a farmer and died before Newton was born. His mother was a clever woman whom he always loved.

After the school, Newton studied mathematics at Cambridge university and received his degree in 1665. Then the university was closed because of the danger of plague and Newton went home for eighteen months. It was most important period in his life when he made his three great discoveries — the discoveries of the differential calculus, of the nature of white light, and of the law of gravitation.

These discoveries are still important for the modern science. Newton had always been interested in the problems of light. Many people saw colours of a rainbow but only Newton showed, by his experiments, that white light consists of these colours.

It is interesting how he discovered the law gravitation. Once, as he sat at the garden, his attention was drawn by the fall of an apple. Many people saw such an usual thing before. But it was Newton who asked himself a question: "Why does that apple fall perpendicularly to the ground? Why doesn't it go sideways or upwards?" The answer to this question was the theory of gravitation, discovered by Newton.

Newton died at the age of 84, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, where his monument stands today.

Questions:

1. When and where was Newton born?
2. Where did he study?
3. What three major discoveries did Newton make?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Thomas Edison

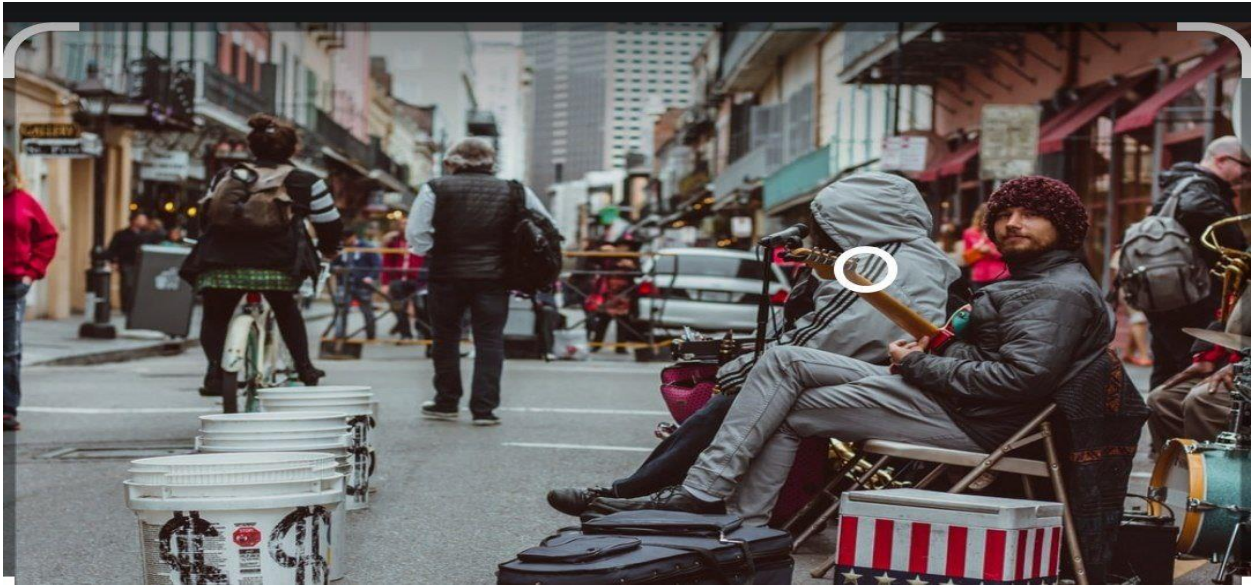
Thomas Edison was born in 1847. He first went to school at the age of eight and a half. But after only three months his teacher called him "stupid" and he came home crying. From that time his mother taught him at home and he read science books by himself. He got a job sending telegraph messages. Then he started inventing things. At the age of 12 he had a job selling newspapers. He made money in a clever but simple way. He checked the news stories first. When the news was interesting he took a lot of papers; when it was boring he took only few.

In 1877 he made a "phonograph" — the first ever sound recorder. The following year he invented the light bulb. In 1882 New York was the first city in the world with electric lights. In 1889 he made a "kinetoscope". He also made films for his new machine. In 1903 he made the world's longest film (It was ten minutes long!) After more than one thousand inventions, Edison died at the age of eighty-four. In his honour they switched off the lights all over America.

Questions:

1. Thomas Edison was born in 1847, wasn't he?
2. Why did mother teach him at home?
3. What were his inventions?

1. Describe the picture.



2. Read the text and answer the questions.

Michael Faraday

Michael Faraday is one of the great scientists in the history of man's work in electricity. He was born in a small village near London on September 11, 1791, in a poor family. His family lived from hand to mouth. At the age of thirteen Michael went to work in a bookbinder's shop, because he didn't have much schooling. Some of the scientific works and articles which passed through his hands aroused his interest in science and he started to read.

Some time later Michael became a pupil of great scientist of that time, Sir Humphry Davy. The boy accompanied Davy in his trips to Europe. The educational value of such trips was great. Among great men of science Faraday met Ampere, who had already made a name for himself in the history of electricity.

Today almost all the electricity we use is generated by great machines with magnets in them, but in those days no one knew how to do it. That's why the English scientist danced with delight on his table when he got what he wanted by moving the magnet near wire. This was a great moment in the history of man's electrical experiments. But Faraday didn't stop at this.

Faraday's scientific interests were varied. He made new kind of glass and a new kind of steel. Faraday made about two thousand difficult experiments and made countless discoveries in chemistry and physics. He made a wonderful machine which was the father of all the great machines that make electricity today. They light and heat our houses and they make our radio-sets work. Michael Faraday was the creator of the electric motor, who ushered us in the electrical age which had changed the face of the earth.

Questions:

1. Who is the creator of the electric motor?
2. Why did Michael have to work in a bookbinder's shop?
3. Was he a pupil of Humphry Davy or Ampere?

3. Describe the picture.

4. Read the text and answer the questions.

5. Describe the picture.

6. Read the text and answer the questions.

