



ENGLISH
TOPIC: READING PASSAGE

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: VIII Sec: ____

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

“GEMS”

Since ancient times, the pearl has been a symbol of unblemished perfection. It is the oldest gem, and for centuries it was considered the most beautiful. The Latin word for pearl literally means “unique”, stating that no two pearls are identical. Pearls have been considered as ideal wedding gifts because they symbolize purity and innocence. Most gems like sapphire, topaz, ruby, diamond, etc are minerals that are mined from beneath the earth, but pearl is formed inside the shell of an oyster. Mineral gems are hard but pearl is soft. Other gems need to be coated and polished to bring out their beauty but pearl looks beautiful even in its original form, in the form; it is extracted from the oyster from the sea or from the mussel from the river.

How are pearls formed? The formation of pearl is an interesting phenomenon. Oysters and other mollusks live in water. They have shells, joined together with a hinge. These shells keep opening and closing, allowing water to pass in and out of them so that the oyster inside can eat and breathe. Sometimes a foreign particle like a sand grain or a tiny parasite or a bit of broken shell enters the oyster’s shell and lodges itself in the soft body, causing it irritation.

When the oyster is unable to get rid of this irritant, it secretes a substance called nacre, which forms a coating over the foreign particle to make it less dangerous to the soft, tissues of the oyster. Gradually, successive layers of nacre are deposited over the foreign particle until it is fully enclosed in the substance, thus forming the pearl. It is the quality of the luster and the colour as the lining of the shell of the mollusk. Rare and valuable pearl comes from some species of oysters and other molluscs that live in the sea.

Thousands of oysters have to be collected to produce a handful of pearls. This is the reason natural pearls are extraordinary expensive. Until the 1940’s pearl oysters were mainly found in Persian Gulf near the Island of Bahrain. Some of the natural pearl oyster beds were located in the South Pacific Ocean. Most of the pearls used in jewellery are cultured pearls and not natural pearls. A cultured pearl is a biological product of the pearl oyster as the natural pearl is. Women all over the world are fond of pearl jewellery.

Q1. **Answer the following:-**

Find words from the passage which mean the same as the words given below (Synonyms

A Belonging to a very distant /past

. ANS-

B Sign or a mark

ANS-

C Similar or alike

ANS-



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

D Relating to biology or living organisms

ANS-

E Costly or highly priced

. ANS-

Q2 Answer the following questions:-

A. What is the Latin word for pearl literally mean?

ANS

.B Why are pearls considered as ideal wedding gifts?

ANS.

C Which gems are mined from beneath the earth?

ANS.

D Why are natural pearls extraordinary expensive?

ANS.

E What is a cultured pearl?

ANS.