

## Sco 8: Timed Reading

### **Key words and concepts:**

**Ancestor:** someone who was in your family long ago; grandparents

**Bank:** land along the side of a river

**Civilization:** people living together at a certain time in a certain way

**Fence:** line of wood or metal posts that you build around a place to keep people and animals in or out

**Insofar as:** used for talking about the degree to which something happens, or the situation in which something happens

**Kindergarten:** a school for young children, usually four to six years old

**Resemble:** look like something or someone

**Steer:** to control the direction in which a vehicle moves

**Tongue:** language

### **P1. Instructional objectives:**

1. Learning how to time your own reading.
2. Learning some new words such as resemble, tongue, ancestor, bank, etc.

## **P2: Passage 1**

***[Instruction: Read the following passage as fast as you can and answer the questions that follow it.]***

No language is easy or difficult in itself. The ease or difficulty of any language depends on the age of the person learning it. Before the age of 10, all languages are equally easy when learned by the natural speaking method. After 10, our language habits are set in our own tongue. From then on, another language is easy insofar as it resembles our own. It is difficult insofar as it differs from our own. Therefore, it is desirable to learn foreign languages as early as possible. Some schools start foreign language instruction in kindergarten or in the primary grades.

### **P3: Comprehension Check:**

***[Complete the following statements with the alternative which best fits each blank space.]***

1. A good title for this passage could be.....
  - a. Who can learn two languages?
  - b. What is the language learning age?
  - c. What language is easy?
  - d. Why do people learn a language?
2. We understand from the passage that .....
  - a. the younger the person, the better he learns a language
  - b. the older a person gets, the faster he learns
  - c. young people know more languages than older people

- d. older people understand a foreign language easily
- 3. According to the passage, Americans should learn .....
  - a. German more easily than Iranians
  - b. Farsi more easily than Germans
  - c. German like Farsi
  - d. Farsi but not German
- 4. It is implied in the passage that .....
  - a. we must learn our first language before the age of 10
  - b. everybody must learn a foreign language
  - c. we teach our native languages at school
  - d. foreign languages are usually taught
- 5. The author.....
  - a. believes that first languages are easier than foreign languages
  - b. suggests early age for language learning
  - c. does not believe that some languages are easier than others
  - d. discusses different methods of language teaching

#### **P4: Passage 2**

***[Instruction: Read the following passage as fast as you can and answer the questions that follow it.]***

Oceans and rivers are now high ways. But in the days of our earliest ancestors they were not. A land separated from another by an ocean was as unreachable as if it had been on another planet. And before man learned to make boats, wide rivers were like high fences separating the land on the two banks. Boats gave early man a way of traveling on water. Later they came to be very important in the spread of civilization.

Some early man may have got the idea of a boat in this way: standing on the edge of a river, he saw signs of good hunting on the other side. A log from a dead tree floated by. Perhaps, he thought, he could ride on the log. Perhaps if he kicked his feet he could steer the log across the river. He tried out his idea and it worked.

#### **P4: Comprehension Check:**

***[Instruction: Complete the following statements with the alternative which best fits each blank space.]***

- 1. The passage is mainly about .....
  - a. oceans
  - b. highways
  - c. boats
  - d. rivers
- 2. According to the passage, highways .....
  - a. are like oceans and rivers
  - b. connect places together

- c. are dry now, whereas they were wet in the past
  - d. belong to the time when man was not civilized
3. A boat.....
- a. is really used in river banks
  - b. stands only on the edge of a river
  - c. is like a highway on the land
  - d. may be used to move from one river bank to another
4. According to the passage, boats were .....
- a. much simpler in the past
  - b. invented by modern scientists
  - c. originally made of metal
  - d. used by good hunters
5. The first men who moved on the water.....
- a. had advanced steering tools
  - b. used very simple steering methods
  - c. had to work hard to buy their needs
  - d. died because of hard work