

**READING.** Read the text and choose the best answer, A, B, C or D. Justify your answers.

**The Mursi Tribe of Ethiopia.**

The Omo River Valley in southwest Ethiopia is one of the most remote yet culturally diverse places on the planet and is even believed by some to be the birthplace of human civilisation. Today, it is home to eight different ancient African tribes whose lifestyles haven't changed for centuries. The most fascinating of these tribes is the Mursi.

The Mursi Tribe numbers about 7,500 individuals. They live in the lower Omo Valley where the men herd cattle and grow crops. Livestock is their most valued possession and is also a measure of social status. Although the Mursi are more or less settled, they have to move twice a year due to unpredictable rainfall.

The Mursi people have few religious beliefs or ceremonies and don't practise many crafts. However, body decoration and alteration is an important part of their culture that they commonly practise. They are best known and most recognisable for the pottery or wooden lip plates worn by their women. At the age of 15 or 16 girls have their lower lips cut and a small clay plate inserted into it. Over the following years, larger plates are inserted into the lip causing it to stretch. The plate is a symbol to show the girl has reached womanhood and it is a source of great pride and self-esteem to the Mursi women. However, the women only wear the plates for a short time each day because they can be heavy and uncomfortable.

Both the men and women of the tribe use paint to decorate their bodies and faces. Men proudly show scars as a sign of their manhood and of how many enemies they have defeated. However, the only battles they fight these days are part of a tradition of ceremonial duelling (thagine). This is a very important aspect of the Mursi men's lives. Thagine is a form of martial art in which men take part in single combat using wooden poles called dongen and wear decorative and protective clothing. The winner is carried around by the men and then surrounded by young girls who lay goatskins on the ground for him to sit on and hold a cotton cloth above him, stretched on duelling poles, to provide shade and to symbolise a mother protecting her baby from the sun.

Unfortunately, the Mursi way of life is at risk of disappearing as their land is being taken away and they are being forced to move. Many Mursi are beginning to make a living from tourism while others have left the land to live in urban areas.

**1. The Mursi tribe is..**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. the last remaining ancient tribe in the Omo Valley. | C. one of several ancient tribes of the Omo Valley.     |
| B. the oldest tribe of the Omo Valley.                 | D. the most culturally diverse tribe in the Omo Valley. |

**2. The main reason the tribe moves twice a year is**

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| A. habit.       | C. to avoid cattle thieves. |
| B. the climate. | D. to follow their cattle.  |

**3. The Mursi are famous for**

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|----------------------|------------------------------|
| A. their crafts.     | C. their women's appearance. |
| B. their body paint. | D. their pottery.            |

**4. Thagine is important to Mursi men because**

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. it allows them to meet girls. | C. it teaches them martial arts. |
| B. it proves their manhood.      | D. it makes them popular.        |

1 Lawrence was

- 2 Lawrence was born in

- 3 At university, Lawrence studied

- 4 In the army, Lawrence was considered

- 5 Lawrence died**

- WRITING.** You have joined a new youth centre with lots of activities but are having difficulty making new Friends. One member, in particular, is being very rude to you. Write an email to your English friend describing this person including their appearance and personality. At the end of the email ask how you could solve the problem. (120-150 words)

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