

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/09/international_literacy_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

September 8 is a very important day all around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it highlights the importance of reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its aim is to focus on how important reading, writing and numeracy are to individuals, as well as to societies and nations. On this day, UNESCO reminds the world of the status of literacy and provides statistics for literacy rates for each country. Literacy is a key sign of how developed a society is. The concept has developed a lot over the past few decades. It now includes the ability to be able to use computers and other kinds of information technology.

Around 780 million adults in the world today lack basic literacy skills. One in five adults is illiterate, and two-thirds of these are women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there is a clear relation between illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination against women in countries with low literacy rates. Literacy affects many aspects of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People who are able to read health warnings are less likely to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Reading can save lives.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. a very important day all | <i>a.</i> rates |
| 2. it highlights the importance | <i>b.</i> use computers |
| 3. statistics for literacy | <i>c.</i> around the world |
| 4. a key sign of how developed | <i>d.</i> information technology |
| 5. the ability to be able to | <i>e.</i> of reading |
| 6. other kinds of | <i>f.</i> a society is |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. lack basic | <i>a.</i> are women |
| 2. two-thirds of these | <i>b.</i> and severe poverty |
| 3. the highest rates | <i>c.</i> literacy skills |
| 4. a clear relation between illiteracy | <i>d.</i> killer diseases |
| 5. more discrimination | <i>e.</i> of illiteracy |
| 6. less likely to catch | <i>f.</i> against women |

LISTENING GAP FILL

September 8 is a very important day all around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it _____ of reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its _____ how important reading, writing _____ individuals, as well as to societies and nations. On this day, UNESCO _____ the status of literacy and provides statistics for literacy rates for each country. Literacy _____ developed a society is. The concept has developed a lot over the past few decades. It now includes _____ to use computers and other kinds of information technology.

Around 780 million adults in the world _____ skills. One in five adults is illiterate, and _____ women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there _____ between illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination against women in countries _____. Literacy affects many aspects of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People _____ health warnings are less likely to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. _____.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

September 8 is a very important day _____ around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it _____ the importance of reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its _____ is to focus on how important reading, writing and _____ are to individuals, as well as to societies and nations. On this day, UNESCO reminds the world of the _____ of literacy and provides statistics for literacy _____ for each country. Literacy is a key sign of how developed a society is. The concept has developed a lot over the _____ few decades. It now includes the ability to be able to use computers and other _____ of information technology.

rates
numeracy
past
highlights
all
kinds
aim
status

Around 780 million adults in the world today _____ basic literacy skills. One in five adults is illiterate, and two-_____ of these are women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west Asia, _____ by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there is a clear _____ between illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination against women in countries with _____ literacy rates. Literacy affects many _____ of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People who are able to read health warnings are _____ likely to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Reading can _____ lives.

low
followed
less
lack
save
thirds
aspects
relation

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

September 8 is a very important day *all / every* around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it highlights the importance *of / by* reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its *aim / aiming* is to focus on how important reading, writing and numeracy are to individuals, as *good / well* as to societies and nations. On this day, UNESCO reminds the world of the *status / statues* of literacy and provides statistics for literacy rates for each country. Literacy is a key *sign / signs* of how developed a society is. The concept has developed a lot *under / over* the past few decades. It now includes the ability to be able to use computers and other *kind / kinds* of information technology.

Around 780 million adults in the world today *lack / less* basic literacy skills. One *in / on* five adults is illiterate, and two-thirds of these are women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west Asia, *followed / following* by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there is a *clear / clearly* relation between illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination *for / against* women in countries with low literacy rates. Literacy *effects / affects* many aspects of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People who are able to read *healthy / health* warnings are less likely to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Reading can *save / saving* lives.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

September 8 is a very important day (1) _____ around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it highlights the importance (2) _____ reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its aim is to focus (3) _____ how important reading, writing and numeracy are to individuals, as well as to societies and (4) _____. On this day, UNESCO reminds the world of the status of literacy and provides statistics for literacy rates for (5) _____ country. Literacy is a key sign of how developed a society is. The concept has developed a lot over the (6) _____ few decades. It now includes the ability to be able to use computers and other kinds of information technology.

Around 780 million adults in the world today (7) _____ basic literacy skills. One in five adults is illiterate, and two-thirds of (8) _____ are women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there is a (9) _____ relation between illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination against women in countries with low literacy rates. Literacy (10) _____ many aspects of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People who are able to read health warnings are less (11) _____ to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Reading can (12) _____ lives.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) every | (b) each | (c) all | (d) whole |
| 2. | (a) of | (b) by | (c) at | (d) to |
| 3. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) by | (d) with |
| 4. | (a) nationality | (b) national | (c) nationalize | (d) nations |
| 5. | (a) per | (b) among | (c) each | (d) all |
| 6. | (a) past | (b) parsed | (c) passed | (d) psst |
| 7. | (a) lacking | (b) lack | (c) lack of | (d) lacks |
| 8. | (a) them | (b) they | (c) these | (d) us |
| 9. | (a) clearly | (b) cleared | (c) clears | (d) clear |
| 10. | (a) effects | (b) affords | (c) affronts | (d) affects |
| 11. | (a) liked | (b) likely | (c) likes | (d) likelihood |
| 12. | (a) saving | (b) save | (c) savings | (d) savior |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. all uadrno the world.
2. writing and ncuryaem
3. the ttssau of literacy
4. literacy rsaet
5. the past few ecasedd
6. information nhgeooctly

Paragraph 2

7. lack caisb literacy skills
8. two-dtsrih of these are women
9. ewfldloo by sub-Saharan Africa
10. discrimination siaagnt women
11. Literacy affects many astpcse of a society
12. less likely to catch rlklei diseases

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () use computers and other kinds of information technology.
- () likely to catch killer diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Reading can save lives.
- () rates for each country. Literacy is a key sign of how developed a society is. The concept has
- () rates. Literacy affects many aspects of a society. In 2007 and 2008, the theme for
- () is to focus on how important reading, writing and numeracy are to individuals, as well
- () as to societies and nations. On this day, UNESCO reminds the world of the status of literacy and provides statistics for literacy
- () illiterate, and two-thirds of these are women. UNESCO says the highest rates of illiteracy are in south and west
- () importance of reading. It was started in 1965 by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its aim
- () Asia, followed by sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab nations. The agency says there is a clear relation between
- () illiteracy and severe poverty. UNESCO also says there is more discrimination against women in countries with low literacy
- () developed a lot over the past few decades. It now includes the ability to be able to
- () International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Health". People who are able to read health warnings are less
- (**1**) September 8 is a very important day all around the world. It is International Literacy Day and it highlights the
- () Around 780 million adults in the world today lack basic literacy skills. One in five adults is

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. day all A around very the important world.

2. the of highlights importance reading It.

3. literacy for Statistics country each for rates.

4. lot decades over the Developed past a few.

5. technology information of kinds other and Computers.

6. One five is in adults illiterate.

7. A and clear severe relation poverty between illiteracy.

8. There more against is discrimination women.

9. many affects Literacy society a of aspects.

10. diseases Less to killer likely catch.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about International Literacy Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about International Literacy Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about International Literacy Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about International Literacy Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.